

# 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) 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- b) 15<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 (5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	28 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
Transport for Greater Manchester	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2014
National Park Authority	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
Unity Partnership Board	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
Oldham Leadership Board	3 <sup>rd</sup> 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.**



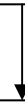
**Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive**

**PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**NO AMENDMENT**

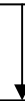
MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



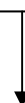
MOTION – Secunder of the Motion to SECOND – May reserve right to speak



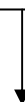
DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



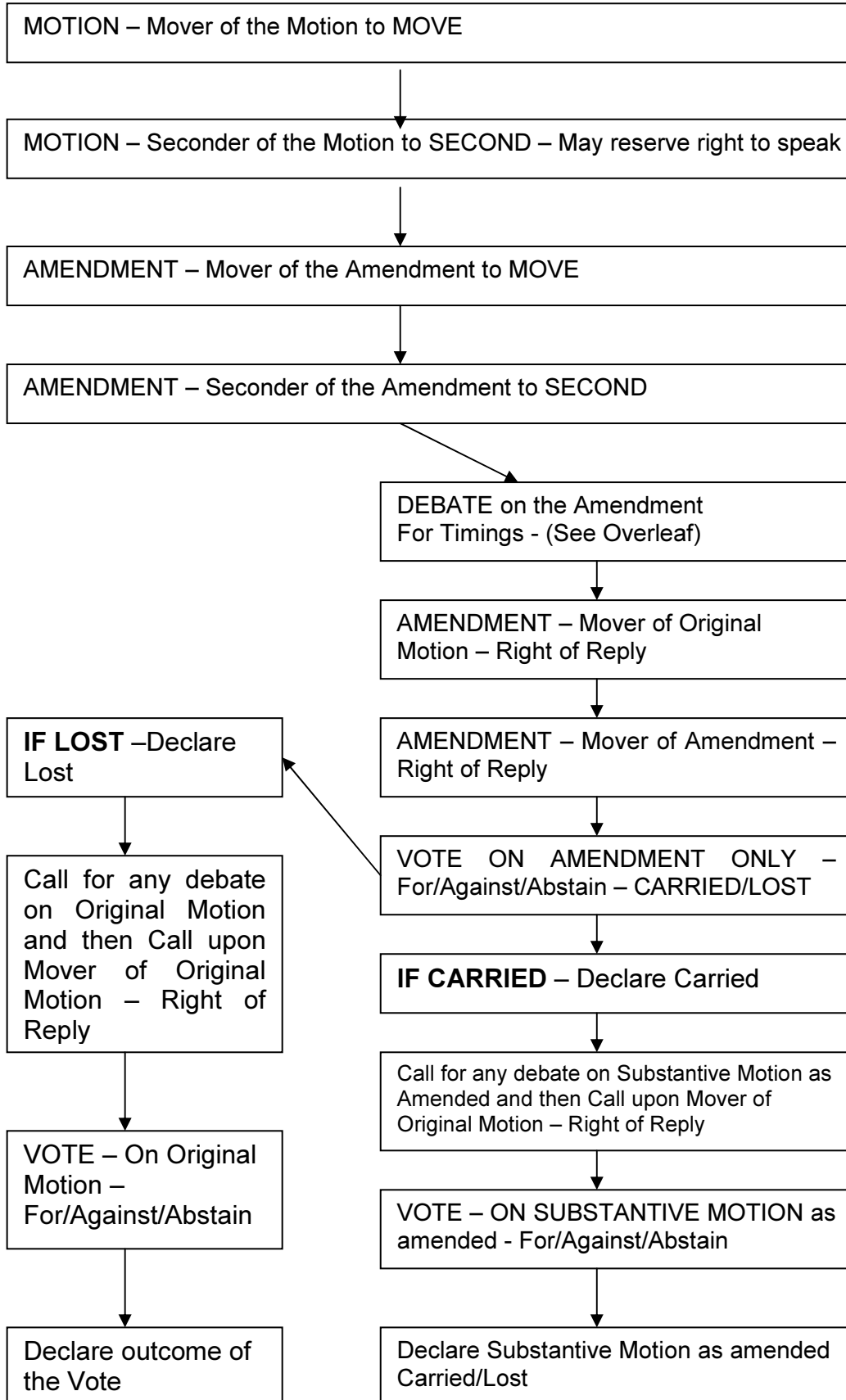
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**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



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**COUNCIL**  
**17/12/2014 at 6.00 pm**

**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Fida Hussain

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

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that the first 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 from Joe Fitzpatrick via email:

“I have learnt that a senior officer involved with Council finances has declared that the funding of the capital programme is risky. Normally reliable sources inform me that the inducements being offered to Mono pumps are in the region of £4 million and the money to be paid to attract a national company to be the anchor store in your plans to develop Prince’s Gate will also be financed out of the capital programme.

How can you justify adding this payment to a capital programme, already judged to be risky, and how can you ignore the European Union Regulations designed to prohibit the payment of such inducements. “

Councillor McMahan, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region gave the following response:

“May I thank Mr. Fitzpatrick for his question. I disagree entirely with the principle that the capital programme is risky. The Capital programme funding is not risky and the Council has a healthy Capital Programme. A recent summary review identified £10m. The Council’s debt is the third lowest in Greater Manchester. The Council has a significant number of PFI liabilities to central

government. The Council has not given Monopumps any money but received funding through a Regional Growth Fund. I am pleased that Marks and Spencer is coming to Oldham and delighted that a disused area is becoming a Gateway we can be proud of. Contracts have been exchanged and the development will happen. The town is coming out fighting and providing a positive future. The Council will come forward with the development of the site.”

2. Question received from Jit Patel via email:

“Behind Langham road in oldham coppice is being plagued with fly tipping. I have reported this many times and to be fair it has been cleaned up, however now I am told that the council no longer clear this fly tipped rubbish as the area is un-adopted. Fly Tipped rubbish started when the council introduced waste collection charges am I supposed to live in a dumping ground as I am no longer in a position to clear it my self.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“We agree that the flytipping is completely unacceptable. We are trying to find out who owns the land so we can take legal actions against them. This is not Council owned land and we cannot continue to clear it. The owners must take responsibility. Enforcement Officers will work with the landowners

Officers from Neighbourhood Enforcement will work with the landowners to establish who has flytipped and they will be prosecuted, ultimately it is the landowner’s responsibility.”

3. Question received from Amanda Lane via email:

“I have been to a meeting recently with Gary McBrien Head of Additional and Complex Needs Services. As you are aware there are big budget cuts to be made across the council and to children's services. The meeting tonight focussed on Short Breaks for Disabled Children. 350k has to be saved from this service which currently has allocated 1.2 million, so quite a big cut around 25%. My son accesses this service and has overnight respite care once a fortnight. Tonights meeting was about getting parent's views on this and giving us an opportunity to have our say.

I would like to ask the question how much money was spent on Oldham's entry into Bloom and Grow, how much extra money has it cost in terms of staffing ie a biodiversity officer, manpower tending the flower boxes, staff costs for tending all the areas ahead of judging, the

cost of the flowers, plants and seeds etc. Huge cuts are taking place I think Oldham Council needs to be far more accountable as to where money is spent and also to prioritise in this difficult financial climate.”



Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“There is a misconception that Bloom & Grow is all about flowers when in reality the benefits stretch to support local businesses, improve education by enabling children to attain their Diplomas, clean streets free from litter and graffiti as well as looking to improve the health of local communities. The £200000 that is currently allocated to the Bloom & Grow initiative is funded through the Public Health transformation fund and the investment is to support all parts of our communities in improving general health and wellbeing. We feel that the investment made in the town centre and the districts is an essential part of the make Oldham a place where people choose to live and provide savings for us as the residents looking after their areas and the Council does not have to pick up flytipping and other waste.”

4. Question received from Chris Gloster via email:

“My understanding is that the consultation period for the proposed changes to Shaw Market Ground are now complete.

Why did the so called consultation give no option for retaining the market on the existing market ground?

Many users have expressed annoyance at this.

Some included the missing option upon the consultation document prior to submitting it.

I am sure many others would have ticked the current location box if it had existed on the document, which would have given a large majority in favour of keeping it where it is.

Why is the finance not available to redevelop the existing market ground, it feels like local people like me are being bribed to agree to it being moved?

Would it not be better to redevelop the existing site, therefore revamping the Market and tackling to substantial anti-social behaviour that currently exists in that area with the current market set up?”

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



**Oldham**  
Council

"I have answered a similar question at a previous Council meeting but will answer it again.

The consultation was about whether the Council should invest up to £120,000 on improving Shaw Market. There is a great risk that Shaw market will not survive unless it gets more customers and a greater variety of stalls. Both of these factors are dependent upon each other and our Markets Manager has been consistently trying to attract new stall holders without success because of the dwindling numbers of people using the market. So the principle we were testing out via the consultation was whether moving the market closer to the heaviest footfall in Shaw i.e. closer to Asda and Aldi, would attract new customers.

The Council is already investing £100,000 in Business Improvement Grants in Shaw so it was also important for us to consider what impact any changes to the location of the market and shifting of footfall might have on other Shaw businesses.

I was clear at the outset that leaving the market on the same site and investing £120,000 on improving the stalls would not make the market more visible or easier to get to for supermarket customers who might be encouraged to also become Shaw market shoppers. If the Council is to invest, we need to be sure that we will eventually get a return on our investment. Simply modernising the stalls is unlikely to generate the extra footfall or encourage new traders.

Nevertheless, I can assure Mr. Gloster that the consultation process did allow people to express their views about staying on the same site. Many of the consultation results were achieved by face to face interviews and the Council staff noted all additional views that were expressed. Many people also added their own written comments about the location and staying on the same site. Many existing market customers did tell us that they wanted the market to stay on the current site and we are considering all of the comments very carefully before reaching such an important decision.

However, we must all be realistic. Shopping habits have changed. How many people have bought their Christmas presents on line this year and how many bought them from a local market?

5. Question received from Chaz Sharp via Twitter:



“Why does Oldham Council have the highest wheelie bin per capita in the whole of western civilisation?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:



“The Council takes recycling very seriously and have to ensure there are enough bins to do that properly which saves us money on landfill tax. The number of bins and containers issued to residents is similar throughout Greater Manchester. We do appreciate that some properties have space issues If space is an issue then we do provide alternative sizes and types of containers such as boxes or bags.”

6. Question received from Metromeerk via Twitter:

“Will Oldham please look into MCR Metrolink. Expensive, unreliable, overcrowded and failed completely on Sat AM?”

Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport gave the following response: “Metrolink prices are comparable with train travel. The reliability on the Oldham Rochdale line was rated at 98% during September and October which is above the benchmark. There were some issues with signalling equipment which impacted on services in November which have now been corrected.

We are aware that the trams are often overcrowded at peak times shows how popular and there are plans to deal with this. TfGM recently introduced another double unit into the peak service and is looking to add a further double early in 2015. The current 12 minute service will be replaced by a 6 minute service in early 2016 when the City crossing is completed.

The whole of the Metrolink service was disrupted last Saturday because of icy conditions which we agree need to be addressed if possible because this affects Oldham because we are the highest borough in Greater Manchester.

The Council receives regular reports about the efficiency of Metrolink at formal meetings with Transport for Greater Manchester and closely scrutinises the data about the performance of the Oldham Rochdale line. Councillors will question the reliability during icy conditions at the Metrolink meeting this week.”

7. Question received from Doctor of Letters via Twitter:

“How are people parked on double yellow lines expected ever to be held to account ( i.e. A FPN) because in an

evening there is nobody to issue tickets so they get away with it as the car parked on Ashton road has on at least eight evenings in the last 15 they have got away with it and will continue to do so. Defacto legalised.”

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

“The council does regulate through enforcement in the evenings Borough wide. Along Ashton Road there are a number of different restrictions, some of which stop at 6.30pm. We note the concerns raised in this particular area, and will ask officers to ensure that this is provided particular attention over the next few weeks.”

8. Question received from Andrew Colin Hindley via email:

“I have just heard the news that there is a plan to move the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to a new site on Union street

Are there going to be 2 theatre venues in Oldham?, if not I am kinda wondering why Oldham council spent £1.7 million pounds on revamping the old theatre less than 2 years ago if there where plans in the pipeline for it to close and move to a new site.”

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

“The Council has been working with Oldham Coliseum Theatre for a number of years to develop a new Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre on Union Street. The project is viewed as having a crucial role in the cultural regeneration of Oldham town centre with the main funders being OMBC, The Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund. It will form a new and exciting extension to the Cultural Quarter and will have a regional profile.

Oldham Coliseum will relocate into the new building once it has been completed. Work is ongoing to consider the future use of the existing Coliseum building.

Urgent repairs to the mechanical and electrical elements of the current Coliseum building were carried out by the Council to ensure that there was not a forced closure of the theatre as the building is approaching the end of its economic life and key elements were at the point of failure. By doing so the Council has secured the medium term future of the theatre.”

9. Question received from Mr. Brooks via email:

“Oldham Council promotes a spectrum of co-operative working with an open and honest co-operative approach. In fact the Community Call-in pilot offers the opportunity to strengthen local democracy and build closer engagement between communities and decisions made at a district level. It also enhances local accountability and influence people have over local decisions.

With the Co-Operative charter in mind and particularly the values contained within it why have Oldham Council refused to consult and engage with the people of Saddleworth regarding the siting of the new Saddleworth School? The last public meeting on this emotive issue was in October 2013.”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding gave the following response:

“Oldham Council strongly recognises the need to be as transparent as possible regarding Saddleworth School and have endeavoured to release information wherever possible. Indeed, in April 2014, the Council released a set of Frequently Asked Questions which are still available and answer this very point.

After receiving confirmation of EFA funding, the Council considered a total of 15 sites which were all appraised based on timescales, deliverability, cost, legal, planning, highways and engineering risk. The details of these 15 sites were released in the public domain and were published in the local press. As Mr. Brooks states a public consultation was held 13 months ago. There is not that large an update as we are still awaiting confirmation of the site of the school. Moving forward, it is understood by the Council and the EFA and the potential contractor of the school that that there will be a number of public consultation events that will take place in early 2015 and the Council would welcome feedback at the appropriate time.”

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

1. Councillor Malik to Councillor Stretton:

“Oldham Market is very important to Oldham, because it is situated in Coldhurst Ward it is of particular interest to Coldhurst Ward Councillors and residents. Can the cabinet member responsible for the Market update us on the occupancy levels in Tommyfield indoor market hall?”

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

“Despite the general economic climate the indoor market currently has a high level of trader occupancy that would compare well with other indoor markets in the UK. The turnover of traders within the indoor Market Hall is also low, something many other markets struggle to achieve.

The indoor market has an occupancy level of 92.2%.”

2. Councillor Blyth to Councillor Harrison:

“Why has the podiatry service that was delivered at Crompton Health Centre, been moved to Royton Health centre without prior consultation with the service users?

Moving this service has caused distress to users and also extra cost to travel to Royton.

It seems that everything is been moved to Royton at the expense of the residents of Shaw again.

Can the Cabinet member make representations to the Health and Wellbeing Board to have this service returned to Crompton Health Centre so that service users can receive the service they used to have in the town they live in?”

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

“I have received the following information from Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust, the main provider of community based healthcare in Oldham.

Pennine Care Oldham Podiatry Service has been spread historically across 11 centres within Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group footprint, many of which were in old buildings with single chairs. The challenges for the service in delivering from this number of venues have been significant and include reduced access for patients, as the clinics cannot be staffed all week and clinics being cancelled at times of sickness and annual leave.

The service reviewed current clinic utilisation with a view to working from venues where more than one chair is available, which evidence demonstrates has improved clinical outcomes for patients. At the same time, this enables the service to meet the challenges and pressures of the current financial situation as it not just the Council finding financial pressures for the wider NHS and Pennine Care. The venues chosen to deliver podiatry are LIFT buildings as they are modern, fit for purpose, fully comply with infection control, and support the effective use of resources. Moving provides a healthier, safe place for patients.”

3. Councillor Ames to Councillor Hibbert:

“Fuel Poverty is a big problem in Oldham and has a real impact on the residents of Hollinwood. Could the relevant Cabinet Member update members on the progress of the Warm Homes Oldham scheme and the impact this has made helping people out of fuel poverty?”

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

“The Warm Homes Oldham scheme helped over 1000 people out of fuel poverty in the first year. In total 439 households accounting for 1079 people were assisted out of fuel poverty (i.e. no longer spending more than 10% of their income on heating bills).

During the first year the project brought in over £1.3 million of external funding to help install 364 boilers, 19 lofts/cavities and 80 homes benefitted from solid wall insulation. Energy efficiency advice is given at every home visit and the average savings per household for year one have been over £250. Benefits checks are done with residents and we also help people get off prepayment meters and get fuel debt wiped.

Due to its success the partners who put in the original funding for the project (Oldham Council, Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group and Oldham Housing Investment Partnership) have all agreed to continue the project for at least another year (2014/15).

Since April this year a further 475 people have been brought out of fuel poverty, towards our target of 1200, already attracting over £500,000 worth of external investment.

So as you can see there are a variety of options of help available to residents of Oldham who are in fuel poverty, if you know of any residents in Hollinwood or any other Oldham area who may need assistance please refer them to the scheme and we can see how we can help. Call 0800 019 1084 or go to [www.warmhomesoldham.org.uk](http://www.warmhomesoldham.org.uk)”

4. Councillor McCann to Councillor Chadderton:

“I am very disappointed we are still awaiting a decision on the site of the new Saddleworth School due to the full investigation being conducted on four possible sites.

Could I ask the Cabinet Member to give me an estimate of the cost, the extra inflationary cost, arising from the delay and confirmation that this money will reduce the amount available for the new school build?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding gave the following response:



“I share the frustration and disappointment that things have been pushed back. As raised in the previous question it has been 14 months since the consultation and it was anticipated that we would be building the school in anticipation of it opening in 12 months time., clearly that won’t be taking place. With regards to finance and additional costs, the Council has committed over £1m to work with highways and other issues and other extras specific to the work. This feasibility work is being funded by the EFA and, whilst the Council have assisted this process by sharing relevant documents and plans, the Authority isn’t privy to the costs associated with this process and therefore, would be unable to confirm the cost and extra inflationary cost arising from the delay.”

5. Councillor Dean to Councillor McMahon:

“My constituents living in Waterhead Village are very concerned at the Post Office proposals to move the Waterhead branch to Lees  
This Post Office provides services for many elderly residents and has 5 warden schemes within 100 yards of this Post Office.  
Over 300 residents have sent written objection to this move.  
I would ask if the Cabinet member would support my constituents in opposing the Post Office proposals.”

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region responded that he had not been sighted on the exact details but recognised the importance of the local post office and the services they provide and support can be offered when called upon.

6. Councillor Alcock to Councillor Brownridge:

“Can the relevant cabinet member please tell us, whether the community cafe in Dunwood Park was paid for with funding from the lottery?

I'm hearing that there are plans to let the community cafe on a long term lease. If this goes ahead will this mean that the lottery will be looking for the money they contributed to be returned to them?

If so how much will this be and which budget will this money be coming from?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“The Community building was funded through the Lottery funding. Over recent weeks we have been working with colleagues to explore/develop a sustainable future for the building and consideration is being given to develop a café in the community building to serve the local community.

We have identified from the lottery Funding Agreement that we would require consent/approval from HLF as part of due diligence in exploring options once we are in a position to move forward with our proposals.

At this stage we are not in a position to confirm whether or not it will mean the return of any of the grant funding supplied by the lottery. However the lottery will be able to make comment on our proposals and at that stage the council will be able to make a decision to accept or reject the terms that are determined by the lottery before entering into any final agreement.”

7. Councillor Shuttleworth to Councillor Hibbert:

“The former Rose Mill site in Chadderton south has remained vacant for some time and the access road for the former mill, Rose St, has now become an area where residents/others regard this as an easy area in which to dump waste.

As this is a prime location for the Metro link as well as other local services, and also borders on the Coalshaw Green Park, may I ask the Cabinet Member to provide an update as to the intended long term use of this piece of land.”

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

“The mill has been demolished for some time and a blight on the area. I have been deeply involved to get something to happen on this site. I am aware that a company are interested in the development of the site which was not surprising as it is so close to Metrolink. Phase 1 would be the development of the site. One of the accesses would be Rose Street would be the access to the site but cannot confirm that as I have not seen the plans. I will make sure fellow councillors are aware of any proposals as details have not been made yet.”

8. Councillor Williamson to Councillor Brownridge:

“The former gardeners store building at High Crompton Park has been up for sale or long lease for months now. I understand there has been at least three expressions of interest.

I know that these things take time, but I am concerned that if the Council is seen to be dragging its feet, those looking at turning it into a business, that will benefit the community in High Crompton will lose out yet again, like when former Crompton Councillor, Ann Wingate tried to get a café opened up there.

Therefore, can the relevant cabinet member please give me an update?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, gave the following response:

"Following a period of little or no interest in the former Direct Services Organisation building at High Crompton Park, Officers considered the possibility of the Council's Parks Service re-using the premises in conjunction with the local bowling club. Whilst this was being evaluated a number of parties came forward expressing an interest in operating a café business as well as one for a Children's Party Centre.

In view of the renewed interest, the proposal to re-use the building for the Council's own purposes has been shelved. Instructions have since been passed to the Council's marketing agent, Roger Hannah & Co, to contact all interested parties to secure written offers & obtain further details of each proposal. Roger Hannah will make a recommendation to the Council in due course.

Ward Councillors will be kept informed of progress."

9. Councillor Murphy to Councillor Brownridge:

"After a recent incident where criminal damage was carried out on a 40 year old oak tree in Shawside Park in Crompton, Council tree officers had to make the area safe and eventually cut down the tree.

Can the relevant cabinet member please let me know what action is being taken to find out who carried out this damage and whether all costs associated with this case will be recouped from the culprit?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, gave the following response:

"With cases of criminal damage it is normal procedure for the Council Officer attending the site to knock on properties adjacent to the incident and ask for any information relating to the incident. Sometimes this can glean enough information to pursue the matter, but unfortunately in most cases including this one nobody was forthcoming with any information.



Officers will now do a letter drop in the area in an attempt to solicit the necessary information to at least recover the council's costs, and secure replacement trees. The matter has also been reported to the police. If anyone has any information please let us know as soon as possible."

10. Councillor Sedgwick to Councillor Stretton:

"I am pleased that this Council is committed to investing £100,000 in Lees high street.

I have previously asked if some of this money could be used to improve security for local businesses as well as improving the shop fronts.

Please can I ask the Cabinet Member if this administration is willing to work with ward members and local businesses to spend some of this money to address security concerns in Lees?"

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

"I note that this mentions ward members but I have consulted with one ward member who is not in agreement with this proposal.

The Business Improvements Grant scheme is specifically focused on improving the vibrancy of Shaw and Lees, by providing a grant to independent local businesses towards works that will improve their business. The grant will pay 50% of the costs of eligible works up to a maximum grant payment of £3000. The business or property owner pays the remaining costs. The Shaw and Lees schemes were introduced following the success and popularity of the £1m grant scheme for the Independent Quarter in Oldham town centre and we are also currently extending the Business Improvements Grant scheme to include the Failsworth A62 Corridor.

The grants can be used to improve the exterior of premises and can also be used for the interior where it will help the business to grow and/or create new jobs. Priority is given to applications that maximise visual improvement, have a sustainable business plan and where the improvement is likely to be long lasting and/or where there will be business growth.

I am aware that some businesses in Lees have requested that the grant funding be used to pay for CCTV on the High Street itself, but this is not what the grant scheme was intended to deliver. All businesses in Lees have been offered a security and safety inspection from our

community safety officer so that they can receive professional and free advice about how best to make their premises secure.”



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

**2 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Dearden, Harkness, Jabbar, Kirkham and Salamat.

**3 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER 2014 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014 be approved as a correct record.

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

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Dean, McCann, Shah, Stretton and Sykes all declared a personal interest in Item 16b – Minutes of the Unity Partnership Board by virtue of their appointment to the Board. Councillors Brownridge, Chauhan, Harrison and McCann all declared a personal interest in Item 16b – Minutes of the Oldham Care and Support Company by virtue of their appointment to the Board. Councillor McMahon declared a personal interest in Item 10 by virtue of his appointment to the GMCA/AGMA Executive. Councillor Williams declared a personal interest in Item 13 by virtue of his appointment as Chair of Governors at New Bridge School. Councillors Chadderton, Roberts, Williamson and Wigglesworth declared a personal interest in Item 9 by virtue of their appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

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

The Mayor advised the meeting of one item of Urgent Business. New Cabinet Members portfolios had been circulated in the Chamber.

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

The Mayor made reference to the recent death of Joel Barnett who was the Member of Parliament for Heywood and Royton from 1964 to 1983. Councillors Judge and Sykes spoke in remembrance of Mr. Barnett.

Council held a Minutes Silence in memory of Mr. Barnett.

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

The Mayor informed the meeting that there were no petitions received for noting by Council.



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## **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Mayor informed the meeting that there were two items of outstanding business from the previous meeting.

### “Motion 1

Councillor Price MOVED and Councillor Haque SECONDED the following motion:

Oldham Council, with its responsibility for Public Health, is determined to improve health outcomes in the borough.

This Council notes:

There are three and a half million overweight or obese children in England.

That one in every seven hospital beds is occupied by someone with diabetes.

The number of admissions in NHS hospitals with a primary diagnosis of obesity has risen over 11 times in the last decade.

That 34 per cent of children in year six in Oldham are overweight or obese.

That 6.4 per cent of Oldham’s population are recorded as having diabetes; this is above the average for England.

The NHS currently spends £1 million an hour on diabetes, equivalent to 10 per cent of its annual budget. If a new government allows local government to reinvest a fifth of existing VAT on soft drinks, fast food and confectionery in activity programmes, it could help to prevent problems such as obesity and diabetes to help reduce the burden of ill health later in life.

This Council Resolves:

To support the Local Government Association’s First 100 days of the next government campaign.

Also to instruct The Chief Executive to write to the leaders of all three parties calling on them to adopt the proposal in ‘100 days’ to help the three and a half million overweight or obese children by reinvesting a fifth of existing VAT on soft drinks, fast food and confectionery on activity programmes.”

Councillor Dean spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Harrison spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor McCann spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Price did not exercise her right of reply.

On being put the vote the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Local Government Association's First 100 Days of the next government campaign be supported.
2. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the leaders of all three parties calling on them to adopt the proposal in '100 days' to help the three and a half million overweight or obese children by reinvesting a fifth of existing VAT on soft drinks, fast food and confectionary on activity programmes.

#### "Motion 2

Councillor Heffernan MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following motion:

The Council notes that:

- Local authorities are currently obliged by law to sell entries from the open electoral register to marketing companies. This personal information – the names and addresses of electors in this borough – is used by these companies for direct marketing purposes generating junk mail.
- Like nuisance calls, junk mail is an irritant to many residents in this borough.
- 90% of all junk mail is immediately deposited by its recipients in the bin
- 17.5 billion items of junk mail are produced every year in the UK, using 550,000 tonnes of paper and 16.5 billion litres of water. It takes about 17 mature trees to produce a tonne of paper. The equivalent of 550,000 tonnes of paper is therefore 9.35 million trees.

This Council believes that this legal obligation:

- Demeans and cheapens local democracy
- Deters some potential voters from registering to vote by compromising their privacy
- Is damaging to our local environment and runs contrary to the authority's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint

This Council therefore supports the position of the Local Government Association that:

- The open register be scrapped
- The obligation on local authorities to sell electors' personal details be abolished

This Council resolves to:

- Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt. Hon. Mr. Eric Pickles MP, outlining the Council's support for the LGA's position.
- Request that the Chief Executive also write to our three local MPs asking them to make representations to the Secretary of State supporting this position."

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Ahmad MOVED and Councillor Ames SECONDED the following Amendment:

Delete: This personal information – the names and addresses of electors in this borough – is used by these companies for direct marketing purposes generating junk mail.

- Like nuisance calls, junk mail is an irritant to many residents in this borough.
- 90% of all junk mail is immediately deposited by its recipients in the bin
- 17.5 billion items of junk mail are produced every year in the UK, using 550,000 tonnes of paper and 16.5 billion litres of water. It takes about 17 mature trees to produce a tonne of paper. The equivalent of 550,000 tonnes of paper is therefore 9.35 million trees. Deters some potential voters from registering to vote by compromising their privacy
- Is damaging to our local environment and runs contrary to the authority's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint

Motion will then read:

Local authorities are currently obliged by law to sell entries from the open electoral register to marketing companies.

This Council believes that this legal obligation:

Demeans and cheapens local democracy This Council therefore supports the position of the Local Government Association that:

- The open register be scrapped
- The obligation on local authorities to sell electors' personal details be abolished

This Council resolves to:

- Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt. Hon. Mr. Eric Pickles MP, outlining the Council's support for the LGA's position.
- Request that the Chief Executive also write to our three local MPs asking them to make representations to the Secretary of State supporting this position.

No members spoke on the amendment.

Councillor Heffernan did not exercise his right of reply.

Councillor Ahmad did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt. Hon. Eric Pickles MP, outlining the Council's support for the LGA's position.

2. The Chief Executive be requested to write to the three local MPs asking them to make representations to the Secretary of State supporting this position.

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## **BUDGET PROPOSALS 2015/16**

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which presented the detailed budget proposals of sufficient value to deliver a balanced budget for 2015/16 together with the initial savings proposals for 2016/17. These proposals built upon the work that had been undertaken in previous financial years to address budget challenges and to ensure financial stability for the Council. Councillor McMahon thanked the Performance and Value for Money Committee for their work.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Budget Proposals.  
Councillor McCann spoke on the Budget Proposals.

Councillor S. Bashforth spoke in support of the Budget Proposals.

Councillor Blyth spoke in support of the Budget Proposals.  
Councillor Hudson spoke in support of the Budget Proposals.

Councillor McMahon exercised his right of reply and spoke in support of the Budget Proposals.

On being put the vote the MOTION was CARRIED  
UNANIMOUSLY.

### **RESOLVED that:**

1. budget proposals of £27.471m for 2015/16 as set out in Appendices 2 and 3 of the report be approved.
2. the budget proposals totalling £7.758m for 2015/16 for which the conclusion of public consultation exercises was still required as set out in Appendices 5 and 6 be noted.
3. the information contained in the Equality Impact Assessment document be noted.
4. the savings target may need to be revised as a result of further financial developments which included changes to Government funding and this may require the consideration of further budget proposals be noted.
5. the initial budget proposals for 2016/17 be noted.
6. approval for the inclusion of the Council in a business rates pool for 2015/16 be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and HR in consultation with the Executive Director, Corporate and Commercial Services and the Interim Borough Treasurer.
7. Consideration of the option D040 at Appendix 5 be deferred to the February Council meeting cycle.

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## **DEVOLUTION OF POWERS TO THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY AND**

## **TRANSITION TO A DIRECTLY ELECTED MAYOR**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which set out an agreed Greater Manchester approach to the evolution of Greater Manchester governance arrangements, in return for the devolution of significant additional functional and fiscal responsibilities by Government, the details of which were set out in the report.

The Devolution Agreement which had been negotiated between the Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority set out the additional powers and responsibilities which would be transferred to Greater Manchester in return for governance changes – involving an Appointed Mayor as the lead member of the Combined Authority and a directly elected Mayor as part of a Cabinet of Leaders through new legislation.

Councillor Hudson spoke in support of the Devolution of Powers

Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the Devolution of Powers

Councillor Murphy spoke on the Devolution of Powers

Councillor Hibbert spoke in support of Devolution of Powers

Councillor S Bashforth spoke in support of the Devolution of Powers

Councillor Bates spoke against the Devolution of Powers

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Devolution of Powers

Councillor McMahon exercised his right of reply and spoke in support of the Devolution of Powers.

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

### **RESOLVED that:**

A) Council recommended:

1. The principles which have guided Greater Manchester's approach to devolution and governance changes, as set out in the report to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority be endorsed.
2. The Devolution Agreement and the significant switch in powers and access to resources it represents which would have a positive impact on those who live and work within Oldham and Greater Manchester be welcomed.
3. The proposed changes in governance including an Appointed Mayor as the 11<sup>th</sup> Member of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority as a transition to a Directly Elected Mayor for Greater Manchester be supported.
4. The balance between new powers to be vested in the Combined Authority as well as new powers to

be vested in the directly elected Mayor who will be the Chair of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and accountable to the Cabinet of Leaders in the exercise of those powers; and the Mayor and the Cabinet being subject of scrutiny by the Combined Authority Pool be noted.

5. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority to conclude the statutory review of the Governance arrangements as soon as possible to enable a final scheme to be submitted to the Secretary of State as a pre-requisite to the changes being made to the Statutory Orders to give effect to the transitional arrangements.
  6. Delegated authority be given to the Leader in consultation with the Chief Executive and the Leaders of the Opposition to respond formally to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority consultation on devolution in the terms as set out in the report.
- B) In addition to the recommendations required by all member councils above, the following principles be agreed which the Council would seek to influence through negotiation:
1. That the costs of the Directly Elected Mayor and enhanced Greater Manchester Combined Authority were funded through a Precept or Levy, so as to be transparent about the cost of the function.
  2. That the creation of a Directly Elected Mayor and enhanced Greater Manchester Authority was for the purpose of receiving additional powers and budget responsibility from central government.
  3. That the creation of a Directly Elected Mayor and enhanced Greater Manchester Combined Authority did not impede or infringe the work of the ten councils which make up the Greater Manchester City Region, and that the sovereignty of each council was maintained and respected.
  4. That the Directly Elected Mayor and enhanced Greater Manchester Combined Authority did not seek to assume, other than with full Council consent, any powers currently vested in Oldham Council and the other nine councils which made up the Greater Manchester City Region.
  5. That the administrative boundary known as Greater Manchester was not intended to consume or replace the unique and historic identities of our communities.
  6. That work was undertaken to ensure Directly Elected Mayor and enhanced Greater Manchester Combined Authority had a clear plan in place to rebalance the City Region economy which addressed the “north-south” economic divide in the city region.
  7. That while the principle of “Earn-back” investment of public funds be supported, sufficient funds should be made available to gap fund regeneration and



infrastructure investment where a legitimate commercial gap existed.



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11 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Mayor advised the meeting that there were no items of business received from the Youth Council.

12 **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

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

Question 1 - Learning Lessons from the Coffey Report:

The Leader will doubtless be aware of the recent publication of the findings of the Inquiry, chaired by the Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Runaway and Missing Children, Stockport MP Ann Coffey.

The Inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester followed the failure of statutory agencies to safeguard vulnerable children and young people in Rochdale and Rotherham.

Chair Ann Coffey spoke of “the failure of police and partner agencies to listen properly to young victims and their families and to adequately respond to them...”

It is clear that victims in Rochdale and elsewhere were not identified or taken seriously because of negative and discriminatory attitudes of the police and other partner agencies towards them.

Their behaviour was seen as a life style choice and because of that they were not seen as vulnerable children and were not given the protection they should have expected from organisations with a responsibility to safeguard them”.

This sounds identical to the tenor of Professor Jay’s Report on Rotherham.

However this Report, titled ‘Real Voices’, is more shocking because it features the voices of vulnerable children and young people from our own communities across Greater Manchester – they could very well be the sons and daughters of our friends and neighbours.

Can the Leader please tell me how this Council will be responding to the findings of this Report to ensure that the children and young people of our Borough will be protected from such exploitation in the future?

Councillor McMahon responded that these were very serious issues and would not go away for some time to come. He accepted that the institutions had to undergo a cultural change. This was a complex issue which no one can pre-empt and the

pattern of abuse was changing all the time and beginning to understand what we don't know. The Council would want to ensure that everyone is safeguarded. Systems and processes were in place as well as training and a review had taken place when issues for authorities were highlighted. There is a culture of learning and we must never pretend to know more than you do. The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) was established and working well with agencies sharing information and accessing databases. Members have visited the team and were impressed with the systems in place. There was a play highlighting issues currently going around schools which highlighted the issues, promoted discussion and raised awareness and has been proven beneficial. The media has been proportionate in its covering of the issues and came to meet staff for a better understanding. The Council has taken on board the report and not take it in isolation but one element of a wider issue. This was not just the Council's or police's job but for members of the public to report which would be investigated and support offered.

Question 2 - Supporting Candidates and Councillors with Disabilities:

The Leader may be aware that the period from 22nd November to 22nd December is designated Disability History Month.

During this month we are asked celebrate the lives and achievements of disabled people and encouraged to hold awareness raising activities about disability.

It will soon be apparent to Members opposite that disability issues will be a major focus for the Liberal Democrat Group at tonight's Council.

I am sure that the Leader will agree with me that it is proper that this Council reflects the make-up of the borough's population. It is important therefore that this Chamber includes Councillors with disabilities and that the Council's workforce is inclusive of disabled employees.

Not only is this the right thing to do, but it is also practical - for how otherwise will we as Councillors or Council Officers be aware of the needs and aspirations of disabled people and so be able to provide appropriate services and opportunities?

For my second question, I want to focus on the support provided to electors with disabilities who wish to become Councillors.

The Leader will be aware that the Local Government Association is working with the Government's Equalities Office on a pilot programme to encourage more disabled people to become Councillors.

This builds on the LGA's 'Be a Councillor' programme which encourages people from all walks of life to consider becoming a Councillor and this Government's excellent 'Access to Elected

Office for Disabled People Fund', which provides financial support to disabled people seeking elected office or when carrying out their duties once elected.



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I am also conscious that this Council Chamber will eventually be refurbished to make it 'fit for purpose' for the 21st Century. I hope that this refurbishment will be undertaken with the needs of people with disabilities in mind.

Can the Leader please tell me what this Council is doing to encourage disabled people to come forward as candidates for election in 2015 and beyond, what support will be available to those candidates if elected, and what steps are being taken to ensure that this Chamber when refurbished will meet the needs of Councillors with disabilities?

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council, acknowledged that the facilities were not fit for purpose and it was important to do something. On a broader level, when approached, the Council does do its best to be as accessible for those who want to be a candidate and when elected make it as easy as possible. Promotion needs to be done with access funding in place for improvements. The LGA and Home Office were trying to get funding in place. This was an area where Scrutiny could add value and suggested that Scrutiny be asked to come forward where improvements could be made.

### Question 3 – Laughing Gas is Latest Legal High

Nitrous Oxide, or laughing gas, is the latest in a long line of 'legal highs' that can be purchased from corner shops and street vendors.

Commonly used as an anaesthetic in dentistry and in surgical procedures, it is now estimated that some 200,000 people use laughing gas 'recreationally' across the UK.

It can give users a feeling of euphoria, but it can also lead to lower blood pressure, anaemia, fainting, heart attacks and poisoning of the nervous system.

That is of course why in medical environments its use is limited to pain relief and supervised by trained personnel.

Last month, Manchester University banned students from using 'laughing gas' on university property and Manchester City Council has also voted to toughen its stance on the sale of such gas, with money from the public health budget is being used to raise public awareness of the dangers of its use.

And in Taunton, Somerset, Council business tenants are to be banned from selling "legal highs" over the counter.

Can the Leader please tell me tonight whether this Council is prepared to follow the lead shown by Manchester and Taunton?

And how is this Council working with the Police and other partners to combat other 'legal highs'?



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Councillor McMahon acknowledged the issue and would need to get back following consultation with Health and Wellbeing. The LGA through work with authorities began work on the danger of the gas back in August and had a toolkit ready for adoption.

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Hudson, put the following question to the Leader:

Councillor Hudson referred to the upcoming upgrade to Greenfield Station and the disruption which would be caused due to the works being taken on a main thoroughfare to Saddleworth which is a big tourist centre and has been promoted as such. He requested that to members be kept informed and that colleagues in Manchester get as much local knowledge and expertise in order to create the least chaos. It is necessary to upgrade the railway and lift the height of the bridge, but he raised the issue of traffic, deliveries and ambulances and asked that TfGMC were aware of the difficulty of alternative routes.

Councillor McMahon responded that Councillor Hibbert has been involved in discussions. The works were being completed under an Act of Parliament, the Council would have to be consulted as the Highway Authority and would ensure that local members are informed.

The Leader of the UKIP Group, Councillor Peter Klonowski, put the following question to the Leader:

Councillor Klonowski referred to a recent incident regarding a parking ticket given to a disabled user in the Town Centre. He has since been made aware of other similar incidents in the town centre and asked if people had been dealt with fairly.

Councillor McMahon responded that it was difficult to comments on individual and as to why the ticket was issued. A system was in place for appeals and if the tickets were issued incorrectly this is addressed. There are users who do not display the ticket correct but the Council does strive for fairness.

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Sedgwick to Councillor Stretton

"I am sure that all Councillors wish to see blue badges issued to and used appropriately by people with disabilities.

Blue badge fraud prosecutions have doubled in three years.

There were 686 successful council prosecutions in 2013 - up from 330 in 2010 as councils cracked down on offenders.

Manchester City Council has a 100% conviction rate with more than 500 prosecutions in the past five years while Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Plymouth Council and Hull City Council recently secured their first prosecutions against fraudsters.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell Council what action is being taken on this matter and the most recent figures for convictions locally?"



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Council

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

"At the present time the Civil Enforcement Officers are not actively involved in gathering evidence to enable the Council to take forward prosecutions.

Parking Services were actively involved between 2009 and 2012 when we had one Civil Enforcement Officer dedicated to Disabled Badge Fraud. Unfortunately this process came to an end in 2012 due to the financial pressures on the budget as the Civil Enforcement Officer was needed to fulfil the duties within the enforcement contract.

The Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Team continue to investigate cases where alleged blue badge misuse has taken place. Over the past 12 months the team have only received 4 allegations; cautioning 2 blue badge holders for abusing the scheme. A further case is currently being worked on jointly with the Department for Work and Pensions as Welfare Benefit Fraud is also alleged.

Also as part of the Audit Commissions National Fraud Initiative a total of 81 Blue Badges were returned to the authority as the badge holder had passed away. This exercise is completed every 2 years by the Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Team. The next data match is due in February 2015.

In regards to the Council's named in the question they are very successful in finding and prosecuting those individuals who use disabled badges illegally. Manchester and Liverpool both pay for a Police Officer to accompany their Officers when gathering evidence. In the context of the scale of financial cuts we have to make this cannot be justified at the moment."

2. Councillor Blyth to Councillor Akhtar

"This Council will recall that when the Remploy factory in Bardsley was about to close, a £50,000 loan was made to support the establishment of a new facility to manufacture UpVC windows and doors in Shaw.

This facility called the 4Ds creditably took on some of the former Remploy workers with disabilities.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me whether this Council has since awarded any contracts to the 4Ds for the supply of windows and doors and if the Council has also actively promoted this facility to social housing providers, commercial

housing builders, colleges, the NHS and the like as a supplier of windows and doors?”

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



“We have researched this supplier and can confirm that we have not commissioned any works via this supplier either from the Council or via Unity Partnership and there were not payments or orders made on the system.

4Ds were made aware of opportunities through the Chest and Construction Framework. It was not appropriate for the Council to promote any particular business over others. When Remploy was closed by the Coalition Government, 4Ds they lost contracts were unable to win any back.”

### 3. Councillor Williamson to Councillor Harrison

“It is estimated that 10% of young people are struggling with a mental health problem.

I understand that groups offering mental health support to children and young people in England are now eligible to bid for government top-up funds worth up to £750,000 from the £25m Voluntary and Community Sector Grants fund.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me if this Council has supported any such group to make an application for a grant?

I also understand that the Government is in the process of establishing a child mental health taskforce.

Can the Cabinet Member please advise me if this Council will be able to have some input into the work of this taskforce and how?”

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

“In Oldham, we take the issue of young people’s mental and emotional health very seriously and have recently established the multi - agency Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health partnership to establish a joint approach across agencies particularly the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. In regards to the grants fund we have liaised with one local provider organisation which has submitted a bid focussing on improving attachment between parents and infants as this has a significant bearing on a child’s health and wellbeing in later life. The Government’s child mental health taskforce has already undertaken a consultation exercise to which Council commissioning staff contributed, feeding back local experiences and suggested ways in which the offer to young people can be

improved. We will ensure Oldham is represented in any further opportunities to inform the work of the taskforce.  
Council officers have been working closely with young people in identifying how local services can be improved and the Youth Council have recently been successful in a grant application to the CCG for funds to enable the Young Minds organisation to deliver mental health training to professionals working with young people”

**RESOLVED** that the questions raised and the responses to those questions be noted.

13

**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 meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and the Draft Cabinet Minutes from the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 were submitted. The Urgent Key Decisions from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were also 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.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 and 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014 be noted.
2. The Urgent Key Decisions from 24<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be noted.

14

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

The Mayor advised that there were no items of Administration Business received.

15

**NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED:

“This Council recognises that a significant number of disabled residents and carers of this borough wish to secure appropriate employment.

As a Council, we are committed to supporting them in this ambition as part of our aspiration to Get Oldham Working.

Many people with disabilities or long-term ill-health have conditions which fluctuate in intensity on a day-by-day basis and many carers care for loved ones with similar conditions. Traditionally employment is offered on the basis of a set number of hours on a set number of days each week.

This means that where such individuals are seeking employment they do so at a significant disadvantage to able-bodied applicants as they may find it impossible to commit to a regular pattern of work.

Some employers are however open to employing workers on the basis of flexible attendance.

Council recognises that identifying those local employers who are able to offer suitable employment opportunities on this basis to candidates with disabilities or with caring responsibilities will:

- advance our corporate goal to Get Oldham Working and
- help create more-inclusive local workforces that harness the talent and commitment of disabled people and carers

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Establish a register for disabled persons and carers wishing to secure flexible employment with local employers
- Contact those employers who have pledged to support Get Oldham Working to identify those who are willing to offer future opportunities on this basis
- Provide a service to match suitable applicants from the register to suitable opportunities advertised by employers
- Promote such a Flex-Ability scheme, and the Access to Work support available through the Department of Work and Pensions, widely to prospective applicants and employers, especially through the Council webpages

It was **MOVED** that the Motion be put to the vote and was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Councillor McCann exercised his right of reply.

On being put the vote the Motion was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**RESOLVED that:**

- a register for disabled persons and carers wishing to secure flexible employment with local employers be established.
- those employers who have pledged to support Get Oldham Working to identify those who are willing to offer future opportunities on this basis be contacted.



- a service to match suitable applicants from the register to suitable opportunities advertised by employers be provided.
- such a Flex-Ability scheme, and the Access to Work support available through the Department of Work and Pensions, widely to prospective applicants and employers, especially through the Council webpages be promoted.

## Motion 2

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Blyth SECONDED:

Disability hate crime is defined by the Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers as being – ‘Any criminal offence which is perceived by the victim, or any other person, to be motivated by hostility or prejudice based on a person’s disability or perceived disability’

Disability hate crime comprises verbal abuse, harassment, damage to the property of a person because of their disability, and, in three in ten cases, a physical assault.

Council notes that

- there is much general hostility toward disabled people, some of which is whipped up by sensational and vindictive media reporting and by intemperate and ill-advised comments by politicians and candidates.
- despite an overall rise of over 1,000 in convictions for other forms of hate crime in 2013/14, disappointingly the number of disability hate crime convictions fell over the year from 494 to 470.
- there has been good work carried out by the Police, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Crown Prosecution Service, and the Disability Hate Crime Network, but the Director of Public Prosecutions acknowledged ‘that there is more to do, especially around disability hate crime’.

Council resolves to:

- Ask Overview and Scrutiny Committee to:
  - convene a special hearing to investigate, with disability advocacy groups, the prevalence of this type of crime in Oldham and what can be done locally through a multi-agency approach to prevent it and what can be done to bring about criminal prosecutions
  - bring a report back to full Council as soon as practicable.
- Support the Disability Hate Crime Network, an umbrella body that promotes the reporting of disability hate crimes and supports the work of the Police in bringing prosecutions.
- Support Mencap’s ‘Stand by Me’ campaign to help stop hate crime against people with a learning disability.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Justice Minister, the Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP, and Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, urging them to:

- redouble their efforts to prosecute offenders
  - consider introducing new legislation for England and Wales which mirrors that which already exists in Scotland (the Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009)
  - provide magistrates with appropriate training so that they are aware of the extra sentencing powers they have to deal with disability hate crime offences.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd urging him to:
- ensure the prosecution of perpetrators of disability hate crime is given equal prominence to the prosecution of those committing other hate crimes
  - ensure that reporting procedures allow for British sign language and appropriate formats for those with learning difficulties
- Ask the Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, Cllr Amanda Chadderton, to promote the materials published by the Crown Prosecution Service to support the delivery of the Disability Hate Crime Schools Project in local schools and academies
- Ask the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Cllr Abdul Jabbar, to review the existing support mechanisms for employees who become victims of disability hate crime to ensure that these model best practice.

Councillor Chadderton spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Heffernan spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

On being put the vote the Motion was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to:
- convene a special hearing to investigate, with disability advocacy groups, the prevalence of this type of crime in Oldham and what can be done locally through a multi-agency approach to prevent it and what can be done to bring about criminal prosecutions
  - bring a report back to full Council as soon as practicable.
- the Disability Hate Crime Network, an umbrella body that promotes the reporting of disability hate crimes and supports the work of the Police in bringing prosecutions be supported.

- Mencap's 'Stand by Me' campaign to help stop hate crime against people with a learning disability be supported.
- the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Justice Minister, the Rt. Hon. Simon Hughes MP, and Director of Public Prosecutions, Alison Saunders, urging them to:
  - redouble their efforts to prosecute offenders
  - consider introducing new legislation for England and Wales which mirrors that which already exists in Scotland (the Offences (Aggravation by Prejudice) (Scotland) Act 2009)
  - provide magistrates with appropriate training so that they are aware of the extra sentencing powers they have to deal with disability hate crime offences.
- the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd urging him to:
  - ensure the prosecution of perpetrators of disability hate crime is given equal prominence to the prosecution of those committing other hate crimes
  - ensure that reporting procedures allow for British sign language and appropriate formats for those with learning difficulties
- the Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, Cllr Amanda Chadderton, be asked to promote the materials published by the Crown Prosecution Service to support the delivery of the Disability Hate Crime Schools Project in local schools and academies
- the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Cllr Abdul Jabbar, be asked to review the existing support mechanisms for employees who become victims of disability hate crime to ensure that these model best practice.

### Motion 3

It was MOVED by Councillor Heffernan that this item of business be WITHDRAWN. The Motion had been CARRIED under Outstanding Business.

### Motion 4

Councillor Klonowski MOVED and Councillor Bates SECONDED

“In order to make a contribution to the £60 million savings required, Council should reduce all Councillors’ allowances and special responsibility payments by 50% with immediate effect. The savings made will all be used to protect jobs within the Council workforce.”

Councillor Klonowski exercised his right of reply.

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



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

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:

Transport for Greater Manchester	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2014 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2014
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	26 <sup>th</sup> September 2014 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2014
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2014
Police and Crime Panel	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2014

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Joint Authorities as detailed in the report be noted.

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

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

Minutes of the Partnerships Meetings were submitted as follows:

Unity Partnership Board	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2014
Health and Wellbeing Board	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
Oldham Care and Support Company	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2014

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

17

### **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16**

Consideration was given for the approval of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2015/16. Legislation as detailed in the Local Government Finance Act 2012 placed a requirement that each year a Collection Authority must formally consider revising its Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Before any revision, legislation requires consultation be undertaken. Consultation was undertaken between 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and 30<sup>th</sup> September on two options which were to leave

the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme unchanged from 2015 onwards to increase the level of Council Tax Reduction should the financial position of the Council be able to support the change. The current scheme had been in place since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. Option 2 be agreed and the Council implement a Council Tax Reduction Scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for all applicants of working age which would:
  - Increase the maximum amount of reduction available to 85% of a Band A rate of Council Tax.
  - Maintain other changes introduced in the 2014/15 Oldham Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
2. The scheme at Appendix 2 of the report would be subject to any changes resulting from prescribed requirements issued by the Secretary of State under paragraph 2(8) of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any changes from time to time to the figures prescribed by central government for welfare benefit purposes.

18

**LICENSING ACT 2003 - REVIEW OF STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY**

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the revised Statement of Licensing Policy. The Licensing Act 2003 requires that licensing authorities prepare and publish a statement of its Licensing Policy every five years. The policy must be kept under review.

The Council adopted the current Statement of Licensing Policy on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010. Since coming into effect a number of substantial changes to the Licensing Act 2003 which included deregulation of some “regulated entertainment”, the introduction of powers to introduce Early Morning Restriction Order, and/or a Late Night Levy and the introduction of “Public Health” as a responsible authority.

**RESOLVED** that the revised Statement of Licensing Policy be approved.

19

**CIVIC APPRECIATION NOMINATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of the nomination to receive the Civic Appreciation Award in recognition of outstanding services and dedication to the Borough of Oldham. Group Leaders have recommended Mr. Dave McGealey be nominated to receive this award.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. Dave McGealey be the agreed nomination to receive the Civic Appreciation Award for 2015.
2. the ceremony for the award will take place at the Council meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015.

20

### **LAND AND PROPERTY PROTOCOL AMENDMENT**

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval for the amendment to the Land and Property Protocols to improve the Council's decision making process. It was proposed to change the wording in cases of disposal at less than best consideration to:

- where the undervalue is below 80% by the Corporate Property Officer or the Director of Development and Infrastructure in the case of strategic regeneration projects, subject to consultation with the Executive Director Commercial Services or Chief Executive respectively.
- Where the undervalue is greater than 80% or above, by Cabinet, unless this is £50K or less in which case it will be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources, in consultation with the Corporate Property Officer for the corporate estate or the Leader, in consultation with the Director of Development and Infrastructure, for strategic regeneration projects.

**RESOLVED** that the Land and Property Protocols be amended as detailed within the report.

21

### **POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACE REVIEW 2014**

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor which presented proposals on polling arrangements as a result of the review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations.

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required the Council to undertake regular reviews of all polling districts and polling places in its area. Subsequent reviews must be every five years within a sixteen month period beginning with 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018.

The report outlined proposed changes to polling districts and polling places which incorporate recommendations in respect of Chadderton North, Failsworth West, Hollinwood, Royton South, St. James and Waterhead. There was to be one minor amendment to Waterhead Polling District 8 with all even numbers on Clarksfield Road to be included.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. the proposals made to polling districts and polling places and the polling district review incorporating any changes considered appropriate be approved.

2. the Chief Executive be authorised as Returning Officer in consultation with the Group Leaders to identify an alternative polling station, if necessary, for any other polling stations unavailable on the date of the election.
3. the Waterhead Ward Polling District 8 be amended to include all even house numbers on Clarksfield Road.



22

#### **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

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

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.28 pm

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## COUNCIL

### Petitions

#### Report of the Borough Solicitor

Portfolio Holder : Various

#### 4 February 2015

Officer Contact : Liz Frier, Head of Constitutional Services  
Ext. 4705

#### Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note petitions received by Council in accordance with the Petitions Protocol.

#### Petitions Received

##### Economy and Skills

Petition Entitled "Don't Move Saddleworth School" (received 12th January 2015) (2,984 signatures) (Ref 2015-01)

**Recommendation** that Council note the petition received.

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**Present:** Councillor McMahon  
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, A Chadderton, Harrison,  
Hibbert, Jabbar and Stretton

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5           **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE  
20TH OCTOBER 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on  
the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be approved.

6           **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Interim  
Borough Treasurer which sought approval of the Council Tax  
Reduction scheme 2015/16 as detailed at appendix 2 of the  
report.

It was reported that Council from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 introduced a  
localised Council Tax reduction scheme as required by the Local  
Government Finance Act 2012.

Each year a collection authority must formally consider revising  
its Council Tax reduction scheme and ensure there is  
consultation on a proposed scheme.

**Consultation**

The Council began its consultation on two options on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
July 2014 until 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Option 1 – Leave the current Council Tax reduction scheme  
unchanged from 2015 onwards.

Option 2 – Increase the level of Council Tax reduction should  
the financial position of the Council be able to support the  
change.

Feedback from consultation was included within the report.

**Options/Alternatives considered**

There were two options to be considered in line with the  
consultation questions and the financial information as detailed  
at section 6 of the report.

Option 1 – Leave the current Council Tax Reduction scheme  
unchanged for 2015 onwards.

Option 2 – Increase the maximum amount of reduction available  
to 85% of Band A rate of Council Tax, in line with the draft  
scheme at appendix 2 of the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. Option 2 be agreed and commended to Council, to implement a Council Tax reduction scheme from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for all applicants of working age which would:
  - Increase the maximum amount of reduction available to 85% of a band A rate of Council Tax.
  - Maintain the changes introduced in the 2014/15 Oldham Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
2. The Cabinet noted that the scheme at appendix 2 was subject to any changes resulting from prescribed requirements issued by the Secretary of State under paragraph 2 (8) of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any changes from time to time to the figures prescribed by central government for welfare benefits purposes.

7 **REVENUE MONITOR 2014/15; MONTH 06 (SEPTEMBER 2014)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which provided Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue budget position forecast to the year end, as at the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Members were advised that the current position was a possible projected under spend of £342k following reserve transfers.

Options/Alternatives considered

Section 6 of the report summarised a transfer to and from reserves request at month 6.

Option 1 – To approve all management actions outlined within the report.

Option 2 – To approve some of the management actions outlined in the report.

Option 3 – Not to approve the management actions outlined within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast position at the end of Month 6 (September 2014), a possible projected of £342k under spend following reserve transfers be agreed.
2. The budget be revised following the receipt of new funding totalling £19k.
3. The transfer to/from reserves as detailed at section 6 of the report be approved.
4. The forecast positions for the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be agreed.

8 **CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2014/15 MONTH 6**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which sought to inform Cabinet of the financial position of the capital programme at the end of month 6 2014/15 and the proposed changes to the capital programme as outlined in section 3 of the report.

It was reported that the financial monitoring element of the report outlined the most up to date capital spending proposals for 2014/18, including the current project managers forecast outturn position of £107.555m expenditure.



In arriving at that position there was potentially a resource of £9.601m available for an alternative use. This detail was set out at Table 1 - 2014/15 capital programme.

The forecast outturn position based upon statistical analysis was £96.708m.

It was noted that as the financial year progressed, the position in relation to each of the projections in the programme would become clearer, enabling a more informed projection of the year end position.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The projected capital outturn for 2014/15 at the end of month 6 be noted.
2. The variations to the 2014/15 capital programme as detailed within Appendix A to the report which advised of budget movements of schemes resulting in a net decrease in expenditure of £3.546m and a decrease in resources of £3.546 in 2014/15 be approved.
3. The current progress in relation to the annual review of the capital programme where the possible alternative use of resources, currently in the sum of £9.061m would be examined be approved.

9

## **COMMUNITY ENERGY - 'GENERATION OLDHAM'**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Commercial Services which sought approval of an approach to deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements in community owned assets across the Borough. It was reported that the project would create an opportunity for community groups to install solar photovoltaic (PV) on roofs of community owned buildings across Oldham, supported with resources and expertise from the Council.

The benefits of the project included:

- Benefit to community buildings receiving solar PV systems from reduced energy bills due to the free electricity generated.
- Benefit to local residents from the opportunity to invest in new community energy projects, including receiving tax relief on their investments through the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Small Enterprise Investment Schemes.
- Benefit in the form of a 'dividend' to local communities from funding pots generated by new renewable energy projects from Feed In Tariff payments, which would be spent on local projects, programmes and initiatives.
- Electricity exported to the grid from the solar PV installations ultimately being supplied at a discount to fuel poor neighbourhoods on a social tariff, through a partnership with an energy supply company offering a 'licence lite' service to local authorities and community energy organisations, as part of a wider Oldham scheme.
- Benefit to members of the Youth Council, through their involvement in the programme, from training and experience in one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, renewable energy. This package would be

developed in partnership with Oldham College and solar PV installers.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Approve the report. The option would require a limited resource input from the Council in terms of officer time and an assessment of local energy opportunities, but many resources already existed to support community energy which the Council could draw upon.

Option 2 – Not to approve the report. The option would not require any resource input from the Council for the development of an energy strategy, however this option would leave Oldham community groups entirely reliant on the “big six” energy companies for their energy provision with no income from local energy investments.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Generation Oldham ‘initiative of community energy in community buildings across the Borough be approved.
2. The ‘Generation Oldham’ initiative would form part of an overall approach to community energy across all sectors in Oldham.
- 3.

10

#### **TRANSFER OF ALT PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning and Attainment which provided Members with details of the conversion of Alt Primary School to sponsored academy status.

It was reported that it was a statutory requirement that all schools placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate or special measures must convert to academy status. Alt Primary School was placed in ‘special measures’ on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It was further reported that the school would be sponsored by the Harmony Trust.

RESOLVED – That the conversion to academy status by Alt Primary School be noted.

11

#### **TRANSFER OF WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning and Attainment which provided Members with details of the conversion of Westwood Primary School to sponsored academy status.

It was reported that it was a statutory requirement that all schools placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate or special measures must convert to academy status. Westwood Primary School was judged as inadequate on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. It was further reported that the school would be sponsored by the Harmony Trust.

RESOLVED – That the conversion to academy status by Westwood Primary School be noted.



12

### **TRANSFER OF RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning and Attainment which provided Members with details of the conversion of Richmond Primary School to sponsored academy status.

It was reported that it was a statutory requirement that all schools placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate or special measures must convert to academy status. Richmond Primary School was placed in special measures on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012. It was further reported that the school would be sponsored by the Harmony Trust.

RESOLVED – That the conversion to academy status by Richmond Primary School be noted.

13

### **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief of Staff which provided the Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance against priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan during the period June to September 2014.

The Council was achieving 58% of the 50 rated measures and the 27 Corporate plan actions this quarter 92% were on track or had been completed.

Highlights within the report included:

- 320 people were no longer experiencing fuel poverty
- 543 empty properties had been brought back into use
- The number of successful outcomes for troubled families had increased to 442 in September compared to 409 in July

The report also provided details of areas of underperformance and action status commentary.

RESOLVED - That the Council Performance report for September 2014 be noted.

14

### **REPORT ON EASTERN GATEWAY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Development and Infrastructure which sought to update Cabinet on the progress of the Eastern Gateway project and sought approval of commercially sensitive recommendations as detailed at Item 17 of the agenda.

The report provided details of the comprehensive development of the Oldham Eastern Gateway including a range of possible economic benefits that could arise from the development of this strategically important area.

The proposed Eastern Gateway scheme was spread over a number of sites covering the eastern entrance to the Town Centre at the bottom of the moor and the Alexandra Retail Park investment zones as detailed within the report.

The project would involve the reuse of existing buildings and development of vacant land currently owned by the Council and others including the old bank building and bus depot.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Not to approve the recommendations in relation to the Eastern Gateway project.

Option 2 – To approve the recommendations in relation to the Eastern Project

RESOLVED – That:

1. The information within the report be noted.
2. The Eastern Gateway Master plan be approved.
3. The economic outcomes, additional GVA and jobs resulting from the completion of the development areas within the Masterplan be noted;
  - a. Gross construction employment – 74 FTEs
  - b. Additional construction employment – 40 FTEs
  - c. Net additional employment – 358
  - d. Total additional expenditure –£21.7 m per annum
4. The completion of legal agreements with Transport for Greater Manchester and prospective occupiers be approved.
5. The Leader of the Council be authorised in consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Development and Infrastructure, Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer to negotiate and conclude an agreement with prospective occupiers.
6. The submission of two planning applications at the Eastern Gateway be agreed.
7. The full release of the £1,500,000 Eastern Gateway budget in the Capital Programme be approved.
8. That a further report is submitted to a future Cabinet meeting outlining the capital costs and values following the completion of the design review and negotiations with potential retailers. This would include a full financial appraisal of the preferred delivery option and include the affordability for the Council. The report would also seek approval to enter into an agreement with a residential development partner.
9. The Cabinet would consider further commercially sensitive recommendations at Item 17 in relation to the project.

15

### **SHAW PARK AND RIDE - LEASE OF LAND AT FORMER TALENTUM, BEAL WORKS, BEAL LANE, SHAW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Development and Infrastructure which sought approval to enter into an agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester in respect of the cleared site of the former Beal Works, Beal Lane Shaw.

The report provided details of the of the Council's acquisition of the Talenteum property, Beal Works, Beal Lane, Shaw to support the development of an enlarged park and ride facility in Shaw.

The Council had proceeded to complete all service disconnection works and asbestos removal. Demolition of the property was due to be completed on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The site would be vacant from this time pending the



development of the park and ride by Transport for Greater Manchester.

The park and ride would be completed by September 2015.

Options/Alternatives

Option 1 – Do nothing

Option 2 – Sell the land on the open market

Option 3 – Enter into a legal agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester and have provisionally agreed heads of terms which would contract Transport for Greater Manchester into development arrangements. The park and ride facility on the land would provide in the region of 50 car park spaces for the Shaw area. There was also future expansion space on additional area of land on the opposite side of the River Beal acquired by the Council at auction.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 18 of the agenda before making a decision.

16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

17 **REPORT ON EASTERN GATEWAY**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 15 – Report on Eastern Gateway which provided details of further necessary actions, delegations, negotiations and financial information in relation to the project.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as detailed with the report be agreed.

18 **SHAW PARK AND RIDE - LEASE OF LAND AT FORMER TALENTUM, BEAL WORKS, BEAL LANE, SHAW**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 16 – Shaw Park and Ride - Lease of land at former Talentum, Beal Works, Beal Lane, Shaw.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The disposal of the land is agreed as detailed within the report.
2. The Council proceed to enter into an agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester in accordance with the terms and conditions as detailed at section 4.2 of the report.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished 6.38pm

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**Present:** Councillor McMahon (Chair)  
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, A Chadderton, Harrison,  
Hibbert, Jabbar and Stretton

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 of the agenda by virtue of his status as a private landlord within the neighbourhood highlighted areas of the Selective Licensing scheme.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5           **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING 17TH NOVEMBER 2014**

RESOLVED That – The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be approved as a correct record.

6           **STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE HOTEL PROJECT**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Development and Infrastructure which provided an evaluation of four operating models in relation to the Council's ambition to secure a hotel operator as part of the regeneration of Oldham Town Centre. It was reported that Hotel Future was a new concept supported by the British Hospitality Association. The Hotel Future Team had with the support of the Council, been working on a proposal to build a training hotel that would provide a high quality hotel as well refurbishing the ageing Queen Elizabeth Hall. It was further reported that in order to ensure the project met the strict requirements required by the public works loan funding and to ensure value for public money an options appraisal was commissioned.

Options/Alternatives considered

1. Do not proceed with a Hotel and conferencing centre.
2. Option 1 - Progress with Hotel and conferencing operated by Hotel Future (National Hospitality Training Academy)
3. Option 2 - Progress with Hotel and conferencing operated by a commercial hotel brand
4. Option 3 - Progress with Hotel and conferencing operated by a commercial hotel brand with training
5. Option 4 - Progress with Hotel operated by a commercial Hotel brand built to a standard without conferencing or training

RESOLVED That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 20 of the agenda before making a decision.

7

### **SELECTIVE LICENSING OF PRIVATE LANDLORDS - CONSULTATION REPORT AND FINAL PROPOSALS**

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise declared a pecuniary interest in Item 7 of the agenda by virtue of his status as a private landlord within the neighbourhood highlighted areas of the Selective Licensing scheme.

He left the room for consideration of the Item and took no part in the discussion of vote thereon.

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Liveability, which provided the Cabinet with findings of a consultation regarding the potential benefits of the introduction of a selective licensing scheme for private landlords, in highlighted areas which formed the basis of the consultation. It was reported that following Cabinet approval in March 2014 to undertake a detailed consultation on the draft proposals for the scheme, this report presented to the Cabinet the final proposals. Members were advised that the scheme would be part of a coordinated neighbourhood approach combining existing policies of the both Council and its partners such as tackling environmental crime, promoting landlord accreditation, empty property intervention and tackling anti-social behaviour.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do nothing.

Option 2 – Continue with the voluntary landlord accreditation scheme already being undertaken by the Council.

Option 3 – Approve the final proposal for selective licensing contained within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The consultation findings as detailed in the main report acknowledging the responses from residents, landlords and other stakeholders be noted.
2. The implementation of the selective licensing scheme for private landlords after the necessary lead in period contained within the relevant legislation be approved.
3. The scheme was to be operated in the highlighted neighbourhoods shown in Appendix 3 to this report and described in more detail in the consultation report.
4. The licence conditions to be imposed per property as detailed in paragraph 3.1 of the report;
5. The licence fee of £490 per property as detailed in paragraph 3.2 of the report and appendix 4 be approved.
6. An annual report to be presented to cabinet and the relevant District Executive which provides licence income for the year and progress across the individual Neighbourhoods be agreed.
7. The establishment of a quarterly private sector landlords forum and the development and running of a dedicated website for private landlords where

bespoke help and advice would be available as well as a suite of standard documents be agreed.

8. The utilisation of the Neighbourhood Forums, as set out in the constitution, within each District so that 3 times a year they engage residents in progressing the licensing scheme be agreed.
9. Priorities from the Neighbourhood Forums would be fed back into the District Executives to ensure the issues are owned locally and are prioritised within the District Plan.

8

### **OLDHAM COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY - PRELIMINARY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Economy and Skills which provided the Cabinet with detailed outcomes from the Oldham Economic Viability Study which had been prepared to inform a potential Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) in Oldham.

It was reported that the CIL was a levy which a local authority could choose to charge on new developments in their area. The money could be used to support development by funding infrastructure needed by local communities.

The report outlined a proposed preliminary draft charging schedule (PDCS) and if the Council wanted to proceed with a CIL, public consultation was required on the PDCS.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve consultation on the PDCS and publish the Oldham Economic Viability study for inspection. The CIL would allow the Council to collect funding from invest in infrastructure and growth.

The consultation would ensure the Council had met the requirement in the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 as amended.

Option 2 - Not to approve consultation on the PDCS and not to publish the Oldham Economic Viability Study as part of the CIL evidence base.

The Council would only be able to rely on S.106 planning obligations.

From April 2015 the pooling of s.106 monies would be restricted and could impact on how much funding there was available for strategic projects.

**RESOLVED** – That approval be given to carry out public consultation on the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule (PDCS) and to publish the Oldham Economic Viability Study as part of the Community Levy Infrastructure (CIL) evidence base.

9

### **REVENUE MONITOR 2014/15; MONTH 07 (OCTOBER 2014)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which provided Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue budget position forecast to the year end, as at the period ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2014.

Members were advised that the current position was a possible projected under spend of £474k following reserve transfers as detailed within the report.



Section 6 and appendix 2 of the report summarised the transfer to and from reserves requests at month 6 to enable the release to support the 2014/15 budget.

Option 1 – To approve all management actions outlined within the report.

Option 2 – To approve some of the management actions outlined in the report.

Option 3 – Not to approve the management actions outlined within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast position at the end of month 7 (October 2014) being a projected £474k underspend be noted.
2. The forecast positions for both the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be noted.

10

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2014/15**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which sought to advise Members of the financial position of the capital programme at the end of month seven 2014/15 and the proposed changes to the capital programme as outlined in section 3 of the report.

It was reported that the financial monitoring element of the report outlined the most up to date capital spending proposals for 2014/18.

The revised budget for 2014/15 taking into account movements included for approval was detailed in the report and reflected in the table below.

**Capital Programme 2014/15 to October 2014**

	£k	£k
Revised Capital Programme as at M06	117,156	
New schemes/ Variations (App A)	2,895	
Annual Review of the Capital Programme (App C)	- 10,503	
<b>Revised Capital Programme as at M07</b>		<b>109,548</b>
Amendments to the Capital Programme (App B)	- 11,501	
<b>2014/15 Forecast Outturn Per Table 3</b>		<b>98,047</b>
Other Variations in Forecasts	- 1,335	
<b>2014/15 Forecast Outturn Per Table 1</b>		<b>96,712</b>

The forecast outturn position based upon statistical analysis was £88.540m.

It was noted that as the financial year progressed, the position in relation to each of the projections in the programme would become clearer, enabling a more informed projection of the year end position.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Not to approve the changes requested within the report.

Option 2 – To approve some changes included in the report.

Option 3 – To approve all changes requested within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The projected capital outturn for 2014/15 at the end of month 7 be approved.
2. That the variations to the capital programme as detailed in the report and listed below be approved.
  - Appendix A - budget movements in schemes resulting in a net increase in expenditure and resources of £2.895m in 2014/15.
  - Appendix B - Proposed re-profiling of the 2014/15 capital programme totalling £11.501m.
  - Appendix C and D - Outcome of the Annual review, a net reduction of £10.503m in the 2014/15 programme.

11

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

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which provided the Cabinet with 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 Indicators. The report provided details of the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Treasury Management revised code of practice and set out the key Treasury Management issued for Members information. The report outlined;

- An economic update for the first six months of 2014/15;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2014/15;
- A 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.
- An explanation of changes to the credit rating methodology used by Capita Asset Services, the Authority's current treasury management advisers.

Options/Alternatives considered

The Council had no option other to consider and note the content of the report in line with the CIPFA code of practice.

**RESOLVED – That:**

1. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2014/15 and the projected outturn position be approved.
2. The amendments to both Authorised and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.5.5 of the report be approved.
3. The changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings will no longer be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties be approved.



4. The report be commended to Council for approval.

12

### **CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR THE DELIVERY OF OLDHAM'S CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval for the extension of contracts of with Actions for Children and the Children's Society for the delivery of Oldham's Children's centre services until the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

It was reported that the current contracts allowed the Council to opt for an extension and this would enable full integration with wider services from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

It was reported that a new redesign process was underway for the front facing 0-4 delivery model which included an 8 stage model and key elements of the model were being piloted by current providers in Oldham.

The current providers had been directly involved in the development and implementation of the 8 stage project.

It was proposed that the aforementioned requirements were included as a variation to the contract (and where the timing and sufficient progress with the pilots permits such variations to the service specification would be executed prior to extending the term of the contract), thus moving providers towards a state of readiness for implementation of the new model April 2016.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do not authorise the contract extension and make alternative arrangements for service delivery.

Option 2 - To Approve the extension of the contracts with Action for Children and the Children's' Society for one year until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The extension of contracts the with Action for Children and The Children's Society to deliver children's centre services in Oldham for a period of one year until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.
2. The granting of new leases as appropriate to facilitate the proposed service contractual extension be approved.

13

### **CONTRACT AWARD DECISION - DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT SERVICES**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director and Adults and Children's Services which sought to inform the Cabinet of the outcome of a tender process in relation to the new drug and alcohol treatment system, including a new recovery and reintegration service.

The report provided details of the tender evaluation process undertaken and the current situation regarding contracts for the provision of the service.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Not to award the contract to the only bidder as the lead provider

Option 2 – To award the contract to the only bidder as the lead provider

RESOLVED – That:



1. The award of the appropriate contracts to Addiction Dependency Solutions be approved.
2. The savings of £980,000 against the current contract price be noted.

14

**CONTRACT AWARD FOR THE PROVISION OF STAIRLIFTS, CEILING TRACK HOISTS AND VERTICAL AND STEP LIFTS**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adults and Children's Services which sought approval to an award of contract following a joint tender process with Tameside, for the provision of stair lifts, ceiling track hoists and vertical step lifts to properties for residents with disabilities. The report provided details of the tender evaluation process undertaken and the current situation regarding contracts for the provision of the service.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - Not to tender the contract. This would not address existing issues of compliance with the Council's contract procedure rules and ensuring value for money

Option 2 – To award a contract for the provision of the equipment required for residents with disabilities.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The contract for the provision of stair lifts, ceiling track hoists and vertical step lifts be awarded to the following suppliers:
  - Lot 1 - Stairlifts to Platinum Stairlifts Limited
  - Lot 2 - Ceiling Track Hoists to Prism UK Medical Limited
  - Lot 3 - Vertical and Step Lifts to Wessex Lift Co Ltd
2. The contract would commence on or after 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and expire on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 with an option to extend by an additional 2 years on 1 year increments.

15

**APPROVAL TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR DELIVERY OF TARGETED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OLDHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval to award a contract for the delivery of targeted support services for Oldham's young people from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015.

The report provided details of the tender exercise for the combination of services for young people including sexual health and substance misuse, young carers and advice for guiding young people in vulnerable groups and the Youth Justice Service was also part of the range of services.

The current contracts were due to expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

Options/ Alternatives

Option 1 – That approval is given to award the contract for the delivery of targeted support services for Oldham's young people to following the tender evaluation process and choosing the highest scoring submission for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 with an option to extend for 2 years beyond this

date subject to satisfactory performance and meeting the Council's objectives. The total saving against annual current spend would be £640,000.

Option 2 – Not to award the contract. This option could not be considered as key elements of service delivery have a statutory basis and the range of services ensures vulnerable young people have the best chance of progressing into productive adulthood in line with the Council's ambitions.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 21 of the report before coming to a decision.

16

**CONTRACT AWARD: ST MARY'S DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK BILLING AND METERING**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Corporate and Commercial Services which sought approval for acceptance of a tender and award of contract for:

- The replacement of heat meters and;
- The award of a ten year contract to manage and maintain billing and collection of monies for St. Mary's District Heating Network

as part of the joint programme of works being undertaken by First Choice Homes and Oldham Council.

The report provided details of the tender evaluation and the outcome of the process.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do nothing. This was not an acceptable option without a common billing platform.

Option 2 – Accept the tender and award the contract. This would lead to improved collection of heating charges, receipt of Renewable Heat Incentive payments and a reduction in customer debt.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 22 of the agenda before coming to a decision.

17

**CONTRACT AWARD: ST MARY'S DISTRICT HEATING FUELLING AND OPERATION OF ENERGY CENTRE**

The Cabinet gave consideration of a report of the Executive Director, Corporate and Commercial Services which sought approval of an acceptance of tender and award of ten year contract for the:

- daily operation
- provision of fuel and;
- ongoing maintenance

of the new energy centre for St. Mary's District Heating Network as part of a joint programme of works being undertaken by First Choice Homes and Oldham Council.

The report provided details of the tender evaluation and the outcome of the process.

Options/ Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do nothing. This was not an option as once the new energy centre is completed an operator would be required.

Option 2 – This option would allow the new energy centre to be operated and the supply of heat maintained.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 23 of the agenda before coming to a decision.

18 **OCLL COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT**

The Cabinet gave consideration a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Adults and Commissioning Services which sought approval of a commercial investment proposal from Oldham Community Leisure to enhance the Borough leisure offer.

It was reported that some the Oldham Community Leisure business proposal to develop new leisure facilities was at differing stages of development and further work was required to scrutinise any commercial investment.

Option 1 – To approve the proposals

Option 2 – Not to approve the proposals

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 24 before coming to a decision.

19 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

20 **STRATEGIC REVIEW OF THE HOTEL PROJECT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation Item 6 Strategic Hotel Review.

RESOLVED – That the commercially sensitive recommendations as detailed within the report at Item 20 be agreed .

21 **APPROVAL TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR DELIVERY OF TARGETED SUPPORT SERVICES FOR OLDHAM'S YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation Item 15 Approval to Award the Contract of targeted Support Services for Oldham's Young People.

RESOLVED – That

1. The award of contract to the preferred bidder as outlined in the report for the delivery of Targeted Support Services for Oldham's Young people for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 with an option to extend for up to two years and beyond this date subject to satisfactory performance and Council objectives.



2. The Cabinet noted the total savings of £640,000 against current annual spend were included within the 0-19 efficiency proposal.

22

**CONTRACT AWARD: ST MARY'S DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK BILLING AND METERING**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 16 of the agenda, St. Mary's District Heating Network Heating and Billing.

RESOLVED - That:

1. The results of the tendering exercise which resulted in submission of tenders on the 1<sup>st</sup> October be noted.
2. The recommended tender from ENER-G Switch2 be approved.

23

**CONTRACT AWARD: ST MARY'S DISTRICT HEATING FUELLING AND OPERATION OF ENERGY CENTRE**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 17 of the agenda, St. Mary's District Heating Fuelling and Operation of Energy Centre.

RESOLVED - That:

3. The results of the tendering exercise which resulted in submission of tenders on the 1<sup>st</sup> October be noted.
4. The recommended tender from Veolia be approved.

24

**OCLL COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 18 – OCLL Commercial Investment.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The deferment of the Chadderton utilities payment owed by Oldham Community Leisure be approved.
2. Further work be undertaken to scrutinise the commercial investment around the wider leisure proposal.
3. The decision to approve the commercial investment around the wider leisure proposal be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Cabinet Member for Finance and HR in consultation with Executive Director of Health and Wellbeing, the Borough Treasurer and Borough Solicitor.
4. All further recommendations as detailed within the report be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.35pm

### GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

#### MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER 2014 AT STOCKPORT MBC

BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Mike Connolly
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jim McMahon
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	Ian Stewart
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Sue Derbyshire
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith (in the Chair)

#### **JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender
GMFRSA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Catherine Piddington
Police and Crime Commissioner	Tony Lloyd

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Donna Hall	GMCA Secretary
Howard Bernstein	GMCA Head of Paid Service
Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Sean Harriss	Bolton Council
Mike Kelly	Bury Council
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Ian Duncan	Trafford Council

Office of the Police and  
Crime Commissioner

Adam Allen

Peter Fahy

GM Police

Jon Lamonte  
Steve Warrener  
Andrew Lightfoot  
Simon Nokes  
Kate Brown

TfGM  
TfGM  
GM PSR  
New Economy  
AGMA Elections Co-ordinator & Support  
Team

Julie Connor  
Rebecca Heron  
Sylvia Welsh  
Julie Gaskell

)  
)Greater Manchester  
) Integrated Support Team  
)

**163/14 APOLOGIES**

Linda Fisher

**164/14 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair recognised a recent press statement in which Sir Richard Leese and Sir Howard Bernstein, Manchester City Council, topped a national poll of local government figure heads.

**165/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

**166/14 MINUTES OF GMCA MEETINGS ON 31 OCTOBER AND 3 NOVEMBER 2014**

**RESOLVED/-**

To approve the minutes of the GMCA meetings on 31 October and 3 November 2014 as correct records.

**167/14 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS**

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the Forward Plan.

**168/14 SOCIAL VALUE PROCUREMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Combined Authority received a report from Theresa Grant, Chief Executive, Trafford Council, providing feedback from the Greater Manchester (GM) procurement teams on their approaches to social value and seeking Members consideration of the adoption of a GM Social Value Policy and Framework that can be used as a template for GM Authorities.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. To adopt the GM Social Value Policy and Framework (as set out in annex 1 of the report).
2. To note the work being undertaken to further develop and build the case study for resources available through the GM Social Value Framework.
3. To agree that further work be undertaken by the AGMA Authorities, in conjunction with the AGMA Procurement Hub, to incorporate appropriate social value outcomes into procurement processes and that the approach is standardised as far as possible.

**169/14 ACTIVE TRAVEL CHOICES**

The Combined Authority considered a report from Jon Lamonte, Chief Executive, TfGM providing an update on the delivery of active travel and travel choices across Greater Manchester in support of wider Greater Manchester Strategy objectives.

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the progress being made across the Active Travel and Travel Choices programme and to note the potential for further partnership working with cross sector organisations and central government.

**170/14 MINUTES OF SCRUTINY POOL - 14 NOVEMBER 2014**

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the minutes of Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 14 November 2014.

**171/14 MINUTES OF TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE - 14 NOVEMBER 2014**

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the minutes of Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC) held on 14 November 2014.

**172/14 GREATER MANCHESTER RAIL PRIORITIES**

The Combined Authority received a report from Jon Lamonte, Chief Executive, TfGM, providing a summary of a planning process that will result in the Secretary of State publishing a High Level Output Specification and Statement of Funds Available in 2017, and Network Rail publishing an Infrastructure Delivery Plan in 2019.

The report also identified where TfGM involvement is required to ensure the requirements of Greater Manchester, and the North of England as a whole, are represented in the Specification and Plan.

A Member raised concern on potential impact on local GM Services and requested that this be subject to local discussions and picked up during the re-franchising process.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. To note the requirement for TfGM to engage in the rail industry processes leading to the Control Period 6 delivery plans.
2. To approve revised Greater Manchester Rail Priorities, as recommended by TfGMC on the 14 November 2014.
3. To request that any impact on local GM services be subject to local discussions and picked up during the re-franchising process.

**173/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED/-**

That under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and Public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**174/14 LOW CARBON REVIEW**

The Combined Authority received a report from Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC, providing detail of a review undertaken to ensure that current arrangements are fit for purpose in delivering action on the ground for Greater Manchester in relation to low carbon ambitions.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. To agree the findings of the Review.
2. To delegate authority to the lead Chief Executive for Low Carbon, Eamonn Boylan, to implement the outcome of the review in order to have revised governance and staffing structures in place as soon as possible.
3. To note that a further report to be brought back to a future meeting of the GMCA.

**175/14 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK**

The Combined Authority received a report from Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC, seeking conditional approval to a project.



**RESOLVED/-**

1. To agree that the project funding application detailed in the report be given conditional approval and progress to due diligence.
2. To delegate authority to the Combined Authority Treasurer and Combined Authority Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the transaction, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan.

Chair

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**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY AND THE  
AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 28 NOVEMBER 2014 AT  
STOCKPORT MBC**

BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Mike Connolly
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jim McMahon
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	Ian Stewart
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Sue Derbyshire
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith (in the Chair)

**JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender
GMFRSA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Catherine Piddington
Police and Crime Commissioner	Tony Lloyd

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Donna Hall	GMCA Secretary
Howard Bernstein	GMCA Head of Paid Service
Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Sean Harriss	Bolton Council
Mike Kelly	Bury Council
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC

Steven Pleasant  
Ian Duncan

Tameside MBC  
Trafford Council

Office of the Police and  
Crime Commissioner

Adam Allen

Peter Fahy  
Jon Lamonte  
Steve Warrener  
Andrew Lightfoot  
Simon Nokes  
Kate Brown

GM Police  
TfGM  
TfGM  
GM PSR  
New Economy  
AGMA Elections Co-ordinator & Support  
Team

Julie Connor  
Rebecca Heron  
Sylvia Welsh  
Julie Gaskell

)  
) Greater Manchester  
) Integrated Support Team  
)

#### **81/14 APOLOGIES**

Linda Fisher.

#### **82/14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

#### **83/14 MINUTES OF THE JOINT GMCA AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING – 31 OCTOBER 2014**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

To approve the minutes of the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Board meeting held on 31 October 2014 as a correct record.

#### **84/14 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS**

##### **RESOLVED/-**

To note the Forward Plan.

#### **85/14 INVESTMENT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION LOCAL BOND AGENCY**

Members received a report from Richard Paver, AGMA Treasurer, providing a brief on the setting up of the Local Government Municipal Bonds Agency and seeking the consideration of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to make an initial investment in the Agency.

##### **RESOLVED/-**

1. To approve the investment of £50,000 in the Local Capital Finance Company Ltd, as part of the funding required to launch the agency.
2. To note that a letter of Intent is required to be submitted by 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014 indicating the GMCA's intent to invest in the Company.

**86/14            GREATER MANCHESTER DEBT ADMINISTRATION FUND -  
ESTIMATED RETURNS & BORROWING STRATEGY**

Members received a report from Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive, Tameside MBC, presenting the Fund's estimated rates of interest for 2014/15 and 2015/16 together with the borrowing strategy to be employed.

**RESOLVED/-**

To note the revised 2014/15 estimate as 5.73% and the original 2015/16 estimate as 5.74%.

**87/14            GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK**

Members received a report from Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC detailing the implications of producing the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework as a joint Development Plan Document and providing further information on the proposed scope of the plan as well as the required amendments to the AGMA constitution and decisions by individual Districts to initiate this process.

**RESOLVED/-**

To agree that each full council be requested to consider the following recommendations:

- (1). To approve the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester ( as set out in Appendix 1 of the report) as a joint development plan document on terms to be approved by the Council's Chief Executive.
- (2). To note that the [Council's Executive / Cabinet/ City Mayor] will be asked to delegate the formulating and preparing of the GMSF to the AGMA Executive Board.
- (3). To note that there will be further reports to full Council in respect of matters, which are within the remit of full Council including approval of the GMSF.
- (4). To approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this.

2. To agree that each Executive / cabinet/ leader/ the City Mayor (*depending on each Council's own arrangements and in the event that the Councils have approved the above recommendations*) be requested to:

- (1). To note that full Council has approved the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester ( as set out in Appendix 1 of the report ) as a joint development plan document.
  - (2). To delegate to the AGMA Executive Board the formulating and preparing of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester ( as set out in Appendix 1 to the report ) insofar as such matters are executive functions.
  - (3). To note that the following are the sole responsibility of full Council:
    - i. Responsibility for giving of instructions to the executive to reconsider the draft plan submitted by the executive for the authority's consideration
    - ii. The amendment of the draft GMSF plan document submitted by the executive for the full Council's consideration
    - iii. The approval for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State or Minister of the Crown for his approval of the GMSF if required
    - iv. The approval of the GMSF document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
    - v. The adoption of the GMSF.
  - (4). To approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this
3. To request a further report outlining the implications of the Devolution Agreement for the preparation of the GMSF (as set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report) and setting out future steps in the event that the above delegations are approved.
4. To agree an interim approach to budget commitments in 2014/15, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 - 4.5 of the report, with Manchester acting as lead authority for the GMSF budget.

**88/14            GREATER MANCHESTER EMPTY HOMES CONSORTIUM - POST  
2015**

Members received a report from Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC, detailing the future work required on empty homes in Greater Manchester beyond the expiry of current capital funding programmes in April 2015.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. To approve the proposal that a joint GM approach to empty homes should continue.
2. To approve the development and implementation of the approach set out in the report to achieve:
  - i. the continuation of a GM consortium approach to Affordable Homes Programme (AHP) funding for empty homes beyond April 2015 with those districts and partners keen to continue
  - ii. further development work through joint working with district colleagues on a flexible revolving fund for empty property, linked to TopCo
  - iii. further sharing of best practice and experience, including through the dissemination of the outcomes of the Knowledge Transfer Partnership project.
3. To delegate authority to the Head of Paid Service, Treasurer and Monitoring Officer to agree the necessary documents with the Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) and consortium partners for AHP funding to assist in the return of empty homes to use as affordable housing.
4. To authorise the Monitoring Officer to complete the necessary documentation.

**89/14 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED/-**

That under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and Public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**90/14 INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION**

**RESOLVED/-**

To agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Portfolio Lead for Elections, the Head of the Paid Service in consultation with the Chair of the AGMA Executive Board, to agree any necessary decisions and actions required between now and 19 December 2014.

Chair

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE  
TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE, HELD ON 14  
NOVEMBER 2014**

**PRESENT**

Councillor David Chadwick	Bolton
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley	Bury
Councillor Joan Grimshaw	Bury
Councillor Andrew Fender	Manchester (in the Chair)
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester
Councillor Chris Paul	Manchester
Councillor Tracey Rawlins	Manchester
Councillor Adrian Alexander	Oldham
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham
Councillor Shakil Ahmed	Rochdale
Councillor Philip Burke	Rochdale
Councillors Ian Duckworth	Rochdale
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford
Councillor Martin Candler	Stockport
Councillor Dean Fitzpatrick	Stockport
Councillor William Wragg	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside
Councillor Peter Robinson	Tameside
Councillor Rob Chilton	Trafford
Councillor Michael Cordingley	Trafford
Councillor June Reilly	Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred	Wigan
Councillor Norman Bradbury	Wigan
Councillor Lynne Holland	Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst	Wigan

**ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor Jim McMahon	GMCA
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## **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Jon Lamonte	Chief Executive, TfGM
Bob Morris	Chief Operating Officer, TfGM
Peter Cushing	Metrolink Director, TfGM
Dave Newton	Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
Howard Hartley	Head of Bus and Rail, TfGM
Chris Loader	Rail Team, TfGM
James Lomax	Transport Strategy, TfGM
Julie Connor	Head of GMIST
Paul Harris	GMIST
Noreen Philips	ShopMobility (Manchester)

## **TfGMC14/49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from and Councillors Guy Harkin (Bolton), Kevin Dowling (Stockport), Howard Sykes (Oldham), Josie Teubler (Manchester).

## **TfGMC14/50 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business reported. The following announcements were made by the Chair:-

### **a. Chair's Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those present. Particular welcomes were extended to Councillors Adrian Alexander and Jim McMahon who were each attending their first meeting of TfGMC.

### **b. Manchester Airport Metrolink Line**

The Chair noted that Metrolink services to Manchester Airport had commenced operations on 3 November 2014, more than 12 months early and on budget. Thanks were offered to officers, contractors and the operator for their efforts on this very significant achievement.

### **c. GM Devolution**

Members noted an update on the recent announcement from Government regarding Greater Manchester Devolution proposals. Particular focus was given to the Government's funding commitment for the Trafford Park Metrolink extension, bus franchising, and the introduction of multi-modal smart ticketing and highway infrastructure investment.

With regard to the Trafford Park Line Metrolink extension, it was noted that an application for a Transport and Works Act Order regarding this scheme had been approved by GM Combined Authority on 31 October 2014.

**d. Order of Business**

The Chair advised Members that Item 7, Greater Manchester Rail Priorities would be considered after Item 10, HS2 Update.

**e. Museum of Transport Advisory Panel**

Members noted that a meeting of the Museum of Transport Advisory Panel was to take place at the rise of the Committee.

**TfGMC14/51 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Philip Burke declared a personal interest in relation to Item 8, Metrolink Accessibility – Trial Permit Scheme Evaluation.

**TfGMC14/52 MINUTES**

The minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 12 September 2014 were submitted for consideration.

**Resolved/-**

To approve the minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 12 September 2014 as a correct record.

**TfGMC14/53 MINUTES FROM SUB COMMITTEES**

**a.) Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee**

The minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting, held on 3 October 2014 were submitted.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers undertook to provide information on the timescales for passenger shelters.

**Resolved/-**

To note the minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting, held on 3 October 2014.

**b.) Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee**

The minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting, held on 24 October 2014 were submitted.

**Resolved/-**

To note the minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting, held on 24 October 2014.

**c.) Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee**

The minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting, held on 7 November 2014 were submitted.

**Resolved/-**

To note the minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting, held on 7 November 2014.

**TfGMC14/54 FORWARD LOOK**

Members received a report which presented them with a Forward Look of key work streams requiring decisions from the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee over the next four months. The report also set out those significant elements of the Committee's work programme, where further updates on progress and activity were anticipated over a longer time period.

Following a comment from a Member regarding the Leigh Salford Manchester Busway/A580 highway works, it was noted that the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee received regular updates on this scheme.

**Resolved/-**

To note the Forward Look.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Section 2 - Item for Resolution TfGMC**

**TfGMC14/55 METROLINK ACCESSIBILITY: TRIAL PERMIT SCHEME EVALUATION**

[Note: Councillor Philip Burke declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item and left the room during its consideration.]

A report was presented which informed Members of the key findings resulting from the Trial Permit Scheme evaluation and sought approval from the Committee for a change to the Metrolink Conditions of Carriage, to allow the conveyance of eligible passengers and their registered mobility scooters on the Metrolink network.

The Chair welcomed Noreen Philips from ShopMobility Manchester and offered thanks to her and her colleagues for the invaluable contribution they had made to the trial scheme.

It was noted that TfGM had developed the trial permit scheme in partnership with ShopMobility Manchester and MRDL, the Metrolink operator to ensure the continued safe and responsible operation of the Metrolink network. The scheme came as a direct response to demand from affected passengers, their support networks and was shaped by research commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT).

**Resolved/-**

1. To note the report.
2. To thank ShopMobility Manchester for their invaluable contribution to the development and implementation of the scheme.
3. To agree a change to the Metrolink Conditions of Carriage to allow the conveyance of eligible passengers and their registered mobility scooters on the Metrolink Network.
4. To request officers to provide an update report during spring 2015.
5. To agree that the scheme progress and permit uptake be reported to Members on a 6 monthly basis.

**Section 3 - Items for Information**

**TfGMC14/56 TRAVEL CHOICES AND ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE**

Members considered a report which presented them with an update on the progress made to date on Travel Choices and Travel initiatives.

In welcoming the report, a Member highlighted the work taking place regarding the Velocity 2025 scheme along the Wilmslow Road/Oxford Road, Manchester corridor.

In response to an enquiry from a Member regarding TfGM cycling plans and routes, officers undertook to speak to the Member away from the meeting.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers noted that the *Better By Cycle* newsletter will be utilised to promote station cycle pods.

A Member highlighted the importance of cycle proofing future highway schemes.

**Resolved/-**

1. To note the progress made in respect of the work undertaken across the Travel Choices and Active Travel Programme;
2. To note the continuing work to deliver new cycle infrastructure; including progress being undertaken as part of the Local Sustainable

Transport Fund Sustainable Access and Cycle Ambition Grant Programmes;

3. To note the update on cycle proofing, as set out in the report;
4. To note the publication of the Department for Transport's Cycling Delivery Plan for consultation and the intention to provide a response on behalf of the Greater Manchester districts.

#### **TfGMC14/57            HS2 UPDATE**

A report was presented which informed Members on the progress of the High Speed 2 (HS2) project and provided a summary on the *Rebalancing Britain* report that was launched by Sir David Higgins on 27 October 2014.

A Member highlighted that the Higgins' report noted the need for compatible services to Stockport by 2027 and suggested that the Committee should support this recommendation.

A suggestion was made that TfGM/C should recommend to HS2 that trains should make allow capacity for the carriage of bicycles.

#### **Resolved/-**

To welcome the *Rebalancing Britain* report and in particular, its strong support for the delivery of HS2 to Manchester and the need for effective cross-agency working to turn the One North proposition in to reality.

#### **Section 4: Item for further consideration by GMCA**

#### **TfGMC14/58            GREATER MANCHESTER RAIL PRIORITIES AND CONTROL PERIOD 6**

Members considered a report and presentation which summarised the process for developing the rail industry plans for Control Period 6 (2019-2024). It was noted that Network Rail was to lead a study to identify future requirements in the North of England and the planning process which will result in the Secretary of State publishing a High Level Output Specification (HLOS) and Statement of Funds Available in 2017 and Network Rail publishing an Infrastructure Delivery Plan in 2019. The report identified where TfGM involvement was required to ensure that the requirements for Greater Manchester and the North of England as a whole were represented in the both HLOS and the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Members were asked to consider the following revisions to the Greater Manchester Rail Priorities:-

- a. Provision of sufficient passenger capacity (including through rolling stock and infrastructure plans) to ensure all passengers can be carried, so long as there is an economic case for doing so.

- b. Completion of the Northern Hub infrastructure enhancements and delivery of further enhancements that can deliver significant city-region economic benefit.
- c. Further electrification of the local and inter-regional rail network in order to reduce rail industry costs and yield passenger benefits.
- d. Preparations for the arrival of High Speed Trains, both North-South (HS2 to/from London and Birmingham) and East-West (the 'One North' project to/from Merseyside, Yorkshire and the North East).
- e. Creation of a significant national Small Projects Fund to facilitate the development and delivery of value for money improvements to stations and the infrastructure, using complementary local and national funding where appropriate.

A Member highlighted the need for the electrification of the Calder Valley line and making accessibility improvements at Greenfield Station. In response, officers noted that an Electrification Task Force had been established to explore opportunities for the electrification of a number of lines, including the Calder Valley line. With regard to Greenfield Station, it was noted that opportunities to improve accessibility would be undertaken as part of Network Rail's electrification programme and continue to be monitored by the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee.

A Member suggested that any additional rolling stock in Greater Manchester and the reduction in the rail subsidy received by Rail Operators would be offset by the introduction of consequential fare increases and resource efficiencies. In response, officers noted that railways will still receive some subsidy and highlighted that the franchise agreement would encourage greater revenue protection measures. It was understood that additional rolling stock would comprise of a mix of second hand electric and diesels units.

The overcrowding on services arriving at Bolton and Wigan Stations during peak periods was noted and the need for additional rolling stock to be introduced was highlighted by Members. With regard to Wigan services to Manchester Airport, a Member suggested that station staff should be available to assist passengers with luggage. In response, officers noted that the introduction of smart ticketing could allow more flexibility for the existing station staff to assist with other duties. In addition, it was noted that with regard to additional rolling stock, officers were continuing to engage with the Department for Transport to get the best deal for Greater Manchester.

**Resolved/-**

1. To note the requirement for TfGM to engage in the rail industry processes leading to the Control Period 6 Delivery Plans.
2. To agree the revised Greater Manchester Rail Priorities as set out in Section 4 to the report for approval by GMCA.

**Resolved/-**

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 1, 2 and 3 Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

**Section 5: Item for Resolution TfGMC**

A report was presented that sought the approval of the Committee with regard to TfGM property disposals.

Following a comment from a Member, officers confirmed that due diligence is undertaken on all property disposals.

**Resolved/-**

1. To grant approval of the lease of land at Beal Lane, Shaw, as set out in the report.
2. To grant approval of the proposed lease of land at Altrincham Interchange as set out in the report.
3. To grant approval of the disposal of land at Oldham Mumps as set out in the report.
4. To grant approval of the disposal of land at Back George Street, Leigh, as set out in the report.
5. To grant approval of the disposal of land at Brooklands Metrolink Stop, as set out in the report.
6. To grant approval of land at Whittaker Land, Prestwich, as set out in the report.
7. To grant approval for the disposal of land at Bury Interchange, as set out in the report.



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## MINUTES

Meeting:	<b>National Park Authority Meeting</b>
Date:	3 October 2014 at 10.00am
Venue:	Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire
Chair:	Cllr Mrs L Roberts
Present:	Mr P Ancell, Mrs F Beatty, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr C Carr, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr G Claff, Cllr Mrs H Gaddum, Cllr D Greenhalgh, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr P Harrison, Cllr Mrs N Hawkins, Cllr H Laws, Cllr A McCloy, Ms S McGuire, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke, Mr G Nickolds, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Ms E Sayer (from 10.20am), Cllr Mrs J Twigg and Cllr D Williams
Apologies for absence:	Cllr A Alexander, Cllr P Brady, Cllr A Favell, Cllr C Furness and Cllr Mrs G Heath.

### PART A

#### 41/14 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair and the Chief Executive had attended the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire's funeral on the previous day. The meeting held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

The Chair reported that she had attended a Mosaic celebration event on the previous Saturday. The Chair explained the background of the Mosaic group and how it encouraged Black Minority Ethnic groups to enjoy the National Parks. The event was to celebrate community Champions and that Peak District Mosaic group had now decided to gain independent status as a charitable organisation. Neil Moulden, Chief Executive Officer of Derbyshire Dales CVS was assisting the group of trustees with the transition. The Authority will also continue to support and help the group as much as it can. At the event certificates and badges were presented to long standing Champions, including Authority Member Zahid Hamid who had worked tirelessly with the national Mosaic project. The Hindu Samaj cultural group of Sheffield presented a lovely picture to Authority Rangers and to the Chair as mementos of the 'Elephant in the Park – Storytelling guided walk'. The group had worked with Rangers to organise the walk for the past 3 years.

#### 42/14 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 4 July and 8 September were approved as correct records.

#### 43/14 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

##### Item 7

- Cllr D Greenhalgh, personal interest as a member of the Peak District Local Access Forum and as Chair of the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership
- Cllr A McCloy, personal interest as he co-wrote a cycling website
- It was noted that all Members had received an email from Cllr P Brady

##### Item 8

- It was noted that all Members had received correspondence from Andy Tickle of Friends of the Peak District and CPRE and from Mr J Youatt
- Cllr Mrs K Potter, personal interest as a member of CPRE

##### Item 9

- It was noted that all Members had received correspondence from Andy Tickle of Friends of the Peak District and CPRE and from Mr J Youatt
- Cllr Mrs K Potter, personal interest as a member of CPRE

#### 44/14 7. WIDER PEAK DISTRICT CYCLE STRATEGY (EF)

The Assistant Director, Policy and Partnerships, introduced the Chair of the Strategic Cycling Group, Matt Easter, who was present at the meeting. It was noted that Mr Easter was also the Regional Director of Sustrans. Mr Easter introduced the strategy explaining how it had developed and what the strategy would enable. He emphasised the need to move ahead by delivering the strategy action plan.

The Transport and Climate Change Policy Manager then explained more of the background to the strategy, the involvement of partners and reporting to Members. She emphasised that delivery of the action plan would mainly be by Highway Authorities. It was noted that a further report regarding the recreation hubs would be made to Members in the near future.

The recommendation as printed in the report was moved and seconded. However some Members were concerned that different expectations needed to be addressed and consultation should take place on proposals in the action plan. Officers stated that consultation would be done by the partners responsible for implementing the actions; the concerns raised by Members would be passed on to the local advisory group. Cllr Mrs Gaddum was concerned that she had not been contacted by officers regarding the situation at Cheshire East, it was agreed that officers would now discuss the issue with her. Concern was also expressed about the use of the word 'final' in recommendation 1 with regard to both the strategy and the action plan.

Therefore it was agreed to amend recommendation 1 by splitting it into 2 parts and amending the wording relating to the action plan to state 'The Authority approves the Wider Peak District Cycle Action Plan, at Annex 2 of the report, subject to further consultation and engagement with local communities on specific schemes by the lead bodies'.

Concern had also been expressed about health and safety issues regarding tracks being used by a variety of different users and that these had not been addressed adequately in the strategy or action plan. Therefore it was agreed that officers would report Members' concerns regarding health and safety back to the Wider Peak District Cycle Steering Group.

The amended recommendation 1 together with recommendations 2 and 3 as printed in the report were then voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. a.) **The Authority approves the Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy, at Annex 1 of the report, as the final strategy**  
b.) **The Authority approves the Wider Peak District Cycle Action Plan, at Annex 2 of the report, subject to further consultation and engagement with local communities on specific schemes by the lead bodies.**
2. **The Authority asks the Wider Peak District Cycle Steering Group to oversee, update and report on progress on the Action Plan, with periodic update reports to be taken to Members at appropriate times.**
3. **The Authority thanks partners for all their work to date on the strategy.**

*The meeting adjourned at 11.05am for a short comfort break and reconvened at 11.10am.*

**45/14 8. CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK (EF)**

The Transport and Climate Change Policy Manager introduced the report which gave a general update on policy and actions related to climate change in the Peak District National Park. The report was prompted by the first part of a motion presented to the Authority meeting in May this year by Cllr A McCloy.

Cllr McCloy appreciated the report and stated that it was clear the Authority was doing things in relation to climate change but that more could be done. He put forward the following 4 ideas for consideration which he stated tied in with the National Park Management Plan objective 4:

- Temporary resources for farmers – why are farms not acting? What are the barriers for them? The Authority needs to find out.
- The Learning & Development Team could review the Authority's climate change message. Need to make sure the message is taken to all.
- Do more to help communities move to the goal of a low carbon National Park. Could the Authority run its own Sustainable Development Fund funded by sponsorship/donations from businesses?
- Carbon budgeting – a carbon budget was done for the Authority's offices so the Authority's estates could now be considered eg Warslow.

Members debated the report and Cllr McCloy's 4 points. The Chair stated that any further suggestions on the issues should be sent to Cllr McCloy.

**RESOLVED:**

**That Members note the report.**

**46/14 9. CONSIDERATION OF MEMBER MOTION TO REVIEW CORE STRATEGY POLICY CC2 LOW CARBON AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (A.6101/BJT)**

The Director of Planning and the Policy Planning Manager introduced the report of the officer assessment into the need for formal review of Core Strategy Policy CC2, following the motion by Cllr A McCloy presented to the Authority meeting in May this year. The report stated that there was no immediate need for a review.

The following spoke under the public participation at meetings scheme:

- Mr J Youatt

Most Members were supportive of the report and the recommendations as set out in the report were moved and seconded. An amendment to the motion that a review be carried out was proposed but as this would negate the motion on the table it was not seconded. The motion was then voted on and carried. Cllr Mrs K Potter requested that her vote against the motion be recorded in the minutes.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That there remains no immediate need to review policy CC2
2. That officers complete the professional design stage of the Supplementary Planning Document
3. That the additional words set out at paragraph 37 of the report are shared with key stakeholders and then inserted into the SPD prior to completion of the new design; and
4. That once agreed the new wording at paragraph 37 of the report is placed beside the Core Strategy on the website for the avoidance of doubt in understanding the intent of policy CC2.

**47/14 10. DELEGATION TO OFFICERS: REVIEW OF MINERALS PLANNING PERMISSIONS (A651 / JB/DGB/JS/JEN)**

Members considered a report to change the scheme of delegation in Part 7 of Standing Orders, which sets out the delegation of powers to officers, in relation to planning matters and specifically with regard to the process for the review of mineral planning permissions.

In response to Members' queries the Director of Planning clarified that the delegation referred to consideration of whether or not a review of a mineral planning permission was needed. If officers thought that a review of a mineral planning permission was needed then a report would be made to the Planning Committee.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved and seconded. This was then voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

1. To note the revised statutory framework for reviews of minerals planning permissions.
2. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to serve written notice on owners of land or the operator, for submission of new conditions.
3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive to determine, in respect of periodic reviews of minerals planning permissions:-
  - a. whether or not the Authority will carry out a first, second or subsequent periodic review and to set the dates for that review,
  - b. whether it is expedient to treat as a single site for the purposes of the review, the aggregate of the land to which two or more mineral permissions relate,
  - c. requests for postponement of minerals reviews,
  - d. whether or not to extend the period for submission of a new Environmental Statement, and
  - e. reviews where no Environmental Statement is required (subject to consultation with the Heads of Law and Finance in cases it is proposed

to apply conditions which are different from those applied for and the effect of the new conditions, except insofar as they are restoration or aftercare conditions, is to restrict working rights in respect of the site)

**48/14 11. POLICY ON WORKING WITH BUSINESSES, ORGANISATIONS, INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS ON SPONSORSHIP, PHILANTHROPY AND LEGACIES (JBD)**

The Chief Executive introduced the report which outlined the rationale for the Authority to adopt a policy on receiving gifts in the form of sponsorship or partnerships with business and philanthropic gifts from individuals or communities with effective due diligence.

Members debated the report and the recommendations as set out in the report were moved and seconded, with Ms Emma Sayer proposed as the member of the Due Diligence Panel. Members commented that careful judgement would need to be made regarding possible partners, in particular it was noted that paragraph 5 of Appendix 2 would need careful consideration. The Chief Executive stated that these issues would be looked at by the Due Diligence Panel.

The motion was then voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. The policy on Working with Businesses, Organisations, Individuals and Groups of Individuals on Sponsorship, Philanthropy and Legacies in Appendix 1 of the report be adopted.**
- 2. Ms Emma Sayer is appointed as a Member to the Due Diligence Panel as at paragraph 3.4 of the policy and that attendance is an approved duty.**
- 3. Members note the National Parks UK Draft Sponsorship and Ethics Policy in Appendix 2 of the report.**
- 4. Endorse this Authority's aspirations that the UK programme of fundraising for national parks be developed over time to grow in scale and scope beyond its currently limited commercial sponsorship programme.**

**49/14 12.1 MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT (A.111/RC)**

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the proposed Member learning and development events programme for January to December 2015 at Appendix 1 of the report be agreed.**
- 2. That Member learning and development activities continue to be recorded in terms of hours and include personal learning and development by Members outside of events organised by the Authority, with the target of 20 hours per Member in every 12 months.**

The meeting ended at 12.40pm.

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**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD**  
**11/11/2014 at 2.00 pm**



**Oldham**  
Council

**Present:** Councillor Dearden (Chair)

Independent Members: Dr Zuber Ahmed, Paul Cassidy, Julie Daines, Peter Denton, Cath Green, Alan Higgins, Colette Kelly, Maggie Kufeldt, Judy Robinson and Superintendent Denise Worth

Also in Attendance:

Oliver Collins	Corporate Policy Development Officer
Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harrison, Councillor Chauhan, Councillor Price, Dennis Gizzi, Dr.Ian Wilkinson, Raj Patel and Majid Hussain.

**2 URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

**5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2014 be approved as a correct record.

**NOTES:**

1. Clarification was noted with regard to access to patient transport and public transport was included.
2. Indicators would be added or amended to the Health and Wellbeing ambitions and this would be brought back to Board in January.
3. A neutral response was sent with regard to Healthier Together.

**6 RESOLUTION AND ACTION LOG SEPTEMBER 14**

The Board were provided with an update from the actions which had resulted from September's meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the Board noted the update.

**7 HWBB 11TH NOVEMBER 2014 MEETING OVERVIEW**

**RESOLVED** that the overview of the Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.

## OLDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2014 REPORT

The Board considered the annual report of the Director of Public Health. It was a statutory requirement for the Council to publish a public health report. The main theme of the report was inequalities in health in Oldham and what could be done regarding their reduction. The report also included work on health protection in Oldham, review of public health programmes and a call to action on health and wellbeing. Nine actions had been recommended by a national report which included the implementation of a living wage policy, early years education and care provision; 20 mph speed restrictions; health first approach to worklessness; participatory budgeting to engage communities; scope of adult and further education for the reduction of health inequalities; address difference in health by ethnicity; building age friendly communities; and making good use of evidence and cost effectiveness data.

The following points were highlighted:

- Fall in flu vaccination targets;
- Good performance on the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination;
- Oldham Growing – residents were encouraged to grow their own food with links to sustainability and employability
- Oral health – there was a detailed action plan to tackle the issue
- Chronic Liver Disease – there was a falling trend in the disease but still higher than the England average.

The Board were asked to consider three questions with regard to paying the living wage; participatory budgeting work in Oldham and the approach to address ethnic inequalities in health. Board members made the following observations:

- Working was ongoing with gangs and with the local authority and communities with funding from the police, health authority and local authority for area improvements and residents being asked what they wanted
- “Dragon’s Den” initiative across a range of issues and outcomes would be reviewed at the end of the year;
- Historic and new communities with the different challenges with a particular domain being literacy
- A strategic review would be beneficial to review what all organisations were doing;
- An opportunity be made to bring assets together to target work and maximise focus; and
- FCHO and VAO had been accredited for Living Wage.

An audit of partners’ performance would be reviewed.

**RESOLVED that:**





1. the report be noted.
2. the presentation be circulated to the Board.

9

### **INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP & BETTER CARE FUND**

The Board considered an update on recent activity related to the Integrated Commissioning Partnership (ICP) and the Better Care Fund. The Board were assured that the work of the ICP was progressing suitably. The focus was on driving forward the integration agenda through the management of implementation and delivery of the Better Care Fund.

The assurance process was being carried out by an external independent assessment plan. The Local plan had been assessed and was rated as approved with support. It was a very strong plan but there were some areas for improvement. There were a number of key elements which all local areas would need to demonstrate in consideration of which were identified in the report. Following the Assurance Process the ICP would continue to focus on the development and planning of key schemes and activity associated with the Fund. The Health and Wellbeing Board would be provided with regular performance summary on progress of the implementation of the Fund in Oldham and any key issues for debate or discussion.

The Board were informed there were no plans across Greater Manchester which had not been approved. Board Members congratulated the team. The Board highlighted engagement with partners and care and repair schemes which had been successful.

The closure of the Independent Living Fund was raised and assurance requested that no one would fall through the net. There were a high number in receipt of the fund, but the team were working through the implications. The Board also asked how non-statutory organisations were involved with the prevention agenda. The Board were informed that there was partnership between the organisation, participation in different forums and of a new role for Age UK which targeted those at risk of hospital admission.

#### **RESOLVED that:**

1. the report be noted.
2. a further update be brought back to the December Board meeting.

10

### **SEND PARTNERSHIP**

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Reforms. The Children and Families Act 2014 had reformed the statutory framework for SEND. This changes included:

- The requirement of an integrated assessment process and single Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for the 0-25 age range which replaced the statutory SEN Statement and Learning Difficult Assessment process for 0-19s;
- The introduction of a single school based category of SEN support;
- The introduction of Education, Social Care and Health Personal Budgets across the 0-25 age range as an option for those with EHC plans;
- The introduction of the SEND Local Offer providing accessible information about services and support available and how they were accessed.

The SEND Code of Practice made reference to the Health and Wellbeing Board in their duty for the promotion of greater integration and partnership working which included joint commissioning, pooled budgets and setting priorities based on the JSNA.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. the report be noted.
2. the structural accountability as set out in the report be agreed.
3. the actions of the SEND Partnership Board be endorsed through regular reporting and scrutiny.
4. the SEND Partnership Board be supported in the implementation of the SEND Reform Programme.

11

**WORKING WELL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the Working Well Project which was focussed on five key areas. As part of the Greater Manchester Public Service Reform agenda, local services were working together for the improvement of employment opportunities for some of those furthest from the labour market. The Working Well Project was developed by the GM Combined Authority in collaboration with Department of Work and Pensions and HM Treasury. The project aimed to support 15% of the cohort into sustained employment and was delivered via a key worker model. There were 450 claimants from Oldham. The assessment procedure was highlighted in the report and included mental and physical health issues, housing and family support. Participants in the programme would be supported for two years with regular appointments with their key worker. There were two providers based around the key worker model who employed working well coaches, ran group sessions and met on a monthly basis.

The Board asked about the Fair Employment Charter and were informed that work was ongoing with businesses to sign up to the charter, a number of businesses had already signed up.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

12

## **HEALTH IN THE WORK PLACE**

The Board considered a report on Health in the Workplace and how it was promoted. A health and workplace programme aimed to support people to stay in work, be healthy in work and supported employers to make work a positive attribute to good health. This could be achieved through the encouragement of healthier lifestyles as well as address significant workplace factors.

The Oldham Physical Activity Summit had been launched and a number of pledges had been made that related to the increase of physical activity in the workplace. The Oldham Business Leadership Group had launched a programme that would offer employees an opportunity to attend a course. The Council had produced a draft Employee Wellbeing brief as part of the People Strategy with the key driver being the reduction of sickness absence. The trial would target workers in service areas with the highest levels of sickness.

The Board highlighted what their organisations did such as the offer of flu vaccinations paid for by the employer; keeping healthy on top of the agenda; fitness competitions; volunteering; travel patterns; diabetes management and staff engagement.

There was a variety of activity across organisations which would be collated and shared.

**RESOLVED** that the report and the information provided at the meeting be noted.

13

## **DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTH & WELLBEING**

The Board considered the most pressing current topics in Public Health and Wellbeing. The following points were highlighted:

- Ebola – there would be a national exercise on 19 November with local command centre to ensure links were in place. Details would be brought to a future meeting.
- Be Green – a number of areas were being explored in connection with health and wellbeing and being agreed and would be brought to the Board for discussion.
- Alcohol Awareness week and Dry January.
- Simon Stevens' NHS Five Year Forward View Report – the plan was presented to a tri-meeting, the direction of travel for Oldham had improved. GM was ahead of the game nationally.
- Coffey Inquiry Report – has been declared a public health priority, the focus on social norms had been highlighted and should be addressed through the Health and Wellbeing Board. A report would be brought to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the report and the information provided at the meeting be noted.



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**JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA)  
WORKING GROUP AND HEALTH PROTECTION  
WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Working Group held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014 and the Health Protection Working Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be noted.

15

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the date and time of the next meeting on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2014 at 2.00 p.m. be noted.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.10 pm

**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD**  
**11/12/2014 at 2.00 pm**



**Present:** Councillor Dearden (Chair)  
Councillors Chauhan, Dearden, Harrison and Price

Independent Members: Dr Zuber Ahmed, Cath Green, Alan Higgins, Majid Hussain, Maggie Kufeldt and Dr Ian Wilkinson

Also in Attendance:

Oliver Collins                      Corporate Policy Development  
Officer

Councillor Fielding  
Paul Howes                      Programme Manager – Food &  
Health

Penny Kenworthy              Acting District Co-ordinator  
Harriet Unwin                  Marketing Officer  
Caroline Walmsley              Constitutional Services

**1                      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chadderton, Chief Superintendent Ball, Paul Cassidy, Dr Gillian Fairfield, Dennis Gizzi, Dr Keith Jeffrey and Ben Gilchrist.

**2                      URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

Congratulations were given to Maggie Kufeldt on the appointment to her new role as Executive Director Health and Wellbeing, which would take effect in the New Year.

**3                      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

**4                      PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

**5                      MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014 be approved as a correct record.

A query was raised on Health in the Work Place and how this was being taken forward and championed in all areas. The Director of Public Health would follow this up.

**6                      RESOLUTION AND ACTION LOG NOVEMBER 14**

**RESOLVED** that the content of the Action Log document be approved.



7 **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD 11TH DEC 2014  
MEETING OVERVIEW**

**RESOLVED** that the overview of the meeting be noted.

8 **FAILSWORTH & HOLLINWOOD HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING SUB-GROUP UPDATE**

The Board considered a report of the Failsworth and Hollinwood Acting District Coordinator which provided an update from the Health and Wellbeing Sub Group from the Failsworth and Hollinwood District Executive. Members were informed of the health and wellbeing priorities for the area and what had been done so far, which included Malton Gardens Community Group and Oral Health work. The report also outlined generic overall projects including the NHS Health Bus and Peer Mentoring for Breast Feeding. Pennine Care offered to look at the uptake in breast feeding.

Failsworth West had the highest proportion of over 75s in the Borough and OCL had been approached to look at offering leisure activities aimed at the age group.

The District Executive had received £18k of health money and was looking into match funding for some projects.

**RESOLVED** that the update from the Health and Wellbeing Sub-Group of the Failsworth and Hollinwood District Executive be noted.

9 **BGREEN, COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN AND THE CO-  
OPERATIVES & NEIGHBOURHOODS CLUSTER**

The Board considered a report of the Chief Executive of First Choice Homes Oldham which provided an update on the progress of delivering the priorities identified in the Community Investment Plan and the development of the BGreen Co-operative pledges. Furthermore an explanation was given on how BGreen fits within the Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods Commissioning Cluster and a progress report and action plan was appended to the report.

The Board felt it was essential to maximise learning from this opportunity and have a detailed evaluation to ensure working towards the same goals. The Board also highlighted the need to address ethnic minority issues through BGreen.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted and more detailed evaluation be submitted to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

10 **GET OLDHAM GROWING**

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the recent activities and upcoming initiatives of the Get Oldham Growing programme.



It was reported that six new jobs had been created and £50k had been invested in food growing projects.

The development of the disused bowling green at Waterhead Park was discussed in terms of a food growing hub. The land would be leased under asset transfer for six years. A plan of the site was circulated and Members were split into groups to provide ideas for finance, engagement and sustainment.

**RESOLVED** that the Get Oldham Growing update be noted.

11

### **WELL NORTH**

The Board considered a report on the well North Programme, which would add value to existing work in Oldham in developing a co-operative borough and test innovative community-led approaches to improve outcomes of those with the poorest health and most complex lives, building from public service reform programmes already underway. The pilot sites were required to sign up to Well North's eight step process, which was outlined within the report.

Concerns were raised regarding evaluation and how to ensure people's needs are met. However, overall the Board supported the continued negotiations with Well North on having a pilot site within the borough.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The report be noted.
2. The continued negotiations with Well North on a pilot site within the borough be supported.

12

### **INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Integrated Commissioning Partnership update report be noted.
2. A further update be submitted to the Board in January 2015.

13

### **NHS FUNDING TRANSFER TO SOCIAL CARE 2014-15**

The Board considered a report in relation to the proposals for spend and anticipated outcomes of the 2014/15 Social Care Funding Transfer from NHS England to Oldham Council. The total allocation for Oldham in 2014/15 was £5.144M. This included £0.935k for Better Care Fund integration and 4.209M of adult social care funding.

The payments were to be made via an agreement under Section 256 of the 2006 NHS Act. NHS England would enter into an agreement with each local authority and would be administered by the Greater Manchester Area Team of NHS England.

A detailed schedule setting out how the funding would be deployed to underpin key areas of existing social care provision

in Oldham and the outcomes anticipated was appended to the report. Once these had been endorsed the Section 256 agreement would be signed by both the Council and CCG.



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**RESOLVED** that the investment areas set out in the report for the 2014/15 Social Care Funding Transfer from NHS England to Oldham Council be endorsed.

14

### **CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD PROPOSALS**

Further to the Health and Wellbeing Board Development Session in October where it considered a paper in respect of options for the Children's Trust Board alongside the question of whether a Children and Young People subgroup should be established, the Board considered a report which provided an update on the current thinking around the future of the Children's Trust Board. Formal proposals would be submitted to the Board in January 2015.

It was reported that Oldham now had a new Director Children's Services and the issue of governance and accountability across Council portfolios and wider partners was currently being scoped.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted and a further report be submitted to the Board on January 2015.

15

### **DEVELOPMENTS IN HEALTH & WELLBEING**

The Board received an update on developments in Public Health, namely:-

- Autumn Statement and its implications for Health and Wellbeing - Government to increase NHS spending by £2 billion next year. This includes £1.3 billion of new money and the remainder from the existing Department of Health budget. £15 million aimed at boosting investment in future dementia treatments and an additional £1.2 billion over 4 years to be provided to upgrade and modernise GP and primary care facilities. Despite Adult social care being under pressure and needing to be put on a sustainable financial footing, the Government had chosen to direct scarce new funding into the NHS to only one part of the health and social care system.
- Seasonal Flu – Work was ongoing. On way to matching last years performance of 74%, however there was a need to identify how this is improved next year, especially around ethnic minority issues.
- Good Neighbour Campaign – The campaign was due to launch the following week and was tied in with 'Love where you Live' campaign. Along with the usual publicity methods it was also suggested that the campaign be publicised



through Health centres, A&E, pharmacists and the Health and Wellbeing website.

- Feeding Britain – The Feeding Britain paper was highlighted which outlined hunger issues in the UK.



**RESOLVED** that the updates be noted.

16

**DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the next scheduled meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 2pm.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 3.50 pm

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# Minutes

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## UNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

5 November 2014

Members' Meeting Room - Civic Centre, Oldham, OL1 1NL

3.30 pm

**Present:** Councillors Dean, Jabbar (Chair) and McCann

Emma Alexander	Managing Director, Unity Partnership
Craig Apsey	Mouchel
Phil Cresswell	Assistant Executive Director, Commercial Services
Simon Miller	Unity Partnership
John Sillitoe	Mouchel
Richard Warriner	Unity Partnership
Caroline Walmsley	Constitutional Services

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Shah, Councillor Stretton, Councillor Sykes and Janet Horton.

### 2 Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Unity Partnership Board meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2014 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chair expressed thanks and appreciation to all staff involved in the work on the Deed of Variation and reported that the signing ceremony was very well attended.

### 3 Managing Director's Report and KPI Report (Standing Item)

The Board considered a report which provided a review of services across the Partnership. The following points were highlighted during the meeting:

#### Highways

The Board were informed of current profile raising events and how Oldham had been named as an example of best practice at a recent National Highway Network conference. Thanks were expressed to the team.

#### Property



The Board were informed that site construction had commenced in Oldham for the new Autistic Spectrum Disorder School and the project utilised the latest modular construction techniques producing a flexible design and reducing 'on site' construction time and risk significantly. The project was being entirely funded by the Education Funding Agency. The build needed to be complete by August 2015.

It was reported that negotiations had recently concluded with car park operator NSL for the letting space within Henshaw House. This enabled NSL to expand their operations and increase their workforce within Oldham, which would be a positive contribution to the Council's 'Get Oldham Working' scheme.

### Revenues

The Board were informed that E-invoicing had been rolled out to the early payment suppliers, with 18% of suppliers now submitting their invoices via e-invoicing. The Accounts receivable team were looking into the possibility of sending sundry invoices electronically to customers.

It was reported that as part of the Council's Customer Service Transformation programme, work was well underway to produce a workable online move-in and move-out process. The new technology would allow customers to inform the Council of changes of address online, with the added ability for changes to be made to their accounts automatically. It was further reported that the implementation of the first stage of 'My Account' was planned for December.

### Benefits

The Board were informed that Risk Based Verification was introduced at the same time as the Benefits Electronic Claim Solution, meaning that a risk score was applied to claims so that only essential evidence was required on those claims that fall into the low risk group. This meant that Oldham residents were likely to experience a faster process and were less likely to make extra trips to provide documentation.

It was also reported that at the end of July the Academy module for free school meals was integrated within the Benefits Academy system. This meant that free school meals could be awarded simultaneously with Housing Benefits and/or Council Tax Reduction applications if the qualifying criteria were met. As a result the team had identified 828 more children where parents had not known they would qualify.

**The Board noted the report.**

## **4 Unity Change Programme (Standing Item)**

The Board considered a report which provided an update on the Heads of Agreement related to details of the agreed changes and the Diamond Change Board related to the delivery of agreed cost savings.

The Board was provided with a summary of the work carried out since the last meeting which had enabled the Deed of Variation to be signed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2014.



It was reported that there were some financial pressures around the 2014/15 savings, largely due to the ICT design not being acceptable nor accepted. Work would continue on the ICT proposals which were a requirement of the Diamond Agreement. The contract refresh had been delivered with the change programme continuing to close the financial shortfall and settle the 2014/15 savings targets through sponsoring additional projects.

**The Board:**

- 1. noted the Unity Change Programme update and the financial pressures around the 2014/15 savings.**
- 2. noted that a forward plan of service efficiencies was now being prepared in order to meet the savings targets required and satisfy the Diamond Agreement including a design and proposal for the ICT Services and savings.**

**5 Reshaping Unity ICT**

The Board considered a report related to the reshaping of Unity ICT.

**The Board noted the report and confirmed Option D as the preferred option and gave approval for Unity to continue to agree to negotiate the terms of a 'Heads of Agreement'.**

**ACTION: That an additional Unity Partnership Board meeting be convened prior to Christmas 2014.**

**6 AOB**

The Board paid tribute and gave thanks for the work of Phil Cresswell, AED Commercial Services, and wished him well in his future venture.

**7 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

An additional meeting of the Unity Partnership Board was to be arranged to take place before the Christmas break and Members would be notified as soon as possible.

The meeting started at 3.30 pm and ended at 4.30 pm

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# Minutes

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## UNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

9 December 2014

Members' Meeting Room - Civic Centre, Oldham, OL1 1NL

5.00 pm

**Present:** Councillors Dean, Jabbar, Stretton and Sykes

Emma Alexander	Managing Director, Unity Partnership
Craig Apsey	Mouchel
Philip Cresswell	Assistant Executive Director, Commercial Services
Janet Horton	Mouchel
Simon Miller	Unity Partnership
John Sillitoe	Mouchel
Caroline Walmsley	Constitutional Services
Richard Warriner	Unity Partnership

### 1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Shah, Councillor McCann and Carolyn Wilkins.

Craig Apsey and John Sillitoe joined the meeting via conference call facilities.

### 2 ICT Proposals – An Update from Unity Partnership

The Board considered a report on ICT proposals.

**The Board agreed the recommendations outlined within the report and for Unity to report a revised proposal to the Board in January 2015.**

### 3 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Unity Partnership Board would take place on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 5.30 p.m. Due to the Christmas break the revised proposal regarding ICT would be issued by noon on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

The meeting started at 5.00 pm and ended at 5.27 pm

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# Minutes

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## Oldham Leadership Board (Strategic Meeting)

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014  
Oldham Council  
10am until 12noon

**Present:**

Carolyn Wilkins	Chief Executive, Oldham Council (Chair)
Elaine Mclean	Oldham Council
Jeremy Broadbent	Oldham Business Leaders Group
Cllr Sue Dearden	Oldham Council
Cllr Jean Stretton	Oldham Council
Ben Gilchrist	Voluntary Action Oldham (in place of Liz Windsor-Welsh)
Supt Caroline Ball	Greater Manchester Police
Alun Francis	Oldham College
John Wilkes	Pennine Acute (in place of Gillian Fairfield)
Denis Gizzi	Oldham CCG
Jayne Clarke	Oldham Sixth Form College
Mark Reynolds	Oldham Council
Caroline Drysdale	Pennine Care (in place of Michael McCourt)
John Schofield	Pennine Care
Stuart Lockwood	Oldham Community Leisure Trust
Janet O'Connor	Job Centre Plus
Ian Bailey	Greater Manchester Fire & Rescue Service
Joanne Griffin	First Choice Homes Oldham (in place if Cath Green)
Alan Higgins	Oldham Council
Cllr John McCann	Oldham Council (in place of Cllr Howard Sykes)

**Also in attendance**

Vicky Sugars	Oldham Council
Jackie Wilson	Oldham Council
Steve Taylor	Pennine Care

**Apologies:**

Cllr Jim McMahon	Leader, Oldham Council
Cath Green	First Choice Homes Oldham
Paul Cassidy	Oldham Council
Emma Alexander	Oldham Council
Ian Wilkinson	Oldham CCG
Michael McCourt	Pennine Care
Denis McGinn	GM Probation Trust
Cllr Howards Sykes	Oldham Council



<b>1</b>	<b>Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014</b>
	<p>The minutes of the meeting were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.</p> <p>The chair acknowledged the progress made since the last meeting on the Fair Employment Charter and the good uptake from partners.</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Commissioning clusters update</b>
	<p>Joanne Griffin of First Choice Homes Oldham gave an update on the co-operatives and neighbourhoods commissioning cluster in the absence of Cath Green. This included progress update on the BGreen area as well as new and innovative approaches to tackling domestic abuse.</p> <p>The following comments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the BGreen pilot will be 'tenure blind' and covered private rented and home owners in addition to FCHO properties. This engagement will be achieved through the launch event, pledge conversations and engagement through Forever Manchester.</li><li>• That the district nursing offer could be further explored in terms of PSR and tackling domestic abuse.</li><li>• That the mental health offer is also being considered as part of early help but further work is required.</li></ul> <p>Cllr Sue Dearden, chair of the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board, provided an update of the health &amp; wellbeing commissioning cluster. This included the establishment of distinct task groups on mental health; NHS and employment; health and social care and children's health.</p> <p>The Board made the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• That the health survey from Oldham Sixth Form College provides an excellent insight into the health issues of young adults and will be posted via the VAO website shortly.</li><li>• The devolution agenda posed new challenges in terms of preparing for the future and the integration of the health and social care system particularly where policy decisions for health will be held in the future</li><li>• The role of physical activity and the positive role of the Active Oldham Partnership need to be utilised in the clusters.</li></ul> <p>Alun Francis provided an update on the economy &amp; skills cluster including the emergence of key work areas on: high skills; lower skills and PSR and business growth and demand for skills.</p> <p>Discussion took place on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The opportunities for the cluster to be cleverer around the skills offer for Oldham in light of the devolution agenda.</li><li>• The issues around universal credit and benefits sanctions in terms of raising employment levels.</li><li>• The need to look at Oldham as a place that is 'good for business' as a specific work area and the improvement of Oldham as a place to attract investment and retain skills.</li></ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The need for Oldham to brand itself as a competitive as well as cooperative.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>AGREED/ACTION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Joanne Griffin/Cath Green, FCHO to link in with Pennine Care regarding the nursing offer</li> <li>For Cllr Sue Dearden, Oldham Council, to consider the role of the Active Oldham Partnership as part of the health and wellbeing cluster</li> <li>For Alun Francis, Oldham College, to consider the suggestions for the focus of the economy and skills cluster.</li> </ol>
<b>3</b>	<b>Devolution Manchester</b>
	<p>Carolyn Wilkins, Oldham Council, outlined the principles behind the Manchester Devolution Agreement and explored the relationship between AGMA and the clusters.</p> <p>The Board commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Agreement was hurriedly agreed but the aspirations behind it are right</li> <li>The Board need to be clear about what we want from devolution as a partnership.</li> <li>The Agreement sets a framework but we need to shape it further.</li> <li>The deal is with central government but not within GM. This still needs to be negotiated.</li> <li>We need to consider schools and the OLCP as part of the early years programme</li> <li>The Board needs to consider how we engage the public in the devolution debate and how we market a conversation. It was suggested that we use the networks of VAO, the Youth Council and both Oldham Sixth Form and College as a starting point.</li> <li>In terms of health it was debatable whether new resources were available as part of the Agreement.</li> <li>We need to ensure that we are all on the same page when it comes to Oldham's position on devolution and are well informed as organisations when attending various forums at GM.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>AGREED/ACTION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To bring further updates to the Oldham Leadership Board meetings as appropriate.</li> <li>To provide an update on devolution at the Partnership Away Day on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</li> <li>To consider the detail of the agreement within the commissioning cluster groupings.</li> </ol>
<b>4</b>	<b>Oldham Plan 2015-18</b>
	<p>Vicky Sugars, Oldham Council, presented the refreshed Oldham Plan 2015-18 'Ambition and Growth: Reform and Resilience'.</p> <p>Board members made the following comments and amendments to the Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To include education upfront in the economy and skills section.</li> <li>To develop SMARTER measures and targets where possible.</li> <li>To have a flexible approach to measuring how we develop community resilience</li> </ul>



	<p>as a 'on size fits all' approach will not work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The change the measure for keeping vulnerable adults and children safe as it is incorrect.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>AGREED/ACTION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Board members to further consider the relevant sections of the plan and e-mail any comments to Vicky Sugars, Oldham Council, by the middle of December.</li> <li>For Board members to consult on the plan among their individual partnerships where appropriate.</li> <li>To work up a designed copy of the Plan to present back to the Board at the Partnership half day on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</li> </ol>
<b>5</b>	<b>Vision for a Royal Oldham Hospital</b>
	<p>John Wilkes and Steve Taylor, Pennine Care, presented his vision for the Royal Oldham Hospital. This involved getting partners around the table to maximise the potential of the specialist hospital site.</p> <p>Board members commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partners welcomed the opportunity to be part of the new vision for the Royal Oldham.</li> <li>This forms part of the wider Healthier Together programme where we need to view all health assets under one public estate and maximise the use of resources.</li> <li>The timeframe would run between now and the Autumn 2015</li> <li>The new vision also needed to be considered in the context of 'out of hospital care' and how we move away from an acute bases system.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>AGREED/ACTION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For John Wilkes, Pennine Care and Elaine Mclean, Oldham Council, to set up a workshop between now and the next Board meeting to get partners around the table to develop the vision.</li> </ol>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Actions and updates</b>
	<p>Jackie Wilson presented the Q2 Oldham Plan dashboard to the Board. It was agreed that this dashboard would need to be reviewed in light of Oldham Plan refresh for 2015.</p> <p>Jackie also reminded Board members of the Partnership half day that will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 from 1pm until 4:30pm including the focus on developing investment proposals. A full programme would be sent by early January.</p>
	<p><b>AGREED/ACTION:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Jackie Wilson/Vicky Sugars to review the Oldham Plan dashboard in light of the refresh of the Oldham Plan 2015-2018.</li> <li>For Board members to note the date for the Partnership half day on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015.</li> </ol>
	<b>Date of next meeting</b>



**Oldham**  
Partnership

	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 – 1pm until 4:30pm, 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2015 10am until 12 noon, Oldham Council (Operational Meeting)
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## COUNCIL

### Officer Scheme of Delegation

#### Report of the Director of Legal Services

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle

#### 4 February 2015

1. Background

- 1.1 The Selection Committee have resolved recently to change the organisational framework of the Council. The officer structural changes require consequential amendments to the Scheme of Delegation contained within the Council's constitution.
- 1.2 Accordingly, an amended Officer Scheme of Delegation is attached at Appendix A to reflect the organisational changes arising from resolutions of the Selection Committee.

2. Recommendations:

Council are recommended to approve the revised Officer Scheme of Delegation contained at Appendix A to this report.

#### **Background Papers**

Records held in Director of Legal Services Office, Room 329, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UL

Officer Name: Paul Entwistle

Contact No: 0161 770 4822 or email [paul.entwistle@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:paul.entwistle@oldham.gov.uk)

Appendix A: Delegations to specific officers

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## Appendix A

### DELEGATIONS TO SPECIFIC OFFICERS

#### THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chief Executive<sup>1</sup> is authorised to discharge any function<sup>2</sup> of the Council not otherwise delegated to an Executive Director, including civic and ceremonial functions of the Council, to take any action remitted to her/him under corporate policies or this Officer Delegation Scheme, to take any emergency decisions (in consultation with the Leader of the Council or in absence the Deputy Leader of the Council) which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet Meeting and to act as the Council's "Proper Officer" for the purpose of any function not otherwise delegated under these arrangements and also discharge any function of the Council in relation to:-

- Policy
- Marketing and Communications
- Partnership Support (Borough and Greater Manchester)
- Place Marketing
- Business Intelligence
- Strategic Customer Services
- Executive Support
- iON

with the exception of:

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council,
- (ii) those matters reserved to an Individual Executive Member or the Cabinet,
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee,<sup>3</sup> and
- (iv) those matters where a Cabinet Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to the Chief Executive does not require the Chief Executive to give the matter his/her personal attention and he/she may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Executive remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion, and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions.

<sup>3</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Chief Executive. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>4</sup> The Chief Executive may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

1. The Executive Director<sup>1</sup>, Corporate and Commercial Service is authorised to discharge any functions<sup>2</sup> of the Council in relation to:-

(a) **Commercial Services**

- Corporate Services
- Strategic Sourcing (including Procurement)
- Strategic Commercial Relationship Management (including Unity Contractual arrangements) (except where any conflict of interest when the decision will be determined by the Director of Commercial and Transformational Services in consultation with the Chief Executive, and Director of Legal Services and Director of Finance)
- Programme Management Office
- ICT

(b) **Director of Finance**

- Finance Services
- Revenue and Benefits
- Business Support
- Section 151 responsibilities
- Customer Services
- Audit

(c) **Director of Legal Services**

- Legal Services
- Elections
- Constitutional Services
- Civic and Political Support
- Registrars
- Land Charges Service

(d) **People Services**

- People Strategy
- Development Academy
- People Management
- Organisational Development

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to a Chief Officer does not require the Chief Officer to give the matter his/her personal attention and the Chief Officer may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Officer remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The delegation also includes the appointment of the Chief Officer as "proper officer" for the purpose of any function delegated to him/her under these arrangements.

With the exception of:-

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council;
- (ii) those matters reserved to an Individual Executive Member or the Cabinet;
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee;<sup>1</sup>
- (iv) those matters where an Executive Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes;<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Chief Executive. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>2</sup> The Chief Officer may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HEALTH AND WELL BEING**

1. The Executive Director, (who will also have responsibility for the statutory posts of Director of Children's Services (and education accountability) and Director of Adult Services<sup>1</sup>) is authorised to discharge any of the functions<sup>2</sup> of the Council in relation to:

(a) **Director of Adult Social Care**

- All age disability
- Client Services for Oldham Care and Support
- Preventative Services
- Care Management

(b) **Director of Safeguarding**

- All age safeguarding
- Looked After Children
- Adoption and Fostering
- Child Protection

(c) **Director of Public Health**

- Public Health (Client and Delivery)
- Client arrangements for Leisure Functions

With the exception of:-

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council,
- (ii) those matters reserved to an Individual Executive Member or the Cabinet
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee,<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) those matters where an Executive Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to a Chief Officer does not require the Chief Officer to give the matter his/her personal attention and the Chief Officer may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Officer remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The delegation also includes the appointment of the Chief Officer as "proper officer" for the purpose of any function delegated to him/her under these arrangements.

<sup>3</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Director. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>4</sup> The Chief Officer may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Executive for consideration.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CO-OPERATIVES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The Executive Director<sup>1</sup>, Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods, is authorised to discharge any functions<sup>2</sup> of the Council relating to:-

- Waste, Fleet and Highways Operational Services
- Streetscene and Parks Services and functions
- Strategic Transportation functions
- Client Services for Highways
- Client Services for Parking and Street Lighting
- Public protection legislation and functions (including Pest Control and First Response)
- Strategic planning functions
- Development Control and Building Control functions
- Community Safety Services
- Community Cohesion
- Heritage, Libraries and Arts Services
- District Partnership functions
- Early Help Services
- Targeted Youth Services
- Homelessness functions
- Family Services (CAF)
- Community Welfare Support and Advice
- MASH

With the exception of:-

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council,
- (ii) those matters reserved to an Individual Executive Member or the Cabinet
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee,<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) those matters where an Executive Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to a Chief Officer does not require the Chief Officer to give the matter his/her personal attention and the Chief Officer may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Officer remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The delegation also includes the appointment of the Chief Officer as "proper officer" for the purpose of any function delegated to him/her under these arrangements.

<sup>3</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Director. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>4</sup> The Chief Officer may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Executive for consideration.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ECONOMY AND SKILLS**

1. The Executive Director<sup>1</sup>, Economy and Skills is authorised to discharge any functions<sup>2</sup> of the Council relating to:

- Physical Regeneration Development function
- Strategic Housing and Development
- Corporate Landlord functions
- Client services for Asset Management
- Skills and Enterprise including Get Oldham Working
- Enterprise Development and Inward Investment including tourism
- Economic Strategy
- Business Engagement
- Community / Adult Learning
- Town Centre
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Home to School Transport
- School Admission
- School attendance and behaviour
- The Educational needs of vulnerable people
- School Improvement
- School Places Planning
- Early Years
- Education Strategy including Attainment

With the exception of:-

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council,
- (ii) those matters reserved to an Individual Executive Member or the Cabinet
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee,<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) those matters where an Executive Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes<sup>4</sup>

The Director of Economic Development has responsibility for and is appointed as Corporate Property Officer.

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to a Chief Officer does not require the Chief Officer to give the matter his/her personal attention and the Chief Officer may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Officer remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The delegation also includes the appointment of the Chief Officer as "proper officer" for the purpose of any function delegated to him/her under these arrangements.

<sup>3</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Director. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>4</sup> The Chief Officer may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Executive for consideration.

## **DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**

1. The Director of Legal Services<sup>1</sup> is authorised to act and to take any action intended to give effect to a decision of the Council, the Cabinet or Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Regulatory Committees or an officer, to discharge any function<sup>2</sup> of the Council in relation to:-

- (a) the duties of the Monitoring Officer
- (b) the making or issuing of orders and notices
- (c) the commencement, defence, withdrawal or settlement of legal or other proceedings up to a figure of £250k
- (d) the authorisation of Council employees to conduct legal matters in court and other matters relating to the courts and legal proceedings
- (e) contractual elements of procurement
- (f) electoral matters
- (g) land charges
- (h) the recording of decisions of Council, the Executive and all relevant committees
- (i) Registration Service
- (j) Civic and Political Support Services
- (k) taking any action remitted to him/her under corporate policies and procedures with the exception of:-

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council,
- (ii) those matters reserved to an Individual Executive Member or the Cabinet
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee<sup>3</sup>
- (iv) those matters where a Cabinet Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to a Chief Officer does not require the Chief Officer to give the matter his/her personal attention and the Chief Officer may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Officer remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The delegation also includes the appointment of the Chief Officer as "proper officer" for the purpose of any function delegated to him/her under these arrangements.

<sup>3</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Director. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>4</sup> The Chief Officer may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

## **DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

1. The Director of Finance<sup>1</sup> is authorised to discharge any of the Council's functions<sup>2</sup> in relation to financial matters including:-

- (a) the administration of benefits
- (b) the collection of revenue (including debt recovery)
- (c) the administration of Council tax and national non-domestic rates including Discretionary and Hardship rate relief up to and including £50,000, in consultation with the Leader and the relevant Executive Member.
- (d) Internal Audit
- (e) Pensions
- (f) Creditor Payments
- (g) Accountancy
- (h) the Council's insurance arrangements and risk management
- (i) information technology
- (j) the writing off of debts up to £5,000 and to review in detail all debtors to support the closure of final accounts
- (k) the administration of payroll function
- (l) to decide on the appropriate arrangements for Performance Bonding for all contracts in excess of £75,000 contract sum
- (m) to take any action remitted to him/her under corporate policies and procedures, with the exception of:-
  - (i) those matters reserved to the Council
  - (ii) those matters reserved for the Cabinet
  - (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee<sup>3</sup>, and
  - (iv) those matters where a Cabinet Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The fact that a function has been delegated to a Chief Officer does not require the Chief Officer to give the matter his/her personal attention and the Chief Officer may arrange for such delegation to be exercised by an officer of suitable experience and seniority. However, the Chief Officer remains responsible for any decision taken pursuant to such arrangements.

<sup>2</sup> "Function" for these purposes is to be construed in a broad and inclusive fashion and includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of any of the specified functions. The delegation also includes the appointment of the Chief Officer as "proper officer" for the purpose of any function delegated to him/her under these arrangements.

<sup>3</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Director. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>4</sup> The Chief Officer may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration.



## **DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Director of Public Health is authorised to discharge any function of the Council in relation to:-

- Health Improvement
- Health protection
- Commissioning healthcare services
- Reducing Health inequalities
- Functions under section 73A(1) of the National Health Service Act 2006 and regulations made under the Act

With the exception of:-

- (i) those matters reserved to the Council
- (ii) those matters reserved for the Cabinet
- (iii) those matters remitted to any Regulatory Committee<sup>1</sup>, and
- (iv) those matters where the appropriate Executive Member has directed that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that the matter should be referred in accordance with the procedure outlined in paragraph 8.2 of the Guidance Notes.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A Regulatory Committee may from time to time delegate functions to the Director. A Regulatory Committee means the Council's Planning, Licensing, Appeals or Selection Committees.

<sup>2</sup> The Director may consider in respect of any matter that the delegated authority should not be exercised and that it should be referred to the Executive for consideration.

## **PLANNING AND OTHER APPLICATIONS – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** **CO-OPERATIVES AND NEIGHBOURHOODS**

The following matters may be determined by the Executive Director, Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods (and in accordance with the departmental scheme of delegation), but are subject to referral to the Planning Committee in accordance with the protocol set out in Appendix 3 of this Constitution.

### 1. Planning and Other Applications

- (a) Local authority or statutory undertakers' applications involving alterations or additions to an existing building or the erection of buildings not more than 100 square meters in area; car parks, walls, fences and other means of enclosure; signs and advertisements; applications for listed building consent; and other minor developments.
- (b) Applications for listed building consent and conservation area consent.
- (c) Advertisement applications.
- (d) Householder applications including extension, alterations, and private garages both within dwelling curtilages and on recognized garage sites.
- (e) The erection of or conversion of building to no more than 9 dwellings in residential areas.
- (f) Amendments to house types on a previous planning permission where there is no increase in the number of dwelling units.
- (g) Alteration or construction of shop fronts.
- (h) Change of use applications.
- (i) Hybrid applications (i.e. part residential/retail/commercial – Not Major applications)
- (j) Walls, fences or other means of enclosure.
- (k) Applications to remove or vary conditions where the relevant decision was previously made under delegated powers by the Executive Director.
- (l) Refusal of any application on the grounds of failure to supply sufficient information on which to make a decision (this would be exercised only where the information had been requested and not received within a reasonable time)
- (m) Executive Director, Cooperatives and Neighbourhoods Directorate be delegated the power to make representations and comments to the relevant bodies. However, the Executive Director may not make supportive representations or comments where the matter is likely to involve prejudice to Council-approved planning policies.
- (n) Approval of any other applications for planning permission under Part III of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 EXCEPT:

- (i) any application involving development not in accordance with current Government Guidance, the Unitary Development Plan and/or other council approved planning policies;
- (ii) any application specifically delegated to the Planning Committee.
- (iii) any application materially affecting a principal traffic route;
- (iv) any application by any person who to the Executive Director's knowledge is employed by the Council;
- (v) any application which the Executive Director, Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods would be minded to refuse (apart from those listed in (a) to (l) inclusive).

## 2. **Other Matters**

These matters are not subject to the referral system:

- a. Declining to accept repeat applications which have previously been dismissed on appeal and raise no significant new issues.
- b. Determination of Minor Material and Non Material Amendment applications.
- c. Determination of Discharge of Conditions applications.
- d. Determination of any application for a certificate of lawful existing or proposed use of development under Section 191 and Section 192 of the 1990 Act.
- e. Authority to determine whether prior approval is required, and subsequent determination of applications (whether or not objections are received) for agriculture and forestry buildings, operations for telecommunications equipment and demolition of buildings under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995).
- f. Authority to issue and service Planning Contravention Notices under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and consider and determine representations made thereto.
- g. All matters relating to Tree Preservation Orders.
- h. Authority to instruct the Solicitor to the Council to institute proceedings for the grant of injunctive relief under powers contained in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, subject to:
  - i. prior consultation with the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee;
  - ii. or without such consultation if the matter is one of extreme urgency.
- i. Authority to instruct the Director of Legal Services to issue and serve discontinuance notices for removal of any advertisement displays erected without express or deemed consent which do not comply with Council's policy on outdoor advertising and in the interests of amenity and public safety.
- j. Authority to instruction the Director of Legal Services to issue and service breach of condition notices under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and appropriate consequential actions required.
- k. Determination of applications, on behalf of the Council for the modification or discharge of any planning obligations in accordance with Section 106A and 106B of the Town and Country Planning (Modification and Discharge of Planning Obligations) Regulations 1992, and to continue to deal with any agreed amendments or discharges which are not covered by the above legislation.

- l. Authority to instruct the Director of Legal Services to issue and serve notices under Section 215 Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (power to require the proper maintenance of land adversely affecting neighbourhood amenity).
- m. Authority to instruct the Director of Legal Services to issue and serve enforcement and stop notices under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.
- n. Authority to institute legal proceedings and statutory procedures in relation to the Council's planning functions, both by the Executive Director of Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods Directorate and the Director of Legal Services.
- o. The issuing of screen opinions with regard to the need or otherwise for Environmental Impact Assessments and scoping opinions with regard to the matters to be included in Environmental Statements.
- p. Authority to authorise officers to carry out statutory duties and functions in relation to the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and other current planning related legislation.

## STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Legislation requires the Council to appoint specific officers and to identify officers for particular responsibilities. The principal appointments are detailed below:-

### Statutory Requirements

### Officer Appointed

#### **Section 4 Local Government and Housing Act 1989**

Head of Paid Service

The Chief Executive

#### **Section 151 Local Government Act 1972**

Responsibility for financial Administration

Director of Finance

#### **Section 5 Local Government and Housing Act 1989**

Monitoring Officer

Director of Legal Services

#### **Section 18 Children Act 2004**

Director of Children's Services

Executive Director, Health and Well-Being

#### **Section 6 Local Authority Social Services Act 1970**

Director of Adult Services

Executive Director, Health and Well-Being

#### **Section 30 Health and Social Care Act 2012**

Director of Public Health

Director of Public Health

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## COUNCIL

### Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport

Report of Executive Director Economy and Skills

Officer Contact: Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Strategic Planning and Information Team Leader (Interim)

Ext. 1672

4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

#### Reason for Decision:

To approve the recommendations set out within this report as requested by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 28 November 2014. This would allow the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) to be progressed as a joint DPD by all ten GM districts, as agreed by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 29 August 2014.

#### Executive Summary

At the AGMA Executive Board meeting of the 28 November 2014, the Board considered, and approved, a report (attached at Appendix 1) which:

- Provided detail on the proposed scope of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF);
- Outlined amendments required to the AGMA constitution to take it forward in advance of the revised arrangements that may be required as a result of the GM Agreement; and
- Identified the steps to be taken and decision to be requested from individual districts to initiate preparation of the GMSF.

This report identifies those approvals that are asked of Council and summarises the key elements of that report:

- 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.

- Amendments required to AGMA's constitution, so that a plan covering housing and employment can be prepared jointly by the ten local planning authorities.
- Provides details regarding the scope of the GMSF, which is to focus on the overall spatial strategy.
- The financial and resource implications for preparing the GMSF.

A further report has been prepared seeking approval for those elements set out in the report that are asked of Cabinet. This is due to go to Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015.

## **Recommendations**

That full Council:

1. Approve the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester (as set out in Appendix 1 of the attached AGMA Executive Board report of the 28 November 2014) as a joint development plan document on terms to be approved by the Chief Executive.
2. Note that the Cabinet will be asked to delegate the formulating and preparing of the GMSF to AGMA Executive Board.
3. Note that there will be further reports to full Council in respect of matters which are within the remit of full Council including approval of the GMSF.
4. Approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' ( initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this.



## **Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 On the 29 August 2014 the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) / AGMA Executive Board agreed that the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) should be progressed as a joint Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 1.2 The GMSF will provide an important strategic framework towards the successful planning of the sub-region and the districts within it. It will 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, formalises the production process and gives it greater weight in the planning process as a statutory document.
- 1.3 At their meeting of the 28 November 2014 the AGMA Executive Board considered a report (see Appendix 1) which:
  - Provided further detail on the proposed scope of the GMSF;
  - Outlined amendments required to the AGMA constitution; and
  - Identified the decisions to be requested from individual local authorities to initiate this process.
- 1.4 The AGMA Executive Board resolved to take forward the recommendations outlined in the report.
- 1.5 This report provides a summary of the key elements of the AGMA Executive Board report of the 28 November 2014 and identifies a number of subsequent recommendations to full Council. A series of recommendations are also to be taken to Cabinet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015, including approval to delegate the preparation of the GMSF as a joint DPD to the AGMA Executive Board.

### **2 Current Position**

#### **2.1 Greater Manchester Agreement**

- 2.1.1 The announcement on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014 of the Greater Manchester agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester has implications for both the preparation and content of the GMSF. The GM Agreement provides for a directly elected mayor with powers over strategic planning, including the power to create a statutory spatial framework for Greater Manchester. This will act as 'the framework for managing planning across Greater Manchester and will need to be approved by unanimous vote of the Mayor's cabinet. Legislation is required to enable

these changes and it is anticipated that the first city region Mayoral election will take place in early 2017.

- 2.1.2 Until this time AGMA and the GMCA will continue to operate under existing constitutional arrangements. If work is to progress on the GMSF prior to the election of a city region mayor, it is the AGMA Executive Board (rather than the GMCA itself) which will need to oversee its development.

## **2.2 Amendment to the AGMA Constitution**

- 2.2.1 The remit of the AGMA Executive Board is currently limited to the preparation of the joint waste and minerals DPD's only. In order to take forward the GMSF as a DPD, the AGMA Executive Board will therefore need to amend its constitution so that a plan covering housing and employment can be prepared jointly by the ten local planning authorities. Such an amendment requires approval from each local authority's Executive and full Council.

## **2.3 District Arrangements**

- 2.3.1 In order for the GMSF to be progressed in this way, each local authority is requested to obtain full Council approval to prepare a new joint DPD on terms to be agreed by the Chief Executive.
- 2.3.2 Approval from each authority's Executive (in our case, Cabinet) is also requested to delegate the preparation of the GMSF as a joint DPD to the AGMA Executive Board. Delegation to the AGMA Executive Board to prepare the GMSF will help to ensure timely progress in development the GMSF, whilst retaining full Council approval at key stages.
- 2.3.3 Full council approval by all ten Greater Manchester authorities will be required prior to the submission of the draft plan to the Secretary of State and to adopt the final plan once it has been through examination in public.
- 2.3.4 The preparation of the GMSF as a joint DPD will need to be reflected in the council's Local Development Scheme (LDS), and potentially the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). A more detailed report outlining the proposed approach will be taken to the AGMA Executive Board at a later date.

## **2.4 Scope of the GMSF**

- 2.4.1 The GMSF will express the long term spatial vision for Greater Manchester and be a pro-active tool for managing growth, providing the 'roadmap' for the type of place(s) we want to create. There is a balance between what is needed at the Greater Manchester scale and those matters best addressed at an individual district scale.
- 2.4.2 It is proposed that the GMSF should focus on the overall spatial strategy, that is:
- The amount of housing and employment floorspace development that should be provided in each district;

- Key locations for delivering this (opportunity areas); and
- The broad location of strategically significant infrastructure schemes required to deliver the overall scale and distribution of development proposed.

2.4.3 Further details can be found in the report at Appendix 1.

## **2.5 Resources**

2.5.1 Paragraph 6.1 below outlines the financial implications.

2.5.2 Ongoing discussions are underway between districts around our own capacity and workload demand. The aim being to identify which tasks can be delivered 'in-house' by officers within districts and which would need to be procured externally, based on capacity or skills required.

2.5.3 Preparation of the GMSF will have implications for our Local Plan, including the preparation of our emerging Site Allocations Plan. It is anticipated that the revised process and timetable for the Local Plan will be set out in the aforementioned LDS when finalised.

## **3 Options/Alternatives**

3.1 Option 1 – To approve the recommendations set out within this report as requested by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 28 November 2014. This would allow the GMSF to be progressed as a joint DPD by all ten GM districts, as agreed by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 29 August 2014.

3.2 Option 2 – Not to approve the recommendations set out within this report as requested by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 28 November 2014. This would mean that the GMSF is unable to be progressed as a joint DPD by all ten GM districts.

## **4 Preferred Option**

4.1 Option 1, to approve the recommendations set out within this report as requested by the GMCA/AGMA Executive Board on 28 November 2014, is the preferred option. This would allow the GMSF, which will provide an important strategic framework towards the successful planning of the sub-region and the districts within it, to be progressed as a joint DPD by all ten GM districts. This will give the framework greater weight in the planning process as a statutory document.

## **5 Consultation**

5.1 Consultation has been carried out on the GMSF – Stage 1: Initial Evidence on Future Growth.

5.2 Further work is required to ensure that individual district SCIs reference the joint DPD appropriately. This will ensure that relevant planning regulations are

adhered to and help to provide a consistent approach to consultation and engagement across GM. A consultation strategy is to be prepared which setting out the proposed approach towards consultation.

- 5.3 Cabinet member for Housing, Planning and Transport, EMT and Leadership have been consulted on the GMSF to date and this report.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 It is not possible to identify any specific financial implications from the joint preparation of the GMSF aside from the estimated cost of £33,500 as identified by the report to the GMCA / AGMA Executive Board, which is to be met by existing AGMA budget arrangements. It should be noted that there will be a more detailed report on the overall GMSF budget to AGMA Executive Board at a later date. Any financial implications for the council will need to be considered at that point. Any recommendations that flow from the strategy with resource implications for the council will need to be considered as the strategy is taken forward.

### Revenue / Capital Implications

- 6.2 The estimated cost of £33.5k mentioned above for the preparation costs of the GMSF is proposed to be met from within existing AGMA contributions.
- 6.3 There will be wider costs of implementation as a result of the framework being implemented by AGMA GMCA authorities. An estimate for this is not available at this present time. However it is proposed a separate report will be prepared which will detail the contributions each member authority will have to make as indicated in the background papers supporting this document.

(Sadrul Alam)

## **7 Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 The decision to prepare a joint local development plan document is one which must be taken by full Council (in accordance with Regulation 4(4C) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000) whereas the decision to delegate the power to prepare a joint local development plan document to the AGMA Executive Board is one which must be taken by the Leader/Cabinet (in accordance with Regulation 4(4B) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 and Regulations 4 and 9 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012). (A Evans)

## **8 Cooperative Agenda**

- 8.1 The GMSF will provide an important strategic framework towards the successful planning of the sub-region and the districts within it. It will form part of the borough's Local Plan and links to the council's priorities and objectives under the Cooperative Agenda.

## **9 Human Resources Comments**

9.1 N/A

## **10 Risk Assessments**

10.1 No specific comments (Mark Stenson)

## **11 IT Implications**

11.1 N/A

## **12 Property Implications**

12.1 It is noted that the GMSF would focus on future housing and employment land requirements and 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. It is envisaged that the Council's land and property portfolio will be aligned to best support successful delivery of strategic development opportunities within the wider GM context in addition to local priorities. (Cath Conroy)

## **13 Procurement Implications**

13.1 N/A

## **14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 Regard will be given to environmental and health and safety issues / implications during the preparation of the GMSF as appropriate and in line with the relevant statutory regulations.

## **15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 Regard will be given to equality, community cohesion and crime issues/implications during the preparation of the GMSF as appropriate and in line with the relevant statutory regulations.

## **16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 Regard will be given to the need to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in line with the relevant statutory regulations.

## **17 Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

## **18 Key Decision Reference**

18.1 Key decision reference for Cabinet is HPT-11-14.

**19 Background Papers**

19.1 None

**20 Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 - Report to the Joint Greater Manchester Combined Authority & AGMA Executive Board Meeting 28 November 2014 – Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Report to the Joint Greater Manchester Combined Authority & AGMA Executive Board Meeting 28 November 2014 – Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

**JOINT GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
& AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

Date: 28 November 2014

Subject: Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Report of: Eamonn Boylan, Planning & Housing Lead Chief Executive

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**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

AGMA Executive Board agreed to produce the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework as a joint DPD on 29 August and asked officers to report back on the implications of this. The recent announcement of the Greater Manchester Agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester also has implications for both the preparation and content of the GMSF. In light of these developments, this report provides further information on the proposed scope of the plan as well as the required amendments to the AGMA constitution and decisions by individual Districts to initiate this process.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**The AGMA Executive Board is requested to ask:**

**Each full council to:**

1. Approve the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester (as set out in Appendix 1 to this report) as a joint development plan document on terms to be approved by the Council's Chief Executive.
2. Note that the [Council's Executive / Cabinet/ City Mayor] will be asked to delegate the formulating and preparing of the GMSF to AGMA Executive Board
3. Note that there will be further reports to full Council in respect of, matters, which are within the remit of full Council including approval of the GMSF
4. Approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this



**Each Executive / cabinet/ leader/ the City Mayor (depending on each Council's own arrangements and in the event that the Councils have approved the above recommendations):**

- (a). Note that full Council has approved the making of an agreement with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils to prepare jointly the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester ( as set out in Appendix 1 to this report ) as a joint development plan document
- (b) Delegate to AGMA Executive Board the formulating and preparing of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework ('GMSF') to cover housing and employment land requirements and associated infrastructure across Greater Manchester ( as set out in Appendix 1 to this report ) ] insofar as such matters are executive functions.
- ( c) Note that the following are the sole responsibility of full Council:
- Responsibility for giving of instructions to the executive to reconsider the draft plan submitted by the executive for the authority's consideration.
  - The amendment of the draft GMSF plan document submitted by the executive for the full Council's consideration
  - The approval for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State or Minister of the Crown for his approval of the GMSF if required
  - The approval of the GMSF document for the purposes of submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination.
  - The adoption of the GMSF.
- (d). Approve the amendment of paragraph 13.2 of Schedule 1 to the AGMA constitution by deleting the words ' ( initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning) ' and authorise the updating of the AGMA Constitution to reflect this

**In addition, the AGMA Executive Board is asked to:**

- (i). Request a further report outlining the implications of the Devolution Agreement for the preparation of the GMSF (as set out in paragraph 1.2) and setting out future steps in the event that the above delegations are approved.
- (ii). Agree an interim approach to budget commitments in 2014/15, as set out in paragraphs 4.4 - 4.5 with Manchester acting as lead authority for the GMSF budget .

**CONTACT OFFICERS:**

Chris Findley ([chris.findley@salford.gov.uk](mailto:chris.findley@salford.gov.uk))

Anne Morgan ([a.morgan@agma.gov.uk](mailto:a.morgan@agma.gov.uk))

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

GM Position on Growth - Report to GMCA – January 2014

GM Spatial Framework – consultation on evidence - Report to AGMA Executive Board – August 2014

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 GMCA/ the AGMA Executive Board agreed on the 29 August 2014 that the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) should be progressed as a joint Development Plan Document (DPD). This would focus on future housing and employment land requirements and 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.
- 1.2 The announcement on the 3 November 2014 of the Greater Manchester Agreement and the move to directly elected leadership for Greater Manchester has implications for both the preparation and content of the GMSF. The GM Agreement provides for a directly elected mayor with powers over strategic planning, including the power to create a statutory spatial framework for GM. This will act as “the framework for managing planning across Greater Manchester and will need to be approved by unanimous vote of the Mayor’s cabinet.” Legislation is required to enable these changes and it is anticipated that the first city region Mayoral election will take place in early 2017. We need to obtain further legal advice on how to design GM’s constitutional arrangements to allow a seamless transition from the preparation of a joint Development Plan document by AGMA Executive Board to the GMSF produced by GM Mayor, otherwise we run the risk of having to begin the process again.
- 1.3 Until this time however AGMA and the GMCA will continue to operate under existing constitutional arrangements. If we are to progress work on the GMSF prior to the election of a city region mayor, it is the AGMA Executive Board (rather than the GMCA itself) which will need to oversee its development.
- 1.4 The AGMA Executive Board was established, separate from the GMCA, as a Joint Arrangements Committee (known as the AGMA Executive Board) under Section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 as well as section 20 of the LGA 2000 and regulations 4, 11 and 12 of the Local Authorities (Arrangements for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012. The Constitution of the AGMA Executive Board as amended, with effect from 1 April 2011 sets out the functions in Schedule 1. These include, under the heading, “Planning & Housing”, the following:

- 13.1 *Developing and coordinating the operation of a Greater Manchester Spatial Strategy as a framework for underpinning and linking partners Local Development Frameworks and Core Spatial Strategies*
- 13.2 *To coordinate and manage joint Local Development Framework activity across the combined administrative area on behalf of the 10 local planning authorities, in circumstance where this is agreed as appropriate (initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning)*
- 13.3 *To develop and coordinate the operation of a Greater Manchester Housing Strategy*
- 13.4 *To determine the future allocation of any pooled public sector housing resources across the combined administrative area and provide a sub-regional context for managing the scale, distribution and mix of new housing development.*

1.5 The remit of the AGMA Executive Board (para 13.2 above) is currently limited to the preparation of joint waste and minerals DPDs only. In order to address this, the AGMA Executive Board will need to amend its constitution so that the a plan covering housing and employment can be prepared jointly by the 10 local planning authorities.

1.6 It is proposed that Schedule 1, paragraph 13.2 of the AGMA constitution is amended as follows (changes shown in italics):

“13.2 To coordinate and manage joint *Development Plan* activity across the combined administrative area on behalf of the 10 local planning authorities, in circumstance where this is agreed as appropriate *(initially in terms of Waste and Minerals Planning)* “

## **2 DISTRICT ARRANGEMENTS**

- 2.1 In addition, each Local Authority is required to obtain full council approval to prepare a new joint development plan as well as the approval of its executive (whether that is the Cabinet, Leader or City Mayor) to delegate the preparation of the GMSF as a joint DPD to AGMA Executive Board. Full council approval by all 10 will also be required prior to submission of the draft plan to the secretary of state and to adopt the final plan once it has been through the examination in public.
- 2.2 The preparation of the GMSF as a DPD will need to be reflected in each District’s Local Development Scheme (LDS), which sets out the three-year project plan identifying which local development documents will be produced, in what order, and when. A report will be brought back to AGMA Executive Board outlining a proposed approach to this.
- 2.3 Further work is required to ensure that individual district Statements of Community Involvement (SCI) reference the joint DPD appropriately. This will ensure that relevant planning regulations are adhered to and help to provide a consistent approach to consultation and engagement across GM. A

consultation strategy has been prepared which sets out our approach (Appendix 2).

### **3 SCOPE OF THE GMSF**

- 3.1 The GMSF will express the long term spatial vision for Greater Manchester and be a pro-active tool for managing growth, providing the 'roadmap' for the type of place(s) we want to create. There is a balance between what is needed at the Greater Manchester scale to support our growth and reform objectives and those matters that require a finer granularity and are best addressed at the individual district scale.
- 3.2 The scope of the document may now be set by legislation rather than agreement between the ten local authorities. The Greater London Act 1999 sets out the powers of the London Mayor, with sections 334-350 covering planning. Section 334(5) states that the Mayor's spatial development strategy (i.e. The London Plan) "must deal only with matters which are of strategic importance to Greater London". The use of the word "only" is important and it is reasonable to expect something similar in the legislation devolving powers to Greater Manchester so as to ensure that the existing powers of local authorities are protected. The devolution agreement is clear that the planning powers are "new" and the agreement is not about taking existing powers from local authorities.
- 3.3 Notwithstanding the above, following discussion with senior officers in each district and a recent consultation on the GMSF initial evidence base, it is proposed that the GMSF should focus on the overall spatial strategy, that is, the amount of housing and employment floorspace development that should be provided in each district, and the key locations for delivering this (opportunity areas).
- 3.4 Distribution within districts would be set out in district Local Plans, but would clearly be informed by the opportunity areas identified in the GMSF. Comprehensive site allocations, including the boundaries of the opportunity areas and the requirements for individual sites, would be included in district Local Plans. In terms of infrastructure, the GMSF would focus on identifying the broad location of strategically significant schemes required to deliver the overall scale and distribution of development, with district Local Plans then providing more detail on the delivery of those schemes as well as identifying other, locally important infrastructure requirements.
- 3.5 This approach means that the scope of the GMSF would be reasonably broad, but not fully comprehensive. Further detail is set out in (Appendix 1).
- 3.6 The consultation exercise which has recently ended has generated discussion around the scope. Once the responses have been fully considered a more detailed report will be brought back to the AGMA Executive Board for further consideration.

### **4. RESOURCES**

- 4.1 Budget estimates for developing the GMSF were originally prepared on the basis that it would be a non statutory plan and work could be completed within two years. A Sustainability Appraisal ('SA') was commissioned and work was begun on that basis in order to meet the tight timescales originally envisaged.
- 4.2 When AGMA Executive Board made the decision in August to progress the GMSF as a statutory development plan, officers were requested to report back on the full implications of the decision, factoring in the additional tasks and extended timescales required to deliver the GMSF as a statutory plan. Work to clarify the scope of the GMSF is set out in more detail in section 4 of this report. Ongoing discussions are underway between districts around their own capacity and workload demand. The aim is to identify which tasks can be delivered 'in-house' by officers within districts and which would need to be procured externally, based on capacity or skills required.
- 4.3 Initial scoping work on the sustainability appraisal has continued, but it is likely that the range of the Sustainability Appraisal will need to extend to reflect the full scope of the GMSF and that costs will therefore increase. The timescales for production of the SA have also increased, in line with the extended process for producing the GMSF as a statutory plan.
- 4.4 Whilst a budget for the GMSF has not been approved by AGMA Executive Board, some expenditure for independent legal advice (£8.5k), project assurance (£1.2k) and scoping the sustainability appraisal (£13.8k) has been incurred. As such, it is requested that this expenditure (23.5k) with an additional budget of £10k (for the further legal advice referred to in paragraph 1.2 above), amounting to £33.5k in total, be approved by AGMA Executive Board, subject to a more detailed report on the overall GMSF budget to AGMA Executive Board at a later date.
- 4.5 As AGMA is not an incorporated body in its own right it is unable to commission (or pay for) external work in support of the GMSF. As such, and whilst the plan comes under the auspices of AGMA, contracts or payments would need to be agreed and carried out on AGMA's behalf through one of the ten GM authorities. Given the role of Manchester City Council in providing financial management and legal advice to AGMA and the GMCA, it is recommended that Manchester could act as lead authority for the GMSF budget during the current phase of work.

## **5. TIMETABLE**

- 5.1 The timetable will partly depend on the scope of the document and the resources available for its production. The initial stage of consultation on the 'objectively assessed GM housing / employment land need' is relatively narrow and so it is considered advisable to consult on a more comprehensive evidence base and options around key issues before publishing a full draft GMSF. A further report will be prepared setting out the proposed timetable once there is more clarity around the implications of the devolution agreement.

Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
<b>Vision and Strategy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A spatial vision for Greater Manchester's (GM) development</li> <li>• The role of different places and their contribution to this overall vision</li> <li>• Any large opportunity areas (based on an agreed size threshold) that will deliver major levels of development and their general location (not precise boundaries)</li> <li>• A general description of the key infrastructure that opportunity areas will require</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implications of the GMSF vision, how the district will contribute to the achievement of the GM vision</li> <li>• Likely to cover a range of issues outside of the GMSF scope</li> <li>• Detail on the delivery of the GMSF opportunity areas</li> <li>• Any other key opportunities important for the district</li> </ul>
<b>Economic Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gross floorspace requirement for GM and each District in terms of offices, industry and warehousing district informed by overall spatial strategy</li> <li>• Any key locations (not boundaries) for office, industry and warehousing development, including an approximate level of provision</li> <li>• Any key locations for tourism development</li> <li>• Potential to identify a small number of existing areas that are strategically significant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of floorspace within the district</li> <li>• Allocate sites for development, including any key locations identified in the GMSF</li> <li>• Sites for tourism development, including in key locations identified in the GMSF</li> <li>• The approach to existing employment areas, including protection and redevelopment</li> </ul>
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall GM requirement to meet demographic/economic demands</li> <li>• Net figure for each district informed by overall spatial strategy</li> <li>• General phasing for GM as a whole, taking sub-regional delivery issues into account</li> <li>• Broad mix of housing required to meet GM requirement</li> <li>• Spatial implications of demographic/economic drivers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution of housing within the district and site allocations</li> <li>• Detailed phasing for the district, potentially including the role of strategic sites</li> <li>• Mix of housing in different parts of the district and mix on allocated sites</li> </ul>

Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of gypsy and traveller pitches required in each district and travelling showpeople plots</li> <li>• Proportion of household growth that will be in the 65+ age group</li> <li>• Very broad locations that could meet particular types of demand, such as ‘aspirational’ housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appropriate densities in different areas and suitable densities on site allocations</li> <li>• Proportion of new housing that should be affordable, including the tenure split – may vary by area and site allocations</li> <li>• Details of how the needs of older age groups will be accommodated</li> <li>• Criteria for new Gypsy, traveller sites and site allocations</li> <li>• More detailed identification of any market segments that could be met, including through site allocations</li> <li>• Any other issues not covered in the GMSF (eg student housing, housing for people with disabilities, service families, etc)</li> </ul>
<b>Town Centres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hierarchy of larger town centres and a brief explanation of the role and opportunities</li> <li>• Role of the key out of town centres</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boundaries of centres in the GMSF hierarchy (including boundaries of shopping areas and frontages, etc), and investment proposals</li> <li>• Identification of smaller centres</li> <li>• Scale and distribution of retail and leisure developments, etc and site allocations</li> </ul>
<b>Transport</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad location of strategic schemes required to deliver the proposed scale and distribution of development</li> <li>• Explain essential role of key transport infrastructure such as Manchester Airport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More detail on the delivery of GMSF strategic schemes</li> <li>• Identify other, more local transport schemes</li> <li>• Protection of existing transport routes</li> <li>• Other issues not covered in GMSF eg Parking and accessibility standards,</li> </ul>

Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
<b>Other infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad location of strategic schemes for water, waste water, gas and electricity to deliver the proposed scale and distribution of development</li> <li>• Overall strategy for delivering low carbon energy and any GM wide significant opportunities</li> <li>• Overall strategy for managing flood risk and broad location of any strategic infrastructure required</li> <li>• Role of social infrastructure and implications of 'opportunity areas' on current infrastructure (eg health or education).</li> <li>• Strategically or internationally important facilities, eg for sports and leisure</li> </ul>	<p>etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detail on the delivery of any GMSF strategic schemes</li> <li>• Local infrastructure schemes</li> <li>• Opportunities for renewable and decentralised energy</li> <li>• Policies on managing flood risk and site allocations</li> <li>• Site allocations for social infrastructure and criteria for new facilities or redevelopment of existing sites</li> <li>• Local standards for recreation provision and site allocations as well as protection of existing facilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate change will be part of the overall spatial strategy, and a consistent theme through the GMSF, with a broad approach to maximising economic opportunities whilst reducing emissions and enhancing resilience/adaptation</li> <li>• Overall strategy for GMs green and blue assets and the role of a quality environment in meeting the vision for GM</li> <li>• The strategic green and blue infrastructure network in GM and any key gaps in it that need to be addressed (broad locations)</li> <li>• Overall strategy for addressing poor air quality and reducing air quality management areas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local policies on climate change mitigation and adaptation</li> <li>• Identify precise boundaries of both the strategic and local green infrastructure network</li> <li>• Set out how gaps in the strategic and local networks will be addressed</li> <li>• Identify local green infrastructure standards</li> <li>• Local Green Space designations</li> <li>• Local policies on reducing, and mitigating the impacts of, air pollution</li> <li>• Protection and enhancement of heritage assets</li> </ul>
<b>Development management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any strategic development management policies required to clarify how key aspects of the GMSF are delivered, eg on high quality of places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive suite of local development management policies covering many of the issues above as well as</li> </ul>



Issue	GMSF	Local Plan
		<p>others beyond the remit of GMSF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each district may also provide further guidance in supplementary planning documents as required</li> </ul>

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**Council**

**4th February 2014**

## **Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2014/15**

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar- Cabinet Member, Finance and Human Resources

### **Report of the Interim Borough Treasurer**

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Interim Borough Treasurer  
**4th February 2014**

Ext. 4902

#### **Purpose of Report**

The report advises Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2014/15, and provides a comparison of performance against the 2014/15 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

#### **Executive Summary**

Council is required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Treasury Management Revised Code of Practice. This report therefore sets out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review and outlines:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2014/15;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure (prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2014/15;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2014/15;
- Why there has been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2014/15;

- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2014/15.
- An explanation of changes to the credit rating methodology used by Capita Asset Services, the Authority's current treasury management advisers

The report was considered and approved at the Cabinet meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014 and will be presented to the next meeting of the Audit Committee

### **Recommendations**

Council is requested to:

- 1) Approve the Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2014/15 and the projected outturn position
- 2) Approve 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.
- 3) Approve the changes to the credit methodology whereby viability, financial strength and support ratings will no longer be considered as key criteria in the choice of creditworthy investment counterparties.

## Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2014/15

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering maximising investment return.
- 1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 1.3 As a consequence treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. ”

### 2 Current Position

#### 2.1 Requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice

- 2.1.1 The Council adopted the revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2011) on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2011.
- 2.1.2 The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:
- a) Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities
  - b) Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives
  - c) Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a **Mid-year Review**

**Report** and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year

- d) Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions. In Oldham, this responsibility is delegated to the Borough Treasurer (Interim).
- e) Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. In Oldham, the delegated body is the Audit Committee.

2.1.3 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:

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

## 2.2 Economic Performance for the First Six Months of the Year

2.2.1 The UK economy cannot be considered in isolation and the impact of the financial and economic performance of other countries and groups of countries has a significant influence on the global economic position as well as that of the UK. This section of the report therefore sets out key issues relating the UK and other regions.

### The UK Economic and Financial Position

2.2.2 After strong UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) quarterly growth of 0.7%, 0.8% and 0.7% in quarters 2, 3 and 4 respectively in 2013, (2013 annual rate 2.7%), and 0.7% in quarter 1, 0.9% in quarter 2 and a first estimate of 0.7% in quarter 3 2014 (annual rate 3.1% in Q3), it appears very likely that strong growth will continue into 2015 as forward surveys for the services and construction sectors, are very encouraging and business investment is also strongly recovering. The manufacturing sector has also been encouraging though the latest figures indicate a weakening in the future trend rate of growth. However, for this recovery to become more balanced and sustainable in the longer term, the recovery needs to move away from dependence on consumer expenditure

and the housing market to exporting, and particularly of manufactured goods, both of which need to substantially improve on their recent lacklustre performance. This overall strong growth has resulted in unemployment falling much faster through the initial threshold of 7%, set by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in August 2013, before it said it would consider any increases in Bank Rate.

- 2.2.3 The MPC has, therefore, subsequently broadened its forward guidance by adopting five qualitative principles and looking at a much wider range of about eighteen indicators in order to form a view on how much slack there is in the economy and how quickly slack is being used up. The MPC is particularly concerned that the current squeeze on the disposable incomes of consumers should be reversed by wage inflation rising back above the level of inflation in order to ensure that the recovery will be sustainable. There also needs to be a major improvement in labour productivity, which has been at continuously low levels since 2008, to support increases in pay rates. Most economic forecasters are expecting growth to peak in 2014 and then to ease off a little, though still remaining strong, in 2015 and 2016. Unemployment is therefore expected to keep on its downward trend and this is likely to eventually feed through into a return to significant increases in pay rates at some point during the next three years. However, just how much those future increases in pay rates will counteract the depressive effect of increases in Bank Rate on consumer confidence, the rate of growth in consumer expenditure and the buoyancy of the housing market, are areas that will need to be kept under regular review.
- 2.2.4 Also encouraging has been the sharp fall in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), reaching 1.2% in September, the lowest rate since 2009. Overall, markets are expecting that the MPC will be cautious in raising the Bank Rate as it will want to protect heavily indebted consumers from too early an increase in Bank Rate at a time when inflationary pressures are also weak. A first increase in Bank Rate is therefore expected in quarter 2 2015 and increases after that are expected to be at a slow pace to lower levels than prevailed before 2008 as increases in Bank Rate will have a much bigger effect on heavily indebted consumers than they did before 2008.
- 2.2.5 The return to strong growth has also helped lower forecasts for the increase in Government debt by £73bn over the next five years, as announced in the 2013 Autumn Statement, and by an additional £24bn, as announced in the March 2014 Budget - which also forecast a return to a significant budget surplus, (of £5bn), in 2018-19. However, monthly public sector deficit figures disappointed in 2014/15.

The Economic and Financial Position of the U.S.A.

- 2.2.6 Through to September 2014 the Federal Reserve continued with its monthly \$10bn reductions in asset purchases, which started in December 2013. Asset purchases having fallen from \$85bn to \$15bn stopped on 29th October 2014. First quarter GDP figures for the US were depressed by exceptionally bad winter weather, but growth rebounded very strongly in quarter 2 to 4.6% (annualised).

The U.S. faces similar debt problems to those of the UK, but thanks to reasonable growth, cuts in government expenditure and tax rises, the annual government deficit has been halved from its peak without appearing to do too much damage to growth, although the weak labour force participation rate remains a matter of key concern for the Federal Reserve when considering the amount of slack in the economy and monetary policy decisions.

#### The Economic and Financial Position of the Eurozone (EZ)

- 2.2.7 The Eurozone is facing an increasing threat from weak or negative growth and from deflation. In September, the inflation rate fell further, to reach a low of 0.3%. However, this is an average for all EZ countries and includes some countries with negative rates of inflation. Accordingly, the European Central Bank took some rather limited action in June to loosen monetary policy in order to promote growth. In September it took further action to cut its benchmark rate to only 0.05%, its deposit rate to -0.2% and to start a programme of purchases of corporate debt. However, it has not embarked yet on full quantitative easing (purchase of sovereign debt).
- 2.2.8 Although concern in financial markets for the Eurozone subsided considerably during 2013, sovereign debt difficulties have not gone away. Major issues could return in respect of any countries that do not dynamically address fundamental issues of low growth, international uncompetitiveness and the need for overdue reforms of the economy, (as Ireland has done). It is, therefore, possible over the next few years that levels of government debt to GDP ratios could continue to rise for some countries. This could mean that sovereign debt concerns have not disappeared but, rather, have only been postponed.

#### The Economic and Financial Position of China and Japan

- 2.2.9 Japan is causing considerable concern as the increase in sales tax in April has suppressed consumer expenditure and growth. In quarter 2 growth was -1.8% quarter on quarter and -7.1% over the previous year. The Government is hoping that this is a temporary blip.
- 2.2.10 As for China, Government action in 2014 to stimulate the economy appeared to be putting the target of 7.5% growth within achievable reach but recent data has raised fresh concerns.

### 2.3 Interest Rate Forecast

- 2.3.1 The Council's treasury advisor, Capita Asset Services, has provided the following bank rate and Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) interest rate forecast covering the period from the last quarter of 2014 to the first quarter of 2018:



## Interest Rate Forecasts for the period ending 31/12/14 to 31/3/18

	Dec-14	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Jun-16	Sep-16	Dec-16	Mar-17	Jun-17	Sep-17	Dec-17	Mar-18
Bank rate	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	0.75%	1.00%	1.00%	1.25%	1.25%	1.50%	1.50%	1.75%	2.00%	2.25%	2.50%
5yr PWLB rate	2.50%	2.70%	2.70%	2.80%	2.90%	3.00%	3.10%	3.20%	3.30%	3.40%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
10yr PWLB rate	3.20%	3.40%	3.50%	3.60%	3.70%	3.80%	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.10%	4.20%	4.20%	4.30%	4.30%
25yr PWLB rate	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.70%	4.70%	4.80%	4.80%	4.90%	4.90%	5.00%
50yr PWLB rate	3.90%	4.00%	4.10%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.60%	4.70%	4.70%	4.80%	4.80%	4.90%	4.90%	5.00%

2.3.2 Capita Asset Services undertook a review of its interest rate forecasts (October 2014) resulting in the forecasts set out above. This was influenced by events during September and October, where there was a further rise in geopolitical concerns, principally over Ukraine but also over the Middle East, plus fears around Ebola and an accumulation of low growth news in most of the ten largest economies of the world and also on the growing risk of deflation in the Eurozone. As a result there had been a flight from equities into safe havens like gilts and depressed PWLB rates. However, there is much volatility in rates as news ebbs and flows in negative or positive ways. This latest forecast includes a first increase in Bank Rate in quarter 2 of 2015.

2.3.3 Current PWLB forecasts are based around a balance of risks. However, there are potential upside risks, especially for longer term PWLB rates, as follows: -

- A further surge in investor confidence that robust world economic growth is firmly expected, causing a flow of funds out of bonds and into equities.
- UK inflation being significantly higher than in the wider EU and US, causing an increase in the inflation premium inherent to gilt yields.

Downside risks currently include:

- The situation over Ukraine poses a major threat to EZ and world growth if it was to deteriorate into economic warfare between the West and Russia where Russia resorted to using its control over gas supplies to Europe.
- Fears generated by the potential impact of Ebola around the world
- UK strong economic growth is currently mainly dependent on consumer spending and the potentially unsustainable boom in the housing market. The boost from these sources is likely to fade into 2015.
- A weak rebalancing of UK growth to exporting and business investment causing a weakening of overall economic growth into 2015.
- Weak growth or recession in the UK's main trading partner - the EU, inhibiting economic recovery in the UK.

- A return to weak economic growth in the US, UK and China causing major disappointment in investor and market expectations.
- A resurgence of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis caused by ongoing deterioration in government debt to GDP ratios to the point where financial markets lose confidence in the financial viability of one or more countries and in the ability of the ECB and Eurozone governments to deal with the potential size of the crisis.
- Recapitalisation of European banks requiring more government financial support.
- Lack of support in Eurozone countries for austerity programmes, especially in countries with very high unemployment rates e.g. Greece and Spain, which face huge challenges in engineering economic growth to correct their budget deficits on a sustainable basis.
- Although the political situation in Italy has improved, it remains to be seen whether the new government is able to deliver the austerity programme required and a programme of overdue reforms. Italy has the third highest government debt mountain in the world.
- After being elected on an anti-austerity platform, the French President has embraced a €50bn programme of public sector cuts over the next three years. However, there could be major obstacles in implementing this programme. Major overdue reforms of employment practices and an increase in competitiveness are also urgently required to lift the economy out of stagnation.
- Monetary policy action failing to stimulate sustainable growth in western economies, especially the Eurozone and Japan.
- Heightened political risks in the Middle East and East Asia could trigger safe haven flows back into bonds.
- There are also increasing concerns at the reluctance of western central banks to raise interest rates significantly for some years, plus the huge Quantitative Easing (QE) measures which remain in place (and may be added to by the European Central Bank (ECB) in the near future). This has created potentially unstable flows of liquidity searching for yield and, therefore, heightened the potential for an increase in risks in order to get higher returns. This is a return to a similar environment to the one which led to the 2008 financial crisis.

## **2.4 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update**

2.4.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2014/15 was approved by Oldham Council on 5th March 2014. The underlying TMSS approved previously now requires revision in the light of economic and operational movements during the year.

2.4.2 A decrease to both the overall Authorised Limit (the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 above which the

Council does not have the power to borrow) and Operational Boundary (the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year) for external debt is required. This indicator is made up of external borrowing and other long term liabilities Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Finance Leases. The revision to the limits aligns to the reduction in the Capital Financing Requirement (£35.085m) as outlined at paragraph 2.4.4 below.

2.4.3 The Council has the following Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schemes each contributing to the Other Long Term Liabilities element of the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary: :

- Gallery Oldham and Library
- Sheltered Housing (PFI2)
- Radclyffe and Failsworth Secondary Schools
- Chadderton Health & Well Being Centre
- Street Lighting
- Housing (PFI4)
- Blessed John Henry Newman RC College (BSF)

2.4.4 In addition, it will be necessary to decrease the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) by £35.085m being £34.556m of slippage and other adjustments in the 13/14 capital programme reflected in the opening balance and expected slippage in the current year.

2.4.5 Members are therefore requested to approve the key changes to the 2014/15 prudential indicators as set out in the table below which show the original and recommended figures:

Prudential Indicator 2014/15	Original £'000	Recommended £'000
Authorised Limit	640,000	605,000
Operational Boundary	610,000	575,000
Capital Financing Requirement	597,618	562,533

## 2.5 The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

2.5.1 This section of the report presents the Council's capital expenditure plans and their financing, the impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow together with compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

### Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

2.5.2 The table below shows the half year position and forecast estimate for capital expenditure (Table 3 per the month 6 Capital Investment Programme monitoring report approved at Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2014). It therefore highlights the changes that have taken place and are forecast since the capital programme was agreed at the Council meeting on 5th March 2014.

Capital Expenditure by Service	2014/15 Original Estimate £'000	2014/15 Forecast Estimate £'000
Commercial Services	15,637	33,731
Deputy Chief Exec / Corporate	0	0
Neighbourhoods	11,085	19,937
Commissioning	1,171	990
Development and Infrastructure	71,048	48,567
Yet To Be Allocated	12,232	3,779
Savings Allocated		3,834
<b>General Fund Services</b>	<b>111,173</b>	<b>110,838</b>
HRA	2,353	6,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,526</b>	<b>117,027</b>

2.5.3 The above table shows an increase in the capital programme, to the month 6 position of £3.501m. The original estimate was initially increased by slippage of £34.555m brought forward into the 2014-15 programme from the previous year; this has been offset by slippage into 2015/16, deletions and other movements showing a net decrease in the programme of £31.054m in the first 6 months of the year.

2.5.4 The movement between the 2014-15 original and forecast estimates is summarised in the table below

Capital Expenditure by Service	2014/15 Original Estimate £'000	2013/14 Slippage Brought Forward £'000	2014/15 Movement Periods 1 to 6 £'000	2014/15 Forecast Estimate £'000
Commercial Services	15,637	14,445	3,649	33,731
Deputy Chief Exec / Corporate	0	0	0	0
Neighbourhoods	11,085	7,709	1,143	19,937
Commissioning	1,171	29	-210	990
Development and Infrastructure	71,048	9,163	-31,644	48,567
Yet To Be Allocated	12,232		-8,453	3,779
Savings Allocated	0	0	3,834	3,834
<b>General Fund Services</b>	<b>111,173</b>	<b>31,346</b>	<b>-31,681</b>	<b>110,838</b>
HRA	2,353	3,210	626	6,189
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,526</b>	<b>34,556</b>	<b>-31,055</b>	<b>117,027</b>

## Changes to the Financing of the Capital Programme

- 2.5.5 The table below draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans (above) and the expected financing arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing element of the table decreases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

Capital Expenditure	2014/15 Original Estimate £'000	2014/15 Forecast Estimate £'000
General Fund Services	111,173	110,838
HRA	2,353	6,189
<b>Total spend</b>	<b>113,526</b>	<b>117,027</b>
Financed by:		
Capital receipts	(10,953)	(14,588)
Capital grants	(18,229)	(32,740)
Revenue	(2,353)	(6,699)
<b>Total financing</b>	<b>(31,535)</b>	<b>(54,027)</b>
<b>Borrowing need</b>	<b>81,991</b>	<b>63,000</b>

## Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement, External Debt and the Operational Boundary

- 2.5.6 The table shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. As previously mentioned in paragraph 2.4.4 the CFR needs to decrease by £35.085m. It also shows the expected debt position over the period (the Operational Boundary). This indicator has decreased to reflect the revisions to the forecast year end position of the capital programme.

	2014/15 Original Estimate £'000	2014/15 Revised Estimate £'000
<b>Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement</b>		
CFR – non housing	597,618	562,533
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>597,618</b>	<b>562,533</b>
<b>Net movement in CFR</b>		<b>(35,085)</b>
<b>Prudential Indicator – External Debt / the Operational Boundary</b>		
Borrowing	335,000	300,000
Other long term liabilities*	275,000	275,000
<b>Operational Boundary</b>	<b>610,000</b>	<b>575,000</b>

\* - On balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases etc. as previously explained.

#### Limits to Borrowing Activity

- 2.5.7 The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose.
- 2.5.8 Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2014/15 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.
- 2.5.9 The CFR calculation is shown in the table below and it is not anticipated that there will be any difficulties for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator:

<b>Council Borrowing</b>	2014/15 Original Estimate £'000	2014/15 Revised Estimate £'000
Gross borrowing (external debt)	240,830	147,824
Plus other long term liabilities*	271,459	270,736
Gross borrowing including Long Term Liabilities	512,289	418,560
CFR* (year-end position)	597,618	562,533

\* - Includes on balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases etc.

2.5.10 A further prudential indicator, the Authorised Limit, controls the overall level of borrowing, and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. As previously outlined in the table in paragraph 2.4.5, it is recommended that this indicator is amended to reflect a decreased requirement

<b>Authorised limit for external debt</b>	<b>2014/15 Original Indicator</b>	<b>2013/14 Revised Indicator</b>
Borrowing	355,000	320,000
Other long term liabilities*	285,000	285,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>640,000</b>	<b>605,000</b>

\* - Includes on balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases etc.

#### Investment Portfolio 2014/15

2.5.11 In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite. As set out in Section 2.3, it is a very difficult investment market in terms of earning the level of interest rates commonly seen in previous decades as rates are very low and in line with the 0.5% Bank Rate. Indeed, the introduction of the Funding for Lending scheme (a Bank of England and HM Treasury initiative designed to incentivise banks and building societies to boost their lending to the UK 'real' economy) has reduced market investment rates even further. The potential for a prolonging of the Eurozone sovereign debt crisis, and its impact on banks, prompts a low risk and short term strategy. Given this risk environment, investment returns are likely to remain low.

2.5.12 The Council held £111.445m of investments as at 30 September 2014 (£90.75m at 31 March 2014). A full list of investments as at 30 September 2014 is included in the table below. The Council keeps a large part of these funds on call (£71.5m at 30 September), adopting a prudent approach, because in the current financial climate it is sensible to retain flexibility to allow funds to be moved at immediate or short notice. Over half of the remaining investments are placed with other Local Authorities.

Investments	30th September 2014 £'000	Date of Investment	Date of Maturity
Bank of Scotland Fixed	5,000	09-May-14	10-Nov-14
Eastleigh BC	2,000	30-Apr-14	09-Jan-15
Cornwall CC	5,000	30-Apr-14	30-Jan-15
Bank of Scotland Fixed	3,000	09-May-14	09-Feb-15
Derby City Council	5,000	17-Feb-14	16-Feb-15
Nationwide BS	5,000	14-Aug-14	16-Feb-15
Birmingham City	5,000	29-Aug-14	03-Mar-15
Barclays Fixed	5,000	23-Sep-14	23-Mar-15
Greater London Authority	5,000	15-Apr-14	15-Oct-15
*Barclays Instant Access	9,595	30-Sep-14	01-Oct-14
*BOS Corporate Ac	10,600	23-Sep-14	01-Oct-14
*Ignis MMF	19,820	10-Sep-14	01-Oct-14
*Prime Rate MM Fund	19,980	01-Sep-14	01-Oct-14
*Goldman Sachs MMF	11,450	30-Sep-14	01-Oct-14
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,445</b>		

\*- denotes instant access/ on call investments

2.5.13 The Council's investment strategy looks to achieve a return on its investment of London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) plus a 5% mark up. The Council will maintain sufficient cash reserves to give it its necessary liquidity and may place investments up to 2 years if the cash flow forecast allows and the credit rating criteria is met. Performance against this benchmark was as follows:

Average 7 Day LIBID	0.35000%
Benchmark	0.36750%

Average 3 month LIBID	0.42000%
Benchmark	0.44100%

Average Return	0.46095%
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2.5.14 The Council's performance exceeded its target by 0.09345% on 7 day LIBID and 0.01995% on 3 month LIBID.

#### Investment Counterparty Criteria

2.5.15 The Council currently has investment criteria and limits and these are set out in the table below. This shows the colour banding into which each of the counterparties are categorised, depending on their credit rating, and for each colour banding, the maximum duration of the investment and the maximum principal that can be invested.



Capital Colour Band	Maximum Duration	Maximum Principal Invested £
Yellow (Note 1)	3 Years	£10m
Purple	2 Years	£20m
Blue (Note 2)	1 Year	£20m
Orange (Note 3)	1 Year	£15m
Red	6 months	£10m
Green	100 days	£5m
No Colour	Not to be used	Not to be used

Note 1- Includes Public Sector Bodies

Note 2 - Blue Institutions only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks, which are currently:

- Lloyds Banking Group – Lloyds and Bank of Scotland.
- RBS Group – Royal Bank of Scotland, Natwest Bank and Ulster Bank.

Note 3 - Includes the Council's banking provider, if it currently falls into another category.

2.5.16 The Council uses Capita Asset Services as its Treasury Advisors and uses its rating assessments to support investment decisions. Capita is changing its credit rating methodology and this impacts on the Councils own assessment methodology. This change is outlined in the following paragraphs.

2.5.17 The main rating agencies (Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's) have, through much of the financial crisis, provided some institutions with a ratings "uplift" due to implied levels of sovereign support. More recently, in response to the evolving regulatory regime, the agencies have indicated they may remove these "uplifts". This process may commence during this financial year. The actual timing of the changes is still subject to discussion, but this does mean immediate changes to the credit methodology upon which the Council places reliance are required and this is recommended for approval.

2.5.18 It is important to stress that the rating agency changes do not reflect any changes in the underlying status of the institution or credit environment, merely the implied level of support that has been built into ratings through the financial crisis. The eventual removal of implied Government support will only take place when the regulatory and economic environments have ensured that financial institutions are much stronger and less prone to failure in a financial crisis.

2.5.19 Fitch and Moody's provide "standalone" credit ratings for financial institutions. For Fitch, it is the Viability Rating, while Moody's has the Financial Strength Rating. Due to the future removal of sovereign support from institution assessments, both agencies have suggested going forward that these will be in line with their respective Long Term ratings. As such, there is no point monitoring both Long Term and these "standalone" ratings.

2.5.20 Furthermore, Fitch has already begun assessing its Support ratings, with a clear expectation that these will be lowered to 5, which is defined as "A bank for which there is a possibility of external support, but it cannot be relied upon." With all

institutions likely to drop to these levels, there is little to no differentiation to be had by assessing Support ratings.

2.5.21 As a result of these rating agency changes, the credit element of Capita's future methodology will focus solely on the Short and Long Term ratings of an institution. Rating Watch and Outlook information will continue to be assessed where it relates to these categories. Whilst this does not change the way in which Standard & Poor's information is presented, it is a change to the use of Fitch and Moody's ratings. Capita will continue to utilise Credit Default Swap prices as an overlay to ratings.

## 2.6 Borrowing

### PWLB

2.6.1 The Council's CFR for 2014/15 is £562.533m and this denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.

2.6.2 The table within paragraph 2.5.9 shows the Council has borrowings of £418.560m and has utilised £143.973m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost effective approach in the current economic climate but will require ongoing monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevails.

2.6.3 The Council has not undertaken any borrowing in the first half of the year, and did not undertake any debt rescheduling during the first half of 2014/15.

2.6.4 As outlined below, the general trend has been a decrease in interest rates during the six months, across longer dated maturity bands, but a rise in the shorter maturities, reflecting in part the expected rise in the Bank rate

2.6.5 Current PWLB maturity rates are set out in the following table and show for a selection of maturity periods over the first half of 2014/15, the range (high and low points) in rates and the average rates over the period. In addition, appendix 1 tracks the movement in the PWLB certainty rate over the period in question across the same range of loan terms as is used in the table below.

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	1.20%	2.48%	3.16%	3.74%	3.72%
Date	08/04/2014	28/08/2014	28/08/2014	01/09/2014	29/08/2014
High	1.49%	2.87%	3.66%	4.30%	4.28%
Date	16/07/2014	03/07/2014	20/06/2014	03/04/2014	02/04/2014
Average	1.35%	2.66%	3.47%	4.10%	4.07%

2.6.6 The Council will closely monitor the movement in PWLB interest rates during the remaining months of the year. This will be considered in conjunction with the spend profile of the capital programme and borrowing may be undertaken to support the capital plans of the Council if this is considered advantageous.

2.6.7 H M Treasury has confirmed that the Council continues to be able to take advantage of the PWLB certainty rate for the period 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015, whereby there is a 20 basis points discount on standard loans from the PWLB under the prudential borrowing regime for Authorities providing improved information on their long term borrowing and associated capital spending plans. The obvious benefit to the Council of the certainty rate will be reflected in the future with reduced Treasury Management borrowing costs in relation to any PWLB borrowing undertaken. The certainty rate variations are shown in Appendix 1.

#### Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA)

2.6.8 The Local Government Association (LGA) is currently working towards establishing a new Municipal Bonds Agency (MBA) the aim of which is to seek to provide Councils with a cheaper source of long term borrowing and to introduce sector owned diversity into the Local Government lending market. Following approval at Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014 the Council has agreed to invest a total sum of £100k in the first phase equity release of the MBA which will be used to fund the initial set up costs of the Agency. Phase 2, is intended to fund the launch phase of the Company through to operations and breakeven.

2.6.9 The Council has undertaken this investment to access a potentially cheaper source of long term borrowing. Assuming the Agency is successful in commencing operations, the Council will keep under review the availability and cost of funds from the MBA as an alternative source of finance with a view to borrowing at the appropriate time if terms are preferential. As an investor, the Council would expect to benefit from any profits generated by the MBA

### 2.7 Overall Position at the Mid –Year 2014/15

2.7.1 The position at the midyear 2014/15 shows that the Council is continuing to follow recommended practice and manage its treasury affairs in a prudent manner.

### 2.8 Current Position- Banking

2.8.1 As communicated in the 2013/14 Treasury Management Review, the Council now has a banking contract in place with Barclays Bank effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 for a duration of 5 years. At this early stage the working relationship between the parties is proving successful and it has enabled the Council to adopt a more traditional working relationship with its clearing bank.

### 2.9 Treasury Management Advisors

2.9.1 As advised earlier in the report, the Council uses Capita Asset Services as its Treasury Management advisors. The current contract expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 and the Council will be undertaking a tendering exercise to procure advisory services from April 2015. Discussions are taking place with other GM Local Government bodies with regard to a joint procurement exercise in order to provide financial savings for all. Progress in this exercise will be included in future reports.

### **3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Council has no option other than to consider and note the contents of the report. Therefore no options/alternatives have been presented

### **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 As stated above the preferred option is that the contents of the report are approved

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with Capita Asset Services the Councils Treasury Management Advisors, and the Executive Management Team (EMT). The report was approved by Cabinet on 15 December 2014 and is scheduled to be presented to the Audit Committee on 5 March 2015

### **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 All included in the report.

### **7 Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 None

### **8 Cooperative Agenda**

- 8.1 The Council ensures that any Treasury Management decisions comply as far as possible with the ethos of the Cooperative Council.

### **9 Human Resources Comments**

- 9.1 None

### **10 Risk Assessments**

- 10.1 There are considerable risks to the security of the Authority's resources if appropriate treasury management strategies and policies are not adopted and followed. The Council has established good practice in relation to treasury management which have previously been acknowledged in the External Auditors' Annual Governance Report presented to the Audit Committee.

### **11 IT Implications**

- 11.1 None

### **12 Property Implications**

- 12.1 None

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Forward Plan Reference**

18.1 CFHR -24-14

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

File Ref: Treasury management investment and borrowing records and prudential indicators.

Name of File: Treasury Management 2014/15 Half Year Review

Records held in: Treasury & Capital Section  
Borough Treasurer's Department  
Level 14 Civic Centre  
West St  
Oldham

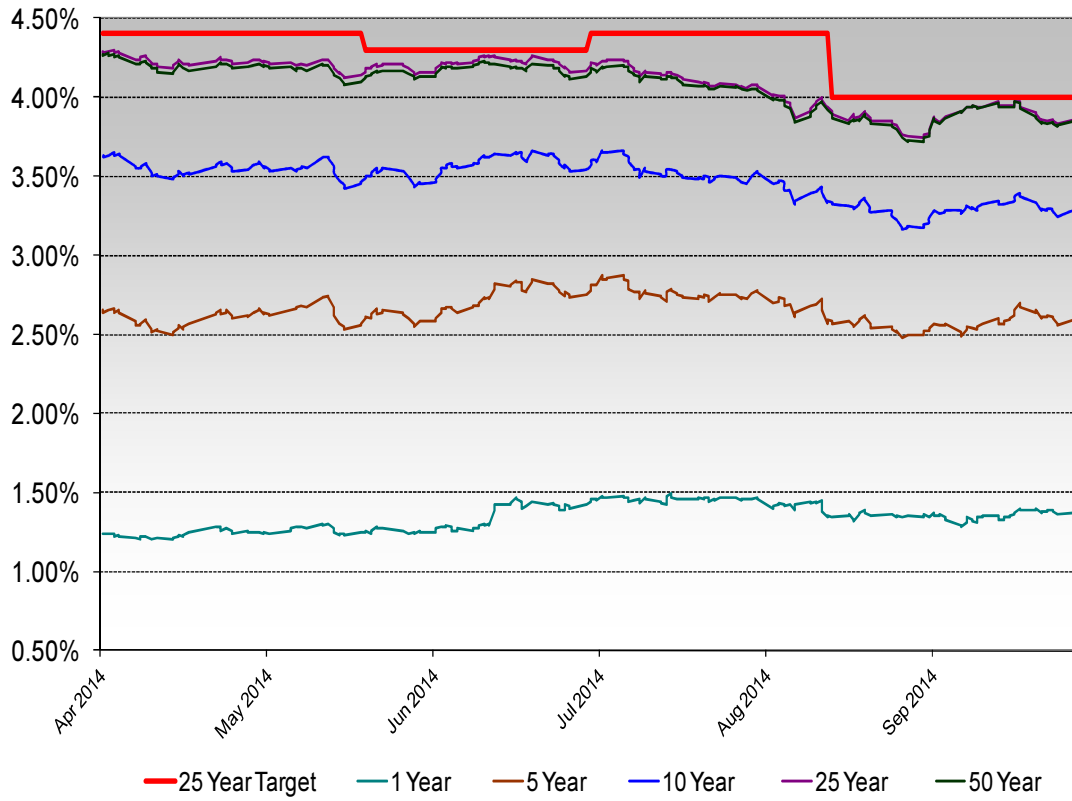
Officer Name: Anne Ryans

Contact No: 0161 770 4902

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 – PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 2014-15

PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 2014-15



## COUNCIL

### Update on Actions from Council

#### Report of the Borough Solicitor

Portfolio Holder : Various

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

Officer Contact : Liz Frier, Head of Constitutional Services  
Ext. 4705

#### Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note updates to the actions from previous Council meetings.

#### Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.
2. This report also provides feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

#### Recommendations:

1. Council are asked to note the actions and correspondence received regarding motions agreed at previous Council meetings.

## **Update on Actions from Council**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 The report sets out the actions officers have taken on motions of outstanding business and notices of motion approved at the Council meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

### **2 Current Position**

- 2.1 The current position from actions as a result of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One. Letters are attached at Appendix Two in response to the actions approved at Council.

### **3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 N/A

### **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 N/A

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 N/A

### **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 N/A

### **7 Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 N/A

### **8 Human Resources Comments**

- 8.1 N/A

### **9 Risk Assessments**

- 9.1 N/A

### **10 IT Implications**

- 10.1 N/A

### **11 Property Implications**

- 11.1 N/A



12 **Procurement Implications**

12.1 N/A

13 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

13.1 N/A

14 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

14.1 N/A

15 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

15.1 N/A

16 **Key Decision**

16.1 No

17 **Forward Plan Reference**

17.1 N/A

18 **Background Papers**

18.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

- Agenda and minutes of the Council meetings held on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014 are available online at <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>

19 **Appendices**

19.1 Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

19.2 Appendix 2 – Letters received in response to actions taken at the meeting approved at previous Council meetings.

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### Actions from Council 17 December 2014

ACTION	RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Outstanding Administration Business 1 –Health Outcomes for the Borough	Letters to be sent to the LGA and the Leaders of all three party leaders	Chief Executive	Letters sent 13 January 2015
Outstanding Opposition Business 3 –Sale of Open Electoral Register	Letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  Letter to be sent to three Local MPs	Chief Executive	Letters sent 15 January 2015
Opposition Business 1- Flex-Ability	Referred to Enterprise and Skills on 5 January  Raised with relevant officer on 5 Jan by Constitutional Services	Enterprise and Skills	The Economy and Skills team submitted a report to the Get Oldham Working Board in December which set out how the project intends to work with the 5 main deliverers of employment support for residents with disabilities (NewBridge, Remploy, Oldham College, Wellbeing service and Pure innovation).  This includes amending the existing GOW register to record disability status. Following the Motion this will be also changed to include if they are a carer (work ongoing to define carer status).

			<p>The GOW project has worked with over 300 employers and will promote working with this cohort as part of our ongoing commitment to residents. This will also form part of dialogue under the fair employment charter.</p> <p>The Economy and Skills team supports residents to become effective jobseekers and have a range of engagement mechanisms and has included job-matching. It is proposed that a differentiated approach will be taken with this client group but will also include support from funded agencies.</p> <p>The Access to Work programme has been promoted locally via Job Centre Plus and the team have supported employers access funding for adaptations but more can be done. This will be supported via the GOW communications channel. The concept of a Flex-Ability programme can be promoted but more work is required to understand what this scheme</p>
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<p>Opposition Business 2 – Disability Hate Crime</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny to convene a special hearing</p> <p>Support for the Disability Hate Crime Network</p> <p>Support Mencap’s “Stand by Me” Campaign</p> <p>Letter to be sent to the Justice Minister and the Director of Public Prosecutions</p> <p>Acknowledgement received from CPS dated 20 Jan 2015</p> <p>Letter to be sent to the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding to promote materials in local schools and academies</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Finance and HR to review existing support mechanisms for employees</p>	<p>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Councillor Chadderton</p> <p>Councillor Jabbar</p>	<p>Discussed at O&amp;S on 13 January 2015 – workshop to be organised</p> <p>Letter sent 13 January 2015</p> <p>Letter sent 13 January 2015</p> <p>Letter sent 13 January 2015</p> <p>Letter sent 13 January 2015</p> <p>See attached note.</p> <p>See attached note.</p>
<p>Leader and Cabinet Question Time – Councillor Sykes to Councillor McMahon – Supporting Candidates and Councillors with Disabilities</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny to suggest where improvements could be made</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny</p>	<p>Discussed at O&amp;S Board on 13 January 2015, further discussion to take place at Board meeting in February.</p>

<p>Leader and Cabinet Question Time – Councillor Sykes to Councillor McMahon – Laughing Gas is Latest Legal High</p>	<p>Referred for consultation with the Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p>Constitutional Services referred to Director of Public Health on 12 January 2015</p>	<p>Executive Director, Health and Wellbeing and the Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Response attached.</p>

Previous to 17 December 2014 Council:

<p>Leader &amp; Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Sykes to Cllr. McMahon - to work together on the proposal to identify new developments to have local streets named after Heroes of the Great War.</p>	<p>Referred to AED Corporate Property on 15/09/2014 by Constitutional Services</p>	<p>AED Corporate Property</p>	<p>In progress.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 1 – 20 MPH on Residential Roads (5 Feb 2014)</p>	<p>Refer to Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>Raised at the Overview and Scrutiny Board held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014 and an update received on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 with a further update provided on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2014.</p> <p>Work in Progress.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 2 – Dog Fouling (22 Oct 2014)</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board</p> <p>Referred to Neighbourhoods by Constitutional Services on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2014</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>In Progress. To be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014 as part of the Work Programme. Workshop to be convened.</p>

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**Response from CPS dated 20 January 2015**

**From:** Manicom Christina [<mailto:Christina.Manicom@cps.gsi.gov.uk>]

**Sent:** 20 January 2015 09:06

**To:** Carolyn Wilkins

**Subject:** Oldham Council Resolution - Disability Hate Crime

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 9 January sent to the Director of Public Prosecutions regarding disability hate crime.

I can confirm this letter has been received and will be responded to shortly.

Kind regards,

Christina

Christina Manicom

**Private Secretary to the Chief Executive**

Private Office | Crown Prosecution Service HQ

Rose Court | 2 Southwark Bridge | London SE1 9HS

020 3357 0892 | [www.cps.gov.uk](http://www.cps.gov.uk)

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## Response to questions on Disability Hate Crime

### 1. Ask the Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, Cllr Amanda Chadderton, to promote the materials published by the Crown Prosecution Service to support the delivery of the Disability Hate Crime Schools Project in local schools and academies

- In partnership with Oldham LSCB Oldham Council held a seminar to introduce the Free CPS Hate Crime Resources for schools. The seminar took place on: Tuesday 11th November 2014, The Lees Suite, Civic Centre;
- The seminar showcased the free resources developed by the Crown Prosecution Service that can be used by teachers to explore the issue of hate crime with students;
- 30 teachers from across Oldham's Secondary & Primary Schools along with Oldham College and Sixth Form College attended the event;
- Oldham Council has been the first local authority in the North West to raise awareness of the resources with their schools.
- The Council has a very effective online reporting system for Notification of Hate Incidents and Bullying (NOHIB). This is an on-line system through which schools report incidents to the Council. It provides information about what happened, anonymised details about those who were involved and a summary of what action the school took to address the incident.

### 2. Ask the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Cllr Abdul Jabbar, to review the existing support mechanisms for employees who become victims of disability hate crime to ensure that these model best practice

The Council has a '**Policy and Procedures for Reporting and Recording Hate Incidents**' that is available for all Council employees to access through the Council's intranet.

The following is contained within the policy to provide advice and guidance to both the employee and manager:

#### **Employees**

Employees who work for (Volunteers or staff who are contracted to work for) Oldham.

Council has a responsibility under this policy, when carrying out their duties, to report any incidents of hate and/or harassment if they:

- witness them (this includes seeing, hearing or reading them);
- have incidents reported to them by victims or witnesses;
- have strong suspicion or evidence of hate crime.

Employees also need to be aware of using inappropriate language or comments which discriminate against others in conversations and the impact that this would have on fellow colleagues or service users. All staff are also bound by the Council's Code of Conduct to not to communicate or disclose information to the local or national media around incidents that involve Council services or its employees, see (<http://intranet.oldham.gov.uk/working-forombc/humanresources/hr-policies/code-of-conduct.htm>).

## Managers

Oldham Council is committed to creating a hate free environment and has a legal and moral responsibility to employees and service users, both under the law and as an equal opportunity employer, to protect and support employees who may be subjected to harassment from fellow employees, members of the public and service users.

Although it is the responsibility of all employees to report incidents of hate, Management have a specific responsibility to ensure that they do everything they can to support and protect employees and service users from intimidation, harassment, discrimination and victimisation.

This may be by:

- stating clearly to perpetrators that their behaviour will not be tolerated;
- stating that certain Council services may be withdrawn if necessary and appropriate, in order to protect employees and other people;
- supporting and advising employees who experience hate from service users, protecting them and offering assistance;
- ensuring details of incidents are recorded and seek further guidance if required from the Communities Unit;
- ensuring that all complaints of hate incidents are taken seriously and investigated as quickly and as effectively as possible by an appropriate officer/ manager;
- making employees who are harassed, aware of the Council's support mechanisms through the HR service;
- ensure that victims of hate are encouraged to use the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) or the Stop Hate Helpline, which provides free confidential, independent counselling and support service to all Council employees;
- ensure that feedback is given to the person who has reported the incident in the first instance i.e. victim/ complainant. Feedback can be informing the person who has reported the incident, what actions were taken as a consequence of reporting or any referrals made to appropriate support agencies;
- Should physical injury result from a hate incident then the procedures for reporting and investigating accidents and incidents should be followed. These can be found in the Corporate Health and Safety manual available on the intranet. For further advice Contact a member of the Health Safety and Wellbeing Service;
- Managers are requested to follow the Code of Conduct procedures to address issues with employees, see (<http://intranet.oldham.gov.uk/workingforombc/humanresources/hrpolicies/code-of-conduct.htm>).

**An employer has a duty of care to protect its employees. Managers must therefore take all reasonable steps to prevent discrimination from occurring and ensure employees and service users are protected**

## **Response to Question raised in Council on 17<sup>th</sup> December on Nitrous Oxide and legal highs.**

A growing number of councils have been calling for greater powers to be able to tackle the sale of 'legal highs'. The availability of 'legal highs' has been increasing and they are openly available on the streets and also via the internet. The latest figures on the number of deaths related to 'legal highs' shows there were 60 in 2013 compared with 10 in 2009.

It is not illegal to sell a number of these substances and Councils and partners need to find creative solutions to protect their communities. The tools and powers in the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 offer a means for councils and the Police to take action and Trading Standards have a role in exploring consumer protection legislation and associated powers.

The Home Office is exploring the introduction of legislation to prohibit the sale of NPS but it is unlikely that there will be the parliamentary time to introduce a bill to achieve this in this session of parliament. Guidance has been produced by the Local Government Association – "A Councillors' Guide to Tackling New Psychoactive Substances".

In Oldham a multi-agency group has been established, chaired by the Head of Community Safety Services. The purpose is to develop a Problem Profile, immediate action to be taken, and a medium-term problem solving plan. This includes a Test Purchase Operation and forensic analysis of the results (by the end of February 2015). The initial meeting took place on Friday, 16 January 2015, and a further meeting is planned for February.

Oldham will use the new anti-social behaviour tools and powers to identify premises involved in the sale of NPS/legal highs and consider closure Orders.

There will be a Borough wide approach with a focus on hot-spot areas identified through the Problem Profile. The current hot-spot area is the Town Centre, particularly the bus station.

1. An Action Plan is being developed focusing on:
2. Enforcement
3. Prevention
4. Intelligence
5. Communication

Members of the group include the Team Leader for the Youth Outreach Team, Police, Community Safety managers, DAAT Strategic Manager, Substance Misuse Services (all ages), and the Youth Offending Service. A local town centre GP (Dr Brian Lewis) has asked to be involved in planning a health/ prevention response, working with the commissioner and linking into the new group.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:  
Oldham Office  
11 Church Lane  
Oldham OL1 3AN  
Tel-0161 626 5779

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Council  
Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01140953

26 November 2014

Dear Carolyn

**Re: Cuts to Police Funding**

Further to my previous letter in response to the above resolution; Please find enclosed a copy of the reply you received from Mike Pennington at the Home Office. I have merely received a copy of the same reply in response to my letter on the council's behalf.

The reply is disingenuous to say the least; statements relating to 'streamlining' and 'greater collaboration' fool no one. Police numbers and budgets have been cut drastically over the last few years and complaints about the lack of police in the area have trebled in my office. Constituents are particularly concerned about the reduction to Neighbourhood Teams that were obviously very popular with local residents.

I certainly think that the issue of policing needs to be reviewed urgently and I am sure local councillors will agree.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP  
Oldham West & Royton  
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP  
Minister of State for Policing, Criminal  
Justice and Victims

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
[www.gov.uk/home-office](http://www.gov.uk/home-office)

Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP  
11 Church Lane  
Oldham  
OL1 3AN

CTS Reference: M16172/14  
Your Reference: SB/OMBC01002/01140953

18 NOV 2014

*Dear Michael*

Thank you for your letter of 5 November to the Rt Hon Damian Green MP on behalf of Dr Carolyn Wilkins, the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, about cuts to police funding in Manchester. I am replying as the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims.

Dr Wilkins also wrote to the Home Secretary on this issue and I enclose a copy of our response (T16412/14) for your information.

I hope this clarifies the Government's position.

*Regards*  
*MP*

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP





Home Office

Direct Communications Unit  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 020 7035 4848  
Fax: 020 7035 4745  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Oldham Council  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham  
OL1 1UG

Reference: T16412/14

Dear Dr Wilkins,

Thank you for your letter of 24 October to the Home Secretary about cuts to police funding in Manchester. I am replying as an official responsible for police funding.

I note your concerns about cuts to police funding in Manchester and how you feel this is affecting neighbourhood policing. However, the Government has no choice but to deal with the deficit. The funding settlement for the police is a challenging one, but as the latest report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) 'Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge' has found, forces are balancing their books whilst delivering reductions in crime and high levels of public satisfaction. Like all parts of the public sector, the police must play their part in helping to tackle the deficit. But there is no question that the police will still have the resources to do their important work.

The police can and are making savings without affecting the level of service to the public, for example:

- through greater collaboration across operational and support services;
- through improved procurement of goods and services (including uniforms and equipment); and,
- by improving productivity, including taking a more collaborative, streamlined approach to working with other criminal justice agencies, reduced bureaucracy and improved digital working.

Ultimately, decisions on the size and composition of a police force's workforce are for individual Chief Officers and Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs). Also, it is important to note that what matters is how officers are deployed, not how many of them there are. All forces need to look at the way frontline services are delivered to ensure that the quality of service provided is maintained or improved. As HMIC has made clear, there

is no simple link between officer numbers and crime levels, between numbers and the visibility of police in the community or between numbers and the quality of service provided. I note from your letter that you have written to both the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, therefore they will be able to respond to your concerns about neighbourhood policing.

According to the most recent HMIC report, 'Responding to Austerity' (July 2014), recorded crime has fallen by 19 percent in Manchester between 2010/11 and 2013/14. It also states that over the spending review period, the force has reduced crime at a higher rate than the figure for England and Wales. Additionally the force received an overall rating of 'Good' from HMIC. Therefore, Greater Manchester Police are managing to deliver reductions in crime whilst responding to their financial challenge.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi De Souza

Email: [Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Public.Enquiries@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:  
Oldham Office  
11 Church Lane  
Oldham OL1 3AN  
Tel-0161 626 5779

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Council  
Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01140858

08 December 2014

Dear Carolyn

**Re; Nuisance Telephone Calls**

Please find enclosed a copy of a further reply I have received from the Minister Ed Vaizey at the DCMS in response to my further letter on the Council's behalf. I understand the delay in replying is because my letter was incorrectly redirected to the wrong department.

I note you have already received a similar response, but I still feel that not enough is being done to protect people from telephone marketing and I believe that companies that continually break the rules should be banned from making marketing calls and that much larger fines should be implemented.

I will therefore continue to raise this with the Government.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP  
Oldham West & Royton  
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

Our Ref: 256344/ST/3  
Your Ref: SB/DEPA01009/01140859

Minister for Culture and the Digital  
Economy  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000  
F: 020 7211 6309

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)  
[enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

2 December 2014

Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP  
[michael.meacher.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michael.meacher.mp@parliament.uk)

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your further letter of 30 September on behalf of Oldham Council and their Resolution on Nuisance Telemarketing Calls. Unfortunately my office did not receive your letter until 20 October so I apologise for the delayed response.

You may wish to be aware that Oldham Council also wrote to us directly about this issue on 17 September and I replied on 16 October (our ref: 255422). I enclose a copy of my response for your information.

Tackling nuisance calls is a priority for this Department and our work includes ensuring improved enforcement of the existing regulations and pursuing a range of options for reform. This consists of both legislative and non-legislative measures as outlined in our Nuisance Calls Action Plan of 30 March:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nuisance-calls-action-plan-unveiled>.

We have also ensured that Ofcom can now more easily share information with the ICO about the conduct of companies, who may be breaching the TPS by making unsolicited marketing calls.

In October, we launched our consultation to lower the legal threshold, which will make it easier for the ICO to take enforcement action against companies for a breach of the regulations. Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nuisance-calls-consultation>.

Consent and lead generation is an important issue that contributes to consumers receiving calls. Therefore, this aspect is being considered by a taskforce led by Which? that will report to the Department by the end of this year. Call tracing work is also underway that will help in our efforts to trace calls, where for example the calling number is withheld or disguised.

As part of Ofcom's joint action plan with the ICO (announced in July 2013 and updated in May) Ofcom and the ICO undertook research to determine how effectively the TPS is working and published their findings on 24 July. This showed that those people who were registered with the



TPS received a third fewer "live" calls and that TPS registration also resulted in the reduction of automated, silent and abandoned calls. Further details can be viewed at:  
[http://media.ofcom.org.uk/news/2014/effectiveness-telephone-preference-service/?utm\\_source=updates&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nr-tps](http://media.ofcom.org.uk/news/2014/effectiveness-telephone-preference-service/?utm_source=updates&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nr-tps)

The Office of Communications (Ofcom) will be conducting a review of the TPS, as a result of similar concerns from some consumers, that it may not be working as effectively as it was intended when introduced in 1999. We will review Ofcom's findings carefully to consider whether further action would be necessary. Further details about Ofcom's proposal is available at:  
[http://www.ico.org.uk/news/latest\\_news/2013/ICO-and-Ofcom-draw-up-joint-action-plan-to-tackle-nuisance-calls-31072013](http://www.ico.org.uk/news/latest_news/2013/ICO-and-Ofcom-draw-up-joint-action-plan-to-tackle-nuisance-calls-31072013)

Best wishes,



**Ed Vaizey MP**  
Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy

Enc: CMS 255422



Department  
for Culture  
Media & Sport

Minister for Culture and the Digital  
Economy  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

T: 020 7211 6000  
F: 020 7211 6309

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)  
[enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

Our Ref: 255422/ST/8  
Your Ref: Council - Telemarketing - 201409810

16 October 2014

Dr Carolyn Wilkins  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1UG

[carolyn.wilkins@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:carolyn.wilkins@oldham.gov.uk)

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 17 September to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP about nuisance telephone calls. I am replying as the Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy.

I understand the frustration regarding these types of calls and note your concerns. The Government takes the issue of unsolicited marketing calls very seriously and is taking positive action. We believe that the answer lies in greater enforcement and robust action rather than sweeping changes to the regulatory framework.

Under the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations (PECR) 2003, unsolicited marketing telephone calls are not allowed to be made to a consumer, who has either been registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) for at least 28 days, or if they have previously advised the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls. Companies making calls, from within the UK or from outside the UK, on behalf of UK companies are legally required not to call a number that is registered with the TPS.

The Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) considers complaints and can take enforcement action for a breach of the PECR. The ICO can issue a monetary penalty of up to £500,000 and since January 2012 has issued six substantive monetary penalties totalling £675,000 for calls and text messages and action against other organisations is also under its current consideration. Further information is available at: <http://ico.org.uk/enforcement/action/calls>



The Government is continuing to press for further improvements to be made, particularly in terms of more effective enforcement action against organisations that call numbers registered with the TPS.

In July 2013, the ICO and Ofcom published a joint action plan to tackle nuisance calls and messages. The plan was updated in May and is helping to ensure an increase in joined-up working between the two regulators to protect consumers. This work includes a review of the TPS and updated guidance on nuisance calls for consumers. Further details about the plan and proposals can be viewed at:

[www.ico.org.uk/news/latest\\_news/2013/ICO-and-Ofcom-draw-up-joint-action-plan-to-tackle-nuisance-calls-31072013](http://www.ico.org.uk/news/latest_news/2013/ICO-and-Ofcom-draw-up-joint-action-plan-to-tackle-nuisance-calls-31072013)

<http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/silent-calls/joint-action-plan>

In March, we published the Nuisance Calls Action Plan, which set out our achievements to date, work that is under way and our plans for the future. This includes enabling Ofcom to share information more easily with the ICO and consulting on lowering the legal threshold to enable the ICO to issue more monetary penalties. In addition, work is underway on improving the ability of communication service providers to trace calls. Information about the plan is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nuisance-calls-action-plan-unveiled>

Ofcom and the ICO have also undertaken research to determine how effectively the TPS is working and published their findings in July. The research showed that there was a 34 per cent decrease in nuisance calls after registering with the TPS and further details can be viewed at: [http://media.ofcom.org.uk/news/2014/effectiveness-telephone-preference-service/?utm\\_source=updates&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=nr-tps](http://media.ofcom.org.uk/news/2014/effectiveness-telephone-preference-service/?utm_source=updates&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nr-tps)

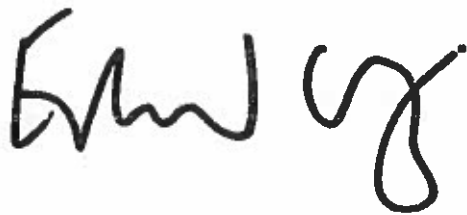
You may be aware that there are various steps that can be taken to block such calls from getting through. Most telecom service providers offer a range of services, usually for a small charge, that can help to reduce the need to answer an unsolicited call. These include 'Calling Line Identification Display', 'Automatic Call Rejection' and 'Choose to Refuse'. The 'Choose to Refuse' service allows you to block numbers by specifying numbers that you do not want to receive calls from. 'Caller Display' enables you to choose to ignore calls that withhold their number and 'Anonymous Call Rejection' blocks incoming calls that withhold their number. In addition, telephone handsets and plug in devices are commercially available from high street shops and from online websites, which can help to block calls that you do not want to receive.

Please find the enclosed factsheet, which provides further information on a number of specific issues relating to unsolicited telephone calls, including:

- silent calls;
- recorded/ automated calls;
- calls made by non-UK companies;
- caller Line Identification (CLI);
- market research calls; and
- scams.

This factsheet also provides more information on the role that the ICO can play in addressing concerns, as well as other steps that consumers can take to block such calls from getting through.

I hope that this reply is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Vaizey'.

**Ed Vaizey MP**  
Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy

Enc: Unsolicited telephone calls factsheet