Emergency Powers Decision Report

GM Agency Contract Retender

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: HR&OD
Directorate: resources
Report Author: Jingwen Yang, Workforce Business Partner
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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

Approval for Oldham Council to continue participation in the Greater Manchester collaborative Managed Service Provider (MSP) contract for contingent labour following completion of the GM-wide procurement exercise and award of the contract to Reed Specialist Recruitment Ltd.

3. Reason for urgency

The Greater Manchester collaborative procurement exercise has been completed and a new contract has been awarded to Reed Specialist Recruitment Ltd. Continued participation requires a formal decision to enable the Council to access the new contract arrangements when they commence.

The timing of the decision does not align with the Council's ordinary decision-making timetable, and a delay could impact the Council's ability to access a compliant and established route for engaging temporary agency workers where required to maintain service delivery.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Failure to approve continued participation in the contract may:

- Reduce the Council's ability to secure temporary staffing resources when required, potentially affecting service delivery.

- Increase pressure on existing employees, particularly in services experiencing recruitment challenges or fluctuating demand.
- Require the Council to undertake a separate procurement exercise, increasing administrative burden and procurement costs.
- Reduce opportunities to benefit from Greater Manchester collaborative purchasing arrangements, supplier management arrangements and standardised contractual terms.
- Result in less procurement assurance and compliance than that offered through the GM collaborative contract.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

There is no direct cost associated with participation in the Greater Manchester collaborative contract and no minimum spend commitment. Costs are only incurred where agency workers are engaged and are met from existing service budgets through established approval processes.

Failure to continue participation may remove access to the benefits of collaborative purchasing, including negotiated rates and introductory fees achieved through the scale of the Greater Manchester arrangement.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee walsh
Date 8 October 2026
Comments

Approval of this decision has no direct financial implications and does not require any additional budget provision. Participation in the Greater Manchester collaborative Managed Service Provider (MSP) contract does not commit the Council to a minimum level of expenditure, with any agency staffing costs being met from existing approved service budgets and subject to established approval and financial control processes. The collaborative arrangement is also expected to support value for money through aggregated purchasing and supplier management, with no adverse impact on the Council's overall financial position anticipated.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef
Date:06th 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 is required, and the matter cannot await the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.