Principal Decision Report

Decision between £100k-£250k or the Executive Director/Director considers it to be of such significance that a record of the decision would ensure transparency and accountability.

Subject:	Latic Zone – High Needs Provisions Capital Allocation (HNPCA)
Decision maker:	Chief Executive
Decision date:	30th November 2026
Report author:	Victoria Caldwell – Schools Capital Project Manager
Ward (s):	Coldhurst

Reason for decision

This report seeks approval to accept the most advantageous tender (MAT) submission in relation to the refurbishment of the location previously known as Latics Zone and which is now part of Kingsland Pupil Referral Unit.

The Latics Zone proposal, including HNPCA funding of £200,000, was approved by the Cabinet Member for Education & Skills and the Director of Early Years, Education & Skills in February 2025 (1) and outlines the conversion of the Latics Zone location into a tier2 provision for 8 vulnerable children who are at severe risk of poor outcomes. The scheme includes the refurbishment of the site with the installation of a kitchen and toilets, and improved security. The location will offer time-limited intensive placements in a fit for purpose alternative provision, allowing vulnerable young people access to education and support currently unavailable to them within Oldham Borough.

Tenders have been received and evaluated on both quality and price criteria with the quality submission weighted at 60% (including 10% social value) and cost weighted at 40%. Following moderation, Jamieson Contracting Limited has been identified as the most advantageous tender. The total cost of refurbishment of LaticZone is £133,507.27 (excl. VAT) or £160,208.72 (incl. VAT).

Finally, this report also requests that delegated authority over the construction work and spend of the HNPCA grant be given to the Director Early Years and Education as part of the monitoring and reporting process for the SEND Reforms.

Recommendation(s)

1. Accept the Most Advantageous Tender (MAT) for the refurbishment and reconfiguration of Latics Zone
2. Delegate authority to the Director Early Years and Education to finalise and execute all necessary documentation as part of the wider National SEND Reforms.

Background

Demand for specialist provision for children and young people with SEND including SEMH has increased significantly in recent years, resulting in growing pressure on local specialist capacity and an increased reliance on independent and out-of-borough placements. The recommended options will enable the Council to invest in additional specialist provision through the expansion of the Kingsland Pupil Referral Unit, increasing local capacity and supporting vulnerable children and young people to access appropriate provision closer to home.

The proposal aligns with Oldham's SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023–2027[(2)] and the Local SEND Reform Plan[(3)], which seek to strengthen inclusion, improve local sufficiency and ensure children and young people can access the right support at the right time. As part of this approach, the Local Authority is working with schools and trusts to increase capacity across the continuum of provision, including both mainstream and specialist settings.

Whilst the reform programme places a strong emphasis on enabling more children and young people to have their needs met successfully within mainstream education wherever appropriate, there remains a cohort of children and young people whose needs require specialist provision. The expansion of the Kingsland Pupil Referral unit will help ensure those pupils can access appropriate specialist provision locally whilst supporting a more coherent and sustainable SEND system across the borough.

Alternative option(s) to be considered

Option 1 (recommended). Accept the tender submitted by Jamieson Contracting Limited for Latic Zone refurbishment. This option would allow the Council to appoint the preferred bidder under the published form of contract. It directly supports the Council’s SEND Reform programme by enhancing the educational provision for children and young people with SEND in Oldham.

Option 2 is to not accept the preferred tender by Jamieson Contracting Limited. This is not considered a viable option as specialist education provision is needed for vulnerable children and young people, with the Latics Zone projects being fully funded through the HNPCA as part of the national and local SEND reform.

Consultation

Oldham SEND and Inclusion Strategy and the SEND Reform plan were co-produced with local partners including POINT and school headteachers and SENCOs. This joint work helped to ensure that local priorities, and ideas and suggestions from education and SEND partners were embedded into the Strategy and the Reform Plan.

All HNPCA decisions and updates, including the creation and commissioning of new places in specialist provision across Oldham, are shared with representatives from all Education phases as part of the Education Provision Group and at other Education forums.

Risks

Failure to Utilise External Grant Funding

Delaying the scheme could result in the works being outside the required DfE funding allocation for High Needs Provision Capital Allocation.

Programme Delay

Works may exceed planned completion dates, delaying the provision of appropriate education and support to vulnerable young people in Oldham. The School Capital Project Manager will regularly review and advise on the timeliness of the works completed.

Cost Overruns

Final costs may exceed the contract sum. The School Capital Project Manager and the Capital Finance Manager will monitor expenditure closely, providing ongoing reviews and forecasts.

Implications

Financial	Capital Funding has been previously approved for this scheme of up to £200k and is available from within the current Capital Programme 2026-2031 from the High Needs Capital Allocation (HNPCA) Paula Buckley Capital and Treasury
Procurement	An Open Below Threshold Regulated tender was issued under DN822843 (via The Chest Portal) on 20/07/2026 and tender closed on 11/08/2026. Eight (8) bidders submitted their bids. All bids were compliant and were evaluated followed by moderation which resulted in Jamieson Contracting Limited providing value for money including submitting the lowest cost at £133,507.27 (excl. VAT) or £160,208.72 (incl. VAT). It is recommended that the contract be awarded to Jamieson Contracting Limited. The moderated scores showing the evaluation criteria are: Commercial Procurement Unit

Evaluation Criteria and Weighting Matrix

			AC Elec (North)		Carson Powel		Darrenbqs Ltd		Jamieson Cont		Momentum		Senate Group		Totalis Solutio		TR Building	
		Weighting	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score
Criteria			AC Elec (North)		Carson Powell Construction		Darrenbqs Ltd/LPL		Jamieson Contracting		Momentum		Senate Group		Totalis Solutions Limited		TR Building	
Price Pro-rata (£)- %																		
Fully Compliant Tender price		40%		28.77%		35.53%		39.90%		40.00%		32.81%		33.39%		36.69%		35.82%
Quality/Technical Criteria- 60%; Social Value-10%																		
1	Programme:	20%	4	16.00%	3	12.00%	3	12.00%	4	16.00%	2	8.00%	3	12.00%	2	8.00%	2	8.00%
2	Approach/Snagging:	20%	4	16.00%	4	16.00%	4	16.00%	4	16.00%	4	16.00%	5	20.00%	3	12.00%	3	12.00%
3	Disruption mitigation:	10%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%	4	8.00%
6	SV																	
	SV-Qualitative	5%		4.83%		4.60%		5.00%		4.80%		4.00%		5.00%		3.75%		3.00%
	SV-Quantitative	5%		1.69%		0.54%		3.33%		2.20%		5.00%		3.87%		2.22%		0.58%
Combined (Cost and Quality) Total		100%		75.29%		76.67%		84.23%		87.00%		73.81%		82.26%		70.66%		67.40%

HR	N/A
Legal	Legal Services has reviewed the Report. Based on the information set out in the Report an open below threshold tender process was undertaken via The Chest Portal. The evaluation was undertaken against the published award criteria and Jamieson Contracting Limited has been identified as the Most Advantageous Tenderer. The recommendations are legally compliant. The Report should clearly identify the form of contract to be entered into and authority should be delegated to the appropriate officer to finalise and execute the contract and any ancillary documentation. Sukie Kaur – Solicitor.
Equality impact including implications for Children and Young People	N/A. This proposal will enhance the educational offering to vulnerable Children and Young People of the borough.
Other	N/A

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?	Yes
Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?	Yes
Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?	No

Appendices (including any relevant Background Papers)

1. DDR (Tier2) Latics Zone	2. Oldham SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023-2027	3. Oldham SEND Reform plan

Report author sign-off	Victoria Caldwell
Role	Schools Capital Project Manager
Date of sign-off	19 October 2026