Emergency Powers Decision Report

Additional Highways Grant Funding Acceptance Report 2026/27

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Highways & Engineering
Directorate: Place
Report Author: Assistant Director Highways and Engineering
Email: gordon.anderson@oldham.gov.uk

Date of Decision: 2nd November 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

The allocation of Additional CRSTS Highways Maintenance Grant Funding for 2026/27

3. Reason for urgency

The additional funds being made available through the CRSTS Grant funding are being made available to all 10 GM authorities to spend within 2026/27. Any delays to approval of the funds would further delay delivery of the works, and result in Oldham not spending the full allocation and potentially losing any unspent funding allocation.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Failure to approve the acceptance report would present several significant risks to the Council, including:

- Possible loss of any Highway Maintenance funding not spent in year being handed back to TfGM.
- Vital funds being made available to improve Oldham's highway network are lost along with the possibility of improving the network condition for road users.
- Reduced ability to demonstrate capacity to deliver further additional funding allocations made available by TfGM in the future.
- Increased risk of revenue repair costs increasing over the winter months due to delays in delivering essential capital maintenance resurfacing works
- Reduced ability to effectively manage and maintain the highway network in accordance with the Council's statutory duties under the Highways Act and associated legislation.
- Increased risk to the Council's ability to continue managing the highway network safely, efficiently and in a manner consistent with recognised asset management principles.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

The council may have to hand back unspent funding to TfGM if not spent in year. Likely increase in revenue costs repairing roads that would have been resurfaced using this funding, but now require urgent maintenance to ensure safety of road users. There is also a risk of increased claims being made against the council where works are not able to take place.

The Council may lose the opportunity to secure future DfT incentive funding and other external investment streams linked to asset management maturity and reporting requirements.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 7 October 2026
Comments

The Council has been awarded £5.258m of CRSTS Highway Maintenance Funding to deliver planned highway maintenance across the borough, comprising £2.508m for preventative maintenance, £1.850m for carriageway resurfacing, £500k for machine-laid patching and £400k for footway works.

The expenditure will be monitored regularly against the approved funding allocation, with any budget variances managed through adjustments to the approved programme.

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.