Emergency Powers Decision Report

Kingsland Pupil Referral Unit – Latics Zone HNPCA project

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Property and Estates
Directorate:
Report Author: Victoria Caldwell
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Date of Decision:

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 report seeks to accept the most advantageous tender (MAT) submissions in relation to the refurbishment of the location previously known as Latics Zone into suitable accommodation for vulnerable young people as part of Oldham Pupil referral Unit. Also, to delegate authority for decisions regarding the above site to Executive Director of Children and Young People as part of the monitoring and reporting process for the SEND Reform.

3. Reason for urgency

The decision is required urgently to enable the planned expansion of specialist provision at Kingsland Pupil Referral Unit providing 8 additional places as part of the council SEND Reforms. The PRU provides specialist support for vulnerable children and young people of Oldham, many of whom have SEND / SEMH additional needs. Any delay in confirming the tender will risk the construction project not being completed and the additional spaces not being delivered in time preventing vulnerable young people accessing the education and support they need.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Failure to approve the most advantageous tender submissions in relation to the refurbishment of Latics Zone will prevent the creation of 8 much needed additional places within the PRU. This would place further pressure on existing local capacity and may lead to increased reliance on higher-cost independent and out-of-borough placements. Any delay in approving the funding risks the projects not being delivered in time, resulting in a missed opportunity to increase local specialist capacity and support delivery of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy and Local SEND Reform Plan.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

Failure to proceed with the proposal is likely to result in continued or increased expenditure on higher-cost independent and out-of-borough placements where vulnerable children and young people cannot be accommodated within local specialist provision. This would reduce the Local Authority's ability to manage demand within existing High Needs Block resources and may result in higher overall costs than investing in additional local capacity. The proposal also supports the creation of 8 additional specialist places within Oldham, helping to reduce future pressure on specialist placement budgets.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 5 Novemeber 2026
Comments

The recommendation is to accept the Most Advantageous Tender for the refurbishment of the former Latics Zone, now forming part of Kingsland Pupil Referral Unit. The scheme represents capital expenditure and will be funded from the approved High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) within the Council's Capital Programme 2026-2031.

Capital funding of up to £200,000 has previously been approved for this project, and sufficient provision exists within the approved Capital Programme to meet the cost of the works. The investment will support the enhancement of educational facilities and increase the capacity and suitability of provision for pupils with additional needs.

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.