

MEGA Hub Digital Skills Project

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Post 16 Education and Skills

Directorate: Education and Early Years

Report Author: Amanda Youlden

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Date of Decision: 3rd August 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under:

2. Decision Sought

Agreement to extend grant agreement for MEGA Hubs delivery in Oldham schools for the academic year 2026/2027.

3. Reason for urgency

Urgent decision is required as delivery of the AI Native Summer School is scheduled and planned for over the summer and school delivery will commence in September. Informing schools of the continuation and planning needs to be put in place with schools in order to organise activity over the summer for readiness for September delivery.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Risk: AI Native will not go ahead. Activity is proposed for an AI Native Summer School that will support 10 young people to be best placed for starting an apprenticeship in September. This activity is targeted at young people whom are currently NEET.

Risk: Non-delivery or delays to MEGA Hubs Delivery. Risk is that if we are not able to advise and plan activity with schools, they are not able to build the project into their curriculum planning and risk is either delay or non-delivery and disruption to the schools.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

Cost of the project is £127,000. This funding is building on the previous 2 years of project delivery.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh

Date 7 July 2026

Comments

This report seeks approval for a further one-year extension of the MEGA Hub Digital Skills Programme at a total cost of £127k until July 2027. This continues the Council's Investment in this area.

The £127k will be funded from within the existing resources in the Corporate Priorities budget of £85k and £42k from the Post 16 service and from the wider Education Directorate budget.

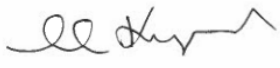
b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef

Date: 28th July 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 three 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.

Approved by the Chief Executive 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.	
Signed:  Shelley Kipling, Chief Executive	Dated: 3 August 2026