

Zonal Boundary Consultation

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 Zonal Boundary associated with the Oldham District Heat Network Zone which will be designated as part of forthcoming national Heat Network Zoning legislation.

3. Reason for urgency

Carrying out a Zonal Boundary Consultation is a key activity under the national Advanced Zoning Programme in which Oldham is a Tier 1 participant along with Stockport and Trafford and for which Oldham currently has a live procurement for a heat network development partner. Completion of this activity is also required for Oldham to progress implementation of a new Zoning Co-ordination Body alongside Trafford and Stockport, working with the GM Combined Authority and DESNZ.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Oldham will not be able to confer heat network zone development rights to our future procured development partner under the new national heat network zoning legislation if the Zoning Boundary Consultation is not carried out.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

Costs associated with a potentially failed heat network development partner procurement exercise and potential loss of grant funding associated with the Zoning Co-ordination Body design and implementation work with GMCA and DESNZ.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name: Lee Walsh

Date 14 September 2026

Comments:

The recommendation to undertake consultation on the draft Zonal Boundary Consultation 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: 14 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.