

Heat Network LDO

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Growth

Directorate: Place & Economic Growth

Report Author: Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager

Email: andrew.hunt@oldham.gov.uk

Date of Decision: 5 October 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

Cabinet's approval to publicly consult on the draft Local Development Order associated with the Oldham District Heat Network.

3. Reason for urgency

The District Heat Network project is the 'anchor' project in the Council's current live procurement of a Strategic Energy Partner for Oldham Borough. Progressing a Local Development Order is a key workstream for the project which could impact on the success of the current tender.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

That bidders to the current live Strategic Energy Partnership tender may not find Oldham's 'anchor' heat network project as commercially attractive as with an LDO in place.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

Costs associated with a potentially failed Strategic Energy Partnership project development and procurement exercise.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh

Date 14 September 2026

Comments:

The recommendation to undertake consultation on the draft Local Development Order for the Oldham District Heat Network does not give rise to any additional financial implications. All costs associated with the consultation process, including officer time, will be met from within existing approved budgets and resources.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef

Date: 11th September 2026

Comments:

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However, the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year; it is therefore not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Council has failed at successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report, an urgent decision relating to the report is required, and it cannot wait until the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.