

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 13 September 2017

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 5 September 2017

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 13 September 2017 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 12th July 2017 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 Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Ball to SECOND:

This Council notes that Universal Credit (UC) is a single monthly payment which replaces six working age benefits (known as legacy benefits). These are Housing Benefit (HB), Income Support (IS), Working Tax Credits (WTC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), Employment and Support Allowance (Income-related) and Job Seekers Allowance (Income-related). It supports residents on low incomes who are both in and out of work.

Oldham has been a pathfinder for Universal Credit since 2013. However, the numbers of residents moving onto Universal Credit from 2013 have been restricted to new claimants and straightforward cases. The roll out of the full service of Universal Credit

which commenced in Oldham on 26 April 2017 is a new entirely online-based system and claimants must apply for and manage their claim online. It also brings in a wider range of claimants including more complex cases. It affects claimants when they make a claim for the first time or have a change in circumstances that means their existing claim for one of the legacy benefits has to be cancelled.

Oldham is one of the early boroughs subject to the rollout of Universal Credit full service. The delivery of the new service has been an area of particular concern across the country and was subject in the last parliament to an investigation by the Work and Pensions Select Committee.

As a result, and while the DWP and Job Centre Plus are the agency responsible for managing the change, the Council is committed to pro-active and continued work with key stakeholders and partners to ensure that as much support is provided to residents as possible to help achieve a smooth transition to the new service.

However, this Council has a number of concerns about Universal Credit

- The wait times between the date of application and date of assessment. There is a built in waiting period of 6 weeks before Universal Credit is awarded and this creates hardship for residents. Any delay in DWP processing times exacerbates this hardship still further.
- The level of deductions applied to monthly payments to clawback advance payments and sanctions can be high leaving residents with little money to cover basic income needs for their families for the weeks ahead.
- The high number of Universal Credit claimants that have been subject to sanctions in Oldham.
- That the provision of housing costs support for short term temporary accommodation for Oldham's homeless population is not an appropriate fit for Universal Credit and should be returned to and covered by Housing Benefit at the earliest opportunity.

This Council resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the following to register these issues and request that solutions are explored which would improve the design and delivery of Universal Credit which would mitigate impacts for low- income, working age residents in the borough;

1. The Rt. Hon David Gauke MP Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.
2. Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, Jim McMahan MP for Oldham West and Royton and Angela Rayner MP for Ashton Under -Lyne, Droylsden and Failsworth.
3. The Local Government Association (LGA).

9 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council Business to consider.

10 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

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

- 11 To note the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on the undermentioned dates, including the attached list of urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council, and to receive any questions or observations on any items within the Minutes from Members of the Council who are not Members of the Cabinet, and receive responses from Cabinet Members (Pages 41 - 58)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 19th June 2017
- b) 10th July 2017
- c) 24th July 2017

- 12 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Fielding to MOVE and Councillor Kirkham to SECOND:

Council notes:

- The announcement on 20/07/17 by Conservative Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP that the electrification of the Sheffield-Kettering, Oxenholme-Windermere and Cardiff-Swansea railway lines will not take place.
- The Transport Secretary's comments as part of this announcement that electrification of the Manchester-Leeds railway line may be too difficult.

Council further notes:

- The announcement on 24/07/2017 of the approval of the £30 billion Crossrail 2 scheme in London.
- Northern Powerhouse rail, an investment programme which included the now cancelled electrifications and the electrification of the Manchester-Leeds line, was pledged on page 24 of the Conservative Party manifesto for the 2017 General Election.
- Crossrail was not featured at all in the Conservative Party manifesto.

Council supports the electrification of the east-west transpennine railway between Manchester and Leeds. Council recognises the benefits that the electrification of this line, which passes through the Borough of Oldham, would deliver for local people.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling setting out our support for the full electrification of this line.
- Call on our three MPs to lobby the government to deliver the planned electrification as promised.

Motion 2

Councillor Ali to MOVE and Councillor Mushtaq to SECOND:

This Council notes;

1. The rise from 128 households in 2015/16, to 245 in 2016/17 and to 182 to August 2017 receiving a formal decision on homelessness from Oldham Council
2. The rise in the number of households placed in temporary accommodation, including in Bed and Breakfast

3. The reducing number of social housing lettings year by year

We recognise that the causes of homelessness can be complex and that one response is the new Homelessness Reduction Act which places new duties on Local Authorities to prevent homelessness, however additional steps and funding are needed to tackle the growing problem of homelessness in Oldham.

This Council believes that this latest increase in homelessness is directly linked to the government's austerity policy: the squeeze on the incomes of the working poor and welfare reform have combined to increase mortgage repossessions and evictions due to rent arrears while reducing benefit support for housing costs, particularly for younger people. The roll out of the Universal Credit Full Digital Service increases rent arrears and homelessness as Universal Credit is paid up to 10 weeks in arrears and landlords can start the eviction process once tenants are eight weeks in arrears.

This Council calls on government to take an integrated approach to homelessness and to rethink welfare policies which exclude younger people from housing support, make housing unaffordable for large families and lead to evictions due to built in delays in payments.

This Council resolves to

1. Work with partners in Oldham to implement the new Housing Reduction duties as effectively as possible
2. Continue to do all it can to mitigate the impact of government policy e.g by supporting Oldham Nightstop and Oldham Reconnect to help young people
3. Investigate ways of increasing housing supply e.g. by improving access to private sector tenancies
4. Campaign for: changes to Universal Credit to get payments started as soon as a successful claim has been made; to reinstate support for housing costs for 18-21 year olds and to ensure that Universal Credit meets the cost of temporary accommodation including for households in bed and breakfast
5. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the borough's three MPs outlining our concerns and asking them to do all they can to achieve changes outlined above

Motion 3

Councillor Roberts to MOVE and Councillor S. Bashforth to SECOND:

This council notes that:

1. DEFRA published the policy paper 'Air Quality Plan for nitrogen dioxide' in July 2017 which sets out the Government's strategy to reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution and promises to make the UK a global leader in air quality
2. Evidence from the World Health Organisation, Public Health England and the Royal College of Physicians outlines the damaging impact of poor air quality on our health, disproportionately affecting children, older people, people with pre-existing heart conditions and people on lower incomes
3. Oldham has been designated as "urban with major conurbation", which puts us in the top 23% most urban Local Authority Districts. DEFRA has also placed Oldham within the "above the legal limit but no feasibility study needs to be done" category for air pollution, showing that Oldham's urban nature affects the levels of pollution within the area.
4. Oldham's nitrogen dioxide level is above the legal limit
5. Oldham is making progress towards reaching the legal limit and is expected to achieve this by 2021, however more can be done

This council welcomes the Air Quality Plan as far as it goes, but believes that action

needs to be taken at a local, Greater Manchester and national level to increase the rate of progress and keep levels to the legal limit in the future.

This council resolves

1. To ask the Health and Well Being Board's Air Quality Sub Group to move as quickly as possible to produce an Air Quality Improvement Scheme for Oldham which should include what we as individuals can do, as well as action by Oldham Council and by Greater Manchester bodies
2. To press Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Combined Authority to develop a more inclusive approach to improving air quality including
 - a. Improving orbital public transport links
 - b. Improving connectivity between city centres e.g. by revising the Low Carbon Strategy to include measures which will help Oldham
 - c. Investing in cycling lanes and facilities in the outer boroughs
3. To inform and support the Greater Manchester bid for the maximum possible funding from the Clean Air Fund to support local action
4. To support the wider use of low emission vehicles e.g. by encouraging the installation of charging points for electric cars

13 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Gloster to SECOND:

Council notes that:

- Heart disease remains one of the biggest killers of adults in this borough and that it debilitates many more.
- The Oldham Locality Plan for Health & Social Care Transformation reports that "Our adult population is less physically active, smokes more, and carries more excess weight than the England average and we have higher than average alcohol-related admissions to hospital. These unhealthy behaviours mean we have significantly higher numbers of people with recorded diabetes, and deaths from smoking-related diseases, cardiovascular disease and cancer are significantly higher than the England average."
- There has recently been a review of congenital heart disease treatment services in this region.

Council is concerned that, under the current proposals resulting from this review:

- Some patients will be obliged to access services, and surgery outside the North West, at specialist centres in Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield.
- In the event of an emergency attendance at a local hospital, patients will be "stabilised and managed by doctors until fit for transfer to a specialist centre".
- The capacity of the Manchester Royal Infirmary to carry out specialist procedures has over past months been reduced as key medical staff have left the hospital as they had no guarantee their services would be required following the review.
- The proposed merger of the South and Central Trafford NHS Trusts has created further uncertainty of employment for specialist staff in our region as the two hospitals providing heart services - Manchester Royal Infirmary and

Wythenshawe - will be brought under one trust.

Council believes that:

- It is unreasonable to expect patients with such conditions, and their carers and families, to make significant journeys to centres outside of Greater Manchester for the more specialist procedures or surgery.
- It is unacceptable that in a National Health Service patients in the North West are subject to a 'postcode lottery' as to where they are sent for treatment and cannot access their own specialist centre in their own region.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to make representations on this matter to:

- The Secretary of State for Health
- The Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which manages the Manchester Heart Centre
- The Greater Manchester Mayor

Requesting they maintain specialist provision in our region.

And also to the three local Members of Parliament seeking their support for the Council's position.

Motion 2

Councillor Williamson to MOVE and Councillor Murphy to SECOND:

This Council notes:

- The national scandal of homelessness, with official figures showing over 4,000 people sleeping rough on any one night, in England last year and over 250,000 people in some form of homelessness.
- That figures for sleeping rough have increased by nearly 50% in the last two years.
- That Greater Manchester has a particular homelessness problem, with Manchester having the fourth highest rates of rough sleeping in the country.
- The charities, Crisis, Centrepoin, Homeless Link, Shelter and St Mungo's have launched the End Rough Sleeping Campaign to call upon politicians of all parties to make a [commitment to end rough sleeping](#) and homelessness.

Working with our social housing and voluntary sector partners, Council reaffirms its commitment to ending rough sleeping and homelessness.

Council resolves to:

- Adopt as policy the aspirations outlined in the End Rough Sleeping Campaign that in this borough:
 - no one is sleeping rough
 - no one is living in shelters, hostels or other emergency accommodation without a plan to move into suitable and settled housing within an agreed appropriate timescale
 - no one is homeless as a result of leaving the care system, prison or other state institution
 - everyone at immediate risk of homelessness gets the help they need to prevent it happening.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the charities involved with the End Rough Sleeping Campaign to give the campaign this Council's support and to ask the campaign to register the Council as a supporter.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three Members of Parliament, urging them to support action at a Government level, including:
 - Adequately funding local government and local health services enable them to

- properly undertake their duties to tackle homelessness and causes of homelessness
- Ensuring that the benefits system is contributing to stopping homelessness, not causing it
- Addressing issues in housing provision, including providing for longer and more stable private rental periods
- Support measures to tackle homelessness at a Greater Manchester level, including:
 - Supporting the Homelessness Action Network created by the Greater Manchester Mayor
 - Working together as ten boroughs, and using our devolved powers to collectively bring an end to homelessness as an urgent priority.
 - Ensuring that a revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, and the Oldham Local Plan, has appropriate and affordable housing as a core priority.
- Ensure that Oldham Council, and our social housing and voluntary sector partners, are doing everything we can to contribute to ending homelessness by asking the Leader to bring a report to Council outlining how our local services are working to end homelessness in the Borough.

Motion 3

Councillor Turner to MOVE and Councillor McCann to SECOND:

Council notes:

- the launch on International Women’s Day (8 March 2017) of the Suffrage to Citizenship Project by the Women’s Local Government Society, a voluntary, cross-party organisation seeking to recruit more women into local government.

The Project intends to celebrate 100 years of women’s suffrage by commemorating suffrage pioneers to inspire a new generation of activists.

The Project will identify and celebrate the lives of 100 previously hidden women and supportive men who worked tirelessly in suffrage campaigns leading up to the Representation of the People Act 1918, and who used the extended rights to citizenship in a positive way by serving as elected councillors, magistrates, on school and public health boards, or by otherwise taking a lead in their local community.

- with pride that at least two Oldham women – Annie Kenney and Lydia Becker - played leading roles in the struggle for women’s suffrage and therefore recognises the importance of this Council supporting this Project.
- that the Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Gary Porter, has asked all Leaders and Chief Executives in local authorities to identify an elected member champion to lead on this work.

Council resolves to:

- Appoint an elected member champion as per Lord Porter’s request.
- Ask that champion to bring a report back to a future meeting of Council in 2017 identifying how this local authority can best support the aims of this Project.

- 14 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 59 - 146)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

Greater Manchester Waste Disposal	12 th June 2017
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Authority	20 th July 2017
Transport for Greater Manchester	14 th July 2017
National Peak Park Authority	26 th May 2017
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	30 th June 2017 (AGM) 30 th June 2017 28 th July 2017
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	28 th April 2017 28 th July 2017
Association of Greater Manchester (AGMA)	30 th June 2017 (AGM) 30 th June 2017

- 14 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant
b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 147 - 158)

(time limit 7 minutes)

Oldham Leadership Board	3 rd May 2017 13 th July 2017
MioCare	8 th May 2017

- 15 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 159 - 196)
- 16 Treasury Management Review 2016/17 (Pages 197 - 220)
- 17 2016/17 Annual Statement of Accounts (Pages 221 - 420)
Due to the size of the appendices to this report, hard copies will be made available for inspection at the Civic Centre. Copies can be obtained at Access Oldham, Rochdale Road Reception and the Member Group Rooms

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

