

CRSTS Bus & Highway Improvement Funding - Grant Acceptance Report

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Highways, Engineering & Operations

Directorate: Environment

Report Author: Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

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Date of Decision: 21 September 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

To approve the grant acceptance report so that Oldham Council can accept funding which will support highway improvements across the borough to improve bus journey times and related highways infrastructure.

3. Reason for urgency

Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) is investing in the bus network across the region through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) and the Transforming Cities Funding programmes.

One of the main drivers for this investment is to improve bus travel and journey times across the region. As part of this improvement programme, 12 locations detailed in the report have been identified throughout the borough, which will be subjected to highway improvements to support the above objectives. Work will include junction improvements, lining, real time bus information, camera enforcement at junction boxes and improvements to bus stops to support boarding and alighting through level kerbs.

The funding supporting this work is time limited and must be fully allocated by the end of March 2027. Therefore, this report requires approval so that the schemes can be designed and consulted upon before the funding window closes.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

- Loss of external funding to make highway improvements to support bus journeys across the borough
- Loss of funding to introduce camera enforcement at yellow box junctions
- Failure to do the work will adversely affect the residents of Oldham due to delayed bus journey times and access at bus stops
- Impact the ability of residents and visitors to travel through Oldham and across the city region due to delays in travel times and journey experiences

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

- Loss of external grant funding to deliver necessary improvements – Council unable to deliver these works through other financial resources
- Income lost as a result of not employing enforcement cameras means that any money that could have been generated and reinvested in highway safety schemes will not be realised
- Impact on residents and businesses when unable to travel across the borough as a result of delays

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh

Date 1 September 2026

Comments

The Council has been awarded £162k of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) grant funding to support the development and design of the Bus Pinch Point Schemes. The grant constitutes capital funding and provides an opportunity to progress the schemes in line with regional transport priorities.

Acceptance of the grant funding will enable the Council to maximise the available external resources and deliver the scheme within the timescales specified by the funding conditions. Under the terms of the grant, the Council is required to ensure that the allocated funding is either expended or contractually committed by 31 March 2027. Any unspent or uncommitted funding beyond this date will be subject to clawback and may be returned to the funding body.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name Alex Bougatef

Date 01 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 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.