

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 14 December 2016**



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 6 December 2016

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 14 December 2016 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

### Open Council

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

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

### Formal Council

- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th November 2016 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 38)
- 4 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 5 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 6 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 39 - 40)

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

- 8 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

*(time limit 15 minutes).*

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Harrison to SECOND:

The Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association has launched a Charter to gain support as the Association works towards their vision of securing the right care, at the right time and in the right place for those who suffer with MND, and their carers. Achieving quality of life, dignity and respect for people with MND and their carers must be something we strive for, and adopting the Charter will help us to understand and support these people.

We call on this council to adopt the MND Charter and to help positively influence the lives of people living with MND in Oldham.

9 Youth Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There is no business to consider.

10 Draft Minutes of the Budget Cabinet Meeting held on 5th December 2016 (Pages 41 - 46)

11 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 - Policy Landscape and Forecast Budget Gap Update (Pages 47 - 78)

12 Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 to 2020/21 - Administration Budget Proposals (Pages 79 - 388)

13 Treasury Management Half Year Review 2016/17 (Pages 389 - 408)

14 Proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18 (Pages 409 - 428)

15 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

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

16 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 429 - 442)

*(time limit 20 minutes):-*

- a) 17<sup>th</sup> October 2016
- b) 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016

17 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

Motion 1

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor McCann to SECOND:

Local Government has experienced a significant reduction in funding since 2009/10 and the introduction of the Government's austerity regime. According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, since 2009/10 there has been a real terms cut in local government spending across England of 22%. Here in Oldham we have fared much worse with a real terms cut of more than 42%. At the same time there has been a huge increase in demand for services, particularly in adult social care. The Council has responded to this massive challenge by competently and efficiently redesigning many of its services to minimise the impact on citizens of Oldham.

This Council notes with disappointment the Chancellor's 2016 Autumn Statement in

which he commented that higher spending by local authorities is one of the causes of a weaker economic outlook

This Council believes that the Chancellor should have used his Statement to address pressing concerns in:

- The funding of Adult Social Care – the cuts made by central government have pushed social care to crisis point with knock on effects in the NHS as people cannot be safely discharged home. While a further increase to the National Living Wage is welcome, unless this is fully funded, it just increases pressure on council budgets and the viability of the private care sector
- The benefits system. Cuts already agreed by government and not reversed will have a devastating impact on many Oldham residents
- Providing more affordable and social housing and addressing homelessness and poor housing conditions

The Autumn Statement provided new money for grammar schools, a stately home and reduced corporation tax.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the borough's three MPs to urge them to take every opportunity to challenge the Government's approach to public spending
- Work through the LGA to push the case for the urgent need to put social care on a sound financial footing
- Continue to provide support to Oldham's residents, for example through the Welfare Rights Service, to do what we can to alleviate the difficulties faced by many of our residents.

## Motion 2

Councillor Toor to MOVE and Councillor Garry to SECOND:

This Council notes that hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 but were not notified of the changes until relatively recently. Some women were not notified until two years ago of a six-year increase in pension age. Women born in the 1950s are bearing a disproportionate cost of Conservative plans to reduce state spending. Many women born in the 1950s are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially due to the Tories' ideological drive to reduce the cost of the state. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure after finishing work. It is not the pension age itself that is disputed - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected.

The Council calls on the Government to make fair transitional arrangements for all women born on or after 6<sup>th</sup> April 1951 who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.

The Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the three borough MPs to inform them of the council's position and request that they use whatever parliamentary means available to raise this matter with government

### Motion 3

Councillor Goodwin to MOVE and Councillor Williams to SECOND:

This Council notes

- The Government has recently changed the guidance to Building Regulations whereby they do not require the installation of Fire Suppression Systems to be fitted into new schools.
- It was reported there were more than 600 fires in British schools last year and Arson was suspected in 40% of cases. According to insurers, each large fire causes an average of £1.5million of damage, and that, where fitted, sprinklers pay for themselves in lower premiums.
- The core objective of the Revised Building Bulletin 100 is to simplify the guidance. However, in the process, it has removed the expectation that all new schools (except for low risk schools) will be protected from fire with automatic sprinklers. The benefits of Fire Suppression, extensively and emphatically documented in the foreword of the current BB100, by the then Minister of State for Schools, have been erased from the revised BB100, with no mention made of sprinklers at all. This has taken place at a time when new schools in Scotland and Wales will have automatic sprinklers installed.
- There has been no advanced notice, or prior indication of this alarming change, which is, strongly rejected across the Fire Sector, The Fire Sector Federation, the Fire Protection Association and the Arson Prevention Bureau.

This Council believes that

- This is a retrograde step that does not make sense. Sprinklers do not just save lives, they prevent fires from spreading and causing significant disruption to children's education. They are supported by the CFOA, teachers and the LGA.
- This change of policy is a false economy as the cost of increased insurance premiums and the damage caused by fire, outweighs that of the installation of sprinklers.
- This is also remarkably out of step with the rest of Great Britain. In Scotland and Wales new schools are fitted with sprinklers. Should children in England be educated in schools with a lower safety standard than those in our neighbouring devolved administrations?

This Council resolves to

- Call on the Government to reconsider their position and reintroduce the guidance to Building Regulations with regard the installation of Fire Sprinkler Systems into new school buildings.
- Call on other Local Authorities to consider requesting that the Government reconsiders this matter.

## 18 Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

### Motion 1

Councillor Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Blyth to SECOND:

This Council notes:

- Pavement parking can pose a hazard to pedestrians, especially people with sight loss, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users and other disabled people.
- People with sight loss are especially at risk as they can be forced into the road and

faced with oncoming traffic that they cannot see.

- Pavements are not designed to take the weight of vehicles and so surfaces can become damaged or subside, presenting a further hazard for pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities.

Council notes that there are currently offences in law where vehicles are driven over the footpath or where vehicles cause an unreasonable obstruction on the footway; regrettably these offences are frequently left unenforced.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police to request:

- Greater Manchester Police enforce the legislation
- That Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) be empowered to issue fixed penalty notices to offenders

## Motion 2

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

This Council is proud to be a member of the Sustainable Food Cities Network and as a member is committed to “Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system”.

Council notes that with concern that this commitment will be more difficult to achieve when:

- Most beverage cups dispensed by coffee outlets cannot be recycled
- The production of bottled water necessitates wasteful processing, bottling and transportation, and when its consumption leads to the discarding of millions of plastic bottles
- Much of the packaging used for food products cannot easily be recycled

Council aspires instead to reduce food packaging and promote recycling across the borough whenever possible.

Council further notes that these aspirations are compatible with the aims of the initiative, the Courthauld Commitment 2025, where signatories pledge to work to reduce “the resource needed to provide our food and drink by one-fifth over ten years.”

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ensure that drinking cups at water and coffee machines in Council buildings are all recyclable and are recycled
- Work with local coffee outlets to encourage them to adopt recyclable cups, provide on-site recycling facilities, provide multi-use cups, and offer discounts to customers bringing their own cups
- Promote the provision of public drinking fountains and free drinking water in all catering outlets and schools
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member and officers to investigate the merits of becoming a signatory to the Courthauld Commitment 2025, and report back on their findings no later than six months from now.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the:
  - Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority requesting investment in the technology needed to recycle the food packaging that is not currently recycled
  - Relevant Government Minister asking the Government to create a market for the sale and reuse of materials (such as low-grade plastics) that are not currently recycled

### Motion 3

Councillor McCann to MOVE and Councillor Sykes to SECOND:

This Council notes:

- The Government's stated commitment to encourage people with disabilities to return to paid employment
- The important role of railways in getting people to and from their places of work
- That, in contrast to Metrolink, disabled people still face difficulties in accessing some rail services
- The importance of the £102 million Department for Transport 'Access for All' programme in funding adaptations to railway stations to make them more accessible
- That around half of all of the 96 railway stations across Greater Manchester still require more work to make them accessible, including the only railway station in the borough, Greenfield Station

This Council notes with concern:

- Proposals within the recent Hendy Report to defer half of the 'Access for All' projects until the period 2019-24 meaning unacceptable delays in the adaptations to stations
- That any delay to the adaptation of a station means that rail services there will not be accessible to all which is contrary to UK equalities legislation

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the relevant Secretary of State asking him to reject the proposed re-phasing of Access for All projects and to instead, wherever possible, undertake more station adaptations at the current time
- Write to the Chair of Transport for Greater Manchester Committee and the Lead member on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for Transport Tony Lloyd urging them to consider how more funding can be made available to bring our region's railway stations up to the high accessibility standards of Metrolink

- 19 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 443 - 474)

*(time limit 8 minutes):-*

Greater Manchester Combined Authority	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
National Park Authority	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Transport for Greater Manchester	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2016

- 19 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 475 - 492)

*(time limit 7 minutes)*

Unity Partnership Board	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
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MioCare	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Health and Wellbeing Board	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2016

- 20 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 493 - 524)
- 21 Political Balance Update  
Report to Follow.
- 22 Civic Appreciation Nomination (Pages 525 - 526)
- 23 European Union Referendum - Impact on Oldham and Greater Manchester (Pages 527 - 558)
- 24 Appointment of External Auditor for the Financial Year 2017/18. (Pages 559 - 564)

**NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 4 hours 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

