Emergency Powers Decision Report

Extension of the current Oldham Advocacy contract in place with Voiceability

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Adult Social Services
Directorate: Commissioning and Market Management
Report Author: Kate Wrigley
Email: Kate.Wrigley@oldham.gov.uk

Date of Decision:

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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

This report seeks approval for the Director of Adult Social Services to exercise the delegated authority previously approved by the Council to extend the existing contract with VoiceAbility for the delivery of Oldham Advocacy Services until 31st October 2027.

3. Reason for urgency

The current contract is due to end on 31st October 2026. This decision supports the continuity of the service currently being provided with VoiceAbility who we are assured are providing the expected levels of support and quality of service outlined within the contract.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

In not approving the extension, the current contract will expire on 31st October 2026. This would mean that a tender exercise would be required for the Oldham Advocacy Services contract which could not be successfully completed within the time frame before the contract expires.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

If the extension does not take place, this will result in additional costs, risks and operational pressures associated with undertaking an urgent procurement exercise.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 6 October 2026
Comments

Approval is sought to extend the contract with VoiceAbility for the period 1 November 2026 to 30 October 2027 for a value of £176,850, which is fully funded from existing resources with the ASC budgets, therefore, are no additional financial implications arising from this proposal.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef
Date: 13 October 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 so it is 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 await the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.