

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 4 February 2015**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,
CIVIC CENTRE, OLDHAM

Tuesday, 27 January 2015

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 4 February 2015 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

Open Council

1 Civic Appreciation Ceremony

The Civic Appreciation Award is awarded to people in recognition of their significant contribution and longstanding service to the people and community of Oldham. The Award is bestowed upon David McGealy in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to Oldham.

2 Questions to Cabinet Members from the public and Councillors on ward or district issues

(20 minutes for public questions and 20 minutes for Councillor questions)

Formal Council

3 To receive apologies for absence

4 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17th December 2014 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 36)

5 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting

6 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business

7 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council

8 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 37 - 38)

(time limit 20 minutes)

9 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 15 minutes).

There are no Items of Outstanding Business.

10 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

I Love Me is Oldham Youth Council's priority campaign for 2014 - 16 term of office. This campaign aims to look at the deeper issues and delve below the surface to explore and tackle the underlying causes of low self-esteem and confidence, lack of resilience and poor levels of mental health in Oldham's young people.

We ask the Council to put its support behind I Love Me and, in particular, the Purple Monkey Washing Machine initiative that challenges the unrealistic media body image that has been photoshopped and altered.

When a young person does something worthy of recognition we want you to give them a purple monkey, take their picture and celebrate the good work that they are doing by publishing it throughout our social media. These young people then have to find another person who has helped their community and pass on the monkey, paying forward the self-esteem given by the person before.

In this way we can then show the world what Oldham's young people are doing to help raise not only their own self-esteem but also the self-esteem of others in the borough.

We want everyone to see how young people in Oldham are making a positive contribution in their communities and ensure they are valued for this.

We propose that Oldham Council formally support the Purple Monkey Washing Machine initiative and agree to use real images of people on all their publicity, websites and other promotional materials and not distort the image of these people and to agree to support the 'Pay it Forward' purple monkey programme and begin the initiative in each ward they represent.

11 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

(time limit 30 minutes – maximum of 2 minutes per question and 2 minutes per response)

- 12 To note the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on the undermentioned dates, including the attached list of urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council, and to receive any questions or observations on any items within the Minutes from Members of the Council who are not Members of the Cabinet, and receive responses from Cabinet Members (Pages 39 - 56)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 17th November 2014
- b) 15th December 2014

13 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Roberts to MOVE and Councillor Dearden to SECOND:

This Council notes with alarm and concern the developing pressures in the National

Health Service resulting from the Government's Accident and Emergency crisis:

- Between October to December 2014 just under 93% of Accident and Emergency patients in England were seen within four hours - the worst quarterly result since a target was introduced. In the same period, 91.47% of patients were seen within four hours at Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust (PAHT includes Royal Oldham, North Manchester and Fairfield hospitals, as well as an urgent care centre at Rochdale Infirmary). In the week ending the 9th January this had worsened to 87.9% at PAHT.
- As well as long waits for patients in A&E, this performance impacts on the NHS more widely. Over 300 long-planned operations are cancelled each day as England's NHS hospitals need more beds for A&E departments under record-breaking strain.
- 20 hospitals have declared 'major incidents' to tackle their individual problems in A&E Departments.
- An initial estimate is that the full year cost of care provided to facilitate hospital discharges in recent weeks could be in the region of £500k and this is likely to increase if pressures persist.

The Council acknowledges the hard work done by NHS staff to meet the needs of patients and the joint work by Oldham's Urgent Care Alliance to make the best use of the resources available to Oldham, but believes that additional investment is needed both in the NHS directly and in Council social care services to meet the needs of an ageing population and address the health inequalities in the borough.

This Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to:

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Health asking for urgent action to be taken to bring together health, social care, emergency and council services to develop an emergency plan to tackle the rapidly deteriorating position in A&E services. The plan to include a review of the resources available to local authorities to improve preventative services and care packages to ensure timely discharge of patients into community services.
2. Write to the Local Government Association to enlist their support.
3. Write to the three borough MPs to inform them of the council's position and request that they use whatever parliamentary means available to raise this matter with government.

Motion 2

Councillor Akhtar to MOVE and Councillor Ball to SECOND:

The New Economy recently published a report which reviewed the impact of benefit sanctions. This has been reviewed by the Oldham Poverty Action Group and local data collected through a workshop. The Group has stated that:

- The sanctions system itself is complex and the wording in official letters is difficult to understand. Local residents do not know they can access hardship payments from the DWP and are not clear about Local Welfare Provision.
- Many organisations that work to support claimants believe that sanctions are applied when they shouldn't be. For example when there are exceptional circumstances that have led to the claimants actions eg. when a person is sanctioned for not attending an interview when the letter inviting them arrived

after the date of the meeting.

- People who are already vulnerable are often more likely to incur sanctions e.g. concerns were expressed about people with mental ill health and with poor literacy/numeracy skills.
- Overall there seems to be less support services available to help people facing multiple disadvantages who are affected by sanctions which means people are left isolated and need to turn to charitable help.

According to the Children in Poverty Action Group only about one third of sanctioned claimants appeal and yet 56% are successful at getting the sanction overturned which implies that confidence and understanding about the appeal process is likely to be poorly understood and that too many sanctions probably shouldn't have been applied. A number of work clubs in Oldham are now trying to support claimants with the appeal process and it is appears that where claimants have skills issues (e.g. literacy issues) that they will not engage in submitting appeals.

I thereby call on the Chief Executive to write to the Government asking it to urgently review its approach to sanctioning. It is accepted that sometimes sanctions are required but there should be a fairness test and clear support pathways for those sanctioned.

Motion 3

Councillor Briggs to MOVE and Councillor Williams to SECOND:

This Council recognises the hazards caused by Sky Lanterns (also known as Chinese Lanterns).

Sky Lanterns have given rise to a number of serious safety concerns including:

- The risk to human life, especially to those who are members of the emergency services
- Risks to Pets, livestock, birds, wildlife and marine life.
- Fires and damage to property and vehicles.
- The impact on the environment, including littering.

Sky Lanterns were responsible for the fire at the Smethwick Recycling Plant in June 2013, which resulted in damage totalling around £6m. They have also been responsible for 62 fires within Greater Manchester.

Death and injury has been inflicted on Pets, livestock, birds, wildlife and marine life mainly through ingestion and entrapment caused by the lanterns wire frames.

The RSPCA, Fire and Rescue Authorities, farmers and vets have all warned of the dangers of Sky Lanterns. They have also been banned in several other countries including Australia, Spain and Germany.

This Council therefore, resolves to ban the sale and use of sky lanterns on any of its property or premises.

In addition, that the Council resolves to write to our three local Members of Parliament and urges them to support Early Day Motion 266 which states: *'That this House expresses concern regarding the use of sky lanterns, also known as Chinese lanterns and their impact on livestock, crops and the environment; notes that Cleveland Fire Brigade recognises that the lanterns pose a serious fire safety hazard due to their uncontrolled and unpredictable flight paths; further notes the existence of a ban on their use in Spain as a result of damage to property and death or injury to livestock caused by discarded lanterns and increases on the fire service, police and medical emergency services; and urges the Government to act swiftly.'*

14 Notice of Opposition Business

Motion 1

Councillor Williamson to MOVE and Councillor Heffernan to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- Nationally, over 600 young people die every year from sudden cardiac arrest - twelve young people each week - and 270 of these deaths happen in schools.
- British Red Cross research shows nearly 90 per cent of 11 to 16-year-olds have been confronted with a medical emergency.

This Council commends:

- The excellent work carried out by Heartstart Oldham and SADs, with support from the British Heart Foundation, Rotary Club, North West Ambulance Service, the Healthy Schools Project, fund-raisers and sponsors to provide first aid training to school staff and pupils and to supply Automated External Defibrillators to schools across the borough.
- New guidance published by the Department for Education encouraging schools to buy an Automated External Defibrillator.
- The British Heart Foundation's Nation of Lifesavers Initiative.

Council believes that:

- School children should be taught First Aid as part of the national curriculum
- It should be a local public health priority to teach children and school staff First Aid and to provide defibrillators in schools

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP and the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt. Hon. Nicola Morgan, urging them to introduce First Aid as part of the national curriculum
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to establish a plan to ensure that First Aid teaching is introduced into every Oldham school in the interim, and to bring a report back to full Council
- Ask the Director of Public Health to fund the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators, supported by appropriate training, into every school across the borough, and to bring a report on his proposals back to full Council
- Mark World First Aid Day 12th September 2015 with a public awareness campaign outlining the importance of acquiring emergency First Aid knowledge.

Motion 2

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Heffernan to SECOND:

Council notes that one in ten people is dyslexic, but that the prevalence of this condition (which is sometimes called a learning difference) increases dramatically amongst benefit claimants who are job-seeking (four in ten) and young offenders (seven in ten).

Dyslexia can be a serious barrier to someone securing or maintaining employment.

Council recognises that:

- the provision of specialist support for jobseekers with dyslexia should be a part of the Get Oldham Working strategy. This would include access to screening services, pre-employment courses and assistive technology.
- it should follow best practice in its treatment of employees with dyslexia by establishing appropriate recruitment practices, and a regime of job redesign, support and understanding.

Dyslexia is a recognised disability, yet job candidates, employees and the self-employed are often unaware that they can access support from the Government's Access to Work programme.

Council resolves to:

- Investigate installing voice recognition software on computers in dedicated areas in public libraries and The Link Centre for use by individuals with dyslexia
- Establish an area within the Link Centre to showcase the assistive technology available to people with dyslexia
- Provide training to staff and volunteers to support these individuals in the use of this technology
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the District Manager of Job Centre Plus to request the installation of similar technology and the provision of similar training to job coaches as part of the Digital Job Centre roll out at the Oldham Job Centre
- Work with the Dyslexia Foundation, to establish Pre-Employability Courses and the Dyslexia, Spt. D and Learning Difference Development Programme in Oldham
- Work with existing business networks and other partners to promote these programmes, and the availability of funding through Access to Work, to employees and the self-employed as well as to local jobseekers
- Mark Dyslexia Awareness Week (5th to 11th October 2015) with suitable events to raise awareness amongst the public and employers and to promote this provision

15 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 57 - 82)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

Greater Manchester Combined Authority	28 th November 2014
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	28 th November 2014
Transport for Greater Manchester	14 th November 2014
National Park Authority	3 rd October 2014

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant
b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 83 - 106)

(time limit 7 minutes)

Health and Wellbeing Board	11 th November 2014 11 th December 2014
Unity Partnership Board	5 th November 2014 9 th December 2014
Oldham Leadership Board	3 rd December 2014

- 16 Proposal to amend the constitution of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority:
Consultation

Report to Follow

- 17 Officer Scheme of Delegation (Pages 107 - 122)
- 18 Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (Pages 123 - 142)
- 19 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year
Review Report 2014/15 (Pages 143 - 162)
- 20 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 163 - 188)

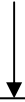
NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 3 hours and 30 minutes after the commencement of the meeting.



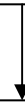
**Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

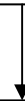
MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



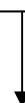
MOTION – Secunder of the Motion to SECOND – May reserve right to speak



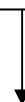
DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

(a) No Member shall speak longer than four minutes on any **Motion or Amendment**, or by way of question, observation or reply, unless by consent of the Members of the Council present, he/she is allowed an extension, in which case only one extension of 30 seconds shall be allowed.

(b) A Member replying to more than question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

WITH AMENDMENT

