Emergency Powers Decision Report

Oldham Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Housing Services
Directorate: Communities
Report Author: Moira Fields – Principal Homelessness Strategy Officer

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Date of Decision: 30th 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

This Cabinet report seeks approval to:

- To note the contents of the Oldham Homelessness Review 2021-2025
- To approve the contents of the Oldham Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031

3. Reason for urgency

The Homelessness Act 2002 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to publish a Homelessness Strategy based on a Review of homelessness in their district. These strategies must be published at least every 5 years, with Oldham's most recent Strategy running from April 2021- April 2026.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

The Council would not be legally compliant in terms of the Homelessness Act 2002 and would have a Homelessness Strategy that fails to address current support needs and groups in Oldham.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

MHCLG funding allocated to provide support to Local Authorities for expenditure lawfully incurred via the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant (which for 2026/27 constituted £2,460,154) could be at risk. This funding assists the Council to fulfil its Statutory obligations in respect of Homelessness

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 5 November 2026
Comments

The recommendations within this report are primarily strategic in nature, seeking Cabinet approval to note the findings of the Oldham Homelessness Review 2021-2025 and approve the Oldham Homelessness Prevention and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2026-2031. The Council has a statutory duty to support individuals who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, and delivery of the Strategy will continue to be supported through a combination of Council resources and external grant funding.

A key financial consideration is the ongoing allocation of funding from MHCLG through the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, which totals £2.460m in 2026/27. This funding supports expenditure lawfully incurred by the Council in meeting its statutory homelessness responsibilities. It is important that the Council maintains appropriate governance, monitoring and assurance arrangements to ensure compliance with grant conditions, as any failure to do so could place future funding allocations at risk and create additional pressure on the Council's General Fund.

Subject to the effective management of these funding arrangements and the continued monitoring of financial and service delivery impacts arising from the Strategy, there are no additional financial concerns arising directly from the recommendations contained within this report.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef
Date: 10 November 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.