

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 December 2015

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 8 December 2015

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 16 December 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 4th November 2015 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 40)
- 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 41 - 42)

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 8 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 15 minutes).

Motion 1

Councillor Chadderton to MOVE and Councillor S Bashforth to SECOND:

This Council notes with disappointment the passing of the Trade Union Bill at its second reading in parliament on 14 September 2015.

This Council believes that the Bill represents the most vicious attack on Trade Unions in over 30 years by introducing measures that will make it more difficult for employees to stand up for and defend their rights at work.

Amongst other things the passing of the Bill will introduce:

- The removal of the ability of public sector employees to have Trade Union subscriptions deducted from their salaries.

- A requirement for unions to notify police if they intend to discuss a strike on social media.
- A requirement for police to be notified 14 days in advance of a strike if striking workers intend to use placards or loudspeakers on a picket line.
- The appointment of a 'picket supervisor' for each picket who will be required to wear an armband and give their name and contact details to the police and their employer.
- A minimum turnout threshold of 50% in ballots for strike action.

This Council further notes that human rights groups Liberty, Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights have all condemned the Bill as an attack on the basic right to protest.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development has branded this law to be an 'outdated response that could have potentially counterproductive consequences'.

In Oldham we recognise the importance of Trade Unions and the work they do representing their members. We have a good track record in employee relations such as collective agreement of single status work. We recognise the importance of liaising with our Trade Unions colleagues and of early engagement.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Sajid Javid MP on behalf of the Council setting out our opposition to the Bill.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write on behalf of the Council to our local MPs setting out our opposition to the Bill and requesting that they use all means available during the Committee stage of the Bill to prevent it from being enacted in its current form.

Motion 2

Councillor Dearden to MOVE and Councillor Roberts to SECOND:

Oldham Council notes with concern the continuing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa which are driving the current refugee crisis, particularly people fleeing war and persecution from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iraq. We welcome the Government's commitment to provide asylum for 4,000 people this year from the Syrian refugee camps but believe that as a country the United Kingdom can do more. Oldham has provided sanctuary and a new start for traumatised refugees in the past and calls on the Government to support Oldham and other councils to do more now.

Oldham's refugee community includes approximately 160 destitute asylum seekers currently supported by a network of community organisations, friends, family and volunteers. Their position will be made worse by proposed reductions in financial support, particularly for women and children.

The Council welcomes the work done by individuals, community groups and religious groups in supporting asylum seekers and asks the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to convene a meeting of those supporting refugees and Asylum Seekers in Oldham with the aim of developing an ongoing network and provide support to make the best use of all the work done already in the borough

The Council supports the efforts by AGMA to get a proper support system in place, including reviewing the role played by SERCO in administering asylum seeker support. Oldham Council calls on the Government to put in place a properly funded and fair system including: fair allocation of refugees across the UK; long term funding for Councils; quick and accurate decision making about the status of refugees; better effort to support and integrate refugees (e.g. providing English as a Second Language teaching and investment in conversion of qualifications to UK standard); better

administration of welfare benefits and investment in public services where needed.
Council also resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to:

1. Write to the Local Government Association to enlist their support in improving support for Asylum Seekers
2. Write to the 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

9 Budget Proposals 2016/17 & 2017/18 (Pages 43 - 422)

10 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

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 423 - 434)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 19th October 2015
- b) 16th November 2015

13 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

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The Council welcomes the work done by individuals, community groups and religious groups in supporting asylum seekers and asks the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to convene a meeting of those supporting refugees and Asylum

Seekers in Oldham with the aim of developing an ongoing network and provide support to make the best use of all the work done already in the borough

The Council supports the efforts by AGMA to get a proper support system in place, including reviewing the role played by SERCO in administering asylum seeker support. Oldham Council calls on the Government to put in place a properly funded and fair system including: fair allocation of refugees across the UK; long term funding for Councils; quick and accurate decision making about the status of refugees; better effort to support and integrate refugees (e.g. providing English as a Second Language teaching and investment in conversion of qualifications to UK standard); better administration of welfare benefits and investment in public services where needed. Council also resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to:

1. Write to the Local Government Association to enlist their support in improving support for Asylum Seekers
2. Write to the boroughs 3 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 Hibbert to MOVE and Councillor Fielding to SECOND:

This council notes that:

- That the Housing and Planning Bill has been consulted on and will be debated in Parliament and, if passed, it would threaten the provision of affordable homes for rent and purchase by:
Forcing 'high-value' council homes to be sold on the open market;
Extending the right-to-buy to housing association tenants;
Undermining section 106 requirements on private developers to provide affordable homes.
- There is no commitment in the Bill that affordable homes will be replaced like-for-like in the local area.
- That whilst measures to help first-time buyers are welcome, the 'starter homes' proposals in the Bill will be unaffordable to families and young people on ordinary incomes in most parts of the country; will not preserve the taxpayer investment; and will be built at the expense of genuinely-affordable homes to rent and buy.
- That the Bill undermines localism by taking 32 new wide and open-ended powers for the Secretary over councils and local communities, including the ability to over-ride local plans; to mandate rents for social tenants; and to impose a levy on stock-holding councils, violating the terms of the housing revenue account self-financing deal.
- That the Bill, whilst introducing some welcome measures to address issues relating to rogue landlords, does not help with the high rents, poor conditions and insecurity affecting many of England's 11m private renters, including one in four families with children, and does nothing to help to arrest the recent rise in homelessness.

Oldham Council is already working with partners to use its land and skills to bring forward new housing in the Borough. The Government's 'one size fits all' approach to Planning and Housing doesn't work for areas like Oldham and Greater Manchester. This council resolves to contact Cllr. Sue Derbyshire, Chair of Greater Manchester Planning and Housing Commission, suggesting that GM should contact the Housing

Minister to request a discussion with the Government on the challenges we face and how they can assist us in bringing forward more difficult housing sites.

14 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Williamson to MOVE and Councillor Gloster to SECOND:

Council notes that nine local authorities are currently working through partnership agreements with the NHS Blood and Transplant Service to increase the number of blood donors and / or registered organ donors among their staff and residents.

These agreements have included local authorities making a commitment to:

- Promoting blood and organ donation through digital communication as well as hosting stalls at public events and publishing features in Council produced magazines
- Recruiting staff volunteers to act as 'Donation Champions' to help spread the message of donation across the borough. The volunteers, who received special training, attend events and seek networking opportunities, promoting donation to target hard-to-reach groups
- Providing venues free of charge to the service to take blood donations and free parking to donors whenever possible

This Council recognises the value of becoming a partner to the NHS Blood and Transplant Service in order to increase the number of staff and local residents signed up to be blood and organ donors.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Director of Public Health and the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to:

- Work to secure such an agreement with the NHS Blood and Transplant Service
- Ensure that the recruitment of 'Donation Champions' through the Council's Employee Supported Volunteering programme form part of the agreement
- Bring back a further report to Council on this matter reporting progress

Motion 2

Councillor Sykes to MOVE and Councillor Blyth to SECOND:

Council notes that:

- Every 15 minutes, someone in the UK starts to lose their sight.
- According to data from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (the RNIB) there are approximately 6,000 people in Oldham living with some degree of sight loss, and this figure is expected to rise to nearly 9,000 by 2030.
- Obstacles in the public realm such as:
 - Inaccessible crossings;
 - Vehicles parking on pavements;
 - Advertising boards (A-boards);
 - Street and cafe furniture;
 - Wheeled bins and refuse bags; and
 - Overgrown shrubs and trees, and overhanging branchesimpede access and mobility, and represent hazards, for the two million people in the UK who suffer from sight loss.

- In a Royal National Institute for the Blind survey conducted in 2014 nearly every respondent with sight loss reported that they had collided with an obstacle in the street within the previous three months, and a third of people reported injury as a result.

Council therefore welcomes the 'Who Put That There!' campaign by the Royal National Institute for the Blind and endorses the call to local authorities to engage with blind and partially sighted people in their area to develop a Street Charter to remove obstacles and hazards from the public realm.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to convene a workshop with representatives from the Royal National Institute for the Blind, blind and partially sighted people living in this borough, and their local representative bodies, and highways and planning officers to draw up a Street Charter for this borough.

Motion 3

Councillor Blyth to MOVE and Councillor Harkness to SECOND:

Council notes:

- The launch last month of the Equality for Mental Health Campaign by former Care Minister Norman Lamb MP, Alastair Campbell and Andrew Mitchell MP
- That this campaign has been endorsed by parliamentarians of all parties, by health and other professionals, religious leaders, and celebrities
- That the campaign seeks to persuade Government to improve the treatment available to patients with mental ill health by:
 - Ensuring parity in treatment for patients with mental health conditions to those with physical health conditions
 - Increasing investment in mental health services
 - Providing such patients with mental health conditions with the same rights to timely access to treatment as those with physical health problems
 - Reducing the stigma attached to mental ill-health

This Council resolves to:

- Support the campaign by asking the Chief Executive to add the name of the Council to the list of signatories
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three local Members of Parliament asking them to support this campaign

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 435 - 490)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Transport for Greater Manchester | 11 th September 2015 |
| Greater Manchester Combined Authority | 25 th September 2015 30 th October 2015 |
| Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive | 25 th September 2015 30 th October 2015 |
| Police and Crime Panel | 26 th June 2015 25 th September 2015 |
| National Park Authority | 18 th September 2015 2 nd October 2015 |
| Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue | 15 th October 2015 |

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Authority | |
|-----------|--|

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant
b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 491 - 508)

(time limit 7 minutes)

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Unity Partnership Board | 2 nd September 2015 |
| Health and Wellbeing Board | 15 th September 2015 |
| Oldham Care and Support | 5 th October 2015 |

- 16 Standards Hearing Sub-Committee - Outcome of the Hearing regarding a complaint against Councillor Bates (Pages 509 - 566)
- 17 Civic Appreciation Nomination (Pages 567 - 568)
- 18 Statement of Community Involvement (Pages 569 - 634)
- 19 Gambling Policy (Pages 635 - 670)
- 20 Oldham Fairness Commission: A Formal Response (Pages 671 - 676)
- 21 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 677 - 688)

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

