Emergency Powers Decision Report

Acceptance of GMCA Housing Enforcement Grants
Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Public Protection, Environment
Directorate: Place
Report Author: Jenni Seex, Assistant Director Public Protection
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Date of Decision:

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1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in paragraph 3.6 of Part 4D (Executive Procedure Rules) of the Council's Constitution that in the event of there being no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet members, executive functions shall in the interim be carried out by the Chief Executive, subject to the Access to Information Rules.

2. Decision Sought

To accept £185,000 in grant funding from GMCA to support an increase in enforcement activity in the private rented sector and utilise £35,000 of Selective Licensing ringfenced reserves for match funding.

3. Reason for urgency

The grant funding available relates to the current financial year and any delay in entering into a grant funding agreement will result in the reallocation of the funding.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

A failure to agree to accept the funding will lead to a loss of the grant and mean that the council cannot deliver additional duties/improvements with respect to the private rented sector and improvement of housing standards for residents in Oldham

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

If the grant funding is not accepted the Council will need to utilise the Selective Licensing reserves for another purpose.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 5 November 2026
Comments

The recommendation to accept £150k of grant funding from GMCA is supported. The funding is ringfenced for Housing Strategy purposes and does not create a direct revenue pressure for the Council. The proposed use of the grant to fund fixed-term staffing resources, together with associated training, IT and communications costs, will support the delivery of the Council's housing enforcement and regulatory objectives.

In addition, the Council is seeking to secure a further £35,227 of external funding, which requires matched funding from the Council. It is proposed that this contribution is met from the Selective Licensing Reserve, which has sufficient resources available to meet this requirement.
The staffing posts are time-limited and linked to the availability of grant funding, thereby minimising the risk of creating ongoing budget commitments. Grant funding and associated expenditure will be subject to regular financial monitoring to ensure compliance with funding conditions and that all costs remain within the approved allocations.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name Alan Evans (Deputy Monitoring officer)
Date 22 October 2026
Comments

For the reasons given in the report an urgent decision relating to the report is required. In the absence of the appointment by the Council of a Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet members, in accordance with the recent amendments to the Council Constitution, the Chief Executive may carry out executive functions, subject to the Access to Information Rules.