Emergency Powers Decision Report

2026/27 Rough Sleeping Programme Grant Funding
Acceptance of £418,307 Rough Sleeping Programme Grant Funding from Greater Manchester Combined Authority and approval of the proposed expenditure programme

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Housing Services
Directorate: Communities
Report Author: Clare Ocansey Senior Housing Needs Officer

Email: clare.ocansey@oldham.gov.uk

Date of Decision: 9th of 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. This authorises the Chief Executive to take emergency decisions relating to the Council's executive functions where the decision cannot reasonably be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

Approval is sought to:

1. Accept £418,307 of 2026/27 Rough Sleeping Programme revenue grant funding from Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

2. Authorise the Council to enter into the associated grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, subject to the agreement being reviewed and approved by Legal Services and the Director of Finance.

3. Approve the proposed use of the funding to deliver Oldham's 2026/27 Rough Sleeping Programme, including:

    - dedicated Rough Sleeping Housing Options capacity;
    - dedicated move-on support;
    - supported accommodation and cross-pathway coordination;
    - emergency off-the-street accommodation;
    - set-up and mobilisation support for the proposed Spring Bank and Napier Street accommodation pathways;
    - private rented sector, bond and personalisation support;

- additional accommodation capacity for women and people with complex needs through existing providers; and
- performance monitoring, lived-experience involvement and eligible contingency expenditure.

4. Delegate authority to the Director for Community, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and the Director of Finance, to make reasonable adjustments between the approved budget headings. Any adjustment must remain within the total grant allocation, comply with the final grant conditions and not materially change the objectives of the programme.

5. Note that any contract variation, purchase of additional capacity or other procurement activity will be subject to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, applicable procurement legislation and the appropriate legal, financial, commercial and commissioning approvals.

3. Reason for urgency

Greater Manchester Combined Authority confirmed Oldham's allocation of £418,307 in writing on the 4th of September 2026. The full grant must be committed and spent on eligible activity by the 31st of March 2027, with no assumption that unspent funding can be carried forward into a future financial year.

The late confirmation of the funding has created a significantly shortened mobilisation and delivery period. The Council must promptly finalise staffing arrangements, engage with accommodation and support providers, undertake due diligence, complete any required contract variations and establish appropriate financial and programme controls.

Waiting for the next available Cabinet meeting could delay mobilisation and reduce the Council's ability to use the full allocation for eligible activity by the grant deadline. An emergency decision is therefore required to allow officers to progress delivery at the earliest opportunity.

The grant agreement is currently awaited. No agreement will be signed, and no expenditure will be committed, unless the final terms are acceptable to Legal Services and the Director of Finance.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

If the decision is not taken urgently:

- the Council may be unable to mobilise the programme within the limited funding period;
- all or part of the **£418,307 allocation** may remain unspent and may have to be returned;
- Oldham may lose the opportunity to increase routes off the street during winter and cold-weather pressures;

- the Council's capacity to assess and support people sleeping rough or at immediate risk will remain limited;
- existing supported accommodation may continue to experience blockages because of insufficient move-on and cross-pathway coordination;
- opportunities to create additional spaces through established providers may not be progressed within the financial year;
- people who are new to rough sleeping may not receive sufficiently early intervention, increasing the risk that their homelessness becomes repeated or entrenched;
- individuals experiencing entrenched rough sleeping, multiple disadvantage or complex needs may remain on the street or in unsuitable short-term accommodation for longer; and
- the Council may be unable to make a full local contribution to the national commitment to provide people sleeping rough with a route off the streets.

Delaying the decision would also create operational, financial and reputational risks for the Council and could affect Oldham's ability to obtain future funding if the 2026/27 grant is not used in accordance with the programme objectives.

6. Financial impact if decision is not taken forward

Greater Manchester Combined Authority has confirmed a revenue grant allocationof**£418,307** for Oldham's 2026/27 Rough Sleeping Programme. The funding is time limited and must be spent on eligible activity by the **31st of March 2027**.

The proposed allocation is:

Intervention	Proposed allocation
Rough Sleeping Housing Options Officer	£55,000

Rough Sleeping Move-On Support Officer	£50,000
Supported Housing Gateway Officer	£50,000
Emergency Off-the-Street Accommodation Fund, including cold weather	£65,000
Accommodation pathway mobilisation costs	£60,000
Private rented sector, bond and personalisation funds	£45,000
Complex-needs and women-specific additional capacity	£60,000
Performance, lived experience and contingency	£33,307
Total	**£418,307**

5.2 The Petrus allocation will support eligible and evidenced set-up and mobilisation costs associated with Spring Bank and Napier Street. This may include an

appropriate 24-hour presence, minor adaptations, equipment, utility-metering arrangements and other costs necessary to bring the additional spaces into use.

The allocation does not represent an automatic payment to Petrus. Expenditure will be subject to a detailed cost breakdown, confirmation of grant eligibility, an assessment of the Housing Benefit position, property and landlord responsibilities, value for money and the appropriate legal, procurement, finance and commissioning approvals.

5.3 Given the limited funding period, the allocation for complex-needs and women-specific additional capacity will focus on working with existing providers to create additional accommodation spaces. This may include varying existing contracts or purchasing additional capacity where this is lawful, deliverable by 31 March 2027 and represents value for money. It is not proposed to commission an entirely new service within the remaining grant period.

5.4 If the decision is not approved promptly, there is a material risk that the Council will be unable to commit and spend the full grant within the required timeframe. Any unspent or ineligible expenditure may have to be returned to Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

5.5 All expenditure will be subject to the final grant conditions, quarterly financial monitoring and a clear audit trail. No ongoing financial commitment will be made beyond the 31st of March 2027 unless a separate funding source has been identified and approved.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date: 5 November 2026
Comments

The recommendations within this report seek approval to utilise the confirmed grant allocation of £418,307 for 2026/27 to strengthen the Council's response to rough sleeping.

The allocation of £418,307 must be fully spent or contractually committed on eligible expenditure by 31 March 2027 in accordance with the grant conditions. Expenditure will be subject to the final grant determination, regular monitoring requirements, evidence of additionality, and the maintenance of a clear and auditable record of expenditure.

Provided that the posts funded through this allocation are established on a strictly time-limited basis for a maximum period of 12 months, the proposals should be fully funded from the grant received and should not create any ongoing financial commitment or additional burden on the Council's revenue budget. Appropriate monitoring arrangements will be maintained to ensure compliance with grant conditions and to mitigate any risk of grant clawback.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougateff
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.