COUNCIL
04/02/2015 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Hussain

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Alcock, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ames, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Blyth, Briggs, Brownridge, A Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, Dearden, J Dillon, Fielding, Garry, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hibbert, Houle, Hudson, Iqbal, Jabbar, Judge, Kirkham, Klonowski, Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, McMahon, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sedgwick, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth

1 **CIVIC APPRECIATION CEREMONY**

A presentation took place for Mr. David McGealy in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication to Oldham.

Councillors McMahon, Dillon and Heffernan gave congratulatory speeches to Mr. McGealy.

Mr. McGealy was then presented with the Civic Appreciation Award and made an acceptance speech to Council.

The meeting convened at 6.33pm for the business of the Council meeting.

2 **QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ON WARD OR DISTRICT ISSUES**

The Mayor advised the meeting that the next item on the agenda in Open Council was Public Question Time. The questions had been received from members of the public and would be taken in the order in which they had been received. Council was advised that if the questioner was not present then the question would appear on the screen in the Council Chamber.

The following questions had been submitted:

1. Question received from Chris Gloster:

   "Will the Cabinet Member deny that the decision, in principle, has been made to move Shaw market onto Market Street, despite concerns from local residents?"

   Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Culture and Tourism gave the following response:

   "I won't deny that a decision has been made.

We are going to move the market to Market Street for a three month trial period starting in early summer. During that time the Council will carry out a detailed study to see if the move has been successful, for example through increased footfall and a rise in takings for stall holders and local business.
Out of courtesy, this decision has been shared with market traders first before making this announcement.
At the end of the trail period customers, residents, traders and local businesses will be invited to have their say on the move.
If the Market Street location is considered to be successful then the council will take steps to make the move permanent. If not, the market will return to its current location.

I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the consultation. It is fair to say that there was a wide range of views expressed with some existing customers saying they didn't want the location to change. I understand this. I know that change is difficult but the market needs to attract new customers and new stall holders so there was also recognition that we need to do something different.
I am clear that investing money on improving the existing site, which is what many people wanted, does not make commercial sense because it wouldn't attract the extra customers the market needs.
We believe that the temporary move to Market Street will give the stall holders a boost as they'll be selling their goods on a busy shopping street and we'll also be helping the existing traders on Market Street by bringing more footfall to them.

I must stress that this is not a permanent move at this stage and we will examine whether it has been an economic success and take all views into account once the three months is up. The Council feels that this is a very sensible approach to take before spending the £120,000 we have allocated on making any permanent move.

This investment, if we go ahead, is in addition to the £100,000 invested in High Street grants for Shaw town centre's small independent businesses."

2. Question received from Louie Hamblett:

"I live in central Shaw. Inconsiderate parking on Market Street in Shaw by drivers visiting local shops and cafes is leading to traffic grinding to a halt. Buses simply cannot get past the vehicles on either side of the road.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me if he is willing to deploy traffic wardens to book these drivers and help get traffic moving again?"

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Culture and Tourism gave the following response:

"Civil Enforcement Officers visit this area on a regular basis with the aim to discourage illegal parking, achieve compliance and improve the flow of traffic in the area. Since April 2014 there has been 96 PCNs issued on this street.

I will ask officers to increase patrols in this area over the coming weeks with the aim to try to improve the situation.

It must be noted that we used to use the camera car in this area but since the proposed change in legalisation by Government we have not been able to do so."

3. Question received from Karen Kelly:

"Why is planning permission given to people that can't afford to finish the work? Just to leave an eyesore and a danger to the neighbourhood. Never mind leaving water pipes exposed!!!"

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"Planning applications are determined on their individual merits having regard to the adopted policies contained within the Council's development plan, national guidance and any other material considerations.

The ability of an applicant or developer to finance a development is irrelevant in the consideration of a planning application. Only where developments are proposed which require financial contributions to be agreed with the Council (for matters such as public open space and affordable housing provision) will the applicants often submit viability appraisals if they are to justify reduced contributions.

Nevertheless, if land is left in an untidy condition, which adversely affects amenity, the planning enforcement team can investigate upon the receipt of a specific complaint. Furthermore, if a development has commenced, and has been left partially complete, the Council's Building Control section may become involved if the building was found to be structurally unsafe."

4, Question received from John Trickett:

"Whilst it is welcome news that Marks & Spencer are to open a store in Oldham concerns have been expressed about the cost to Oldham Council tax payers.
In the Oldham Chronicle Cllr Jim McMahon is quoted as saying 'regeneration plans would cost around £60 million, with most of the cost met by the new businesses and the

council tax generated by the new residents moving into new homes'. Therefore how much, if any, of the £60m will be borne by Council Tax payers and how will this be paid for (if borrowed how long will it take to pay back), and what is the £60m actually for? (Should be noted that Marks and Spencer made £623m profit in 2013-14) And finally if the finance for this scheme is to be borrowed how much in total has the council had to borrow for this and other town centre developments such as the Town Hall regeneration, and can the council guarantee that such borrowing will not affect future Council Tax charges for residents?"

Councillor McMahon, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region gave the following response:

"In terms of the finance and delivery arrangements for Oldham Mumps ad M & S, we're still working through those proposals and once we have more complete conclusions drawn a report will follow to Cabinet and of course at that point will be in the public domain.

In terms of the Old Town Hall, there was a report taken to Cabinet in July that outlined the economic impact and the finances of the old Town Hall project. That report is available for members of the public to view.

I should say, and it is probably worth putting on record today, there are a number of mischievous comments being made around this project and other projects that need to be put straight. The first one is a myth that's been perpetuated that claims that we've borrowed £150M. It is true to say the Council has £150M of borrowing but that borrowing was in place when Labour took control of this Council and it hasn't changed significantly since then. As it stands today there hasn't been a borrowing requirement for the regeneration projects that we're currently undertaking but clearly in terms of investing in Oldham we will take a business decision on whether or not it's a good investment for the return that's going to be generated for the town and I think if we do that then that's doing the right thing for the people of Oldham. The biggest problem the town faces in actual fact isn't regeneration, although there are consequences if we don't do it, it's the central government cuts to this Council. So far and in terms of looking forward the total cut will be £204M. That will leave us with a budget of around £190M of controllable spend. Now any household income, if it was cut by more than half, you would have to make some very serious decisions about where you spent money and that is exactly the same situation as this Council. So will there be a need to raise Council Tax? I can say today there are no plans to raise Council Tax but I do think we need to be honest with ourselves and the public that every year costs increase. Inflationary costs increase, the staff

wages bill increases, the cost of contracts increase, the cost of energy bills and insurances all increase and I think it's very damaging if we get into a situation where we try and convince the public that costs just don't go up when they do, and the reality is if these costs aren't passed on all it means in real time and real terms is that costs will be passed onto services and services will be cut. So no plans today but let's not get into an artificial debate about Council Tax increasing in the future because let's be honest we all believe in public service and we all want to make sure they're delivered to the public that we are here to represent."

5. Question received from Haris Arshed:

"1. Front road access of Vernet Gardens is still blocked with fencing. Why?
2. Rear car park roads also need an extra overlay because it's too deep as compare to parking bays.
3. There is some fenced barren land between Edward Street and our block of houses which our builder told us will be developed by council as playground/park/green belt. When they are going to develop this land?"

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"1.This area requires further works to complete the cycle path and highway. This includes the application of the wearing course to Alfred Street and other uncompleted roadways in the area.
2. The wearing course to this area will be applied alongside other highways works around the development.
3. Keepmoat and the Council are engaged in detailed discussions to agree the most appropriate way of improving this land, which will be laid out as a 'linear park'. These discussions are expected to conclude in the next few months."

6. Question received from Alan Belmore:

"In view of the recent snow and ice, we have once again been reminded of the fantastic work done by the local gritters in keeping the area moving in difficult conditions. However, whilst the carriageways are cleared, we are also reminded of the dangers of poor pavement surfaces and the risks they pose for pedestrians. Nowhere is this more true than the dangerous Uppermill High Street footpath between Mill Street and the Fish and Chip shop. This is a narrow pavement on a very busy road and the patched up pavement currently has large pockets of ice. With the lack of a raised curb it is a perilous situation for pedestrians and is fast becoming an accident waiting to

happen, especially with so many school children using the route.
Will the council take a look at the pavement with a view to making it safer – especially in the current conditions?"

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"Thank you for the recognition of the hard work which is undertaken in difficult conditions by many of our staff particularly those who work in all conditions and show tremendous commitment to keeping our roads open and bins collected at this time of year.
I've recently received one or two emails. It's very rare that people take the time to thank people or express appreciation for work that the Council staff do. Can I say the teams, and I've been at Royton Hall School this morning having photographs taken with youngsters who have participated in a competition to name the gritters and it was a really good morning out, surrounded by lots of young children and I'm pleased to say that on that particular photograph I was the tallest one present.
The priority must always be that we keep the main route network open we are then able to move resources to work in the District Centres where the local teams clear and grit footpaths. I can confirm that this stretch of footpath is already included in the district work plan, and will be cleared and gritted as part of the routine work going forward."

7. Question received from Julia Turner:

'When the Council is so quick to turn the lights off in Shaw, the Youth Centre and Crompton Pool - why was it that the Christmas lights in Shaw Town Centre were not turned off until 12 January?'

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Culture and Tourism gave the following response:

"The Christmas lights are put in place by a contractor to the Council and unfortunately there was a delay. A review has been undertaken to ensure they are turned off as contracted in future."

8. Question received from Joe Fitzpatrick:

"The Leader Jim McMahon recently wrote an article for the magazine Progress, in which he accused Eric Pickles and the Department for Communities and Local Government of failing to provide accounting oversight across government.
Will he now provide external accounting oversight to his scheme to convert the Town Hall into a Cinema at a cost now in excess of £37 million so the people of Oldham can have a full understanding of this mad scheme, instead of

the disgracefully inept paper that was presented to Cabinet."

Councillor McMahon, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region, gave the following response:

"Thank you for highlighting that article, which was intended to highlight just how poorly managed the cuts have been to Local Government. The Public Accounts Committee that reported back, which is cross parties, this isn't a party political point at all, was very clear that actually of the £7.6 billion that's been taken from local councils, the majority of that has come from council's that represent deprived communities. Money has been taken from the poorest and we know it's been given to some of the wealthiest areas in return. That isn't fair by anybody's account and I think most of us accept that we have to shoulder our fair share of the cuts, I just think the way it's been handled has been disastrous for communities like Oldham and we should say so and I would hope UKIP join me in doing that because it's beyond politics this, as in Oldham politics, this is about what's right for our town. So instead of criticising it, get behind Oldham, that's what I say.

Thank you again for raising the Old Town Hall flagship regeneration project in the heart of Oldham that will transform our Town Centre. Like me, Mr Fitzpatrick will be aware that regeneration in Oldham hasn't met its full potential in the past and we're determined to turn that round. We've brought forward a scheme that will turn around an aging building, that currently didn't have a viable use, and we're bringing forward a plan to build a brand new cinema and restaurants, brand new public square that will be the catalyst for regeneration in Oldham Town Centre. Now far from that being bad news, I would say that's very good news and there's only one thing that I'll say, because there's actually quite a lot of people in the audience today, in Oldham the main political parties, Labour, Conservatives and the Lib Dems have put aside our party political differences to make sure that the regeneration of Oldham isn't compromised and what we're finding today is that a fringe minor party is coming in trying to exploit the natural concerns people have in a very cynical way to try and gain support. I say this, I think people in Oldham are far smarter than that, I don't think they're going to be taken in by that and I think people in Oldham actually believe that for once Oldham is heading in the right direction."

Councillor Jabbar entered the meeting at 6.49pm.

9. Question received from Peter Davis:

"Hi i would like to ask the following question in public questions on Wednesday evening.

Can council clarify the position regarding UKIP Councillor Warren Bates and his allowance payments.

It is important that Councillors act with honesty and integrity. I understand that the payment of Councillor allowances is legitimate, but if a candidate stands for election and makes a pledge on allowances then they should be able to demonstrate that they have stood by that pledge.

In election campaigns Cllr Bates pledged to only claim half his allowance with the remainder being donated to charity. Can i ask how much was Cllr Bates entitled to claim and what was actually claimed since his election? Can council confirm if any salary deductions have been made on any part of his allowance payment."

Councillor McMahon, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region gave the following response:

"I will give a factual response but given that it names a Member in this chamber we should give the opportunity for the Member to answer the questions directly if Council is in agreement with that. The factual response is Councillor Bates is entitled to claim £ 9,040 a year and to date he has claimed pro rata his full entitlement, so he's claimed his full entitlement. I'm not able to confirm whether any has been given to charity because I've been advised that it's subject to data protection restrictions."

On being put to the vote, Council agreed that Councillor Bates be given the opportunity to respond, however he declined.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

The following questions were submitted by Councillors on Ward or District Matters:

1. Councillor Ball to Councillor Hibbert:

   "Some of the residents of Derker St are having an awful time with taxis sat waiting for fares with their engines running and radios on, outside their properties. Sometimes blocking their drives, and sometimes during the night. This is having the effect of stopping children sleeping.
   As this is not a taxi rank, and as it is an offence to sit with your engine running, this surely can be right. Why can't they park up at their rank office?
   Please can we look at this urgently, and if drivers continue to do this, can this issue be taken into account when the taxi companies are getting rated for their stars? This behaviour is not acceptable."

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"I can confirm that officers are aware of the situation as outlined and have been communicating with operators and drivers to remind them not to cause a nuisance to residents. Several warning letters have already been issued and any repeated breaches will be considered for referral to the Licensing Panel to review their licence."

2. Councillor Murphy to Councillor McMahon:

"Will the leader join me in condemning Eon, who have been instructed by their Press Office, not to speak to local Councillors or attend the District Executive, to talk about concerns relating to street lighting in and around Shaw, Crompton and Shaw town centre - and will the leader put pressure on those who have issued the decree to give their reasons and get them to agree to attend a meeting."

Councillor McMahon, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region, gave the following response:

"I think we've all experienced lighting columns being put in front of people's windows where they shouldn't have been, blocking access to driveways, you name it. If it could have been put in the wrong place in one ward in the borough it would have been done. I'm slightly disappointed though because we have raised this in Council meetings before and we have given a commitment that things will improve and from what's being said things haven't improved. Now it is worth saying that Eon are a sub-contractor and it's the Community Lighting Partnership that should be having those interactions with Ward Councillors but I think even so, of the professionals from Eon who have attended the meetings in Failsworth, where I've attended as Ward Councillor, I've been less than impressed at the preparation, at the advice and the follow up, it's just not good enough. We're paying a lot of money for that contract, quite rightly because we know the street lighting needs to be replaced, but be clear that Ward Councillors are the voice of their community and if Ward Councillors are raising an issue then it's because members of the community come forward with a complaint and I can guarantee that if members on that side are complaining, members on my side feel the same way. From this meeting I'll send a letter to the Community Lighting Partnership and to Eon and make it absolutely clear that Ward Members need to be taken seriously, that their concerns need to be acted on and that any issues need to be resolved as a matter of urgency. I would consider it a breach of trust in the relationship if they didn't take it more seriously."

3. Councillor Sheldon to Councillor Hibbert:

"The installation of the new street lighting is taking place in Uppermill and Grasscroft.
Could I ask the cabinet member responsible if any work has been scheduled to remove some of the lower tree branches of the trees directly below the new lights.
It is quite obvious in many cases that the new light will be shaded by the tree leaves in the spring and summer and this will reduce the emission of light onto the road and footpaths."

Councillor Hibbert, the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"The code of practice says that whenever street lamps are installed any offending or intruding trees should be trimmed. If you let me know where they are I will work with Councillor Brownridge and ensure they are trimmed back."

4. Councillor Moores to Councillor Hibbert:

"Mills Hill Station sits on the Oldham Rochdale boundary and provides a vital link to Manchester and the wider area for residents of both borough, unfortunately access to the station for disabled people is extremely limited. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please advise me of what plans are in place to address the problem of disabled access at Mills Hill station."

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"Mills Hill Station is one of 26 stations across the country that will benefit from the latest round of the DfT's Access for All programme which was announced in December last year. These 26 stations will receive a share of a £60 million fund. Accessible, step-free access will be provided at all 6. They will all get an accessible route into the station and between each platform.
Mills Hill has been in the list of stations most in need of step-free access across Greater Manchester since the list was drawn up in 2009, so the announcement in December was extremely welcome.

Can I also add Greenfield Station, which is another station which is in desperate need of proper access, I've met with Transport Sub-Committee up in the Saddlleworth area on this issue. We will of course continue our campaign to get step-free access at Greenfield Station as part of the planned Network Rail electrification programme along with access improvements at other stations used by Oldham residents including Moston and Mossley."

5. Councillor Sedgwick to Councillor Hibbert

"Can the Cabinet Member give me an update on the zebra crossing at Ashbrook Road in Springhead?

We were assured that all pedestrian crossings would be inspected but as yet we have received no report on this matter".

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"The borough wide zebra review has been completed. The Zebra Crossing on A669 Oldham Road, adjacent to Walkers Lane (Ashbrook Road) has been assessed as requiring the replacement of the existing Belisha beacons and posts and replacement with new posts and LED equipment, together with improvements to the tactile paving arrangement.
A quotation for the works is anticipated shortly and once received will allow the works to be programmed.

Can I take this opportunity to give my commitment to all ward Members that whenever similar work is being carried out in their ward, they will be notified well in advance of the work commencing."

6. Councillor Williamson to Councillor Hibbert

"At a previous Council meeting I asked the following question:

Over the last year I have repeatedly reported to Highways the issue of a collapsed manhole covers on Grampian Way, High Crompton – there are two. It appears that the one at the junction of North Downs Road has finally been fixed but there is still a big deep on the road at the junction of Grampian Way and Highlands Road, where the road is collapsing. Over this time there has been sewerage running across the footpath. The drains in this area have been proved by United Utilities as hydraulically inadequate and these dips and collapses must be as a direct result of this.

Please can the Cabinet Member work with Ward Councillors and Highways to put pressure United Utilities to resolve the matter?"

Whilst Cllr Hibbert answered the question, there have been a couple more cases of this happening in the same area. Therefore can I ask the relevant Cabinet Member to again put pressure on United Utilities to resolve the issue for local residents and involve local Councillors."

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"We are aware of the on-going issues and are at present engaged with United Utilities to expedite a repair. Further information will be available shortly from United Utilities."

7. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Harrison

"As you will be aware there has been problems with flooding on the Woolpack football pitches in Dobcross for quite some time and this has had an adverse impact.

I have worked with the football teams and council officers for some time to try to get some progress and I welcome the positive work done to try and address the issues and the collaborative approach with United Utilities and the Environment Agency to address the long term flooding issues in Dobcross and beyond.

My understanding is that the owners of the damaged culvert are required to repair it and that the council are still carrying out work. During this time it means that the football pitches are not useable.

Could the cabinet member please provide an update on when the works are likely to be completed and when the football pitches are going to be ready to use?"

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Public Health gave the following response:

"I can confirm that the damaged culvert has now been repaired by the landowner and the flooding that was causing issues to the pitch and the pathway has been alleviated. Environmental Services have restated the pathway to a good standard and the damage caused to the grassed area has now been repaired. Seeding will take place in the spring time ready for the new season in August 2015. This will allow enough time for the turf to get established enabling a football pitch to marked out and allowing normal use to be resumed."

8. Councillor Blyth to Councillor McMahon

"Can the Cabinet Member or Leader please assure me, and my Shaw and Crompton colleagues, that the major improvement works scheduled for the Crompton War Memorial will be started in a timely manner to ensure that the works will be completed in time for Remembrance Sunday in 2015."

Councillor McMahon, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region, gave the following response:

"I can confirm that work is now progressing on the memorial. We are waiting to hear back from English Heritage to get their approval. Once that's received work can begin."

9. Councillor McCann to Councillor Hibbert

"We have a number of Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in Saddleworth installed by the District Partnership some five years ago in 2010 with a maintenance contract for five years. As this contract is now ending could the member advise me

if there is any consideration being made regarding a renewal of the maintenance contract?"

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response:

"We are aware of the issues and know the problems; we are looking at the costs, the necessary costs and as soon as we've got the estimates will get back to you to discuss the best way forward. I will discuss it with yourself and the District Partnership to ensure that everybody gets as much as they can of what they what."

RESOLVED that the questions raised and the responses given be noted.

3 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Dawson.

4 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 17TH DECEMBER 2014 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 17th December 2014 be approved as a correct record.

5 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillor Sheldon declared a pecuniary interest in Item 8, Petitions, by virtue of his business in the Saddleworth area. Councillor Ahmad declared a pecuniary interest at Item 13, Motion 1, by virtue of his appointment on the Pennine Acute Hospital Trust. Councillor Brownridge, Chauhan, Harrison and McCann all declared a personal interest in 15b – Minutes of the Oldham Care and Support Company by virtue of their appointment to the Oldham Care and Support Board and Oldham Care and Support at Home Board. Councillors Dean, Jabbar, McCann, Shah, Stretton and Sykes all declared a personal interest in Item 15b – Minutes of the Unity Partnership Board by virtue of their appointment to the Board and Councillors Dean, Jabbar and McCann declared a personal interest in Item 15b – Minutes of the Unity Partnership Board by virtue of their appointment to the JVCo Board. Councillors Akhtar, Qumer and Rehman declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12, Cabinet Minutes, in respect of Selective Licensing of Private Landlords, by virtue of their interest as landlords in the Selective Licensing Scheme.

6 **TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor informed the meeting that no items of Urgent Business had been received.

7 **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor informed the meeting that no items had been received related to the business of the Council.

8 **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PETITIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

At this point in the Meeting Councillor Sheldon left the Chamber and took no part in the debate or vote.

The Mayor advised the meeting that one petition had been received entitled “Don’t Move Saddleworth School”.

Council were asked to note that the petition had not reached the 3,000 signatures to trigger debate, however, as the figure was so close to the threshold at 2,984, he had received a request from the Leader of the Council to allow debate on the matter.

On being put the vote Council agreed to allow debate. The Lead Petitioner, Mike Buckley, spoke on the issue. Councillor Chadderton replied.

Councillor McCann spoke against the petition and Councillor Kirkham spoke in support the petition.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired however it was requested that an extension be granted. On being put to the vote, Council agreed to the extension and Councillor Hudson spoke against the petition.

A recorded vote was then taken on not to accept the request in the petition with results as follows:

Councillor		**Councillor**	
Ahmad	FOR	Iqbal	FOR
Akhtar	FOR	Jabbar	FOR
Alcock	FOR	Judge	FOR
Alexander, Adrian	FOR	Larkin	FOR
Alexander, Ginny	FOR	Kirkham	AGAINST
Ames	FOR	Klonowski	FOR
Azad	FOR	Malik	FOR
Ball	FOR	McCann	FOR
Bashforth, Marie	FOR	McLaren	FOR
Bashforth, Steven	FOR	McMahon	FOR
Bates	FOR	Moores	FOR
Blyth	FOR	Murphy	FOR
Briggs	FOR	Mushtaq	FOR
Brownridge	FOR	Price	FOR
Chadderton	FOR	Qumer	FOR

Chauhan	FOR	Rehman	FOR
Cosgrove	FOR	Roberts	FOR
Dawson	ABSENT	Salamat	FOR
Dean	FOR	Sedgwick	FOR
Dearden	FOR	Shah	FOR
Dillon	FOR	Sheldon	NO VOTE
Fielding	FOR	Shuttleworth	FOR
Garry	FOR	Stretton	FOR
Haque	FOR	Sykes	FOR
Harkness	FOR	Toor	FOR
Harrison	FOR	Ur-Rehman	FOR
Heffernan	FOR	Williams	FOR
Hibbert	FOR	Williamson	FOR
Houle	FOR	Wrigglesworth	FOR
Hudson	FOR	Hussain	FOR

RESOLVED that the request in the petition not be accepted.

9 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

At this point in the Meeting Councillor Sheldon returned to the Chamber.

The Mayor informed the meeting that there were no items of Outstanding Business.

10 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council had submitted the following motion:

"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."

Councillors Chadderton, S Bashforth and Williamson all spoke in support of the motion, commending the Youth Council on the campaign and the serious issues it focuses on and stated that they would be signing up for a purple monkey to celebrate the good work of young people.

RESOLVED that the Purple Monkey Washing Machine initiative be supported.

11 **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Sykes, raised the following three questions:

1. "The Leader may be aware that prior to Christmas I wrote to 'Community Shop', congratulating them on the opening of a branch of the social enterprise in Lambeth and suggesting that Oldham might be a suitable site for another outlet.
On Monday this week, I took up their invitation of a guided tour of the flagship Goldthorpe shop (S Yorks) and their parent 'Company Shop'. I am now even more impressed of their professionalism and purpose, and even more convinced of the merits of bringing the concept to Oldham.
'Community Shop' operates community supermarkets which sell low-cost, high-quality surplus foodstuffs to hundreds of people on means-tested benefits, backed by services to help them get back to work. 'Company Shop' sources the food and provides logistical support.
Each shop works on a membership basis and can shop for food at prices 70 per cent lower than usual and so can feed their families well within a limited budget.
There is also an on-site café with good, wholesome food cooked by an on-site chef, who teaches customers how to cook as well.
But this is not just about food; rather food is the hook to help member get back to work.
This is a 'hand-up', not just a 'hand-out'.
Members enrol on tailored programmes to improve their self-confidence and job prospects. Working with mentors and professionals from local agencies based at the store, members identify the areas of their lives they need to work on, and receive help to make positive improvements.

It was clear that 'Community Shop' would be very interested in working with Oldham Council to open an outlet in our Borough.
This opportunity is now as they are shortly opening a 'Company Shop' outlet at Stake Hill in Middleton, and want 'Community Shops' based close by.
I will be happy to send the Leader more details in due course, but my question to him tonight is will he work with me and Council Officers to find the partners, to find the site and to find

the money to bring 'Community Shop' to Oldham as soon as possible?"

Councillor McMahon responded that other members shared enthusiasm for the scheme and Councillors Roberts and Dearden were progressing plans for a community type store linked to Get Oldham Growing and he would ask them to provide Councillor Sykes with an update.

2. My second question tonight concerns investment in one of our crumbling secondary schools.
I know the majority of Members in the Chamber will welcome the recent decision, at long last, of the Education Funding Agency to fund a new school for Saddleworth.
Although the chosen site remains controversial, I am sure that we will want to work together on a non-party basis to address the practical issues of locating the school in Diggle, particularly the need to address traffic issues to maintain the safety of school children, staff and local residents.
But my question tonight is not about Saddleworth School. It is rather about another school that for me is both geographically and academically closer to home – it is about Royton and Crompton School.
Royton and Crompton School is in a parlous state. It is a school that requires serious investment to meet the educational needs of pupils and staff in the twenty first century.
And I make a public pledge as I have done privately to help in any way I can to get the school Royton and Crompton deserves.
So can the Leader tonight tell me where we are in looking to secure capital investment from Government to make the school 'fit for purpose'?"

Councillor McMahon responded by recording his thanks and appreciation for all Councillors on Saddleworth School and would work together to address local issues. He added that Royton and Crompton was not fit for purpose and in a worse state than Saddleworth. The school had an emergency maintenance backlog. Representations had been made to Government and the Council remained hopeful that a capital funding application would be given. The Council would ensure that young people were supported but cross-party representations to Government were needed urgently.

3. "In Britain last year 4,700 people committed suicide.
Three quarters of them were men, and suicide is the largest cause of death for young people and young men in particular.
The North West has the second highest numbers of suicide rates in Britain. Last year 567 men and 146 women took their own lives in the North West.
The Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg, recently said: 'Suicide is, and always has been, a massive taboo in our society. People are genuinely scared to talk about it, never mind intervene when they believe a loved one is at risk.'
The Deputy Prime Minister called for more to be done 'in every area of our society to ensure that people don't get to that point where they believe taking their own life is their only option.'

In some areas of the USA, health services have managed to get to a situation where there are zero suicides for people receiving healthcare support.
Some areas of the UK such as Liverpool, the South West and the East of England already have plans in place to achieve this by 2017.
I believe that we should share this ambition for Greater Manchester.
Can I therefore call on the Leader to support me in raising this aspiration with NHS and Public Health Authorities in Greater Manchester so that together we can work to stamp out mental stigma and for a Greater Manchester with zero suicides?"

Councillor McMahon responded that the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner was taking this forward as a project linking in with the NHS and other Council's across Greater Manchester. A briefing note would be prepared and circulated to Full Council.

4. The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Hudson, put the following question:
Councillor Hudson referred to the upgrade of Greenfield Rail Station and expressed concern regarding the sale of land which was currently being used for car parking on Shaw Hall Bank Road.

Councillor Hibbert responded that he had spoken to Councillor McCann who had also expressed concerns about the sale of the land. He was not sure which piece of land was being referred to but would find out the relevant information.

5. The Leader of the UKIP Group, Councillor Peter Klonowski, put the following question:
He referred to queries he had received from constituents and asked the following question:

- How many translators are employed in Oldham schools?
- What is the typical hourly rate they are paid?
- How much was spent on translation services in schools in November?
- How much does the council anticipate spending on school translation services in this financial year?"

Councillor Chadderton responded that when schools require translators they are provided through Oldham Language Shop. The Oldham Language Shop charges schools an hourly rate of £35 per booking, meaning that an estimated £455 will have been spent in total on interpretation by maintained schools in November. The council does not itself have any budget for school translation services and does not anticipate any spending in this area in this financial year.

Members raised the following questions:

6. Councillor Heffernan to Councillor Harrison:

The Oldham Liberal Democrats fully support the aspiration of Oldham Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group to create a dementia-friendly Oldham.
It was very credible that a local target set to train 500 Dementia Friends across the borough has been comfortably exceeded. Liberal Democrat Councillors are looking forward to undertaking this training so that we can gain accreditation as friends.
The Dementia Friends initiative is very worthy. There are 1,700 Oldham residents diagnosed with dementia, but this figure is only two-thirds of that to be expected in a borough such as Oldham. There are therefore many other residents who are living unknowingly with dementia but without a diagnosis.
Through developing a greater understanding of the disease, Dementia Friends can help people living with dementia – often close family or dear friends – to live independently for longer and to continue to enjoy hobbies and social contacts.
I would like to please ask the Cabinet Member what has so far been done to recruit and train Dementia Friends; how many have so far been trained; and if any special efforts have been made to recruit and train Council staff as Friends through the Employee Supported Volunteering Scheme?"

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Public Health gave the following response:

"The Oldham Dementia Action Alliance set a target on World Alzheimer's Day in September to provide face to face dementia friends sessions for 500 people by Christmas.
A dementia friend session is an hour long information session that helps people to understand a bit more about dementia, and the little ways they can help.
I'm pleased to announce that we have more than doubled our target and as of 3 December 1,051 people in Oldham have become dementia friends since the summer. Of these 330 were council employees.
Overall there are 26 dementia friend champions from a variety of organisations in Oldham delivering dementia friend sessions. The Council and CCG are hosting a peer support network for the champions and we thank the Champions for all their hard work in achieving the above total.
As well as sessions for the public, the champions have delivered sessions to a wide range of organisations including Oldham Community Leisure, Age UK Oldham, a number of care homes, a school and Oldham College, housing associations, Oldham Theatre Workshop, Oldham Chronicle, Dr Kershaws, Oldham CCG Governing Body.
Via the team brief and core brief, council teams have been offered the opportunity to book sessions for their teams or to attend a rolling programme of sessions that are open to all. A number of council staff have trained to become dementia friends champions and are delivering dementia friends sessions as part of the employee volunteering scheme. This opportunity has been promoted in the team brief.
Three sessions have been arranged for the Councillors and we are proud that the Mayor has become a dementia friend. If you

would like to arrange a session please contact Sue Neilson at the CCG."

7. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Chadderton:

"At this year's annual council, councillors supported a motion brought by the Liberal Democrat Group about young carers. Council will recall that as part of the motion it was agreed that the Director of Children's Services to write to the Head-teachers and Principals of all schools, academies and colleges in the Borough, asking them to support young carers at their establishment by:

- Identifying a designated member of staff with specific responsibility for supporting young carers;
- regularly monitoring the performance and well-being of young carers through their Governing Body;
- working with the Oldham Young Carers Project and the Young Carers Trust to ensure young carers are supported, and not disadvantaged, because of the caring role they perform.

As six months have now passed, I would like to please ask the Cabinet Member for an update as to how many schools and colleges now have a designated member of staff, how many bring regular reports to their Governing Body about young carers and how many have begun working with the Oldham Young Carers Project and Young Carers Project?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education, gave the following response:
"Young Carers are a priority for the Council and officers have been looking at the best way to ensure that a designated member of staff is identified in all schools, academies and colleges with responsibility to support young carers.
Our intention is to integrate this to the existing work of Oldham's Virtual School, which has a network of designated teachers from each school who will be consulted on this addition to their responsibilities. The Virtual School Head would then have oversight of support for young carers in schools and would liaise with the Oldham Young Carers Project and the Young Carers Trust in quality assuring this. These arrangements would also enable the Council to hold school governing bodies to account for the wellbeing and academic progress of young carers.
Positive Steps has responsibility for delivering the Targeted information, advice and guidance service for young people in Oldham, funded by Oldham Council.
Young Carers are part of the overall Targeted cohort and we work with each school to identify the young people in each of the targeted groups. There are currently 372 young carers registered with the service of which 159 young carers are participating in positive activities and Positive Steps have made 71 referrals to other agencies on behalf of the young carers."

The Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

Observations:

Members made observations on the following:

Councillor Roberts observed on the Leader of the Opposition's question related to Community Shop. She had been approached by the Leader regarding the Goldthorpe Co-operative Model and looking at way to tie in a community based initiative. Work had already been done by the Food Bank and Get Oldham Growing and was interested to hear what Councillor Sykes had said and hoped that this was something the Council could take forward.

Councillor Rehman on Councillor Sykes' question, relating to suicide rates.

As there was no other observations the Mayor returned to the Leader and Cabinet questions for the remainder of the time.

8. Councillor Alcock to Councillor Akhtar:

"In March of last year, Cabinet discussed the establishment of the Essentials high street shop to offer residents essential household appliances at a reasonable cost with finance made available through the Oldham Credit Union. Can the Cabinet Member update Council on progress as we are rapidly approaching the 12 month mark. When can we expect to see this store opening?"

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise gave the following response:

"Cabinet Approval was given on 31st March 2014 to proceed with the Oldham Essentials project and to engage a commercial partner. Since then a number of legal, procedural and logistical steps have been taken. There have been some areas that have, due to their nature, caused a delay in terms of final outcome.

The two principle areas that have been the cause of the delays are:

1. The location of the shop – Due to a change in letting policy the original site within the Spindles became unavailable. Nevertheless, a review of all property in Oldham identified Albion Street as the best location as it allows the shop to reach those residents most in need of the services and facilities that the new venture has to offer. The partner and the contractor have made final preparations ready to commence the refurbishment and fit out.

2. The partner's consumer credit fund – This is being made available from their ethical and socially responsible lending partners. The negotiations between these organisations have been complex due to the nature of the proposition and the need to ensure that not only fair credit provision will be

available, but also to guarantee that there will be an ethical and transparent approach to any bad debt issues.

Without the consumer credit fund in place the commercial partner would not be able to proceed. Their financial partners have now signed all necessary agreements and are in the last stages of due diligence to make the fund available. Once the fund is available building works will commence. The estimated time from commencement to opening is 12 weeks.

The new shop will offer residents the chance of buying through a reputable and ethical organisation, whose primary focus is inclusion, minimising costs to their customers and offering the best possible alternative to their current lending options.
Oldham Credit Union was not part of the option chosen and agreed at Cabinet in March 2014: option chosen was 'Option 2: Partnering with a Commercial Partner'.
The new shop minimises any financial risk to Oldham Council, whilst still providing a sustainable and more ethical alternative to residents' current lending options for household goods.
Homemaker is the name of the Charity that our partner, FRC, have set up for this initiative. The brand name for the shop will be 'Our House', subject to confirmation of successful registration."

9. Councillor Williamson to Councillor Brownridge:

"Late last year, Public Health England revealed that three quarters of victims of domestic abuse are targeted by an abusive partner whilst they are at work.
One in four women and one in six men will experience domestic violence in their lives, whether physical, verbal, emotional or financial abuse.
Harassment by abusive partners by email, on the telephone or a personal approach in a workplace setting has an impact on work performance.
More than half of female employees who are abused miss at least three days of work and two in every hundred employees ultimately suffer dismissal as a consequence of absenteeism caused by domestic abuse.
Public Health England is asking managers to watch out for situations of domestic abuse amongst their employees as part of their duty of care and has published guidance to help them in doing so.
Will the Leader tell me what steps this administration is taking to ensure that every line manager receives a copy of this guidance and what training and support will be provided to ensure that best practice is followed?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Co-operatives gave the following response:

"The Local Children's Safeguarding Board is responsible for running a suite of training courses specific to domestic violence and these are open to all managers.

Community Safety Services are responsible for the delivery of the Domestic Violence Strategy and coordinate a communication plan which is tailored to periods of risk and raises awareness of domestic violence and sign post support for both the community and OMBC employees. The communication plan draws on the 'End the Fear' Greater Manchester wide campaign developed through the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. This uses both traditional materials e.g. posters but also targeted social media resources. Community Safety Services also run specific domestic violence workshops within staff conferences again to raise awareness of domestic violence but also to sign post services.
Community Safety Services offer a comprehensive service to all victims of domestic violence which covers but situational crime prevention eg home security to support of the victim through the Independent Domestic Violence Service. Domestic violence is a key driver for the jointly commissioned services in the 'All age early help offer'
Work to align domestic violence across the Domestic Violence Partnership and the Health and Well-being Board is well advanced and in January OMBC took part in a Greater Manchester wide Peer Review Panel Process to assess each areas domestic violence strategy to ensure that they are aligned and of a high standard.
Feedback from this process will be given to the Director of Public Health and this will form the basis of a joint action plan."

The Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

RESOLVED that the questions raised and the responses given, together with the observations made, be noted.

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**

The Cabinet Minutes for the meetings held on 17th November 2014 and 15th December 2014 were submitted. The Mayor reminded the meeting that, as previously agreed by Council, the last eight minutes of this section would be reserved for observations on responses received and responses to observations.

No questions or observations were received.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 17th November 2014 and 15th December 2014 be noted.

13 **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Dearden SECONDED the following motion:

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 in to enlist their support.
2. 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.

Councillor Dean spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the motion
Councillor Harrison spoke in support of the motion
Councillor Blyth spoke in support of the motion
Councillor Hibbert spoke in support of the motion

Councillor Roberts exercised her right of reply.

On being put to the vote FIFTY SEVEN VOTES were cast IN FAVOUR of the MOTION with TWO VOTES cast AGAINST and NO ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be instructed to 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. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Local Government Association to enlist their support.
3. The Chief Executive be instructed to 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.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that time had expired for this item.

Motion 2

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Akhtar as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Ball as Seconder of the Motion requested Council to permit the motion to be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

"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 e.g. 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."

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled forward and considered at the next Council meeting to be held on 1st April 2015.

Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Briggs as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Williams as Seconder of the Motion requested Council to permit the motion to be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.
"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.'*

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled forward and considered at the next Council meeting to be held on 1st April 2015.

14 **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor Williamson moved a procedural motion to withdraw an amendment as submitted and proceeded to resubmit an amendment. Council signified agreement of this without discussion.

Councillor Williamson MOVED and Councillor Heffernan SECONDED:

"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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/First Aid as part of the national curriculum
- It should be a local public health priority to teach children and school staff cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/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 cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/First Aid as part of the national curriculum
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to establish a plan to make recommendations 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 report back to Council on the feasibility of funding the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators, supported by appropriate training, into every school across the borough.
- Mark World First Aid Day 12th September 2015 with a public awareness campaign outlining the importance of acquiring emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)/First Aid knowledge."

RESOLVED that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4 (d) the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Motion 2

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Heffernan SECONDED:

"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"

RESOLVED that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4 (d) the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

15 a To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

Minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:

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

The following question, advance notice of which had been given, was raised by Councillor Dillon in relation to the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the AGMA Executive, 28th November 2014, Minute 87/14, Greater Manchester Spatial Framework.

"Oldham Borough has by and large protected the Green Belt within the borough since the abolition of Greater Manchester Council. I recently attended a meeting of the AGMA/Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny Pool in which it was stated that the current Green Belt in Greater Manchester will be reduced in the Spatial Framework which will come into effect in 2018.

Could the Leader advise this council of the process for advertising the Green Belt proposals and amendments and other methods of consultation.
Could the Leader also advise where the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework fits with this Council's local development plan e.g. does

the Spatial Framework need to be agreed before the Oldham Borough Local Plan is drawn up?'

Councillor McMahon agreed to circulate a response in writing due to the technical information required.

Councillor Blyth asked a question in relation to the Minutes of the Joint Meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the AGMA Executive, 28th November 2014, Minute 87/14, Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. Councillor Blyth asked if the Council were going to be forceful in keeping its share of the development land as when it's developed it can attract government funding and employment zones.

Councillor McMahon advised of the commitment to ensure there were schemes in the pipeline to put forward. Oldham did not have many large development sites left and were looking at linking those sites.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Joint Authorities as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The questions raised and responses given by noted.

15 b To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

Minutes of the Partnership Meetings were submitted as follows:

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

Councillor McMahon highlighted and promoted the new Oldham Partnership website.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships as detailed in the report be noted.

15 **PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY: CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report which proposed to amend the constitution of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Council had received a report at its meeting on 17th December 2014 on the Devolution Agreement negotiated between the Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The agreement set out the additional powers and

responsibilities that would be transferred to Greater Manchester. It also outlined the required reforms to Greater Manchester's Governance System which included the adoption of an elected mayor for Greater Manchester by "early 2017". Pending the necessary primary legislation and as a transitional measure, the agreement committed that steps would be taken to amend the Combined Authority order to create an eleventh leader as Chair who would be the appointed Mayor until a Mayor is elected. The Secretary of State was now consulting on a draft Order which would give effect to the agreed transitional measures and views were sought on the proposals contained in the report. The consultation document set out a number of proposed amendments to the constitution of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority which included:

- Membership
- Chair of the Combined Authority
- Executive Arrangements
- Remuneration
- Proceedings

In addition, three questions were posed as part of the consultation which were:

1. Do you consider that enabling an additional board member to chair the Combined Authority would in the circumstances of Greater Manchester be likely to improve the provision of transport in the area and its effectiveness and efficiency, the provision of economic development and regeneration in the area, or the economic conditions in the area? And if so, in what regards.
2. How do you consider an additional board member may impact on the identities and interests of local communities and on securing effective and convenient local government?
3. Do you have any comments on the proposed constitutional arrangements as set out in Annex A and the draft Order?

Councillor McMahon encouraged members to make a strong contribution. The development had been rapid, but this was one of the most significant changes to governance since the 1970's and it would fundamentally change the way decisions are made and therefore it was important to contribute through the consultation to provide feedback to Government. This was also about securing the best deal for communities at a local level. A wider governance review would follow making sure decisions were transparent and accountable. It was also felt that the Combined Authority should have the ability to hold and maintain a housing revenue account, which would give Greater Manchester the power to get housing development off the ground.

Councillor Sykes stated that Oldham was one of the few Councils to have this item back on the agenda as other authorities had not considered this at Cabinet or Council. This

was the most fundamental shift of power since local government reorganisation in1974. It was important to be listened to and be part of the team and not limit ambitions for the City Region.

Councillor Sykes supported the provision of a housing revenue account.

Councillor Hudson suggested that due to the late hour, a special session should be arranged for members to provide input on this important issue.

Councillor Rehman congratulated the Leader on the work that had been done.

Councillor McMahon exercised his right of reply and thanked Councillor Sykes for the work he had done as part of the Liberal Democrat group in Greater Manchester to push this forward.

RESOLVED that:

1. The constitutional amendments to the Combined Authority as set out it the draft order and Annex A of the consultation document be endorsed.
2. Authority be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive to respond formally to the consultation questions posed following discussion at the meeting.

16 **OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Consideration was given to a report which outlined an amended Scheme Delegation. The Scheme of Delegation was amended following a resolution by the Selection Committee to change the organisational framework. The revised Scheme of Delegation reflected those organisation changes.

RESOLVED that the revised Officer Scheme of Delegation be approved.

17 **GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK**

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval of recommendations as requested by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board which would allow the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) to be progressed as a joint Development Plan Document (DPD) by all ten Greater Manchester authorities, as agreed by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 29th August 2014.

The GMSF would provide an important strategic framework towards the successful planning of the sub-region and the districts within it. It would provide the basis for an informed and integrated approach to spatial planning across the city region, through a clear understanding of the role of our places and the relationships and connections between them. The decision to progress the document as a joint DPD, rather than an informal

framework, would formalise the production process and give it greater weight in the planning process as a statutory document.

The report outlined the approvals that were requested and the key elements of the report presented to the AGMA Executive Board which were:

- The implications of the Greater Manchester agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester on the preparation and content of the GMSF.
- The amendments required to AGMA's constitution so that a plan which covered housing and employment could be prepared jointly by the ten local planning authorities.
- Details regarding the scope of the GMSF which was to focus on the overall spatial strategy.
- The financial and resource implications for the preparation of the GMSF.

A further report would be prepared for Cabinet on 23rd February 2015 which would seek approval for those elements set out in the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester council for the joint preparation of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') which covered housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester, as set out in the report, as a joint development plan document on terms to be approved by the Chief Executive be approved.
2. Cabinet would be asked to delegate the formulation and preparation of the GMSF to the AGMA Executive Board be noted.
3. Council would receive further reports in respect of matters which were within the remit of full Council including the approval of the GMSF be noted.
4. The amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA Constitution with the deletion of the words '(initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning)' and the authorisation of the update of the AGMA Constitution to reflect the amendment be approved.
5. A briefing note to be circulated to all members.

18 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2014/15**

Consideration was given to a report which advised of the performance of the Treasury Management Function of the Council for the first half of 2014/15 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2014/15 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

The Council was required to give consideration of the performance of the Treasury Management function in order comply with the Charter Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management Revised Code of Practice. The report set out the key Treasury Management Issues for information and outlined:

- The economic update for the first six months of 2014/15;
- The review of the Treasury Management Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2014/15;
- The review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2014/15;
- Why there had been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2014/15;
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2014/15; and
- An explanation of changes to the credit rating methodology used by Capita Asset Services, the Authority's current treasury management advisers.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Treasury Management Activity for the first half of the financial year 2014/15 and the project outturn position be approved.
2. The amendments to both Authorised and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.
3. The changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings would no longer be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties be approved.

19 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor which informed members of actions that had been taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.40 pm