

Date: 1 August 2016

Appendix 3a



Oldham
Council

Ms Pam Bailey
Clerk to the Council
Saddleworth Parish Council
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Corporate & Commercial
Finance – Corporate Control
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Dear Pam

Re: Saddleworth Parish Council Grant

As you are aware, Local Government has shouldered most of the burden of public sector spending reductions that started with the 2010 Spending Review. The latest Government spending review (published 25 November 2015) suggests Local Government will bear a similar burden through to the end of the decade.

More specifically, Oldham Council has had to manage the consequences of Budget Reductions totalling £192m since 2009 and faces further anticipated reductions of around £63.6m through to the financial year 2020/21. This level of sustained and relentless reduction in Council spending power is unprecedented and means the Council is faced with having to make increasingly difficult decisions regarding spending priorities for the period ahead.

The Council has commenced the budget process for 2017/18 and 2018/19 and is undertaking a fundamental review and challenge of all current spending priorities and commitments. As part of this review, the Council is considering whether it is able to continue providing the grants that support the running costs and priorities of each of the Borough's Parish Councils.

Since 2013/14, when changes to the Local Government finance regime introduced grant compensation to Parish Councils for loss of Council Tax income, Saddleworth Parish Council has received almost £158,000 in grant funding from Oldham Council. This sum has not reduced even though the Councils grant funding from Central Government has reduced significantly.

To help shape future spending priorities, the Council wishes to understand how the withdrawal of some or all of this financial support (£39,490 annually) will impact on the Saddleworth Parish Council area, particularly if there are likely to be any equalities implications. The earliest date for which grant support could be reduced or withdrawn is 1 April 2017.

The Council recognises that this grant forms a significant element of the Parish Council's financial resources which is why we are inviting you to respond to our request for further information as to how the withdrawal of this grant would affect the Saddleworth Parish Council area.

To ensure the response of the Parish Council is considered as part of the above-mentioned review, we would be grateful for a response by **30th September 2016**.

If you have any queries regarding this letter, please contact John Hoskins via email at john.hoskins@oldham.gov.uk. Your formal response to this consultation can also be submitted to the same email address or else submitted in writing to the address provided above. Please

note that responses received after the above-mentioned deadline are unlikely to be considered as part of the overall review of spending priorities and commitments.

Yours sincerely

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