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

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fielding.

2 URGENT BUSINESS
The Chair advised the meeting that an Item of Urgent Business – Acquisition of WH Shaw Pallet Works, Huddersfield Road, Diggle for replacement Saddleworth School – would be considered at Item 14 (open report) and Item 20 (closed report). The reason for consideration as an item of urgent business was due to the timeline for decisions being taken by the EFA. The report was considered under Rule 17 of the Council’s Constitution whereby an agreement had been obtained from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board. Where Rule 17 applies the decision is exempt from call-in.

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 30TH JUNE 2014
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 30th June 2014 be approved.

6 INVESTING IN VIBRANT DISTRICT CENTRES – A FRAMEWORK FOR BUSINESS SUPPORT AND PREMISES IMPROVEMENT FOR SHAW AND LEES DISTRICT CENTRES
Cabinet gave consideration to a report of Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council and Councillor Stretton, Deputy Leader which outlined a policy framework for supporting new and existing independent District Centre businesses and assisting with the improvement of the physical appearance of premises. A delivery framework had also been drafted, which was outlined in the report and which would be approved by the portfolio holder. Cabinet approval was sought for the second phase of the initiative for a framework of business support and premises improvement in Shaw and Lees District Centres, in order to accelerate the objectives as described in the Oldham Corporate Plan.

The Leader encouraged Ward Members for both Shaw and Lees to step forward and get involved in the work to help provide an impressive scheme.
RESOLVED that:

1. The Framework for support of existing and new independent businesses in the District Centres of Shaw and Lees as detailed in the report; be agreed.
2. The immediate release of £200k from the Capital Programme to fund eligible capital expenditure to support the provision of Building Improvement Grants as highlighted within section 3 of the report; be agreed.
3. The existing work focused on the Town Centre to our District Centres i.e. working alongside existing business support and training providers such as the Business Growth Hub, Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College; to support the creation and development of new businesses that could operate in or be located in the Town Centre and our District Centres be extended.
4. Review Panels to be established for the consideration of grant applications, one for Shaw District Centre and one for Lees District Centre. The membership to include local Ward Members and the membership of the panel to be agreed at the relevant District Executive. The panels to make recommendations for approval, including any relevant conditions, or refusal; these recommendations to be referred to the relevant Portfolio Holder to make the decision;
5. The District Executives to be invited to develop local criteria which will be used in addition to the policy and technical criteria to assess grant applications so that the investment meets the aspirations for the District Centre. This can include any minor amendments to the District centre boundaries for this scheme as outlined in Appendix 1 to the report. The local criteria and any boundary amendments to be approved by the relevant Portfolio holder.
6. The Review Panels report quarterly, to the relevant Portfolio holder, on the success of the programme.

7 PROPOSED CONSULTATION FOR THE 2015/16 COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance and HR, which provided an update on the proposed consultation process to be undertaken by the Council to consider whether to revise the 2015/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

Options/Alternatives considered:
To comply with current legislation the Council is required to undertake a consultation on its 2015/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Not to undertake such a consultation would not be considered an option, as this could result in the risk of a challenge of the Council’s current scheme.

RESOLVED that:

1. The proposed approach to consultation for the 2015/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme be approved.
2. The decision on the level of support to be awarded to be reported back to Cabinet on 17th November 2014, using the most up to date information available.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2013/14

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance and HR which advised that the Council was required, through regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003, to produce an annual treasury report reviewing treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for the previous financial year, in this case 2013/14. The report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in the Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2013/14 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

• an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year
• a mid-year treasury update report
• an annual report following the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

The strategy and mid-year reports were presented for approval as required. The presentation of this report demonstrated full compliance with the requirements as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council’s policies which had previously been approved by Members.

Options/Alternatives considered
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 the contents of the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The actual 2013/14 prudential and treasury indicators, as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The annual treasury management report for 2013/14 be noted.
3. The report be commended to Council for consideration and approval.
HOUSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE ADVICE SERVICES

The Cabinet gave consideration to a joint report of Councillor Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning & Transport, Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods & Cooperatives and Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance and HR, which sought approval for an exemption to Oldham Council’s contract procedure rules and an extension to the current providers.

Options/Alternatives considered:
A full summary of the options/alternatives considered were detailed in Item 16 of the agenda.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 16 of the agenda before making a decision.

SCHOOL YEAR PLAN 2015/2016

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, which outlined the statutory duty of the Local Authority to determine a School Year Plan to secure 190 days of education for all pupils attending Oldham community and voluntary controlled schools for the academic year 2015-16.

Members were informed that currently a Deregulation Bill was being discussed in the House of Commons, which if passed, would pass responsibility for determining term dates at community, voluntary controlled, community special schools and maintained nursery schools in England, from local authorities to school governing bodies by 2015.

Options/Alternatives considered:
1. To adopt the proposal as recommended by the SYRP Group attached as Appendix B to the report.
2. To propose changes to the recommended plan attached as Appendix B to the report.

RESOLVED that the School Year Plan for the Academic Year 2015-16 proposed and detailed in Appendix B to the report, which would allow Oldham community and voluntary controlled schools local flexibility to exchange up to 5 days for specified purposes, subject to Local Authority agreement, be approved.

CONTRACT AWARD: SCHOOL EXPANSION AT EAST CROMPTON ST. GEORGE’S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance and HR which sought approval for the award of contract for the expansion at East Crompton St George’s CE Primary School, Shaw as part of the Council’s Basic Need Programme of works. Members were advised of the current position with regard to the procurement process.

Options/Alternatives considered:
Option 1 - To not accept the tender was not an option as the programme was essential to meeting the growing demand for primary school places.
Option 2 – To accept the tender as this would facilitate the delivery of the necessary teaching spaces and ancillary accommodation at the school.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 17 of the agenda before making a decision.

NOTE: The Chair advised the meeting, and Officers present, that this report, together with the report at Item 12 on the Agenda, should have been submitted under the portfolio of Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding and not that of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance & HR. Councillor McMahon advised that in the future, the award of funding or the approval of a contract award should be in the name of the cabinet member for whom the service relates, not Cllr Jabbar, as the Cabinet member for property and assets.

12 CONTRACT AWARD: SCHOOL EXPANSION AT WATERSHEDDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance and HR which sought approval for the award of contract for three classroom and kitchen expansion at Watersheddings Primary School, Oldham as part of the Targeted Basic Need Programme of works. Members were advised of the current position with regard to the procurement process.
Options/Alternatives considered:
Option 1 - To not accept the tender would not be an option as the Targeted Basic Need programme was essential to meeting the growing demand for primary school places and was subject to a legal agreement with the Education Funding Agency (EFA).
Option 2 – To accept the tender as this would facilitate the delivery of the necessary teaching spaces and ancillary accommodation required both for the intake of the September 2014 cohort and the future intakes of pupils from September 2015.

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

NOTE: The Chair advised the meeting, and Officers present, that this report should have been submitted under the portfolio of Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding and not that of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Finance & HR.

Please refer to the previous Minute

13 HOTEL FUTURE - NATIONAL HOTEL TRAINING ACADEMY
At the Chair’s request this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

**ACQUISITION OF FORMER WH SHAWS PALLET WORKS, HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, DIGGLE FOR REPLACEMENT SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL**

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, which sought approval for the Council to acquire a legal option in respect of an alternative area of land within the former WH Shaw Pallet Works site. This would ensure that, following completion of the Education Funding Agency’s ongoing feasibility work, any site identified as being the most suitable for the development of a replacement Saddleworth School, could be delivered by the Council.

Options/Alternatives considered:
- Option 1 - The Council could choose to do nothing.
- Option 2 – Progress the current option.
- Option 3 – Proceed to Acquire an Option to Acquire the Backland.

Members were advised that Option 3 would be the best available option as the site was further away from the main road, the disused buildings on the site would be demolished there would be no building on greenbelt and grant funding would be sought to assist with work on the Grade 2 listed building on the site.

The local community had concerns which could be addressed by moving the building to the rear of the site.

Members were also reminded that the Council was not the decision makers on this issue.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 20 of the agenda before making a decision.

**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 paragraph 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.

**HOUSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE ADVICE SERVICES**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 Housing and Social Welfare Advice Services.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. An exemption to the Council’s contract procedure rules be granted;
2. The Chief of Staff, in consultation with the Executive Director Neighbourhoods, the Borough Treasurer and the Borough Solicitor, be authorised to conclude an
extension to the current contracts with FCHO and Oldham CAB up until 31 March 2016, to enable the procurement of a combined service;

(3) In consultation with the Executive Director Neighbourhoods, officers be authorised to explore, identify and develop a structure and requirements for an ongoing integrated service and the related procurement;

(4) The Borough Solicitor or his nominated representative be authorised to sign and affix the Common Seal of the Council to all the contract documents and associated or ancillary documentation referred to above and/or required to give effect to the recommendations in this report.

17 EAST CROMPTON ST GEORGE’S CE PRIMARY SCHOOL - ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 11 Contract award: School Expansion at East Crompton St George’s Primary School – Acceptance of Tender.

RESOLVED that:

1. The results of the tendering exercise which resulted in submission of tenders on 9th June 2014 be noted.
2. The recommended tender from HH Smith & Sons Ltd be accepted.
3. A contract be entered into to deliver extensions, heating pipework replacement and internal remodelling works to facilitate expansion.

18 WATERSHEDDINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL - ACCEPTANCE OF TENDER

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 12 Contract award: School Expansion at Watersheddings Primary School.

RESOLVED that:

1. The results of the tendering exercise which resulted in submission of tenders on 9th June 2014 be accepted.
2. The recommended tender from J Greenwood (Builders) Ltd. be accepted
3. A contract be entered into to deliver internal remodelling works to facilitate expansion.

19 HOTEL FUTURE - NATIONAL HOTEL TRAINING ACADEMY

At the Chair’s request this item was withdrawn from the agenda.

20 ACQUISITION OF FORMER WH SHAWS PALLET WORKS, HUDDERSFIELD ROAD, DIGGLE FOR REPLACEMENT SADDLEWORTH SCHOOL
The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 14 Acquisition of former WH Shaw Pallet Works, Huddersfield Road, Diggle for replacement Saddleworth School.

**RESOLVED** that the Council proceed to acquire a legal option to acquire the area of land shown edged red on the plan now submitted, subject to the terms and conditions as set out in Appendix Seven of the report.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.20 pm