

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 15 July 2015**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 15 July 2015 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

Open Council

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

(15 minutes for public questions and 25 minutes for Councillor questions)

Formal Council

- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th May 2015 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 12)
- 4 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 5 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 6 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 13 - 14)

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 8 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 15 minutes).

There is none.

- 9 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 10 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

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

response)

- 11 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 15 - 38)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 30th March 2015
- b) 27th April 2015

- 12 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor McMahon to MOVE and Councillor Stretton to SECOND:

This Council recognises the newly created Office of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and congratulates its newly appointed holder Tony Lloyd. The Office of the Mayor presents a good opportunity for Oldham, through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to present itself to central government as well as helping to forge stronger connections with neighboring boroughs, towns, cities and communities.

The Council stresses the need for the Mayor and indeed the Combined Authority to be publically accountable, through direct elections, emphasising the need for greater public engagement with communities, ensuring towns like Oldham are heard across Greater Manchester.

The Council notes that Greater Manchester generates £48 billion per annum in GVA, 4% of the national economy, but that there is room to grow through the innovation opportunity devolution provides. Through greater flexibility, engagement and communication with central government, Greater Manchester and we in Oldham can get the fair devolution deal we deserve.

The Council Resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the new Mayor of Greater Manchester on behalf of the council welcoming him to his post.

- To Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Oldham's three Members of Parliament updating them on the Devolution deal to date.

Motion 2

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Wrigglesworth to SECOND:

This Council notes that Oldham Council was the fastest public body to close its final accounts last year and has this year beaten its own target by a further seven days. Ensuring both quality and accuracy is vital to future financial planning for the council and the tax payers of Oldham.

The council recognises and is pleased with the report given by the external auditors,

who have again granted Oldham Council a clean bill of financial health, especially in regard to the auditors 'Value for Money' assessment for which Oldham received its best ever 'Green' rating including – for the first time – on borrowing.

The council notes remarks made by the external auditors Grant Thornton who said: *“The draft accounts and working papers were of a high quality. The prompt production of the draft financial statements enabled the members of the Audit Committee sufficient time to review the statements and ask challenging and pertinent questions. Finance staff responded promptly to all audit queries, in line with agreed protocols, contributing to the prompt completion of the audit”.*

The Council resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Director of Finance (interim) on behalf of the council, thanking the department for its efforts.
- To note the progress made in account finalisation by Oldham Council and the positive remarks made by the auditors in regards to the speed and accuracy of Oldham Councils accounts.
- To note Oldham Council has been given a clean bill of financial health by the auditors.

Motion 3

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Hibbert to SECOND:

This Council was dismayed to hear, that Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin had announced that electrification work on the Transpennine route between Leeds and Manchester was being "paused".

This Council is extremely concerned that any delay in progressing plans for electrification and the introduction of faster and more reliable trains linking Manchester and Leeds will hamper economic recovery. Transport connections and infrastructure are the foundation on which an economy is built; the north already loses out substantially in terms of investment, now it will see this vital project fall even further back in the queue. This decision is bad for regional growth and jobs. How can the government expect to build a northern powerhouse if it is unwilling fund vital transport links and infrastructure? This decision is another example of the inequality that exists when it comes to regional investment, it will have a negative impact on the residents of Oldham.

This Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Patrick McLoughlin, Transport Secretary and Hon George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking them to remove the “pause” that was placed on the electrification of the TransPennine route between Manchester and Leeds.

Also to write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Michael Meacher MP to ask them to support the motion and to use any other parliamentary means available to remove any further delay to the electrification of the TransPennine route between Manchester and Leeds.

13 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Turner to SECOND:

Council notes that:

- Prescription charges have increased for 33 of the last 34 years and the list of condition exemptions, where recipients qualify for free prescriptions, was drawn up in the late 1960s.
- Research conducted by the Prescription Charges Coalition of over 30 charities and organisations found that people with long-term conditions in England are:
 - Struggling to afford their essential medication
 - Cutting pills in half to save money
 - Going without food
 - Falling behind with their household bills
 - Having to take time off work as a result
- This has serious consequences for the quality of life and long term health of these individuals:
 - 35% of those who had paid for each prescription item had not collected medication because of the cost.
 - Three quarters of this group said their health had got worse as a result.
 - 10% reported that they had been admitted to hospital as a direct consequence of not taking their medicine as prescribed.
- This is discriminatory against patients residing in England as Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have scrapped all prescription charges.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Health, the Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, asking the new Government to end prescription charging for millions of people in England with long-term conditions
- Write to the Chief Executive of the Prescription Charges Coalition to express this Council's support for this campaign

Motion 2

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- For customers on low incomes, water bills can represent a real financial challenge.
- The water industry, water regulator, consumer groups, academics and government deem that paying for water consumption becomes problematic for households is

when they spend more than 3 per cent of their household income on water costs. This threshold is taken as a measure of 'water poverty'.

- Studies have found that households who spend at least 3 to 5 per cent of household income on water consumption often struggle to pay their bill.

However, Council further notes that:

- Regional water provider United Utilities has several schemes to support customers struggling to pay a bill or settle arrears. These include a trust fund, a debt matching and write-off scheme, and a new social tariff. Government also endorses schemes to promote direct payment from benefits and provide a capped bill for larger families or customers with certain medical conditions.
- Many low-income households are unaware of the support available to them.

Council believes that:

- More action is needed from central Government to address 'water poverty'.
- More should be done in Oldham to promote awareness of, and access to, the support schemes available to customers facing 'water poverty'.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Promote the availability of these support schemes on-line, in our publications, in our public buildings, and at public events, as part of the 'Make the Most of Your Money' and 'Warm Homes' campaigns.
- Work with United Utilities and the United Utilities Trust to offer training to elected members and front-line staff so they can actively promote them.
- Offer this training to staff and volunteers from social landlords and other partners.
- Support the research being undertaken by United Utilities to establish greater public acceptance for the social tariff and to identify the most effective ways to engage and support 'harder-to-reach' customers.
- Support an application to the United Utilities Trust for funding to deliver, through partner agencies, money advice and financial literacy services targeted at 'water poor' customers.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, The Rt. Hon. Liz Truss MP, requesting that:
 - 'Water poverty' be defined in law and that it be measured
 - The Government establish an action plan and make a definite commitment to eliminate 'water poverty' within the lifetime of this Parliament.

Motion 3

Councillor Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Sykes to SECOND:

On average 3,000 people are killed or seriously injured each year in drink drive

collisions on Britain's roads.

Nearly one in six of all deaths on the road involve drivers who are over the legal alcohol limit.

Council notes that:

- The current permitted limit in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood
- In Scotland the limit was reduced in December 2014 to 50mg

This Council believes that, as a contribution towards a further reduction in road deaths, the drink drive limit should be reduced across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to 50mg per 100ml of blood to bring it into line with Scotland.

This Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin MP, to outline this Council's position and to ask him to introduce this measure as soon as is practicable.

- 14 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 39 - 140)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

Police and Crime Panel	30 th January 2015
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	27 th February 2015 27 th March 2015 24 th April 2015 29 th May 2015
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	27 th February 2015 27 th March 2015 24 th April 2015 29 th May 2015
National Park Authority	6 th February 2015 27 th March 2015 5 th June 2015
Transport for Greater Manchester	13 th March 2015
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	12 th February 2015 23 rd April 2015
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	13 th February 2015 20 th March 2015

- 14 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant
b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 141 - 168)

(time limit 7 minutes)

Oldham Leadership Board	23 rd March 2015
Oldham Care and Support Company	30 th January 2015
Health and Wellbeing Board	17 th March 2015
Unity Partnership Board	8 th January 2015 12 th February 2015 23 rd March 2015

- 15 Welfare Reform Update (Pages 169 - 188)
- 16 Review of Land and Property Protocols (Pages 189 - 210)
- 17 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 211 - 250)

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

