Emergency Powers Decision Report

Youth Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation Programme

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Youth Services
Directorate: Communities
Report Author: Jodie Barber
Email: Jodie.Barber@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 Council has been awarded funding of up to £2.05m through the Government's Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation Programme. The funding provides a significant opportunity to strengthen youth provision, improve outcomes for young people and develop a sustainable, place-based model of youth support across Oldham.

To ensure timely implementation of the programme and compliance with the conditions of grant funding, approval is sought to formally accept the funding and delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and Director of Communities, in consultation with the Director of Children's Services, to undertake all actions necessary to deliver the programme. This includes recruitment of programme staff, commissioning and procurement activity, approval of programme expenditure, entering into partnership and grant agreements, and making operational decisions within the approved funding allocation.

The delegation will ensure the Council can respond efficiently to programme requirements, maximise investment opportunities and deliver the programme in accordance with Government timescales and funding conditions.

3. Reason for urgency

The Council has been notified of its successful award of funding through the Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation Programme and is required to commence mobilisation activity within nationally prescribed timescales. Approval is required to enable the Council to formally accept the funding, enter into grant agreements, recruit programme staff, undertake procurement and commissioning activity, commence co-design and planning activity with young people and partners, and establish programme governance arrangements.

Any delay in approval could impact the Council's ability to meet grant conditions, delivery milestones and onboarding requirements set by Government and delivery partners. Early mobilisation is essential to maximise the period available for programme delivery and ensure that Oldham secures the full benefit of the investment available through the programme

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

- Loss of up to £2.05 million external Government funding allocated to Oldham through the programme.
- Failure to meet programme onboarding and mobilisation requirements, potentially resulting in withdrawal or reallocation of funding to other areas.
- Inability to establish the two Young Futures Hubs planned for Oldham, reducing access to integrated support, opportunities and prevention services for young people.
- Missed opportunity to secure additional capital and digital investment in youth infrastructure.
- Reduced capacity to deliver the statutory duty under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 to secure sufficient educational and recreational activities for young people.
- Delay in recruiting key programme staff, resulting in compressed delivery timescales and increased implementation risk.
- Missed opportunity to influence and benefit from national learning, evaluation and best practice development through participation in the Government's Young Futures Programme.
- Reputational risk to the Council and partners arising from failure to proceed with a nationally funded programme after being selected as a delivery area.
- Continued challenges relating to youth wellbeing, access to opportunities, prevention of youth violence, and support for vulnerable young people which the programme is designed to address.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

Financial Implications of not Approving the recommendations:

Failure to approve acceptance of the funding would result in the loss of external investment of up to £1.45 million, comprising:

Funding Stream	Value
Planning and Co-creation	£100,000
Young Futures Hub Delivery	Up to £600,000 per annum for two years

Local Youth Transformation Programme	Up to £500,000
Capital and Digital Investment	Up to £250,000
Total	Up to £2.05m

The programme is fully funded through external grant resources and does not require additional Council funding to deliver the approved activities. Failure to accept the funding would therefore represent a significant lost opportunity to attract external investment into Oldham and improve outcomes for young people without creating a call on the Council's core budget.

In addition, declining or delaying acceptance of the funding may result in future opportunities for external investment being adversely affected should Oldham be unable to demonstrate readiness to participate in national programmes.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name: Lee Walsh
Date 07/10/2026
Comments

The Council has been allocated up to £2.050m of external grant funding over the two-year programme period to deliver the Young Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation Programme. An initial £0.100m has been confirmed for planning and co-creation activities.

The report seeks approval to establish fixed-term posts to support programme delivery. These posts will be fully funded from the external grant and limited to the funding period. Any extension beyond the funded period would require the identification of alternative funding and separate approval.

All programme expenditure will be funded from external grant resources; therefore, there are no additional financial implications for existing Council budgets, provided expenditure remains within the approved grant allocation.

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.