Emergency Powers Decision Report

Live Well Journey to Employment Future Delivery Proposal for an Education, Employment and Training (EET) Support Service

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area (s): Post 16 Education, Skills and Employment
Directorate(s): Children and Young People and Place
Report Author: Amanda Youlden
Email:

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

Whilst we await the acceptance of the Integrated Settlement for Work and Skills grant funding agreement and decision to accept the funding, we need to request to undertake the procurement process for a new education, employment and training support service for young people aged 15 -24. Key decision due to level of funding attached to procurement.

3. Reason for urgency

We will experience a gap in a service for young people aged 15 – 19 if we do not commence the procurement process as soon as possible. We need to have a new service in place for April 1st to replace the current offer being delivered by Positive Steps.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

The risk is not having a service for young people, whilst we procure the service at a later date.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

No financial impact to the Council if this decision is not taken forward. The service will be procured at a later date as part of the wider Integrated Settlement future delivery plan for work and skills. The risk is gap in services to residents who need it.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 5 November 2026
Comments

The recommendation to undertake a competitive procurement exercise for a new 15-24 Education, Employment and Training (EET) Support Service is supported. The proposed contract has an estimated value of £1.078m over an initial two-year term and is intended to be funded from Oldham's allocation of the Education, Work and Skills element of the Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement.

The service is expected to be fully funded from external grant resources and therefore does not create a direct pressure on Council budgets. However, Members should note that the funding allocation has not yet been formally confirmed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), and procurement activity will commence in advance of the Grant Funding Agreement being finalised. Whilst letters of comfort are expected to be issued by GMCA and the risk is considered low, there remains a financial risk should funding allocations or grant conditions subsequently change.

Any contract award will be subject to confirmation of available funding and the Council's normal governance and budgetary controls. The Section 151 Officer is satisfied that the proposed procurement represents a prudent approach to achieving service mobilisation by April 2027, subject to ongoing confirmation of funding and affordability.

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.