

<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Decision Type:</b> Non-Key
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<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date:</b> 08 July 2026
<b>Subject:</b>	Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding	
<b>Report of</b>	Cabinet Member for Culture, Economy and Skills	

## 1. Summary

This note provides an update regarding the extension of the Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant (LGPFPG) programme 2025/26 and the new year of funding, now called Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding 2026/27, including Bury's grant allocation.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

- Cabinet members note the update and the allocations for the Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding for 2025/26.
- Cabinet Members to approve the proposals submitted to GMCA as listed below for Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding 2026/27
- Cabinet to delegate powers to Executive Director of Place in conjunction with Portfolio holders and the Director of Finance to make changes to the programme as issues arise through the year.
- Cabinet to note the special requirements of the grant and vesting arrangements for EDRGF funding pertaining to the Casewell's and Midlands Events LTD.

## 3. Reasons for recommendation(s)

n/a

## 4. Alternative options considered and rejected

n/a

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## Background

### 5. GMCA Programme Update

- 5.1 The Economic Development & Regeneration Grant (EDRFG) is a UK government funding stream introduced for 2026/27 as part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement. It is essentially a transitional programme formerly known as Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant (LGPFPG) and UK

Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), designed to provide local authorities with more flexibility in delivering regeneration and economic development projects.

- 5.2 There has been a strategic shift in the focus of the grant for 2026/27 to better align with the functional responsibilities of the Economic Development and Regeneration pillar (previously Local Growth and Place). Future use of the grant will focus on business productivity, unlocking floorspace, enabling job creation, supporting public realm improvements, regeneration activity and funding cultural activity.

While outcomes and outputs for the 2026/27 Financial Year are still under negotiation, the outcomes and outputs for 25/26 can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Integrated Settlement Outcomes Framework 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#).

5.4 2025/2026 – Project Delivery Update

<b>Local Growth and Place Flexi Grant Project Delivery 2025/26</b>	
<p><b>Town Centre Regeneration</b></p> <p>£680,000</p>	<p>Delivering the aspirations set out in Town Centre Plans and Institute of Place Management Action Plan for Ramsbottom (2022) &amp; Whitefield (2024) and the Bury Town Centre Masterplan.</p> <p><b>Bury Town Centre</b> – improvements included the upgrade of seating along The Rock and the enhancement of the footway adjacent to Kay Gardens, plus increased street cleansing capacity through the purchase of new footway sweeper(electric) be utilised by both Bury Council and Bury Town Centre Business Improvement District.</p> <p><b>Ramsbottom Civic Hall/ Enterprise Centre</b> -To bring the unused upper floor into use and support business facilities in the town centre. Designs completed to RIBA stage 3 RIBA and feasibility study for Market Chambers.</p> <p><b>Landscape Improvements</b> - designs for key sites developed/developing with stakeholder engagement at key sites in Ramsbottom e.g. Market Place and Bridge Street Gardens, and Whitefield e.g. Old Town Hall Gardens - increasing accessibility and usage and Victoria Park, including the addition of play equipment. Implementation to be completed through 2026/27 funding programme.</p> <p><b>Ramsbottom Market feasibility</b> - review of the Ramsbottom Saturday Market site and identify options for the future - included public consultation.</p> <p><b>Town centre websites</b> - produced for Ramsbottom and Whitefield to share business, community and events information with the aim of driving footfall. Each site includes events and</p>

	<p>business listings and will be the basis of driving footfall and spend to the town centres.</p> <p><b>Place Branding</b> - Place Branding developed for Ramsbottom and Whitefield with community and business stakeholders. Branding has been used on both town centre websites to create a clear identity and an increased profile and will be incorporated wayfinding schemes which are currently being developed.</p>
<p><b>Bury Means Business Creative Content/Place Promoter</b></p> <p>£43,500</p>	<p>The project focuses on creating engaging, educational, and entertaining content with a positive message for digital platforms to promote Bury to its residents, businesses and visitors. In the first-year activity has included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place marketing and business development activity supporting Bury's regeneration, investment priorities</li> <li>• Business engagement working with local businesses to promote good-news stories and raise awareness of opportunities review of Bury Means Business website</li> <li>• Promotion of key regeneration project updates, including the Bury Flexi Hall, Radcliffe Hub, and Radcliffe Enterprise Centre.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bury Culture Strategy Project</b></p> <p>£236,000</p>	<p>Project has delivered a series of cultural events and activity, with a significant increase in community led participation and engagement.</p> <p>Events supported have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bury Art Festival</li> <li>• Heritage open days – including walking tours and events</li> <li>• Ramsbottom Come together Festival</li> <li>• Spirit in Radcliffe</li> </ul> <p>As well as engagement through programmes such as Early Years and well-being related events.</p>
<p><b>Radcliffe Enterprise Centre</b></p> <p>£770,000</p>	<p>Part of the regeneration of Radcliffe town centre, which includes Radcliffe Hub (LUF) and the Market Chambers Project, bringing opportunities for business investment through the creation of an Enterprise Centre in the Radcliffe Library building.</p> <p>2025-26 saw the completion of Phase 1 (redevelopment of ground floor).</p>
<p><b>Total</b></p> <p><b>£1,729,500</b></p>	

## **5. Economic Development & Regeneration 2026/27**

- 5.1 The total amount awarded to Bury is £1,791,650. This amount includes an award for administration costs of £65,000 which means the total amount available for project delivery is £1,726,650. The funding must be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.
- 5.2 The key focus for the programme will be Economic Development & Regeneration.
- 5.3 Local authorities are asked to prioritise practicality when programme planning to ensure that outputs and outcomes are deliverable.
- 5.4 The grant can be used to continue existing LGPFG/UKSPF activity, and fund "shovel ready" projects however, the projects proposed cannot replace existing committed projects, they must be projects that could not exist without the flexible grant i.e. must be new activity. It was also stressed that funding will be to support additional activity and should not be used to deliver core services/fill funding gaps in resources that do not deliver the outcomes directly.
- 5.5 Reporting will be light touch on a quarterly basis, submitted to GMCA for approval. The grant funding will be paid in full once the Grant Funding agreement is signed by Bury and GMCA.. Internal monitoring and evaluation will focus on ensuring that the terms of the grant funding are adhered to including mitigating any potential clawback issues and ensuring spend is made by the deadline of 31 March 2027.

## **6. Project shortlisting**

- 6.1 All project leads were asked to complete a Local Authority Project Template providing an overview/description of the EDRGF proposal and demonstrating how the project fits with Outcomes and Outputs Framework. Project leads were asked to demonstrate ability to deliver the project spend within the deadline and provide a financial profile.
- 6.2 Project submissions were assessed by an internal project panel against deliverability, outcomes and outputs, value for money and alignment with corporate priorities and existing strategies that were unfunded.
- 6.3 These were presented to Executive Leadership Team on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 and Leader and Portfolio holder on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2026. Followed by Regeneration and Sustainability Board on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.
- 6.4 The deadline for all grant funding to be spent is 31 March 2027, leaving a short timeframe for delivery. To ensure that spend and activity is completed in the required timeframe, for the 2026/27 funding round the focus is on supporting or extending projects which are already underway, or those

projects that have been identified in previous rounds and are therefore at an advanced stage of planning. For the town centres programme this therefore includes the delivery/completion of priority projects within the Whitefield and Ramsbottom town plans, Bury Masterplan and the completion/ support of the Radcliffe Enterprise Centre.

- 6.5 Cabinet delegate powers to Executive Director of Place to make any necessary changes to the programme in consultation with Portfolio holders.
- 6.6 The table below shows an overview of the final projects recommended by the internal panel and subsequently approved by the process above.
- 6.7 The Bury proposal was submitted to GMCA by the required deadline of 10 April 2026.

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Total Project Costs</b>
Bury Means Business Creative Content/Place Promoter (borough wide)	Continuation of existing funded post to promote place and growth across all media channels	<b>£44,805</b>
Bury Culture Project (borough wide)	A range of projects including events to support visitor economy, creative industries and investment in our venues and spaces with the community	<b>£136,000</b>
Town Centres Regeneration Bury/Ramsbottom/Whitefield	Deliver a series of public realm initiatives to enhance key areas within our town centres and deliver some of the aspirations of existing the Town Plans. E.g. Bury – Casewells and surrounding area, Whitefield – Old Town Hall Gardens, Ramsbottom – Bridge Street Gardens  £200k of this funding is to be transferred to Midlands Events Bury LTD via a grant funding agreement. £97k of this funding will be released via a vesting certificate process to facilitate procurement of items with long lead times. This is to avoid undue delay to the opening of the Casewell's building.	<b>£1,345,845</b>
Radcliffe Enterprise Centre and business Support	Completion of the transformation of Radcliffe Library building to Enterprise centre.	<b>£200,000</b>
Admin Fee	Costs set out in the GFA to manage the programme.	<b>£65,000</b>

<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE SUMMARY</b>	<b>£1,791,650</b>
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## 7. Next Steps

- 7.1 Project Leads have been notified and templates for reporting will be shared once received from GMCA.
- 7.2 EDRGF Delivery Project Board has been set up with Terms of Reference produced and monthly meeting scheduled.
- 7.3 Governance of schemes that are to be defrayed through other organisations to be agreed and confirmed (e.g. Culture grants to community organisations) and Grant funding agreements arranged as necessary including any back-to-back provisions from the GMCA funding agreement to limit risk to Bury MBC.

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### Links with the Corporate Priorities:

- 8. Local – Town centre improvements across Bury, Whitefield and Ramsbottom to support delivery of Town Centre Plans and Bury Market development proposals.
- 9. Enterprising – Radcliffe Enterprise Centre completion to deliver SFR aspirations to support local businesses and deliver growth in the town
- 10. Together – Bury Culture Strategy delivery and support for communities to engage.
- 11. Strengths – Place Promotion post to promote Bury to residents, businesses and visitors.

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### Equality Impact and Considerations:

- 12. EIA not required as this is an update on this Grant Funding Agreement with GMCA with no changes to policy or practices within the council.

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### Environmental Impact and Considerations:

- 13. n/a

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### Assessment and Mitigation of Risk:

<b>Risk / opportunity</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Inability to spend funding within timeframe	Project Management governance in place to monitor and manage

Costs exceeding budget	Cost planning before start and monitor and manage monthly with Project Board
Third Party grants via Culture	Governance to be set up and monitor and manage in service

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**Procurement Implications:**

14. Requirements/contract variations will be compliant with the relevant Procurement Regulations at the time of sourcing.

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**Legal Implications:**

15. The Council has broad statutory powers to promote economic development and regeneration within its area, including under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (general power of competence) and section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972. In exercising these functions, it must have regard to its best value duty under the Local Government Act 1999 and ensure that funding is used lawfully, efficiently and in a manner that supports local priorities. The EDRFG forms part of the Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement and must be applied consistently with the objectives and conditions set by Government and the Combined Authority. The Council must also have regard to its continuing duties in relation to equality (Equality Act 2010) and public sector transparency.

In delivering programmes under the EDRGF, the Council must ensure compliance with any applicable subsidy control requirements under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and with procurement obligations where funding is used to commission goods, works or services. Appropriate governance arrangements must be maintained, including adherence to the Council's constitution, financial regulations and scheme of delegation, particularly where decision-making is delegated to officers. Any variation to programme delivery must remain within the scope of approved policy and funding conditions, with material changes requiring further Member approval. Robust monitoring and audit arrangements should be in place to mitigate financial, legal and reputational risk.

Cabinet may lawfully delegate executive decision-making to a Director under the Local Government Act 2000, subject to the Council's constitution and scheme of delegation. Any delegation must clearly define its scope and remain within approved policy and budget parameters. Changes to the programme must not constitute a new key decision unless properly authorised and compliant with procedural requirements. The Director must also comply with all conditions attached to the grant funding. Any variation outside these limits will require further Cabinet approval.

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## Financial Implications:

16. Funding for the projects will be received up front on signing of the GFA with GMCA. The level of support to the projects will be limited to the amount of funding received less the £65k administration taken to fund the costs of staff already in post who deliver programme management, administration and monitoring and evaluation of the projects within the programme.

There is no requirement to match fund any of the awards, and awards are to be a set maximum amount to each project. Any amount that cannot be spent by the deadline of March 2027 will be identified through the monitoring process and redistributed to other projects to ensure that there is no grant to be repaid and all agreed outputs and outcomes (and other grant conditions) are met.

17. Payments to external parties will be through a grant funding agreement and monitored to the same level as the internal projects.

18. It is a condition of the GMCA grant that the projects should be additional not displacement of existing funding.

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## Appendices:

- Appendix 1 –EDRFG 26-27 Grant Funding Agreement – BURY
- Appendix 2 - Bury -Schedule 1A EDRGF 2026-27
- Appendix 3 - Bury-Schedule 1B EDRGF 2026-27
- Appendix 4 - Schedule 3

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## Background papers:

None.

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**

Term	Meaning
UKSPF	United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund
LGPF	Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant
EDRGF	Economic Development & Regeneration Grant Funding