

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 7 September 2016

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 30 August 2016

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 7 September 2016 at 6.05 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, or immediately at the rise of the meeting of the Trustees of Clayton Playing Fields, whichever is the later, 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 13th July 2016 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 Section 249(5) Local Government Act 1972 Nominations for the Title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough

Report to follow.

- 8 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 41 - 42)

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 9 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 15 minutes).

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Price to SECOND:

In Oldham, more than a third of adults are physically inactive (36.28%) and Oldham was ranked 141st out of 150 local authorities researched in terms of rates of physical activity in 2013. UKActives *Turning The Tide of Inactivity* report estimates that this lack

of regular exercise by the Oldham population is estimated to cost the Oldham economy £53.5million a year.

Physical inactivity is known to be the fourth leading cause of global mortality, and many of the leading causes of ill health in today's society, such as coronary heart disease, cancer and type 2 Diabetes, could be prevented if more inactive people were to become active.

The *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy* was published in June 2015 and provides the blueprint for physical activity and sport's contribution to the overall Greater Manchester Strategy. The intended outcomes of the strategy are to:

- Increase levels of participation in physical activity and sport to reduce levels of inactivity
- Increase active travel leading to increased opportunities for walking, cycling and running
- Increase economic output of the sport and physical activity sector

Being physically active should be something we build into our everyday lifestyle from going out for a walk through to playing sport.

Council is therefore asked to;

- Give its support to the *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy*
- Instruct the relevant officers to develop an action plan to detail how the pledges will be developed and implemented in Oldham

10 Leader's Annual Statement

11 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

12 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

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

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 (Pages 43 - 60)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 27th June 2016
- b) 25th July 2016

14 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Ball to MOVE and Councillor Brock to SECOND:

Oldham is not on its own in facing an increase in families who are in both financial and food poverty. Oldham Council is doing a lot for this ever increasing number of people and, with the changes to benefits and even more zero hour contracts, this number is unlikely to diminish.

The End Hunger Campaign in Oldham is launching on the 15th October.

The aim of this campaign is to:

- Improve the public awareness of the food justice movement at local level, showing how volunteers are working hard in food banks and on community food projects.
- Publicise the support available to help people who are struggling with their household budget, for example, the winter warmth campaign, the Welfare Rights Service and citizens' advice.

We ask that all sides of the Council support this campaign and the volunteers, Council employees and councillors who themselves work hard to help fellow Oldhamers.

The overall aim of the campaign is to build a town in which everyone has access to good food and no one goes to bed hungry.

This Council resolves:

1. To work to try to make sure that all children are able to live free from the damaging effects of hunger, including the adverse effect on their health.
2. It will continue to work with all community groups and volunteers to support and advise networks in the community that are themselves supporting families affected by food poverty.
3. To write to the Clinical Commissioning Group to ask that it ensures that GPs and other front line staff take into account food poverty when seeing people, especially children, who are not in the best of health.
4. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the borough's three MPs, and the Prime Minister, asking them to make every effort to ensure that families can afford good food on a regular basis through an appropriate combination of work and benefits.

Motion 2

Councillor Dearden to MOVE and Councillor Ur-Rehman to SECOND:

The U.K has the highest level of obesity in Western Europe, with one third of children overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school.

Local councils now have responsibility for health and wellbeing, health promotion and prevention of ill health, so it is incumbent upon us to debate this and make our views known.

We note with great disappointment this government's long-awaited Obesity Strategy, published in August 2016, during parliamentary recess and in the midst of the Rio Olympics, and the lost opportunity to improve our health and wellbeing.

Medical experts and campaigners have criticised the strategy as 'weak and embarrassing' and accused policy makers of throwing away the chance to tackle our culture of unhealthy eating that is crippling the NHS.

The government proposals, centred on the sugar tax announced by George Osborne in May 2016, rely on voluntary action by the food and drink industry and contain no restrictions on junk food marketing and advertising. The sugar tax will not be introduced for another two years.

This Council recognises that local campaigning and awareness raising programmes are most successful when backed by legislative changes, as with the ban on smoking in public places.

This Council therefore resolves that the following measures be taken:

1. Oldham Council, led by our Public Health officers and the Health and Wellbeing Board, (which includes partners such as Housing, Doctors, Hospitals, Oldham Community Leisure , Voluntary groups) , will campaign to ban all high sugar foods and drinks available in our buildings and will encourage schools , community organisations and local employers to do the same;
2. Oldham Council to continue to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy eating through our local campaigns such as 'Get Oldham Growing, Feeding Ambition', 'Go for a Walk', Oral Health, Breastfeeding and other initiatives .

In addition, we request that the Chief Executive writes to the borough's three MPs to inform them of our actions and to ask them to campaign for stronger legislation.

Motion 3

Councillor Roberts to MOVE and Councillor J Larkin to SECOND:

Speed kills: speed is one of the main factors in fatal road accidents. A pedestrian is four times more likely to die if hit at 40mph than at 30mph. In 2014, 282 people were killed in crashes in the UK involving someone exceeding the speed limit and a further 126 people died when someone was travelling too fast for the conditions.

Residents, including those who attend the Community Forums, regularly express their concern about speeding traffic both on main roads and also in residential areas.

Councillors have responded by supporting speed measurement measures, changes to road and junction layout to improve safety, improvements to pedestrian crossings and most recently by funding Vehicle Activated Signs.

However, motorists continue to speed and drive too fast for road conditions and local circumstances.

This Council resolves to

- mount a campaign of driver education to explain the impact of speeding and encourage motorists to obey the law
- take every opportunity available to secure funding to make Oldham's Roads safer
- work with Greater Manchester Police to improvement enforcement action against motorists breaking the speed limits
- influence the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 to include a sub-regional approach to tackling speeding and making our roads safer.

15 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Sykes to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

This Council once more wishes to place on record its admiration for the courage,

service and sacrifice of members of Her Majesty's armed forces, past and present, during military conflicts, in countering terrorism and in carrying out peacekeeping and humanitarian duties.

This Council notes:

- The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Oldham as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.
- The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Oldham. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans, and their families.
- That the availability of such data would greatly assist the council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Oldham.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Support and promote The Royal British Legion's campaign 'Count Them In' to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community.
- Urge elected members for this Borough to sign up as individual supporters to the 'Count Them In' campaign.
- Ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Community Covenant to write to the Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon Michael Fallon MP, setting out the Council's position that we wish to see the UK Parliament approve a final census questionnaire in 2019, which includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community, for use in the 2021 Census.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament asking them to also make representations on this matter to the Secretary of State for Defence.

Motion 2

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor Blyth to SECOND:

This Council notes that

- Dementia is one of the biggest health issues facing the UK
- In Oldham, over 2,500 people are estimated to be living with dementia
- This condition will affect one in three people over the age of 65, with that figure is predicted to rise by two thirds by 2030
- Dementia is an umbrella term for a set of symptoms that might be exhibited by people living with one of any number of diseases of the brain; it is not a natural part of aging
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory; it can also affect thinking, communication, inhibitions, and everyday tasks
- With the right care, support and understanding from those around them that it is possible for someone to live well with dementia and to continue to contribute to community life

Council commends the work that has been done so far in our borough specially:

- The training of well over 5,000 Dementia Friends across the borough
- Gaining recognition from the Alzheimer's Society as one of just fifty communities in England as 'Working towards a dementia friendly community'
- Establishing the Oldham Dementia Partnership and the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance
- Creating an Enhanced Memory Service to support people living with dementia and their carers

But Council also believes that as a major public-service organisation we can do so much more, particularly in:

- Delivering more dementia-friendly services with specially trained staff and from dementia-friendly buildings
- Promoting a more dementia-friendly transport network in order that people living with dementia and their carers can better access them

Council therefore calls upon the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to:

- Appoint a senior officer in each directorate as a Dementia Champion to lead on this issue within their directorate, with specific responsibility for ensuring that:
 - All new Council staff appointed to customer-facing roles, particularly those in the Call Centre, the First Contact centre and our public libraries and parks, participate in mandatory Dementia Friends training as part of their induction.
 - Existing staff in customer-facing roles participate in Dementia Friends training within twelve months.
 - Environmental checks are carried out in all of the public buildings and open spaces within their directorate's control to ensure that they are Dementia Friendly.
 - The Dementia Friendly logo is displayed prominently at these locations once they are determined to be dementia friendly.
 - Their directorate, and the Dementia Friendly public buildings and open spaces, are registered separately as individual entities with the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance, in addition to the Council being itself registered corporately.
 - A report of progress for that directorate is prepared for circulation to elected members and for publication on the Council's website during Dementia Awareness Week in May 2017.
- Ask these officers to work with the national charity Making Space and the local groups Let's Be Heard and the Springboard Oldham Dementia Carers Group to support the delivery of staff training, the carrying out of environmental checks, and the completion of the registration process.
- Carry out a review of Council employment practices to ensure that best practice is being followed in offering staff living with dementia, or caring for a family member living with dementia, appropriate ongoing support and flexible working arrangements.
- Ask our partner organisations, Oldham Community Leisure, Oldham Mio-Care, and Unity Partnership, to make similar commitments.
- Create a new Dementia Hub in an accessible, dementia-friendly Council building by providing accommodation to co-locate relevant staff from the following organisations – the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK Oldham, Making Space and the Memory Assessment Service – and meeting rooms and activity areas for people living with dementia and their carers.

- Investigate the merits and practicalities of introducing, and promoting, a Dementia Buddy wristband scheme with representatives from the emergency services and Transport for Greater Manchester. This scheme is operational and actively promoted within the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan.
- Create a transport sub-group of the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance to look specifically at how bus, tram and taxi transport can be made more dementia-friendly.
- Urge schools to include information about living with dementia into the local Personal Social and Health Education curriculum delivered to pupils to help develop their understanding of dementia.

Council is also asked to appoint an elected member as a Dementia Champion to lead on this issue for Council.

Motion 3

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Turner to SECOND:

Council notes that:

- Free school meals are a critical safety net for children from low-income families
- Free school meals help tackle child hunger, boost educational attainment, and save parents £400 per year
- It is estimated that for one in four children a school lunch may be their only hot meal every day
- The Schools Census does not collect information on pupils entitled to receive free school meals, only those who meet the eligibility criteria AND are registered to claim them.
- In January 2016, the Census recorded that 8,253 children have been awarded free school meals, but that under 80% of children take up the free school meals they are entitled to
- Some parents choose not to register their children and some children chose not to eat a school meal because of stigmatisation and social isolation
- Not only does this mean a child might go hungry, but schools lose out on pupil-premium funding, intended to help close the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged pupils and their peers, as this is based upon free school meals registration
- Neighbouring Calderdale Council uses centrally held housing benefit and council tax reduction records to identify any children eligible to receive free school meals, where their parents are not currently claiming, and then automatically enrolls them; this leads to additional pupil-premium payments to the schools they attend
- In March 2015, this approach led to a further 586 pupils being registered for free school meals and their schools receiving additional pupil-premium funding of £685,000

Council recognises that promoting the take-up of free school meals should be one of our priorities in addressing food poverty and improving educational attainment in the borough

Council therefore resolves to ask the relevant Cabinet Members and the Director of Education to look to adopt the approach taken by Calderdale in Oldham and to launch a campaign to promote the take up of free school meals by those pupils eligible to receive them.

Motion 4

Councillor Sykes to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

Council believes that it is a disgrace and a scandal that over the last nine months five Royal Mail post boxes have disappeared in Shaw and Crompton.

Council recognises that this has caused great inconvenience to residents; most particularly to those living on Dunwood Park Courts, who have been without a local post box since November 2015, and to the many elderly, infirm or disabled residents living adjacent to these five locations, who struggle, or simply find it impossible, to walk to the next available post box.

Furthermore, Council is deeply disappointed by the:

- lack of urgency in the response from the Chief Executive of Royal Mail to representations made on this matter by local Councillors
- vague promises made to reinstate these post boxes at some unspecified future date
- apparent lack of a statutory requirement for Royal Mail to consult with any local authority, and local residents, before a post box is removed from a public location

Council resolves to request that the Chief Executive writes to:

- The Chief Executive and Chairman of Royal Mail Plc conveying this Council's robust view on this matter and demanding the early reinstatement of these post boxes as a matter of urgency
- The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport asking the Government to establish a statutory requirement for Royal Mail to consult any District or Unitary Council, and local residents, prior to the removal (or non-replacement for a period of more than one calendar month) of any public post box from their area

- 16 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 61 - 134)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

National Park Authority	27 th May 2016
Transport for Greater Manchester	10 th June 2016 (AGM) 10 th June 2016
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	30 th June 2016 (AGM) 30 th June 2016 29 th July 2016
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive	30 th June 2016 (AGM) 30 th June 2016
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	29 th July 2016

- 16 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 135 - 144)

(time limit 7 minutes)

Oldham Leadership Board	21 st July 2016
MioCare	9 th May 2016

- 17 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 145 - 172)
- 18 New Powers to GMCA Consultation - Oldham Council response (Pages 173 - 194)
- 19 Annual Statement of Accounts 2015/16 (Pages 195 - 382)

Please note a hard copy of the Annual Statement of accounts will be available in each Group Room, Access Oldham and the Civic Reception, West Street Oldham.
- 20 Treasury Management Review 15/16 (Pages 383 - 402)
- 21 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement - Outcome of Review and Proposed Revision (Pages 403 - 416)
- 22 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16 (Pages 417 - 426)
- 23 Welfare Reform - Thematic Analysis: Debt and Finances of Local People (Pages 427 - 450)

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



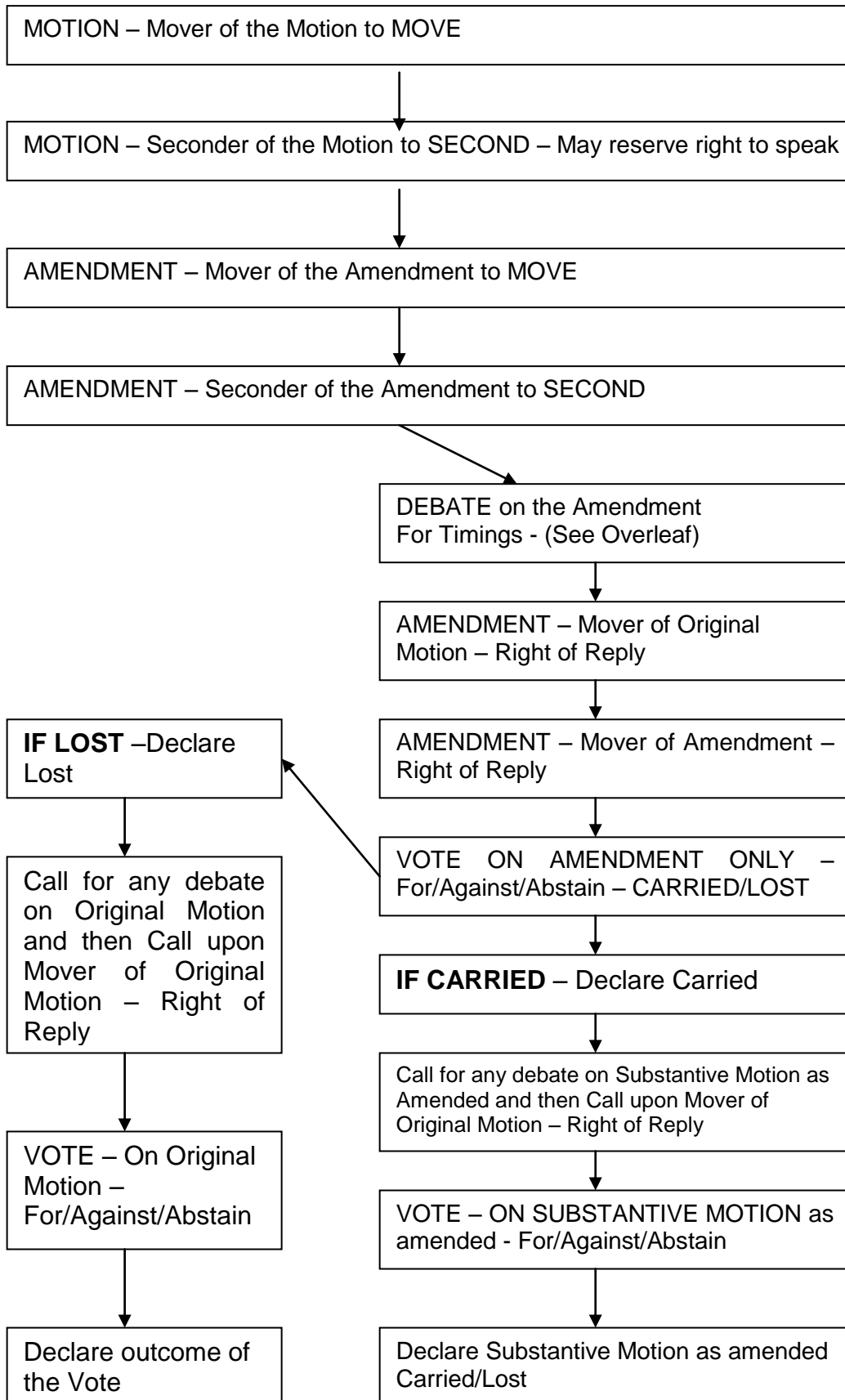
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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
13/07/2016 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Heffernan (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Blyth, Briggs, Brock, Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, Dearden, Fielding, Garry, Gloster, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Hewitt, Hudson, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Klonowski, J Larkin, T Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sheldon (from 18.28), Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Turner, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth (until Item 12)

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

The Mayor made reference to the recent death of Jo Cox MP and other acts of terrorism since the last Council meeting.

Council held a Minutes Silence.

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 order in which they had been received. Council was advised that if the questioner was not present then the question would appear on the screen in the Council Chamber.

The following questions had been submitted:

1. Question received from Victoria Marshall via Twitter:

“Why were hangers recently placed on bins necessary? They provided no info – info leaflet post following day” #waste of money”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that hangers were placed so residents were aware of the changes coming along with other circulated information to maximise the impact with the long lead in time. This was a two pronged approach to ensure residents read all the information available.

2. Question received from Paul Turner via Twitter:

“Oldham Council now OMBC want 3 week bin collections what are the unfortunate people who have clinical waste to dispose of to do?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council did not collect clinical waste. Assuming that it was medical then in that position

it was advised residents should get in touch with officers to receive specific advice in those circumstances.



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3. Question received from Shaun Garfin via Twitter:

“I work on Broadgate are there plans to improve access when there are more houses and industrial units in the Foxdenton area?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that measures had been developed with and agreed by Highways England including improvements at A663 Broadway signal controlled junction and link road into the site; A663 Broadway/Foxdenton Lane/Eaves Lane signal controlled junction; and the A663 Broadway/M60 junction 21. The existing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure surrounding the site would be enhanced by measures that would be incorporated into the junction improvements that form part of the mitigation measures at the Broadway junctions, the new link road junction, the new link road and along Foxdenton Lane. It was also intended that traffic calming measures were introduced along Foxdenton Lane to ensure that there was not a significant increase in traffic travelling to the development using it.

4. Question received from Ricky McLeary via Twitter:

“Oldham Council is our council tax being reduced as our bins are only being emptied once every three weeks?”

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance & HR, responded that the proposal to change the bin collection was not based on savings but to avoid future costs. Based on recycling rates, Oldham had the lowest in Greater Manchester, if the recycling rate did not increase an additional levy would be imposed for the next three years on top of other savings that would have to be met. There had been cuts in government grants and cost pressures with a net loss of £12.5m cuts in grants and it was estimated that efficiencies of £20m would need to be found. Council tax would be reviewed as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process on whether or not to reduce Council tax.

5. Question received from Hilary Smith via Twitter:

“Given likely future cuts from central government, what steps will Oldham Council take to ensure vulnerable don't suffer further?”

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding, responded that across the country there was a £600m shortfall in funds needed for adult social care. Oldham Council had faced year on year reductions for the last five years which required all areas of service to evaluate the effectiveness of services offered.

Adult Social Care (ASC) Departments across the country were finding it increasingly difficult to sustain current levels of service

within budget and there were increasing challenges to managing an increasingly fragile care market. This was the case in Oldham and a range of initiatives were in place which contributed towards the savings. Difficult decisions had to be made around where resources were prioritised and deployed. The current approach was unsustainable and in line with all GM ASC departments, the service model was being reviewed and redesigned to help address some of the decisions that would need to be made. The Council was confident in providing services to the most vulnerable and existing resources have been directed to ensure that Oldham was complying with its legal duties to vulnerable people. The development of innovative evolving work approaches which ensured vulnerable people could be supported to sustain their independence for as long as possible. As such ASC was transforming to rise to these challenges and key work streams were being developed around, for example, integration and prevention.

6. Question received from Craig Hughes via Twitter:

“Why has refuse collection reduced to 3 weeks whilst Council Tax rises and now we can’t recycle plastic containers only bottles?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, referred to earlier responses. The Council had gone to three weekly collection to increase recycling, 70% of what was currently put into the grey bin could go into recycling. The cost of putting waste in the grey bin continued to increase, whilst the Council’s budget continued to reduce through cuts from central government. Evidence from across Greater Manchester showed that the only way to achieve an increase in recycling rates was to reduce capacity. The Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority was responsible for the disposal arrangements for rubbish and recycling for all GM Authorities. The current arrangements had been in place since 2009 and were based on available markets for plastics. Plastics that could not be recycled in the brown bin were actually used to produce energy from waste when put in the grey bin.

7. Question received from Joanne Craddock via Facebook:

“The council supposedly impose fines for flytipping but some of the alleyways local to me seem to have massive problems time and time again. What are the council doing to combat this?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that we don’t supposedly impose fines, but actually did. Last year the Council served 867 fixed penalty notices for littering and dumping with a further 122 prosecutions. At the end of the day, it was the responsibility of every resident of the town to take responsibility for the disposal of waste. Enforcement was taken seriously and to support this, the Council were looking at the use of cameras which would enable the teams to gather the evidence needed. If refuse was

put in the right bin, the problem could be eradicated if everyone worked together.



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8. Question received from Patrick Diamond via Twitter:

“What is the Council doing about the reduction in service to the 184 Bus from Diggle and Dobcross to Oldham? I am particularly concerned about the reduction in service for the 184 bus, as my children, and many other, rely on the 07:32 184 to get to school and college in Oldham on time.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that First Manchester did engage with local Councillors prior to the change, but the Council was extremely limited when it came to being able to influence bus routes and frequencies as they are provided by commercial bus operators. All journeys on service 184 were provided commercially by First Manchester. Transport for Greater Manchester provided support for a network of socially necessary services, which would not otherwise be provided by operators on a commercial basis, but had a limited budget for this, which was getting smaller due to budget cuts.

TfGM could not justify subsidising the 184 service as usage was low and the hourly through service to Huddersfield, which operated direct along Huddersfield Road through Diggle Village, would continue to operate. Dobcross would continue to be served by services 353 and 354, which provided a combined hourly link to Uppermill where customers could transfer to service 184 towards Oldham and Manchester. While Sam Road and Station Road would no longer have a daytime bus service, the existing stops on Station Road were within 400 metres of stops on Huddersfield Road and the hourly Huddersfield service. The Saddleworth Local Link also operated in this area which provided door to door links from early morning to late evening seven days a week.

In the longer term, the bus franchising powers contained within the recently published Buses Bill would allow Greater Manchester to have more control over bus service routes, frequencies, fares and quality standards should the powers be taken up.

9. Question from Christine Hogan via Facebook:

“Could the Councillors explain how they intend to deal with any problems residents may encounter when the bins do not get emptied every 3 weeks from Autumn? The reason I ask is that it is hard enough to get the bins emptied now. Only 2 out of 4 bins emptied last week on my street. Despite contacting Moorhey Street and getting told they would be emptied, they are still standing outside, full up. So it is, in effect, a 3 weekly collection already! And the grey bins not emptied from 27 and 23.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that the Council collected over 250,000 bins each week and there were many factors which could result in missed bins. It was inevitable that some bins

would be missed but the when this occurred the services would continue to aim to return for such bins within two working days, and in such cases, residents were asked to leave their bins out for collection. If Mrs. Hogan would get in touch with her contact details she would ask the service to investigate and respond to the issues relating to Mrs. Hogan.

10. Joe Fitzpatrick asked the following question:

“Councillor Jim McMahon MP recently told my friend Councillor Warren Bates that Mono Pumps had paid back the grant monies they had received. Please give me a detailed breakdown, telling me how much money was given to Mono Pumps by Oldham Council, and by Regional funding Groups, and please tell me what grant money has been returned and what it was paid back.”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, responded that a £3 million grant was awarded for the refit of the Aerospace building, for this they were to secure the move of all jobs from the Tameside site into Chadderton and create an additional 200 jobs over a 5 year period up to 2020. The awarding body was the Greater Manchester Investment Fund. No funding had been given to Monopumps by Oldham Council although they were supported with officer time in applying for the GM Investment Fund Grant. The move to Chadderton coincided with the global crash in the oil markets which had a severe impact on the company and its parent company in North America. At that point Mono had drawn down £1.35 million of grant towards the construction costs, but realised that the job creation targets would not be met in the timeframe given. They approached the GM Investment Board to discuss the issues they faced in order to resolve the issue of the total grant. The outcome was as follows:

- The GM Investment board stated that given the current position and recent business update that they would not support the drawdown of the remaining £1.65m of the total £3m grant awarded.
Despite this, it was recommended that Monopumps retain the £1.35m, continue to provide the regular quarterly update reports to the investment team and then meet up again in 6 months and then again at the end of next year in order to keep all parties up to speed on business developments.
- To date the drawdown of £1.35m represented 45% or approximately 90 jobs. The investment board advised that if the business was able to demonstrate some progress towards achieving this figure by 2019 that there was unlikely to be any repayment requested.

To date no funds had been paid back to GM.

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

The Mayor reminded Members that the Council had previously agreed that questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council. The following questions were submitted by Councillors on Ward or District matters:

1. Councillor J. Larkin to Councillor Hussain:

“What plans are in place to improve High Street and Rochdale Lane in Royton North ahead of the opening of the new Lidl store later this year? The entire stretch of road is in poor condition and will only get worse with the expected increase in traffic?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that there were currently no plans to resurface High Street or Sandy Lane, Royton. Lidl were responsible for repairing damage to High Street, Middleton Road and Spring Garden Street caused as a result of their works and have improved the High Street/Middleton Road junction for pedestrians by the introduction of a traffic island/refuge.

2. Councillor Hewitt to Councillor Hussain:

“I have received an enquiry from a resident in the area of Shelderslow in Springhead about potholes and ownership of a lane which has been an issue for several years. The residents have managed to keep the path tidy, but the volume of people using this footpath has increased tremendously after planning permission has been given to build adjacent to the path, together with the Rome Mill site development, and development on Cooper Street. It is also the only vehicular access to the small hamlet of Shelderslow, with properties dating back to the seventeenth century. The lane is also used regularly by parents with children going to the Infant school. The path is now full of potholes and represents a problem for vehicular access, including the Refuse Collection and emergency services. There are issues for the safety of children and their parents travelling to school. Would the relevant portfolio holder please help with this issue?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that Shelderslow, Springhead was currently unadopted so there were currently no plans to carry out any resurfacing, however he would get this section inspected and ensure that any pot holes were made safe to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians.

3. Councillor Fielding to Councillor Stretton:

“Failsworth Town Hall was refurbished in 2010 and provides a fantastic space for functions and events in an excellent civic building. However the function room is underused with many potential users citing the cost of hiring it as prohibitively expensive.

Could the Council look again at the price structure and marketing of Failsworth Town Hall to see how we can get better use out of this spectacular building?"



Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council annually reviewed the pricing structure for the room hire of its available venues, which ensured that the public and community groups had access to affordable and suitable facilities. The room charges for Failsworth Town Hall were considered to be very competitive, when compared to other private sector providers (£41 per hour during week days, £240 for the first 3 hours out of normal working hours, and then £60 per/hr thereafter until [2:00 am](#)), based only on recovering the operational costs associated with the events.

The Council's Facilities Management Team recognised the function room was under-used and was looking at pro-active measures to raise the room's availability through a marketing exercise to encourage more use.

4. Councillor McCann to Councillor Chadderton

"I was very disappointed to hear of the delay in building a new two entry school to replace the 100 year old Shaw Street primary school in Greenfield, especially as the funding has been found. I would therefore be grateful for an update on the present position as most Saddleworth primary schools are full or will be shortly."

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that there was no secret in the need for school places. The situation was that all Saddleworth and Lees primary schools were assessed through the priority matrix and Greenfield was identified as the priority school in this collaborative for expansion. The next stage would be a Pre-Publication Consultation Stage which would start on 5th September 2016 for four weeks before a decision was taken to Cabinet regarding the issue of a formal public notice. If Cabinet decided to issue a public notice, formal representation would continue for another four weeks. A final decision would then be made by Cabinet. Councillor Chadderton gave assurance that the new Greenfield Primary and new Royton and Crompton School were a key priority and would do anything for this to be achieved.

5. Councillor Shuttleworth to Councillor Hussain:

"Hollinwood Ave, from its junction with Mough Lane to Oldham/Manchester Road is frequently in need of repair and is beginning to resemble a patchwork quilt. It is also beginning to suffer from heavy ponding in parts, and it is appreciated that in the absence of gulley's at some of these points on the highway there is not an easy solution.

May I ask the Cabinet Member responsible for highways to give consideration to including this road on any future plans for a complete resurface as one can only believe that it is becoming financially unviable to continue with the patching work required.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that there were currently no plans to resurface Junction of Mough Lane (Owler Lane)/Hollinwood avenue to Manchester Road. He would get the section of highway inspected and any actionable defects repaired.

6. Councillor Toor to Councillor Hussain

“There are plenty of overgrown tree branches and hedges which are covering road signs. This problem is widespread but I would like to draw your attention to the Ashton Road in Medlock Vale ward, where this problem exists on both sides, near the boundary with Tameside. Can the relevant Cabinet Member advise when action will be taken to deal with this problem?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that an inspection of the signs and vegetation on Ashton Road had been arranged to identify the extent of the issue. The outcome of the survey would determine what action was required and the timeline involved.

7. Councillor Garry to Councillor Brownridge

“Recently the bowling green at Failsworth Higher Park was repaired at a cost of £1200. It is therefore disappointing to see residents sunbathing, riding bikes, pushing prams and playing football on it. It is also disappointing and disrespectful to see dog owners exercising dogs in the tennis courts which are a designated children’s play area. The park is also a hot spot for ASB by youth. Please could I urge the Cabinet member responsible to urgently look into applying the new Public Space Protection Order to the park?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council was looking at Public Space Protection Orders for a number of sites including parks. Legislation was complex and may not fully address the problems. Steps would be taken to address these issues immediately and colleagues in Environmental Services and First Response would take appropriate action to minimise the effect of a minority of inconsiderate residents.

8. Councillor Murphy to Councillor Hussain

“On so many occasions when I go into Shaw town centre, the cages behind Tesco Express are just left at the back entrance – causing all sorts of problems. As you are no doubt aware we have an on-off problem with anti-social behaviour in the town centre and these cages are often targeted. The cages also obstruct traffic.

I know previously Tesco have been asked to do something about it, but can I request that the relevant cabinet member ask them to look for a more permanent solution, especially as the new car park will mean more care manoeuvring around on the old market ground? Failing that can I ask officers to issue notices for obstructing the highways which has been discussed previously but to no avail?"

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that he would like to reassure the Councillor that he would ask Council officers from Highways and Environmental Services to make contact with the management at Tesco Shaw Express Store in order to explore the options for a more permanent solution to the issue. He asked to be briefed on the outcome of the discussions and would that officers keep members informed on progress.

9. Councillor Iqbal to Councillor Brownridge

"Could the Cabinet member please give an update with the progress in getting Hartford Mill de-listed and getting it demolished?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that the Council was acutely aware of the negative impact that the local building had on the local area and a private owner had formally applied to Heritage England to have the mill de-listed, however this application had been unsuccessful. The Council was working with interested parties for the demolition of the mill. A comprehensive mixed use scheme was being developed which included the demolition of the mill and utilising adjacent land for new homes to be built. However, should this fail or the building deteriorated further, the Council retained the right to use its listed building or dangerous building powers to secure the safety of the area surrounding the building. The Council was working as best as could be done to get the site redeveloped.

10. Councillor Mushtaq to Councillor Brownridge

"An Alexandra resident has contacted us about fly tipping issues. In the email, he also mentioned that, on blue bin collection day, there were only three bins in the alley for collection, suggesting that only three households on the street were recycling. He appeared to be making a direct correlation between failure to recycle and the build up of waste and fly tipping. Can the relevant Cabinet member please help us to make the distinction, if indeed there is one, between fly tipping and the incorrect use of bins."

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that fly tipping was a crime, there was nothing to suggest that normal law abiding citizens turn to dumping their rubbish because they don't have the right recycling bins which were supplied free of charge by the Council. The Council was committed to increasing recycling and

would support any residents who needed further information on how to legally dispose of their waste and crack down on those who were fly tipping.

11. Councillor McLaren to Councillor Brownridge

“The Planning Committee have previously approved an application from UK Power Reserve for the development of a gas fired mini power station on a sit at the junction of Stock Lane, Stockfield Road and Dairy Street in Chadderton. However, contact with UK Power Reserve has proved to be impossible. Residents were promised a public meeting and visit to Styal to view a similar facility neither of which have taken place. The residents have asked if it is possible to confirm that the project is still intended to go ahead and, if so, whether it would be possible to ensure that UK Power Reserve honour their commitment to arrange the two events.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded there were no mechanisms through planning powers to require a public meeting and site visits. Officers had contacted UK Power Reserve to see what could be done. As a consequence of those negotiations the applicant has agreed a site visit to their Carrington Peel site on 26th July if that was convenient. In relation to the start date, the applicant had confirmed that groundworks were proposed to start on 25th July 2016 at this site.

12. Councillor Ali to Councillor Brownridge

“Foxdenton Development – the Foxdenton housing development was very much the target some 12 months ago. We would all be in agreement about the need to build aspirational homes as well as affordable homes. What is the current position in related to this development and what is the council doing to drive this forward?”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the current position in relation to the Foxdenton Development was that full agreement had been reached with Highways England regarding the final designs for the main access into the site from Broadway. Due to the fact that it would not be prudent to be carrying out the bulk of these access works during the winter months, commencement was now due to take place in early Spring 2017. The Council continued to work closely with its private sector partners Seddon/Grasscroft to drive this major development forward and the FO Developments Board met on a bi-monthly basis in order to review progress.

13. Councillor Dearden to Councillor Harrison – this question was deferred to Cabinet Member questions.

14. Councillor G. Alexander to Councillor Hussain

“Could the relevant Cabinet member give me an update on the progress of the adoption of roads on the Northgate Estate Moorside as this has been an ongoing saga and seems to have become stagnant. All the residents are waiting for is an end to this long running saga.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that it was a legal requirement that any new highway proposed for adoption adjoins an existing adopted highway. The new estate roads on the Northgate Estate were currently separated from the existing adopted network (Ripponden Road) by an area of land under Persimmon Homes ownership and despite numerous site visits/conversation over the last few years with various representatives of Persimmon Homes to try and progress the matter, officers had so far been unsuccessful in persuading them to enter into an agreement for the remaining section of new highway. Work would continue to pursue this, however, the Council could not force such an agreement.

15. Councillor Blyth to Councillor Stretton

“Could the relevant Cabinet Member please tell me when the redundant stalls will be removed from the now defunct Shaw Market site as these are a blight on the town and a haven for anti-social behaviour as they act as a huge umbrella in wet weather?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the now that all relevant permissions, legal orders and licences were in place for the move of Shaw Market from the site on Westway to Market Street, a programme had been developed for the removal of the redundant market stalls and cabins from the former market ground. It was proposed that works would start on site to demolish the stalls and cabins during the week commencing 25th July 2016 and it was expected that this work would take no more than two weeks.

After the demolition works and subject to favourable weather conditions, the works for the creation of the extended car park on the former market ground and improvement of the existing car park would start on 8th August. These works would take approximately two weeks. Therefore, the car park would be unavailable for use during this two week period, but would be open for use during the week commencing 22nd August 2016. The car park closure would be publicised via notices on site and a local leaflet drop.

16. Councillor Ball to Councillor Hussain

“We have had two major new developments of new homes in St. James, one on Derker and one on Sholver. The roads in those developments have not yet been completed and are in a poor and dangerous state. Can we ask when they will be completed?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the developer at Derker, Keepmoat Homes, was due to resurface a section of London Road between the junctions of Derker Street and Ramsey Street. They had already carried out footway works to all footways contained within Derker Street, Acre Lane, Afghan Street and Ramsey Street. As far as he was aware Keepmoat were currently appointing a contractor with work scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. At Sholver, the DSO had been commissioned to complete works on behalf of the developer, this included completion of new estate roads and also the footway fronting the new properties on Goldsmith Avenue and Coleridge Road. Any other works which were required would fall under highway maintenance.

17. Councillor Chadderton to Councillor Hussain

“Some months ago I asked what was being done or what could be done to improve parking around the Royal Oldham Hospital, as the parking of visitors and staff on the nearby residential streets is a major concern and causing much distress to local residents. I was told the parking provision around the hospital was being reviewed, can I ask if this review has been concluded and what the outcome was and can I also request a meeting with relevant officers to discuss these issues?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the Council was aware of the parking problems that were being experienced around the hospital, particularly in the Coldhurst and Royton areas. Council officers had recently met with the Head of Estates at the Pennine Acute Trust (PAT) to discuss the matter with a view to see if a joint solution could be found, particularly as the hospital had further expansion plans, which would only exacerbate the problem. It was acknowledged that there was no easy solution to the parking congestion that was occurring in the surrounding areas to Oldham Hospital. The Council had already provided some areas with resident parking schemes only, which had only resulted in moving the problem to an adjoining area. The Hospital had also opened a new 500 space car park for staff, which should have eased the problem, but even with this additional capacity, the Pennine Acute Trust accepted that some staff and visitors still chose to fly park to avoid paying parking charges.

The Council was going to continue with its discussions with Pennine Acute Trust, to see if an agreed joint strategy could be developed to address the reported parking problems, as clearly the problem emanated from the demand generated for Oldham Hospital services.

18. Councillor M. Bashforth to Councillor Hussain:

“I would like to ask a question of the relevant cabinet member on behalf of the residents of Holden Fold Lane in Royton.

On the 23rd June last year the building that housed the Sofa Company burnt down, leaving a derelict, unsightly and hazardous mess close to resident's homes.

Just after the fire, due to concerns about the methods being used to remove asbestos from the remains of the building, we contacted the Health and Safety Executive who went on site and spoke with the contractors involved.

A few weeks ago we spoke with residents who over a year later are still having to live with the derelict site and the dangers it presents. Children are gaining entry to the site and playing in there, and also others with more anti-social intent.

As local councillors we want to support residents with regard to this problem and ask that officers visit the site again to re assess the dangers and negative affect this is having on the area and people having to live next to it.

We ask for some efforts be taken, to enforce more efficient security measures be put in place and that a thorough clean-up of the site be undertaken.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that he had asked officers to revisit the site and to establish whether the Council could take any formal legal action against the owner of the building.

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

RESOLVED that the questions and the responses provided be noted.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ames, Councillor Goodwin, Councillor Kirkham and Councillor McMahon.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH MAY 2016 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that, subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18th May 2016 be approved as a correct record:

Item 10 – Councillor Cath Ball, portfolio be amended to read Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives.

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

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, elected members declared the following interests:

Councillor Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Item 15b by virtue of his employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor McCann declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board, Unity Joint Venture Board and the MioCare Board.

Councillor Harrison declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Dean declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and Unity Joint Venture Board.

Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary at Item 15b by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Jean Stretton declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Oldham Leadership Board and Unity Partnership Board and at Item 15b by virtue of her appoint to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Police and Crime Panel and the Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive.

Councillor Jabbar declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor G. Alexander declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Sykes declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate the Chief Executive, Dr. Carolyn Wilkins, on being awarded an OBE.

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

The Mayor advised that one petition had been received for noting by Council:

Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Petition regarding Traffic Around Knowsley Primary School (received 9 May May 2016) (72 signatures) (Ref 2016-05)

RESOLVED that the petition received since the last meeting of the Council be noted.

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Mayor informed the meeting that there was one item of outstanding business from the previous meeting.

Motion 1

Councillor Dearden MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes with alarm, the recent statement from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirming that new guidelines are to be introduced which will

curb councils' powers to divest from or stop trading with organisations or countries they regard as unethical. Council further notes that the new guidelines, which will amend Pensions and Procurement law, follow on from the government's announcement made at the beginning of October 2015 that it was planning to introduce new rules to stop "politically motivated boycott and divestment campaigns" (Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government).

Oldham Council is proud of its commitment to human rights and to putting this into practice through such measures as an ethical approach to this relationship with business. Council believes that the proposed measures now being outlined by the DCLG will seriously undermine the Council's ability to implement its commitment to ethical procurement and pensions investments. Council also notes that the new guidelines represent a further, serious attack on local democracy and decision-making through a further restriction on councils' powers. This is directly contrary to the government's own stated commitment to the principle of localism, given a statutory basis by the Localism Act of 2011, which holds that local authorities are best able to do their job when they have genuine freedom to respond to what local people want, not what they are told to do by government. This Council resolves to:

- 1). Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express Council's unequivocal opposition to the proposed changes.
- 2). Write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Jim McMahon MP to ask them to use any parliamentary means available to oppose these proposals.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Blyth MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following amendment:

"Insert in the second paragraph, line 12, after business a new sentence:

'This Council is proud also to have played its part in encouraging the divestment from tobacco companies of the Greater Manchester Local Government Pension Scheme as a commitment to public health and of its decision to remove Saudi Arabia and Singapore from a list of countries approved for investment because of their appalling human rights records.'

Amended motion to read:

"This Council notes with alarm, the recent statement from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirming that new guidelines are to be introduced which will curb councils' powers to divest from or stop trading with organisations or countries they regard as unethical. Council further notes that the new guidelines, which will amend Pensions and Procurement law, follow on from the government's

announcement made at the beginning of October 2015 that it was planning to introduce new rules to stop “politically motivated boycott and divestment campaigns” (Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government).

Oldham Council is proud of its commitment to human rights and to putting this into practice through such measures as an ethical approach to this relationship with business. This Council is proud also to have played its part in encouraging the divestment from tobacco companies of the Greater Manchester Local Government Pension Scheme as a commitment to public health and of its decision to remove Saudi Arabia and Singapore from a list of countries approved for investment because of their appalling human rights records. Council believes that the proposed measures now being outlined by the DCLG will seriously undermine the Council’s ability to implement its commitment to ethical procurement and pensions investments. Council also notes that the new guidelines represent a further, serious attack on local democracy and decision-making through a further restriction on councils’ powers. This is directly contrary to the government’s own stated commitment to the principle of localism, given a statutory basis by the Localism Act of 2011, which holds that local authorities are best able to do their job when they have genuine freedom to respond to what local people want, not what they are told to do by government. This Council resolves to:

- 1). Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express Council’s unequivocal opposition to the proposed changes.
- 2). Write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Jim McMahon MP to ask them to use any parliamentary means available to oppose these proposals.

Councillor Dearden accepted the AMENDMENT.

Councillor Rehman spoke on the motion.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was MOVED to the VOTE.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION. On being put to the vote, FIFTY-FOUR VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with NO VOTES AGAINST and ONE ABSTENTION. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. the Chief Executive be instructed to write to Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express Council’s unequivocal opposition to the proposed changes.
2. the Chief Executive write to the Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Jim McMahon MP to ask them to use any parliamentary means available to oppose these proposals.

EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM - IMPACT ON OLDHAM AND GREATER MANCHESTER



Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council which set out a summary of the implications of leaving the EU on Oldham's Economy and Greater Manchester, in the context of the recent independent economic review of the Northern Powerhouse.

The implications could not be precisely understood for some time due to the protracted period of political and economic uncertainty resulting from the UK "leave" vote. The report dealt principally with some of the known and predicted economic and business implications. Alongside these implications were wider social cohesion implications and risk caused by the negative focus on the campaign on immigration issues. These would continue to be monitored and managed in partnership with Greater Manchester Police and other local partners.

On 30th June 2015, the Government had received the report of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER) which had been commissioned by Transport for the North (TfN) on behalf of Leaders across the North. The report found that:

- The North's economic performance gap was persistent and entrenched and averaged 25% below the rest of England (10-15% when London was excluded);
- Productivity differences accounted for the majority of the performance gap; and
- The poor productivity was explained mainly in terms of workforce skills – although issues related to technology, investment and connectivity also had a bearing.

The NPIER identified distinctive sector capabilities in the North, which was highly productive and could compete on national and international stages. The sectors were outlined in the report and were closely aligned with the Council's new Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) and Work and Skills Strategy.

The uncertainty which surrounded the future economic performance of the UK as a consequence of the EU referendum provided a more challenging macroeconomic context for delivery of the NPIER's aspirations. Greater Manchester was working rapidly to seek safeguards for the national and international competitiveness of the city region against the backdrop of the referendum result and to help achieve the NPIER aspirations in Oldham and across Greater Manchester.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke on the report.
 Councillor Jabbar spoke on the report.
 Councillor Roberts spoke on the report.
 Councillor Harkness spoke on the report.
 Councillor Hudson spoke on the report.
 Councillor Bates spoke on the report.
 Councillor Sykes spoke on the report.

Councillor Sykes MOVED that a letter be written to the Prime Minister to guarantee or make claim to monies promised prior to the EU Referendum Vote to come to Greater Manchester and Oldham.

Councillor Sykes also MOVED under Council Procedure Rule 8.4 of the Council's Constitution that the Leader give consideration to creation of a Cabinet responsibility to an individual or a number of individuals within the Administration to consult with Group Leaders and report back to Councillors and full Council where appropriate on this issue. Councillor Blyth SECONDED the MOTION.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that she would be happy to write to the Prime Minister jointly signed with the Leader of the Main Opposition and also suggested that each of the Cabinet Members had some responsibility but would ask Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources to take lead responsibility as this area would have the most serious impact.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. contents of the European Union Referendum – Impact on Oldham and Greater Manchester report be noted.
2. a letter be sent to the Prime Minister jointly signed by the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Main Opposition on funding.
3. Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources to take lead responsibility to consult with Group Leaders and report back to Council.

10

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council, attended the meeting and addressed the Council on the following motion:

“In April 2016 Oldham Youth Council began a new 2 year term of office for 2016 – 2018. The following motion will set out our intentions within this term.

We have identified that we focus on 3 areas within this term. These were identified and agreed based on consultation with young people from across Oldham as part of the make your mark ballot in October 2015. We will have a priority theme, a priority issue and a priority campaign: this are outline below:
Priority theme – improving health outcomes for young people in Oldham

We recognise that good health, both physical and mental, is vital to ensure individuals are able to lead happy, productive and successful lives.

Health has been a priority for the Youth Council and our fellow youth voice family members in the children in care council and the barrier breakers for a number of years and will continue to do so.

We will continue to work closely with a range of organisations and partners to help shape and influence the health agenda for children and young people.

We will continue to strengthen our working relationship with the CCG, Public Health and other health organisations to develop mechanisms and opportunities for young people to be central to decision making processes and to ensure the voice and views of young people are reflected in the health services we receive.

We are continuing with our Kerrching funding stream with a focus on health outcomes for children and young people. This includes providing small grants for health related projects and we have already allocated funding to 27 projects across Oldham for this year. We have continued to commission kooth.com the online mental health service for children and young people and this service continues to be a well-used and effective resource. We are looking forward to working with commissioners as health services develop further and hope to be further involved in the commissioning of services for Children and Young People.

We are particularly pleased to carry forward our I Love Me branded initiative for another term, this will focus on promoting positive health messages via a range of activities, events and consultations.

We are also working closely with public health on the making every contact count programme and developing MECC resources specifically for children and young people.

Priority issue – learning for life

We believe that our education will be greatly improved if it includes the teaching of life skills that are important for our growth and development. We believe that education should fully prepare us for adult life and this should include the teaching of citizenship and personal, social and health education as part of the core offer in every school and college. We want all young people to have the opportunity to learn about political education and democracy, sex and relationships, cultural awareness, community cohesion, financial literacy, sustainable living and active citizenship.

We want to be able to enhance fantastic English, Maths, Science, humanities and arts qualifications with the knowledge of how to manage money, how to vote, how to open a bank account, how to gain meaningful employment and prepare for an interview and so much more.

We will continue to work closely with the Oldham curriculum offer and help to shape this offer for Oldham young people.

We will consult with schools, pupils, head teachers and governors. And use this consultation to develop ideas and recommendations for how schools and colleges can best help young people learn for life.

Priority Campaign – discrimination

We would like to live in an Oldham where people are free from discrimination and we intend to launch a campaign to promote understanding and reduce discrimination. In consultation with young people we found that discrimination is still very much a

concern of young people. It was also voted as the national campaign in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. In a recent Youth Council meeting we found that every member of the Youth Council had faced or directly witnessed discrimination in the past 12 months, and that's within our relatively short lives. This isn't acceptable. We want to grow up in a society free from this kind of hatred. We understand that there are a wide range of forms of discrimination and we intend to focus on those most prevalent for young people. We will undertake a large consultation with young people and organisations across Oldham to identify the most common experiences of discrimination. We will launch a campaign across social media addressing these and raising awareness and understanding.

We will be holding a young people's conference later this year to focus in and develop young people's ideas on how we can reduce discrimination. We will share these recommendations and share good practice that is already implemented in schools and other organisations widely across Oldham. We ask full Council to note our Key Priorities and to work with us and support the work we do in 2016 – 2018.

Councillor Chauhan commented on the motion and the amazing work being done by the Youth Council.

Councillor Shuttleworth commented on the motion and offered the Youth Council to attend events in Chadderton.

Councillor Williamson commented on the motion and congratulated the new members of the Youth Council.

Councillor Dearden commented on the motion and invited the Youth Council to speak at a future Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED that the Youth Council motion be noted.

11

LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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

Question 1: The Oldham Education Commission

“The end of the current school year is very nearly upon us. My first question to the Leader tonight concerns the Oldham Education Commission and the pathetically slow progress made so far in implementing its recommendations.

In fact, the story of the Commission seems to have unveiled at the pace of a lethargic tortoise from inception.

The Commission was established over two years ago by our former Leader at a launch in June 2014. An interim report in January 2015 failed to materialise. A second interim report promised in September 2015 failed to materialise. Then, when we on this side of the Chamber called for immediate publication, the December 2015 by-election was cited as reason to hold it up still further.

Finally in early 2016, the report saw the light of day. Given the delay, anyone would have thought we were trying to compete with the Chilcott Enquiry. You would have thought that, armed with its nineteen recommendations, our political and educational establishment would have been chomping on the bit to get going and make our schools great?

Like the mobile phone ad which urges us to be more dog, you would have thought that everyone involved would be saying we want to see the back of that lethargic tortoise and bring on the energetic hare. But no, the tortoise seemingly prevails. Two years have passed. Two years in which the children of our Borough have been failed. Two years during which the Head of Ofsted reported that only a third of our children are able to study at 'good' or 'oustanding' schools, less than half the national average. Two years in which too many of our primary pupils have been taught in classes over 30. Two years in which one in five children have not got a place at their first choice of secondary school. And two years in which our level of educational achievement has languished below the national average.

Even last month I was disappointed when a report about Oldham's Education Provision Strategy 2016-2020 was withdrawn from the agenda of an Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting. A report that constituted over half the business; and the meatier half at that running to more than 100 pages, but as I said withdrawn!

Like the Chair of the Commission, Baroness Estelle Morris, I share the view that 'a good education is crucial to the future success of Oldham.'

My first question to the Leader tonight is therefore when is she going to set that hare running – when are things going to happen to make education in Oldham better and then hopefully great for all our children? After all they deserve nothing less!"

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that the hare was running. Implementation of the OESC was going well. Schools had worked together and appointed the Educational Partnership Lead, Mr. Calvert, and he would take up his post in September. The new body of the Educational Partnership was in the final stages of being formed and the schools were working together as collaboratives. We had moved because now 70% of children were in schools which were good or outstanding. Baroness Estelle Morris had been briefed with progress and she is pleased with what had been achieved since the publication of the report.

Question 2: College Merger May Jeopardise Student Prospects

"My second question tonight is also concerns education. And if I were still permitted three questions I would have made them all on 'education, education, education' – for it should be an issue at the forefront of the minds of all of us in the Chamber.

My question concerns the future prospects for the older students of our Borough, students looking to study at Oldham College on a vocational course. We are aware of the discussions that are ongoing between Oldham, Tameside and Stockport colleges to

create a new single entity covering East Manchester. Oldham College seeks to provide a range of technical and professional courses in our Borough to local students. And we are aspiring as a Borough to create a highly skilled workforce for the future. So surely having a local educational offer of vocational courses for our Borough's students must surely feature within our strategy? Is this merger more about the survival of these currently independent colleges in the on-going so called Area Review? Whose interest is it really in?

My fear is that the merger will lead to the courses that we need being taken away from our students who need them – and that many will find it difficult to access provision in Tameside and Stockport. A merger must surely then reduce our students' choices and erect un-necessary barriers to students continuing their education and training? And why Tameside and Stockport? Metrolink links us directly with Rochdale. So my second question to the Leader tonight is what reassurance can she give me that the Council is working at the highest level to ensure that the vocational offer available to students living, and wishing to study, in our Borough will be maintained in a local centre based in our Borough, come what may? Or will local provision go the way of the courts and tax office – I sincerely hope not!"

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that there had been concerns at GM level as the way the review had been implemented and had not involved all post-16 education and was right to have concerns about where this had ended up. She shared his concerns and has made it clear at GM. What was proposed was to put the three colleges together, one of which had severe financial challenges but the Council cannot allow Oldham young people to be impacted by this financial challenge. There had to be assurances that the financial challenges would be addressed which was not wholly allayed and that practices which had allowed these challenges in the first place not be allowed to continue. Rochdale had been in conversation with the other three colleges and it was still possible that Rochdale would be in the collective. There were also some issues around what might happen with the technical college. It was very clear if accepted we have to commit to every decision going forward so as not to undermine the outcome of the review.

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

He appreciated that local government had difficult decisions to make regarding cuts, but he asked if it would be possible to ask the Cabinet to think again about the decision of refuse collection going to three weeks. He added the fact about the pest control and rat motion on the Council agenda. Could it come back and tell Council what the money was being spent on to give convincing arguments to the resident of Oldham. How was the decision arrived at, people were very aggrieved and he requested some background to the decision.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that this was a decision that could not be reversed and it was not a decision taken lightly. Every local authority had done something about waste collection. This was not about saving money but avoiding future costs. Waste management was shared and if the Council did not do this, or introduce smaller bins, Oldham would take up the larger share of cost of rubbish going to landfill. There was nowhere to find the money and the Council could not raise council tax to cover that cost. The Leader stressed that food waste would be collected weekly and households with special circumstances were able to request additional bins and larger recycling bins could also be requested.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that Council had agreed that, following the Leaders' allocated questions, questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council.

1. Councillor Fielding to Councillor Brownridge

"The number of notifications ward members have been receiving about incomplete refuse collection rounds, particularly green bin waste, seems to have been significantly higher so far this year than in previous years. Can the cabinet member responsible explain why this is and if the source of the problem has been identified, what will be done to address it?"

Councillor Brownridge responded that there had been a problem with bin sensors on the trucks but this had not been corrected. Green waste was a particular issue as the volume varied greatly throughout the year. Tonnages were significantly up on the same period last year which was positive in terms of recycling and the service reviewed the number of vehicles required on a daily basis. When problems arose, the impact was limited as much as it could be and corrected as soon as possible.

2. Councillor Shuttleworth to Councillor Hussain

"There can be no doubt that the metro link system has proven to be the success that many predicted and the 6 minute service that now runs from Shaw & Crompton is an even greater bonus. However, and this question has been asked before, when can we expect double carriages to become the norm as by the time that this service reaches Chadderton South, Hollinwood and Failsworth, it is invariably standing room only?"

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that TfGM currently deployed as many doubles as possible, catering to the highest levels of demand which were seen on the network. When TfGM launched the 6 minute service between Shaw and Crompton and the city centre, this increased capacity from Oldham into the city, which enabled Metrolink to carry more passengers. The vehicles were intended to carry many more passengers than the seated capacity and, in common with all other urban light rail services, standing for all or part of a journey during peak times to

maximise use of vehicle capacity was not unexpected. TfGM monitored all services to ascertain the level of crowding on each vehicle and used the available fleet in double formation where most necessary. TfGM would continue to monitor services on the Oldham Rochdale line for potential double operation in the future.

3. Councillor Brock to Councillor Moores

“I am astounded by the level of loneliness that I have encountered from individuals who contact me regarding issues in my ward and then end the conversation or email saying ' I am lonely, and I have not spoken to anyone for 2 weeks'. The Campaign to End Loneliness confirms that loneliness worse for us than lack of exercise or obesity. Can the relevant Cabinet Member comment on the council's policies which can help to tackle loneliness and what more can be done at District level to help lonely people?”

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, responded that the Council recognised the impact that loneliness could have on people's mental and physical health. There was a body of international research which had shown that social isolation and loneliness could cause, or make worse, a broad range of physical and psychological conditions. The Council commissioned a range of services which sought to reduce the level of social isolation and loneliness in Oldham. These included services provided by Age UK, such as lunch clubs and day care centres. Age UK also had a service call 'Men in Sheds' for men aged over fifty. The Council also supported the Ambition for Ageing programme in Oldham. This programme in Oldham was being led by Age UK Oldham and Action Together and aimed to create more age friendly places by connecting communities and people through the creation of relationships and the development of existing community assets. The emphasis of the work in Alexandra, Failsworth West and Crompton was to make small practical changes within the communities which would help lonely and isolated people participate in their local communities. The learning would be applied across Oldham in the next five years. It also highlighted that the best response to reduce social isolation was to support the development of thriving communities, where people were well connected and supported each other, and where there was a wide range of social activity for people to be involved in. This the main thrust of the Thriving Communities element of the Health and Social Care Locality Plan and highlighted the a pop up café, lunch clubs and a tea dance.

4. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Chadderton

“In the light of the news that certain residents intend to pursue a judicial review in relation to the proposal to develop a new Saddleworth School in Diggle, can the Cabinet member please tell me how long it is anticipated the review will take and how much longer the children of Saddleworth will have to wait before they are able to study at a state of the art modern facility instead

of a building that is crumbling by the day? An finally, by the way, can the Cabinet member tell how much the judicial review will cost the local authority and what impact this will have on education provision in our borough?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years, responded that the Council had submitted its defence to the judicial review. The procedure now was that Save Diggle Action Group's application for permission to apply for judicial review would be determined within three weeks of the expiry of the time limit for filing the acknowledgement of service (i.e. by 18th July 2016). If permission was granted to appeal, the Judicial Review would then be heard on or before 1st November 2016. As part of the Council's application to the High Court, the Council was seeking £7155 costs to pay for Counsel's fees for drafting the Council's defence. The cost of paying for this legal advice was paid for out of the Planning Department's legal advice budget. It has therefore not affected the Education budget of the Council.

5. Councillor Ali to Councillor Moores

"Poor oral health is affecting Children in Oldham. It has been reported hospitals are spending £35M a year on Childrens 'rotting teeth'. There are fears that youngsters sugar addiction is spiraling out of control. What actions are we taking in Oldham to promote good Oral Health?"

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, responded that oral health had an important role in the general health and wellbeing of individuals. Poor oral health could affect the ability of children and young people sleep, eat, speak, play and socialise with other children. The oral health of children under the age of five had been identified as a priority by the Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board had set a challenging target to reduce the prevalence of dental decay in children aged five years from 48% to 38% by 2017/18. An oral health action plan was implemented with high level actions weighted towards tackling the underlying causes of dental disease which included:

- Increasing exposure to fluoride toothpaste,
- Embedding oral health improvement into early years services,
- Establishing a good oral health culture,
- Increasing dentist attendance where preventative treatment can take place,
- Reducing the frequency of consumption of foods and drinks with added sugar.

Public Health had commended the work being done in Oldham. But parents and carers must play their part by developing good habits from an early age. Breastfeeding and healthy eating both have a massive positive impact on oral health. Good oral health must start early.

6. Councillor Toor to Councillor Stretton

“In light of the recent rise in hate crimes, what steps have been taken to protect our residents from this kind of unacceptable behaviour.

Can the leader give us assurance that, as a council, we are fully prepared and working with partners such as Racial Equality Partnership , Greater Manchester Police , Oldham Interfaith Forum to ensure safety and welfare of our residents?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that Oldham Council was working closely with Greater Manchester Police and other community safety and cohesion partners which included the Oldham Race Equality Partnership and the Interfaith Forum and all had well established processes for monitoring hate crimes, hate incidents and community tensions in the borough, which enabled us to respond together in a timely manner should the need arise. A senior police officer had attended a meeting and commented that Oldham was better equipped than most to get people around the table for a meeting if needed. While it appeared that there was a level of fear and anxiety within some sections of the community – particularly Eastern European people since the EU Referendum – there had been no evidence of a significant upsurge in hate crimes or incidents in Oldham. The Council would remain vigilant. It was not acceptable for people to live in fear.

7. Councillor Murphy to Councillor Brownridge

“I am sure that elected members would, where possible, love to preserve the remaining mills in our borough when they have architectural merit as a reminder of our textile heritage. However, the reality is that some of these mills are in such a dilapidated condition that they cannot be saved. In this condition, listed status can make it impossible to carry out demolition to make the site safe, to remove an eyesore and to create space for redevelopment.

The Cabinet member will be aware that this was recently the case with Hartford Mill in Werneth, where demolition has been so protracted.

Could the Cabinet Member please tell me if there are any other mills in the Borough in a similar condition to the Hartford Mill which also cannot be easily demolished because of their listed status and what the Council is doing to ensure that they are demolished in the interests of public safety and in order to build much needed public housing as soon as possible?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that there were five listed mills at varying degrees of risk which included Hartford Mill and Baileys Mill. A lot of the mills were iconic buildings and were linked to Oldham’s historical heritage and would be reluctant to see them all flattened. Some were difficult to convert, but 67% of extant mills were in active use for either residential or commercial purposes. There were a small number at risk and which caused a problem. As part of the Greater Manchester Spatial

Framework (GMSF) the Council would be reviewing all mill buildings in terms of a development strategy for the town.

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



RESOLVED that the questions asked and responses provided be noted.

12

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, INCLUDING THE ATTACHED LIST OF URGENT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, AND TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON ANY ITEMS WITHIN THE MINUTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, AND RECEIVE RESPONSES FROM CABINET MEMBERS

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21st March 2016 and 18th April 2016 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Blyth – Cabinet Meeting, 18th April 2016, pages 21 and 22, Agenda Item 6 – Outcome of Brokerage Services (Encompassing Payroll) Tender – his question related to those brokers who had not met the criteria and would service users be forced to use those providers on the list. Residents were becoming distressed in having to use someone new whom they did not know. Could consideration be given to work with their broker and get on the list over the next 12 months?

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding, responded that the reason for doing this was for good providers to give the best outcomes. She would provide a full answer in the near future.

2. Councillor Harkness, Cabinet Meeting, 21st March 2016, page 15, Agenda Item 10 – Creation of Digital Enterprise Hub in Oldham Town Centre – he drew attention to recent comments at the LGA Conference where up to six additional jobs could be created on top of every digital job created and asked about the development of a specific e-commerce strategy resulting in high skilled jobs in the borough.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, responded that this was largely covered in the Strategic Investment Framework.

3. Councillor Rehman, Cabinet Meeting 21st March 2016, page 14 – Agenda Item 8, Oldham Council Policy for Monitoring, Challenge, Support and Intervention in Schools – he asked about the implementation of the 19 recommendations.

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years, responded that the recommendations were in the process of being implemented and there had been an improvement in Ofsted ratings. When the Commission was set up two years ago, there would not be changed overnight but in 2020 children would be in fundamentally better education. This was not a quick process with a long term review of change.



Members made the following observations:

1. Councillor Turner – Cabinet Meeting, 21st March 2016, Page 18, Item 14 – Business Improvement Grant Schemes for Shaw, Lees and A62 Corridor – Variation to Grant Amounts. She welcomed the enhancements in payments which had made necessary improvements to the shop fronts.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, responded that she was glad she was pleased.

2. Councillor Williams – Cabinet minutes 21st March 2016, page 16, Item 12 – Capital Investment Programme 2015/16. Councillor Williams commented on the work of the capital investment programme and the supported the work of the Cabinet in bringing plans to fruition.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and HR responded that despite the cuts, the Council had a very healthy capital programme. All projects had been delivered on time and on budget and the Council had not borrowed any money to fund the programme.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21st March 2016 and 18th April 2016 be noted.
2. The questions and responses on the Cabinet minutes be noted.
3. The observations and response on the Cabinet minutes be noted.

13

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Shuttleworth MOVED and Councillor A. Alexander SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council wishes to repeat that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in the metropolitan borough of Oldham or elsewhere. We condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. Oldham MBC will continue to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent all forms of racism and xenophobia.

We wish to reassure all people living within the borough that they are valued members of our community.
This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball giving them our unequivocal support in tackling such behaviour.”

AMENDMENT

Councillor Gloster MOVED and Councillor Harkness
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“At the end of the first sentence insert as a second sentence:
“Council believes that everyone should be free to live their lives without fear of abuse or attack on the basis of who they are.”

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph is amended to read: “Racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia and disablism have no place in the metropolitan borough of Oldham or elsewhere. We condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.”

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph to read: “Council believes that hate crimes are particularly corrosive as they strike at the heart of our communities – breaking them down by making people look at one another with suspicion and mistrust.”

Wording in the former second paragraph, now fourth paragraph, to be amended to read: “Oldham MBC will continue to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent all forms of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and disablism.”

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph to read:

“Council notes, with pride, that:

- in December 2014 it resolved to condemn disability hate crimes and to support the work of the Disability Hate Crime Network and the MENCAP Stand by Me campaign and
- in April 2015, Council resolved to support the We Stand Together campaign and to become the first UK local authority to sign the Pledge to Peace. “

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph to read:

“Council recognises that its involvement with all of these initiatives helps to combat prejudice and discrimination and build a more cohesive and peaceful borough.”

The original third and fourth paragraphs (now the seventh and eighth) are then to follow; the wording remaining unchanged. However after “behaviour” insert the following additional wording:

“and requesting that they work with the Council and its local partners to:

1. Challenge prejudice, hate and negative stereotyping.
2. Run activities to celebrate diversity and to highlight the positive contribution that everyone makes in our society.

3. Support a new campaign to encourage the public to report hate crimes and to remind potential, and actual, perpetrators that hate crimes are still against the law and that they are treated very seriously.
4. Create an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion for asylum-seekers and refugees.”

Amended Motion would then read:

This Council wishes to repeat that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Council believes that everyone should be free to live their lives without fear of abuse or attack on the basis of who they are.

Racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia and disablism have no place in the metropolitan borough of Oldham or elsewhere. We condemn these attitudes and the hate crimes that result from them unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Council believes that hate crimes are particularly corrosive as they strike at the heart of our communities – breaking them down by making people look at one another with suspicion and mistrust.

Oldham MBC will continue to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent all forms of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and disablism.

Council notes with pride, that:

- in December 2014 it resolved to condemn disability hate crimes and to support the work of the Disability Hate Crime Network and the MENCAP Stand by Me campaign and
- in April 2015, Council resolved to support the We Stand Together campaign and to become the first UK local authority to sign the Pledge to Peace.

Council recognises that its involvement with all of these initiatives helps to combat prejudice and discrimination and build a more cohesive and peaceful borough.

We wish to reassure all people living within the borough that they are valued members of our community.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball giving them our unequivocal support in tackling such behaviour and requesting that they work with the Council and its local partners to:

1. Challenge prejudice, hate and negative stereotyping
2. Run activities to celebrate diversity and to highlight the positive contribution that everyone makes in our society
3. Support a new campaign to encourage the public to report hate crimes and to remind potential, and actual, perpetrators that hate crimes are still against the law and that they are treated very seriously.
4. Create an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion for asylum-seekers and refugees

Councillor Murphy spoke on the amendment.

The AMENDMENT was MOVED to the VOTE.

Councillor Shuttleworth did not exercise his right of reply.
Councillor Gloster did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, NINE votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with FORTY-FIVE votes cast AGAINST and NO ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Ur-Rehman spoke in support of the motion.
Councillor Bates spoke on the motion.

Councillor Shuttleworth exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball given them our unequivocal support in tackling such behaviour.

Motion 2:

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor S. Bashforth as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Briggs, as Secunder of the Motion, MOVED the motion to the vote.

Councillor S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor Briggs SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes the potential for proliferation across the borough, of residential properties being used as houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). Existing dwelling houses (Planning Use Class C3) can be converted to a HMO (Planning Use Class C4), which provides shared accommodation for three to six unrelated individuals as their only or main residence without the need for planning permission leaving residents and local elected members with no powers to resist or influence them. Concerns have also been expressed by residents and elected members about the steady rise in the number of planning applications for larger scale HMOs which do require planning permission. Concerns expressed include excess noise, parking problems, forests of “To Let” boards and refuse problems. There are also serious and credible concerns regarding the effect on existing settled communities and the radical change to the character of an area together with the impact on local services and amenities HMOs can present. This Council notes

these concerns, as it does the loss of family accommodation through houses and business premises being used in this way. Council instructs officers to establish a robust evidence base outlining the impact of HMOs in order to:-

- Develop a planning policy using existing and possible new policies to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Explore the possibility of introducing a borough-wide Article 4 Direction removing permitted development rights for change of use from C3 dwelling houses to C4 HMOs.
- Develop and introduce additional licencing powers to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Review and strengthen as necessary existing standards of construction, maintenance and management of all types of HMOs.”

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that officers be instructed to establish a robust evidence base outlining the impact of HMOs in order to: -

- Develop a planning policy using existing and possible new policies to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Explore the possibility of introducing a borough-wide Article 4 Direction removing permitted development rights for change of use from C3 dwelling houses to C4 HMOs.
- Develop and introduce additional licensing powers to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Review and strengthen as necessary existing standards of construction, maintenance and management of all types of HMOs.

Motion 3:

Councillor Moores as Mover of the Motion, and Councillor Price as Seconder of the Motion, requested that Council permit the following motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

“In Oldham, more than a third of adults are physically inactive (36.28%) and Oldham was ranked 141st out of 150 local authorities researched in terms of rates of physical activity in 2013. UKActives *Turning The Tide of Inactivity* report estimates that this lack of regular exercise by the Oldham population is estimated to cost the Oldham £53.5million a year.

Physical inactivity is known to be the fourth leading cause of global mortality, and many of the leading causes of ill health in today’s society, such as coronary heart disease, cancer and type 2 Diabetes, could be prevented if more inactive people were to become active.

The *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy* was published in June 2015 and provides the blueprint for

physical activity and sport's contribution to the overall Greater Manchester Strategy. The intended outcomes of the strategy are to:

- Increase levels of participation in physical activity and sport to reduce levels of inactivity
- Increase active travel leading to increased opportunities for walking, cycling and running
- Increase economic output of the sport and physical activity sector

Being physically active should be something we build into our everyday lifestyle from going out for a walk through to playing sport.

Council is therefore asked to;

- Give its support to the *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy*
- Instruct the relevant officers to develop an action plan to detail how the pledges will be developed and implemented in Oldham”

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over to the next Council meeting scheduled on 7th September 2016.

14

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Blyth SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes that:

- Other local authorities across the world, from Leeds in West Yorkshire to Ipswich in Australia, are looking to, or have introduced, a free mobile phone bin app to enable local residents to receive reminders informing them which of their refuse bins should be put out for collection on which date and to notify them of service disruptions and emergency events.
- A survey by Ipswich City Council in Queensland found that the use of such technology reduces the frustration of residents, reduces the amount of rubbish put out in error and not collected, and reduces the costs to the local authority in eliminating the need for an annual recycling calendar print run and mail out
- With the introduction of three-weekly bin collections across the borough such technology has the potential to assist residents to more efficiently self-manage their waste
- Council resolves to ask the relevant Cabinet Member to request that officers look at the merits and costs of introducing such a bin app for the Oldham borough, and to provide an update to elected members on this in due course.”

Councillor Brownridge spoke on the motion.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.



A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, FIFTY-TWO votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with ONE vote cast AGAINST and NO ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the relevant Cabinet Member be asked to request that officers look at the merits and costs of introducing such a bin app for the Oldham Borough, and an update be provided to elected members on this in due course.

Motion 2

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Gloster SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes that:

- The British Pest Control Association (the BPCA) has said that rats are becoming immune to traditional pellets used by homeowners and that the poisons which can be purchased in supermarkets may actually be turning the rodents into ‘super rats’.
- The Chief Executive of BPCA has said, “The rodents have become resistant and, in some cases, immune to off-the-shelf poisons to the point where they’re actually feeding off the toxic pellets, which means their size and strength is increasing.”
- Genetic testing by Huddersfield University has revealed that the rodents have developed a mutation that allows them to survive conventional poisons. In counties such as Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Wiltshire, a Suffolk, and Kent, all the rats tested were found to have immunity to poison.
- Rodents are difficult to kill with poisons because their feeding habits reflect their place as scavengers. Rats will eat a small amount of food and wait, and if they don't get sick, they then continue to eat.

Council further notes that.

- Stronger rodenticides can be more effective, but most are subject to strict legislation and must only be used by professional pest controllers.
- The BPCA is now predicting that rats are likely to seek to enter homes for warmth and food during the winter months
- Rats can squeeze themselves through gaps as small as three-quarters of an inch and are often found living under floorboards, in the walls or in the loft.
- In 2015, rats measuring 50-60 cm (2ft) have been captured in places as far apart as Cornwall, Kent and Liverpool.
- Rats can carry illnesses which can be passed to humans, including Weil’s disease, which has flu-like symptoms initially but can lead to jaundice and kidney failure.
- Rats chew on wood and electrical wires causing significant property damage and posing a fire hazard.

Council believes:

- That rats are a danger to the health and wellbeing of residents

- That the problem of an increasing rat population, which is immune to many standard poisons, must be addressed
- Inexpert use of poison can make the problem worse
Council resolves to:
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to request officers publicise the risk posed by poison resistant rats and offer advice as to how residents can ‘rat proof’ their homes, by for example fitting strips to the bottoms of doors, filling small gaps in exterior walls, repairing roof damage and covering drains to prevent entry via pipes.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three local Members of Parliament asking them to lobby the Government for national action on the problem of super rats”

Councillor Brownridge spoke on the motion.

Councillor Bates spoke on the motion.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. the relevant Cabinet Member(s) be asked to request officers publicise the risk posed by poison resistant rats and offer advice as to how residents can ‘rat proof’ their homes, by for example fitting strips to the bottoms of stairs, filling small gaps in exterior walls, repairing roof damage and covering drains to prevent entry via pipes.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to our three local Members of Parliament asking them to lobby the Government for national action on the problem of super rats.

Motion 3

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes that:

- The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPE) published in June 2016 a report titled ‘Night Blight: Mapping England’s light pollution and dark skies’
- In the report, light pollution refers to artificial light shining where it is ‘neither needed nor wanted’
- Light pollution impacts both upon the quality of life of residents and their ability to see the night sky
- Local Councils spend around £600 million on street lighting a year; yet, where misdirected, much light energy is lost as light pollution

- The report identifies that Oldham has very high levels of light pollution in many of its districts, particularly in the town centre areas.
The report makes a number of recommendations to local Councils to:
 - Implement Government policy to control light pollution, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance
 - Develop policies to control light pollution in local plans, including ensuring that new developments do not increase light pollution
 - Identify highways with severe light pollution and target action to reduce it
 - Develop a Street Lighting Policy, including Environmental Lighting Zones to ensure that appropriate lighting is used in each area
 - Look to the guidance produced by the Institute of Light Professionals and the examples of best practice carried out by UK local authorities in installing LED lighting and dimming lights in rural areas in the early morning
 - Council, being mindful that the reduction of light pollution is a desirable objective, resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Planning Committee to look into the merits and practicalities of adopting these recommendations for the borough.”

Councillor McCann did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, FIFTY-TWO votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 0 votes cast AGAINST and 2 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Planning Committee be asked to look into the merits and practicalities of adopting these recommendations for the borough.

- (a) 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 Partnership meeting and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members.

Minutes of the Partnerships were submitted as follows:

Unity Partnership Board	14 th January 2016
	22 nd March 2016
MioCare	14 th March 2016
Health and Wellbeing Board	1 st March 2016
Oldham Leadership Board	20 th April 2016

There were no questions or observations.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships as detailed in the

report be noted.

- (b) 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.

The minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:

Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority
12th February 2016
18th March 2016

Police and Crime Panel
29th January 2016
29th April 2016

Greater Manchester Combined Authority
26th February 2016
18th March 2016
29th April 2016
27th May 2016

Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive
26th February 2016
29th April 2016
27th May 2016

National Park Authority
5th February 2016
18th March 2016
Transport for Greater Manchester
15th January 2016
11th March 2016

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority
11th February 2016
21st April 2016

There were no questions or observations.

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

15

LIVING WAGE PROPOSALS FROM APRIL 2016

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Health and Wellbeing which recommended that Oldham continued as a Living Wage Employer, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation. In order to achieve this, the Council's pay and grading structure required consideration and approval by full Council.

In 2014, the Council had committed to implement rises in the Living Wage annually starting in April 2015 subject to annual impact assessments which was provided in the report. The Living Wage Foundation announced an increase for 2016. Future assessments would be undertaken following announcements for the determination of impacts and potential costs for each 12 month period. The report took account of the current temporary changes to terms and conditions and the 2016/17 pay award which had now been settled for National Joint Council (NJC) employees.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Align Grade 1 to SCP 12 and begin Grade 2 at SCP 13.

Option 2: Create a local SCP of £8.25 per hour.

RESOLVED that:

1. the changes to the Council's pay and grading structure as outlined in preferred Option 1 (paragraph 3.2 of the report) be approved and pay parity to Agency and Casual Workers engaged by the Council be applied.
2. the report addressed a one year position only which applied from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 be noted.
3. the backdating for those positively affected to 1 April 2017 be noted and this incorporated and not in addition to the 2016 national pay award settlements at this level.
4. the work in progress of the multi-disciplinary task for the preparation of the submission required for phased accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation as outlined at Section 9 of the report be noted.

16

DISTRICT PLANS AND SPENDING GUIDANCE

The Council gave consideration to the report of the Executive Director of Health and Wellbeing which set out the action plans for each of Oldham's seven Districts for the coming 12 months. The actions plans were based on consultation, analysis of data and deliberation by the elected Councillors in each district. The actions plans had been approved by their respective District Executives. It was intended for the priorities to be set on a rolling two year basis, but for action plans to detailed how these priorities would be delivered for one year.

RESOLVED that:

1. the District Plans which had been agreed by each District Executive be formally approved.
2. the associated approach or spending Ward and Member budgets, ensuring this was in line with District Plans be agreed.

17

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Legal Services which informed members of actions that had been

taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the update on actions report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.31 pm



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COUNCIL

Petitions

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Various

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Constitutional Services
Ext. 4705

7th September 2016

Reason for Decision

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

Petitions Received

Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Petition to Secure the River Irk Banking (received 9 August 2016) (53 signatures) (Ref 2016-11)

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council note the petition received.

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Public Document Pack Agenda Item 13

CABINET
27/06/2016 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Stretton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Chadderton, Harrison,
F Hussain, Jabbar and Moores

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**

Three public questions were received from Mr. P Howarth. As Mr. Howarth did not attend the meeting it was agreed that the responses would be sent in writing.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 18th April 2016 be approved as a correct record.

6 **CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVOLUTION ACT 2016**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief Executive which updated the Cabinet on the current legal and governance arrangements for Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) following the implementation of the Cities and Local Government Act in March 2016 and sought approval to delegate authority to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chief Executive to consent to the terms of all orders required.

Options/Alternatives considered

All of the districts need to consent to the draft Orders for Phase 1 and Phase 2. At the time of this report the Authority did not have a draft of the Orders and delegated authority was therefore requested to enable consent to be provided by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to the consent to the terms of all Orders before they are laid in Parliament.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Cabinet noted the Cities and Local Government Act 2016 was now in place and noted the next steps required for implementation of the Greater Manchester devolution deals.
2. Delegated authority be given to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chief Executive of the Council to consent to the terms of all Orders required for implementation of the current devolution deals.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK FOR OLDHAM

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Economic Development which sought approval on the adoption of a Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) for Oldham.

It was reported that the purpose of the SIF was to direct investment and development activity in the short to medium term. It would provide a single document expressing Oldham's economic and investment ambitions

It was further reported that the Council had commissioned and instructed Amion Consulting, an economic and financial advisory business to prepare the SIF.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – That the Cabinet approve the adoption of the Strategic Investment Framework as a general framework for investment across Oldham.

Option 2 – That the Strategic Investment Framework is not approved.

RESOLVED – That the adoption and implementation of the Strategic Investment Framework as a general framework for investment across Oldham, as detailed at appendix one to the report be approved.

OLDHAM WORK AND SKILLS STRATEGY, 2016-20

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Enterprise and Skills which sought approval and adoption of the Oldham Work and Skills Strategy 2016-2020 as a key strategic plan, completing the new regeneration framework for Oldham.

It was reported that the strategy focused upon "social regeneration" objectives for the Borough and was one of the three major components of the new Oldham Strategic Investment Framework, for economic regeneration and to position the Council in the context of Greater Manchester Devolution of employment and skills.

The report provided details of how the strategy would seek to improve population skills outcomes and to inform awareness across the Oldham Partnership of the complexity and multiple challenges facing the employment skills systems. The adoption of 4 strategic goals supported by a new outcomes framework for work and skills was proposed.

- Create Jobs
- Social regeneration and in-work progression
- Deliver the Oldham Education and Skills Commission and improve colleges
- Support a thriving private sector

The strategy also provided the framework for development of the contributions to the learning, skills and employment support system that the Council directly provided or aspired to pilot over the lifetime of the strategy including:

- Aiming to engage over 6,000 residents through the second phase of Get Oldham Working from 2016-20, and to fill over 5,000 jobs and work-related opportunities through the programme

- Investing in a new pilot Oldham Career Advancement Service – an extended information, advice and guidance offer that would seek to help over 400 residents already in work to progress from low pay, low skill jobs during the initial pilot phase

Options/Alternatives

Option 1 – Not to adopt a Work and Skills strategy.

Option 2 – Adopt a Work and Skills Strategy. To assist with positioning the Council in Greater Manchester devolution debates and to ensure delivery of aspirations set out in the Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) for Oldham.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The new Oldham Work and Skills Strategy 2016-20 as a key strategic plan for Oldham Council, as appended to this report adopted and agreed.
2. The funding requirement of £250,000 to finance the pilot career advancement service be met from the Neighbourhoods Place Making reserve.
3. The strategic goals and outcomes framework targets were predicated on continuing mainstream investment in the Get Oldham Working programme at the current (2016/17) levels.
4. Further reports be submitted to Cabinet and partnership bodies on the development and monitoring of the strategy.

9

WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS REPORT

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods which sought approval to reduce to general rubbish collection frequency to a 3 weekly cycle.

It was reported that the Borough's current recycling rate was around 39% and this rate had plateaued whilst other Authorities within Greater Manchester has increased their recycling rates. The Council had been set a levy of £15.897M by the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority in 2016/17 and the Council's levy was estimated to rise to £17.887M in 2017/18. Whilst there was good participation in all recycling services, there was still a significant amount of waste being placed in grey bins which could be recycled and the cost to the Council was £350.58 in 2016/17 for disposal in comparison to a £25 per tonne saving if collected as recyclable material.

There was clear evidence that in order to make a step change in the recycling rate and to make associated savings there were two options to consider.

1. Reduce capacity by decreasing frequency of collections of grey bins
2. Reduce capacity by replacing large grey bins with smaller bins

Members agreed that the implementation of the cycle would initially cause concern for residents of the Borough and therefore a comprehensive communication and engagement plan had been developed and the changes would not be

effective until October 2016 allowing residents to prepare for the cycle changes.

The meeting was also advised there would be some exceptions for example those households with one or more permanent members who had a medical condition or 2 or more children in nappies could be entitled to additional capacity for their general rubbish as long as the households could demonstrate they were recycling all of their recyclable waste.

Option/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Change frequency of collection (3 weekly collection). Residents would experience a change to their collection regime whereby grey bins and recycling bins would be picked up every 3 weeks alternately (i.e. the grey bin would be picked up one week, blue bins the next and brown bins the next). Food & garden waste would remain weekly.

Residents would see a change in their collection arrangements which are arguably simplified over the current system in that a different coloured bin is collected each week with a weekly collection for the green bin.

Benefits - There was strong evidence base to suggest that '3-weekly' would have the impact on tonnages necessary to achieve savings and there had been much less resistance than anticipated where it had been rolled out in other authorities. Residents had adapted their behaviour quickly and '3 weekly' collections have become routine within a few months. The estimated improvement in recycling performance – which can be evidenced - was in the region of 12-15%

Option 2 – Reduced Capacity in general waste bins from 240L to 140L. This approach would require a wholesale replacement of the 240L bins and a capital investment was required for the purchase of new bin stock and the procurement and lead in times would delay implementation until 2017 reducing any efficiencies.

RESOLVED – That the general rubbish collection frequency be reduced to a three week cycle.

10

SHELTERED HOUSING-INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PHOTO VOLTAIC PANELS

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Health and Wellbeing which sought approval to instruct Oldham Retirement Housing Partnership (ORHP) to commence work on phase 2 of the Photo Voltaic (PV) installations across the Council's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) sheltered housing stock.

The report provided details of the deed of variation agreed in July 2013 when it was agreed that ORHP would facilitate PV installations on sheltered housing and the Council would fund the cost of the works itself.

In accordance with the terms of the project agreement between the Council and ORHP, a change notice had been issued and the tender exercise had been carried out by ORHP. Delegated approval was obtained in 2014 to commence a pilot of 2 group schemes and 32 bungalows in July/August 2014 so that electricity generation output assumptions could be verified. The

pilot programme was completed in December 2015, with the results delivering positive outcomes.

It was now proposed to undertake Phase 2 of this programme on 13 sheltered housing group schemes along with certain bungalows.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1- Install systems across all remaining (18) grouped schemes and some 300 bungalows.

Install systems across all remaining (18) grouped schemes and some 300 bungalows.

Five grouped schemes have been ruled out for the following reasons:

- Unsuitable roof type (2)
- Location too shaded (1)
- Unsuitable orientation and pitch (1)
- Limited communal areas that would utilise the electricity generated (1).

At current FiT rates the bungalows generate a negative return of 5.2% and a cash deficit of circa £0.575m.

For the above reasons, this option has been ruled out.

Option 2- Do not go ahead with the scheme. This would not deliver improvements to the properties nor yield any financial return. It was also inconsistent with the Council's environmental objectives.

Option 3- Undertake those group schemes that generate a positive financial return.

RESOLVED: The proposal to instruct Oldham Retirement Housing Partnership to commence work on phase 2 of the programme of Photo Voltaic installations across the Private Finance Initiative 2 sheltered housing stock be approved.

11

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT MARCH 2016

The Cabinet considered a report of the Head of Business Intelligence which provided details of the Council's performance for March 2016.

The report summarised the performance measures and actions and of the rated measures 59% met their target and of the Corporate plan actions 96% were on track or had been completed. The same percentages had been achieved the previous quarter December 2015.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

12

CAMPUS OLDHAM - HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - TENDER ACCEPTANCE REPORT

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods, which sought approval of the award of a civil engineering contract to the contractor of choice for the construction of the Campus Oldham Highway Improvement Project.

The Campus Oldham Highway Improvement Project was an approved scheme within the transport capital programme made up of different funding sources, intended to create an improved

cycle infrastructure leading to town centre retail, amenities and educational facilities whilst also enhancing the overall appearance of the area.

The report provided details of the EU compliant selection process for the construction works.

Option 1 – Agree to appoint the contractor of choice and enable a purchase order for the works value to be raised for the construction of the highway works.

Option 2 – Do not appoint the contractor of choice to undertake the works. The funding available for the project could not be utilised in the timescales set out by which could cause reputational damage to the Council.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the confidential information contained at Item 16 of the agenda before making a decision.

13

UNION STREET WEST FOOTBRIDGE - TENDER ACCEPTANCE REPORT

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods which sought approval for the award of a civil engineering contract to the contractor of choice for the Union Street West Footbridge Enhancement Project following a tender selection process. The aim of the project was to improve pedestrian and cycle infrastructure leading to the Town Centre retail, amenities and educational facilities whilst also enhancing the overall appearance of the area.

The project involved the procurement, tender evaluation and acceptance for improvements to the footbridge parapets, deep cleaning of the structure and minor repair works.

The report provided details of the tender exercise via a mini completion via the Low Value Construction and Highways Service Framework.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Agree to appoint the contractor of choice and enable a purchase order for the value of the works to be raised for the construction of the highway works associated with the Union Street West Footbridge Enhancement Project.

Option 2 – Do not appoint the contractor of choice to undertake the works. The funding available for the project could not be utilised in the timescales set out by which could cause reputational damage to the Council.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the confidential information contained at Item 17 of the agenda before making a decision.

14

CONTRACT AWARDS - SUPPORTED LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND/OR COMPLEX NEEDS 2016

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Health and Wellbeing which sought approval to award contracts for the provision of supported living for adults with learning disabilities and/or complex needs.

It was reported that over the last two years the Council and the clinical commissioning group had been working alongside care providers to develop a supported living outcomes framework to provide a consistent approach to the way in which supported living provision was contracted and focused on the outcomes rather than contracting care providers for inputs and outputs. An open tender exercise commenced in December 2015 and closed 21 January 2016 with 14 tenders received. The moderation process took place between February and March 2016 and it was proposed to award contracts for supported living provision to six care providers, ensuring a balanced market share across the Borough.

The contract duration period was from 1st September 2016 until 31st March 2019.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1- The contracts be awarded to six care providers for a three year period commencing no later than 1st September 2016 to 31st March 2019.

Option 2- Not to approve the contracts and to continue with current arrangements.

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

15

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.

16

CAMPUS OLDHAM - HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - TENDER ACCEPTANCE REPORT

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 16 – Campus Oldham – Highway Improvement Project – Tender Acceptance Report.

RESOLVED – That the contract for the Civil engineering works on the Campus Oldham – Highway Improvement Project be awarded to the preferred bidder as detailed within the report.

17

UNION STREET WEST FOOTBRIDGE - TENDER ACCEPTANCE REPORT

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 17 - Union Street West Footbridge –Tender Acceptance Report.

RESOLVED – That the contract for the Civil engineering works on the Union Street West Footbridge Enhancement Project be awarded to the preferred bidder as detailed within the report.

18

CONTRACT AWARDS - SUPPORTED LIVING FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES AND/OR COMPLEX NEEDS 2016

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 18 - Contract Awards - Supported Living for People with Learning Disabilities and/or Complex Needs 2016 Report.

RESOLVED – That the contract award for the six recommended care providers for a duration period from 1st September 2016 – 31st March 2019 as detailed within the report be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.32pm

Present: Councillor Stretton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Chadderton, F Hussain and
Moores

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harrison
and Councillor Jabbar.

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.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON THE 27TH
JUNE 2016**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June
be approved as a correct record.

6 **2015/16 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance
that advised the Cabinet of the recently approved 2015/16
audited Statement of Accounts and the External Audit (Grant
Thornton) Audit Findings report.

The report was very positive, highlighting:-

- The excellent Audit Findings report, with an unqualified opinion and no material misstatements for the seventh successive year.
- All audit judgements had a green rating and a very positive Value for Money (VFM) opinion.
- The overall financial position for 2015/16, which was a surplus of £0.425m when comparing the revenue budget to the outturn. This was a slight increase in the forecast underspend reported in the last financial monitoring report approved by Cabinet on 21 March 2016.
- The speed of the preparation of the accounts to the high standard set by the Finance Service in previous years.
- The performance of the Finance Team in closing the Council's accounts and its focus on continuous improvement of its processes.

Options/Alternatives considered:

That Cabinet did not note the final accounts, the audit report and the items outlined in the report or refer them on to Council.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet noted the final accounts, the auditor’s reports and the comments in the report, and commended them to Council.

7

TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance, that the Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2015/16. This 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 Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

The report demonstrated full compliance with the reporting requirements and provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities, highlighting compliance with the Council’s policies previously approved by Members.

Actual capital expenditure was less than the revised budget estimate, due primarily to delays in both start and development of some of the capital schemes that were expected to progress during the year. The planned expenditure had therefore slipped into 2016/17. No borrowing was undertaken during the year. This was because of the policy of self-financing which was employed due to the uncertainty around interest rates and the availability of cash which caused the Council to use cash reserves rather than incur additional borrowing costs.

The Director of Finance also confirmed that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached.

The financial year 2015/16 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

Options/Alternatives considered:
No options/alternatives were presented.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet agreed to:

- 1) Approve the actual 2015/16 prudential and treasury indicators in this report
- 2) Approve the annual treasury management report for 2015/16
- 3) Commend this report to Council

8

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME ADMITTED BODIES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance that set out a proposal for engagement with external bodies that were applying to join the Local Government Pension Scheme as an Admitted Body backed by a Council guarantee.

Working in partnership with private and third sector organisations could lead to the transfer of former and current Council employees from one organisation to another. The transfer of responsibilities for undertaking particular services could also give rise to employee transfers. To ensure transferring employees could remain a member of the Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS), their new employer must apply to become an Admitted Body (A scheme employer in the LGPS) and specific arrangements with regard to Admitted Bodies could leave the Council bearing additional risks. This report highlighted those risks and proposed an approach for engaging with those organisations seeking admitted body status.

Options/Alternatives considered:-

1. Adopt a default position of operating non-pooled arrangements on a closed scheme basis.
2. If was appropriate to seek different terms, the rationale for agreeing them would be disclosed as part of the business case for entering into the arrangement. The decision to approve such specific individual pension fund transfer and/or pooling arrangements would be approved by either Cabinet or the appropriate Cabinet Member where the decision has been delegated, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Finance and HR.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet agreed to:

- 1) Approve as default, the position of operating non-pooled arrangements on a closed scheme basis for engaging with organisations (or their associates) that were seeking Admitted Body status;
- 2) Approve the flexibility to depart from this default in circumstances where there were clear statutory, policy, service or value for money grounds for an alternative decision;
- 3) Approve the measures to limit the Council's liabilities which may arise from pension strain costs or default by the Admitted Body;
- 4) Approve that the pension arrangements which would accompany and apply to TUPE transfers, should be the subject of consultation with the recognised trade unions on a case by case basis.

9

LA POLICY ON ACADEMY CONVERSION AND GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Education and Early Years seeking approval for the policy and its application in all cases where maintained schools convert to academy status. The Council currently had no policy or guidance on managing the implications and risks associated with Academy conversion.

The recommended policy on conversions outlined the criteria the LA should insist on for any sponsor hoping to run a school

within Oldham, which included working in partnership with the LA and working with the Oldham Education and Skills Commission to develop and improve the education offer for parents, young people and the community.



The principle issues in relation to conversion were: the transfer of staff; transfer of land; and transfer of Assets and Contracts. These matters were dealt with in two main documents, a Commercial Transfer Agreement (CTA) and Lease Agreement, together with supporting ancillary documentation, although it was noted that conversion could take place even if these agreements were not concluded. The suggested policy on Academy Conversion was clear that these agreements must be in place and agreed by the LA before any conversion could take place.

The advantage to the LA in completing these agreements was that the interests of the LA could be protected as much as possible. If a lease agreement was not concluded, the Secretary of State could direct a form of disposal of the land under their powers under the Act. This could result in terms less favourable to the LA than those contained within the Lease Agreement. The Commercial Transfer Agreement contained certain indemnities and warranties that protected the LA against certain future liabilities. If the agreement was not concluded, the LA would not have the benefit of these. The agreements provided clarity and certainty with regard to the obligations between the parties.

The report also recommended that authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education to amend the policy as and when required by changes to primary legislation and that authority be delegated to the Director of Education and Early Years, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, to authorise the completion and execution of the necessary agreements required for future academy conversions.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- to continue to manage each conversion separately without an approved set of criteria, or
- adopt a singular approach to conversion by reference to an approved policy which outlined the LA's expectations with regard to preferred sponsors, expectations placed upon those sponsors and clear written agreements covering all aspects of capital works, finance, leases, warranties and liabilities.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet agreed that:

- 1) The policy and guidance be approved for distribution to all maintained schools within the borough

- 2) The authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Education to amend the policy as and when required by changes to primary legislation
- 3) The authority be delegated to the Director of Education and Early Years, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education, to authorise the completion and execution of the necessary agreements required for future academy conversions.

10

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Planning and Information Team Leader that provided an update on the Council's Local Development Scheme (LDS).

The Cabinet was informed that the Council had to prepare a Local Plan to provide a comprehensive planning framework to support the Borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was the project plan for the Local Plan. It set out details and timetables about the planning documents the Council would prepare, including:

- The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework; and
- Oldham's Local Plan (incorporating site allocations).

Following enactment of relevant parts of the Localism Act relating to planning matters (effective from 15 January) the Council was no longer required to seek the Secretary of State's approval for changes to the LDS; they only needed to be notified them of any changes that had been made.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- a. Option 1 – To update the LDS.
 - Advantages – updating the LDS meant that people would have certainty over the timetable for preparing planning documents; National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) on Local Plans stated that the LDS must be kept up to date.
 - Disadvantages – there were no disadvantages to updating the LDS.
- b. Option 2 – Not to update the LDS.
 - Advantages – there were no advantages in not updating the LDS.
 - Disadvantages – not approving the LDS meant that people would have less certainty and confidence in planning documents coming forward; not updating the LDS meant the Council would not be in line with Government guidance.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet agreed that:

- 1) The revisions to the LDS be approved and
- 2) The LDS would have effect from 26 July 2016.

11

PROCUREMENT EXERCISE FOR THE SUPPLY OF WASTE CONTAINERS (WASTE MANAGEMENT)

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Economy, Skills & Neighbourhoods seeking authority to award a 3-year contract for the ongoing supply of plastic waste containers.

It was noted that Oldham Council currently delivered an average of 14,000-16,000 rubbish and recycling bins annually to households across the borough and the change in collections was expected to lead to an increase in demand. This contract would put in place measures to meet that demand.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- To award the contract to MGB Straights. This option was within budget and would ensure continuity of the provision of goods.
- To not award the contract. This option would leave the Council with no formal contract in place, prompting a new procurement exercise. This would increase the timescales in implementing a formal contract, leaving the Council open to risk

RESOLVED – That Cabinet agreed that a three-year contract be awarded to MGB Straight.

12

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) TRANSPORT SERVICES

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Economy, Skills & Neighbourhoods that advised on the procedure undertaken with regards to the Home to School Transport Tender, with routes to commence on the 1st September 2016.

Transport was currently provided to approximately 500 pupils with special educational needs across the borough, who were eligible for transport between home and school. The service operated over 190 school days as determined by the Pupil Holiday Pattern published by People Communities and Society, taking into account other occasional days determined by individual schools' governing bodies. Many pupils with SEN were provided with free home to school transport in accordance with the Council's Home to School/College Transport Policy.

The report provided details of the EU-compliant selection process and the outcomes.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- a. Option 1 – To award 58 contracts to those who were successful via the online submissions and approach the incumbent supplier to continue undertaking the routes that could not be awarded at the same price over the



contract period. If this was not possible, three quotations would be obtained for the 12 routes that could not be awarded. This would;

- Provide a continuation of the service from September 2016.
- Offer a saving on the current spend for these contracts with the exception of the 12 routes which will either be undertaken by the current contractor at the same rate currently being paid, or with the supplier who gives the cheapest quotation.

b. Option 2 – Not to award the 58 routes and re tender in an attempt to be able to award all contracts via the tendering process. This would;

- Allow the 12 routes not allocated via the tendering process to possibly be allocated to another contractor.
- Not allow sufficient time for contracts to be allocated in time for the commencement in September 2016.

c. Option 3 – To award all contracts that could be allocated via the tender and retender the unallocated route. This would:

- Allow the award of the evaluated contracts providing a continuation of the service in September 2016.
- Put the unallocated route at risk of not being filled by the commencement date of September 2014.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet would consider the confidential information contained at Item 15 of the agenda before making a decision.

13

SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY AND/OR COMPLEX BEHAVIOUR

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Health & Wellbeing which set out proposals for the Council to develop a specialist supported housing scheme for adults with learning disabilities and/ or complex behaviour. Cabinet approval was sought to make use of Housing Revenue Account resources to build approximately 20 supported homes and, in addition, bid for Homes and Communities Agency funding to contribute towards the capital cost.

In 2014 a joint strategic needs assessment had identified that individuals with learning disabilities and complex needs and their families felt that they had a lack of housing choices available to them in the borough. In particular, there was a demand for supported independent living accommodation with access to some form of shared communal facilities. A review of the use of corporate property by Adult Social Care services in November 2015 highlighted that some of the Council's existing assets, currently used by Adult Social Care, could be better used to meet future service demands and needs.

Subject to Homes and Communities Agency funding, it was proposed to procure a registered provider of social housing to construct and manage on behalf of the Council this new specialist supported housing. The Council would also work with Miocare as the council-owned provider of services to adults with learning disabilities and/or complex behaviours, to develop the service delivery model.

Subject to gaining all the necessary approvals, funding and a compliant tender exercise, the new development could begin in late 2017.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- a. Option 1- Do Nothing
 - There was a need for specialist supported housing for adults with learning disabilities in the borough which would not be met.
- b. Option 2- Find alternative site
 - Whilst possible, this would lead to further delays and potentially increased costs and impact negatively on the planned approach. It would mean that the Council would be unlikely to meet the Homes and Communities Agency deadlines.
- c. Option 3- Support the recommendations
 - Support the submission of a bid to the Homes and Communities Agency towards the capital costs of the supported housing and the use of Housing Revenue Account funding to develop new supported housing for adults with a learning disability and/or complex behavior having sought approval to appropriate the land for an alternative use. This proposal provides an opportunity to make improved use of the site as it will be redeveloped as specialist supported housing.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet would consider the confidential information contained at Item 16 of the agenda before making a decision.

14

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.

15

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 15 – Special Educational Needs (SEN) Transport Service.

RESOLVED – That the contracts for the provision of Home to School Transport be awarded to the preferred bidders as detailed within the report.



Oldham
Council

16

SUPPORTED HOUSING FOR ADULTS WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY AND/OR COMPLEX BEHAVIOUR

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 16 - Supported Housing for Adults with a Learning Disability and/or Complex Behaviour.

RESOLVED – That all of the recommendations in the report be agreed.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.18 pm

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Peak District National Park Authority

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Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire. DE45 1AE



MINUTES

Meeting: National Park Authority

Date: Friday 27 May 2016 at 10.00 am

Venue: The Board Room, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell

Chair: Cllr Mrs L C Roberts

Present: Mr P Ancell, Mrs P Anderson, Mrs F Beatty, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr P Brady, Cllr C Carr, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr A R Favell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr D Greenhalgh, Mr Z Hamid, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr H Laws, Cllr Mrs C Howe, Ms S Leckie, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke, Cllr A McCloy, Ms S McGuire, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Mrs E Sayer, Cllr Mrs N Turner, Cllr Mrs J A Twigg, Cllr F J Walton, Cllr D Williams, Cllr N Gibson and Cllr A Hart

Apologies for absence: Cllr J Macrae.

15/16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed two new Members to their first meeting of the Authority:

- Cllr Neale Gibson of Sheffield City Council, replacing Cllr G Weatherall
- Cllr Andrew Hart of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, replacing Cllr Mrs N Hawkins.

The Chair read out a message to all Members from Cllr Mrs Hawkins and warmly thanked the former Member for her important contribution to the work of the Authority. Members were encouraged to maintain contact. Cllr Mrs K Potter also paid her personal tribute to Cllr Mrs Hawkins.

The Chair welcomed Mr J Lambert, Chair of Friends of the Peak District (FoPD), who gave a short talk on what the FoPD sees as the big issues facing the Authority in the coming year. He hoped that the Authority would find FoPD helpful as a critical friend and the Chair thanked the organisation for its passion and commitment to the welfare of the Peak District.

16/16 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 18 MARCH 2016

The minutes of the last Authority meeting on 18 March 2016 were approved as a correct record.

17/16 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business to consider.

18/16 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs K Potter declared a personal interest as a member of FoPD and CPRE in relation to the talk given by Mr J Lambert at the start of the meeting.

19/16 PERFORMANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17 (A197/RMM)

Emily Fox, the new Head of Strategy and Performance and Sarah Newton, Performance Officer joined the meeting for this item.

The Director of Corporate Strategy and Development thanked Sarah Newton for her support during the absence of another member of staff. She also thanked the Leadership Team and all staff for their work in preparation of the draft Performance and Business Plan.

The Director drew attention to the table at paragraph 9 which set out the “Look Back/ Look Forward” elements of the 2016-17 Plan and reported feedback from the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee of 20 May re appendices 3, 5 and 6, noting that 6 annexes will be added to the Plan by the end of June 2016.

The Chair of the Audit, Resources and Performance Committee thanked officers for preparing the draft Plan in limited time and moved the recommendations.

Officers noted Members’ detailed comments which would be discussed by the Leadership Team. Members welcomed the addition of text into the RAG (Red/Amber/Green) status column.

The motion to approve the recommendations was seconded, voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the priority focus for the 2016-17 Performance and Business Plan as reflected in the proposed Priority Actions in Appendix 4 be approved.**
- 2. That the overall structure and content of the 2016-17 Performance and Business Plan as described in the table at paragraph 9 and accompanying Appendices be approved.**
- 3. That completion of details be delegated to the Chief Executive, to allow publication by the statutory deadline of 30 June 2016.**

A break was taken between 11.10am and 11.25am.

20/16 PROPOSALS FOR INVESTING IN DELIVERY OF THE AUTHORITY’S CORPORATE STRATEGY 2016/19 (SF)

The Chief Executive introduced the report, noting that in line with advice from the Chief Finance Officer the Authority would continue to operate in a “prudent” manner to ensure maintenance of a balanced budget to 2019-20.

Members were asked to support the investment proposals, leaving the detail of allocations to the Leadership Team and Chief Finance Officer. Members would be fully updated on this work in the Autumn 2016 Strategic Finance Workshops. The Chair of

Audit, Resource and Performance (ARP) Committee assured Members of ongoing scrutiny of the proposals by ARP and the Budget Monitoring Group.

Members wanted communities outside the National Park to be included in the programme for change on improving how the Authority works with and enables communities to support the special qualities.

RESOLVED:

That:

- 1. Members endorse the approach taken to identify opportunities for investment to support delivery of the Corporate Strategy 2016-19.**
- 2. Members support the investment proposal framework outlined in tables 3, 4 and 5 and delegate the detail of the allocation and phasing of this into budgets to the Leadership Team, working with the Chief Finance Officer, for 2016/17 and note that the investment from 2017/18 onwards will be incorporated in the annual budget reporting round.**

The meeting ended at 12.25 pm

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE, HELD ON 10
JUNE 2016**

PRESENT

Councillor Guy Harkin	Bolton
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley	Bury
Councillor Jamie Walker	Bury
Councillor Azra Ali	Manchester
Councillor Andrew Fender	Manchester (in the Chair)
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester
Councillor Dzidra Noor	Manchester
Councillor Chris Paul	Manchester
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham
Councillor James Larkin	Oldham
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale
Councillor Ian Duckworth	Rochdale
Councillor Shah Wazir	Rochdale
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford
Councillor Geoff Abell	Stockport
Councillor Annette Finnie	Stockport
Councillor Tom Grundy	Stockport
Councillor John Taylor	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside
Councillor Michael Cordingley	Trafford
Councillor David Hopps	Trafford
Councillor June Reilly	Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred	Wigan
Councillor James Grundy	Wigan
Councillor Lynne Holland	Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Morris Chief Operations Officer, TfGM

Steve Warrener	Finance and Corporate Services Director, TfGM
Simon Warburton	Interim Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
Peter Cushing	Metrolink Director, TfGM
Michael Renshaw	Executive Director, TfGM
Amanda White	Head of Rail, TfGM
Robert Fickling	Rail Team, TfGM
Rodney Lund	Monitoring Officer
Paul Harris	GMIST

TfGMC16/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors David Chadwick (Bolton) and Peter Robinson (Tameside).

TfGMC16/02 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF TfGMC FOR 2016/17

Nominations were sought for the appointment of Chair of TfGMC for 2016/17.

A nomination for the appointment of Councillor Andrew Fender as Chair of TfGMC was moved and seconded.

Resolved/-

That Councillor Andrew Fender be re-appointed as the Chair of TfGMC for the 2016/17 municipal year.

COUNCILLOR FENDER IN THE CHAIR

TfGMC16/03 APPOINTMENT OF THREE VICE CHAIRS 2016/17

The Chair sought three nominations for the positions of Vice Chair of TfGMC for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Nominations were received for Councillors Mark Aldred, Doreen Dickinson and Guy Harkin. These nominations were moved and seconded.

Resolved/-

That Councillors Mark Aldred, Doreen Dickinson and Guy Harkin each be appointed as a Vice Chair of the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

TfGMC16/04 WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND A VOTE OF THANKS TO RETIRING MEMBERS

The Chair referred to the following changes to the membership of the

Committee for 2016/17:-

<u>District</u>	<u>New Members</u>	<u>Retiring Members</u>
Bury	Cllr Jamie Walker (Lab)	Cllr Joan Grimshaw (Lab)
Oldham	Cllr James Larkin (Lab)	Cllr David Hibbert (Lab)
Rochdale	Cllr Shah Wazir (Lab)	Cllr Shakil Ahmed (Lab)
Stockport	Cllr Cllr Annette Finnie (Con)	Cllr Dean Fitzpatrick (Lab)
	Cllr Tom Grundy (Lab)	Cllr Iain Roberts (Lib Dem)
	Cllr John Taylor (Lab)	Cllr Syd Lloyd (Con)
Trafford	Cllr David Hopps (Con)	Cllr Rob Chilton (Con)

Resolved/-

1. To welcome Councillors Finnie, Tom Grundy, Hopps, Larkin, Taylor, Walker and Wazir as new Members on TfGMC.
2. To place on record the Committee's thanks to retiring TfGMC Councillors Ahmed, Chilton, Fitzpatrick, Grimshaw, Hibbert, Lloyd and Roberts.

TfGMC16/05 MINUTES OF THE 2014 ANNUAL MEETING

The Minutes of the proceedings of the 2014 Annual Meeting of the TfGMC, held on 20 June 2014, were submitted.

Resolved/-

That the Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual Meeting of TfGMC, held on 20 June 2014, be approved as a correct record.

TfGMC16/06 TfGMC RULES OF PROCEDURE

Members considered the Rules of Procedure for TfGMC, as set out in Section 2 of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Operating Agreement.

Resolved/-

That the Rules of Procedure for TfGMC, as set out in Section 2 of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Operating Agreement, be noted.

TfGMC16/07 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SUB COMMITTEES OF THE TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE

Members considered the Terms of Reference for the Capital Projects and Policy, the Bus Network and TfGM Services, and the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committees.

Resolved/-

1. That the Terms of Reference for the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee be approved, as set out in the report.
2. That the Terms of Reference for the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee be approved, as set out in the report.
3. That the Terms of Reference for Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee be approved, as set out in the report.

TfGMC16/08 SUB COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS FOR 2016/17 AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THREE CHAIRS AND DEPUTY CHAIRS OF SUB COMMITTEES

Consideration was given to the appointment of the Chair and Deputy Chair and Members of each of Capital Projects and Policy, the Bus Network and TfGM Services, and the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committees.

Resolved/-

That the membership to Sub Committees for 2016/17 be approved as follows:-

(a) Capital Projects & Policy; (15 Members) 10 Lab, 4 Con, 1 LD

Cllr Michael Cordingley	Lab	(Trafford)
Cllr Doreen Dickinson	Con	(Tameside)
Cllr Andrew Fender	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr Annette Finnie	Con	(Stockport)
Cllr Robin Garrido	Con	(Salford)
Cllr Guy Harkin (Chair)	Lab	(Bolton)
Cllr David Hopps	Con	(Trafford)
Cllr Roger Jones	Lab	(Salford)
Cllr James Larkin	Lab	(Oldham)
Cllr Peter Robinson	Lab	(Tameside)
Cllr Eunice Smethurst (Deputy Chair)	Lab	(Wigan)
Cllr Howard Sykes	LD	(Oldham)
Cllr John Taylor	Lab	(Stockport)
Cllr Jamie Walker	Lab	(Bury)
Cllr Shah Wazir	Lab	(Rochdale)

Substitutes:

Cllr Geoff Abell	LD	(Stockport)
Cllr Noel Bayley	Lab	(Bury)
Cllr Warren Bray	Lab	(Tameside)
Cllr Norman Briggs	Lab	(Oldham)
Cllr Stuart Haslam	Con	(Stockport)
Cllr Lynne Holland	Lab	(Wigan)
Cllr Chris Paul	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr June Reilly	Con	(Trafford)

(b) Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee (13 members) - 9 Lab, 3 Con, 1 LD

Cllr Mark Aldred (Chair)	Lab	(Wigan)
Cllr Noel Bayley	Lab	(Bury)
Cllr Warren Bray	Lab	(Tameside)
Cllr Phil Burke	Lab	(Rochdale)
Cllr David Chadwick	Lab	(Bolton)
Cllr Robin Garrido	Con	(Salford)
Cllr James Grundy	Con	(Wigan)
Cllr Tom Grundy	Lab	(Stockport)
Cllr Naeem Hassan	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr Chris Paul	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr June Reilly	Con	(Trafford)
Cllr Howard Sykes	LD	(Oldham)
Cllr Barry Warner (Deputy Chair)	Lab	(Salford)

Substitutes:

Cllr Geoff Abell	LD	(Stockport)
Cllr Azra Ali	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr Ian Duckworth	Con	(Rochdale)
Cllr Andrew Fender	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr Annette Finnie	Con	(Stockport)
Cllr Guy Harkin	Lab	(Bolton)
Cllr James Larkin	Lab	(Oldham)

(c) Metrolink & Rail Networks. (13 members) - 9 Lab, 3 Con, 1 LD.

Cllr Geoff Abell	LD	(Stockport)
Cllr Azra Ali	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr Norman Briggs	Lab	(Oldham)
Cllr David Chadwick	Lab	(Bolton)
Cllr Michael Cordingley	Lab	(Trafford)
Cllr Doreen Dickinson (Chair)	Con	(Tameside)
Cllr Ian Duckworth	Con	(Rochdale)
Cllr Tom Grundy	Lab	(Stockport)
Cllr Stuart Haslam	Con	(Bolton)
Cllr Lynne Holland (Deputy Chair)	Lab	(Wigan)
Cllr Roger Jones	Lab	(Salford)
Cllr Dzidra Noor	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr Peter Robinson	Lab	(Tameside)

Substitutes:

Cllr James Grundy	Con	(Wigan)
Cllr Naeem Hassan	Lab	(Manchester)
Cllr David Hopps	Con	(Trafford)
Cllr Eunice Smethurst	Lab	(Wigan)
Cllr Howard Sykes	LD	(Oldham)
Cllr Jamie Walker	Lab	(Bury)
Cllr Barry Warner	Lab	(Salford)

Members considered the Programme of TfGMC and Sub Committee meetings for 2016/17.

Resolved/-

That the following programme of meetings be agreed for 2016/17:-

(a) Transport for Greater Manchester Committee

- Friday 10 June 2016 (AGM)
- Friday 15 July 2016
- Friday 16 September 2016
- Friday 11 November 2016
- Friday 13 January 2017
- Friday 17 March 2017
- Friday 16 June 2017 (AGM)

(b) Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee

- Friday 24 June 2016 **(2.00 pm)**
- Friday 14 October 2016
- Friday 2 December 2016
- Friday 10 February 2017
- Friday 24 March 2017
- Friday 21 April 2017

(c) Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee

- Friday 8 July 2016
- Friday 7 October 2016
- Friday 18 November 2016
- Friday 20 January 2017
- Friday 10 March 2017
- Friday 28 April 2017

(d) Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee:

- Friday 24 June 2016
- Friday 9 September 2016
- Friday 21 October 2016
- Friday 9 December 2016
- Friday 3 February 2017
- Friday 7 April 2017

TfGMC16/10 APPOINTMENT OF TfGMC CYCLING CHAMPION

The Committee received a report that set out the Terms of Reference for a TfGMC Cycling Champion and sought a Member nomination for this role. A nomination of Councillor Chris Paul was moved and seconded.

Resolved/-

1. That the Terms of Reference for a TfGMC Cycling Champion be noted.
2. That Councillor Chris Paul be re-appointed as the TfGMC Cycling Champion for 2016/17.

TfGMC16/11 NOMINATIONS TO EXTERNAL BODIES 2016/17

Members were asked to consider the following appointments to external bodies for 2016/17:-

(a) The City Regions Transport Special Interest Group of the LGA

Resolved/-

That Councillors Andrew Fender, Guy Harkin and Robin Garrido be appointed to City Regions Transport Special Interest Group (SIG) for 2016/17.

(b) Greater Manchester Low Carbon Hub Board

Members considered a TfGMC nomination to become a Member of the GM Low Carbon Hub Board for 2016/17

A nomination of Councillor Eunice Smethurst was moved and seconded.

Resolved/-

That Councillor Eunice Smethurst be appointed to the GM Low Carbon Hub Board for 2016/17.

(c) Greater Manchester Museum of Transport Advisory Panel

The Committee considered nominations to the Greater Manchester Museum of Transport Advisory Panel.

Resolved/-

That Councillors Norman Briggs, Robin Garrido, Lynne Holland and Eunice Smethurst be appointed to the Greater Manchester Museum of Transport Advisory Panel for 2016/17.

(d) Ring and Ride Community Forum (previously Steering Groups)

Members considered the following appointments to the Ring and Ride Community Forum for 2016/17:-

Bolton	Councillor David Chadwick
Bury	Councillor Noel Bayley
Manchester	Councillor Naeem Hassan
Oldham	Councillor Norman Briggs
Rochdale	Councillor Phil Burke
Salford	Councillor Barry Warner
Stockport	Councillor John Taylor
Tameside	Councillor Warren Bray
Trafford	Councillor Michael Cordingley
Wigan	Councillor Eunice Smethurst

Resolved/-

That the appointments to the Ring and Ride Community Forums for 2016/17 be approved as set out in the preamble above.

(e) Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)

Resolved/-

That Councillor Chris Paul be appointed as the TfGMC representative to the CLES Board for 2016/17.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE, HELD ON 10
JUNE 2016**

PRESENT

Councillor Guy Harkin	Bolton
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley	Bury
Councillor Jamie Walker	Bury
Councillor Azra Ali	Manchester
Councillor Andrew Fender	Manchester (in the Chair)
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester
Councillor Dzidra Noor	Manchester
Councillor Chris Paul	Manchester
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham
Councillor James Larkin	Oldham
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale
Councillor Ian Duckworth	Rochdale
Councillor Shah Wazir	Rochdale
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford
Councillor Geoff Abell	Stockport
Councillor Annette Finnie	Stockport
Councillor Tom Grundy	Stockport
Councillor John Taylor	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside
Councillor Michael Cordingley	Trafford
Councillor David Hopps	Trafford
Councillor June Reilly	Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred	Wigan
Councillor James Grundy	Wigan
Councillor Lynne Holland	Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Morris	Chief Operations Officer, TfGM
Steve Warrener	Finance and Corporate Services Director, TfGM
Peter Cushing	Metrolink Director
Michael Renshaw	Executive Director, TfGM
Simon Warburton	Interim Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
Amanda White	Head of Rail, TfGM
Robert Fickling	Rail Team, TfGM
Rodney Lund	Monitoring Officer
Paul Harris	GMIST

TfGMC16/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors David Chadwick (Bolton) and Peter Robinson (Tameside).

TfGMC16/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member of the Committee in relation to any item on the agenda.

TfGMC16/14 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

TfGMC16/15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 11 March 2016 were submitted.

Resolved/-

To approve the minutes of the TfGMC meeting held on 11 March 2016 as a correct record.

TfGMC16/16 MINUTES FROM SUB COMMITTEES

a. Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee - 8 April 2016

The Minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting, held on 8 April 2016 were submitted.

Resolved/-

To note the Minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting, held on 8 April 2016.

b. Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee – 15 April 2016

The Minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting held on 15 April 2016 were submitted.

Resolved/-

To note the Minutes of the proceedings of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting, held on 15 April 2016.

c. Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee – 22 April 2016

The Minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting, held on 22 April 2016 were submitted.

A Member commented that at the next meeting of the Sub Committee and report was to be submitted regarding bus services in Boothstown.

Resolved/-

To note the Minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee meeting held on 22 April 2016 and that Councillor Howard Sykes would be included in to the list of those Members present.

TfGMC16/17 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.

With regard to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF), Members welcomed an announcement that TfGM has secured addition funding of £2.5 million and noted that such would be used to help fund the ongoing travel choices works, including the access to employment initiative, for a further twelve months.

Resolved/-

- 1) To note the Forward Look.

TfGMC16/18 METROLINK PARK AND RIDE: OVERNIGHT PARKING TRIAL

A report was presented which provided Members with information on the background to the overnight parking trial at the Metrolink Park and Ride sites set out in the report, and gave a summary of the usage and the results of the customer survey which launched in March 2016.

Members noted that the trial undertaken meant that customers could leave their vehicle at a Metrolink Park and Ride site overnight on a Friday or a Saturday and

remove their vehicle before 12 noon the following day. It was also noted that overnight parking on Sundays would impact on commuter parking on a Monday and for this reason were not included in the scope of the scheme.

Resolved/-

- 1) To note the update on the progress made with the overnight parking trial at park and ride sites set out in the report.
- 2) to agree that overnight parking be permitted at those Metrolink Park and Ride sites identified in the report.
- 3) To instruct officers to undertake further work to develop and implement the initiative on a permanent basis, subject to a periodic review.

TfGMC16/19 BUS SERVICES BILL

Consideration was given to a report which summarised the provisions of the Bus Services Bill which had been recently published in Parliament. Members noted that the current Greater Manchester bus market presented limited commercial competition and attracted significant public revenue support. The Bus Bill would give those Combined Authority areas with directly elected mayors the power to introduce bus franchising. Details of ticketing, open data and the legislative programme were also noted.

With regard to engagement, it was noted that discussions were continuing with bus companies and that a Parliamentary event was to take place.

Resolved/-

- 1) To welcome the Bus Services Bill.
- 2) To instruct officers to continue to work to ensure that the Bus Services Bill can deliver the practicable tools required to fulfil Greater Manchester's transport objectives.
- 3) To request that a further report on the progress of the Bill as it passes through Parliament.

TfGMC16/20 DEFINING A RAIL PLAN IN 2016

Members received a report which provided an introduction to the ten year TfGM Rail Plan, the rationale for revising the plan and an insight in to the consultation methods which will be used throughout the course of the study.

Resolved/-

- 1) To note the report and approve the proposed consultation methods and timescale, as set out in the report.
- 2) To agree the review of station patronage and connectivity to local rail services be addressed on the new Rail Plan.
- 3) To agree that partners from across the transport sector be included in the key stakeholder consultation.

TfGMC16/21 RAIL FRANCHISE UPDATE

A report was presented which provided an update on the new Northern and TransPennine Express rail franchises, including committed service changes, and set out the timetable change process.

A summary of indicative timetable changes was tabled. Members noted that further details of timetables would be known during upcoming discussions with operators. A Member highlighted the potential complexities in the management of off only rail services, should they be introduced.

A Member noted that rail services would still not be stopping at Trafford Park Station on Sundays despite the demand for it to do so when events are taking place at Manchester United Football Club and Lancashire County Cricket Ground.

A Member suggested the introduction of Sunday services to Rose Hill and Marple.

Resolved/-

To note the report.

TfGMC16/22 METROLINK SERVICE CHANGES:SUMMER 2016

Consideration was given to a report which provided Members with details of the Metrolink service changes, alternative travel offer and campaign during the construction of St Peter's Square Metrolink Stop and the Eccles line track renewals programme.

Resolved/-

To note the report.

TfGMC16/23 DRAFT 2040 TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Members received a report which provided Members with an update on the preparation of a draft 2040 Transport Strategy. A presentation was also provided which set out an overview and vision of the strategy, strategic principles and priorities, challenges and interventions and strategy delivery.

Resolved/-

- 1) 1) To note the contents of the report and the attached draft strategy document.
- 2) To note that the document is being finalised at present to reflect final comments received by Greater Manchester districts, as requested by GM Combined Authority, and the provisions of the Bus Services Bill, which has recently been published by Government.
- 3) To note that it is intended to undertake a public consultation on the draft Strategy this summer, prior to preparing a final Strategy and Delivery Plan in the Autumn.

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY, HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016 AT GUARDSMAN TONY DOWNES HOUSE, DROYLSDEN

MEMBERS PRESENT-

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Rishi Shori
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Sue Murphy
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jean Stretton
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Howard Bernstein	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Joanne Hyde	Trafford Council
Donna Hall	Wigan Council

Peter O'Reilly	Chief Fire Officer, GM Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Hopkins	Chief Constable, GM Police
Jon Lamonte	Chief Executive, TfGM
Mark Hughes	Manchester Growth Company
Simon Nokes	New Economy
Adam Allen	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Clare Regan	Office of the GM Interim Mayor
Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Head of the Paid Service
Julie Connor	Head of GMIST
Sylvia Welsh) Greater Manchester
Paul Harris) Integrated Support Team
Ross MacRae	GMCA Media Lead

89/16 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Donna Hall, GMCA Secretary, extended a welcome to those present. An apology for absence was received and noted from Councillor Richard Leese and Members noted that Councillor Sue Murphy was attending as Councillor Leese's substitute.

90/16 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The GMCA Secretary reported that pursuant to part 5A, section 4 of the GMCA Constitution, Members were required to note the appointment of the Greater Manchester Interim Mayor as the Chair of the GMCA.

RESOLVED/-

To note the appointment Tony Lloyd, Greater Manchester Interim Mayor, as the Chair of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) for 2016/17, as set out in part 5A, section 4 of the GMCA Constitution.

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor in the Chair

91/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS

Pursuant to Part 5A, section 4 of the GMCA Constitution, the Chair sought nominations for the appointment of at least 2 but no more than 3 Vice Chairs of the GMCA for the 2016/17 municipal year, with no one political group holding all the vice-chair positions on the Combined Authority.

Nominations for the appointment of Councillors Sean Anstee (Trafford) and Richard Leese (Manchester) were moved and seconded.

RESOLVED/-

To agree the appointments of Councillors Sean Anstee (Trafford) and Richard Leese (Manchester) as Vice Chairs of the GMCA for 2016/17.

92/16 GMCA CONSTITUTION

RESOLVED/-

To note the GMCA Constitution.

93/16 GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS 2016/17

A report of Donna Hall, GMCA Secretary, was presented which sought the approval of Members on the appointments and nominations of A) portfolio responsibilities for 2016/17; B) GMCA appointments and nominations received from the GM local authorities to Greater Manchester statutory bodies; C) nominations received from Greater Manchester local authorities for appointment to GMCA and AGMA bodies; and D) requests for GMCA appointments to other outside bodies for 2016/17.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the revised Portfolio areas of responsibilities for 2016/17 and to agree portfolio leads as follows :-

Portfolio	Leader
Health and Social Care	Peter Smith
Planning and Housing	Richard Farnell
Low Carbon, Waste and Environment	Paul Dennett
Investment and Finance	Kieran Quinn
Skills and Employment	Sean Anstee
Children's Services	Cliff Morris
Economic Strategy including Internationalisation and Marketing and Business Support	Richard Leese
Reform	Tony Lloyd
Police, Crime, Civil Contingencies and Fire	Rishi Shoril
Transport	Tony Lloyd
Fairness, Equalities and Cohesion	Jean Stretton
Culture, Arts and Leisure	Alex Ganotis
Criminal Justice	Tony Lloyd

2. To approve the following Deputy Portfolio members for 2016/17:-

Area	Deputies
Bolton	Linda Thomas Ebrahim Adia
Bury	Jane Lewis Jane Black
Manchester	Sue Murphy Afia Kamal
Oldham	Abdul Jabbar Barbara Brownridge
Rochdale	Aasim Rashid Donna Martin
Salford	Paula Boshell John Merry
Stockport	Mark Hunter Wendy Wild
Tameside	Brenda Warrington Lynn Travis
Trafford	Dylan Butt Linda Blackburn
Wigan	Jenny Bullen Jo Platt

3. To agree that the Interim Mayor will consult with Portfolio Leads and report back proposals for portfolio responsibilities for Deputies for agreement at the GMCA July.
4. To agree that Portfolio Leads and Chief Executive Portfolio Leads be requested to review their current respective portfolio brief and refresh in order to ensure that priorities going forward are captured. To also specify areas of responsibility for Deputy Portfolio Leads, for report back and agreement by the GMCA in July 2016.

5. To note the following appointments by local authorities to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for 2016/17:-

District	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Cliff Morris (LAB)	Linda Thomas (LAB)
Bury	Rishi Shori (LAB)	Jane Lewis (LAB)
Manchester	Richard Leese (LAB)	Sue Murphy (LAB)
Oldham	Jean Stretton (LAB)	Abdul Jabbar (LAB)
Rochdale	Richard Farnell (LAB)	Allan Brett (LAB)
Salford	Paul Dennett (LAB)	John Merry (LAB)
Stockport	Alex Ganotis (LAB)	Wendy Wild (LAB)
Tameside	Kieran Quinn (LAB)	John Taylor (LAB)
Trafford	Sean Anstee (CON)	Alex Williams (CON)
Wigan	Peter Smith (LAB)	David Molyneux (LAB)

6. To agree to delegate authority to Donna Hall, Secretary of GMCA in consultation with the Chair of GMCA, to appoint 5 GMCA members or substitute members (4 Labour and 1 Conservative) to the Standards Committee for 2016/17, noting a provisional meeting is scheduled for 18 July 2016.
7. To note that the GMCA, in December 2015 appointed 1 Co-opted Independent Member, Geoff Linnell, to act as the Chair of the Standards Committee and 1 Independent Person, Nicole Jackson, to assist the Monitoring Officer and Hearing Panel in dealing with allegations that members of the GMCA have acted in breach of the GMCA's Code of Conduct. The term of office of these appointments is for 4 years with effect from 18 December 2015.
8. To note the following appointments by local authorities to the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee for 2016/17:-

District	Members
Bolton (3)	David Chadwick (LAB) Guy Harkin (LAB) Stuart Haslam (CON)
Bury (2)	Noel Bayley (LAB) Jamie Walker (LAB)
Manchester (5)	Andrew Fender (LAB) Chris Paul (LAB)

	Naeem Hassan (LAB) Azra Alia (LAB) Dzidra Noor (LAB)
Oldham (3)	James Larkin (LAB) Norman Briggs (LAB) Howard Sykes (LIB DEM)
Rochdale (3)	Shah Wazir (LAB) Philip Burke (LAB) Ian Duckworth (CON)
Salford (3)	Robin Garrido (CON) Roger Jones (LAB) Barry Warner (LAB)
Stockport (4)	Geoff Abell (LIB DEM) Annette Finnie (CON) Tom Grundy (LAB) John Taylor (LAB)
Tameside (3)	Warren Bray (LAB) Doreen Dickenson (CON) Peter Robinson (LAB)
Trafford (3)	David Hopps (CON) June Reilly (CON) Michael Cordingley (LAB)
Wigan (4)	Mark Aldred (LAB) Lynne Holland (LAB) Eunice Smethurst (LAB) James Grundy (CON)

9. To note the appointments by local authorities to the Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership Board for 2016/17 as follows:-

District	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Cliff Morris (LAB)	Linda Thomas (LAB)
Bury	Rishi Shori (LAB)	Trevor Holt (LAB)
Manchester	Richard Leese (LAB)	Sue Murphy (LAB)
Oldham	Jean Stretton (LAB)	Abdul Jabbar (LAB)
Rochdale	Richard Farnell (LAB)	Allan Brett (LAB)
Salford	Paul Dennett (LAB)	John Merry (LAB)
Stockport	Alex Ganotis (LAB)	Wendy Wild (LAB)
Tameside	Kieran Quinn (LAB)	Brenda Warrington (LAB)
Trafford	Sean Anstee (CON)	Alex Williams (CON)
Wigan	Peter Smith (LAB)	David Molyneux (LAB)

10. To approve the appointment of the GMCA Chair, Tony Lloyd and the two Vice Chairs, Councillor Sean Anstee and Richard Leese, to the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership for 2016/17.

- 11.. To agree to appoint Councillor Paul Dennett, as the GMCA Low Carbon portfolio holder, to the GM Low Carbon Hub Board for 2016/17.
12. To note the appointment of Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor to the Greater Manchester Land Commission.
13. To agree to appoint the portfolio leads for Economic Strategy, Planning & Housing and Investment Strategy & Finance to the Greater Manchester Land Commission for 2016/17.
14. To note the appointments by local authorities to the Joint GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool for 2016/17, as follows:-

District	Member
Bolton	Kevin McKeon (LAB) Andrew Morgan (CON) Debbie Newall (LAB)
Bury	Jane Black (LAB) Roy Walker (CON) Rachel Skillen (LAB)
Manchester	Ahmed Ali (LAB) Angeliki Stogia (LAB) Matt Strong (LAB)
Oldham	Colin McLaren (LAB) Elaine Garry (LAB) Garth Harkness (LIB DEM)
Rochdale	Neil Butterworth (LAB) Michael Holly (CON) Sara Rowbotham (LAB)
Salford	David Jolley (LAB) Jillian Collinson (CON) John Walsh (LAB)
Stockport	Iain Roberts (LIB DEM) Yvonne Guariento (LAB) John McGahan (CON)
Tameside	Kevin Welsh (LAB) John Bell (CON) Gill Peet (LAB)
Trafford	Pamela Dixon (CON) Michael Young (CON) Barry Brotherton (LAB)
Wigan	Pam Stewart (LAB) John O'Brien (LAB) Eddie Houlton (CON)

15. To appoint Councillor Jean Stretton as the GMCA member to the Joint GMCA and AGMA Audit Committee for 2016/17.

16. To appoint the following 3 GMCA Substitute members to the Joint GMCA and AGMA Audit Committee, from the nominations received from the local authorities for 2016/17

Rochdale	Allen Brett
Salford	John Merry
Stockport	Wendy Wild

17. To agree to appoint the GM Interim Mayor, Tony Lloyd and the two GMCA Vice Chairs Councillors Richard Leese and Sean Anstee to the Regional Leaders Board for 2016/17.
18. To agree to delegate authority to the Secretary of GMCA in consultation with the Chair of GMCA, to determine appointments to the following bodies in 2016/17:-
- i. Joint GMCA and AGMA Audit Committee (Scrutiny Pool appointments).
 - ii. Greater Manchester Investment Board.
 - iii. Atlantic Gateway Board.
 - iv. NW European Programmes Local Management Committee.
 - v. Greater Manchester European Structural Fund (European Programmes) Local Management Committee.
 - vi. North West Flood and Coastal Committee.

94/16 GMCA ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

Richard Paver, GMCA Treasurer, introduced a report which provided members with the Annual Governance Statement for the GMCA, covering the period April 2015 to March 2016 for consideration by Members

RESOLVED/-

1. To note that the Annual Governance Statement was approved for recommendation to the GMCA by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 15 April 2016.
2. To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2015/16.
3. To agree that the Annual Governance Statement be signed by the Head of Paid Service and GM Interim Mayor on behalf of the GMCA.

95/16 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2016/17

RESOLVED/-

To approve the planned cycle of meetings as outlined below:-

Friday 29 July 2016 - Bury

Friday 26 August 2016	-	Manchester
Friday 30 September 2016	-	Trafford
Friday 28 October 2016	-	Salford
Friday 25 November 2016	-	Oldham
Friday 16 December 2016	-	Bolton
Friday 27 January 2017	-	Wigan
Friday 24 February 2017	-	Rochdale
Friday 31 March 2017	-	GMPPC
Friday 28 April 2017	-	Stockport
Friday 26 May 2017	-	Tameside
Friday 30 June 2017	-	Bury

MINUTES FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY, HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016 AT GUARDSMAN TONY DOWNES HOUSE, DROYLSDEN

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Rishi Shori
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Sue Murphy
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jean Stretton
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Howard Bernstein	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Joanne Hyde	Trafford Council
Donna Hall	Wigan Council
Peter O'Reilly	Chief Fire Officer, GM Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Hopkins	Chief Constable, GM Police

Jon Lamonte
Mark Hughes
Simon Nokes
Adam Allen

Clare Regan
Liz Treacy
Richard Paver
Andrew Lightfoot
Julie Connor
Sylvia Welsh
Paul Harris
Ross MacRae

Chief Executive, TfGM
Manchester Growth Company
New Economy
Office of the Police & Crime
Commissioner
Office of the GM Interim Mayor
GMCA Monitoring Officer
GMCA Treasurer
Deputy Head of the Paid Service
Head of GMIST
) Greater Manchester
) Integrated Support Team
GMCA Media Lead

96/16. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and noted from Councillor Richard Leese. Members noted that Councillor Sue Murphy was in attendance as his substitute.

97/16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

a. Supporting British Industry

The Chair suggested that Greater Manchester should look to utilise local resources where possible, particularly in relation to the procurement of steel, and undertook to write to the Business Secretary to understand how this could be developed further.

b. GM Procurement Practices

Referring to a recent legal case regarding the black listing of active trades unionists, the Chair commented that this was an opportune time to examine GMCA's procurement processes and requested that a paper on this matter be brought to a future meeting of the GM Combined Authority.

c. Community Cohesion

The Chair noted that following recent incidents of hate crime, districts and partners were working together to address such incidents.

98/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member in relation to the items on the agenda.

99/16 MINUTES OF GMCA MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2016

The minutes of the previous GMCA meeting held on 27 May 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the Minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 27 May 2016 as a correct record.

100/16 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Consideration was given to a report which advised Members of those strategic decisions that were to be considered by the GMCA over the upcoming four months.

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions, as set out in the report.

101/16 MINUTES

a. Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Scrutiny Pool

The minutes of the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Scrutiny Pool meeting, 10 June 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

To note the minutes of the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Scrutiny Pool meeting, 10 June 2016.

b. Transport for Greater Manchester Committee (TfGMC)

The minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 10 June 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

To note the minutes of the TfGMC meeting, held on 10 June 2016.

102/16 OUTCOME OF THE EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor read out the following statement on the outcome of the recent referendum on European Union membership.

People in Greater Manchester and the UK spoke clearly last week and we will now leave the European Union.

"This was not the outcome GM Leaders had campaigned for but we all now have a duty to ensure that we work together and forge the best future for Greater Manchester.

Our city-region has a long and proud history of being outward and market facing. Working constructively with other city-regions in Europe, with international investors and business, will remain a key part of our strategy in the future. We know that our future success will depend on forging even stronger international relationships to support the growth and development of Greater Manchester's economy in an increasingly complex global economy.

We recognise the referendum result will pose new challenges to Greater Manchester both in the short and medium term. We are focussed on how we remain an attractive place for international investment and where local businesses can feel confident to invest.

The future of EU funding will also be a focus for GM Leaders. Communities across Greater Manchester have benefitted from EU funding for many years and Leaders will work hard to protect that income. We will seek urgent discussions to clarify what will happen to our European funding while we negotiate to leave the EU and how the UK Government plans to replace it.

GM Leaders have already started to work on how we respond to these challenges and others following the Brexit vote. GMCA officers will bring forward a detailed report for our next meeting for further discussion.

However, Thursday's result also made clear that people want to see decisions made closer to home by local leaders who are in touch with their communities. The case for further devolution has never been stronger and Greater Manchester will continue to lead the way in bringing powers to local communities.

Finally, to all Europeans living and working in Greater Manchester, you are welcome here. We are proud you have chosen to make GM your home and we will always appreciate the contribution you make to our city-region."

In receiving the statement, Members made the following comments:-

- a. That any negotiations should make the case for strengthening the redistribution of powers to Greater Manchester and confirm the Government's support for the Northern Powerhouse.
- b. That GM should be formally included in the national negotiations at an appropriate level given its population size and economic contribution within the UK
- c. The GMCA and GM Local Authorities and partners had an important role to play in addressing legislative issues around housing, employment and skills.
- d. That immigration issues, the current system and residents' concerns are important issues for discussion and we should listen to our residents.
- e. That GM should seek to ensure that commitments to the Northern Powerhouse and other critical investments important to GM are protected.

RESOLVED/-

That the GMCA strongly endorses the Statement with the additional comments noted above.

103/16 GMCA GOVERNANCE REVIEW: GMCA ORDER

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which summarised the second phase of a review of the functions and governance arrangements of the GMCA.

Members noted that the second phase focuses on those arrangements for Fire and Rescue and Waste functions within a newly integrated Combined Authority from 1 April 2017, Transport (Mayoral and non Mayoral functions and funding), Education, Training, Skills and Employment Functions. Overview and Scrutiny arrangements and Public Sector equality duties were also included.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the outcome of the review and the draft Scheme, as set out at Appendices A and B to the report.
2. To endorse the conclusion of the review that the making of an Order to confer on the GMCA the additional functions in the Scheme and the associated revisions to the governance arrangements would be likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in Greater Manchester.
3. To note the implications of the Public Sector Equality Duty, as set out in the report.
4. To approve and publish the scheme pursuant to section 112 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, as amended.
5. To approve the use of statutory Charge as the means of providing a smoothing mechanism to ensure that Council Tax payers are no worse-off as a result of funding the Mayoral transport proposals.
6. To approve the arrangements for public consultation on the proposals in the scheme and to authorise the Head of Paid Service, GMCA, in consultation with the Interim Mayor, to provide the Secretary of State with a summary of the consultation responses.
7. To delegate authority to the Head of Paid Service, GMCA in consultation with the Interim Mayor and Vice Chairs of GMCA to agree the terms of the Orders required to implement the devolution deals.

104/16 GMCA CONSULTATION ON GOVERNANCE REVIEW AND SCHEME PHASE 1

Tony Lloyd, the GM Interim Mayor, introduced a report which provided Members with a summary of the responses of the Greater Manchester Consultation on Governance review and Scheme (phase 1).

RESOLVED/-

To note the report.

105/16 BUS SERVICES BILL UPDATE

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report summarising the Bus Services Bill which had recently been published in Parliament and set out the potential implications the introduction of the Bus Bill posed for Greater Manchester.

A Member highlighted that the enactment of the Bus Service Bill was fundamental to the establishment of a Mayoral Combined Authority for GM and also that Bus Franchising would enable simplified ticketing arrangements and the use of more efficient, low emission vehicles across Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To welcome the publication of the Bus Services Bill.
2. To instruct officers to continue to work to ensure that the Bus Services Bill can deliver the practicable tools required to fulfil GM's transport objectives.
3. To request officers to report back on progress of the Bill as it passes through Parliament.

106/16 JUSTICE DEVOLUTION

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the ongoing devolution agreement discussions with the Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Service and the Youth Justice Board.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the progress being made in relation to our devolution agreement discussions with the Ministry of Justice, National Offender Management Service and the Youth Justice Board.
2. To agree that delegated authority to sign off the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with the Department is given to the Head of Paid Service, GMCA, in consultation with the Interim Mayor.

3. To note that there is a Justice Devolution Partnership Event planned for the 7th July, which the Secretary of State for Justice is planning to attend and at which the MOUs will be published.
4. To approve the Justice Devolution logo for use in stakeholder and public communications.

107/17 REFRESHING THE GREATER MANCHESTER APPROACH

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which provided an overview of a number of strategically significant workstreams currently underway to support the delivery of Greater Manchester's growth and reform ambitions and suggested that, in light of this work, and in response to the changing context in which Greater Manchester is operating, it is now timely to develop a refreshed and revised economic strategy for Greater Manchester. Members noted that this revised strategy will reassess the issues and opportunities that Greater Manchester needs to address to ensure that all parts of the conurbation can play a strong and positive economic role in supporting future growth and maximising the ability of residents to share the benefits of that growth. The report proposes that a seminar for Leaders, Chief Executives and relevant officers is arranged in July or August 2016 to provide the opportunity for a collective re-examination of the Greater Manchester strategic approach.

Members also noted the work of the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission, and the importance of a GM submission to the Commission's open call for evidence to ensure that the full range of issues of relevance to Greater Manchester are considered by the Commission.

In addition, the report also provided an overview of work currently underway to develop a strategy for public engagement, including work by The Campaign Company to test current levels of awareness of the role and work of the GMCA and proposals to develop a 'brand identity' and profile strengthening campaign for Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To endorse the proposal to revisit and refresh the Greater Manchester Strategy in the light of the changing context in which Greater Manchester operates and to reflect the wide ranging work underway to deliver our Growth and Reform objectives and the development of the GMSF and the associated Investment Strategy.
2. To endorse the proposal for a seminar(s) for Executive Members with portfolio responsibility for economic development, convened by Sir Richard Leese as portfolio holder for Economic Strategy, to ensure that all are fully sighted on the findings of the Deep Dive analysis and the emerging evidence base under development to support the Greater Manchester Strategy.

3. To endorse the proposal to arrange a seminar(s) for Leaders, Chief Executives and relevant officers at the end of July or August 2016 to provide an opportunity to review both the Greater Manchester strategic approach and the emerging framework for public engagement.
4. To endorse the proposal to develop a Greater Manchester submission to the call for evidence issued by the RSA Inclusive Growth Commission to ensure that the full range of issues of relevance to GM are considered by the Commission.
5. To give delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Communications to finalise the proposal to develop a 'brand identity' for Greater Manchester.
6. To agree that a further report be presented to a future meeting of the Combined Authority.

108/16 GREATER MANCHESTER GROWTH DEAL – CONDITIONAL AND FULL APPROVAL GATEWAY

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which informed Members of the outcome of a number of Gateway Reviews and recommend that the Salford Bolton Network Improvement Bolton Delivery Packages 1 and 7 (Raikes Lane Junction Improvements & Bolton Bus Stop Upgrades) are granted Full Approval.

RESOLVED/-

1. To grant Full Approval for the Salford Bolton Network Improvement Bolton Delivery Packages 1 and 7.
2. To note the recent completion of Gateway Reviews on a number of Growth Deal schemes and that Conditional Approval on these schemes has been achieved.

109/16 POTENTIAL EVERGREEN HOLDING FUND NOVATION

Eamonn Boylan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Investment Strategy and Finance, presented a report which set out the key principles of the proposed Evergreen Holding Fund novation and sought the approval of the GMCA to the transaction.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the contents of the report and endorse the approach being taken to novate NWUIF to GMCA.
2. To authorise the establishment of "NewCo" as the corporate structure as set out in this report.

3. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive, the Section 151 Officer, Chief Investment Officer and Monitoring Officer to finalise the terms of and enter into any legal documents or agreements necessary to facilitate the above recommendations.

110/16 METROLINK PHASE 3 EVALUATION

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report setting out the early findings from monitoring and evaluation activity relating to Metrolink Phase 3.

RESOLVED/-

To note the update report on Metrolink Phase 3 Evaluation and that the full research report was to be included on to the www.greatermanchester-rca.gov.uk website.

111/16 DRAFT GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2040 AND 5-YEAR DRAFT DELIVERY PLAN 2016/17-2021/22

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which set out the approach to reviewing and approving the draft versions of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and first 5-year Delivery Plan (2016/17-2021/22), and to confirm the arrangements for a 12-week public consultation, commencing on 4 July 2016.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the draft Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 document and that minor changes have been made under delegated authority following legal review.
2. To approve the associated draft 5-year Delivery Plan, covering the period 2016/17-2021/22.
3. To note the arrangements for a 12-week consultation due to commence on 4 July 2016.

112/16 SMART TICKETING UPDATE

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which sought the approval of the GMCA of plans to extend the range of Smart Ticketing, to include multi-modal and Metrolink products and sets out proposals for new account based payment systems which complement the Smart Ticketing service and will make travel easier across Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To support TfGM's plans to extend the availability and range of Smart Ticketing to Metrolink and multi-modal on Smart cards;

2. To note the activity underway and the proposed delivery timescales, to develop a business case for a future 'contactless account based' payment service.
3. To note TfGM's ongoing participation in Transport for the North's (TfN) development of a Smart Ticketing/account based proposition that facilitates easier connections across the north of England.

113/16 CO-COMMISSIONING WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME

Councillor Sean Anstee introduced a report which provided Members with an update on GM's work with the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) to co-commission the new Work & Health Programme, which is the successor to the Work Programme. The programme will be the national mainstream welfare to work provision for long-term benefit claimants and those out of work due to ill health or disability, which GM has an ability to design to our own requirements.

The report also provided information on the potential scope, scale, investment requirements and outcomes of the programme.

A further report which provided additional, commercially sensitive information regarding the national Work and Health programme, and appeared in Part B of the agenda was taken as read as part of Members discussions on this item.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the significant opportunity to design, procure and manage the Work & Health Programme for GM.
2. To note how GM's devolved control of health, skills and European Social Fund budgets provides an opportunity to develop an integrated 'eco-system' of support for some of our most vulnerable workless residents.
3. To agree to develop the Phase 2 application for CFO in conjunction with GMCA Finance.
4. To note the establishment of a task & finish group of the JCB Working Group to develop an investment proposition for the Transformation Fund for the Work & Health Programme.
5. To note the opportunity of the Health Innovation Fund and support a GM submission.
6. To note and support the proposed commissioning strategy for the Work & Health Programme.
7. To agree to delegate authority of the GMCA Treasurer and Portfolio Lead Chief Executive to progress the W&H commissioning on behalf of Combined Authority.

8. To agree for further reports to be provided to the Combined Authority at key junctures in the commissioning process in September, December 2016 and March 2017.
9. To note the recommendations contained in the commercially sensitive Part B Co-commissioning Work and Health Programme at Item 32 on the agenda.

114/16 NORTH WEST HIGH SPEED RAIL REGIONAL SKILLS STRATEGY

Councillor Sean Anstee introduced a report which provided an update to Members on the developments regarding the North West High Speed Rail Regional Skills Strategy and the development of GM actions in response to the strategy.

Members noted that the strategy identifies the following five strategic priorities:-

1. A 20 year vision to help rebalance the economy and contribute to the Northern Powerhouse
2. Create a truly employer led rail sector skills system with joined up higher level vocational pathways
3. Develop hub and spoke model to work with the national High Speed College in Birmingham with a focus on upskilling the existing workforce
4. Ensure a supply of Apprentices to meet employer demand from the rail industry
5. Use HS2 opportunity to promote and increase STEM take up from young people

In welcoming the report, a Member suggested that officers should also provide details of the strength of skills provision in the engineering sector, options to fund apprenticeships for people over 24 years old and to engage and work with neighbouring districts of Cheshire East and Warrington.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the update, priorities and outcomes of the North West High Speed Rail Skills Strategy, as set out in the report and subsequent comments from Members.
2. To note the actions proposed to develop a GM response to the Strategy, as set out in the report.

115/16 ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREATER MANCHESTER ENERGY COMPANY

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report which provided Members with an update on the work taking place to explore the potential for a GM Energy Company.

A further report which provided additional, commercially sensitive information regarding the establishment of a Greater Manchester Energy Company was taken as read during Members' discussions on this item.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the content of the report and, in particular, the increasingly competitive nature of the UK energy supply market which impacts on the ability of GM to launch a viable supply business on a "go it alone" basis.
2. To agree that further work should be focussed on the potential for GM to enter into a joint venture (JV) arrangement, in particular evaluating what the benefits and risks of such an arrangement would be.
3. To agree that a further report should be presented to the GMCA in September.
4. To note those recommendation contained in the commercially sensitive, Part B report referred to at Item 34 of the Agenda.

116/16 GMCA REVENUE OUTTURN 2015/16

Councillor Kieran Quinn presented a report informing members of the revenue outturn for 2015/16 and notes the position on reserves. The reports also seeks approval from Members to approve the transfer of funds to earmarked reserves and requests submitted for carry forward of underspends in to 2016/17.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the GMCA transport revenue outturn position for 2015/16 is in line with budget after transfers to earmarked reserves.
2. To note the GMCA Economic Development and Regeneration revenue outturn position for 2015/16 which shows a favourable position of £0.933 million after transfers to earmarked reserves.
3. To approve the contribution to earmarked Economic Regeneration and Development reserves as summarised in paragraph 3.1 to report.
4. To approve the contribution of £20.398 million to earmarked transport reserves as detailed in paragraphs 4.2 – 4.6 to the report.
5. To note the TfGM revenue position for 2015/16 shows a favourable position of £0.500 million against budget as detailed in paragraph 5 to the report.
6. To note the position on reserves as detailed in paragraph 6 to the report.

7. To note the carry forward requests as detailed in paragraph 7 to the report. Any approved carry forward requests will be funded, as appropriate from the balance declared on the general reserves as at 31 March 2016. Approval for carry forward requests will sought in the Revenue budget update presented in July 2016.
8. To note that the statement of accounts will be completed by 30 June 2016 and signed by the GMCA Treasurer in accordance with audit requirements.
9. To note that the final outturn position is subject to the completion of the annual external audit to be finalised by 30 September 2016 and reported to the GMCA Audit Committee at its meeting on 16 September 2016.

117/16 GMCA CAPITAL OUTTURN 2015/16 AND 2016/17 PROGRAMME

Councillor Kieran Quinn presented a report which informed Members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority capital outturn for 2015/16.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the 2015/16 outturn capital expenditure compared to the forecast position presented to GMCA in January 2016.
2. To approve the addition of £0.2 million to the capital programme budget for 2016/17.

118/16 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK – CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Councillor Kieran Quinn introduced a report which sought Greater Manchester Combined Authority approval for a loan to Zuto Limited. Members noted that the loan will be made from recycled monies.

A further report which provided additional, commercially sensitive information regarding the Greater Manchester Investment Framework was taken as read during Members' discussions on this item.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree that the project funding application by Zuto Limited, (loan of £1,000,000) be given conditional approval.
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 at a) above.

3. To note the recommendations contained in the in the commercially sensitive, Part B report referred to at Item 35 of the Agenda.

119/16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members noted that as the commercially sensitive information was taken as read during the consideration of Co-Commissioning Work and Health Programme (Minute 113/16), Establishment of a Greater Manchester Energy Company (Minute 115/16) and Greater Manchester Investment Framework – Conditional Approval (Minute 117/16), the recommendation to exclude members of the press and public would not be moved.

120/16 CO-COMMISSIONING WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME

CLERK'S NOTE: This item was considered in support of the Part A Co-Commissioning Work and Health Programme report at Minute 113/16 above.

121/16 PROPOSAL FOR GREATER MANCHESTER TO BE DESIGNATED A DEFRA PIONEER CITY REGION

CLERK'S NOTE: This item was withdrawn.

122/16 ESTABLISHMENT OF A GREATER MANCHESTER ENERGY COMPANY

CLERK'S NOTE: This item was considered in support of the Part A paper on the Energy Company for Greater Manchester at Minute 115/16, above.

123/16 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK – CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

CLERK'S NOTE: This item was considered in support of the Part A the Greater Manchester Investment Framework report at Minute 117/16 above.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER
COMBINED AUTHORITY, HELD ON FRIDAY 29 JULY 2016 AT
BURY TOWN HALL, BURY**

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Rishi Shori
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jean Stretton
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Geoff Little	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Helen Jones	Trafford Council
Will Blandamer	Wigan Council
Peter O'Reilly	Chief Fire Officer, GM Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Hopkins	Chief Constable, GM Police

Jon Lamonte

Chief Executive, TfGM

Simon Nokes

New Economy

Adam Allen

Office of the Police & Crime

Commissioner

Liz Treacy

GMCA Monitoring Officer

Richard Paver

GMCA Treasurer

Andrew Lightfoot

Deputy Head of the Paid Service

Julie Connor

Head of GMIST

Paul Harris

GM Integrated Support Team

Ross MacRae

GMCA Media Lead

124/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Howard Bernstein, Theresa Grant, Donna Hall and Mark Hughes.

125/16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or matters of urgent business reported.

126/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

127/16 MINUTES

a. Minutes of the GMCA Annual Meeting held on 30 June 2016

RESOLVED/-

To agree the minutes of the Annual meeting of the GMCA held on 30 June 2016 as a correct record.

b. Minutes of the GMCA Ordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2016

RESOLVED/-

To agree the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 30 June 2016 as a correct record.

128/16 ESTABLISHMENT OF A GMCA RESOURCES SUB-COMMITTEE

Members considered appointments to the GMCA Resources Sub – Committee.

RESOLVED/-

To agree that Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor, Cllr Richard Leese, Cllr Sean Anstee, Cllr Peter Smith and Cllr Kieran Quinn be appointed to the GMCA Resources Sub Committee and to request that the Terms of Reference be drafted and reported to the GMCA at its meeting in August.

129/16 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Consideration was given to a report which advised Members of those strategic decisions that were to be considered by the GMCA over the upcoming four months.

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions, as set out in the report.

130/16 MINUTES

a. Minutes of the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee held on 15 July 2016

The minutes of the proceedings of TfGMC held on 15 July 2016 were submitted. Members noted that they were to consider TfGMC's decision to approve transport policy priorities for 2016/17 as per the extract below.

The report is appended to the minutes.

103/16 TfGMC16/30 - 2016-2017 POLICY PRIORITIES

Members considered a report highlighting the policy priorities that the Committee would recommend to Greater Manchester Combined Authority to adopt for the forthcoming year. The report also provided a summary on the progress made on achieving priorities over the past year.

With regard to the four key aims for Greater Manchester as set out at section 3.2 to the report, a Member suggested that active travel should be promoted alongside other public transport modes.

RESOLVED/-

- 1. To note the transport policy priorities as set out in Section 3 to the report and the request of Members to consider and promote active travel activities to help deliver the priorities.*
- 2. To agree that the transport policy priorities as set out in Section 3 to the report and as appended to these minutes, be submitted for approval to the GMCA on 29 July 2016.*

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the minutes of the meeting of TfGMC held on 15 July 2016.

2. To endorse and adopt the TfGMC Policy Priorities for 2016-17 as recommended by TfGMC.

b. Minutes of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership held on 14 July 2016.

The minutes of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership meeting held on 14 July 2016, were submitted for GMCA Members' information.

RESOLVED/-

To note the minutes of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership meeting, held on 14 July 2016.

131/16 GREATER MANCHESTER RESPONDING TO BREXIT

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Councillor Richard Leese, provided a report which presented an overview of the work underway to ensure that Greater Manchester is in a position to mitigate the worst impacts of withdrawal.

Members noted that Greater Manchester was determined to continue to drive strong growth in the economy as an internationally important city region. Although there are short term uncertainties, Greater Manchester's ambition to establish the city region as a financially self-sustaining city, sitting at the heart of the Northern Powerhouse, with the size, the assets, the skilled population and political and economic influence to rival any global city remained unchanged. However Greater Manchester must react to the challenges created by the uncertainty and potential economic consequences. To inform that response a comprehensive programme of work will consider the actions required in eight areas:

- Implications for access to European funding;
- Implications for changing rules, regulations and terms of trade;
- Implications for key sectors;
- Implications for property investment;
- Implications for housing and planning;
- Implications for inclusion;
- monitoring economic trends and developments;
- utilising GM's relationships with key Central Government departments.

It was noted that the Greater Manchester Growth Company had established an Advisory Board to work with employers particularly in relation to foreign owned companies.

Brexit would provide an opportunity to seek greater influence on education and skill from Government, in order to develop a skills base for Greater Manchester.

The rise of hate crime and cohesion issues was highlighted. Members noted that the Home Office had developed an action plan and that this plan would be adapted to meet Greater Manchester's needs.

A Member commented that any discussions with Westminster and Brussels should include the redistribution of powers to Greater Manchester following the repatriation of the UK from the European Union.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the work programme set out in this report.
2. To request that a substantive analysis be produced for consideration at the August 2016 meeting of the GMCA that identifies both the issues that Greater Manchester will be seeking the Government to address through the Autumn Statement and the matters that Greater Manchester will want to highlight for consideration as the framework for Britain's withdrawal from the European Union is established.

132/16 GROWTH DEAL 3 – SUBMISSION TO GOVERNMENT

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor provided a verbal report in relation to Growth Deal 3. Members noted that the closing date for submissions to the third round of the Government's growth deal process was 28 July and that the development of Greater Manchester's submission to that process has been overseen by Greater Manchester leaders and developed in consultation with Greater Manchester's business and investor community.

Members also noted that the proposals build on the Greater Manchester Strategy and the Growth and Reform Plan and focuses on securing investment to drive the growth of the conurbation, however, in light of the decision to withdraw from the European Union, proposals have also been designed to ensure that Greater Manchester was able to maintain momentum during the period of change and uncertainty that Brexit will bring. Given the competitive nature of the Growth Deal process and the commercial sensitivity of some of the proposals, the full submission remained confidential at this stage, but negotiations will take place with Government over the summer, with an expectation of an announcement regarding the Local Growth Fund settlement around the time of the Autumn Statement.

RESOLVED/-

1. To receive and note the update.
2. To note Greater Manchester's submission to the third round of the Government's Growth Deal process was made on 28 July, in line with the proposals developed in consultation with Leaders.
3. To note an announcement regarding GM's third Local Growth Fund settlement is due around the time of the Autumn Statement.

133/16 TRANSPORT FOR THE NORTH

Councillor Richard Leese, Portfolio Lead for Transport for the North, introduced a report requesting members consider whether there should be a sub-national transport body (STB) in the North and whether it wishes to become a constituent authority of Transport for the North (TfN).

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the proposal for there to be a sub-national transport body (STB) in the North to be called Transport for the North (TfN), and to agree that GMCA should be a constituent authority of TfN.
2. To approve, in principle, the draft proposal for TfN as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
3. To authorise the Head of Paid Service and the Chief Executive of TfGM, in consultation with the Greater Manchester Interim Mayor and Vice-Chair with responsibility for TfN, to progress the matter with other proposed constituent authorities, including the submission of the proposal to the Secretary of State.
4. To note that before any regulations will be laid before Parliament, the making of such regulations will require the further approval of each of constituent authorities.

134/16 TRANSPORT DEVOLUTION COSTS AND FUNDING

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Transport, introduced a report setting out the forecast costs and the proposed funding associated with the transport related Devolution activities in 2016/17.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report and to approve the drawdown of funding required to progress the transport related Devolution activities in 2016/17, from a combination of GMCA and TfGM General Reserves.

135/16 AIR QUALITY CONSULTATION OUTCOME

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Transport, presented a report which provided an update on the outcomes from the formal public consultation on the Greater Manchester Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan, and to seek approval for the final documents to be adopted and for delivery to commence.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the outcomes from the public consultation.

2. To review and approve the final versions of the Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality Action Plan for adoption.
3. To authorise for delivery of the plan to commence.

136/16 GREATER MANCHESTER FREIGHT AND LOGISTICS STRATEGY

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Transport, provided a report which presented the draft Greater Manchester Freight and Logistics Strategy and to sought Members endorsement and approval for adoption.

A Member commented that the introduction of this Strategy should not be at the cost of other economic routes in Greater Manchester particularly in relation to road congestion.

RESOLVED/-

To agree and approve the draft Greater Manchester Freight and Logistics Strategy as the formal strategy for Greater Manchester.

137/16 YEAR 3 REVIEW OF GREATER MANCHESTER ROAD ACTIVITY PERMIT SCHEME (GMRAPS)

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Transport, provided a report which updated GMCA on the third year operation of the Greater Manchester Road Activity Permit Scheme (GMRAPS) and to provide a financial forecast for the fourth year of operation.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note and endorse the financial review and forecasts as set out in Section 2 to the report.
2. To endorse the view that, based upon the financial update set out in Section 2 to the report, it is not necessary to amend the scheme during year four of operation.
3. To approve the publication of the year three report, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

138/16 THE GREATER MANCHESTER RAISING AGE PARTICPATION (RPA) STRATEGY

Councillor Sean Anstee, Portfolio Lead for Employment and Skills, provided a report which presented the GM Raising of the Participation Age Strategy (RPA) and sought its full endorsement for implementation from GMCA.

The report highlighted that the purpose of the RPA Strategy was to support the ambitions for growth and reform and support the delivery of the previously agreed Work and Skills priorities. The success of the RPA will require four priorities to work synergistically. These are:

- Reducing NEET and Not Known and increasing participation.
- Improving the quality of careers education 9information advice given.
- A responsive FE curriculum based on the best labour market information.
- Driving up attainment in mathematics and English at level 2 and digital skills.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report and approach set out in the RPA Strategy, and in particular to agree the following:

- Full launch and communication of the RPA Strategy
- Commencement of the implementation plan against a calendared reporting structure to the Skills & Employment Partnership.

139/16 GMCA REVENUE UPDATE 2016/17

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance, provided a report which informed Members of the 2016/17 forecast revenue outturn position as at the end of June 2016.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the Economic Development and Regeneration revenue outturn position for 2016/17 which shows a projected underspend against budget of £0.023m.
2. To note the contribution from AGMA towards GMCA Reserves shown within the Economic Development and Regeneration budget as detailed in paragraph 2.2 to the report.
3. To note the transport revenue outturn position for 2016/17 which is in line with budget after contributions to earmarked reserves of £0.744m.
4. To approve the carry-forward requests from GMCA of £0.100m for the Low Carbon Investment Team and TfGM general funds of £0.48m to support the first phase of devolution costs as detailed in paragraphs 2.4 and 4.7 to the report.
5. To approve the budget adjustments referred to in paragraphs 2.2-2.13 to the report for Economic Development and Regeneration budgets and paragraphs 3.2-3.4 to the report for Transport budgets.

140/16 GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE 2016/17

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance, provided which presented an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority 2016/17 capital expenditure programme.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the revisions to the capital budget as set out in appendix A and detailed within the report.
2. To note the current 2016/17 forecast compared to the revised 2016/17 capital budget.
3. To approve the draw down of £2.4m for the Salford Bolton Network Improvement Project Local which forms part of the Growth Deal to enable the delivery of Bolton Delivery Packages 1 (Raikes Lane) and 7 (Bus Stop Upgrades); and to fund key advanced activities on other Bolton and Salford Packages.

141/16 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AND CONDITIONAL APPROVAL

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance, provided a report which sought the approval of GMCA for investments to Kleeneze Limited, So Purple Group Limited and Optimise Hiring Limited. The loans will be made from recycled monies. This report also provides an update on the Green Energy Advisor, WEMS and FootClicks projects.

The Part B report containing the commercially sensitive elements of the GM Housing Fund Investment Strategy was taken as read with this item.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree that the project funding application by Kleeneze, (loan of £1,200,000), So Purple (loan of £800,000) and Optimise Hiring (investment of £375,000) be given conditional approval.
2. To agree 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 loans at a) above.
3. To agree the changes to the commercial terms of the Green Energy Advisor and WEMs funding as set out in the confidential part of the agenda.

142/16 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING FUND – INVESTMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

Councillor Richard Farnell, Portfolio Lead for Planning & Housing, introduced a report which set out an updated Investment Strategy for the GM Housing Fund and the use of HCA receipts available to GM under the City Deal that will guide GM's approach to investment and management of financial risk at both project and portfolio level while supporting GM's housing policy objectives.

The Part B report containing the commercially sensitive elements of the GM Housing Fund Investment Strategy was taken as read with this item.

Members noted that the strategy was a loan instrument and could not be used to develop grant funding. A suggestion was made for the Housing Fund to be re-titled as Loan Fund.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the updated Investment Strategy as set out in the report.

143/16 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GMCA, NHS GREATER MANCHESTER AND SPORT ENGLAND

Councillor Peter Smith, Portfolio Lead for Health and Well Being, provided GMCA with an update on the emerging strategic partnership between Sport England and Greater Manchester, to be formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

It was noted that Members of GMCA had endorsed the MoU at the earlier GM Health and Social Care Strategic Partnership Board meeting.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report and endorse the signing of the MoU between Sport England and Greater Manchester which was undertaken prior to the GMCA meeting.

144/16 DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT – AN UPDATE ON GET DIGITAL FASTER (GM RURAL BROADBAND)

Councillor Richard Farnell, Portfolio Lead for Planning & Housing, introduced a report which provided an update on the progress being made on the delivery of the Get Digital Faster programme (formerly known as GM Rural Superfast Broadband) and to highlight the need to encourage the provision and take-up of superfast broadband services in order to support economic growth.

RESOLVED/-

To note the progress being made in rolling out superfast broadband speeds and considers how best provision and take-up can be promoted in the future in the context of the emerging GM Spatial Framework.

145/16 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Members noted that as the commercially sensitive information was taken as read during the consideration of Greater Manchester Investment Framework and Conditional Approval (Minute 114/16) and Greater Manchester Housing Fund – Investment Strategy Update (Minute 115/16) the recommendation to exclude members of the press and public would not be moved.

**146/16 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK –
CONDITIONAL APPROVAL**

CLERK'S NOTE: This item was considered in support of the Part A Greater Manchester Investment Framework and Conditional Approval (Minute 141/16).

**147/16 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING FUND – INVESTMENT
STRATEGY UPDATE**

CLERK'S NOTE: This item was considered in support of the Part A Greater Manchester Housing Fund – Investment Strategy Update (Minute 142/16).

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD, HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016 AT GUARDSMAN TONY DOWNES HOUSE, DROYLSDEN

MEMBERS PRESENT-

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Rishi Shori
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Sue Murphy
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jean Stretton
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Howard Bernstein	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Joanne Hyde	Trafford Council
Donna Hall	Wigan Council

Peter O'Reilly	Chief Fire Officer, GM Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Hopkins	Chief Constable, GM Police
Jon Lamonte	Chief Executive, TfGM
Mark Hughes	Manchester Growth Company
Simon Nokes	New Economy
Adam Allen	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Clare Regan	Office of the GM Interim Mayor
Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Head of the Paid Service
Julie Connor	Head of GMIST
Sylvia Welsh) Greater Manchester
Paul Harris) Integrated Support Team
Ross MacRae	GMCA Media Lead

41/16 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and noted from Councillor Richard Leese. Members noted that Councillor Sue Murphy was in attendance as his substitute.

42/16 APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Pursuant to Section 10.2 of the AGMA Constitution, Donna Hall, AGMA Secretary, sought nominations for the appointment of Chair of the AGMA Executive Board for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

A nomination for the appointment of Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor was moved and seconded.

RESOLVED/-

To agree that Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor be appointed as Chair of the AGMA Executive Board for the 2016/2017 municipal year.

43/16 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Pursuant to Section 10.3 of the AGMA Constitution members of the Chair sought nominations for the appointment of at least 2 but no more than 3 Vice Chairs AGMA Executive Board for the 2016/17 Municipal Year, with no one political group holding all the vice-chair positions on the Board.

Nominations for the appointment of Councillors Sean Anstee (Trafford) and Richard Leese (Manchester) were moved and seconded.

RESOLVED/-

To agree the appointments of Councillors Sean Anstee (Trafford) and Richard Leese (Manchester) as Vice Chairs of the AGMA Executive

44/16 CONSTITUTION**RESOLVED/-**

To note the AGMA Constitution, as agreed by the Executive Board in November 2015

45/16 GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS 2016/17

A report of Donna Hall, AGMA Secretary was presented which sought approval of Members to A) AGMA appointments and nominations received from the GM local authorities to Greater Manchester statutory bodies; and B) appointments to other AGMA outside bodies for 2016/17

Resolved/-

1. To note the appointments from local authorities to the AGMA Executive Board for 2016/17 as follows:-

District	Member	Substitute Member
GMCA	Tony Lloyd GM Interim Mayor	
Bolton	Cliff Morris (LAB)	Linda Thomas (LAB) Ebrahim Adia (LAB)
Bury	Rishi Shori (LAB)	Jane Lewis (LAB) Trevor Holt (LAB)
Manchester	Richard Leese (LAB)	Sue Murphy (LAB) Bernard Priest (LAB)
Oldham	Jean Stretton (LAB)	Abdul Jabbar (LAB) Barbara Brownridge (LAB)
Rochdale	Richard Farnell (LAB)	Allen Brett (LAB) Jacqui Beswick (LAB)
Salford	Paul Dennett (LAB)	John Merry (LAB) Paula Boshell (LAB)
Stockport	Alexander Ganotis (LAB)	Wendy Wild (LAB) Kate Butler (LAB)
Tameside	Kieran Quinn (LAB)	John Taylor (LAB) Jim Fitzpatrick (LAB)
Trafford	Sean Anstee (CON)	Alex Williams (CON) John Lamb (CON)
Wigan	Peter Smith (LAB)	David Molyneux (LAB) Christopher Ready (LAB)

2. To note the Associate Members of AGMA namely, GM Fire & Rescue Authority, GM Police & Crime Commissioner, GM Waste Disposal Authority and the GM Local Enterprise Partnership

3. To note the appointments from local authorities to the Police and Crime Panel for 2016/17 as follows:-

District	Member
Bolton	Cliff Morris (LAB)
Bury	Rishi Shori (LAB)
Manchester	Richard Leese (LAB)
Oldham	Jean Stretton (LAB)
Rochdale	Richard Farnell(LAB)
Salford	Paul Dennett (LAB)
Stockport	Alex Ganotis (LAB)
Tameside	Kieran Quinn (LAB)
Trafford	Sean Anstee (CON)
Wigan	Peter Smith (LAB)
Co-opted member	Diane Curry
Co-opted member	Maqsood Ahmad

4. To note the Police and Crime panel re-appointed the 2 co-opted members Diane Curry and Maqsood Ahmad to the Police and Crime Panel in 2015/16 a further 3 year term of office, to be reviewed in 2018/19.
5. To note the appointments from local authorities to the Police and Crime Steering Group (as detailed in the report) 2016/17 as follows:-

District	Member
Bolton	Derek Burrows (LAB)
Bury	Tamoor Tariq (LAB)
Manchester	Nigel Murphy (LAB)
Oldham	Barbara Brownridge (LAB)
Rochdale	Daalat Ali (LAB)
Salford	David Lancaster (LAB)
Stockport	Sheila Bailey (LAB)
Tameside	Joe Kitchen (LAB)
Trafford	John Lamb (CON)
Wigan	Kevin Anderson (LAB)

6. To approve the appointment of the GMCA Police and Crime portfolio holder, Tony Lloyd to the Police and Crime Steering Group 2016/17.
7. To note the appointments from local authorities to the GM Health Scrutiny Committee and their substitutes for 2016/17 as follows:-

District	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Champak Mistry (LAB)	Susan Howarth

		(LAB)
Bury	Annette McKay (LAB)	Vacancy
Manchester	Glynn Evans (LAB)	Vacancy
Oldham	Colin McLaren (LAB)	Elaine Garry (LAB)
Rochdale	Sara Rowbotham (LAB)	Vacancy
Salford	Margaret Morris (LAB)	Vacancy
Stockport	Laura Booth (LIB DEM)	John Taylor (LAB)
Tameside	Gill Peet (LAB)	Vacancy
Trafford	Patricia Young (CON)	Angela Bruer-Morris (CON)
Wigan	John O'Brien (LAB)	Nigel Ash (LAB)

8. To agree that the GM Health and Wellbeing Board is no longer required due to the newly established Health and Social Care governance structures and should therefore be disbanded.
9. To note the appointment of the GM Interim Mayor to the Greater Manchester Reform Board.
10. To approve the appointment of 9 Members, nominated by the local authorities to the Greater Manchester Reform Committee for 2016/17 and note the current Rochdale vacancy, as follows:-

District	Member
Bolton	Ebrahim Adia (LAB)
Bury	Rishi Shori (LAB)
Manchester	Sue Murphy (LAB)
Oldham	Barbara Brownridge (LAB)
Rochdale	To Be Advised
Salford	John Merry (LAB)
Stockport	David Sedgewick (LAB)
Tameside	Jim Fitzpatrick (LAB)
Trafford	Sean Anstee (CON)
Wigan	Terry Halliwell (LAB)

11. To agree the nominations by local authorities to the Statutory Functions Committee for 2016/17, as follows:-

District	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Madeline Murray (LAB)	Cliff Morris (LAB)
Bury	Judith Kelly (LAB)	Vacancy
Manchester	Bernard Stone (LAB)	Vacancy
Oldham	Graham Shuttleworth (LAB)	Steven Bashforth (LAB)

Rochdale	Janet Emsley (LAB)	Peter Williams (LAB)
Salford	Ann Marie Humphreys (LAB)	Jane Hamilton (LAB)
Stockport	Tom McGee (LAB)	Wendy Wild (LAB)
Tameside	Jackie Lane (LAB)	Vacancy
Trafford	Bernard Sharp (CON)	Dylan Butt (CON)
Wigan	Paul Kenny (LAB)	Bill Clarke (LAB)

12. To approve the appointment of 10 members, nominated by the local authorities to the GM Pensions Fund Management Panel 2016/17, as follows:-

District	Member
Bolton	Mike Francis (LAB)
Bury	Joan Grimshaw (LAB)
Manchester	Angeliki Stogia (LAB)
Oldham	Brian Ames (LAB)
Rochdale	Allen Brett (LAB)
Salford	Paul Wilson (LAB)
Stockport	John Pantall (LIB DEM)
Tameside	Kieran Quinn (LAB) (Chair)
Trafford	Alan Mitchell (CON)
Wigan	Terry Halliwell (LAB)

13. To agree to grant authority to the AGMA Secretary, in consultation with the Chair of the AGMA Executive, to determine appointments to the following bodies in 2016/17:-
- i. the Planning and Housing Commission.
 - ii. the Asylum Seekers Board.
 - iii. the Halle Board.
 - iv. the People's History Museum Board.
 - v. the Council of Governors for the Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

46/16 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

To agree that meetings of the AGMA Executive Board will take place on the same day as the GMCA, as required, with the dates and venues being the same as those reported to the GMCA Meeting held earlier on the morning of 30 June 2016, as follows

Friday 29 July 2016 - Bury
Friday 26 August 2016 - Manchester

Friday 30 September 2016	-	Trafford
Friday 28 October 2016	-	Salford
Friday 25 November 2016	-	Oldham
Friday 16 December 2016	-	Bolton
Friday 27 January 2017	-	Wigan
Friday 24 February 2017	-	Rochdale
Friday 31 March 2017	-	GMPCC
Friday 28 April 2017	-	Stockport
Friday 26 May 2017	-	Tameside
Friday 30 June 2017	-	Bury

MINUTES FROM THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD, HELD ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2016 AT GUARDSMAN TONY DOWNES HOUSE, DROYLSDEN

MEMBERS PRESENT-

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Rishi Shori
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Sue Murphy
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jean Stretton
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Howard Bernstein	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Joanne Hyde	Trafford Council
Donna Hall	Wigan Council

Peter O'Reilly	Chief Fire Officer, GM Fire & Rescue Service
Ian Hopkins	Chief Constable, GM Police
Jon Lamonte	Chief Executive, TfGM
Mark Hughes	Manchester Growth Company
Simon Nokes	New Economy
Adam Allen	Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner
Clare Regan	Office of the GM Interim Mayor
Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Andrew Lightfoot	Deputy Head of the Paid Service
Julie Connor	Head of GMIST
Sylvia Welsh) Greater Manchester
Paul Harris) Integrated Support Team
Ross MacRae	GMCA Media Lead

47/16 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and noted from Councillor Richard Leese. Members noted that Councillor Sue Murphy was in attendance as his substitute.

48/16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or items of urgent business made.

49/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by any Member with regard to any item on the agenda.

50/16 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Board meeting, held on 27 May 2016 were submitted.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 27 May 2016 as a correct record.

51/16 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Consideration was given to a report which advised Members of those strategic decisions that were to be considered by the AGMA Executive over the upcoming four months.

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions, as set out in the report.

52/16 AGMA REVENUE OUTTURN 2015/16

Councillor Kieran Quinn introduced a report which informed Members of the revenue outturn position for 2015/16 and to note the position on reserves.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the revenue outturn position for 2015/16, as detailed in section 1 to the report, which is an underspend of £689,000 after contributions to earmarked reserves.
2. To approve the contribution of £11,954,000 to earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraphs 1.6, 1.7, 1.12 and 2.3 of the report, noting, in particular, the contribution of £1,894,000 to the earmarked reserve for the Business Rates Pool which is new from 2015/16.
3. To note the position on reserves as detailed in section 2.
4. To note that there is no longer a requirement for a separate external audit of the AGMA Annual Accounts from 2015/16.

53/16 GREATER MANCHESTER PUBLIC REFORM BUDGET

The GM Interim Mayor, Tony Lloyd introduced a report which provided an update on the expenditure from the GM Transformation Challenge (TCA) Award and Development Fund budgets. The report requests approval of further allocations from these funds to support the continued embedding of the GM Reform Principles.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note current commitments against these budgets during 2016/17, in line with previous decisions by AGMA to allocate funding to support GM devolution, implementation of locality based reform initiatives and the roll-out of GM-Connect.
2. To approve £150,000 from the Development Fund be allocated to support the embedding behaviour change in our reform work, inline with the reform principles previously approved by AGMA.
3. To approve a £500,000 contribution to support the work of Health Innovation Manchester, to be funded from the Development Fund and the TCA funding allocated to GM-Connect.
4. To approve £218,000 from the Development Fund to deliver the GM Growth and Inclusion Review.
5. To approve £218,000 from the Development Fund to support the development of the GM Life Chances Investment Fund that was agreed in the further March 2016 GM devolution agreement with Government.

6. To note the cost of £701,560 in relation to the development of Health and Social Care (H&SC) work (including support to localities in preparation of submissions to the H&SC Transformation Fund) as detailed in paragraph 2.1(c) and approve the underwriting of £401,560 of this spend from the Transformation Challenge Award (TCA) budget, with the remaining £300,000 offset against the planned contribution to the H&SC Partnership budget. This funding will be reimbursed from the H&SC Transformation Fund once approved.

54/16 GREATER MANCHESTER BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER PILOT

Eamonn Boylan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Planning and Housing, presented a report which provided the AGMA Executive Board meeting with an update on the Brownfield Register Pilot being completed with funding support from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report, particularly the Greater Manchester Brownfield Register Pilot Lessons set out in section 3 to the report and the methodology for creating and identifying sites at Appendix A to the report.
2. To agree to delegate authority to the Lead Chief Executive for Planning & Housing to approve the submission of the pilot register and key issues raised to DCLG.

55/16 GREATER MANCHESTER JOINS THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION'S 100 RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

Mike Owen, Portfolio Lead Executive for Civil Contingencies presented a report which provided an update to the AGMA Executive Board on the successful outcome of Greater Manchester's application to join the Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities Network.

RESOLVED/-

To note that Greater Manchester has been successful in joining the 100 Resilient Cities Network and will have access to resources along the following four pathways:

- a) financial and logistical guidance for establishing the position of Chief Resilience Officer.
- b) support to develop a resilience-building strategy.
- c) access to tools, service providers and partners from the private, public and non-profit sectors to implement the resilience strategy.
- d) access to the 100 Resilient Cities Network offering collaboration and learning with resilience experts worldwide.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT GMCA AND AGMA EXECUTIVE, HELD ON FRIDAY 29 JULY 2016 AT BURY TOWN HALL, BURY

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Rishi Shori
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jean Stretton
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	City Mayor Paul Dennett
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Alex Ganotis
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRA	Councillor David Acton
GMWDA	Councillor Nigel Murphy
TfGMC	Councillor Andrew Fender

IN ATTENDANCE

GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool	Councillor Colin McLaren
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Geoff Little	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC

Helen Jones
Will Blandamer
Peter O'Reilly

Ian Hopkins
Jon Lamonte
Simon Nokes
Adam Allen

Liz Treacy
Richard Paver
Andrew Lightfoot
Julie Connor
Paul Harris
Ross MacRae

Trafford Council
Wigan Council
Chief Fire Officer, GM Fire & Rescue
Service
Chief Constable, GM Police
Chief Executive, TfGM
New Economy
Office of the Police & Crime
Commissioner
GMCA Monitoring Officer
GMCA Treasurer
Deputy Head of the Paid Service
Head of GMIST
) Integrated Support Team
GMCA Media Lead

56/16 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Howard Bernstein, Theresa Grant, Donna Hall and Mark Hughes.

57/16 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or matters of urgent business reported.

58/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made.

59/16 MINUTES

a. Minutes of the AGMA Executive Board Annual Meeting held on 30 June 2016

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the Annual meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held on 30 June 2016 as a correct record.

b. Minutes of the AGMA Executive Board Ordinary Meeting held on 30 June 2016

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held on 30 June 2016 as a correct record.

**60/16 ROCHDALE MBC APPOINTMENT TO THE GREATER
MANCHESTER REFORM EXECUTIVE MEMBERS GROUP**

Members considered the appointment of Cllr Jacqui Beswick, representing Rochdale MBC, to the to the Greater Manchester Reform Executive Members Group.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the appointment of Cllr Jacqui Beswick to the GM Reform Executive Members Group.

**61/16 BURY APPOINTMENT TO THE JOINT GMCA & AGMA
SCRUTINY POOL**

Members considered a nomination from Bury Council to be appointed to the Joint GMCA & AGMA Scrutiny Pool for 2016/17.

RESOLVED/-

To note the change in representation of the Bury Council appointment to the Joint GMCA & AGMA Scrutiny Pool with Councillor Stella Smith replacing Councillor Jane Black for 2016/17.

**62/16 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS OF JOINT
GMCA & AGMA**

Consideration was given to a report advising Members of those strategic decisions that were to be considered by the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive over the upcoming four months.

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions, as set out in the report.

**63/16 GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT SCRUTINY POOL TASK &
FINISH GROUP**

Councillor Sean Anstee, Portfolio Lead for Employment, Skills and Worklessness introduced a report which set out the findings of the Greater Manchester Scrutiny Pool's Task and Finish Group on education, employment and skills. It was noted that the review was convened by Councillor Colin McLaren (Oldham), who was also in attendance, to provide an overview of the work undertaken and set out the outcomes and recommendations of the Task and Finish Group.

Particular attention was given to public transport costs for students across Greater Manchester and it was noted that further work with regard to this matter was to be undertaken.

RESOLVED/-

1. To welcome the report and thank Members of the Scrutiny Pool's Task and Finish Group for this valued piece of work.
2. To agree and support the following recommendations and to note the reporting timetable:-
 - a. The **GM Skills Team** to provide Scrutiny with a note which:-
 - outlines GM's work on improving information advice and guidance (IAG) provision and specifies how many of GM's young people have access to gold standard 'Inspiring IAG'; and,
 - reviews the effectiveness of the way GM currently communicates its skills offer, particularly about apprenticeships.September 2016
 - b. That the **GM Skills and Employment Partnership, GM Skills Team and GM Community and Voluntary Organisation (GMCVO)** ensure that support for schools, colleges, training providers and community and voluntary sector (CVS) organisations delivering employability skills is scaled up to match the challenge GM faces in delivering its employment aspirations. October 2016
 - c. **GM Skills and Employment Partnership and district skills leads** to identify projects from across the conurbation that have a proven track record of successfully delivering employability skills. These projects should be promoted and celebrated, and, if appropriate, rollout their approach more widely. October 2016
 - d. That GM's skills commissioners (the **Skills Funding Agency** and **New Economy**) to explain, and if necessary improve how their commissioning processes to support and reward the flexibility and responsiveness of smaller providers. September 2016
 - e. That the **GM Skills Team, Public Services Reform Team** in partnership with **district skills leads** provide a report assessing the feasibility of providing a small GM-wide investment fund to support young people being assisted into education or training by small community and voluntary sector organisations. For example travel and training costs, and appropriate work clothing. September 2016
 - f. That the **Greater Manchester Combined Authority** monitors the work of the **North West Construction** October 2016

Hub and the **AGMA Procurement Hub** through an annual report to:-

- ensure that the social value of contracts let via these routes is maximised in line with the GMCA Social Value Policy adopted in November 2014.
 - that **district skills leads** support those delivering contracts to help them fulfill their contract's social value commitments.
- g. Officers in the **North West Construction Hub** and the **AGMA Procurement Hub** build on the work already done with **procurement officers in districts** to develop common definitions of the way that postcodes are used to monitor social value outcomes in cases where GM districts can use their influence to determine the social value elements of contracts. This will help to ensure that the employment and other social value impacts deliver maximum benefit to GM residents. October 2016
- h. **GM Skills Team** ensures that the **NW Construction Hub** and the **AGMA Procurement Hub** have at least one link person per district who can support companies to deliver of social value and corporate social responsibility targets through providing linkages to training, school engagement and the local communities within districts. September 2016
- i. **Transport for Greater Manchester** continue to negotiate with **bus operators** to deliver an easy to understand fare offer, particularly for apprentices. This is an interim measure before GM acquires the potential, through legislative changes arising from the forthcoming Buses Bill, to secure greater influence over bus services. December 2016
- j. **Transport for Greater Manchester** continues work with the **GM Skills Team** to ensure that accurate journey planning information is easily available, understandable, and meets the needs of students. This is particularly important for multimodal and multi operator journeys. September 2016
- k. That the **GM Skills Team** should consider supporting apprentices with travel costs to promote and sustain individuals' learning, as participation in learning is something GM wants to encourage. September 2016
- l. The **GM Skills Team** ensure that the recommendations of GM's Area Based Review of post-16 education consider travel to learn patterns, and how existing travel support for young people can be better September 2016

optimised in the light of any proposals to reconfigure GM's post-16 provision.

64/16 GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY ANNUAL REPORT

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor introduced a report providing Leaders with the draft Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) Annual Performance Report for their consideration, inviting any views or recommendations prior to a final version being approved by Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor.

RESOLVED/-

To note the report and agree to grant authority to the Head of the Paid Service, GMCA, in consultation with Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor, to agree the final published version of the Greater Manchester Strategy Annual Performance Report.

65/16 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE - PROPOSAL IN RESPECT OF GREATER MANCHESTER GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

Tony Lloyd, GM Interim Mayor and Police & Crime Commissioner and Councillor Rishi Shori, Portfolio Lead for Police & Crime presented a report updating Members in respect of the statutory requirements outlined in the Prevent Duty, highlight current issues facing Greater Manchester and outlining the proposed governance arrangements to strengthen Greater Manchester oversight.

Members noted that the report also outlined opportunities in relation to building community resilience and draws parallels with the Greater Manchester complex safeguarding work, which forms part of the Review of Services for Children.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree to adopt the proposals in respect of strengthened Greater Manchester governance arrangements in relation to the Building Resilient Communities agenda.
2. To adopt the Greater Manchester principles in relation to both partnership working and community engagement, as set out in the report.

66/16 100% BUSINESS RATES RETENTION PILOT

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance, introduced a report providing Members with an update on the previous decision by Greater Manchester Councils, through AGMA, in relation to Business Rates and outlined current work in relation to the 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot.

A Member welcomed the pilot and commented that the benefits of the pilot were supported as long as it was not to the financial detriment of any individual local authority.

RESOLVED/-

- 1 To note the outcome of the operation of the Greater Manchester/Cheshire East Business Rates Pool in 2015/16.
- 2 To agree that the Greater Manchester net proceeds, after allowing for agreed local authorities' shares, be transferred from AGMA reserves to the GMCA and the use of these proceeds be subject to a further report.
- 3 To note the continuation of discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) with regard to the operation of the Business Rates Growth Pilot and the likely scale of proceeds which are expected to arise from the agreed measurement of 'growth' during 2015/16.
- 4 To note the current state of discussions between Greater Manchester and CLG with regard to the 100% Business Rates Retention Pilot which will commence in April 2017.
- 5 To note that CLG have issued a consultation paper with regard to 100% Retention and that Greater Manchester Treasurers will be working to prepare a response in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance.
- 6 To request a further report on the 100% pilot once the framework is agreed with CLG; to include how the 'no detriment' position will be calculated and applied across Greater Manchester.

67/16 AGMA REVENUE UPDATE 2016/17

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance, introduced a report informing members of the 2016/17 forecast revenue outturn position as at end June 2016.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report and the current revenue outturn forecast for 2016/17 which is projecting a minor underspend of £29,000 against budget.
2. To approve the revisions to the revenue budget plan 2016/17 as identified in the report and described in paragraphs 1.2-1.5 of the report, including transfers from reserves as detailed in section 2.

**68/16 GREATER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN DEBT
ADMINISTRATION FUND TREASURY MANAGEMENT
ACTIVITY AND FINAL ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

Councillor Kieran Quinn, Portfolio Lead for Investment and Finance, presented a report providing a summary of the Fund's Treasury Management Activities and presents the Final Accounts for the Financial Year 2015/16.

The meeting is asked to receive the report and approve the Final Accounts.

RESOLVED/-

To receive the 2015/16 activity report and to approve the final accounts.



Minutes

Oldham Leadership Board

Thursday 21 July 2016, 10 am until 12 noon

Harry Burns Suite, First Choice Homes, Union Street, Oldham

Present:

Cllr Jean Stretton	Leader, Oldham Council (Chair)
Carolyn Wilkins	Chief Executive, Oldham Council
Alan Higgins	Oldham Council
Helen Lockwood	Oldham Council
Liz Windsor-Welsh	Action Together
Caroline Drysdale	Pennine Care
Wayne Wright	Probation/CRC
Cath Green	First Choice Homes and Chair of Co-ops and Neighbourhoods Cluster
Andy Harty	Greater Manchester Police
Sam Breckwell	Oldham College
John Wilkes	Pennine Acute
Julie Price	Department of Work and Pensions (JCP)
Jeremy Broadbent	Oldham Business Leaders
Dave Benstead	Oldham Business Leaders and Economy and Skills
Cllr Abdul Jabbar	Deputy Leader, Oldham Council
Cllr Barbara Brownridge	Oldham Council
Cllr Sue Dearden	Oldham Council and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board
Tom Stannard	Oldham Council
Jackie Wilson	Oldham Council
Vicky Sugars	Oldham Council
Charlotte Pace	Social Enterprise UK

Apologies:

Cllr Howard Sykes	Oldham Council
Alun Francis	Oldham College
CS Caroline Ball	Greater Manchester Police
Jayne Clarke	Oldham Sixth Form College
Denis Gizzi	Oldham CCG
Dr Ian Wilkinson	Oldham CCG
Jonathan Yates	Oldham CAB
Jon Aspinall	Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue
Nisha Bakshi	Probation
Michael McCourt	Pennine Care

1	Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 20 April 2016
	The minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2016 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.

2	Oldham Community Power
	Bill Edwards, Director of Oldham Community Power, presented the opportunities of the Oldham Community Power scheme to Board members and requested Board to promote the scheme within their organisations and networks.
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <p>1. That members of the Oldham Leadership Board promote the opportunities of Oldham Community Power within their organisations and networks.</p>
3	Oldham Leadership Board refreshed terms of reference
	Dr Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive of Oldham Council, presented the refreshed terms of reference to the Board.
	This follows on from the action agreed at the last meeting regarding the role of the Oldham Leadership Board in leading Oldham and at Greater Manchester.
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <p>1. The new terms of reference for the Oldham Leadership Board were approved.</p>
4	Greater Manchester
	Dr Carolyn Wilkins, Chief Executive, Oldham Council presented a report to the Board on Greater Manchester which covered current and emerging areas relevant to Oldham and the Partnership in the areas of health and social care; public service reform; transport, planning, housing and growth, work and skills and strategic approach.
	Board members welcomed the report and the opportunity to share the information within their respective organisations.
	It was agreed that Greater Manchester become a standing item on the Oldham Leadership Board for all future meetings.
	A comment was made regarding the strategic approach and the need to ensure Oldham contributes to any strategic refresh at Greater Manchester. It was further noted that inclusive growth needed to be at the core of any strategic refresh at Greater Manchester.
	A comment was made that the Housing MoU had now been approved at Greater Manchester and that any future briefing be amended to reflect this along with appropriate hyperlinks to reports.
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <p>1. That Greater Manchester become a standing item on all Oldham Leadership Board meetings</p>
5	Oldham Work and Skills Strategy
	Tom Stannard, Director for Economy and Skills, Oldham Council provided an overview of the Work and Skills Strategy and sought partner endorsement.
	Board members highlighted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive Work and Skills strategy has been missing from our strategic

	<p>framework for some-time and members welcomed that this was finally in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important that we now explore how this strategy fits in with the other commissioning clusters. • The co-operatives and neighbourhoods cluster would like to explore how skills can be further integrated into the thriving communities and place agenda for Oldham. • A discussion on how housing growth fits into the strategy would be helpful • The strategy was not the end but the beginning and something that would evolve over time. • The strategy should be taken back within organisations within Oldham and at Greater Manchester for further discussion over implementation. • The strategy was in the right territory but we might need to make different decisions on how to implement it. <p>In addition, Cllr Jean Stretton, Leader of Oldham Council (Chair) also updated the Board on her Greater Manchester appointment which included the remit of 'inclusive growth'. This included a commitment from Oldham to progress this agenda both in Oldham and at Greater Manchester.</p> <p>Dave Benstead, Chair of OBLG and the Economy and Skills Partnership also informed the Board of the recent refresh of the Economy and Skills Partnership and the meeting the evening before. The new partnership was now more reflective of business capabilities in Oldham. Dave stressed the importance of continuing the level of engagement with these businesses over the coming months.</p>
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Work and Skills Strategy is endorsed (but likely to evolve over time). 2. That the strategy is taken back within organisations and at Greater Manchester to discuss the detail and implementation plans further.
<p>6</p>	<p>Social Value</p>
	<p>Charlotte Pace from the Institute of Voluntary Action Research (IVAR) presented a refreshed Oldham Social Value Charter and Framework.</p> <p>This involved an overview of the programme that IVRS had run in Oldham over the past 6 months to further develop a Partnership approach to social value.</p> <p>The following comments/suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That we have learned a lot from Social Value Procurement since 2012 • We need to be both proportionate and appropriate in looking at social value procurement – not a one size fits all approach. • Greater Manchester were connected into the programme but tended to follow/adopt the Oldham model. • That Social Value needs to be considered in its broadest sense in what we can do to encourage inclusive growth in Oldham. • We need Social Value for the whole of Oldham and we should aim to put a partnership figure on what we have created across the borough in terms of social value impact.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voluntary, community and faith sector are the link to local people and this is why it needs to be central to social value – with Action Together providing a potential brokerage role. • Social value is not just about commissioning but how we achieve an outcome. • We need to ensure that SME's are encouraged as part of the social value process and not put off by it. Large business will have a team to look at contracts. • We should to ask ourselves why something does not apply to social value rather than why it does. • An Opportunity assessment should be required that specifically asks which social value principles will apply to this contract – case by case. This should then be complemented by a broker service for VSC via VAO. • We need to hear the voice of the end beneficiary and test how genuine the Social Value is. Not tokenistic. <p>Following the presentation and discussion the Board split into smaller groups to discuss next steps and the following was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We run a session at the Health and Wellbeing Board to adapt the social value framework and charter for health. Starting with celebrating what our current providers already deliver in social value and bringing in good practice nationally. • That we explore the social value charter further with the Economy and Skills Partnership and business to get further buy-in and views on how this can work in practice • That we consider a partnership wide meet the buyer type of event and more public sign up/launch of social value • To make social value real by celebrating success and looking at the end beneficiary
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Run a session at the Health and Wellbeing Board to adapt the social value framework and charter for health. 2. Explore the social value charter further with the Economy and Skills Partnership and business to get further buy-in and views on how this can work in practice 3. Consider a partnership wide meet the buyer type of event and more public sign up/launch of social value – using real life examples.
	<p>Date of next meeting</p>
	<p>22nd September 2016, 10am until 12noon</p>



MioCare Group

[Oldham Care Services Ltd: Oldham Care and Support Ltd: Oldham Care and Support at Home Ltd]

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

9th May 2016

Public Minutes

Present:	Board members Cllr Zahid Chauhan (Chair) Cllr Jenny Harrison (CllrJH) Cllr John F McCann (CllrJMc) Cllr Ginny Alexander (CllrGA) Karl Dean – Managing Director (KD) Mick Ord – Non Executive Board Member (MO)	In attendance Paul Whitehead - Director of Finance and Resources (PW) Diane Taylor – Associate Director LD &MH (DT) June Rainford – Associate Director OPS & COoH (JR) Valerie Perrins – Associate Director QPC (VP) Maggie Kufeldt – OMBC Exec Director acting as shareholder’s advisor to the Board Sarah Southern – Business Admin Manager (Minutes)
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No	Agenda Item	Action
1	Welcome, Introduction, attendees and apologies The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.	
2	Declaration of Interest CllrJMc is a member of the Unity Partnership – JVCo Board and Unity Partnership Ltd - Partnership Board	
3	In Confidence – Section There were no items of business discussed.	
4	Minutes of Last Meeting The minutes of the last Board Meeting held on 14 th March 2016 were agreed as	

	a true record.	
5	<p>Matters Arising and Previous Actions</p> <p>Chair went through the Action Log and it was updated accordingly.</p>	
6	<p>Limecroft Update</p> <p>KD gave an update on Limecroft and a report was received from Pam Smith (PS), Independent Consultant who is a specialist in Residential and Dementia Care.</p>	
7	<p>MD Update</p> <p>KD gave an update on the following areas:</p> <p>It was noted that:</p> <p>Good progress has been made against the SLT delivery plan for 2016. MK stated that there has been significant progress made in recent months and is confident the SLT will deliver on the 2016 key objectives.</p> <p>The KPIs have been consistent and that there will be a move towards more outcome focused measures.</p> <p>There been progress in relation to the ACMO and the locality plan has been reviewed .</p> <p>A number of staff engagement events are being held in the summer.</p> <p>The company's name change has now been confirmed. The company is now registered as MioCare Group CIC and OCSH is now MioCare Services. Notifications will now be sent to all the relevant agencies including the Care Quality Commission.</p> <p>The new sub-committee structure will soon be implemented are include an Operations Committee, Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and Remuneration Committee.</p> <p>APPROVED: All board members present approved the implementation of the sub – committee's membership and meeting cycle.</p> <p>The redesign of the learning disabilities service is underway. This work is significant in delivering the 2016 budget.</p> <p>Progress at the Extra Care Housing schemes is being made and there is optimism that this could become a flagship service.</p> <p>CQC inspections have now been carried out at 3 schemes – Willow House, Limecroft and Medlock Court.</p> <p>The final Willow House report has now been received and has been circulated</p>	

	<p>to members.</p> <p>Limecroft received an overall CQC rating of 'Good'.</p> <p>Medlock Court received an unannounced inspection on 26th April 2016.</p> <p>There has been a lot of learning from the inspections so far and this has been shared across all services.</p>	
8	<p>Project - Review of MioCare Group</p> <p>KD gave an update on the project that is reviewing the MioCare Group.</p> <p>Delivery of the project has been organised in to 3 work streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organisation • Strategy assessment & development • Support Services <p>On the months that there is not a board meeting, a project review update meeting will be held to ensure that members are kept informed on the progress of the review.</p>	
9	<p>MioCare Services 2016 Business Plan</p> <p>PW gave an overview of the MioCare Services 2016 Business Plan. This was requested by members at the Board meeting held on 14th March 2016 following the approval of a change to the management structure within MioCare Services.</p> <p>The business plan focuses on 4 core business areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limecroft - Personal Assistants - Extra Care - Home Care <p>Home Care – This service is recognised as the most financially problematic in the group and is wholly responsible for the losses made in MioCare Services. The business plan recommends that the following actions be implemented to improve the profitability of the service.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Report invoiced hours of care at Board meetings to include a report to explain growth / reduction. 2. WEF 1st July 2016 increase the charge to private payers to £15.50 per hour 3. WEF 1st July 2016, start to charge private payers in line with contract provisions. At present, charges for cancelled hours are not being made even though the contract signed by the individual allows for charging in 	

	<p>full unless 24 hours' notice is given.</p> <p>4. At present MioCare Services delivers 9% of the commissioned hours in the Saddleworth Area and commissioners have indicated that they would like MioCare Services to take on additional hours. This action is to be prioritised with Commissioners.</p> <p>5. Due to the geography and relatively long travel times involved in the Saddleworth area, it is recommended that WEF 1st July 2016 MioCare Services start to charge an enhanced rate for care hours delivered in Saddleworth. Details of this to be agreed with Commissioners.</p> <p>6. Confirmation has now been received that following the fee consultation exercise, care slots posts hospitalisation has now been reduced from 7 days to 3.</p> <p>APPROVED: All board members approved the business plan and agreed the recommendations as outlined in the action plan.</p> <p>ACTION: PW to progress actions with commissioners</p>	
10	<p>Management Accounts Period 3</p> <p>PW gave an update on the management accounts as they stand at period 3.</p> <p>The performance across MioCare Group shows a positive variance of £88k with an overall surplus of £137k.</p> <p>Oldham Care and Support has to date made a surplus of £134k against a budget of £55k.</p> <p>MioCare Services has made a loss of £17k against a budget of a £21k loss. Homecare remains accountable for the entirety of the loss.</p> <p>The draft budget for period 4 indicates that OCS will make a surplus of £140k and MioCare Services a loss of £23k. A loss position for MioCare Services was agreed as part of this years draft budget however the position has been slightly improved by the addition of Extra Care Housing schemes.</p> <p>PW explained that the figures for the first quarter of the year are a little exaggerated due to some income that was received earlier in the year.</p> <p>KD confirmed that the £1.25m savings target has been profiled from January 2016 and so is already included in the figures shown.</p>	
11	<p>Risk Register</p> <p>PW explained that himself and KD review the risk register prior to every meeting and on this occasion, there are no changes to be noted since the last meeting on 14th March 2016.</p> <p>MK questioned why, although there has been a lot of positive progress made</p>	

	<p>with regards to operations and finance, the risk register still remains very black and red indicating that there is still a lot of high level risks within the business.</p> <p>KD explained that it had previously been agreed by members to only report to board the high level risks which is those that score 12 or more. The operational risks with a lower score are part of the individual risk registers in each service area.</p>	
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>Due to the recent elections and the change of leadership within the Council, membership of the board could potentially be changes and so the Chair thanked all board members and executive staff for all their hard work and support.</p> <p>Chair stated that the vision and policies for the company have now been set and these should be continued.</p>	
14	<p>Date and Time of next meeting:</p> <p>Monday 11th July 2016 , 9.30 – 11.30am at Ena Hughes Resource Centre, Failsworth</p>	

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COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of the Constitutional Services

Ext. 4705

7th September 2016

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from previous Council meetings.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meetings on 13th July 2016.
2. This report also provides feedback on other issues raised at that meeting and previous meetings.

Recommendations

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 notice of motions approved at the Council meetings on 13th July 2016.

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. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 N/A

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

-
- 11.1 N/A
- 12 **Property Implications**
- 12.1 N/A
- 13 **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1 N/A
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 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:
- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th July 2016 are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 13th July 2016
- 20.2 Appendix 2 – Letters and other information received in response to actions approved at previous Council meetings.

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Actions from Council 13th July 2016

ACTION	RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Ward Member Question – Cages behind Tesco, Shaw	Options to be explored with Tesco – officers to keep members updated.	Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods	An Enforcement Officer visited Tesco Express in Shaw. The deliveries are brought on cages and the previous empty cages are recycled and taken away. However, this had not been occurring. It has been agreed that once deliveries were made, the products would be taken off and the cages would predominantly be stored inside the premises leaving the fewest amount outside ready outside for recycling. The officer informed Tesco that the Council would be monitoring this.
Ward Member Question- Holden Fold Lane, Royton	Site to be revisited and establish if formal legal action could be taken against the owner	Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods	Planning Officers have visited the site and could not find sufficient evidence to justify formal action under planning legislation. However, officers will write to the owner to try and establish intentions as to the future use of the site.

<p>Outstanding Business – Administration Business 2 – DCLG Guidelines to curb Council’s powers to divest from or stop trading with organisations or countries they regard as unethical.</p>	<p>Letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government</p> <p>Letters to be sent to the Borough’s Three Members of Parliament</p> <p>Email response received from Angela Rayner MP dated and received 22 July 2016</p> <p>Response received from J McMahon OBE MP dated 25 July 2016 received 27 July 2016</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>18th July 2016</p> <p>18th July 2016</p>
<p>EU Referendum – Impact on Oldham and Greater Manchester</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report be noted. 2. Letter to be sent to the Prime Minister jointly signed by the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Main Opposition 3. Councillor Jabbar take lead Cabinet responsibility 	<p>Council</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>13th July 2016</p> <p>In progress.</p>
<p>Youth Council Motion</p>	<p>The Youth Council motion which outlined their intentions for 2016 – 18 be noted.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>The Council noted the Youth Council Motion on 13th July 2016.</p>
<p>Questions and Observations on Cabinet Minutes – Outcome of Brokerage Services Tender</p>	<p>Related to brokers being added to the list.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>The Executive Director, Health and Wellbeing provided the full response to Councillor Blyth at the end of the Council meeting.</p>

Administration Business 1 – Tackling Hate Crime	Letters to be sent to the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball	Chief Executive	18 th July 2016
Administration Business 2 – Houses of Multi-Occupation	Officers be instructed to establish a robust evidence base outlining the impact HMOs.	Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods	A Policy Document will be prepared for consideration. In progress.
Administration Business 3 – GM Moving Strategy	Motion to be rolled to the next ordinary Council meeting to be held on 7 th September 2016	Constitutional Services	7 th September 2016
Opposition Business 1 – Bin Collection App	The merits and costs of the introduction of a bin app for the Oldham Borough be looked at and an update be provided to elected members.	Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods	In progress.

<p>Opposition Business 2 – “Super Rats”</p>	<p>1. the risk posed by poison resistant rats and how residents could “rat proof” their homes be publicised.</p> <p>2. Letters be sent to the Borough’s three MPs</p> <p>Email response received from Angela Rayner MP dated and received 22 July 2016</p> <p>Response received from J McMahon OBE MP dated 25 July 2016 received 27 July 2016</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>The Council will be putting advice on to the website about this issue and will include guidance on how residents can pest proof their homes. It should be noted the poisons referenced are available to home owners. The Council uses specialist poisons to which rats or mice aren’t immune. The Council would always advise the public to contact the Pest Control team if there are issues with rats rather than deal with it themselves.</p> <p>18th July 2016</p>
<p>Opposition Business 3 – “Night Blight”</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board and Planning Committee to look into the merits and practicalities of adopting the recommendations in the Borough</p>	<p>Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>A workshop is recommended to be organised for Overview and Scrutiny Board Members and Planning Committee Members.</p>

Living Wage Proposals from April 2016	<p>Council agreed the changes to the Council's pay and grading structure as outlined in preferred Option 1 be approved and pay parity to Agency and Casual Workers engaged by the Council be applied.</p> <p>The one year position only which applied from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 be noted.</p> <p>The backdating of those positively affected to 1 April 2017 be noted and this incorporated and not in addition to the 2016 national pay award settlements at this level.</p> <p>The work in progress of the multi-disciplinary task for the preparation of the submission required for phased accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation as outlined in the report be noted.</p>	<p>Council</p> <p>Council</p> <p>Corporate and Commercial Services</p> <p>Council</p>	<p>13th July 2016</p> <p>13th July 2016</p> <p>13th July 2016</p> <p>13th July 2016</p>
District Plans and Spending Guidance	<p>Council approved the District Plans which had been agreed by each District Executive.</p> <p>The associated approach on spending Ward and District budgets, which ensure this was in line with District Plans, be agreed.</p>	Council	13 th July 2016

Update on Actions from Council	Council noted the actions received regarding motions and other actions agreed at previous Council meetings.	Council	The Council noted the report on 13 th July 2016.
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Previous to 13 July 2016 Council:

<p>Opposition Business 1 – NHS Blood and Transplant Services</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board. Emails sent to the relevant directorate.</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>The Motion was discussed at the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 15th March 2016 where a number of options were considered. It was agreed that Oldham as a place to work with the NHS Blood and Transplant Service. The service is due to be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Development Session on 19 July 2016 with a further update to Health Scrutiny on 20 September 2016.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 2 – “Who Put That There Campaign”</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny. Emails sent to the relevant directorate.</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>An update was provided to O&S Board on 22 March. The Board appointed a representative to work with officers from Policy. A charter would be discussed with partners/agencies and a report to be brought back to O&S Board.</p>
<p>Leader & Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Sykes to Cllr McMahon – Community Shop (4 February 2015)</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p><u>Community Shop</u> – a report was presented to O&S Board in July 2015. A workshop was organised for elected members on 28 September 2015. A visit also took place to the Community Shop in Barnsley and Fare Share in Ashton.</p>

			<p>The Board endorsed that a risk assessment and cost benefit analysis be carried out on a “combined model” which brought together the opportunity for the delivery of both the Community Shop and Fare Share models for the redistribution of surplus food, opportunities for joint investment from partners and other sources be explored; and findings be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board at a future date.</p>
Youth Council Motion (9 Sep 2015) – “Mosquito Device”	Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board	Overview and Scrutiny	<p>The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny met with the Youth Council on 12 Oct 2015. A meeting was arranged with the Shaw and Crompton Ward Councillors. A workshop was convened on 10 December 2015. The meeting agreed a series of actions. A further meeting was convened on 29 February where it was agreed to contact agencies for the criteria used to assess anti-social behaviour before mosquito devices were installed and engagement with young people.</p> <p>A further meeting was held on 5th April. It was agreed that the</p>

			<p>Policy would be reviewed and the Community Safety Manager would meet with the Youth Council on the revised policy. The revised Policy would then be submitted to O&S Board in June 2016. The revised Policy was discussed with the Youth Council. The revised Policy was presented to the O&S Board on 13 June 2016. The Board requested amendments to the Policy as submitted. The Policy will be presented to Members in September 2016.</p>
<p>Administration Business 1 – International Women’s Day – 23 March 2016</p>	<p>1. Supported the idea of and investigating funding sources for a permanent memorial to Annie Kenney in the town centre. 2. Supported the idea of and investigating funding sources for a permanent memorial to those killed and injured at Peterloo at Cheapside (outside the Civic Centre tower) near where the Oldham contingent gathered before marching to Manchester, and that the proposed memorial ideally be in place to mark the 200th anniversary of the massacre.</p>	<p>Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods – email sent 5 April</p>	<p>A plinth has been identified as the preferred location for the Annie Kenney statue. A foundation was being installed to support the statute. This is subject to fundraising.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 3 – Procurement Policy – 23 March 2016</p>	<p>1. Instruct Officers to assess the implications of revising our procurement procedure to require</p>	<p>Corporate and Commercial Services</p>	<p>Briefing Note is attached.</p>

	<p>all companies bidding for council service contracts worth more than £173,000 and works contracts worth more than £4m to self-certify that they are full tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14.</p> <p>2. Requested a report back to council on the findings from the review.</p>		
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From: RAYNER, Angela [<mailto:angela.rayner.mp@parliament.uk>]
Sent: 22 July 2016 14:58
To: Carolyn Wilkins
Subject: Motions, Ethical Procurement and Pensions Investment and Super Rats

Dear Carolyn

Thank you for your recent correspondence in relation to the above motions.

When I was the Shadow Pensions Minister I raised this matter with the then Minister for the DCLG and - as requested, will continue to press the case.

On the Super Rat issue, I will forward the contents of the motion onto the Department for the Environment.

Best regards

Angela

Mike Amesbury
Senior Parliamentary Adviser

Angela Rayner MP
Shadow Secretary of State for Education, Women and Equalities
Member of Parliament for Ashton-under-Lyne
Representing Ashton, Failsworth and Droylsden
Constituency Office: **8 Clarence Arcade, Stamford Street**
Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7PT
0161 672 1770

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Jim McMahon OBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01160625

25 July 2016

Dear Carolyn

Thank you for sending me a copy of the resolution on Ethical Procurement agreed by council.

Firstly I should say that I agree entirely that central government should learn to let go and trust that local government is responsible enough to make its own decisions. The power of democracy offers local people a clear route to holding to account decision makers through the ballot box. There is a tension which arises from this particular issue where I do feel the Government has a legitimate challenge.

Each local authority acts within the framework determined by central government and is therefore part of the UK government, albeit at a local level. The responsibility for setting foreign policy is not a devolved matter and rests firmly with central government.

I do think there needs to be a negotiated settlement whereby councils do not seek to set their own foreign policy which is counter to that of the country as a whole, but where local elected members are given freedom to trade freely, within the law, as they judge to be appropriate.

Where local government has a clear route to doing business with likeminded businesses and organisations it isn't to restrict, but to promote high standards of ethical procurement as Oldham has done with its Ethical Framework and I commend you for that.

Please be assured of my support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim McMahon".

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Member of Parliament
Oldham West & Royton

Serving the Communities of Chadderton, Royton and Oldham

Constituency Office Address: Textile House, 108 Union Street, Oldham OL1 1DU

Constituency Office: 0161 652 8485 Westminster Office: 020 7219 6039

Twitter: @jimfromoldham Website: www.jimmcmahon.co.uk

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Jim McMahon OBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01160623

25 July 2016

Dear Carolyn

Thank you for sending me the agreed resolution on Super Rats.

I am happy to commit to helping with this campaign and fully understand the concerns raised.

I would ask that in addition to the work lobbying government that a review is undertaken by the council to assess the combined impact of decisions taken by the council and its local partners including increasing fees for pest control, introducing fees for the removal of bulky goods, closure of household recycling centres, reduction in street cleaning staff and proposed change to a three weekly rota for waste collection and of course an assessment of the impact of investment in environment enforcement and behavioural change officers.

I understand entirely (and of course was involved in some of them) that these changes were introduced to balance the cruel and targeted cuts to Oldham's budget by this and the previous Coalition Government, but we should always take stock of the impact and review if the direct and indirect consequences are acceptable and if steps can be taken to minimise the impact.

I will get back to you as soon as I receive a response from the Minister and please be assured that I will make it clear that Government cuts to local authority budgets must bear some responsibility for the increase in vermin in our towns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".

Jim McMahon OBE
Member of Parliament
Oldham West & Royton

Serving the Communities of Chadderton, Royton and Oldham

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Oldham Council

Briefing Note on Oldham Council's Procurement Processes & Promotion of Tax Compliance

June 2016

Nicola Wadley, Head of Strategic Sourcing (Interim)
Strategic Sourcing Team
Commercial & Transformation Services

Ext: 8105

1. Background

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 135 of the Local Government Act 1972 Oldham Council sets out its obligations that apply to all Contracts for the supply of works, goods or services made in the name of the Council. These are the Contract Procedure Rules.
- 1.2 Amongst a number of commitments Oldham Council has contract values (whole life of the contract) associated with these Contract Procedure Rules, these state what process officers must follow to comply.

These are as follows:-

Oldham Council's Contract Procedure Rules	Contract Value	Required Procedure
	Less than £1,000	1 verbal quotation
	Between £1,000 and £5,000	3 verbal quotations
	Between £5,000 and £50,000	3 written quotations
	Over £50,000 to EU thresholds	Tender process
	EU thresholds and above EU	Procurement procedure

EU Thresholds	Supplies/Services	Works	Light touch Regime
	£164,176	£4,104,394	£589,148

- 1.3 In February 2011 the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Cabinet Office announced a series of measures to make it easier to SMEs to compete for Government contracts. These were:-

- the standardisation of PQQs (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire) and;
- the abolition of PQQ's in the procurement process. for contracts below OJEU threshold

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Council requires suppliers to act in a lawful way and procurement processes are designed where unlawful practices should be declared. Tax evasion, i.e. the illegal non-payment or underpayment of tax is unlawful.
- 2.2 AGMA Authorities (including associate members, Blackpool and Warrington) have not included these detailed questions in procurement documentation for contracts valued at less than the required threshold of £5 million.
- 2.3 The Procurement Policy Note: Measures to Promote Tax Compliance (Action Note 03/14) sets out the scope and background of how to take into account the measures to promote tax compliance in procurement documentation. It also provides details of how Departments should assess suppliers' responses.
- 2.4 New Public Contracts Regulations 2015 came into effect in February 2015. As part of these Regulations, Crown Commercial Services issued a standardised PQQ which incorporates mandatory tax compliance questions, as well as a number of other additional questions. These tax compliance questions apply to contracts with a value in excess of £5 million and relate specifically to central government contracts; they are not mandatory for other public bodies, although they can choose to use them if they wish. These tax compliance questions are as follows:-

The authority reserves the right to use its discretion to exclude a Supplier where it can demonstrate the Supplier's non-payment of taxes/social security contributions where no binding legal decision has been taken.

Please note that Section 3.7 relating to tax compliance only applies where the authority has indicated that the contract is over £5million in value, and the authority is a Central Government Department (including their Executive Agencies and Non-Departmental Public Bodies).

"Occasion of Tax Non-Compliance" means:

- (a) any tax return of the Supplier submitted to a Relevant Tax Authority on or after 1 October 2012 is found to be incorrect as a result of:*
- 1. a Relevant Tax Authority successfully challenging the Supplier under the General Anti-Abuse Rule or the Halifax Abuse Principle or under any tax rules or legislation that have an effect equivalent or similar to the General Anti-Abuse Rule or the Halifax Abuse Principle;*
 - 2. the failure of an avoidance scheme which the Supplier was involved in, and which was, or should have been, notified to a Relevant Tax Authority under the DOTAS or any equivalent or similar regime; and/or*

(b) the Supplier's tax affairs give rise on or after 1 April 2013 to a criminal conviction in any jurisdiction for tax related offences which is not spent at the Effective Date or to a penalty for civil fraud or evasion

<p>From 1 April 2013 onwards, have any of your company's tax returns submitted on or after 1 October 2012; (Please indicate your answer by marking 'X' in the relevant box).</p>		
xx	<p>Given rise to a criminal conviction for tax related offences which is unspent, or to a civil penalty for fraud or evasion;</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
xxx	<p>Been found to be incorrect as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HMRC successfully challenging it under the General Anti-Abuse Rule (GAAR) or the "Halifax" abuse principle; or ▪ A Tax Authority in a jurisdiction in which the legal entity is established successfully challenging it under any tax rules or legislation that have an effect equivalent or similar to the GAAR or the "Halifax" abuse principle; or ▪ the failure of an avoidance scheme which the Supplier was involved in and which was, or should have been, notified under the Disclosure of Tax Avoidance Scheme (DOTAS) or any equivalent or similar regime in a jurisdiction in which the Supplier is established. 	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p>If answering "Yes" to either xx or xxx above, the Supplier may provide details of any mitigating factors that it considers relevant and that it wishes the authority to take into consideration. This could include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Corrective action undertaken by the Supplier to date; ● Planned corrective action to be taken; ● Changes in personnel or ownership since the Occasion of Non-Compliance (OONC); or ● Changes in financial, accounting, audit or management procedures since the OONC. <p>In order that the authority can consider any factors raised by the Supplier, the following information should be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A brief description of the occasion, the tax to which it applied, and the type of "non-compliance" e.g. whether HMRC or the foreign Tax Authority has challenged pursuant to the GAAR, the "Halifax" abuse principle etc. ● Where the OONC relates to a DOTAS, the number of the relevant scheme. ● The date of the original "non-compliance" and the date of any judgement against the Supplier, or date when the return was amended. 		

- *The level of any penalty or criminal conviction applied.*

2.5 We can confirm that Oldham Council's Pre-Qualification Questionnaires and Invitation to Tender (ITT) documents include these tax compliance questions in procurements valued in excess of £5 million.

2.6 Oldham Council's procurement processes do not incorporate the detailed tax compliance questions referred to above in procurements valued from £5,000 to £4,999.999.

2.6.1 Bidders indicating a 'Yes' to this are informed in the procurement process that this is a criterion for exclusion. They then cannot continue their bid.

2.6.2 Oldham Council's procurement processes, including its Request for Quotation (RFQ's) exercises (for values £5,000 to £50,000) have been designed to encourage quotations from SMEs and the voluntary sector. Our processes are constructed to make it easier for these small businesses and voluntary groups to compete for public sector opportunities. This has been achieved by making the procurement process more simplistic and making some contracts smaller.

3. Council Motion

3.1 The following motion was agreed at Council on 23 March 2016:

"Oldham Council currently requires companies bidding for council contracts to have ethical and social policies.

Council believes that it should also require these bidders to account for their past tax record.

Council notes

- *That the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by requiring bidders to account for their past tax record in accordance with Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14). This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.*
- *In early 2015 new regulations required public bodies, including councils, to ask procurement qualification questions of all companies for tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4m for works contracts. However, these questions are not as detailed as the PPN 03/14.*

Council believes that it should require bidders for council contracts to account for their past tax record, using the standards in PPN 03/14.”

- 3.2 The instruction was given: To assess the implications of revising the Council's procurement procedures to require all companies bidding for council service contracts worth more than £173,000 and works contracts worth more than £4million to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14

4. Action Taken following Motion

- 4.1 Research has been undertaken to further understand the obligations and policy guidance in respect of the more detailed tax compliance questions as listed in section 2; 2.4 above, considerations include:-

4.1.1 The Council will need to use the information provided by suppliers in their responses as part of the overall assessment of the selection stage. The responses to the tax compliance questions should be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. The policy operates entirely on the basis of self-certification by suppliers; **there is no obligation on the Council to investigate or verify the responses to the questions.**

4.1.2 If suppliers respond 'yes' to the tax compliance questions (i.e. they declare that they have had an OONC (occasion of non-compliance) then the Council may decide to exclude them on this basis. Any such decision is at the discretion of the Council on the basis that the tax compliance provisions are discretionary exclusion criteria under the Regulations. It is entirely appropriate for the Council to use their judgement in reaching any decision on whether or not to exclude a supplier from a procurement.

This discretionary option carries a degree of risk as Strategic Sourcing staff (and stakeholders within the organisation) do not have the necessary professional expertise in relation to the taxation system.

However, it should be noted that if and OONC also falls within the mandatory exclusion criteria under the Regulations they the Council will have no discretion and shall be obliged to exclude.

4.1.3 The questions provide for suppliers to cite mitigating factors where they have had an OONC. Reaching a judgement on whether or not mitigating factors are adequate or appropriate, and the subsequent decision as to whether or not to exclude a supplier from a procurement, is the responsibility of the

Council. This gives Departments discretion in relation to how to respond to and OONC and can also be a means by which the government's intention to encourage better tax compliance in future, rather than simply to punish past actions, is implemented.

This discretionary option carries a degree of risk as Strategic Sourcing staff (and stakeholders within the organisation) do not have the necessary professional expertise in relation to the taxation system.

4.5 On implementation of the detailed tax compliance questions of PPN 03/16 in the tender documentation there will be a requirement to ensure that;

4.5.1 contract terms and conditions are updated to contain provision for ensuring there is an obligation on the supplier to keep the Council notified of any OONC during the term of the contract and also that the statement made by the supplier at selection stage remains valid at the commencement of the contract.

4.5.1 the contract document has robust termination clauses, exercisable by the Council at its discretion.

(Guidance on new contract clauses is available on the PPN 03/14 document.)

4.6 Amended procurement documentation and templates have been drafted to reflect the detailed tax compliance questions in all tenders over £173,000 for service contracts and £4million for works contracts.

4.7 Relevant termination clauses have been reviewed and are included in contract documentation.

4.8 Timescales to obtain specialist independent advice in relation to developing a robust and consistent approach when applying discretionary decision making powers.

4.8.1 From date of decision to proceed, (this takes into account the Summer holiday period for potential suppliers):

- Draft specification – two weeks (August 2016)
- Advertise opportunity – two weeks (August 2016)
- Evaluate and award – one week (Sept 2016)

5. Strategic Sourcing's Recommendations

5.1 Due to the complexities of the tax system there is a need for a tax specialist to advice on the possibilities / implications of this as a corporate policy.

5.2 This advice should include but not be limited to the legal implications in respect of individuals and organisations with regards to tax efficiency and avoidance. This will ensure that we have minimised risks of challenge from organisations whom have been excluded from bids. The costs and consequences of complexity in discouraging economic activity and our policy decision/impact on this.

(Nicola Wadley, Head of Strategic Sourcing [Interim])

6. Finance Comments

6.1 There are practical and statutory restrictions on the amount of due diligence that can be carried out on responses to Pre-qualification questions (PQQ) relating to tax compliance and the usual compliance checks performed through credit reference agencies do not specifically contain information relating to tax compliance. In essence, this means the Council will largely have to accept PQQ tax compliance responses at face value. However, there is still merit in including these questions in PQQ documentation provided the Council has a remedy included in subsequent service contracts/agreements that allows for termination in the event of the material misstatement of information supplied as part of the PQQ process.

The initial recommendation about seeking specialist advice is removed as it is not required (assuming the council follows the advice given above).

(Andrew Moran, Assistant Director of Finance [Corporate])

June 2016
Final
Commercial & Transformation Services



Report to COUNCIL

New Powers to GMCA Consultation – Oldham Council response

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Carolyn Wilkins OBE, Chief Executive

Report Author: Lewis Greenwood, Executive Support Manager,
Chief Executive, Policy and Communications
Ext. 3542

07 September 2016

Reason for Decision

Council is asked to note the response submitted by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) consultation which invited people and local authorities to submit their thoughts and comments on the powers that Greater Manchester will request from the Government.

Executive Summary

Oldham Council responded to the first powers to the GMCA Consultation which launched in April 2016. Council is now asked to note the response to the second consultation which has been submitted on behalf of the Council under the authority delegated by Council for the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive to approve future consultations; requesting that, where possible, such responses be discussed at Council prior to submission. This has not been possible for this second consultation from the GMCA, as it opened on Monday, 4 July 2016 and closed on Monday, 15 August 2016.

Recommendations

Council is asked to:

- note the contents of the report

-
- note Oldham Council's response to the consultation, as set out at **appendix 1** to this report.

New Powers to GMCA Consultation – Oldham Council response

1 Background

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) launched a consultation that invited people and local authorities to submit their thoughts and comments on the powers that Greater Manchester will request from Central Government.
- 1.2 This is the second consultation on new powers, following the first consultation the GMCA led in April/May 2016.
- 1.3 At its annual meeting in May 2016, whilst approving the Council's response to the first consultation, Council delegated authority to the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to approve future GMCA consultations, but it was noted that, where possible, responses would be discussed at Council, prior to any formal responses being submitted.
- 1.4 This second consultation from the GMCA opened on Monday, 4 July 2016 and closed on Monday, 15 August 2016 requiring to the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to use the delegated authority and approve the Council's response. Council is therefore asked to note the response provided as set out at **appendix 1** to this report.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The response to the consultation, set out at **appendix 1** to this report was submitted on behalf of the Council on Friday, 12 August 2016, prior to the deadline of 15 August 2016.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 N/A

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Council is asked to note the contents of the report and appendices.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Consultation was under taken by the Leader of the Council with the Chief Executive.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this consultation document. However, the devolution agenda is intended to bring financial benefits including greater freedom and flexibility and this will have an impact on the work of the GMCA and the 10 District Councils.

Anne Ryans – Director of Finance

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There are no legal comments on the report.

Paul Entwistle – Director of Legal

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The Council continues to inform and influence the developing devolution agenda, process and powers reflecting appropriately supporting Oldham’s ambitions and issues. Of particular relevance is ensuring strong and effective links between the democratic processes of GM, Oldham and other Local Authorities areas within the region.

Jackie Wilson - Head of Strategy, Partnerships and Policy

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no direct people implications arising from this report at this time. As powers are devolved, this should be kept under review.

Cathy Butterworth, Assistant Director of People

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

11.1 N/A

12 Property Implications

12.1 N/A

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no direct procurement implications arising out of this second consultation process.

13.2 Strategic Sourcing has successfully collaborated with and facilitated procurement opportunities on behalf of the GMCA. It would be prudent to ensure that any additional GMCA Commissioning responsibilities and influence relating to education, skills and employment remain aligned with the Council’s commercial strategies.

13.3 Should the GMCA gain more powers Strategic Sourcing would continue to work collaboratively with the GMCA focusing on solutions that would deliver the required outcome(s).

Nicola Wadley – Interim Head of Strategic Sourcing

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 N/A

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 N/A

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No – N/A

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 N/A

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 N/A

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Attached as ***appendix 1*** is the Council's response to the consultation.

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In our first consultation we asked for your views on powers to improve the Fire Service in Greater Manchester through better integration and collaboration.

Greater Manchester currently has a joint Fire and Rescue Authority which oversees the work of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service around fire safety, fires and road traffic accidents.

The Fire and Rescue Authority is made up of 30 elected Councillors from the ten local authorities. It ensures the Fire Service is performing effectively and serving the best interests of the public and the local area. The Fire Authority is also responsible for setting its budget and precept (the set amount collected each year by the authority from residents in Greater Manchester through council tax).

We propose that GMCA take over the responsibilities of the Fire Authority in Greater Manchester. This would mean that the elected Mayor would be responsible for exercising fire and rescue functions but would delegate the operation of the service to a smaller fire committee of between 15 -21 members who will be local Councillors and the Chief Fire Officer.

The Mayor would be responsible for all strategy and would also keep certain functions such as those relating to the appointment of the Chief Fire Officer and the budget.

Fire fighting operations would not be affected by this proposal, the Chief Fire Officer will maintain control of day to day operational decisions.

We believe that these changes would improve how we deliver services and ensure that public money is used in the most effective way.

We believe that these proposed changes would;

- Improve the accountability of the Fire and Rescue Service through an elected GM Mayor.
- Allow Fire and Rescue to work more effectively with other Greater Manchester services to improve services for local people.
- Save public money by sharing corporate services such as human resources, finance and IT.

Question 1. Do you agree or disagree that the Mayor takes responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority?

	Agree		Neither agree or disagree		Disagree		No comment
<input checked="" type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	

Greater Manchester currently has a joint Waste Disposal Authority made up of 19 elected members from nine local authorities. Wigan Council manages its own waste disposal and is not a full member of the joint Waste Disposal Authority.

The Waste Disposal Authority is responsible for dealing with the waste produced by

Greater Manchester with the aim of reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill. The Waste Disposal Authority is not responsible for waste collection which is managed by individual local councils.

We propose to integrate the powers of the Waste Disposal Authority into the GMCA. This means the GMCA, made up of representatives from the nine relevant local authorities, rather than the elected Mayor would be responsible for waste disposal functions. A Waste Committee would be appointed to oversee the operation of the service.

We believe that by integrating waste disposal services in to the GMCA we can make them more efficient, making them part of our wider plans to transform GM's services.

We believe that these proposed changes would;

- Improve the democratic accountability of waste disposal services through the GMCA
- Allow waste services to work more effectively with other GM services, for example our Low Carbon Unit, to improve services for local people.
- Save public money by sharing corporate services such as human resources, finance and IT.

This proposal will not affect waste disposal services in Wigan as Wigan Council will remain its own Waste Disposal Authority.

Question 2. Do you agree or disagree that the GMCA takes responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority?

	Agree		Neither agree or disagree		Disagree		No comment		
<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>			

In our first consultation we asked for your views on whether the GMCA should jointly share the powers that local authorities already have in relation to education, skills and employment and whether it should gain powers around apprenticeships and employment support held by the Secretary of State.

We would now like your views on whether the GMCA should gain more powers relating to education, skills and employment which are currently held by the Secretary of State.

The GMCA currently oversees adult skills and training in Greater Manchester but, if we had the additional powers currently held by the Secretary of State, we would also have responsibility for commissioning all adult skills training and education (for those over 19 years of age) in Greater Manchester.

Independent analysis has shown that Greater Manchester needs to plan for at least an extra 300,000 residents and create 220,000 new jobs over the next two decades. Using these new powers, the GMCA would be able to make sure that people living in

Greater Manchester have the right skills for the new local jobs being created.

We believe that these proposed changes could:

- Allow Greater Manchester to commission adult skills training and education to meet needs of local residents and employers.
- Help the GMCA's work to reduce unemployment
- Help raise the qualification levels of Greater Manchester people
- Help the GMCA to increase wage levels for local people

Question 3. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals for Further Education, Skills and Employment Support?

<input type="radio"/>	Agree	<input type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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Transport

The GMCA is already the Local Transport Authority for Greater Manchester. Transport policies that affect the ten areas of Greater Manchester are set by the GMCA and its Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) Committee. For more information on the TFGM Committee please click [here](#)

Transport for Greater Manchester is the body that delivers the day to day operation of GMCA's transport functions, including:

- paying for bus services that are not provided commercially by bus operators - ensuring non-profitable services keep running where local people need them the most
- owning bus stations, shelters and stops in Greater Manchester
- providing travel information to passengers
- subsidising concessionary fares and free travel on buses, including paying to keep non-profitable services running where passengers need them most
- ensuring that local rail services meet local travel needs
- owning Metrolink
- promoting the use of public transport in Greater Manchester, to improve the environment and cut congestion
- delivery of major capital investment programmes
- installing, maintaining and managing traffic signals
- maintaining highway databases, surveys, modelling, analysis, appraisals and advice
- performance of highway routes, incident response and event management via the traffic control centre
- providing (in partnership) a shared analysis of strategic road safety and recommending interventions where they are required

We are proposing that the Greater Manchester Mayor has the power to determine bus routes in Greater Manchester through franchised bus services and also have responsibility for implementing a smart ticketing system, similar to London's Oyster Card, which would allow residents to travel using contactless payments.

The Greater Manchester Mayor would also oversee the registration of bus services, traffic regulation and would distribute grants to bus service operators. The GM Mayor would set out Greater Manchester's transport budget, which would need to be approved by a two-thirds majority of GMCA members. The GM mayor would also set out Greater Manchester's transport plan, which would need to be approved by a two thirds majority of GMCA members.

All other aspects of Greater Manchester transport, such as Metrolink, would remain the collective responsibility of the GMCA. It is proposed that the Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) Committee would become a joint committee of the Mayor alongside the current membership of the GMCA and the ten local councils.

We believe that these proposed changes would:

- Ensure that local transport plans and projects reflect the needs of local communities
- Provide more local control of bus routes, frequencies, fares, quality and accessibility standards
- Deliver a convenient and flexible smart ticketing system that works across transport types
- Improve the democratic accountability of transport services through the Mayor and the GMCA

Question 4. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals for transport?

	Agree		Neither agree or disagree		Disagree		No comment
<input checked="" type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	

Question 4a. Why do you agree/disagree?

We support the proposal, which principally relates to the Bus Services Bill currently going through Parliament and which would provide the option for combined authority areas with directly elected Mayors to be responsible for the running of their local bus services through a franchise model. This type of bus reform has been an aspiration for the Combined Authority for some time as a key component of a fully integrated transport strategy.

The GM devolution agreement signed in November 2014 by the 10 GM local authority Leaders, including Oldham's Leader, and Government included the provision for Greater Manchester to have more powers over routes and fares through bus franchising. At the present time, bus services are provided commercially and we have no control over them, although TfGM does provide support for a

network of socially necessary services which would otherwise be provided by operators on a commercial basis, but has a limited budget for this, which is getting smaller due to budget cuts. A smart ticketing system, similar to London's Oyster Card, would allow residents to travel using contactless payments and is something that is long overdue for Greater Manchester. In engaging with residents and community groups through, for example district executives and elected members, these issues come up frequently, particularly in respect of the changes that bus operators make to services that we are powerless to do anything about and that TfGM cannot justify as being subsidised.

Question 4b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?

As one of the constituent local authorities of the Combined Authority, we would expect these proposals to enable us through GMCA and the elected mayor to better meet the needs of our residents in terms of public transport provision, particularly bus services. At the present time we as a local authority and TfGM as the Local Transport Authority are limited in terms of the influence we have over bus services, with our only option in many cases being negotiation with the operator or a TfGM subsidy, which may be an option in some cases where a social need is identified.

The proposals can only offer an improvement on the current situation and are therefore supported.

Spatial Framework

In our first consultation we asked for your views on whether the GMCA should have the power to create a Spatial Framework for Greater Manchester.

The Spatial Framework is a plan that manages the supply of land that we need for housing and employment across the city region.

We are now asking for views on whether the Spatial Framework should include maps so that we can be more transparent about our plan for land use across Greater Manchester. The maps will show what land is available for housing and/or employment.

We believe that this proposed change would:
- Make Greater Manchester's joint plan for land use more accessible and transparent

Question 5. Do you agree or disagree with our Spatial Framework proposal?

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Agree	<input type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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Question 5a. Why do you agree/disagree?

A map/plan is essential to show how and where the allocation of housing and employment numbers are distributed.

Question 5b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?

Without a plan, it will not be possible to visualise how and where the allocation of housing and employment numbers are distributed therefore it is essential that the Spatial Framework should include maps.

Overview and Scrutiny

As part of our review of decision-making and governance we are reviewing the arrangements we have for scrutinising the work of the Mayor and the GMCA.

During our review we considered two different options for effective scrutiny. The first was to have a single overview and scrutiny committee with sub committees.

The second was to have a number of separate overview and scrutiny committees - each having a distinct area of responsibility (such as employment, fire, housing or

planning) alongside a general committee which would consider issues outside of those areas.

Following consideration of each option we are proposing that we proceed with the second option - creating a number of themed overview and scrutiny committees. Membership will reflect the political balance of the ten Greater Manchester councils.

However, we believe that the overview and scrutiny needs of the GMCA may change over time and, as a result, we should allow flexibility to adjust our overview and scrutiny committee if required.

We believe that these proposed changes would:

- Ensure decision-makers at a Greater Manchester level are effectively held to account
- Ensure that issues or decisions affecting Greater Manchester are investigated thoroughly to improve the quality of the GMCA's work

Question 6. Do you agree or disagree with our proposals regarding overview and scrutiny committees?

<input type="radio"/>	Agree	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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Question 6a. Why do you agree/disagree?

We welcome the move to themed Scrutiny committees, as we believe this provides a greater opportunity for backbench Members to scrutinise, challenge and question GMCA leaders and the Mayor on their decision- and policy-making. We however think that an overarching Scrutiny Committee will be needed to manage the programme of the themed committees.

We also welcome the flexibility to adjust the themes over time to meet GMCA scrutiny needs.

Question 6b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?

We welcome the opportunity for more Members to participate in the Scrutiny process and the opportunity to cover a wider range of topics, issues and policy and activities.

We recognise that this approach will result in additional work required.

Equalities

Equality lies at the heart of everything that GMCA seeks to achieve - from shaping a city-region that recognises the value and the needs of all of its residents, to delivering services that improve the life opportunities of our most vulnerable people.

GMCA will ensure through its own constitutional arrangements that appointments to its committees have regard to diversity and gender balance (as well as political and geographical balance).

Our current approach to equality relies upon the existing equality frameworks on the 10 constituent Local Authorities and key partners which play a significant role in delivering our priorities. The Public Sector Equality Duty requires these bodies to undertake equality analysis of all of its current and proposed functions.

By utilising this approach and integrating consideration of equality and good relations into our day-to-day business we continue to pay due regard to the three aims of the general equality duty which are the elimination of unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

GMCA proposes that the Equality Act 2010 is amended to include GMCA within the definition of public authority and that equality safeguard within the act are extended to Members working on behalf of GMCA.

Question 7. Do you agree or disagree with our equalities proposals?

<input type="radio"/>	Agree	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Neither agree or disagree	<input type="radio"/>	Disagree	<input type="radio"/>	No comment
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Question 7a. Why do you agree/disagree?

It is not that we either agree or disagree with either the statement or intent of

the GMCA; the question is more how the GMCA intend to achieve what they are setting out in the statement. For example:

- How do the GMCA intend to **ensure** that appointments to committees have regard to diversity and equality given that the pool of people eligible for those positions is itself limited in terms of diversity?
- The GMCA states that its approach is 'relying upon the existing equality frameworks of the ten authorities'. How does the GMCA intend to ensure that these frameworks are fit for purpose and that all authorities are currently complying with the PSED?
- In addition to relying upon the existing equality frameworks within the local authorities the GMCA also states that it will pay due regard through 'integrating consideration of equality and good relations into our day-to-day business'. What is the GMCA's own framework for doing this? How does it intend to embed equality considerations into its own systems and processes?
- In widening the definition to apply to combined authorities the GMCA will also be putting itself under the duty to publish service and workforce data as well as set equality objectives for the authority. How does the GMCA plan to fulfil these duties given its remit across the ten boroughs?

Question 7b. What do you perceive the impact will be on you individually or the organisation/group you represent?

Oldham Council's approach to equality and diversity is compliant with the legal duties – and more. In line with our co-operative council ethos and Ethical Framework we are committed morally - as well as legally - to promote fairness, respect and working together. We will continue to operate in line with our current approach, flexing it to meet the requirements which devolution brings.

If there is to be an extra demand on the ten authorities in terms of helping the GMCA meet its own equality duties then we would ask that consideration be given to the amount of extra work that could be put upon districts, particularly given the ongoing funding reductions across all areas.

If you have any further comments to make, please use the box below.

Oldham Council agrees that the Greater Manchester Mayor takes responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority however, in order for minority political groups across Greater Manchester to be engaged, we would like to see a review of the political balance of the said committees, in order for this broader engagement to take place.

About you

Who are you/who do you represent?

<input type="radio"/>	A member of the public
<input type="radio"/>	A business
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	A public bodies e.g. Local authorities, CCGs, Fire and Rescue, Police etc.

		Other
<input type="radio"/>		

What is the name of your business?

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

What is the nature of your business?

Local Authority

What is the name of the public body you represent?

N/A

Please state

What is your home postcode? e.g. M40 2LA

OL9 1UG

What is the postcode of the business, organisation or body you represent? e.g. M40 2LA

OL9 1UG

We would like to ask you some questions about yourself. These questions are optional, you do not have to answer, but in doing so you will be helping the Greater Manchester Combined Authority ensure that the views collected through the consultation represent the views of the resident population. All responses will remain confidential.

What is your gender?

Male	Female	Prefer not to say
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

Do you identify with the gender you were assigned at birth? (e.g. male or female)

<input type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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What is your age?

<input type="radio"/>	Under 16	<input type="radio"/>	40 to 64 years	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="radio"/>	16 to 25 years	<input type="radio"/>	65 to 74 years		
<input type="radio"/>	26 to 39 years	<input type="radio"/>	75+ years		

What is your ethnic origin/background?

<input type="radio"/>	Black Caribbean	<input type="radio"/>	Pakistani	<input type="radio"/>	White and Asian
<input type="radio"/>	Black African	<input type="radio"/>	Roma / Roma Traveller	<input type="radio"/>	Other Mixed Origin
<input type="radio"/>	Black British	<input type="radio"/>	Vietnamese	<input type="radio"/>	Other African

<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	Bangladeshi	<input type="radio"/>	White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	<input type="radio"/>	Other Asian
<input type="radio"/>	Chinese	<input type="radio"/>	White - Irish	<input type="radio"/>	Other Black
<input type="radio"/>	Indian	<input type="radio"/>	White - Gypsy / Irish Traveller	<input type="radio"/>	Other White
<input type="radio"/>	Kashmiri	<input type="radio"/>	White and Black Caribbean	<input type="radio"/>	Other
<input type="radio"/>	Middle Eastern	<input type="radio"/>	White and Black African	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say

Other (please specify)

Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?

<input type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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Please use this space if you would like to give more information.

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I would describe my sexuality as:

<input type="radio"/>	Lesbian	<input type="radio"/>	Bi-sexual	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="radio"/>	Gay	<input type="radio"/>	Heterosexual / Straight	<input type="radio"/>	Other

Please specify

--

Do you identify with any religion or belief?

<input type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer not to say
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<input type="radio"/>	Christian (Including Church of England / Catholic / Protestant and all other Christian denominations)	<input type="radio"/>	Sikh	<input type="radio"/>	Any other
<input type="radio"/>	Buddhist	<input type="radio"/>	Jewish		

<input type="radio"/>	Hindu	<input type="radio"/>	Muslim	
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Please state

What is your relationship status?

<input type="radio"/>	Single	<input type="radio"/>	Life-partner	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Prefer to say
<input type="radio"/>	Married	<input type="radio"/>	Civil partnership	<input type="radio"/>	Other

Please state

Do you have caring responsibilities? If yes, please tick all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of a disabled adult / adults (18 and over)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prefer not to say
<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of a child/children (under 18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of older person / people (65 and over)		

<input type="checkbox"/>	Primary carer of a disabled child/children (under 18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Secondary carer	
--------------------------	---	--------------------------	-----------------	--

Do you want us to keep you up to date with news about the GMCA in the future?

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Yes	<input type="radio"/>	No	
----------------------------------	-----	-----------------------	----	--

Name

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

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Thank you for your contribution. Please click on the submit button below to send us your response.

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Oldham
Council

Report to Council

Annual Statement of Accounts 2015/16

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans – Director of Finance

Report Author: Anne Ryans – Director of Finance

Ext. 4902

7 September 2016

Reason for Decision

To advise Council of the recently approved 2015/16 audited Statement of Accounts and the External Audit (Grant Thornton) Audit Findings report.

The Statement of Accounts was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 25 July 2016. The accounts were noted and commended to Council.

Executive Summary

The report presents the Council's audited Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2015/16.

The report highlights the:

- Excellent Audit Findings report with an unqualified audit opinion and no material misstatements.
- Audit judgements, all of which have a green rating and a very positive Value for Money (VFM) opinion.
- Overall financial position for 2015/16 which is a surplus of £0.425m when comparing the revenue budget to the outturn. This is a slight increase in the forecast surplus reported in the last financial monitoring report approved by Cabinet on 21 March 2016.
- Speed of the preparation of the accounts to the high standard set by the Finance Service in previous years.
- Performance of the Finance Team in closing the Council's accounts and its focus on the continuous improvement of its processes.

The presentation of the audited Statement of Accounts provides all Members with the opportunity to review the Council's year-end financial position (following completion of the audit by the Council's External Auditors, Grant Thornton).

Recommendations

That Council notes the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2015/16, the Audit Findings report and the comments in that report.

Statement of Accounts 2015/16**1 Background**

- 1.1 The Council prepared and submitted for audit its draft 2015/16 Statement of Accounts to the External Auditors, Grant Thornton, on 14 April 2016.
- 1.2 The draft 2015/16 Statement of Accounts was presented to the Audit Committee at its meeting on 21 April 2016. This allowed members of the Committee the opportunity to review the Council's financial statements in detail before being presented with the audited accounts.
- 1.3 The requirements and timeline for the approval of a Local Authority's Statement of Accounts has changed since 2014/15 and is set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The legislation now requires all Local Authorities to have a common thirty day public inspection period which includes the first ten working days in July. The aim of this is to ensure greater transparency and give stakeholders sufficient notice of the period in which they can inspect a Local Authority's accounts. As a result, the Council's 2015/16 accounts could not be formally approved by Members until after the close of the public inspection period on 14 July. The External Auditor was then able to issue the Audit Certificate on 15 July.
- 1.4 However, in line with the Council's established early closedown processes and best practice, the Audit Committee, at its meeting on 16 May 2016, approved the 2015/16 audited Statement of Accounts (subject to public inspection) and noted the changes that were required during the audit process. There were no significant changes between 16 May and the formal approval of the accounts by the Audit Committee after the closure of the public inspection period on 14 July. A copy of the Statement of Accounts can be found at Appendix 1.
- 1.5 The changes made as part of the audit process are as shown in Appendix 2 and as can be seen these changes are minor in nature and quantum.

2. Current Position**2.1 Audit Findings and Value for Money Opinion**

- 2.1.1 The audit of the 2015/16 Statement of Accounts has been completed by the Council's external auditors, Grant Thornton. The Council submitted its draft financial statements and working papers to the auditors on 14 April 2016 maintaining the early closedown timelines achieved in 2014/15. Throughout the audit process Council Officers responded promptly to audit queries. This positively contributed to the completion of the audit.
- 2.1.2 Grant Thornton is required to provide the Council with an annual Audit Findings and Value for Money (VFM) opinion. Both are shown in the Audit Findings Report at Appendix 3.
- 2.1.3 The Audit Findings report is very positive and gives an unqualified opinion on the accounts. There are no material errors for the seventh successive year with only minor amendments required to disclosure notes.
- 2.1.4 The changes identified during the audit are restricted to an amendment due to additional pension information being made available after the draft accounts had been submitted to the Auditor, an additional disclosure around Investment Property, an additional accounting

policy and a small number of presentational changes which were included to aid the readers understanding of the accounts.

- 2.1.5 There are four audit judgements and for the second year running all of the judgements have a green rating indicating that there are no areas for concern.
- 2.1.6 There were no changes to the Council's outturn or the balances position as a result of the audit.
- 2.1.7 The Auditor was only able to make one recommendation as to how the Council could improve its financial statements. This was simply that the Council should continue to declutter the accounts to aid the readers' understanding. The Auditor highlighted several areas for review which will be taken into consideration in 2016/17 as officers continue the decluttering process and build on the substantial improvements already made.
- 2.1.8 The Value for Money opinion provided by the Auditor is also positive. It states that for 2015/16 in all significant respects the Council had proper arrangements in place to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources. One significant risk was identified around Health and Social Care Integration, however the Auditor concluded that the risk was sufficiently mitigated and the Council has proper arrangements in place.

2.2 Revenue Outturn

- 2.2.1 A comparison of the revised revenue budget and outturn is set out in Table 1 with the actual expenditure as reported against the budget for each Portfolio for 2015/16.
- 2.2.2 In overall terms the Council achieved a surplus of £0.425m at the end of the financial year. This is a marginal increase on the forecast outturn position of a £0.295m surplus based on the month 9 position, approved by Cabinet on 21 March 2016.

Table 1 – 2015/16 Revenue Outturn Compared to Revised Budget

	Revised Budget £000	Actual £000	Variance £000
Net Revenue Expenditure			
Chief Executive, Policy and Governance	2,790	2,723	(67)
Corporate and Commercial Services	5,343	4,974	(369)
Cooperatives and Neighbourhoods	88,112	88,070	(42)
Health and Wellbeing	84,492	85,691	1,199
Economy and Skills	37,288	37,866	578
Capital Treasury and Technical Accounting	9,086	7,363	(1,723)
Corporate and Democratic Core	5,200	5,200	-
Parish Precepts	298	298	-
Total Net Expenditure	232,609	232,184	(425)
Financed By:			
Council Tax Payers	(74,128)	(74,128)	-
Revenue Support Grant	(50,879)	(50,879)	-
Private Finance Initiative Contributions	(9,983)	(9,983)	-
Capital Grants	(24,111)	(24,111)	-
Council Tax Freeze Grant	(898)	(898)	-
Other Non Ringfenced Government Grants	(1,906)	(1,906)	-
Housing and Council Tax Benefit Administration Grant	(1,529)	(1,529)	-
New Homes Bonus Grant	(2,275)	(2,275)	-
Council Tax New Burdens Grant	(66)	(66)	-
Education Services Grant	(3,096)	(3,096)	-
Collection Fund Surplus	(60)	(60)	-
Multiplier Cap Grant	(854)	(854)	-
Empty Property Relief Grant	(9)	(9)	-
Retail Relief Grant	(562)	(562)	-
Small Business Rate Relief Grant	(1,425)	(1,425)	-
Independent Living Fund Grant	(2,244)	(2,244)	-
Retained Business Rates	(28,599)	(28,599)	-
Business Rates Top Up Grant	(29,987)	(29,987)	-
Total Financing	(232,609)	(232,609)	
Net Underspend	-	(425)	(425)

2.2.3 Whilst there are some variances compared to budget, these are in line with expectations and key issues impacting on future years have been addressed through the budget setting process for 2016/17. The surplus of £0.425m has been added to the General Fund Balance to address future years risk requirements.

2.3 Capital Outturn

2.3.1 The Council incurs expenditure on capital projects in accordance with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations 2003 definition of capital expenditure. Essentially this defines capital expenditure as spend on assets that have a life of more than one year.

2.3.2 The Council spent £65.788m on its Capital Programme in 2015/16 compared to the forecast spending of £69.467m. The Capital Programme was financed through a number of sources including prudential borrowing, Government grants, revenue contributions and capital receipts. The capital expenditure incurred during the year and financing of this expenditure is shown in the table below by Portfolio area.

2.3.3 It should be noted that although prudential borrowing is listed as a funding source, the Council has considerable cash balances and it has used these balances to finance the capital expenditure rather than undertake borrowing. No new loan arrangements have therefore been undertaken in 2015/16. However, as cash levels are reduced, a decision to borrow to support the capital expenditure will be made. The position will be monitored throughout 2016/17.

Table 2 - Capital Programme Outturn Compared to the Forecast Outturn

Portfolio and Resources	2015/16 Forecast Outturn £000	2015/16 Outturn £000	Variance £000
Expenditure			
Cooperatives and Neighbourhoods	10,541	9,142	(1,399)
Corporate and Commercial Services	2,508	793	(1,715)
Health and Wellbeing	1,450	1,450	-
Economy and Skills	54,563	54,007	(555)
Housing Revenue Account	405	396	(9)
Total Expenditure	69,467	65,788	(3,679)
Resources			
Grant & Other Resources	(28,387)	(26,271)	2,116
Prudential Borrowing	(32,276)	(32,157)	119
Revenue Contributions	(6,082)	(6,082)	-
Capital Receipts	(2,722)	(1,278)	1,444
Total Resources	(69,467)	(65,788)	3,679

2.3.4 The variance between the forecast capital expenditure and the final outturn for the year was £3.679m. This was mainly due to slippage on the planned expenditure profiles of a number of capital projects. This will be re-profiled into 2016/17 together with the associated financing. This, therefore, does not present any financial concerns for the Council. The level of slippage was much reduced compared to previous financial years and reflects the positive outcome of the initiative instigated to improve the monitoring of planned expenditure.

2.4 Timetable for Closure

2.4.1 Council will be aware that since 2009/10, the Finance Team has been both accelerating the timeline for the closure of accounts and improving the quality of the accounts. Set out below is the progress that has been made since the initiative began:

- The 2009/10 accounts were prepared by 27 May and an audit opinion obtained, and the accounts published, on 31 August placing the Council sixth on the list and the first Metropolitan Authority to close its accounts for the year.

-
- The 2010/11 accounts were prepared and submitted for audit on 19 May and an audit opinion received and the accounts published on 29 July. This made the Council the first Council to close its accounts that year.
 - The 2011/12 accounts were prepared and passed to the external auditors on 3 May. The accounts were published on 25 June, making the Council the first Council and Local Government Body to close and publish its accounts. The Council was also the first to publish its accounts in June since the Audit Commission began reporting on accounts closure and publication completion dates.
 - The 2012/13 accounts were handed over for audit on 26 April and published on 31 May. This confirmed the Council as the first Local Government Body to publish its accounts for 2012/13 and the first to do so in May.
 - The 2013/14 accounts were handed over for audit on 17 April and published on 28 May making the Council the quickest Local Government Body to produce its accounts in fifty years.
 - The 2014/15 accounts were handed over for audit on 14 April and published on 18 May improving again on the success of earlier years. The External Auditor was only able to make one recommendation as to how the Council could improve its financial statements. This was simply that the Council should continue to declutter the accounts to aid the readers understanding. The Auditor's VFM opinion was also extremely positive with, for the first time, all VFM audit judgments rated Green.

2.4.2 As detailed in paragraph 1.3, the requirement and timelines on the approval of a Local Authority's Statement of Accounts has changed. This means the earliest opportunity for a Local Authority to have its accounts approved is after the end of the working day of 14 July 2016 following the completion of the thirty day public inspection period, with the formal audit opinion issued on 15 July.

2.4.3 Nevertheless the Council has continued its early closure of Accounts initiative by presenting to the Audit Committee its draft Statement of Accounts on 21 April and its audited Statement of Accounts (subject to public inspection) at the earliest opportunity of 16 May.

2.5 The Performance of the Finance Service

2.5.1 The preparation of the accounts represents just one outcome of the range of achievements of the Finance Team as it continues to enhance and develop its performance. The work of the Finance Team underpins the work of the Council as well as ensuring compliance with statutory requirements, budget management and excellent financial practice.

2.5.2 The early closure of accounts is a significant driver of efficiency allowing work to be undertaken more effectively. This means members of the Finance Team are able to work on other tasks and projects once the quick accounts closedown process is complete.

2.5.3 The accelerated and improved timescale and quality has been achieved by the hard work, commitment and dedication of the Finance Team who can all be proud of their contributions to the early closure of the accounts and also in the other significant improvements in financial management that have been made. As in previous years this represents a real team effort.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 No alternatives are presented other than that Council notes the final accounts, the Auditor's report and the items outlined in the report.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 The preferred option is that Council notes the final accounts, the Auditor's report and the items outlined in the report.

5 Consultation

5.1 Consultation has taken place with the External Auditor (Grant Thornton) and the Audit Committee.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Dealt with in the body of the report.

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There are no Legal implications.

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 Improving the quality and timeliness of the financial information available to citizens of Oldham supports the cooperative ethos of the Council.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no Human Resource implications.

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 There are no risk implications as a result of this report.

11 IT Implications

11.1 There are no IT implications as a result of this report

12 Property Implications

12.1 There are no Property implications.

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no Procurement implications.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 There are no Environmental and Health & Safety implications as a result of this report.

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

15.1 There are no Equality, community cohesion and crime implications.

16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

16.1 Not Applicable

17 Key Decision

17.1 No

18 Key Decision Reference

18.1 Not Applicable.

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: Background Papers are provided in Appendix 1, 2 and 3.
Officer Name: Anne Ryans
Contact No: 0161 770 4902

20 Appendices

20.1 Appendix 1 – Statement of Accounts 2015/16
Appendix 2 – Changes to the Draft Statement of Accounts
Appendix 3 – Audit Findings Report

Appendix 2 - Changes to Draft Statement of Accounts

Change Reason	Statements/Notes Section Affected	Published Statement of Accounts Page No.	Change Made
Additional Information - Pensions	Core Statements	33	Pension accounting entries have been updated (as agreed with the Council's external auditors prior to the audit) based on the updated actuarial pension valuation report received from the Actuary following submission of the draft Statement of Accounts to external auditors and commencement of the audit. The following changes have been made to the Core Financial Statements (reductions in brackets): CIES Service Expenditure - (£14k) CIES Non Distributed Costs - (£16k) CIES Pension Interest - (£1k) OCIES Remeasurement of Net Defined Pension Benefit Liability - £69,102k MiRS Deficit of Provision of Services - (£31k) MiRS Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure - £69,102k MiRS Adjustments Between Accounting Basis and Funding Basis - £31k Balance Sheet Pension Liability - (£69,071k) Balance Sheet Pension Reserve - £69,071k Cash Flow Net Deficit - (£31k) Cash Flow Non Cash Movements - (£31k)
	Note 1	39	
	Note 3	46	
	Note 4	51	
	Note 12	58	
	Note 19	78	
	Note 28	99	
	Note 29a	103	
	Note 35	120	
Additional Disclosure	Note 17b	76	Additional Investment Properties disclosure agreed with the external auditors. The disclosure was agreed to be removed as part of the 'cutting the clutter' agenda in 2014/15 but is required to be reinstated this year due to the Council's lower materiality levels and the fair value valuation requirements of accounting standard IFRS13.
	Note 32	104	Additional accounting policy (policy 1.25) to explain the required fair value valuation levels in line with the accounting standard IFRS13.
Reclassification (Prior Year)	Cash Flow Statement (2014/15)	37	The prior year Cash Flow Statement and related disclosures have been reclassified to remove the Council's Manchester Airport shareholding fair value valuation adjustment which was incorrectly shown as a cash movement relating to the purchase of short term and long term investments.
	Note 29a (2014/15)	103	
	Note 30 (2014/15)	103	
Reclassification	Note 10 (Table 2)	56	Officer remuneration greater than £50k bandings table has been reclassified to include Saddleworth School. This school does not use the Council's payroll service. Officers within some bandings have been reclassified to reflect remuneration received during the year.
	Note 16 (Table 4)	73	Table showing the annual valuation by category of asset over the five year rolling valuation programme reclassified to correctly show the Council Dwellings valuations completed in each year of the valuation programme.
	Note 18	77	Reclassification of the capital expenditure in relation to the Council's capital investment during the year between Property, Plant and Equipment and Investment Assets.
	Note 19 (Table 1)	78	The disclosed Cash and Cash Equivalents has been reclassified to reflect the Council's short term investments (less than 3 months - Cash Equivalents) and Cash at Bank (Cash).
Presentation	Note 16	71	References to fair value within the Property, Plant and Equipment disclosure changed in line with the requirement of the accounting standard IFRS13.
	Note 16	71	Narrative explaining the valuation technique used by the Council to value Vehicles, Plant and Equipment amended to be clear to the reader that these assets are valued at historical cost.
	Note 19	78	Additional Narrative to explain the valuation techniques used when valuing the Council's holding in Manchester Airport.
	Note 32	104	Accounting policies reviewed and amended to make them more robust and aid the readers understanding of the accounts in relation to how the Council has applied accounting standards to produce its 2015/16 Statement of Accounts.
	Various Throughout Document	Various	Minor improvements to disclosures, narrative and presentation to aid the understanding of the reader of the accounts.

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The Audit Findings for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Year ended 31 March 2016

14 July 2016

Page 205

Graham Nunns

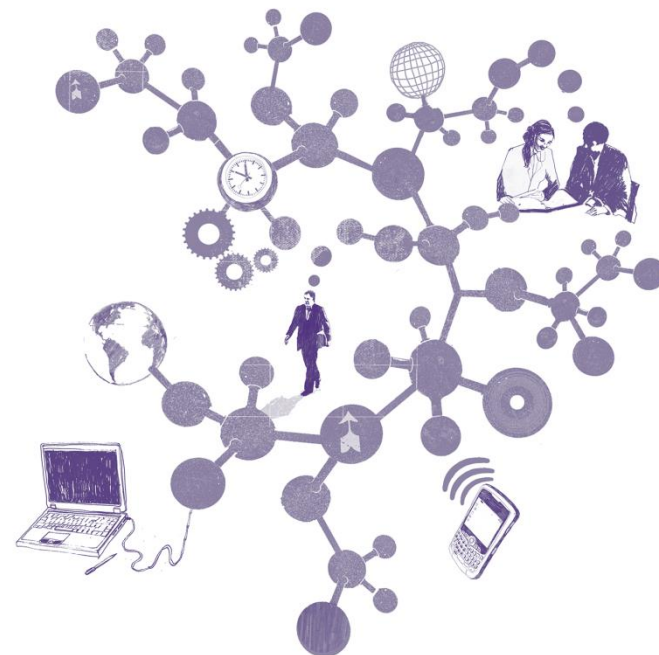
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14 July 2016

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Audit Findings for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ending 31 March 2016

This Audit Findings report highlights the significant findings arising from the audit for the benefit of those charged with governance (in the case of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, the Audit Committee), as required by International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the National Audit Office Code of Audit Practice. Its contents have been discussed with management and a draft version was provided at the Audit Committee meeting on 16 May 2016.

As auditors we are responsible for performing the audit, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland), which is directed towards forming and expressing an opinion on the financial statements that have been prepared by management with the oversight of those charged with governance. The audit of the financial statements does not relieve management or those charged with governance of their responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements.

The contents of this report relate only to those matters which came to our attention during the conduct of our normal audit procedures which are designed primarily for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements. Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we will report these to you. In consequence, our work cannot be relied upon to disclose defalcations or other irregularities, or to include all possible improvements in internal control that a more extensive special examination might identify. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the kind assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Yours faithfully,

Grant Thornton UK LLP

Chartered Accountants

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Appendices

- A Action plan
- B Audit opinion

Section 1 : Executive summary

Purpose of this report

This report highlights the key findings from our audit of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's ('the Council') financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016, in accordance with the requirements of International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) 260, and the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 ('the Act').

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Under the National Audit Office (NAO) Code of Audit Practice ('the Code'), we are required to report whether, in our opinion, the Council's financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Council and its income and expenditure for the year and whether they have been properly prepared in accordance with the CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting.

We are also required consider other information published together with the audited financial statements and whether it is consistent with the financial statements and in line with required guidance.

We are required to carry out sufficient work to satisfy ourselves on whether the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources ('the value for money (VFM) conclusion'). Auditor Guidance Note 7 (AGN07) clarifies our reporting requirements in the Code and the Act. We are required to provide a conclusion that in all significant respects, the audited body has (or has not) put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the relevant period.

The Act also details the following additional powers and duties for local government auditors, which we are required to report to you if applied:

- a public interest report if we identify any matter that comes to our attention in the course of the audit that in our opinion should be considered by the Council or brought to the public's attention (section 24 of the Act);
- written recommendations which should to be considered by the Council and responded to publicly (section 24 of the Act);
- application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law (section 28 of the Act);
- issue of an advisory notice (section 29 of the Act); and
- application for judicial review (section 31 of the Act)

We are also required to give electors the opportunity to raise questions about the accounts and consider and decide upon objections received in relation to the accounts under sections 26 and 27 of the Act.

Introduction

In the conduct of our audit we have not had to alter or change our audit approach, which we communicated to you in our Audit Plan dated 8 April 2016.

Our audit of the financial statements is now complete.

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate until we have completed the work necessary to issue our assurance statement in respect of the Council's Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack. We are satisfied that this work will not have a material effect on our opinion on the financial statements or on our value for money conclusion.

We received a full set of draft financial statements on 14th April 2016, although much of the supporting information including working papers was available for review in advance of receiving the financial statements.

As a result, the draft accounts recorded net income of £171.4m whereas the final financial statements now show net income of £102.3m, a decrease of £69.1m. There has also been an impact on the Council's balance sheet with a reduction in Net Assets from £145.7m to £76.6m. These are significant movements arising primarily from a change in the discount rate used by the Actuaries, from 3.9% to 3.5%, demonstrating the sensitivity of this key assumption. Further details are set out in section two of this report.

We have discussed with Management whether there is an opportunity to obtain an earlier Actuarial report to allow the first set of draft accounts to be prepared using the March Actuarial figures, so avoiding making revisions to the draft accounts each year.

We anticipate providing a unqualified audit opinion in respect of the financial statements (see draft opinion in Appendix B).

Key audit and financial reporting issues

Financial statements opinion

The key messages arising from our audit of the Council's financial statements are the draft accounts only required amendments to disclosure notes and the accounts working papers provided to us were of a high quality

- finance staff responded promptly to all audit queries in line with agreed protocols, contributing to a prompt completion of the audit, in line with previous years.

The Council prepared the draft accounts based on the latest available actuarial information in relation to pension scheme accounting entries, which was current at February 2016. As in previous years, a more up to date calculation of pension scheme accounting entries was received from the Actuaries in April 2016, whilst we were conducting the audit.

Other financial statement responsibilities

- as well as an opinion on the financial statements, we are required to give an opinion on whether other information published together with the audited financial statements is consistent with the financial statements. This includes
- whether the Narrative Report meets the requirements of the CIPFA Code and is consistent with the audited financial statements
- if the Annual Governance Statement does not meet the disclosure requirements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit

We found no issues in performing our review in these areas.

Controls

Roles and responsibilities

The Council's management is responsible for the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of risk, and for developing, operating and monitoring the system of internal control.

Our audit is not designed to test all internal controls or identify all areas of control weakness. However, where, as part of our testing, we identify any control weaknesses, we report these to the Council.

Findings

Our work has not identified any control weaknesses which we wish to highlight for your attention. As reported in our Audit Plan, we are aware of the internal control issues within the Payroll and Adult Social Care financial systems. Action continues to be taken by Management to address these issues and these have been reported in the Council's Annual Governance Statement and are being followed up by Internal Audit.

Value for Money

Based on our review, we are satisfied that, in all significant respects, the Council had proper arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

Further details of our work on Value for Money are set out in section three of this report.

Other statutory powers and duties

We have not identified any issues that have required us to apply our statutory powers and duties under the Act.

Further details of our work on other statutory powers and duties is set out in section four of this report.

The way forward

Matters arising from the financial statements audit and our review of the Council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources have been discussed with the Director of Finance.

Our recommendations, are set out in the action plan at Appendix A. Recommendations have been discussed and agreed with the Director of Finance and the finance team.

Acknowledgement

We would like to take this opportunity to record our appreciation for the assistance provided by the finance team and other staff during our audit.

Grant Thornton UK LLP
11 May 2016

Section 2 : Audit findings

Materiality

In performing our audit, we apply the concept of materiality, following the requirements of International Standard on Auditing (UK & Ireland) (ISA) 320: Materiality in planning and performing an audit. The standard states that 'misstatements, including omissions, are considered to be material if they, individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements'.

As we reported in our audit plan, we determined overall materiality to be £9,678k (being 1.75% of expected gross revenue expenditure for 2015/16). We have considered whether this level remained appropriate during the course of the audit and have made no changes to our overall materiality.

We also set an amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial and would not need to be accumulated or reported to those charged with governance because we would not expect that the accumulated effect of such amounts would have a material impact on the financial statements. We have defined the amount below which misstatements would be clearly trivial to be £484k. This remains the same as reported in our audit plan.

As we reported in our audit plan, we identify the following items as material by nature rather than size.

Balance/transaction/disclosure	Explanation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disclosures of officers' remuneration, salary bandings and exit packages in notes to the statements • Disclosure of auditors' remuneration in notes to the statements • Disclosure of members' allowances 	<p>Public interest in these disclosures and the statutory requirement for them to be made, means that they are considered to be material by nature.</p>

Audit findings against significant risks

"Significant risks often relate to significant non-routine transactions and judgemental matters. Non-routine transactions are transactions that are unusual, either due to size or nature, and that therefore occur infrequently. Judgemental matters may include the development of accounting estimates for which there is significant measurement uncertainty" (ISA (UK&I) 315). In this section we detail our response to the significant risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan. As we noted in our plan, there are two presumed significant risks which are applicable to all audits under auditing standards.

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	Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
1.	<p>The revenue cycle includes fraudulent transactions</p> <p>Under ISA (UK&I) 240 there is a presumed risk that revenue may be misstated due to the improper recognition of revenue.</p> <p>This presumption can be rebutted if the auditor concludes that there is no risk of material misstatement due to fraud relating to revenue recognition.</p>	<p>Having considered the risk factors set out in ISA240 and the nature of the revenue streams at Oldham MBC, we determined that the risk of fraud arising from revenue recognition can be rebutted, because</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is little incentive to manipulate revenue recognition • opportunities to manipulate revenue recognition are very limited. 	<p>Our audit work on tax revenues, grant income and other revenues has not identified any issues that would require us to reassess this rebuttal.</p>
2.	<p>Management over-ride of controls</p> <p>Under ISA (UK&I) 240 it is presumed that the risk of management over-ride of controls is present in all entities.</p>	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of entity controls in relation to journal transactions • testing of journals entries • review of accounting estimates, judgements and decisions made by management • review of unusual significant transactions 	<p>Our audit work has not identified any evidence of management over-ride of controls. In particular the findings of our review of journal controls and testing of journal entries has not identified any significant issues. We set out later, in this section of the report, our work and findings on key accounting estimates and judgements.</p>
3.	<p>The expenditure cycle include fraudulent expenditure recognition</p> <p>Practice Note 10 recommends that auditors of public sector bodies consider the risk of fraudulent financial reporting from the manipulation of expenditure recognition in order to inappropriately match expenditure with available resources</p>	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • updated our understanding and documentation of the processes and controls in place to account for operating expenses and completed a walkthrough of key controls • tested a sample of operating expenses to supporting documentation to ensure valid expenditure • tested accruals of expenditure • tested for unrecorded liabilities by completing cut off testing on post year end payments for April and May. 	<p>Our audit work to date has not identified any evidence of fraudulent expenditure recognition.</p>

Audit findings against significant risks (continued)

In addition to the 'standard' significant risks on the previous page, the audit plan also identified two additional significant risks detailed below. These were deemed significant given their value and exercise of the degree of judgement and estimation. These significant risks will not be unique to Oldham MBC. We set out below the work we have completed to address these risks.

	Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
4.	<p>Valuation of property plant and equipment (PPE), surplus assets and investment property</p> <p>The CIPFA Code of Practice requires that the Council ensures that the carrying value of PPE at the balance sheet date is not materially different from current value. This represents a significant estimate by management in the financial statements.</p> <p>In addition, the Code has implemented IFRS 13 for the first time in the 2015/16 financial statements. The Council is required to include surplus assets within property, plant and equipment in its financial statements at fair value, as defined by IFRS13.</p> <p>The basis on which fair value is defined for investment property is also different to that used in previous years.</p> <p>This represents a significant change in the basis for estimation of these balances in the financial statements. There are also extensive disclosure requirements under IFRS 13 which the Council needs to comply with.</p>	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewed management's processes and assumptions for the calculation of the estimate • reviewed instructions issued to the valuer and the scope of their work • held discussions with the Valuer about the basis on which the valuation is carried out and challenged key assumptions • reviewed the competence, expertise and objectivity of the valuer used • reviewed and challenged the information used by the Valuer to ensure it is robust and consistent with our understanding • tested revaluations made during the year to ensure they are input correctly into the Council's asset register • Reviewed the disclosures made by the Council in its financial statements to ensure they are in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice and IFRS 13. 	<p>Our audit work to date has not identified any issues relating to the valuation of PPE.</p> <p>We requested that management include a note disclosing Investment property income and expenditure together with improved disclosures in the note and accounting policies of the application of IFRS 13.</p>

Audit findings against significant risks (continued)

	Risks identified in our audit plan	Work completed	Assurance gained and issues arising
5.	<p>Valuation of pension fund net liability</p> <p>The Council's pension fund asset and liability as reflected in its balance sheet represent significant estimates in the financial statements.</p> <p>The Council prepared its draft financial statements on an early report from the Actuary using their assumptions on information available to the end of February 2016.</p>	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> identified the controls put in place by management to ensure that the pension fund liability is not materially misstated and assessed whether these controls were implemented as expected and were sufficient to mitigate the risk of material misstatement obtained assurance from the auditor of the Pension Fund on the controls in place over accuracy of information provided to the actuary. reviewed the competence, expertise and objectivity of the actuary who carried out the pension fund valuation and gained an understanding of the basis on which the valuation is carried out carried out procedures to confirm the reasonableness of the actuarial assumptions made. confirmed that the revised Actuary's report providing estimates based on information available to 31/3/16 is materially different to the original estimate and agreed with management that the accounts should be amended to reflect the revised actuarial figures reviewed the consistency of the pension fund asset and liability and disclosures in notes to the financial statements to the actuarial report 	<p>We agreed with management that the financial statements should be amended to reflect the revised report provided by the Actuary.</p> <p>We are satisfied that the revised financial statements are consistent with the actuary's report.</p>

Audit findings against other risks



In this section, we detail our response to the other risks of material misstatement which we identified in the Audit Plan.

Transaction cycle	Description of risk	Work completed	Assurance gained & issues arising
Operating expenses	Operating expenses / Creditors understated or not recorded in the correct period (Operating expenses understated)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documented and confirmed our understanding of the controls in place in the accounts payable system reviewed the Council's process for identifying and processing accruals tested a sample of expenditure transactions and year end accruals to supporting evidence. tested a sample of expenditure transactions in the new year (April and May) to confirm they have been accounted for in the correct year 	Our audit work to date has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.
Employee remuneration	Employee remuneration / accruals understated (Remuneration expenses not correct)	<p>We have undertaken the following work in relation to this risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> documented and confirmed our understanding of the controls in place in the payroll system tested a sample of payroll transactions to supporting documentation reconciled total payroll costs from the payroll subsystem to the general ledger performed a monthly trend analysis to identify any months with unusually high or low pay levels 	Our audit work has not identified any significant issues in relation to the risk identified.

Accounting policies, estimates and judgements



In this section we report on our consideration of accounting policies, in particular revenue recognition policies, and key estimates and judgements made and included with the Council's financial statements.

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Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
<p>Revenue recognition</p>	<p>NDR and Council Tax Income is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.</p> <p>Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due when there is reasonable assurance that,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council will comply with conditions attached to the payment the grants or contributions will be received <p>Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council's accounting policy is appropriate under IAS 18 Revenue and CIPFA's Code of Practice on Local Government Accounting 2015/16 we have undertaken substantive testing of tax income, grants and other revenues and are satisfied that the Council has recognised income in accordance with its accounting policies revenue recognition policies are appropriately disclosed. 	<p style="text-align: center;"> Green</p>
<p>Judgements and estimates</p>	<p>Critical judgements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recognition of school assets whether group accounts are required to be prepared classification of Investment properties <p>Major sources of estimation uncertainty include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> business rates appeals provision impairment of debt Valuation of the shareholding in Manchester Airport Holdings Ltd (MAHL) pensions liability PFI implied interest rate PPE useful economic lives and depreciation Insurance provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Council has appropriately disclosed its critical judgements and sources of estimation uncertainty in notes 34 and 35 respectively the Council has appropriately relied on the work of experts for asset revaluations, pension fund valuations, insurance provisions, and the valuation of its investment in MAHL. 	<p style="text-align: center;"> Green</p>

Assessment
● Accounting policy which is inappropriate
 ● Accounting policy appropriate but scope for improved application or disclosure
 ● Accounting policy appropriate and disclosures sufficient

Accounting policies, estimates and judgements (continued)

Accounting area	Summary of policy	Comments	Assessment
Going concern	Management have a reasonable expectation that the services provided by the Council will continue for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements.	We have reviewed the Council's assessment and concur with management's view that the going concern basis is appropriate for preparing the 2015/16 financial statements.	 Green
Other accounting policies	We have reviewed the Council's accounting policies against the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice.	<p>Following our recommendation, the Council enhanced the disclosure of accounting policies to reflect the application of IFRS 13.</p> <p>The Council's other accounting policies are appropriate and consistent with previous years.</p>	 Green

Assessment

- Accounting policy which is inappropriate
- Accounting policy appropriate but scope for improved application or disclosure
- Accounting policy appropriate and disclosures sufficient

Other communication requirements

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by auditing standards and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

	Issue	Commentary
1.	Matters in relation to fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have written to management and the Audit Committee in relation to the risk of fraud. We have not been made aware of any material incidents in the period and no issues have been identified during the course of our audit.
2.	Matters in relation to related parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our work and enquiries have not identified any related party transactions which have not been disclosed.
3.	Matters in relation to laws and regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have written to management and the Audit Committee in relation to laws and regulations. You have not made us aware of any significant incidences of non-compliance with relevant laws and regulations and we have not identified any incidences from our audit work.
4.	Written representations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A letter of representation has been requested from the Council, prior to issuing the audit opinion
5.	Confirmation requests from third parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We requested from management permission to send confirmation requests for bank balances loans and investments. This permission was granted and the requests were sent to one institution for bank balances, five institutions for loans and a further eight organisations and institutions for investments. Of these requests we received confirmations for all bank balances and investments and one confirmation for loans. We carried out alternative procedures to confirm remaining loans.
6.	Disclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We identified the need to include a disclosure note for Investment Properties, which is now a material figure in the balance sheet. This has now been included in the final version of the financial statements.

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Other communication requirements (continued)

	Issue	Commentary
7.	Matters on which we report by exception	<p>We are required to report on a number of matters by exception as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • if the Annual Governance Statement does not meet the disclosure requirements set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance or is misleading or inconsistent with the information of which we are aware from our audit • the information in the Narrative Statement is materially inconsistent with the information in the audited financial statements or our knowledge of the Council acquired in the course of performing our audit, or otherwise misleading. <p>We have not identified any issues we would be required to report by exception in the above areas.</p>
8.	Specified procedures for Whole of Government Accounts (WGA)	<p>Before we can certify the audit as completed, we are required to carry out specified procedures (on behalf of the NAO) on the Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) consolidation pack under WGA group audit instructions. As the Council exceeds the specified group reporting threshold, we are required to examine and report on the consistency of the WGA consolidation pack with the Council's audited financial statements. We do not expect that this work will result in any issues arising which would impact on our opinion on the accounts.</p> <p>The WGA consolidation pack has not yet been completed by the Council.</p>

Misclassifications and disclosure changes

Our audit has not identified any unadjusted misstatements.

The table below provides details of misclassification and disclosure changes identified during the audit which have been made in the final set of financial statements (excluding minor narrative, casting and typographical changes).

Adjustment type	Value £'000	Account balance	Impact on the financial statements
1 Disclosure	–	Investment Assets	The draft financial statements now include a disclosure note to support this material balance. This has now been included at Note 17 b.
2 Disclosure		Note 19 – Categories of Financial Instruments	Correction of disclosure of analysis of Cash and Cash equivalents from £32,100k to £27,919k.
3 Disclosure		Note 19 – Fair Value of financial assets	Correction of classification of minority shareholding in Manchester Airport as Level 3 investments.
4 Disclosure		Note 11 – External Audit fees	Correction of analysis of fees between audit services, grant claims and other services.
5 Narrative Report		Introduction to financial statements	Include explanation of those Council Reserves which are not mentioned in the detail of the accounts or supporting notes.
6 Disclosure		Note 12 – Amounts Reported for Resource allocation Decisions	Disclosure that whilst Council has changed its internal management structure for 2015/16 it has not restated 2014/15 on the new reporting basis on the grounds that the cost would be excessive in comparison with the benefit to the user.

Section 3 : Value for Money

Value for Money

We are required by section 21 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the Act) and the NAO Code of Audit Practice (the Code) to satisfy ourselves that the Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. This is known as the Value for Money (VFM) conclusion.

We are required to carry out sufficient work to satisfy ourselves that proper arrangements are in place at the Council. The Act and NAO guidance state that for local government bodies, auditors are required to give a conclusion on whether the Council has put proper arrangements in place.

In carrying out this work, we are required to follow the NAO's Auditor Guidance Note 3 (AGN 03) issued in November 2015. AGN 03 identifies one single criterion for auditors to evaluate,

In all significant respects, the audited body had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people.

AGN03 provides examples of proper arrangements against three sub-criteria but specifically states that these are not separate criteria for assessment purposes and that auditors are not required to reach a distinct judgement against each of these.

Risk assessment

We completed an initial risk assessment in early April 2016 and identified the following significant risks, which we communicated to you in our Audit Plan on 21 April 2016.

We identified risks in respect of specific areas of proper arrangements using the guidance contained in AGN03.

We have continued our review of relevant documents up to the date of our report and have not identified any further significant risks where we need to perform further work.

We carried out further work only in respect of the significant risks we identified from our initial and ongoing risk assessment. Where our consideration of the significant risks determined that arrangements were not operating effectively, we have used the examples of proper arrangements from AGN 03 to explain the gaps in proper arrangements that we have reported in our VFM conclusion.

Key findings

We set out below our key findings against the significant risks we identified through our initial risk assessment and further risks identified through our ongoing review of documents.

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Significant risk	Work to address	Findings and conclusions
<p>Health & Social Care Integration The Council is seeking to deliver wide-ranging changes and greater integration to ensure the financial sustainability of adult health and social care services. This requires working with partners from different organisations and service areas with potentially conflicting priorities.</p>	<p>We reviewed the project management and risk assurance frameworks established by the Council to establish how it is identifying, managing and monitoring these risks and working with the CCG towards the delivery of integrated health and social care within the Borough through the Better Care Fund (BCF).</p>	<p>The Better Care Fund partnership arrangement has been established through a formal Section 75 agreement between the Council and Oldham CCG, which provides a sound basis for partnership working and delivery of the £16m BCF.</p> <p>The partnership has established a recognised and clear governance framework that aligns with both the Oldham Council Cabinet and the CCG Governing Body. Each of the BCF work-streams is led by a recognised lead and a team with representation from each of the partnership organisations concerned.</p> <p>Management of the BCF partnership has been vested to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) which operates within a framework (as opposed to a terms of reference) and has been in operation since April 2013.</p> <p>The partners have also established the Integrated Commissioning Partnership Board (ICPB) tasked with facilitating integration and joint commissioning across all areas of health, wellbeing and social care, alongside the Council's Cabinet and the CCG Governing Body.</p> <p>The BCF Assurance Group has been formed to regulate the fund and address operational issues. Convening fortnightly with representatives from both partners this group is tasked with ensuring that the milestones and desired outcomes for each programme are delivered.</p> <p>The ICPB has oversight of the delivery of the BCF ensuring milestones and outcomes of the programme are delivered and risks associated with BCF workstreams are managed.</p> <p>The ICPB has established a terms of reference that strengthens a previous partnership agreement. The terms of reference set out the arrangements in place with regard to governance, financial management and risk management whilst also defining how those activities will function through the ICPB as the primary coordinating body for integrated commissioning. This group (as per the terms of reference) convenes on a monthly basis and must include two voting members from each partner organisation in order to be quorate.</p> <p>Implementing the BCF in Oldham has brought health and social care closer together and is a crucial platform for further integration, alongside the Locality Plan for Oldham for the development of the Accountable Care Management Organisation (ACMO).</p> <p>On that basis, we concluded that the risk was sufficiently mitigated and the Council has proper arrangements in place.</p>

Significant qualitative aspects

AGN 03 requires us to disclose our views on significant qualitative aspects of the Council's arrangements for delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

We have focused our work on the significant risks that we identified in the Council's arrangements as set out on page 21., however we also highlight here our findings from other key considerations used to inform our VFM conclusion.

Financial Outturn 2015/16

The Council manages budgets well and has a good track record of achieving its financial plans. In 2015/16, the Council achieved a surplus of £425k against the revised budget and this surplus has been allocated to the Council's General Fund balance for use in future years.

The Council continues to hold a General Fund reserve fund comparable with the previous year at £18.5m. Earmarked Reserves have increased by £8.8m from the previous year, mainly attributed to the approval of allocations to the Transformation Reserve and Regeneration Reserve to address future financial pressures and support important regeneration initiatives to enable the Borough's economic development.

The Council's long term borrowing remains generally consistent with previous year at £407m and includes PFI liabilities of £258m where financial obligations are covered by the receipt of PFI credits from sponsoring Government Departments.

We do not have any significant concerns arising from our review of the 2015/16 budget outturn over the Council's arrangements for delivering economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Financial Planning for 2016/17 and beyond

The Council has set a balanced revenue budget for 2016/17 together with budget plans for 2017/18, within a five year Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2020/21.

The Council has identified a savings target of £20.4m for 2017/18 and a further savings requirement of £43.1m for the three years 2018/19 to 2020/21.

The Council has demonstrated a robust planning process and challenge of expenditure assumptions. This together with the quality of reporting and high level of scrutiny means the Council is well positioned to tackle the financial risks facing it in the medium term.

We do not have any significant concerns arising from our review of the Council's financial planning processes which form part of its arrangements for delivering economy efficiency and effectiveness.

Overall conclusion

Based on the work we performed to address the significant risks, we concluded that:

- the Council had proper arrangements in all significant respects to ensure it delivered value for money in its use of resources. The text of our report, which confirms this can be found at Appendix B.

Significant difficulties in undertaking our work

We did not identify any significant difficulties in undertaking our work on your arrangements which we wish to draw to your attention.

Significant matters discussed with management

There were no matters where no other evidence was available or matters of such significance to our conclusion or that we required written representation from management or those charged with governance.

Any other matters

There were no other matters from our work which were significant to our consideration of your arrangements to secure value for money in your use of resources.

Section 4 : Other statutory powers and duties

We set out below details of other matters which we, as auditors, are required by the Act and the Code to communicate to those charged with governance.

	Issue	Commentary
1.	Public interest report	We have not identified any matters that would require a public interest report to be issued.
2.	Written recommendations	We have not made any written recommendations that the Council is required to respond to publicly.
3.	Application to the court for a declaration that an item of account is contrary to law	We have not made any such application.
4.	Issue of an advisory notice	We have not issued an advisory notice.
	Application for judicial review	We have not made any application for judicial review.

At this stage we have not received any formal objections to the 2015/16 financial statements.

Section 5 : Fees, non-audit services and independence

We confirm below our final fees charged for the audit and confirm there were no fees for the provision of non audit services.

Fees

	£
Council audit	*135,621
Grant certification	13,361
Total audit fees (excluding VAT)	148,982

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*We have reduced the fee from the fee scale published on the PSAA website (originally £ 144,878) to take account of our assessment of the audit risks relevant to the Council. This is in line with the approach taken in previous years.

Grant certification

Our fees for grant certification cover only housing benefit subsidy certification, which falls under the remit of Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited.

Fees in respect of other grant work, such as reasonable assurance reports, are shown under 'Fees for other services'.

Subsidiary companies

Grant Thornton UK LLP also provides audit and other services to the wholly owned subsidiary companies Oldham Care and Support Ltd and Oldham Care and Support at Home Ltd, for fees totalling £22,350. This is a separate engagement outside the remit of Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited

Fees for other services

Service	Fees £
Audit related services:	
• Teachers Pension Return	4,200
Non-audit services	Nil

Independence and ethics

We confirm that there are no significant facts or matters that impact on our independence as auditors that we are required or wish to draw to your attention. We have complied with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards and, therefore, we confirm that we are independent and are able to express an objective opinion on the financial statements.

We confirm that we have implemented policies and procedures to meet the requirements of the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards.

Section 6 : Communication of audit matters

International Standards on Auditing ISA (UK&I) 260, as well as other ISAs, prescribe matters which we are required to communicate with those charged with governance, and which we set out in the table opposite.

The Audit Plan outlined our audit strategy and plan to deliver the audit, while this Audit Findings report presents the key issues and other matters arising from the audit, together with an explanation as to how these have been resolved.

Respective responsibilities

The Audit Findings Report has been prepared in the context of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies issued by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited (<http://www.psa.co.uk/appointing-auditors/terms-of-appointment/>)

We have been appointed as the Council's independent external auditors by the Audit Commission, the body responsible for appointing external auditors to local public bodies in England at the time of our appointment. As external auditors, we have a broad remit covering finance and governance matters.

Our annual work programme is set in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice ('the Code') issued by the NAO (<https://www.nao.org.uk/code-audit-practice/about-code/>). Our work considers the Council's key risks when reaching our conclusions under the Code.

It is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that proper arrangements are in place for the conduct of its business, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for. We have considered how the Council is fulfilling these responsibilities.

Our communication plan	Audit Plan	Audit Findings
Respective responsibilities of auditor and management/those charged with governance	✓	
Overview of the planned scope and timing of the audit. Form, timing and expected general content of communications	✓	
Views about the qualitative aspects of the entity's accounting and financial reporting practices, significant matters and issues arising during the audit and written representations that have been sought		✓
Confirmation of independence and objectivity	✓	✓
A statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, relationships and other matters which might be thought to bear on independence.	✓	✓
Details of non-audit work performed by Grant Thornton UK LLP and network firms, together with fees charged		
Details of safeguards applied to threats to independence		
Material weaknesses in internal control identified during the audit		✓
Identification or suspicion of fraud involving management and/or others which results in material misstatement of the financial statements		✓
Non compliance with laws and regulations		✓
Expected modifications to auditor's report		✓
Uncorrected misstatements		✓
Significant matters arising in connection with related parties		✓
Significant matters in relation to going concern		✓

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Appendices

Appendix A: Action plan

Priority High / Medium / Low

Rec No.	Recommendation	Priority	Management response	Implementation date & responsibility
1	<p>Last year we recommended that there was an opportunity to reduce the length of the accounts. Whilst the Council removed two notes and several areas of narrative duplication, the financial statements for 2015-16 continue to be in excess of 150 pages.</p> <p>During our audit we have highlighted a number of areas for consideration in 'cutting the clutter' in future financial statements and discussed these with the Finance team. In particular the disclosure of contingent liabilities and contingent assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only where material • for contingent liabilities only when more than remote • disclosing amounts and/or uncertainties <p>We recommend that an early review of the accounts is conducted to make further progress in reducing the length of the accounts.</p>	Low	<p>During the 2015/16 final accounts process, the Finance Team undertook a review of the requirements set out in the Code of Practice (which introduced new items) and also had regard to comments from the Audit Findings Report for 2014/15 which highlighted de-cluttering as an issue. The review led to a series of actions which were considered to have improved the ability of the reader of the Statement of Accounts to understand the key issues. However, acknowledging the audit comments, this matter will be revisited for the 2016/17 Statement of Accounts.</p> <p>In order to address this issue, the Finance Team will undertake a further review and discuss the outcome with Audit colleagues. This will include an early review of a skeleton Statement of Accounts. This will ensure that there is a common understanding of the approach to disclosures within the Statement of Accounts.</p>	Finance Team to start review in July 2016

Appendix B: Audit opinion

We anticipate we will provide the Council with an unmodified audit report

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

We have audited the financial statements of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (the "Authority") for the year ended 31 March 2016 under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 (the "Act"). The financial statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement, the Housing Revenue Account Income and Expenditure Account, the Statement of Movement in the Housing Revenue Account, the Collection Fund and the related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16.

This report is made solely to the members of the Authority, as a body, in accordance with Part 5 of the Act, and as set out in paragraph 43 of the Statement of Responsibilities of Auditors and Audited Bodies published by Public Sector Audit Appointments Limited. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Authority and the Authority's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the Director of Finance and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of the Director of Finance's Responsibilities, the Director of Finance is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Accounts, which includes the financial statements, in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16, and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Authority's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Director of Finance; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Narrative Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council as at 31 March 2016 and of its expenditure and income for the year then ended; and
- have been prepared properly in accordance with the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2015/16 and applicable law.

Opinion on other matters

In our opinion, the other information published together with the audited financial statements in the Narrative Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We are required to report to you if:

- in our opinion the Annual Governance Statement does not comply with the 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: a Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007; or
- we issue a report in the public interest under section 24 of the Act; or
- we make a written recommendation to the Authority under section 24 of the Act; or
- we exercise any other special powers of the auditor under the Act.

We have nothing to report in these respects.

Appendix B: Audit opinion (continued)

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Conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources

Respective responsibilities of the Authority and auditor

The Authority is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources, to ensure proper stewardship and governance, and to review regularly the adequacy and effectiveness of these arrangements.

We are required under Section 20(1)(c) of the Act to be satisfied that the Authority has made proper arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. We are not required to consider, nor have we considered, whether all aspects of the Authority's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources are operating effectively.

Scope of the review of the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources

We have undertaken our review in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice prepared by the Comptroller and Auditor General as required by the Act (the "Code of Audit Practice"), having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2015, as to whether the Authority had proper arrangements to ensure it took properly informed decisions and deployed resources to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for taxpayers and local people. The Comptroller and Auditor General determined this criteria as that necessary for us to consider under the Code of Audit Practice in satisfying ourselves whether the Authority put in place proper arrangements for securing value for money through the economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the year ended 31 March 2016.

We planned our work in accordance with the Code of Audit Practice. Based on our risk assessment, we undertook such work as we considered necessary to form a view on whether in all significant respects the Authority has put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources.

Conclusion

On the basis of our work, having regard to the guidance on the specified criteria issued by the Comptroller and Auditor General in November 2015, we are satisfied that in all significant respects, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council has put in place proper arrangements for securing value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources for the year ended 31 March 2016.

Delay in certification of completion of the audit

We cannot formally conclude the audit and issue an audit certificate in accordance with the requirements of the Act and the Code of Audit Practice until we have completed the work necessary to issue our Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) Component Assurance statement for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council for the year ended 31 March 2016. We are satisfied that this work does not have a material effect on the financial statements or on our conclusion on the Authority's arrangements for securing value for money through economic, efficient and effective use of its resources.

Graham Nunns

for and on behalf of Grant Thornton UK LLP, Appointed Auditor

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Report to Council

Treasury Management Review 2015/16

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and HR

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

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Ext. 4467

7 September 2016

Reason for Decision

This Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2015/16. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2015/16 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 25 February 2015)
- a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (approved 24 February 2016)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

The presentation of this report demonstrates full compliance with the requirements as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

This report was considered and approved at the Cabinet meeting of 25 July 2016 and will be presented to the next meeting of the Audit Committee on 8 September 2016.

Executive Summary

During 2015/16, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Actual prudential and treasury indicators	2014/15 Actual £'000	2015/16 Revised £'000	2015/16 Actual £'000
Actual capital expenditure	66,851	68,332	65,788
Total Capital Financing Requirement:	527,364	543,243	543,232
Gross borrowing	148,117	148,117	148,113
External debt	426,660	443,853	421,122
Investments			
· Longer than 1 year	0	0	10,500
· Under 1 year	103,070	45,000	63,600
· Total	103,070	45,000	74,100
Net Borrowing	45,047	103,117	74,013

As can be seen in the table above, actual capital expenditure was less than the revised budget estimate. This was due primarily to delays in both start and development of some of the capital schemes that were expected to progress during the year. The planned expenditure has therefore slipped into 2016/17. No borrowing was undertaken during the year. This was because of the policy of self - financing which was employed due to the uncertainty around interest rates and the availability of cash which caused the Council to use cash reserves rather than incur additional borrowing costs.

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report. The Director of Finance also confirms that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached.

The financial year 2015/16 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to approve the:

- 1) Actual 2015/16 prudential and treasury indicators in this report
- 2) Annual treasury management report for 2015/16

Treasury Management Review 2015/16

1 Background

1.1 The Council has adopted the Revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2011. The primary requirements of the code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's Treasury Management activities
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives
- 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
- 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 section 151 Officer (Director of Finance).
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies to a specific named body. In Oldham, the delegated body is the Audit Committee.

Treasury management in this context 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. "

1.2 The report therefore summarises the following:-

- Council's capital expenditure and financing during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- Detailed debt activity; and
- Detailed investment activity
- Reporting of the required prudential and treasury indicators;

2 Current Position

2.1 The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing during 2015/16

2.1.1 The Council incurs capital expenditure when it invests in or acquires long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

2.1.2 The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. The table below shows the actual capital expenditure and how this was financed. As can be seen in the table below, actual capital expenditure in 2015/16 was less than the revised budget estimate. This was due primarily to delays in delivering some IT projects, transport and property related schemes that were expected to progress during the year. The planned expenditure has therefore slipped into 2016/17.

	2014/15 Actual £'000	2015/16 Revised £'000	2015/16 Actual £'000
Non-HRA capital expenditure	61,060	67,927	65,392
HRA capital expenditure	5,791	405	396
Total capital expenditure	66,851	68,332	65,788
Resourced by:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Capital receipts	5,139	6,793	1,290
<input type="checkbox"/> Capital grants	17,182	27,772	26,259
<input type="checkbox"/> HRA	5,791	405	526
<input type="checkbox"/> Revenue	12,125	926	5,556
Unfinanced capital expenditure	26,614	32,436	32,157

2.2 The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

2.2.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2015/16 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

2.2.2 Part of the Council's treasury activities is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWL] or the money markets), or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

Reducing the CFR

2.2.3 The Council's (non-Housing Revenue Account [HRA]) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision – MRP, to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non- HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). This differs from the treasury management

arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

2.2.4 The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- the application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- Charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

2.2.5 The Council's 2015/16 MRP Policy (as required by CLG Guidance) was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy Report for 2015/16 on 25 February 2015.

2.2.6 The Council's CFR for the year is shown in the table below and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes PFI and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council's borrowing need. In 2015/16 the Council had seven PFI schemes in operation; however no borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included within each contract.

CFR	2014/15 Actual £'000	2015/16 Revised £'000	2015/16 Actual £'000
Opening balance	479,872	527,364	527,364
Add unfinanced capital expenditure (as above)	26,614	32,436	32,157
Add adjustment for the inclusion of on-balance sheet PFI and leasing schemes (if applicable)	39,221	3,739	4,008
Less MRP/VRP	(10,886)	(12,803)	(11,963)
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	(7,457)	(7,493)	(8,334)
Closing balance	527,364	543,243	543,232

2.2.7 Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

Gross borrowing and the CFR

2.2.8 In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2015/16) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2016/17) and next two financial years.

2.2.9 This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

2.2.10 This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2015/16 if so required. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	2014/15 Actual £'000	2015/16 Revised £'000	2015/16 Actual £'000
Gross borrowing position	426,660	421,126	421,122
CFR - incl PFI / Finance Leases	527,364	543,243	543,232

The table above shows the position as at 31 March 2016 for the Councils gross borrowing position and CFR. This shows, compared to the revised budget position:

- Slight movement in the gross borrowing position, reflecting the fact that a small amount of short term borrowing had been repaid.
- A small reduction in the CFR, predominantly due to the slippage in the capital programme.

The Authorised Limit

- 2.2.11 The authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and was set at £590m. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level.

The Operational boundary

- 2.2.12 The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year and was set at £560m. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream

- 2.2.13 This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream and is within expected levels.

	2015/16 Actual £'000
Authorised limit	590,000
Operational boundary	560,000
External Debt	148,113
PFI / Finance leases	273,009
Actual external debt (Gross Borrowing)	421,122
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream	17.67%

- 2.2.14 The table above splits the gross borrowing position of the Council between actual external debt (loans) and PFI / Finance lease debt. As can be seen above the gross borrowing position is within the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary. Treasury Position as at 31 March 2016.

- 2.3.1 The Council's debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for

investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

2.3.2 At the end of 2015/16 the Council's treasury position was as follows:

	31 March 2015 Principal £'000	Rate/ Return	Average Life yrs	31 March 2016 Principal £'000	Rate/ Return	Average Life yrs
Fixed rate funding:						
-PWLB	15,723			15,723		
-Stock	6,600			6,600		
Market	125,794			125,790		
Total borrowings	148,117	4.50%	49.90	148,113	4.51%	37.84
PFI & Finance lease liabilities	278,543			273,009		
Total External debt	426,660			421,122		
CFR	527,364			543,232		
Over/ (under) borrowing	(100,704)			(122,111)		
Investments:						
Financial Institutions/LA's	103,070	0.72%		74,100	0.77%	
Property	0			5,000	4.77%	
Total investments	103,070			79,100		

2.3.3 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2013/14	2014/15 Actual %	upper limit %	lower limit %	2015/16 Actual %
Under 12 months	43%	50%	0%	50%
12 months and within 24 months	3%	7%	0%	7%
24 months and within 5 years	38%	28%	0%	28%
5 years and within 10 years	5%	5%	0%	5%
10 years and above	10%	10%	40%	10%

The 2015/16 actual figures above do not represent a significant difference in maturity profile to the previous year, reflecting the fact that there has been neither any new debt taken on or repayment of debt.

2.3.4 The maturity structure of the investment portfolio was as follows:

	2014/15 Actual £'000	2015/16 Actual £'000
Investments		
Longer than 1 year	0	10,500

Under 1 year	103,070	68,600
Property		5,000
Total	103,070	79,100

2.3.5 Key features of the debt and investment position are:

- a) Over the course of the year 2015/16, investments have decreased by £23.970m, due to utilising cash resources to finance the capital programme rather than borrow externally, whilst counterparties remain limited and interest rates are expected to remain low.
- b) The average rate of return on investments with Financial Institutions increased from 0.72% in 2014/15 to 0.77% in 2015/16. During the latter part of 2014/15 the investment policy altered slightly to start placing cash out for fixed term deals rather than hold all in instant access / money market funds. This continued throughout the year in 2015/16, both within the one year and an additional change to place funds for greater than one year. This approach is therefore reflected in the increased return (0.77%) on the investments held at the 31 March 2016.
- c) During the year investments were also made with a Property Fund. This is a longer term investment with at least a three year time horizon for the investment that allows the Council to maximise investment income whilst cash reserves allow. Initially £2m was invested in June 2016 and a further £3m in October 2016 taking the investment to £5m. The return in year was 4.77%.

2.4 The Strategy for 2015/16

- 2.4.1 The expectation for interest rates within the strategy for 2015/16 anticipated a low but rising Bank Rate (starting in quarter 1 of 2016), and gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2016/17. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period. Continued uncertainty in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis promoted a cautious approach, whereby investments would continue to be dominated by low counterparty risk considerations, resulting in relatively low returns compared to borrowing rates.
- 2.4.2 The treasury strategy was to postpone borrowing to avoid the cost of holding higher levels of investments and to reduce counterparty risk.
- 2.4.3 The actual movement in gilt yields meant that the general trend in PWLB rates during 2015/16 was an increase in rates during the first quarter followed by marked bouts of sharp volatility since July 2015 but with an overall dominant trend for rates to fall to historically low levels by the end of the year.

2.5 The Economy and Interest Rates

- 2.5.1 Market expectations for the first increase in Bank Rate moved considerably during 2015/16, starting at quarter 3 2015 but soon moving back to quarter 1 2016. However, by the end of the year, market expectations had moved back radically to quarter 2 2018 due to many fears including concerns that China's economic growth could be heading towards a hard landing; the potential destabilisation of some emerging market countries particularly exposed to the Chinese economic slowdown; and the continuation of the collapse in oil prices during 2015 together with continuing Eurozone growth uncertainties.

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- 2.5.2 These concerns have caused sharp market volatility in equity prices during the year with corresponding impacts on bond prices and bond yields due to safe haven flows. The Bank Rate, therefore, remained unchanged at 0.5% for the seventh successive year.
- 2.5.3 Economic growth (GDP) in the UK surged strongly during both 2013/14 and 2014/15 to make the UK the top performing advanced economy in 2014. However, 2015 was disappointing with growth falling steadily from an annual rate of 2.9% in quarter 1 2015 to 2.1% in quarter 4.
- 2.5.4 The Funding for Lending Scheme, announced in July 2012, resulted in a flood of cheap credit being made available to banks which then resulted in money market investment rates falling materially. These rates continued at very low levels during 2015/16.
- 2.5.5 The sharp volatility in equity markets during the year was reflected in sharp volatility in bond yields. However, the overall dominant trend in bond yields since July 2015 has been for yields to fall to historically low levels as forecasts for inflation have repeatedly been revised downwards and expectations of increases in central rates have been pushed back.
- 2.5.6 In addition, a notable trend in the year was that several central banks introduced negative interest rates as a measure to stimulate the creation of credit and hence economic growth.
- 2.5.7 The European Central Bank (ECB) had announced in January 2015 that it would undertake a full blown quantitative easing (QE) programme of purchases of Eurozone government and other bonds starting in March at €60bn per month. This put downward pressure on Eurozone bond yields. There was a further increase in this programme of QE in December 2015.
- 2.5.8 The anti-austerity government in Greece, elected in January 2015 eventually agreed to implement an acceptable programme of cuts to meet EU demands after causing major fears of a breakup of the Eurozone. Nevertheless, there are continuing concerns that a Greek exit has only been delayed.
- 2.5.9 As for America, the economy has continued to grow healthily on the back of resilient consumer demand. The first increase in the central rate occurred in December 2015 since when there has been a return to caution as to the speed of further increases due to concerns around the risks to world growth.
- 2.5.10 On the international scene, concerns have increased about the slowing of the Chinese economy and also its potential vulnerability to both the bursting of a property bubble and major exposure of its banking system to bad debts.
- 2.5.11 The Japanese economy has also suffered disappointing growth in this financial year despite a huge programme of quantitative easing, while two of the major emerging market economies, Russia and Brazil, are in recession. The situations in Ukraine, and in the Middle East, have also contributed to volatility.
- 2.5.12 The UK elected a majority Conservative Government in May 2015 which led to an unchanged approach to the economy and austerity. It however introduced some economic uncertainty due to the promise of a referendum on the UK remaining part of the EU.
- 2.5.13 The government maintained its tight fiscal policy stance but the more recent downturn in expectations for economic growth has made it more difficult to return the public sector net borrowing to a balanced annual position within the period of this parliament.

2.6 Borrowing Rates in 2015/16

2.6.1 PWLB certainty maturity borrowing rates are set out as follows and are shown in Appendix 2 for a selection of maturity periods, illustrating the range (high and low points) in rates, the average rates and individual rates at the start and the end of the financial year.

- **5 year PWLB rate** - started the year at 1.90%, peaking at 2.35% in July 2015 before falling to a low for the year of 1.47% in February 2016, climbing slightly to finish the year at 1.61%.
- **10 year PWLB rate** - started the year at 2.49%, peaking at 3.06% in July 2015 before falling to a low for the year of 2.28% in February 2016, climbing to finish the year at 2.28%.
- **25 year PWLB rate** - started the year at 3.15%, peaking at 3.66% in July 2015 before falling to a low for the year of 2.98% in February 2016, before climbing to finish the year at 3.11%.
- **50 year PWLB rate.** - started the year at 3.11%, peaking at 3.58% in July before falling to a low for the year of 2.81% in February 2016, climbing slightly to finish the year at 2.92%.

2.7 Borrowing Outturn for 2015/16

Treasury Borrowing

2.7.1 The Council did not undertake any borrowing in 2015/16:

Repayment of Debt

2.7.2 There was no repayment of outstanding Council debt in 2015/16.

2.8 Compliance with Treasury Limits.

2.8.1 During the financial year the Council operated within the prudential indicators as set in the annual treasury management strategy. The outturn for all the prudential indicators and treasury management indicators is shown in Appendix 1.

2.9 Investment Rates in 2015/16

2.9.1 Bank Rate remained at its historic low of 0.5% throughout the year; it has now remained unchanged for seven years.

2.9.2 Market expectations as to the timing of the start of monetary tightening started the year at quarter 1 2016 but then moved back to around quarter 2 2018 by the end of the year.

2.9.3 Deposit rates remained depressed during the whole of the year, primarily due to the effects of the Funding for Lending Scheme and due to the continuing weak expectations as to when the Bank Rate would start rising. Deposit rate movements are summarised below;

- **7 Day rate:** this started the year at 0.361% and also ended the year at 0.361%
- **1 month rate:** this started the year at 0.381% and ended the year slightly higher at 0.386%

- **3 month rate:** this started the year at 0.445%, peaking towards the end of the year on both 15 February 2016 at 0.468%. The average for the year was 0.456%
- **6 month rate:** rates opened the year at 0.559% and peaked at 0.635% on 16 September 2015, ending the year lower at 0.615%.
- **12 month rate:** this started the year at 0.843%, reaching a high point of 0.959% on 5 August 2015, ending the year at 0.878% on 31 March.

2.10 Investment Outturn

Investment Policy

- 2.10.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by CLG investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy which for 2015/16 was approved by Council on 25 February 2015. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties, and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
- 2.10.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Resources

- 2.10.3 The Council's cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council's core cash resources comprised as follows:

Balance Sheet Resources (£'000)	31-Mar-15	31-Mar-16
Balances General Fund	18,122	18,547
Balances HRA	16,374	17,284
Earmarked reserves	98,696	107,482
Provisions	23,531	27,576
Usable capital receipts	4,085	6,641
Total	160,808	177,531

Investments at 31/3/16

- 2.10.4 The Council managed all of its investments in house with the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list. At the end of the financial year the Council had £79.1m of investments as follows:

Institution	Type	Amount £'000	Term (days)	Rate%	Start date	End date
CCLA Property Fund	Property	5,000	Open	4.77%	31-Oct-15	Open
Total Property Funds		5,000				
Royal Bank of Scotland	CD	5,000	364	0.91%	17-Apr-15	15-Apr-16
Standard Chartered	CD	2,500	364	0.90%	06-May-15	04-May-16

Royal Bank of Scotland	CD	3,000	364	0.95%	14-Jul-15	12-Jul-16
Standard Chartered	CD	5,000	183	0.73%	20-Oct-15	20-Apr-16
Total Certificates of Deposit (CD)		15,500				
Barclays	Fixed	3,000	274	0.85%	20-Aug-15	20-May-16
Nationwide BS	Fixed	2,500	183	0.66%	14-Oct-15	14-Apr-16
Herefordshire Council	Fixed	7,500	427	0.70%	23-Oct-15	23-Dec-16
Bank of Scotland	Fixed	3,000	182	0.75%	09-Nov-15	09-May-16
Bank of Scotland	Fixed	5,000	182	0.75%	18-Nov-15	18-May-16
Barclays	Fixed	3,000	365	0.97%	26-Nov-15	25-Nov-16
Santander UK plc	Fixed	2,500	183	0.71%	03-Dec-15	03-Jun-16
Total Fixed Deposits		26,500				
Federated MMF	MMF	17,700	3	0.54%	29-Mar-16	01-Apr-16
Standard Life MMF	MMF	14,400	1	0.50%	31-Mar-16	01-Apr-16
Total Money Market Funds (MMF)		32,100				
Total Investments		79,100				

- 2.10.5 Taking the opportunity to earn a better rate of return on its cash balances, the Council has in accordance with the approved TMSS during 2015/16, started to use a broader range of investment products, namely Certificates of Deposit and Investment units with a Property Fund. To invest in these types of instruments, accounts have been opened up with a custodian service (King & Shaxson) and the Churches, Charities and Local Authority (CCLA) Property Fund.
- 2.10.6 Certificates of Deposit have opened up a wider range of approved counterparties, that the Council may either not have had access too directly or who may not offer fixed investments. Although certificates of deposit are entered into for a fixed duration they can be sold on the secondary market in the highly unlikely event that there should be an urgent need for liquidity. As at 31 March 2016 £15.5m was held in Certificates of Deposit.
- 2.10.7 As mentioned above in 2.10.5, the Council has started to invest with CCLA Property Fund. The details are included in the table above; the overall return in year is 4.77%.
- 2.10.8 The Council's investment strategy was to maintain sufficient cash reserves to give it necessary liquidity, whilst trying to attain a benchmark average rate of return of London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) both 7 day and 3 month multiplied by 5%, whilst ensuring funds were invested in institutions which were the most secure.
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Average 7 Day LIBID | 0.361% |
| Benchmark | 0.379% |
| Actual Return earned in year | 0.487% |
| Average 3 month LIBID | 0.456% |
| Benchmark | 0.479% |
| Actual Return earned in year | 0.711% |
- 2.10.9 The Council's overall average performance on its cash investments exceeded its target by 0.108% on 7 day LIBID and 0.232% on 3 month LIBID.
- 2.10.10 The investments in year and those detailed above generated £783k of income in the financial year. This income is split £129k Property Fund income and £654k received for all other investment types. Furthermore The Director of Finance confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2015/16.

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 approve the contents of the report. Therefore no options/alternatives have been presented.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 The preferred option is that the contents of the report are reviewed and approved by Council.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 There has been consultation with Capita Asset Services, Treasury Management Advisors and Cabinet on 25 July 2016. The report will be discussed at the Audit Committee on 8 September.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 All included in the report.

7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 None

8 **Cooperative Agenda**

8.1 The treasury management strategy embraces the Council's cooperative agenda. The Council will develop its investment framework to ensure it complements the cooperative ethos of the 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 Internal Audit reports and in the External Auditors' reports 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 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 CFHR-19-16

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: Background papers are provided in Appendices 1 and 2
Officer Name: Andrew Moran
Contact No: 0161 770 4467

20 **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators
Appendix 2 Borrowing and Investment Rates

Appendix 1 – Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators

TABLE 1: Prudential indicators	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16
	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Capital Expenditure				
Non - HRA	61,060	90,644	67,927	65,392
HRA	5,791		405	396
TOTAL	66,851	90,644	68,332	65,788
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream				
Non - HRA	14.90%	18.62%	13.64%	17.67%
In year Capital Financing Requirement				
Non - HRA	47,492	45,018	15,878	15,868
TOTAL	47,492	45,018	15,878	15,868
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March				
TOTAL	527,364	572,382	543,243	543,232
Incremental impact of capital investment decisions	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
Increase in Council Tax (band D) per annum	£25.23	£57.44	£44.25	£45.47

TABLE 2: Treasury management indicators	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16
	Actual	Original	Revised	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Authorised Limit for external debt -				
borrowing	290,000	345,000	305,000	305,000
other long term liabilities	265,000	285,000	285,000	285,000
TOTAL	555,000	630,000	590,000	590,000
Operational Boundary for external debt -				
borrowing	270,000	325,000	285,000	285,000
other long term liabilities	255,000	275,000	275,000	275,000
TOTAL	525,000	600,000	560,000	560,000
Actual external debt	426,660			421,122

Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure				
Net principal re fixed rate borrowing / investments	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual	100%			100%
Upper limit for variable rate exposure				
Net principal re variable rate borrowing / investments	40%	30%	30%	30%
Actual	0%			0%
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

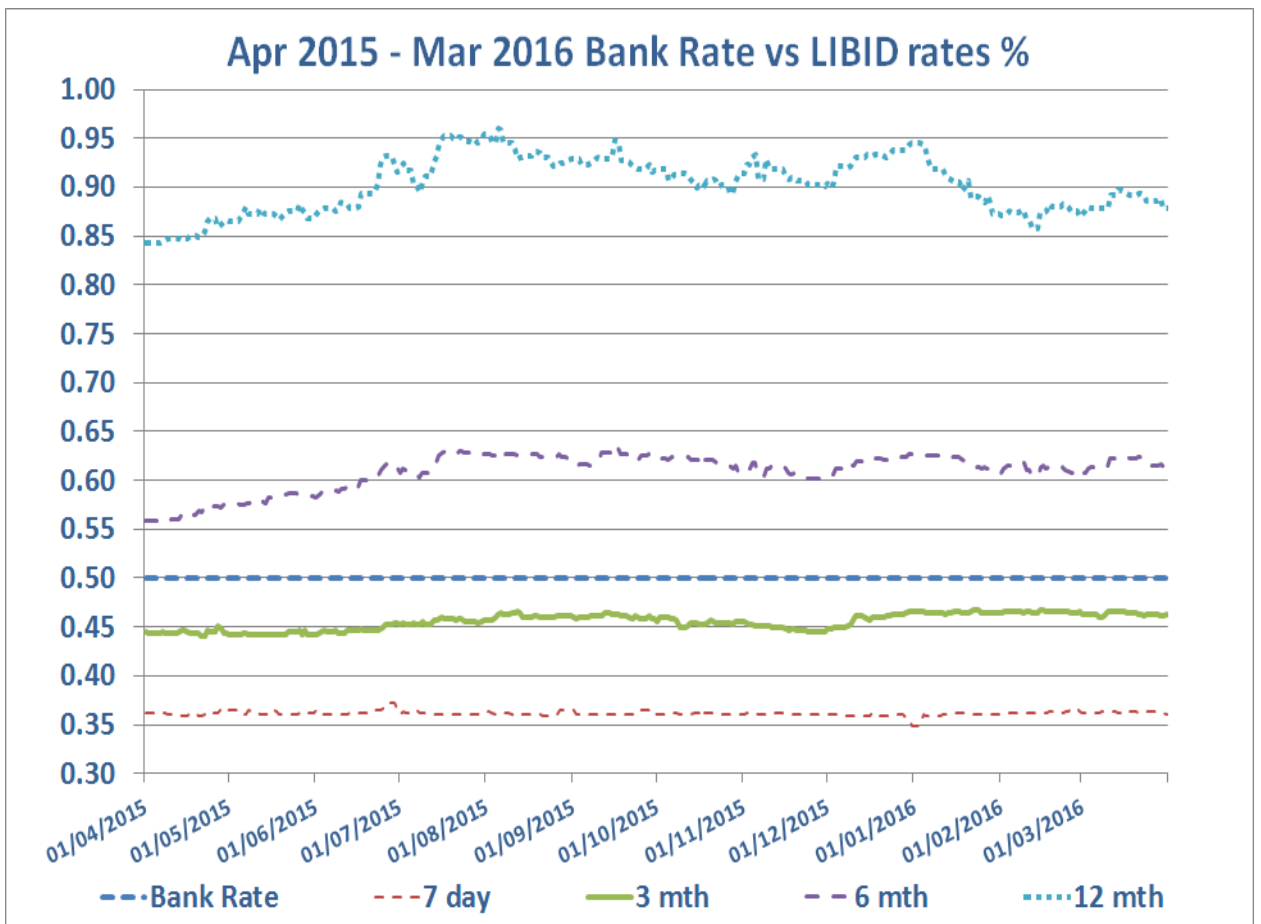
Table 3

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2015/16	upper limit	lower limit	Actual
under 12 months	40%	0%	50%
12 months and within 24 months	15%	0%	7%
24 months and within 5 years	30%	0%	28%
5 years and within 10 years	5%	0%	5%
10 years and above	100%	40%	10%

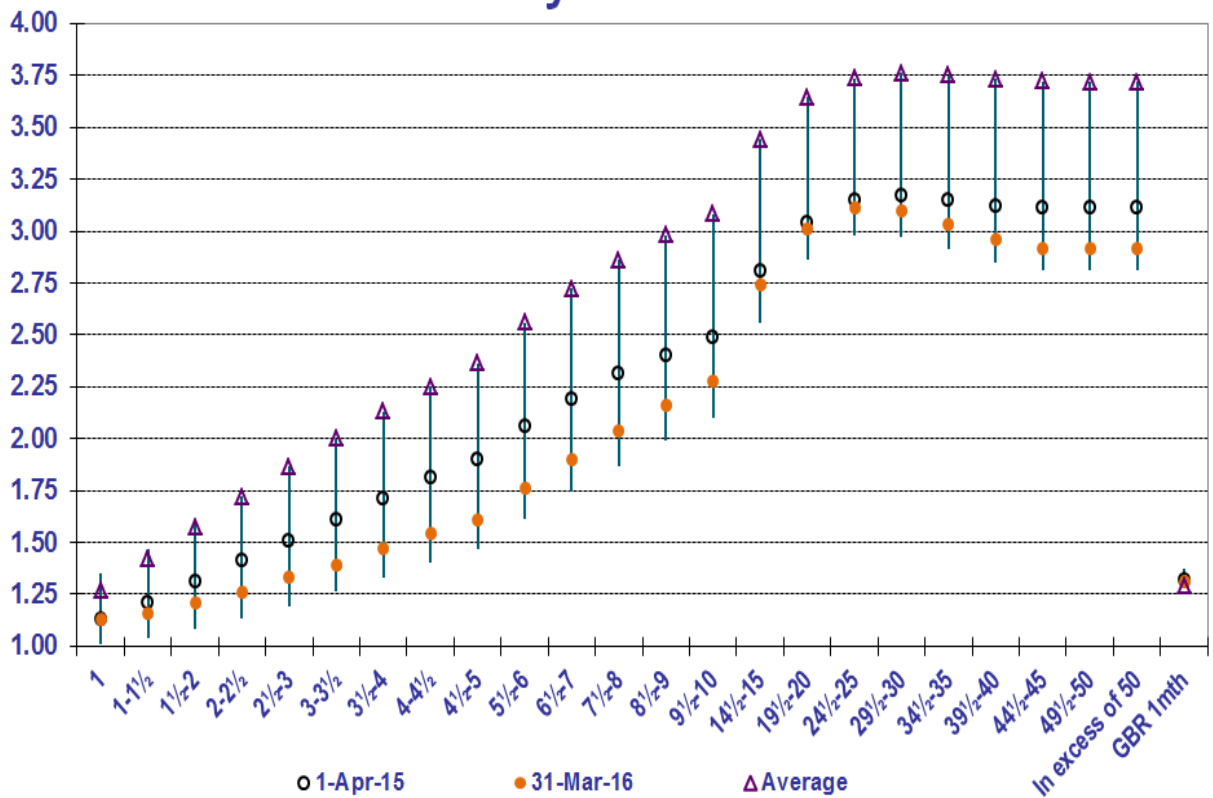
Appendix 2: Borrowing and Investment Rates 2015/16



Money market investment rates 2015/16					
	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	1 year
1/4/15	0.361	0.381	0.445	0.559	0.843
31/3/16	0.361	0.386	0.463	0.615	0.878
High	0.372	0.389	0.468	0.635	0.959
Low	0.349	0.377	0.441	0.557	0.842
Average	0.361	0.383	0.456	0.609	0.902
Spread	0.023	0.012	0.027	0.078	0.117
High date	26/6/15	3/11/15	15/2/16	16/9/15	5/8/15
Low date	31/12/15	16/4/15	22/4/15	9/4/15	2/4/15

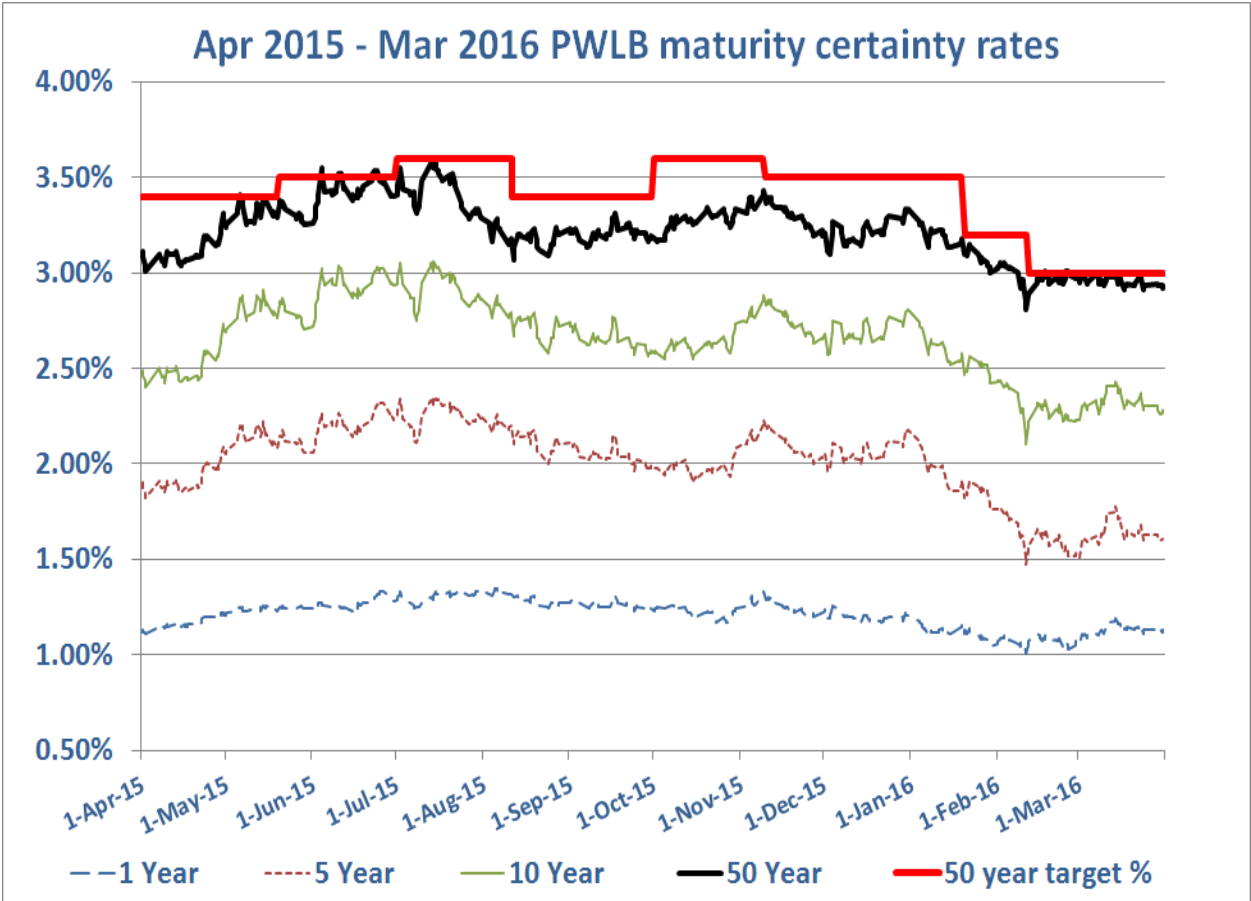


PWLB certainty rate variations in 2015-16



	1	1-1.5	2.5-3	3.5-4	4.5-5	9.5-10	24.5-25	49.5-50	1 month variable
1/4/15	1.130%	1.210%	1.510%	1.710%	1.900%	2.490%	3.150%	3.110%	1.320%
31/3/16	1.130%	1.160%	1.330%	1.470%	1.610%	2.280%	3.110%	2.920%	1.310%
High	1.350%	1.470%	1.860%	2.120%	2.350%	3.060%	3.660%	3.580%	1.370%
Low	1.010%	1.040%	1.190%	1.330%	1.470%	2.100%	2.980%	2.810%	1.310%
Average	1.212%	1.302%	1.608%	1.814%	2.004%	2.653%	3.348%	3.216%	1.336%
Spread	0.340%	0.430%	0.670%	0.790%	0.880%	0.960%	0.680%	0.770%	0.060%
High date	05/08/2015	06/08/2015	02/07/2015	15/07/2015	14/07/2015	14/07/2015	02/07/2015	14/07/2015	30/10/2015
Low date	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	21/03/2016

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
1/4/15	1.13%	1.90%	2.49%	3.15%	3.11%
31/3/16	1.13%	1.61%	2.28%	3.11%	2.92%
Low	1.01%	1.47%	2.10%	2.98%	2.81%
Date	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016	11/02/2016
High	1.35%	2.35%	3.06%	3.66%	3.58%
Date	05/08/2015	14/07/2015	14/07/2015	02/07/2015	14/07/2015
Average	1.21%	2.00%	2.65%	3.35%	3.22%



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Report to Council

2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement – Outcome of Review and Proposed Revision

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and HR

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans (Director of Finance)

Report Author: Andrew Moran (Assistant Director of Finance)
Ext. 4467

7 September 2016

Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to describe the outcome of a review of the Council's 2016/17 MRP Policy Statement and to recommend the adoption of the revised MRP Policy set out at Appendix One.

Executive Summary

A review of the Council's MRP Policy Statement was undertaken to ensure it is clear on all material matters associated with making prudent provision for the repayment of debt whilst continuing to reflect the requirements of DCLG Statutory Guidance. The report describes the outcome of the review and sets out the case for changing the method of calculating provision for 'previously supported borrowing' to one which is arguably more prudent (on a whole life basis) than the current approach.

If approved, the approach set out in the revised MRP Policy Statement will generate revenue budget savings of £2.7m in 2016/17 and reduce the budget gap in future years by £2.5m in 2017/18 and £2.3m in 2018/19. Annual savings continue beyond 2018/19 but will gradually reduce and finally cease in 2032/33.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council:

- 1) Approves the revised 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement set out at Appendix One replacing Section 2.3 of the 2016/17 Treasury Management Strategy Statement approved by Council on 24 February 2016.
- 2) Notes that the new MRP Policy will generate a saving which can be used to support the 2016/17 financial position and will revise the base budget requirement for future financial years.

2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement – Outcome of Review and Proposed Revision

1. Background

- 1.1. Local Authorities are required to set aside ‘prudent’ revenue provision for debt repayment (MRP) where they have used borrowing or credit arrangements to finance capital expenditure. Statutory Guidance covering MRP was published in February 2012 by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and sets out various options and boundaries for calculating prudent provision.
- 1.2. Whilst ‘prudent provision’ is not specifically defined, the guidance suggests that debt ought to be repaid over a period that is either commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure provides benefits, or, in the case of borrowing supported by Revenue Support Grant, it is reasonably commensurate with the period implicit in the determination of the grant.
- 1.3. The guidance requires authorities to publish an annual MRP policy statement outlining how prudent provision is to be made. To be valid, the policy statement must be approved by the Council Meeting. Oldham’s 2016/17 MRP policy statement was approved as part of the annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement on 24 February 2016.
- 1.4. The guidance sets out various options for calculating prudent MRP but does not rule out alternative approaches that are not specifically mentioned. One of the options presented in the guidance is ‘the regulatory method’ which equates to setting aside 4% of the opening balance outstanding on a reducing balance basis. The Council currently uses this method for calculating MRP on General Fund debt previously financed from credit approvals or supported borrowing; namely capital financing costs that were financed as part of the annual Local Government finance settlement.
- 1.5. Officers from the Finance Service have recently undertaken a review of the Council’s MRP Policy Statement to ensure it reflects the above-mentioned guidance and is clear on all material matters associated with making prudent provision for the repayment of debt. The purpose of this report is to describe the outcome of the review and set out the case for changing the method of provision for ‘previously supported borrowing.’

2. Current Position

Outcome of Review

- 2.1. Following a review of the Council’s current MRP Policy Statement against Statutory Guidance and the policies of other Metropolitan districts, it is recommended that the policy is amended so as to clarify a number of matters relating to making prudent provision for the repayment of debt. A revised policy statement is set out at Appendix One. The proposed clarifications set out below

are cross referenced to the paragraphs in the revised policy statement (Appendix One refers):

- **Link to Asset Life/Economic Benefit** – The revised policy explains that MRP will be linked to asset life where possible and also explains how a suitable ‘repayment’ period will be determined in cases where capital expenditure is not linked to the creation or enhancement of an asset (Paragraphs 2.3.2 to 2.3.6 refers);
- **Link to Depreciation Policy** – Asset life for MRP purposes will be consistent with the Council’s policy regarding depreciation that supports disclosures in the Statement of Accounts (Paragraph 2.3.3 refers);
- **Methods for Calculating MRP** – The revised policy sets out in more detail the numerous options that are available for calculating MRP (Paragraphs 2.3.7 to 2.3.11 refers);
- **Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP)** – The revised policy statement explains how VRP may affect subsequent MRP calculations in future reporting periods (Paragraphs 2.3.12 refers);
- **Capital Receipts in lieu of MRP** – The revised policy states that MRP is not required in this scenario in order to avoid making double provision (Paragraphs 2.3.18 to 2.3.19 refers);
- **Housing Revenue Account (HRA)** – The revised policy states that no MRP needs to be made in relation to the HRA (Paragraphs 2.3.20 to 2.3.21 refers).

2.2. In addition to these points of clarification, the revised policy provides for the adoption of a revised MRP calculation in relation to previously supported borrowing incurred prior to 1 April 2008. Paragraphs 2.3 to 2.5 of this report sets out the current approach for calculating MRP on this element of the Council’s Capital Financing Requirement whilst Paragraphs 2.6 to 2.12 explains the rationale for recommending an alternative calculation.

MRP for Previously Supported Borrowing - Current Approach

2.3. General Fund debt which was previously supported through the Local Government finance regime (previously supported borrowing) is valued at around £137.1m (as at 31 March 2016). This ‘debt’ figure is notional and forms part of the Council’s Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

2.4. As stated in paragraph 1.4, the Council currently applies ‘the regulatory method’ to this element of the CFR which equates to setting aside 4% of the opening balance outstanding on a reducing balance basis. Before applying 4%, the ‘debt’ figure of £137.1m is net of the difference between debt calculated under the prudential code (as at 1 April 2004) and debt calculated under the previous ‘statutory’ capital controls regime which commenced on 1 April 1990. When the regime changed in 2004, this element of debt that will never be extinguished was referred to as ‘Adjustment A’ and is worth around £19.6m. For the ‘previously supported borrowing’ element of the CFR, the MRP charge for 2016/17 is currently £5.485m.

2.5. This approach to providing MRP has been widely applied by many local authorities and is explicitly permitted by DCLG’s statutory guidance. However, if this option had not been specifically included in the guidance, it is likely it would fail any objective test of ‘prudence’ for the following reasons:

- The 4% calculation is applied on a reducing balance basis. This means the 'debt' that the 4% is applied to is never fully extinguished;
- For the majority of the last parliament, the 'needs' based formula for allocating resources through the annual Local Government finance settlement has been frozen and is likely to remain so until the end of the decade. Subsequent reductions in Local Government funding have also seen significant reductions in central government support through revenue support grant. This has severed the link between the regulatory method of calculating MRP and the associated funding provided through the Local Government finance settlement.

MRP for Previously Supported Borrowing - Proposed Approach

- 2.6. Several Councils across England have reviewed their MRP policies and have adopted an alternative to the regulatory method of calculating MRP for previously supported General Fund borrowing. An alternative method adopted by nearby Councils (Stockport and Knowsley) simply provides for the outstanding debt over a 50 year period in equal instalments (2% per annum). On a whole life basis, this approach is arguably more prudent than the regulatory method as it results in the debt (net of 'Adjustment A') being fully extinguished within 50 years.
- 2.7. A precedent has been set by other Councils for making provision over 50 years meaning the case for a longer repayment period would be difficult to justify. A shorter repayment period would lead to higher annual revenue charges and the present value of repayments would also be higher. In any case, 50 years represents the maximum repayment period as the Council retains the right to accelerate repayments in future years if resources permit.
- 2.8. For Oldham Council, adopting the 50 year 'Equal Instalments' approach to calculating MRP for previously supported General Fund borrowing results in an annual MRP charge of £2.743m (£137.1m / 50 years). This results in a saving of around £2.7m for 2016/17 and a further £8.9m for the period 2017/18 to 2020/21. If the revised MRP Policy is adopted it will produce a revenue saving in 2016/17 which can be used to support the 2016/17 financial position and will revise the base budget requirement for future financial years. A breakdown of MRP charges and savings for the current MTFS planning period is shown in the table below:

Financial Year	Current Charge £000	Proposed Charge £000	Annual Saving £000
2016/17	5,485	2,743	(2,742)
2017/18	5,265	2,743	(2,522)
2018/19	5,055	2,743	(2,312)
2019/20	4,853	2,743	(2,110)
2020/21	4,658	2,743	(1,915)

-
- 2.9. Savings and Costs for the whole of the 50 year period from 2016/17 to 2065/66 are shown at Appendix Two.
 - 2.10. From 2033/34, the revenue cost of the equal instalments approach to MRP begins to exceed the cost of the current 'regulatory method'. In the final year of repayment (2065/66), the additional revenue cost compared to the regulatory method is expected to peak at around £2m per annum. In present value terms however, this additional cost is equivalent to just £0.46m per annum.
 - 2.11. Under the equal instalments approach to MRP, previously supported General Fund borrowing will be fully extinguished by 31 March 2066 but under the current 'regulatory method', some £17.8m of debt remains outstanding as at the same date.
 - 2.12. In present value terms, the value of MRP charges under the current regulatory method is around £80.1m. However, under the proposed equal instalments approach the present value of MRP charges is just £70.6m; some £9.5m lower. All present value calculations disclosed in this report are based on a 3% discount rate in line with HM Treasury 'Green Book' (appraisal and evaluation) guidance.

Conclusion

- 2.13. In present value terms, the equal instalments method is also more cost effective than the regulatory method being some £9.5m lower. In nominal terms, the revenue cost of the equal instalments method is higher than the regulatory method between 2033/34 and 2065/66 but it does provide significant medium term revenue budget savings which will provide valuable support for the forthcoming medium term financial strategy.
- 2.14. As it is highly likely that there will be revisions to the legislation and guidance for Local Authority debt repayment calculations between now and 2066, there will be opportunities for the position to be revisited in the future.
- 2.15. As the proposed change is a revision to the approved Treasury Management Strategy, it must be approved by Council. Council is therefore asked to approve the revised 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement set out at Appendix One.

3. Options/Alternatives

- 3.1. Option 1 – to approve the revision to the MRP policy which will enable new capital financing figures to be included in budget estimates
- 3.2. Option 2 – not to approve the revision to the MRP policy and continue to use the current methodology for calculating capital financing charges

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option.

5 Consultation

5.1 The Finance Team has consulted colleagues in other Councils and had regard to DCLG Statutory Guidance as well as guidance published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 If adopted by the Council, the revised MRP policy will generate revenue budget savings of £2.742m in 2016/17 which can be used to support the in-year budget and reduce the budget gap in future years by the following amounts.

Financial Year	Annual Saving £000
2017/18	(2,522)
2018/19	(2,312)
2019/20	(2,110)
2020/21	(1,915)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The Council ensures that all decisions impacting on the budget of the Council and its future financial position, comply as far as possible with the co-operative ethos of the Council.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no HR implications arising from this report.

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 The 'regulatory method' for calculating MRP described at paragraph 1.4 was introduced in 1990 as part of a 'capital control' regime that was designed to heavily restrict the amount of borrowing and credit arrangements undertaken by local authorities. However, the introduction of the prudential code regime coupled with subsequent changes to the local government finance system has meant Councils now feel able to review their approach to MRP and adopt alternative calculations. As precedents for changing the MRP calculation have been set elsewhere in the Local Government community, the risk of challenge to these revised calculations is judged to be extremely low.

11 IT Implications

11.1 There are no IT implications arising from this report.

12 Property Implications

12.1 There are no property implications arising from this report.

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no procurement implications arising from this report.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 There are no Environmental and Health & Safety implications arising from this report.

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

15.1 There are no Equality, community cohesion and crime implications arising from this report.

16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

16.1 Not required

17 Key Decision

17.1 Yes

18 Key Decision Reference

18.1 CFHR-20-16.

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:	Background papers are provided at Appendices 1 and 2
Office Name:	Andrew Moran
Contact:	0161 770 4467

20 Appendices

20.1 Appendix 1 - Revised Minimum Revenue Provision Statement Replacing Section 2.3 of the Treasury Management Strategy Report Approved at Council on 24 February 2016

Appendix 2 - Proposed Change to Minimum Revenue Provision Annual Savings and Costs

**REVISED MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION STATEMENT REPLACING
SECTION 2.3 OF THE TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REPORT
APPROVED AT COUNCIL ON 24 FEBRUARY 2016**

2.3 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

General Principles and Practices

- 2.3.1 Local authorities are required to set aside 'prudent' provision for debt repayment where they have used borrowing or credit arrangements to finance capital expenditure. Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) regulations require the full MRP Statement to be decided upon at least annually and reported to the Council Meeting. The Council has to ensure that the chosen options are prudent

Link to Asset Life/Economic Benefit

- 2.3.2 Where capital expenditure on an asset is financed wholly or partly by borrowing or credit arrangements, MRP will normally be determined by reference to asset life, economic benefit or DCLG Guidance.
- 2.3.3 Asset Life and the period over which to charge MRP will be consistent with the periods set out in the Council's depreciation policy (where possible and permitted by DCLG Guidance).
- 2.3.4 To the extent that expenditure cannot be linked to the creation/enhancement of an asset and is of a type that is subject to estimated life periods that are referred to in the DCLG guidance (paragraph 24), these periods will generally be adopted by the Council.
- 2.3.5 Where certain types of capital expenditure incurred by the Council are not capable of being related to an individual asset, asset lives will be assessed on a basis which most reasonably reflects the anticipated period of benefit that arises from the expenditure.
- 2.3.6 Whatever type of expenditure is involved, it will be grouped together in a manner which reflects the nature of the main component of expenditure and will only be divided up in cases where there are two or more major components with substantially different useful economic lives.

Methods for Calculating MRP

- 2.3.7 Any of the methods for calculating MRP that are set out below may be used. MRP will commence in the financial year after the completion of assets rather than when expenditure is incurred. All methods, with the exception of the approach taken to Previously Supported General Fund Borrowing are based on Asset Life/Economic Benefit. These methods include but are not limited to:

The Annuity Method

-
- 2.3.8 This calculation seeks to ensure the revenue account bears an equal annual charge (for principal and interest) over the life of the asset by taking account of the time value of money. Since MRP relates only to 'principal', the amount of provision made annually gradually increases during the life of the asset. The interest rate used in annuity calculations will be referenced to either prevailing or average PWLB rates.

Equal Instalments of Principal

- 2.3.9 MRP is an equal annual charge calculated by dividing the original amount of borrowing by the useful life of the asset.

Previously Supported General Fund Borrowing

- 2.3.10 General Fund Borrowing that was previously supported through the RSG system will be provided for in equal annual instalments over a 50 year period commencing 1 April 2016. As at 1 April 2016, the value of this borrowing equalled £137,119,251 and results in an equal annual minimum revenue provision of £2,742,385; the final instalment of which will be provided for by no later than 31 March 2066. In the event of:

- transfers of Capital Financing Requirement between the General Fund element and Housing element;
- additional voluntary revenue provision being made.

...the annual MRP charge will be adjusted to ensure that full provision will continue to be made by no later than 31 March 2066.

Bespoke Repayment Profiles:

- 2.3.11 With regard to credit arrangements that are implicit in Finance Lease or PFI arrangements, any 'debt' repayment element (notional or otherwise) included in charges associated with these arrangements will be classified as MRP.

Voluntary Revenue Provision

- 2.3.12 The Council has the option of making additional Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP) in addition to MRP. The Council may treat VRP as 'up-front' provision (having a similar impact to the early repayment of debt) and thus recalculate future MRP charges accordingly. The Council may in some circumstances apply VRP to relatively short-life assets/expenditure in order to facilitate a reduction in the future base revenue budget needed to fund capital financing costs.

Local Exceptions to the Guidance

- 2.3.13 The Council reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in certain circumstances or where the recommendations of the DCLG guidance are not appropriate to local circumstances. Examples include:

Assets under Construction

-
- 2.3.14 No MRP charge will be made until the financial year after that in which an item of capital expenditure is fully incurred and, in the case of a new asset, comes into service use.

Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS)

- 2.3.15 The Council currently operates a Local Authority Mortgage Scheme (LAMS) using the cash backed option. The mortgage lenders require a five year deposit from the Local Authority to match the five year life of the indemnity. The deposit placed with the mortgage lender provides an integral part of the mortgage lending and is treated as capital expenditure and a loan to a third party. The CFR will increase by the amount of the total indemnity. The cash advance is due to be returned in full at maturity, with interest paid annually. Once the cash advance matures and funds are returned to the Local Authority, the returned funds are classed as a capital receipt, which will be applied to reduce the CFR. As this is a temporary (five years) arrangement and the funds will be returned in full, there is no need to set aside MRP to repay the debt liability in the interim period.

Loans to third parties

- 2.3.16 The Council has considered the Statutory Guidance, which recommends a 25 year repayment charge for loans to third parties, and concluded that provision is not necessary. The Council considers an MRP charge is not necessary in respect of any loans made to third parties as the debt liability is covered by the existence of a debtor and the associated obligation to make repayments.

Borrowing in Lieu of Capital Receipts

- 2.3.17 The Council has concluded that provision is not necessary for capital expenditure incurred in lieu of capital receipts. Any such schemes will be classified by the Capital Investment Programme Board (CIPB) as 'Borrowing in Lieu of Capital Receipts'. CIPB will also determine which capital receipts will be ring-fenced to the scheme and as the receipts are achieved they will be applied to repay the debt.

The Application of Capital Receipts in Lieu of MRP

- 2.3.18 Where the Council has received uncommitted and unapplied Capital Receipts, it retains the option to set aside those Capital Receipts as part of its arrangements for making 'prudent' provision for debt repayment rather than using them for capital financing purposes.
- 2.3.19 As Capital Receipts may form part of the Councils arrangements for making 'prudent' provision, setting aside Capital Receipts in this manner can be carried out in lieu of MRP whereby the MRP charge will be reduced by an amount equal to that set aside from Capital Receipts.

HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

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- 2.3.20 MRP will equal the amount determined in accordance with the former regulations 28 and 29 of the 2003 Regulations (SI 2003/3146), as if they had not been revoked. This approach is consistent with paragraph 7 of the DCLG Guidance on MRP.
- 2.3.21 The basic MRP charge relating to the HRA CFR is therefore nil. However, the Council may make 'Voluntary Revenue Provision' provided such an approach is prudent and appropriate in the context of financing the HRA capital programme and is consistent with the delivery of the HRA Business Plan.

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION
ANNUAL SAVINGS AND COSTS**

Financial Year	Current Charge £000	Proposed Charge £000	Annual (Saving)/Cost £000
<i>Net Present Value</i>	80,095	70,561	(9,534)
2016/17	5,485	2,743	(2,742)
2017/18	5,265	2,743	(2,522)
2018/19	5,055	2,743	(2,312)
2019/20	4,853	2,743	(2,110)
2020/21	4,658	2,743	(1,915)
2021/22	4,472	2,743	(1,729)
2022/23	4,293	2,743	(1,550)
2023/24	4,122	2,743	(1,379)
2024/25	3,957	2,743	(1,214)
2025/26	3,798	2,743	(1,055)
2026/27	3,646	2,743	(903)
2027/28	3,501	2,743	(758)
2028/29	3,361	2,743	(618)
2029/30	3,226	2,743	(483)
2030/31	3,097	2,743	(354)
2031/32	2,973	2,743	(230)
2032/33	2,854	2,743	(111)
2033/34	2,740	2,743	3
2034/35	2,631	2,743	112
2035/36	2,525	2,743	218
2036/37	2,424	2,743	319
2037/38	2,327	2,743	416
2038/39	2,234	2,743	509
2039/40	2,145	2,743	598
2040/41	2,059	2,743	684
2041/42	1,977	2,743	766
2042/43	1,898	2,743	845
2043/44	1,822	2,743	921

**PROPOSED CHANGE TO MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION
ANNUAL SAVINGS AND COSTS**

Financial Year	Current Charge £000	Proposed Charge £000	Annual (Saving)/Cost £000
2044/45	1,749	2,743	994
2045/46	1,679	2,743	1,064
2046/47	1,612	2,743	1,131
2047/48	1,547	2,743	1,196
2048/49	1,485	2,743	1,258
2049/50	1,426	2,743	1,317
2050/51	1,369	2,743	1,374
2051/52	1,314	2,743	1,429
2052/53	1,262	2,743	1,481
2053/54	1,211	2,743	1,532
2054/55	1,163	2,743	1,580
2055/56	1,116	2,743	1,627
2056/57	1,072	2,743	1,671
2057/58	1,029	2,743	1,714
2058/59	988	2,743	1,755
2059/60	948	2,743	1,795
2060/61	910	2,743	1,833
2061/62	874	2,743	1,869
2062/63	839	2,743	1,904
2063/64	805	2,743	1,938
2064/65	773	2,743	1,970
2065/66	742	2,743	2,001

<i>Balance remaining at 31/3/66</i>	17,810	0
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Report to Council

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2015/16

Report of: Cllr Colin McLaren, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny

Officer Contact: Dami Awobajo, Head of Business Intelligence

Report Author: Lori Hughes, Constitutional Services Officer
Ext. 4716

7th September 2016

Reason for Decision

To provide Council with an overview of the contribution made by Overview and Scrutiny during 2015 / 16 as required in line with the Council's Constitution.

Executive Summary

The report outlines the purpose of overview and scrutiny, the roles and responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Performance and Value for Money Select Committee, a summary of the work undertaken by overview and scrutiny during 2015/16 and an outline of how individuals can get involved in overview and scrutiny in Oldham.

Recommendations

That the report be approved.

1. **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

- 1.1 All local authorities with an executive model have an Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function, which was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000.
- 1.2 Overview and Scrutiny bodies are made up of Elected Members (Councillors) who are not members of the Cabinet but who hold those decision makers who are members of the Cabinet to account. The Overview and Scrutiny process is not political – it is driven by the interests of the residents of Oldham.
- 1.3 O&S bodies cannot make decisions, but instead examine policies, decisions, areas of work and make recommendations to the Cabinet. It acts as a “critical friend” to the Council and its partners around the decision-making process and uses informed debate and evidence to make its recommendations.
- 1.4 Scrutiny works to drive forward improvements to the Council’s policies, procedures and delivery.

2 **Policy Development**

- 2.1 The key focus of overview and scrutiny work is to influence and develop policy. O&S can do this through the following ways:
- 2.2 Decision-Making Scrutiny - Holding the Executive to account is a key part of the O&S role. This is done through receiving reports at Committee, Call-in and questioning of Cabinet Members at scrutiny meetings.
- 2.3 Pre-Decision Input - Input on draft policies and strategies before they have been agreed by Cabinet or Council helps to ensure they are more robust and that a check and balance process is in place. It also provides an opportunity for cross party consensus to be development on issues such as the Corporate Plan, Education Strategy and Council Tax Reduction. O&S can act as a consultee in respect of such policies and potential new legislation.
- 2.4 Monitor and Track Implementation of Recommendations - Ensuring that the views and contributions of Overview and Scrutiny have been considered when work is undertaken to improve services – an essential part of the scrutiny process.

3 **Roles and Responsibilities**

3.1 **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**

3.1.2 Membership

- Councillor McLaren (Chair)
- Councillor Ball
- Councillor Dean
- Councillor Garry
- Councillor Judge
- Councillor Klonowski
- Councillor Williams
- Councillor Williamson
- Councillor Cosgrove (substitute)
- Councillor Ames (substitute)

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- Councillor Briggs (substitute)
 - Councillor Salamat (substitute)
 - Councillor Rehman (substitute)
 - Councillor Harkness (substitute)

3.1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board leads the development of the Overview and Scrutiny process in Oldham. The Board chooses issues and topics to look at during the year, be it reviewing a proposed policy in advance of decision or considering the impact of a key decision made by the Council.

3.1.4 The Board is also responsible for:

- Publicly holding the Executive to account for delivering the Council's priorities and for the decisions they make.
- Examining any matters of wider public interest (not just Council services) which affect the wellbeing of the Borough and its people.
- Having a statutory role scrutinising substantial developments or changes to National Health Services and Crime and Disorder issues.

3.1.5 During the last year, the Chair also continued to meet with the senior managers in each of the Council's Directorates. At these meetings, the Chair and officers considered issues Overview and Scrutiny could potentially add value to regarding the development of Council services, policies and the decision making process.

3.1.6 Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee was established to discharge the responsibilities of the Council for health scrutiny functions, receive and respond to referrals from Healthwatch Oldham and also scrutinise the Health and Wellbeing Board and its appropriate policies and strategies to include the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

3.2 **Performance and Value for Money Select Committee**

3.2.1 Membership

- Councillor Wrigglesworth (Chair)
- Councillor Briggs
- Councillor M. Bashforth
- Councillor Malik
- Councillor McCann
- Councillor Murphy
- Councillor Mushtaq
- Councillor Roberts
- Councillor Sheldon
- Councillor Rehman (substitute)
- Councillor Ball (substitute)
- Councillor S. Bashforth (substitute)
- Councillor Ali (substitute)
- Councillor Cosgrove (substitute)
- Councillor Sykes (substitute)
- Councillor Blyth (substitute)

3.2.2 The Performance and Value for Money Select Committee considers how the Council and its partners are performing and whether value for money is being provided for the people of Oldham. It also monitors the implementation of recommendations which Overview and Scrutiny has had accepted by the Council's Cabinet.

3.2.3 One of the most important aspects of the Select Committee's role is to examine the Council's budget proposals each year. This involves considering various stages of both the administration's budget and any alternative budget proposals put forward by the opposition. During 2015/16 this included three tranches of budget proposals.

3.2.4 The Select Committee also examines the Council's corporate performance report on a quarterly basis and considers the performance and value for money of the Council's work undertaken with partners.

4 Where has O&S contributed in 2015/16?

4.1 O&S Management Board: Key Plans and Strategies

4.1.1 Oldham Education and Skills Commission – the Board were provided with an update on the Commission report and the 19 key recommendations which had emerged from the Commission's research. The partnership with independent partners was explained along with the implementation board which would be led by a practitioner. Targets had been established with education providers. The themes were transforming outcomes, cooperative contribution and alignment of the education system with the economy. Consultation, governance arrangements and the next steps were outlined to the board. The Board commented on the importance of communicating with school governing bodies, the needs and aspirations of young people and questioned funding for those pupils who were less able and those who were not pushed to their full potential. Members also queried the expenditure per pupil at primary and secondary level. The Training of governors was also raised to include questions to ask to challenge headteachers. Members also raised the role of ward councillors which could be developed. Members also raised the need to develop a closer relationship with primary and nursery schools. The Board would continue to review this area in its 2016/17 work programme.

4.1.2 Pupil Place Planning and Education Capital Strategy – The Board were provided information related to the prediction in demand for schools which was critical to the planning of the correct amount of school places in the correct geographic location to satisfy demand. Members were informed of the methodology used and the long term strategy and funding criteria. The Board were informed that this would need further review with regard to the Government's announcement related to Academies. Members expressed concerns related to Free Schools and provision which could not be maintained. Members sought clarification on basic needs allocation, if there was input from Planning on building new homes, provision for pupils with learning needs and the scope for the Council to develop its own academy chain.

4.1.3 Affordable Warmth Strategy – The Board were provided with an update on the scheme which was being delivered by a number of partners who offered help to tackle fuel poverty. The project had been recognised nationally. Funding had been secured for 2016/17 and discussions were ongoing for a delivery model across the sub-region. Members were informed that referrals were encouraged through front line staff. A steering group met quarterly. Members expressed their thanks to the team for the work which had been done.

4.1.4 Homelessness Strategy – The Board were presented with the process of the development of a new five-year Homelessness Strategy. The strategy set out how it would work with partners to address homelessness issues in the Borough. The Board were advised of pressures which included the impact of welfare reform on not only the Council but other housing providers. The Board noted the number of achievements which included letting social-rented homes through a Common Allocations Framework, modernised approach to temporary accommodation; increased access to the private sector; and pre-tenancy

training where there was a high risk of new tenants not maintaining their tenancy. Key challenges outlined included housing supply to meet demand; impact of Welfare Reform; unrealistic expectations; public sector funding cuts; current economic situation and the impact on benefits and barriers to access accommodation. The Board questioned the prevention and early intervention when working with young people and were informed about provision in those situations. Members received clarification on the number of homeless and support available. Clarification was provided on the classification of homelessness. The Board expressed concern around unfit accommodation.

- 4.1.5 Generation Oldham – the Board noted progress on the programme which included a network of community energy collaborators being in place, increased resident awareness of community energy options and opportunities, bespoke package of support and development opportunity and secured external resources which supported schemes and built community capacity. Members were advised of the delivery by a new Community Benefit Society which set up to deliver installation of photovoltaic panels. The Oldham Community Power Limited company was highlighted to the Board. The Board queried the use of biomass and it was explained that this was not in Phase 1. The Board also queried the use of former coal mines and it was explained that the Coal Authority were being consulted and a feasibility study being investigated. Members also questioned the role of the planning process in new build programmes and if the Council had influence in persuading developers to include sustainable energy. Members noted that primary schools had been included and secondary schools had not and were informed that these would be included in Phase 2.
- 4.1.6 Public Services Reform – the Board were presented with an update on the Early Help Offer which had been formally established in April 2015. The model was made up of internal Council services which provided intensive support the infrastructure which supported the delivery, the externally commissioned part of the service provided lower level support and engagement. The Board noted the excellent progress to date and the relatively high number of referrals to Early Help. There were high numbers of people being supported by the engagement casework and positive outcomes for those people supported by the service which included work and skills; crime and anti-social behaviour; school attendance and behaviour; housing; mental well-being; and drugs and alcohol. The Board enquired as to how referrals were made; asked about the work of the GPs and the Clinical commissioning Group (CCG) and financial risks.
- 4.1.7 Highway Asset Management Policy, Framework and Strategy – The Board considered the document which was a requirement of the Department for Transport. The document detailed the strategy for the whole of Highway Infrastructure Assets and the individual processes for the maintenance of all major highway assets. The processes had been developed for best value for money. The Board recommended the information related to the testing of reinstatements completed by utility and other companies and made reference to fines where such was found to be substandard, qualification of operators and reference was made to Highways England. The Board endorsed the report.
- 4.1.8 Two Year Plan for Delivering the Offer to Two Year Olds (Early Years) and Extended Offer to all Three and Four Year Olds – The Board reviewed information related to the entitlement of free early education for disadvantaged two year olds. Success was dependent upon all parties – parents, early education providers, health professionals, children’s centres and the wider council. A challenge had been to secure sufficient places in good quality early education settings and over the course of the project, there had been a 164% growth in the number of places funded across the borough. The Board were informed of the impact of the Child Care Bill (2015) and the extension of the entitlement to three and four year olds but the impact could not yet be assessed.

4.2 **O&S Management Board: internal and external consultations**

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- 4.2.1 Review of Gambling Policy – the Board were presented with the changes to the Gambling Policy which was reviewed every three years. The changes included revision of the Operator’s Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice by the Gambling Commission. The Board commended the report to Full Council.
- 4.2.3 Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – The Board were presented with the framework consultation and call for sites. The Framework identified land needed to meet housing and business needs and the management of future supply of land across Greater Manchester. The key issues for Oldham were housing, employment and transport and the lack of opportunities in north and east Manchester. Members sought clarification on the impact on education and health facilities which the Local Plan would need to address. Transport links had improved and a development corridor created along the tramline with employment opportunities.
- 4.3 **O&S Management Board: Services monitored**
- 4.3.1 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - The Board received information on the work of the agencies in the hub as well as progression in the development in the next phase. The MASH had been designed to streamline the routes for referrals and notifications to the local authority was a safe environment where safeguarding partners shared information in a dynamic way which identified and assessed risks. The Board requested that a presentation be made to each District Executive on the role of the MASH unit and the link to District Teams. Members of the Board were also invited to a tour of the MASH unit.
- 4.3.2 Get Oldham Working – The Board were provided with an update and in-depth case study for the Programme. Members received clarification on support to residents, the work programme, employer engagement and experiences by a participant on the programme and their experience with other agencies. Provision focused on those of working age, but there were increased pressures on funding. Greater Manchester Combined Authority would be commissioning the European Social Fund and seek to co-commission the next Work Programme. There would be an opportunity for Get Oldham Working to become part of the Welfare to Work Framework.
- 4.3.3 Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) Business Plan 2014/15 and 2015/18 – The Board received the Business Plan which enabled board members to gain an understanding of the issues that the LSCB would be working towards related to safeguarding children in 2015-16. The Board were informed of the three strategic aims and priorities had been identified through consultation. The Overview and Scrutiny Board members raised issues related to serious case reviews and asked that outcomes and implications be reviewed by the Board and shared in training. They also requested that training be expanded into a stepped approach. Members raised the issue of support to young people.
- 4.3.4 Safeguarding Adults Improvement Plan – A review of adult safeguarding had been developed to ensure that the Council continued to meet the framework as set out in the Care Act 2014 and a person centred approach for keeping people safe as part of the making safeguarding personal initiative had also been developed. Making Safeguarding Personal had been launched in August 2015. There was a focus on quality assurance and roles for safeguarding and the Mental Capacity Act. Quality monitoring capacity was being enhanced which supported a more pro-active and robust scrutiny of provision of care in care homes, domiciliary care and supported living. The Board were informed of changes to the Frameworki operating system. Investment in skills and competencies required for the development of the service had been made. The Board raised concerns on reporting problems and it was clarified that the care homes were legally bound under
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the Act to report any issues. Members also sought and received clarification on the role of community groups and volunteers as well as financial implications.

4.3.5 Investment in Clean Streets – the Board were provided with an update on the enforcement programme which support the Changing Behaviours Programme, Landlord Licensing Scheme and service redesign. The zero tolerance approach to flytipping and targeted households was outlined as well as changes in environmental legislation. The service redesign with additional street cleaners was explained as well as the modern technology being put in place which enabled a quicker response as well as improvements being delivered in the context of efficiencies. Staff were building relationships with the communities they service and taking on a wider role which included public health training to offer a supportive role and information to residents.

4.4 **Motions Referred to Overview and Scrutiny**

The following motions were referred to Overview and Scrutiny for investigation:

- Community Shop – this item was referred to Board related to a social enterprise which has a network of social supermarkets which provided a means for reatilsers, brand and manufacturers to redistribute their surplus stock. The Overview and Scrutiny Board initial considered the report on 14th July and recommended a workshop for all elected members and a visit to another community shop. The further report was considered by the Board on 13th September 2015 which recommended that risk assessment and cost benefit analysis be carried out on combined model for Community Shop and Fare Share models. Work is still ongoing.
- Community Bank – investigations were made in the concept of a Community Bank for Oldham. The purpose of which would be to offer a competitive community-based bank alternative to the traditional high street offer. The Board were informed of the capital funding requirement and asked of any authorities were exploring the issue. The Board were informed that a community bank which had been established by another authority had failed after one year with capital implications for that authority. It was agreed that a community bank offer would not be explored further.
- Support for Jobseekers and Employees with Dyslexia – a motion had been referred to the Board regarding support to residents with dyslexia. The motion had been positively received. The Board were provided with review of progress and work undertaken which include meeting with the Dyslexia Foundation, the review of the online application process and recruitment training of staff, meetings with Job Centre Staff and funding made available for a pilot programme to be supported.
- Loyalty Card Scheme – a motion was referred to Board for the examination of the practicalities of the introduction of a shop local loyalty scheme in Oldham and its district centres. The Board were informed about the “Oldham Offers” scheme which had been introduced which enabled the promotion of offers/discounts offered by businesses in Oldham. Phase Two of the schemes was being considered which included the development of an app and push notification whereby shoppers were notified of current offers/discounts in real time. The Board agreed that the Oldham Offer schemed be delivered.
- Mosquito Device – this was a Youth Council motion referred to the Board by Council related to the installation of mosquito devices and their impact on young

people. Representatives of the Board met with representatives from the Youth Council, District representatives and Community Safety officers as part of a working group. It was agreed that the Council Policy would need to be reviewed and Community Safety representatives would meet with the Youth Council. A report is due back in 2016/17.

- Irresponsible Dog Ownership – a motion was referred to the Board to ensure that the Council was following best practice, taking account of recent research, current practice and the powers granted in recent legislation. The Board has been receiving regular updates including the examination of new powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 which consolidated dog control orders and given the Council flexibility to tackle local issues in public spaces. The Board were apprised of the complaints regarding dog fouling, DNA sequencing and signage. The detailed consultation required for the consolidation of the previous four orders in to a Public Spaces Protection Order would commence in May 2016. A further update would be report to a future Board meeting.
- Street Charter – a motion was referred to the Board related to the “Who Put That There” campaign of the Royal National Institute for the Blind which endorsed that local authorities engage with blind and partially sighted people to develop a Street Charter for the removal of obstacles and hazards from the public realm. Work was ongoing with several agencies and representative groups for the development of a Charter.

4.5 PVFM Select Committee: Finance Scrutiny

- 4.5.1 Scrutiny of Budget Proposals – The Council’s overall budget proposals were considered by the Committee at various stages during the 2015/16 Municipal Year. Initial outline proposals were presented to the Committee during September 2015 and they continued to be considered at various intervals up until approval at full Council in February 2016.
- 4.5.2 Community Care Budget – The Committee were provided with an updated on mainstream funding and the complexity of demand for adult social services which had increased. Integrated ways of working with organisation such as Royal Oldham Hospital and Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group were pivotal in addressing residents social care needs.

4.6 PVFM Select Committee: Performance Scrutiny

- 4.6.1 Quarterly Council Performance Report and Challenge – Reports were presented to the Committee in terms of how the Council was performing against its key local and statutory priorities. The Committee undertook more detailed scrutiny of a number of topics through examining the performance report. These included 16 – 18 year olds who were not in education, training or employment (NEET) to be included alongside the work placement, Social Trading Arm, Council Sickness Absence and changes in School OFSTED Outcomes.
- 4.6.2 Unity Partnership – The Committee examined the performance of the Unity Partnership against the contract and its key performance indicators and had an overview of the changes in the Strategic Services Partnership Agreement, revised Key Performance Indicators and the savings target for 2015/16.
- 4.6.3 First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) – FCHO provided an update on services and performance. Following the Stock Transfer agreement, the Offer Document had been completed 12 months earlier than assured. Members received clarification on

adaptations, allocation policy, criteria used to identify and support housing needs, tenancy eligibility and members inquiries.

4.6.4 Greater Manchester Police – GMP provided an update on their budget for 2016/17. The relationship between GMP and the Council was praised for the outstanding work on domestic violence and mental health. Members were informed Greater Manchester had been identified as the most challenging area in England and Wales for policing. A new operating model had been designed which enabled GMP to be equipped and trained to manage the challenge faced by communities. There would be investment in technology to facilitate mobile working and investment in body-worn video technology.

4.6.5 Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) – the summary quarterly report was presented on key performance indicators. Year one of the contract had now been completed. The overall performance had been good and the relationship with the client remained very good, in particular, the joint effort on the new Leisure builds which had been positive and productive.

4.7 **Health Scrutiny Sub Committee**

4.7.1 The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met six times since April 2014. The Committee has received a number of reports from across the Health and Care Sector in Oldham, but has shown a particular interest in the work being conducted by the Integrated Commissioning Partnership, particularly the re-shaping of carer services, how the hospital discharge process is being improved and how the development of the two new leisure centres in Oldham and Royton will improve the health and wellbeing of Oldham's residents.

4.7.2 The focus of the Sub-Committee in the near future will be on the impact of plans for the devolution of health and social care responsibilities to Greater Manchester. Additionally, the implementation of the Healthier Together reforms of the provision of acute services across Greater Manchester which will impact on the service offer available at the Royal Oldham Hospital and across North-East of Greater Manchester, for Oldham residents.

5 **Ways to get involved with O&S?**

5.1 Overview and Scrutiny has a rolling work programme. The current version, for 2016/7, can be found on the Council's website at:

5.2 If you are interested in attending a meeting of either the Board or Select Committee, meeting dates can be found on the website at:

<http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=-13236&bcr=1>

5.3 Contact and speak to your local Councillor about issues you feel have an impact on your local community in Oldham. Overview and Scrutiny will consider issues raised by Councillors.

5.4 You can contact Lori Hughes on 0161 770 4716 to ask Overview and Scrutiny to consider an issue which has an impact on Oldham and local people. This could be a problem, Council service or an issue which you think the Council should take in lead in improving.

6 **Legal Services Comments**

6.1 n/a

7. **Co-operative Agenda**

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- 7.1 The Annual report contains examples of work aligned to the Council’s co-operative approach in relation to issues that have an impact of local communities.
- 8 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 8.1 None
- 9 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 9.1 None
- 10 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 10.1 No
- 11 **Key Decision**
- 11.1 No
- 12 **Key Decision Reference**
- 12.1 N/A
- 13 **Background Papers**
- 13.1 None
- 14 **Appendices**
- 14.1 None



Report to Council

Welfare Reform – Thematic Analysis: Debt and Finances of Local People

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and HR

Officer Contact: Dianne Frost, Director of People

Report Authors: Bronwyn Raper

Ext. 1828

7 September 2016

Reason for Decision

The purpose of the attached report: **Welfare Reform – Thematic Analysis: Impact on the debt and finances of local people** is to:

- Present a brief overview of the previous and current legislation relating to welfare reform.
- Present a brief description of the current financial landscape within Oldham, with a focus on the levels and types of debt.
- Carry out a thematic analysis considering how welfare reform is impacting on the debt and finances of local people.
- Look at what the Council and other services are doing within Oldham to help local people with their finances and benefit advice.
- Make recommendation as to how the Council can use the findings to work through its own services and with partners to further mitigate the impact of welfare reform

The report is one of a series looking at the impact of welfare reform on the borough.

The report is attached at appendix 1. Appendix 2 is the welfare reform dashboard for June 2016.

Recommendations to Council:

Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report and provide feedback where needed
- Discuss the recommendations and make amends as appropriate

Executive Summary

- 1.1. The Government's Welfare Reforms continue to have a significant impact on the borough and its population. From the post-2015 reforms, the anticipate loss is £490 per working age adult per year in Oldham. This impact will continue over the next few years as more of the reforms are implemented, and the migration of all benefits to Universal Credit and the move from DLA-PIP is completed.
- 1.2 This report focuses on the impact that Welfare Reform has on local peoples' debt and finances. To do this, the report illustrates Oldham's financial landscape; by identifying those who struggle financially and thus, are more likely to be impacted by Welfare Reform.
- 1.3 In report recognizes that the impact of welfare reform varies greatly between individuals, however it focusses on the below trends:
 - Universal Credit and the impact of benefit delays.
 - The difficulty in affording daily necessities.
 - Rent
 - The adverse impact of the 2015 welfare reforms on families.
 - Switch from DLA-PIP, and the new assessment process.
 - Benefit sanctions
- 1.4 To illustrate the impacts of welfare reform, the report uses a number of different case studies, either collected independently by Oldham CAB or through interviews undertaken at the Foodbank.
- 1.5 The report recognises a number of services that exist within Oldham that offer residents advice around their finances including debts and benefits. The report identifies both services that offer professional financial advice and those that primarily signpost and offer a much lower level of advice. Wherever possible the report identifies the impact of these services on their users and the borough.
- 1.6. The key findings are:
 - Welfare reform impacts widely across the borough, including different groups and individuals who may have not been effected before, for instance, families.
 - There is on-going confusion of the switch from DLA- PIP, especially regarding the reformed assessment process. Overall, people who have disabilities are finding it increasingly difficult to claim the same amount of benefits on PIP as they did with DLA.
 - The switch to Universal Credit, benefit delays and sanctions have all impacted upon peoples' abilities to afford daily necessities, such as food, utility bills and rents.
 - A range of financial/debt advice services exist within the borough. Although there is a lot of joined up work between these services, the referral routes between them are not clear, and many are working at capacity.

Recommendations

- 1.6 The report makes a number of recommendations focusing both on what else the council and other organisations can do to mitigate the impacts of welfare reform. The report identifies five key areas that can be addressed:
 - Review the Council's debt and financial services to ensure that they are targeted within areas in which there are the most need, and areas where people may struggle to access services.

-
- Working alongside Early Help, ensuring all relevant frontline staff have the necessary training to be able to recognise when someone may be experiencing financial/debt problems and where this should be referred on to.
 - Make the Most of Your Money Campaign a borough wide, accessible first point of call for residents experiencing or needing advice around debt or financial problems.
 - To continue Creative Credit work, especially as a means of engagement with younger generations
 - Continue work with Oldham Partnerships Poverty Agenda Group

1.7 Within these recommendations there is a number of potential options that council can explore, and the report identifies the partners that will be particularly important to work with to achieve these.

1.8 The work will be aligning to Oldham Partnerships Poverty Agenda Group. The recommendations also reflect and work towards the councils projects: Early Help and Residents First.

Welfare Reform – Thematic Analysis: The impact of Welfare Reform on the debts and finances of local people.**1 Background**

- 1.1 The report (appendix 1) is one of a series looking at the impact of welfare reform on the borough. Additionally, it is part of the Council's commitment to publishing data relating to equality and demonstrating how it is informing the type of services we provide.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The report recommends taking its findings into account when planning and delivering Council and co-operative services to support residents affected by welfare reform and for Members to take appropriate action.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Members are asked to:

- Note the content of the report and provide feedback where needed
- Discuss the recommendations and make amendments as appropriate

No alternative options have been considered as part of this report – due to its nature as an initial briefing.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 See 3.1.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 No external consultation was undertaken to inform this briefing

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are currently no financial implications associated with the report in terms of council investment either revenue or capital. Finance may be involved as the work continues and if potential changes to services or investment in new technologies are needed, then finance will provide comments as appropriate.

- 6.2. It should also be noted that there is likely to be an ongoing impact to Council services in relation to Welfare Reform. The changes could see an increase in council tax and rent arrears and a greater reliance on additional financial support. The Council may also face increased expenditure on homelessness services for young people. Any impact to services will be highlighted in the budget monitoring reports. (Nicola Harrop – Finance Manager)

7 Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to consider the impact of its decisions on a number of groups under the Equality Act 2010. It is also required to publish its service and workforce data on an annual basis and set equality objectives over a four year period. This report forms part of the Council's work towards fulfilling this this legal duty.

No comment received.

8. Human Resources Comments

8.1 Not applicable, however over 70% of the Council's workforce are residents of the borough and may be effected by the welfare reform. (Stewart Hindley)

9. Co-operative agenda

9.1 Welfare reform activity is directly relevant to the achievement of corporate and co-operative objectives, for example through:

- Reducing dependency on public services – 'confident communities where everyone does their bit'.
- Tackling worklessness – 'a productive place to invest where business and enterprise thrive'.
- Local welfare provision – 'a co-operative council creating responsive and high quality services'.

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 None

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 as part of this report

16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

16.1 No

17 Key Decision

17.1 No

18 Key Decision Reference

18.1 N/A

19 Background Papers

19.1 None

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1: Welfare Reform – Thematic Analysis: The impact of Welfare Reform on the debts and finances of local people (main report)
Appendix 2: Welfare Reform Dashboard June 2016

APPENDIX 1

Welfare Reform Thematic Analysis – Impact of Welfare Reform on the debts and finances of local people

This report considers the impact(s) of Welfare Reform on the debt and finances of local people in Oldham and examines the below in detail:

- The financial landscape of Oldham and its residents
- The services within the borough designed to address resident's financial problems.

The data, figures and estimates contained within this report include:

- Internally held demographic and economic data from Oldham Council, including data from Welfare Rights, previous welfare reform reports and residents surveys.
- Acorn data, brought in from CACI, which is modelled data assigning each household to one of 65 types, based on a mix of publically available data, and specific commercial data that CACI purchase.
- Quantitative and qualitative data from other services; including CAB, CAP, Foodbank.
- Data from national datasets; including DWP, Office for National Statistics (ONS) & NOMIS.
- Qualitative data from service users of Oldham Foodbank and CAB.

Case-studies used within the report have been collected from interviews undertaken with foodbank users and those independently collected by the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). Please note, for anonymity, all names used in case studies have been changed.

Please note, due to the changing nature of Welfare Reform it is impossible to fully assess its impacts on the debts and finances of local people.

The report is accompanied by the Welfare Reform dashboard (see appendix 2).

Section 1: Background

1.1 Welfare Reform

In comparison to the rest of the country, Oldham is disproportionately adversely impacted by Welfare Reform¹.

The 2012 Welfare Reform Act announced major changes to the benefits system:

- Introduction of Universal Credit to replace JSA, ESA, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Oldham was one of the pilot areas for Universal Credit (UC), and it is currently available to single people, couples and families within the borough.
- Personal Independence Payments (PIP) replacing Disability Living Allowance (DLA)
- Council Tax Benefit replaced by a local scheme, which is called the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

¹ Beatty, C. & Fothergill, S. (2016). The Uneven Impact of Welfare Reform, Sheffield Hallam University

- Benefit Cap, which is a limit on the amount of Welfare Benefits a working age person can receive.
- Bedroom Tax, which restricts the amount of housing benefit a claimant can receive depending upon the number of 'spare' bedrooms they have.

The Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University estimated changes from the Welfare Reform Act 2012 to lead to a £90.1m annual loss to Oldham's economy.

The Queens Speech 2015 announced the Welfare Reform and Work Bill Act, which includes:

- Four year Working Age Benefit Freeze, implemented in 2016.
- Lowering of the Benefit Cap, so the most a non-working family can receive is £23,000.
- Abolishing the Housing Benefit Family Premium with new claimants from April 2016.
- Removal of automatic entitlement to housing benefit for most childless 18-21 year-olds.
- Introduction of the National Living Wage in April 2016 to £7.20 per hour to those 25+.

The impact of the above reforms is ongoing and they are likely to accumulate over time. The report focusses on the current impact of welfare reform throughout the borough.

As previously reported in 'The Cost of the Cuts' welfare reform thematic report, which went to Full Council in August 2015, The Welfare Reform and Work Bill is estimated to lead to a cumulative loss of £58 million to Oldham over the next four years.

1.2 Debt and Finances in Oldham

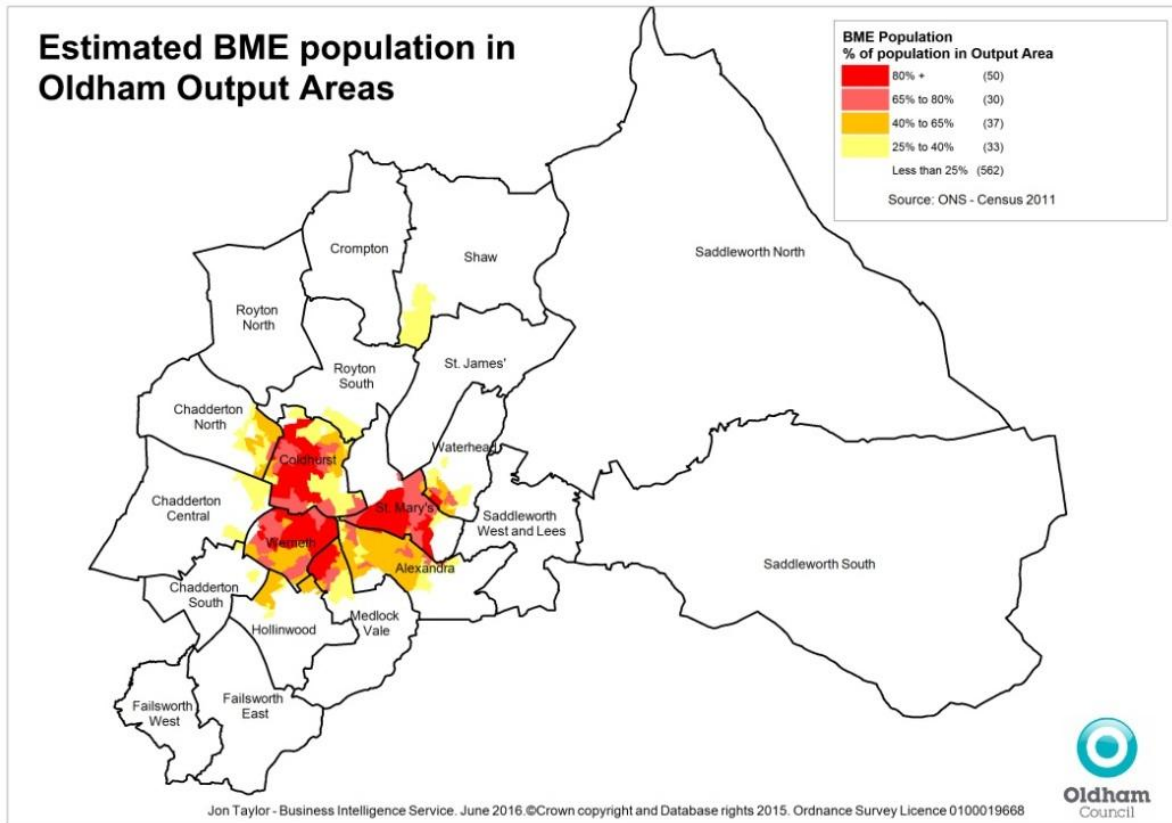
The median weekly income of a full time employee in Oldham is £444², which is notably lower than all other Greater Manchester authorities, see table 1, yet the living cost is similar throughout all of Greater Manchester.

Local Authority	Pounds (£)
Bolton	468.90
Bury	516.80
Manchester	483.7
Oldham	444
Rochdale	463.4
Stockport	540.1
Tameside	447.3
Trafford	565.6
Wigan	503.4

1.2.1 Demographic Information

² NOMIS (2015)

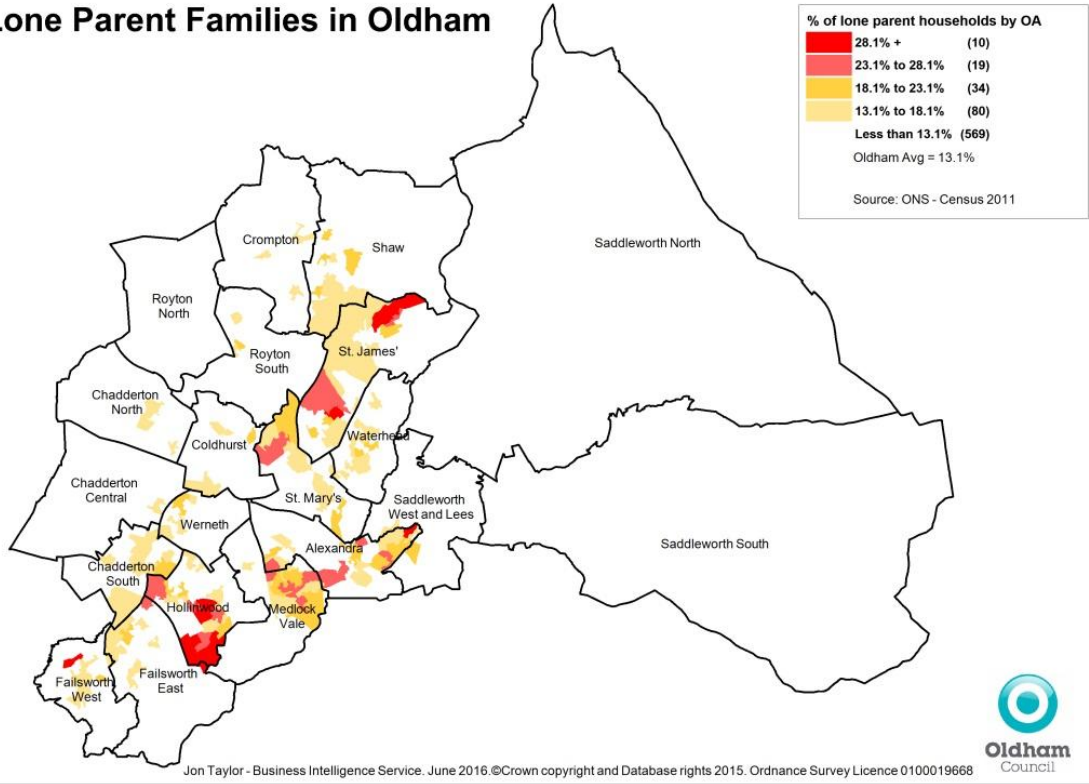
Oldham's residents are more likely than the national average to self-report experiencing financial difficulties³, with 40% of residents reporting that they experience some form of financial stress⁴. The unemployed, single parents, social rented sector and those of Pakistani or Bangladeshi background are more likely to experience financial stress, and be concerned about experiencing financial stress within the future³. The below maps illustrate where in the borough these groups live.



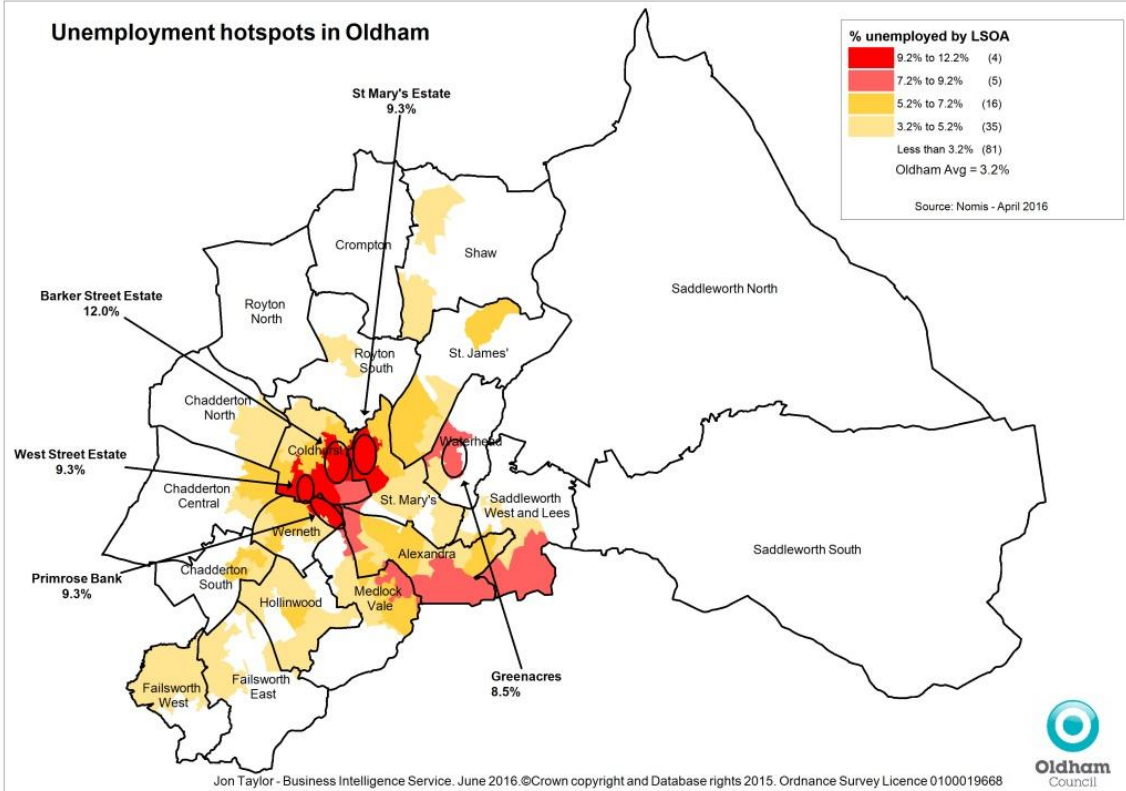
³ Debt in Oldham (2012) Oldham Council

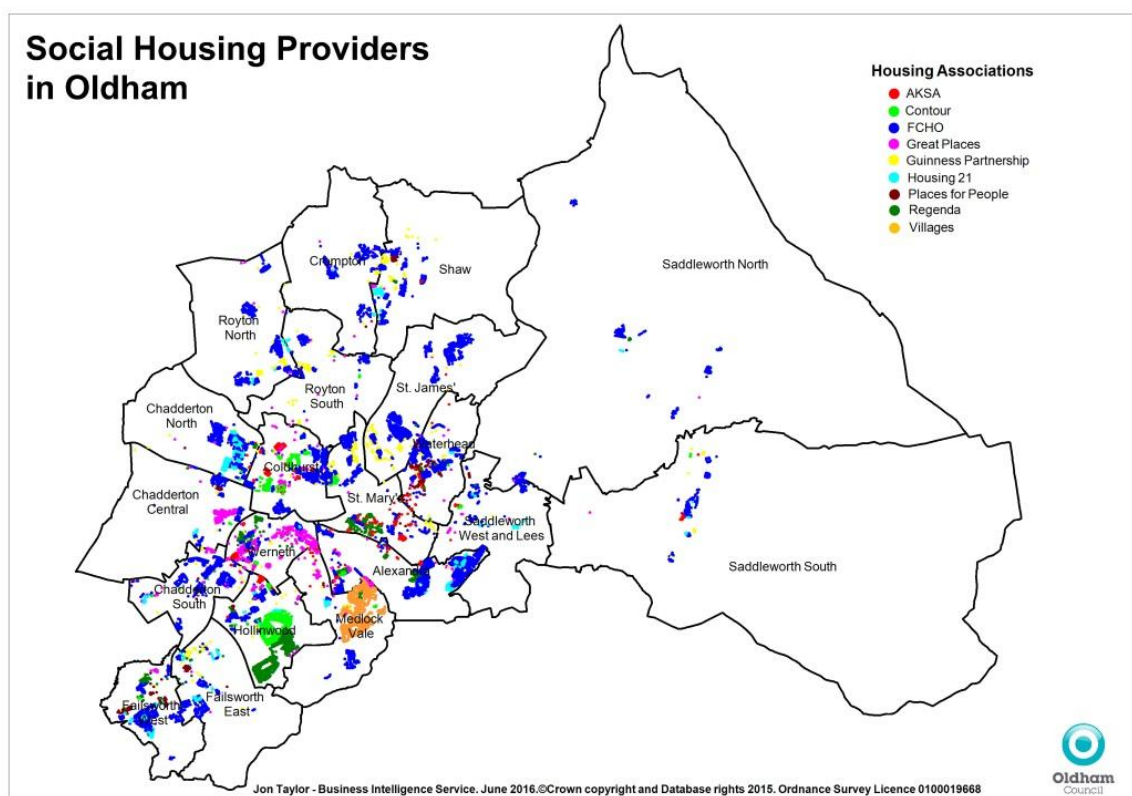
⁴ You and Your Community Survey (2013) Oldham Council

Lone Parent Families in Oldham



Unemployment hotspots in Oldham





The maps display a correlation between these groups showing that the majority of them reside in Coldhurst or Alexandra ward. This aligns with data from both Oldham Foodbank and Oldham CAB. Alexandra and Coldhurst were the two wards in which the majority of residents receiving food vouchers live, and are the two wards that make up the highest proportion of residents accessing CAB services.

Social housing is much more dispersed throughout the borough, and is roughly comparable to families with lone parents, but Coldhurst and Alexandra wards still contain larger amounts of social housing. There is a notable difference between where lone parent families and BME populations reside, which can be explained as there is a high percentage of South Asian families, in which divorce rates are low.

1.2.2. Debt

In 2015 Oldham CAB reported that there was a 2% increase in the amount of people accessing their services for debt advice or help. Additionally, there is noticeably a higher prevalence of residents than the national average that have a loan for debt consolidation, 11.8% of residents compared to 8%⁵.

Debt is more likely to affect certain social groups; both families and single people who are experiencing financial difficulties are more likely to suffer from debt. Although loans are a lot less prevalent in poorer Asian families, the ones that they do have are generally taken out for debt consolidation⁴.

1.2.3 Credit Cards and Loans

38.7% of Oldham residents have credit cards, but there is an emerging trend throughout some social groups, especially 'families' and 'no-children', to only make

⁵ Debt In Oldham (2012) Oldham Council

minimum repayments on their cards. If the financial circumstance of these groups suddenly changes they are likely to be in more danger of falling into debt and arrears.

However, only a small proportion of residents access short-term finance, with only 2% accessing doorstep loans and 1% accessing payday loans arranged at a shop/online loans⁴.

Section 2: Thematic analysis - the impact on the debt and finances of local people.

Our last representative resident survey: You and Your Community, 2013, showed that 49% of residents are worried that benefit cuts are going to reduce their future incomes even further. By 2020, The Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) predicts that within the UK, one in four families will be in poverty.

This picture is likely to be worse within Oldham, as the borough is 7th in the top 50 local authorities adversely impacted by Welfare Reform⁴. From the post-2015 reforms, the anticipated loss is £490 per working age adult per year, compared to the North West average of £380 and the Great British average of £320⁶.

The above figure is a blanket figure; individuals and their households will be impacted differently. Welfare reform impacts the most vulnerable the hardest: single parents and those with a disability, as they are likely to be in receipt of several benefits and are unlikely to have any support mechanisms in place⁷.

The case-study below illustrates the impact of welfare reform on an existent benefit claimant.

Case study 1

Sarah was recently moved from JSA- ESA, however so far Sarah has been waiting a month for her claim to be processed and does not know where it is up to. Currently the only way that she is surviving is through her child benefit, and she is heavily reliant upon free school meals. Her social worker has referred her to the foodbank and has helped her access emergency top-up for gas/electric; however these will soon need to be paid back. Sarah is struggling with the Job Centre as they do not understand that she does not have a lot of time to look for work as she has to meet requirements for her social worker and look after her children. From this she is worried about becoming sanctioned, and her financial situation in the future. (Oldham Foodbank)

2.1 Universal Credit

Universal Credit was introduced as a way of streamlining all JSA, ESA, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit into one benefit offer. Universal Credit is paid in monthly instalments as a reflection of monthly salaries found in the majority of jobs.

⁶ Sheffield Hallam (2016) 'The Uneven Impact of Welfare Reform'

⁷ Welfare Reform: Impact on Vulnerable People (2015) Oldham Council

Generally, for a new claimant this is not problematic as they are more likely to be used to monthly budgeting. However, those switching from other benefits are used to fortnightly payments; therefore, they are in more danger of incurring arrears or struggling to afford basic living costs.

In April 2016, 6353 individuals are on Universal Credit within Oldham⁸, which constitutes 4.5% of the population.

Typically, the wait between receiving Universal Credit and applying for it is 5 or 6 weeks, subsequently the claimant may struggle to afford necessities, such as food and rent without relying on savings or others. Oldham Foodbank illustrates the impacts of this, with 43.35% of its vouchers issued in response to benefit delays.

The below case study illustrates this impact:

Case Study 2

John was laid off from a full time job a couple of months ago, he applied for Universal Credit, but had to wait 5 and a half weeks for his first payment. During this period he experienced financial difficulties, especially trying to keep up with rent payments, he received a benefit advance which has helped him out, however the combination of this and an overpayment means he is immediately down £120 on his next payment. During this period he was referred to the Foodbank via his doctor, and he is actively seeking work. (Oldham Foodbank)

2.2 Daily Necessities

Increasingly, welfare reform can impact upon individual and families abilities to be able to afford daily necessities, such as food and utility bills.

Our 2013 residents' survey revealed that 41% of residents were concerned with their ability to afford utility bills in the future, and 27% with their ability to be able to afford necessities, including food⁹.

This is reflected by the CAB; reporting in 'The Waiting For Credit' survey that 80% of respondents found it difficult to pay for essential household payments¹⁰.

Over the past four years there has been a sharp increase in the amount of people presenting to Oldham CAB with debt problems. A large proportion of these debt problems are related to not being able to afford utility bills and council tax¹¹.

In 2015, 57% of people accessing Oldham Foodbank have done so due to either benefit delays or benefit changes, implying that those receiving benefits are more likely to face difficulties in affording food, and other essential items.

⁸ DWP (2016)

⁹ You and Your Community (2013) Oldham Council

¹⁰ CAB (2015) Waiting for Credit

¹¹ CAB (date) Citizens Impact Assessment: Freeze to working age benefits

2.3. Rent

The Housing Benefit Cap and Bedroom Tax are two of the reforms that have directly impacted on residents' ability to be able to pay their rent, with 59.6% of DHP applications in 2015/16 allocated to subsidise households impacted by bedroom tax.

This picture is slowly improving with a reduction in the number of families experiencing rent arrears. Additionally, the number of properties impacted by the 'bedroom tax' reduced by 30.21% to 1629 between May 2013 and March 2016.

Increasingly, higher proportions of the privately renting sector are impacted by welfare reforms, as rents are increasing yet the benefit cap has been lowered and the housing benefit family premium abolished.

2.4. Families

The provisions of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill Act disproportionately affect larger families especially in relation to the changes with the cuts in tax credit which will impact upon both those in and out of employment. Within Oldham there will be 13,000 households affected by the 2015 Tax Credit change, with a £109 loss per working age adult per year¹². Additionally, Oldham has 70 families impacted by the benefit cap, with the majority of them having four or more children.

Based on the most recent figures both two-parent and single families are two of the more prominent groups who are likely to be experiencing financial stress¹³. Although single people are still the largest cohort of people accessing Oldham Food Bank, they have noticed an increase in the amount of families and single parents who are claiming vouchers. From 2013- 2015 there has been a 19.96% percentage increase in the proportion of families using food vouchers, signifying that they are struggling to feed themselves and their children.

2.5. DLA- PIP

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is changing to Personal Independence Payments (PIP), which is designed to be more financially stable and include regular reviews to ensure that people are assessed on their current needs. However, this change will not affect anyone who is on DLA and are 65 or older on the 8th April 2015.

The switch from DLA to PIP is ongoing throughout Oldham, with the nationwide changeover from DLA to PIP is not expected to be completed till March 2018¹⁴. Over 50% of the enquiries to Oldham CAB were about benefits, the most common enquiry is around the change from Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to Personal Independence Payments (PIP). Claimants are experiencing difficulties during this switch, due to different assessment criteria, meaning that those who were applicable for DLA subsequently may not be applicable for PIP, or losing out on their enhanced mobility rates, which the below case study illustrates.

¹² Sheffield Hallam (2016) 'The Uneven Impact of Welfare Reform'

¹³ You and Your Community Survey (2013) Oldham Council

¹⁴ HM Treasury, Budget 2013

Case Study 3

Sandra has multiple medical conditions and during the time Citizens Advice were assisting her she was moved from ESA WRAG (Employment & Support Allowance Work Related Activity Group) to ESA SG (Support Group) meaning she wasn't going to be subject to further review of her medical condition.

She approached us in April 2015 when her application for PIP was refused and her reconsideration request was also refused. She had submitted her original application for PIP on 31/7/2014 and following assessment she received a decision dated 2/2/15. She requested a reconsideration which was refused in a decision letter dated 5/3/2015. She was awarded 6 points for daily living (8 needed to be awarded standard rate) and 0 points for mobility (again a requirement of 8). Sandra was supported to appeal her case at tribunal and at the Tribunal in October 2015 she was awarded standard rate for daily living and standard rate mobility. By early December no payment had been received and we contacted DWP who stated no notes on system re decision, requested escalation to find out where payment was. On 18th December DWP contacted and it was stated decision couldn't be actioned and couldn't give a timescale of when might be actioned.

On 7/1/16 DWP sent a letter to Sandra saying not paying as they had requested a statement of reasons with a view to requesting a further appeal. Obviously Sandra was very upset given the length of time and the way DWP were failing to communicate. Later the Tribunal contacted client to say DWP request refused as they had applied outside time limit. In early March 2016 the DWP forwarded a letter stating payment of PIP from 13/07/2014 to 30/07/2016.

This has taken nearly two years from date of original application (Oldham CAB)

2.6. Benefit sanctions

Benefit sanctions stop people accessing their benefits, potentially causing them to fall into or further into debt. Commonly, benefit sanctions are administered when a claimant does not comply with the claimant commitment. The act of sanctioning means that claimants cannot access their benefits, and may incur arrears.

JSA sanctions have fallen to a similar percentage as the Greater Manchester rate, after previously being much higher in 2014, which the table below illustrates. But 3.9% of claimants per month still receive them within Oldham.

Year	Oldham Average (%)	Greater Manchester Average (%)
2013	7.6	6.6
2014	9.2	7
2015	5	4.3

Oldham's position as a pilot area ensures that it will have higher levels of claimants on Universal Credit than the Greater Manchester average. However, currently DWP do not collect data on the amount of benefit sanctions with Universal Credit, therefore it is impossible to report on the actual numbers of residents within Oldham experiencing benefit sanctions.

The DWP has been running workshops with a number of different services, including housing associations and the voluntary sector, within the council to look at the sanctioning process, why sanctions are put in place and how they can be mitigated.

Section 3: Services offering debt and financial advice within Oldham

3.1. Overall Picture

Within Oldham, a variety of different services exist to offer financial or benefit advice, with numerous different signposting routes in and out of them. Currently, joined-up work exists between many of these different groups.

There are a number of different services and organisations who an individual experiencing low level financial difficulty can access. However, only three services, namely: Welfare Rights Team, Oldham CAB and Christians against Poverty, offer universal advice and services for Oldham residents experiencing higher levels of debt. Currently, Welfare Rights and Oldham CAB work very closely together, and have regular meetings. When asked, these services have responded that they are often working at full capacity.

With an increasing amount of people impacted by welfare reform, there is a growing demand on voluntary, community and faith (VCF) to offer advice and help around benefits and welfare reform.

This report considers a number of services, however there are likely to be more existing within the borough which are un-documented.

3.2. Council Services

3.2.1 Welfare Rights Team

The team offers support to families and individuals around benefit entitlements, mandatory reconsiderations, tribunal representation and appeals against benefit decisions. 282 people have been referred to the service in April 2016, and between 1/04/2016 and 31/05/2016 the team secured £155,439.14 in one off grants and £288,082.52 in annual amounts. The majority of clients access them for help with either ESA or the change from DLA-PIP.

Currently the team offers appointments at Access Oldham, Link Centre, Pakistani Community Centre and home visits, but to meet the needs of a wider cohort of society they are expanding their services to include Womens groups, Eastern European Groups, NHS and Dr Kershaws Hospice.

Welfare Rights receives referrals from numerous organisations including Oldham CAB, Client Financial Affairs, AGE UK, MINDM, Cancer Aid Network and Dementia Alliance, as well as taking self-referrals.

The service work closely with Oldham CAB and sit on the Poverty Agenda Group, they also refer into Personal Budgeting Support Service (see 3.2.2.) and Early Help (see 3.2.7).

3.2.2 Personal Budgeting Support Service (PBS)

Located within the Benefits Advice Service, this service undertakes financial assessments, supports and offers advice to people in managing their finances. The service was originally put in place for the introduction of Universal Credit, as a means to support those transferring from JSA to Universal Credit. This has now expanded and the service now offers advice to all those newly claiming Universal Credit.

PBS is funded for by the DWP, therefore although it takes customers from other services it is predominately for customers referred from the DWP. In 2015 the service had 112 referrals of which 70 were from DWP.

3.2.3 Money Management Team

This service is accessible to a client if they meet specific criteria; for instance if a client lacks mental capacity to make decisions about their finance or struggles to cope with finances on a daily basis. Currently, the service only receives referrals from social workers, and they have 493 service users.

The Money Management Team can act as an appointee/deputy to the client's finances. They are also able to complete protection of property visits where the clients do not have a third party to act for them, including completing an inventory of the property and paying for a funeral if needed where there is not a pre-paid funeral or plans.

3.2.4 Local Welfare Provision (LWP)

Local Welfare Provision is designed to meet the short-term/emergency needs of vulnerable people within the borough, and/or to establish/maintain a vulnerable person's home within the community.

Support can be given a number of ways for instance; food vouchers, order and payment by the Council of suitable goods and services, pre-payment for goods and utilities. During 2015/16 £104,347 was allocated for LWP and 867 items were awarded.

3.2.5 Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP)

Discretionary Housing Payments are made to applicants in receipt of housing benefit, and are available on a temporary basis to make up a shortfall in rent.

Payments are often made for up to a 12 week period. A number of factors will be considered including family circumstances and incomes and essential outgoings. During 2015/16 a budget of £377,368 was made available for DHP applicants and out of this £376,274 was spent. DHP applications can now only be made online.

3.2.6 Make the Most of Your Money Campaign

Hosted on the council website, this online campaign gives advice and signposts on a number of issues around budgeting, saving, debt, employment, housing and emotional support. Originally, the page was created as a response to Oldham's position as a Universal Credit pilot, thus the website has not been recently updated.

However, in light of the benefit cap introduction scheduled for Autumn 2016 the team have up-dated and refurbished the page for a re-launch. They have liaised with the welfare rights and district teams to ensure the distribution of consistent and up-to date information.

3.2.7 Early Help

Early Help is a holistic service to ensure that there is a joined up approach between services when working with an individual or families. They offer general benefit and debt advice at all tiers of their intervention, and if needed they will refer clients into specialist help at Welfare Rights Service and CAB.

3.2.8 Get Oldham Working

The Government and Council's policy is to support citizens to progress into sustainable work as a primary answer to reducing poverty. The impacts of welfare reforms mean that as a co-operative Council we need to reduce dependency on state benefits and support resident to enter employment wherever possible.

This forms a key part of the Work and Skills Strategy (2016 – 2020), which sets out to build upon the first phase of Get Oldham Working. Get Oldham Working has created over 3,750 work related opportunities since May 2013, including 2,250 jobs and 580 apprenticeships.

The Work and Skills Strategy will see a three stage delivery of support with:

- ESF Skills for Employment programme: pre-employment support
- Get Oldham Working: employment support including apprenticeships
- Careers Advancement Service: focussed support to help local people get into better paid jobs.

This will see 6,000 residents engaged, with over 5,000 work related opportunities filled, and support 1,600 into the Careers Advancement Service over the next four years.

3.3. Non Council Services

3.3.1 Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Oldham CAB is commissioned by Oldham Council to deliver debt advice services over the borough. Each district is allocated a weekly provision of drop-in services; however, if needed, the district teams can buy extra provision. In 2015, Oldham CAB assisted 11,204 individuals: securing £4.76 million additional welfare benefits.

Additionally, CAB are commissioned by Oldham CCG and Macmillan Cancer Support. This commission creates direct referral mechanisms from medical professionals such as GP's, and give more exposure to those experiencing mental health problems, as these often go hand in hand with financial problems.

When asked, Oldham CAB recognises that there are likely to be many people within the borough who are likely to be struggling with financial problems who are not accessing help, but there is uncertainty and a lack of resources about where these groups are or how to reach them.

Currently CAB receive referrals from Oldham Council, Threshold, Oldham College, FCHO, Drug & Alcohol Team, Age UK, Rochdale Council, HMP Forrest Bank, Womens Refuge, Children's Society, Pennine Acute Hospitals, Oldham CCG, Rochdale CCG, Mind, Stroke Association, MS Society, Parklands Mental Health Unit.

3.3.2 Christians Against Poverty (CAP)

CAP is a national debt advice charity. The Oldham Branch of CAP was set up three and a half years ago. Initially, they visit the client at their own homes to understand their current financial situation and history, this then gets referred to their central office that produce a financial strategy for the client. However, this can be a lengthy process. The initial CAP support worker will discuss the plan with the client, and also deal directly with the clients' creditors by setting up a CAP plan which the creditors are directly paid out of, and which savings can be accumulated in, however this means that the clients do not have direct control of their finances.

CAP Oldham is a small but stretched service, they are currently supporting around 34 clients and have the capacity to take on around 5 new clients a month, and there is often a 2-3 month wait. The service does not work in Failsworth, thus is not borough wide.

CAP advertises as widely as possible throughout the borough, and are working closely with Oldham Foodbank, Ark and CAB, however the majority of their referrals are made by support workers.

CAP, Oldham Foodbank and Keyring have just secured approximately £500,000 to support residents in debt through a joint intervention service.

3.4. Other

3.4.1. Social Housing Associations

To a certain extent all social housing providers offer financial advice and help to their residents. Some associations, including FCHO, Regenda, Aska and Places for People have dedicated money advice or financial inclusion teams, which for instance, support people to apply for benefits or with rent arrears. None of the associations offer professional debt advice, as they do not employ anyone with the relevant qualifications, yet many of their clients present to them with multiple and complex debts so require specialist support.

Each housing association uses slightly different signposting routes into financial and/or debt advisory services. The Guinness Partnership and Places for People signpost only to online debt advice websites such as Stepchange, but all other associations signpost to professional financial advice services in CAB.

First Choice Homes, being the largest social housing provider in the borough, have just entered into a formal partnership with Oldham CAB and directly signpost to them.

All housing associations are members of the Oldham Housing Investment Partnership (OHIP) Financial Inclusion Group, and Regenda Homes, FCHO and Great Places are part of the Creative Credit project (see 3.4.6).

OHIP Financial Inclusion Group consists of representatives from social housing providers and the council. The partnership is designed to discuss and assess the different impacts of welfare reform on themselves and their residents, sharing best practice and supporting tenants who are facing welfare reform measures. Currently OHIP do not measure the impact that they are having within Oldham.

3.4.2 Age UK

Age UK gives financial advice to over 50's and their carers but they do not have any specific funding for financial services. Therefore, the majority of their financial advice is centred on age related issues, for instance Carers Allowance and Guaranteed Pension Credit; they also can help their clients contact overarching organisations, such as the Council or DWP.

If appropriate, Age UK will refer their clients to debt counselling and advice services.

3.4.2 Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) Organisations

Many voluntary organisations offer some form of advice around debt, and welfare reform. Often this is conducted at low level and consists of signposting to online and local financial and debt advice services.

As a result of Welfare Reform, 85% of VCF services have reported an increased demand for advice and support, and 75% reporting an increased amount of emergency support including food¹⁵.

Incidentally, although many VCF organisations do not have specific training in welfare reform, or are designed to help those suffering from welfare reform, they are utilising a lot of resources and time handling the impacts of welfare reform.

3.4.5 Credit Union

The Credit Union is a cooperative money saving and lending company, which is owned and run by its members, though it has a small commission from Oldham Council. Primarily it offers savings accounts, but also has a money lending service as long as individuals already possess a savings account with them. The Credit Union also offer Jam Jar Accounts for rent and council tax, however the take-up of these has been very low.

From 2012 till the end of March 2016, there has been a 99.6% increase in membership to currently 4,169 members. Currently, the Credit Union does not collect data about its members; therefore, it is not possible to definitely ascertain whether welfare reform has impacted upon its member uptake.

Aligning with Oldham Councils fairness charter, the Credit Union conducts community engagement work and ensures that people in deprived communities are also able to access affordable credit working with housing providers. The Credit Union provides local community collection point to engage the community in addressing their financial issues. They are also part of the Creative Credit partnership (see 3.4.6)

Both the Job Centre and Housing Providers refer to them, but currently the Credit Union gain the majority of their referrals by word of mouth.

3.4.6 Creative Credit

This is a partnership project led by Regenda Homes with Oldham Coliseum Theatre, Oldham Council, Oldham Credit Union, Oldham Housing Investment Partnership (OHIP), First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) and Great Places. The project started in September 2015 and has engaged over 300 children and adults in the dangers of illegal money lending with its first theatre piece 'Don't Let the Sharks Bite' a play

¹⁵ Poverty Agenda Group: 'The real story of welfare reform in Oldham *(draft)

produced and performed by local secondary school students, to inform their peers and residents of the dangers of Loan Sharks.

They have just produced a new show called 'Benefits Who?' which explores Universal Credit, to help residents understand its impacts. The project is due to end in July 2016, and to be evaluated in August 2016, and hopefully rolled out further.

3.4.7 DWP and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) Welfare to Work schemes

The Governments policy response to poverty has been the introduction of various schemes with the aim of supporting residents into work. The flagship Work Programme and Work Choice will finish in March 2017 with a replacement Work and Health Programme available for jobseekers by Autumn 2017; however this will be on a much smaller scale. The major criticism of these schemes has been the Payment by Results mechanism, as working with less complex cases gave the best return on investment.

In 2014 GMCA introduced Working Well to address some of these issues, which offered help to those claiming ESA to overcome their barriers to work. From March 2016 the programme has been expanded to incorporate residents who are claiming other out of work benefits.

Get Oldham Working (see 3.2.8) works with all providers across the Work Programme, Work Choice, Access to Work, Talent Match, Working Well Expansion and Nu Traxx to create a coherent offer to residents and businesses.

Section 4: Recommendations

It is recommended that the Council consider the below recommendations and explore some of them further to help mitigate the impacts of welfare reform on the finances/debts of Oldham's residents.

Recommendations:

- Review the Council's debt and financial services to ensure that they are targeted within areas in which there are the most need, and areas where people may struggle to access services.
- Working alongside Early Help, ensure all relevant frontline staff have the necessary training to be able to recognise when someone may be experiencing financial/debt problems and where these should be referred on to.
- Make the Most of Your Money Campaign a borough wide, accessible first point of call for residents experiencing or needing advice around debt or financial problems.
 - Addressing all demographics of individuals within Oldham, but targeting more information at those who are more likely to claim benefits, and those who are already experiencing financial difficulties.
 - Specifically target people who have disabilities and their carers around the switch from DLA-PIP, including the new assessment process.

- Target communities that may have not traditionally suffered with welfare reform, or may have hidden debt problems; for instance: families, South Asian communities.
- Events should be organised to coordinate with the launch of the updated Website
- Ensure that different mediums are used to display this, as not all people have access to the internet.
- To continue Creative Credit work, especially as a means of engagement with younger generations
- To continue work with Oldham Partnerships Poverty Agenda Group to:
 - Inform planning and actions to prevent and alleviate poverty in Oldham
 - Share best practice to help services work more effectively and efficiently e.g. OHIP and Creative Credit.
 - Facilitate further joined up work with Oldham Job Centre Plus. The CAB have identified that there is an inconsistent approach by the Job Centre, which could be mitigated by better staff training¹⁶, and better communication between the Job Centre and other services.

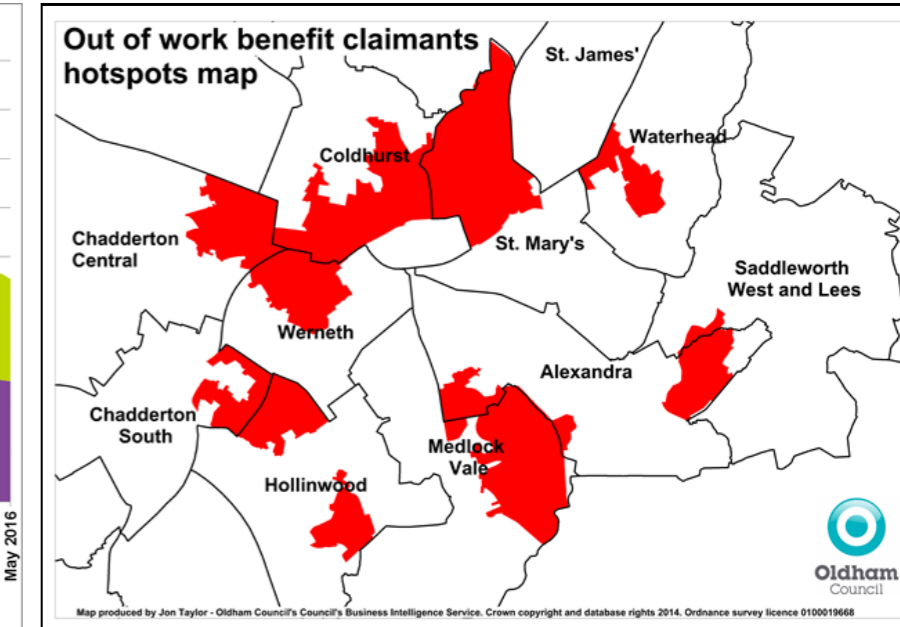
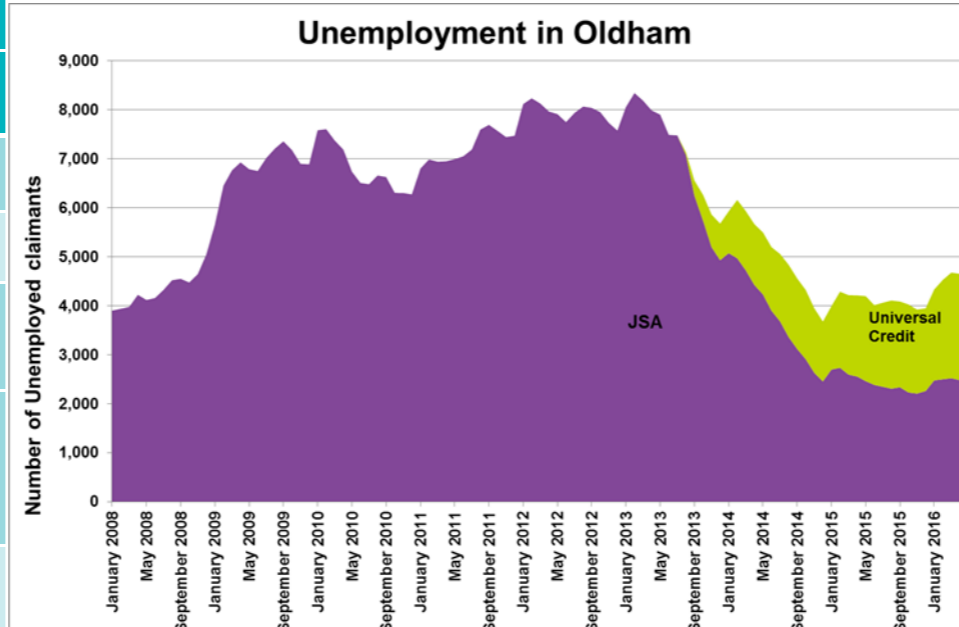
¹⁶ Waiting for Credit, CAB (2015)

Oldham's Welfare Reform Dashboard – June 2016

Benefits

Benefit claimants (aged 16-64) - Source: Nomis 2016 & DWP 2015

	Number of claimants	%	Trend	Date
Unemployment	4,545	3.2	↓	May-16
ESA	11,520	8.2	↓	Nov-15
ESA claimants found fit for work	1,500	22	↑	Jun-15
Number of families impacted by Benefit Cap	70	n/a	↑	Feb-16
Employment Rate	91,500	64.8	↑	Dec-15

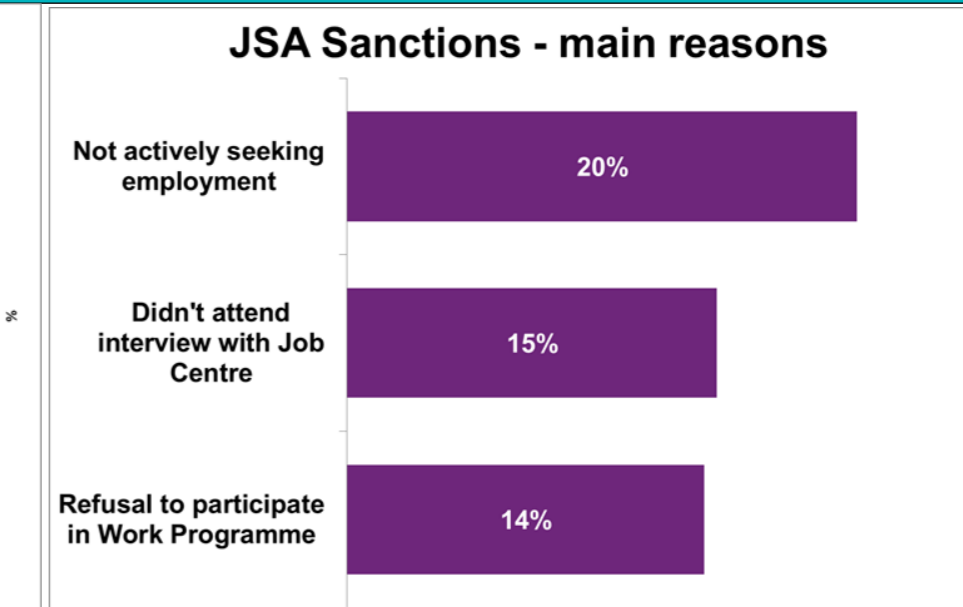
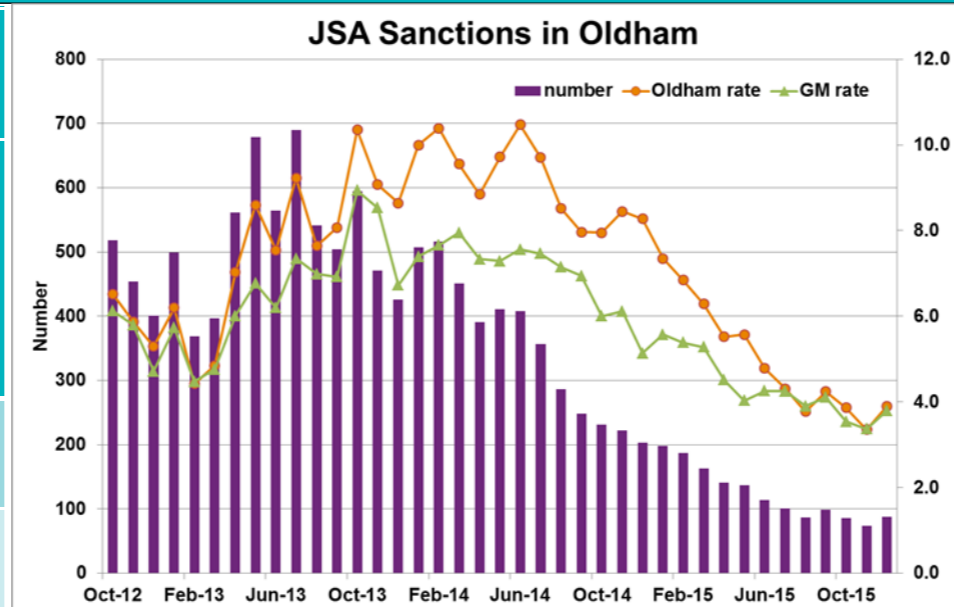


Having fallen since early 2013, unemployment in Oldham has now stabilised. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) figures are now also falling after a previous increase. Oldham has currently 70 families impacted by the benefit cap, most of those capped having large families with 4, 5 or more children.

Sanctions

Out of Work Benefit Sanctions - Source: DWP 2015

	Number of adverse sanctions imposed (Dec 2015)	% of claimants	Number of adverse sanctions imposed (October 2012- Dec 2015)
JSA claimants	88	3.9%	13,415
ESA claimants	11	0.1%	806

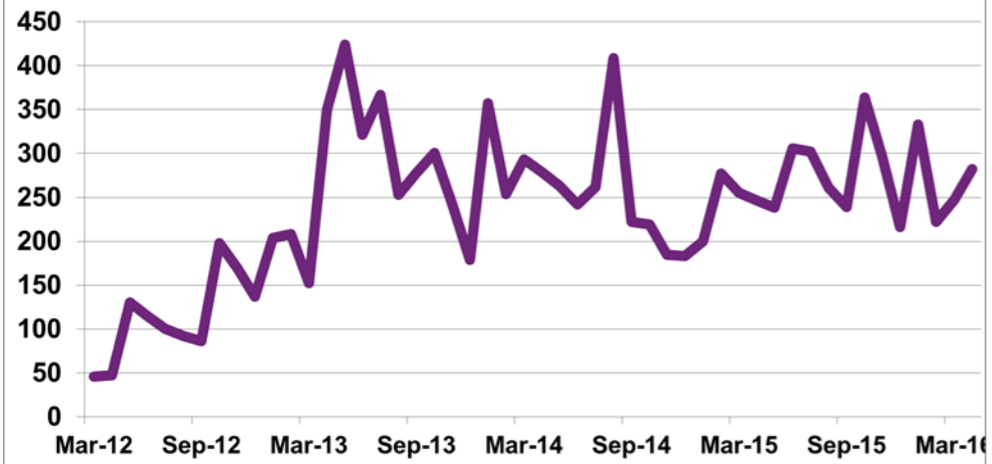


Since the introduction of tougher conditions and rules for the main social security benefits, claimants have been more readily sanctioned. JSA sanctions are currently falling, but still constitute 3.9% of claimants per month. ESA sanctions remain low. The main reasons for sanctions include refusal of claimants to participate in the DWP Work Programme, or that claimants have not been actively seeking employment (according to DWP guidelines).

Access to advice and support

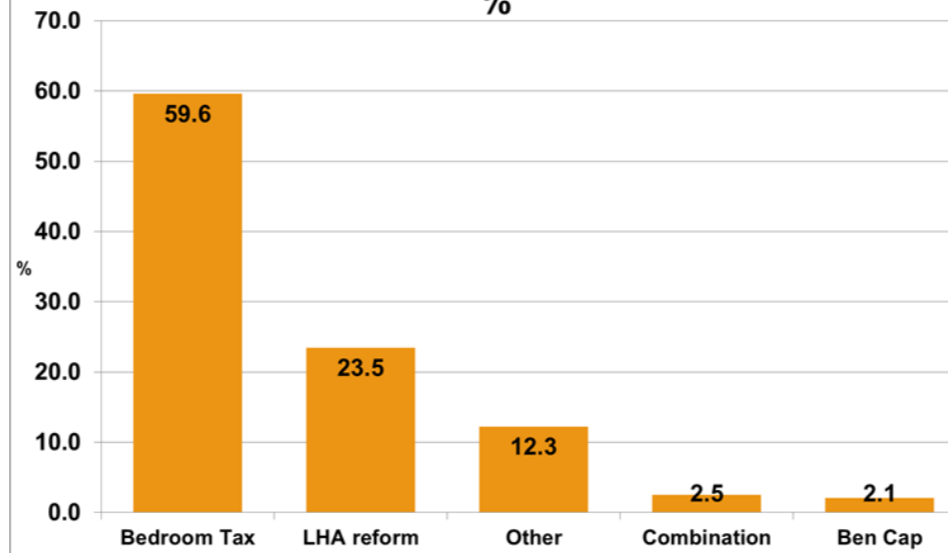
Welfare Rights

Welfare Rights referrals have been consistently high since the introduction of welfare reform.



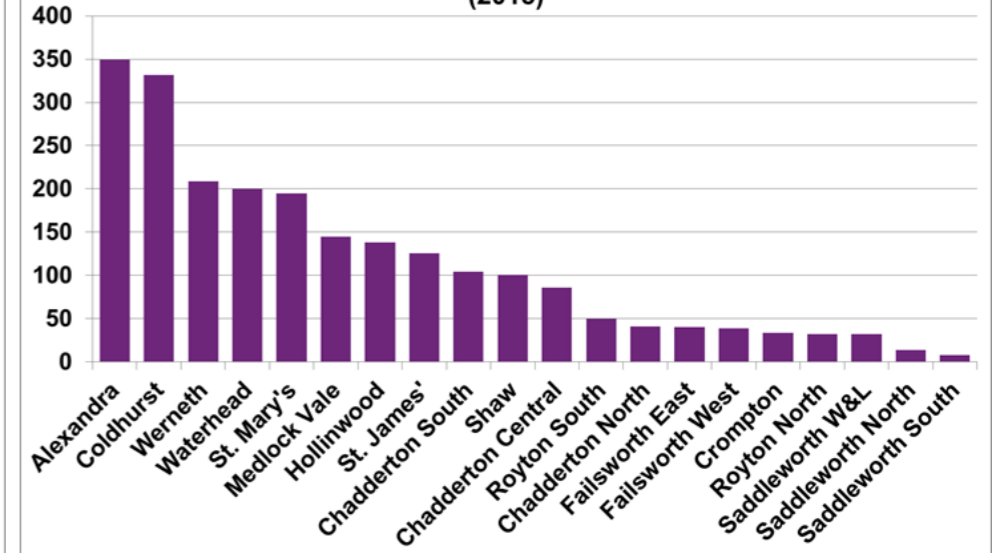
Summary of DHP awards

%



Food Bank Vouchers

(2015)

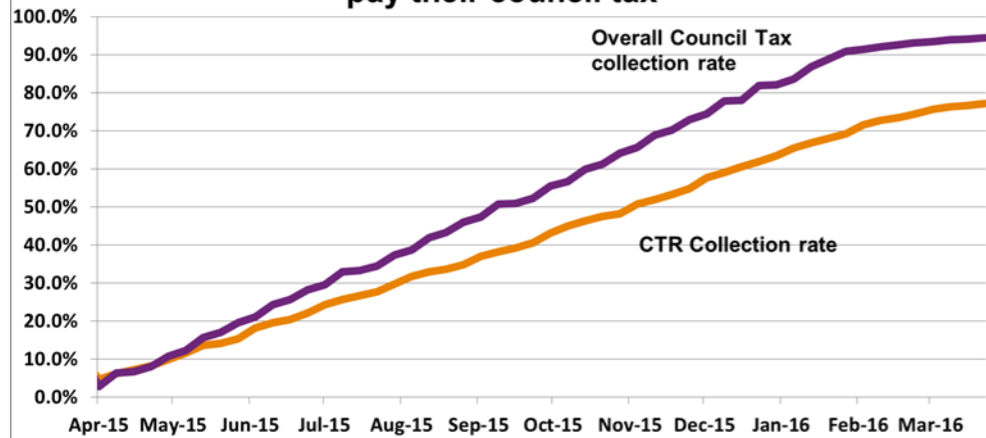


Since the introduction of Welfare Reform, the number of Oldham residents accessing advice or requiring financial support from the Council has increased. The welfare rights team has supported many residents to maximise their income. During 2015/16 a budget of £377,368 was made available for DHP applications, and £376,274 was spent. The majority (59.9%) was allocated to subsidise households impacted by the 'size criteria' (bedroom tax). £104,347 (annual budget £300,000) was also allocated for LWP with 867 items being awarded. Use of food banks varies greatly by ward. The wards that have higher levels of deprivation, particularly those that surround the Oldham Town Centre, have been allocated a higher number of vouchers.

Financial Impact for Council

Council Tax Collection Rates

Residents who were previously receiving full council tax benefit are finding it more difficult to pay their council tax

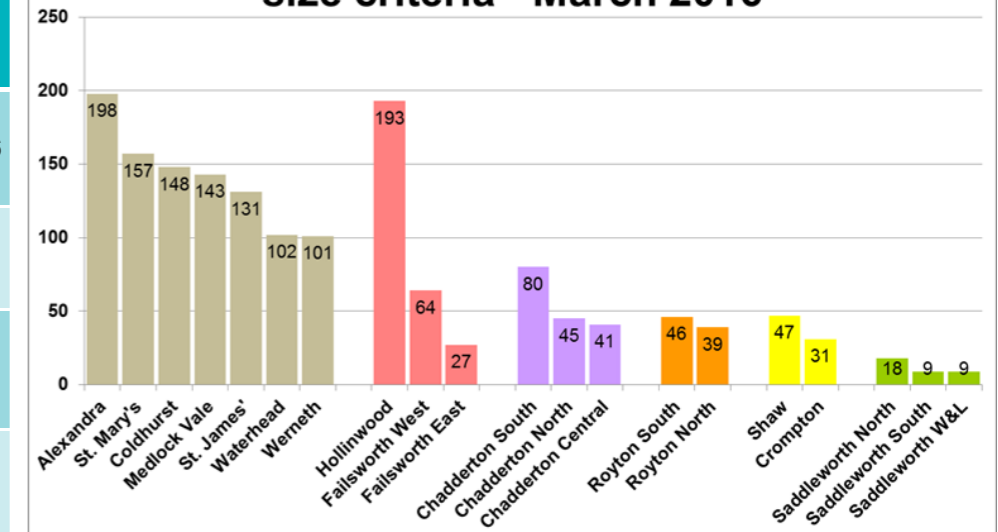


Residents who were previously receiving full Council Tax benefit are finding it more difficult to pay their Council Tax. The collection rate for these residents is however higher than originally predicted.

Housing

Housing Indicators	Number of households affected	Trend	Date
Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)	1,629	↓	Mar-16
Families rehoused as result of size criteria	Awaiting data		
Number of terminations	656		Mar-14
Number of families in rent arrears	1,774	↓	Feb-14

Number of properties impacted by size criteria - March 2016



The number of properties impacted by 'size criteria' ('bedroom tax') has reduced from 2,334 in May 2013 to 1,629 in March 2016. There are currently 1,360 properties under occupying by one room and 269 by two or more. The number of families in rent arrears is reducing.