Emergency Powers Decision Report

Acceptance of Funding and Commencement of Delivery of the National Jobs Guarantee Programme - Oldham

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Get Oldham Working
Directorate: Place and Growth
Report Author: Jonathan Phillips
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Date of Decision: 30/11/2026

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 Oldham Council's participation in the National Jobs Guarantee Programme as a delivery partner within the GC Employment supply chain, including acceptance of external funding, establishment of staffing resources required for delivery, and commencement of programme activity supporting approximately 410 young people between November 2026 and May 2028.

3. Reason for urgency

The funding agreement for the National Jobs Guarantee Programme has only recently been received and accepted. The programme has a required mobilisation and delivery commencement date of 23 November 2026. Delaying the decision until the next available governance cycle would significantly impact delivery timescales, jeopardise the Council's ability to meet contractual obligations, and could place the external grant funding at risk. An urgent decision is therefore required to enable timely mobilisation and commencement of service delivery.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Failure to approve the decision would prevent Get Oldham Working from commencing delivery of the National Jobs Guarantee Programme within the required timescales. This could result in the loss of external grant funding, reputational damage to the Council, failure to meet contractual commitments to Government, and the loss of employment and skills support opportunities for eligible young people across Oldham.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

Should the decision not be approved, the Council would be unable to draw down and utilise approximately £770,000 of external programme funding secured for Oldham. This would represent a significant loss of investment into employment and skills provision for local residents and would remove the associated economic and social benefits expected from programme delivery. The Council would also forgo opportunities to achieve wider strategic objectives relating to youth employment, skills development and economic inclusion.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 5 November 2026
Comments

The recommendation to accept £730,000 of funding from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for the delivery of the National Jobs Guarantee Programme is supported. The programme will be fully funded by external grant income and is not expected to create any revenue pressure on Council budgets.

The funding will support the creation of six fixed-term posts for 30 months, together with associated programme delivery, participant support, employer engagement and operational costs. The staffing arrangements are aligned to the funding period and will not create any ongoing financial commitment beyond the life of the grant.

The grant will be subject to regular financial monitoring to ensure compliance with funding conditions and that expenditure remains within the approved allocation.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name Alex Bougatef
Date 10.11.26
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.