

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 28 March 2018

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 20 March 2018

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 28 March 2018 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 Civic Appreciation Award

Open Council

- 2 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

- 3 To receive apologies for absence
- 4 To order that the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 13th December 2017 and 28th February 2018 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 52)
- 5 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 6 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 7 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 8 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 53 - 54)
- 9 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 20 minutes)

(time limit 15 minutes).
Councillor Roberts to MOVE and Councillor Chadderton to SECOND:

This Council notes that Oldham, together with thousands more, will celebrate International Women's day on the 8th March 2018. Oldham Council has already agreed to mark the centenary of the Women's Suffrage Act by supporting the Suffrage to Citizenship Campaign throughout 2018 and this will include marking the actual anniversary in November. Working with the Youth Council and local organisations, activities will focus on ways of encouraging young women (and men) to be more actively involved in the local community, an aim that fits well with our ethos as a Co-operative Council.

Oldham Council has previously affirmed its commitment to women's equality; acknowledged the unequal impact of austerity on women and supported the aims of the WASPI campaign for fair access to pensions.

Oldham Council further notes that the Government continues to put forward proposals which threaten vital services for women, this time the funding of refuges for women escaping domestic violence. The Government consultation paper 'Funding Supported Housing' includes proposals to remove the payment of Housing Benefit to women living in refuges, which provides over 50% of their funding, and replace this with a ring fenced grant to local authorities which will also have to pay for short-term supported housing for older people, homeless people, people with mental illnesses and drug addicts.

This council is extremely concerned that this threatens the sustainability of refuges, which by their nature often provide a service to women out of the borough, and which are already unable to meet demand.

This council resolves

1. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Local Government and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance to express our concern and to ask for continuation of the existing system of paying Housing Benefit to women living in refuges
2. To ask the Borough's three MPs to press for the continuation of the current system and to seek more secure funding for refuges
3. To ask our representatives at the LGA to urge for the LGA to lobby against this proposed change

10 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

Vaping or the use of e-cigarettes is becoming a more and more common sight. More and more people can be seen using these products. I'm sure we all know someone who vapes, and I'm sure most of us saw someone vaping today.

Some people welcome vaping as a 'safer' alternative to smoking tobacco product but let's be honest the jury is out on that one. We do not know how safe these products are Cancer research UK have published reports calling for further research into the effects of vaping on health and to increase our knowledge on how 'safe'; these products are.

We at Oldham Youth council have concerns that vaping is becoming an attractive activity for young people. We know anecdotally of young people who began vaping without ever having been a smoker. These are not just alternatives to tobacco but are becoming a nicotine addictive habit for non-smokers too.

We strongly believe this is in a large part due to the advertising and promotion of e cigarettes and vaping.

We believe that E cigarette companies and the tobacco industry are targeting young people:

They present their marketing in such a way that it uses attractiveness, coolness, colours and innovative packaging – with a wide range of 'fun' flavours that is particularly aimed at a youth market. With flavours like candy apple and tutti fruity with bright packaging that looks like confectionary how can this not be aimed at the youth market?

They use social media and celebrity inspired styling and endorsements

They sponsor big sports events

And they portray their products as socially attractive
All this is particularly appealing to a younger audience and to non-smokers!
Over recent years we have seen the regulation of tobacco promotion with the introduction of smoke free public spaces, advertising bans, age restricted sales, a de-normalisation of Smoking industries, plain packaging and point of sale restrictions. Vaping products however are not controlled in this way! And this great work at reducing the likelihood of young people (and older people) from smoking) is being undermined by this.

These control policies were introduced to prevent people from taking up smoking and rightly so. But if we don't want people to smoke and we certainly don't want young people to take up smoking would we want them to start vaping!

In November 2017 Committees for Advertising Practice have introduced some new rules that will prevent e cigarette advertising from targeting non-smokers including children and young people, these restrictions will also prevent TV advertising attempting to tap into youth culture. We are particularly pleased to see that an emphasis has been placed on protecting young people and we welcome these new rules but they don't go far enough!

A study by Moreon et al found that flavoured e cigarette liquids such as fruits and alcohol flavours are most frequently used by young people! And studies in the US have found that young people who vape are far more likely to smoke. Studies like these and the fact that the 'safety' of vaping is yet to be truly determined causes us great concern.

We want to prevent young people from these potentially harmful practices and we feel more needs to be done to prevent vaping from being seen as fun, acceptable and a 'cool' thing to do.

We would like to see the same controls on vaping as there are on tobacco products. We would like to see advertising banned, we would like to see plain packaging controls in place and we would like to point of sale restrictions. We believe these restrictions on the promotion of vaping will further reduce the likelihood of people taking up vaping and in turn smoking.

The Youth Council ask Council to resolve:

That the Chief Executive writes to the minister of Health and asks for these restrictions to be put in place for vaping products.

11 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

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

- 12 To note the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on the undermentioned dates, including the attached list of urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council, and to receive any questions or observations on any items within the Minutes from Members of the Council who are not Members of the Cabinet, and receive responses from Cabinet Members (Pages 55 - 76)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 20th November 2017
- b) 11th December 2017
- c) 18th December 2017
- d) 22nd January 2018

13 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1 – Modern Slavery

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Haque to SECOND:

This Council notes:

- Though slavery was abolished in 1833, there are more slaves today than ever before in human history. Figures from the International Labour Organisation (ILO) suggest that there are more than 40 million people in modern slavery across the world, with nearly 25 million held in forced labour.
- There were 3805 victims of modern slavery identified in the UK in 2016. A rising number but still well below the 10,000 and 13,000 potential victims estimated by the Home Office.
- Modern Slavery is happening nationwide. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. This can include sexual and criminal exploitation.

This Council believes

1. That actions need to be taken to raise awareness of modern slavery and the fact that it is happening all over the UK.
2. That the current support for victims is not sufficient and needs to go beyond the 45 days they are currently given by the government.
3. That councils have an important role to play in ensuring their contracts and supplies don't contribute to modern day slavery and exploitation.

This Council resolves

To adopt the Co-operative Party's Charter against Modern Slavery to ensure our procurement practices don't support slavery:

Oldham Council will:

1. Train its corporate procurement team to understand modern slavery through the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply's (CIPS) online course on Ethical Procurement and Supply.
2. Require its contractors to comply fully with the Modern Slavery Act 2015, wherever it applies with contract termination as a potential sanction for non-compliance.
3. Challenge any abnormally low-cost tenders to ensure they do not rely upon the potential contractor practising modern slavery.
4. Highlight to its suppliers that contracted workers are free to join a trade union and are not to be treated unfairly for belonging to one.
5. Publicise its whistle-blowing system for staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
6. Require its tendered contractors to adopt a whistle-blowing policy which enables their staff to blow the whistle on any suspected examples of modern slavery.
7. Review its contractual spending regularly to identify any potential issues with modern slavery.
8. Highlight for its suppliers any risks identified concerning modern slavery and refer them to the relevant agencies to be addressed.
9. Refer for investigation via the National Crime Agency's national referral mechanism any of its contractors identified as a cause for concern regarding modern slavery.
10. Report publicly on the implementation of this policy annually.

Motion 2 - Housing Strategy

Councillor Brownridge to MOVE and Councillor Chauhan to SECOND:

This Council notes that whilst the government's recognition that the housing market is broken is welcome there is grave concern about the concentration on increased numbers alone. It is essential that policy supports the creation of good quality homes that meet the needs of local communities. In Oldham the existing supply is unbalanced with a heavy preponderance of properties in the lowest council tax bands and at the same time a lack of actual affordability with almost half the population only being able to afford social rents. The numbers on the housing waiting list are growing as are the numbers of people who are homeless and who are rough sleepers

Current Government policy promotes continued growth in house prices to support continued consumer spending and this does not address the accommodation issues in areas of lower property values. This is exacerbated by the fact that social housing supply is at its lowest level since the 1930s and owner occupation is decreasing.

Due to the increase in prices the measure of need based on income may no longer be appropriate both because the levels of income need to be higher to be eligible for a mortgage but also because many jobs are no longer secure.

This Council believes that the current strategy to increase numbers is not appropriate for areas like Oldham with low property and land values and Government's proposals to amend the planning system undermines our desire to improve the quality of accommodation and the local environment. Government also proposes penalties against Local Authorities if housing numbers are not delivered, failing to recognize that while Councils determine planning applications, private companies are largely responsible for building houses.

Council therefore resolves to

- Continue to lobby through the borough's MPs and the LGA for a formal recognition that new housing must meet the needs of the local community by including a wide range of tenures and to resist the attempt of Government to impose inappropriate penalties on local authorities
- Support the GMCA's efforts to secure financial assistance for the remediation of previously developed land which is often not financially viable in areas of low value without this subsidy
- Urge the government to recognise that the planning system has an important role to play in protecting the quality of new housing and of the wider environment but new homes cannot be delivered by the planning system alone.

Motion 3 – The TUC

Councillor Fielding to MOVE and Councillor Hewitt to SECOND:

The Council notes that the 150th anniversary of the TUC is in June 2018.

Council also notes that the history of the TUC is intertwined with that of Greater Manchester, with the first meeting of the TUC taking place in 1868 at the Mechanics Institute on Princess Street in the City Centre.

Council recognises the improvements to the quality of life of working people in Oldham and across the United Kingdom that have been delivered by Trade Union campaigning, particularly on pay, conditions and safety at work.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the General Secretary of the TUC, Frances O'Grady, reaffirming this Council's commitment to Trade Unionism.

- Offer a venue and support to the North West TUC who themselves are organising a programme of events across the region to ensure that the anniversary is marked in Oldham.

14 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1 – Making Oldham a ‘Single Use Plastic-Free’ Local Authority

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor Harkness to SECOND:

Council notes that:

- The introduction of the 5p bag charge has already seen use of single-use plastic bags drop by 85%.
- However, most families still throw away about 40kg of plastic per year, which could otherwise be recycled.
- The amount of plastic waste generated annually in the UK is estimated to be nearly 5 million tonnes, which has a catastrophic effect on our environment, particularly our marine environment

Council welcomes the commitment of some major businesses to reduce their use of plastic packaging and encourages all local businesses to respond positively to the Government’s recent call for evidence on reducing plastic waste.

However, Council recognises that it is only in eliminating single-use plastic materials that we can achieve a significant reduction in plastic waste.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Cabinet to:

- Develop a robust strategy to make Oldham a ‘single-use plastic-free’ authority by the end of 2018 and encourage the Borough’s institutions, businesses and citizens to adopt similar measures:
- End the sale and provision of single use plastic products such as bottles, cups, cutlery and drinking straws in council buildings, or council supported venues, wherever possible; promoting the use of non-plastic recyclable alternatives e.g. paper straws to ensure our venues remain accessible to those with additional needs.
- Encourage traders across the Borough to sell re-usable containers and invite customers to bring their own.
- Consider the merits and practicalities of introducing a ‘window sticker’ scheme to accredit local businesses that are committed to reducing plastic waste through, for example, offering free water bottle refills.
- Investigate the possibility of requiring pop-up food and drink vendors at council supported events to avoid single use plastics as a condition of their contract; with a view to phasing out all single use plastics at markets and events in the Borough by the end of 2018.
- Work with tenants in commercial properties owned by Oldham Council to encourage them to phase out single use plastic cups, bottles, cutlery and straws.

Motion 2 – Land Value Taxation

Councillor McCann to MOVE and Councillor Gloster to SECOND:

This Council believes that Land Value Taxation (LVT) offers a credible means for local authorities to raise public revenue to fund local public services by making an annual charge upon landowners, based on the rental value of their land. This is typically

levied against the unimproved value of that land, not taking into account any buildings, services or on-site infrastructure.

Council notes that:

- LVT could be revenue-neutral; that is the revenue raised could replace taxation levied through Council Tax and Business Rates. This would lift some of the burden of meeting the cost of Council services from our Borough's low-income households and small businesses;
- LVT would encourage owners of vacant sites, particularly brown-field sites, to develop them for businesses or residential use more quickly, where planning permission has been granted, so as to generate an income rather than pay an annual charge on the unused land;
- This would discourage developers from land-banking and lead to more house building and the creation of more businesses and jobs, meaning a more vibrant Borough and less pressure to build new homes on our irreplaceable green belt;
- LVT is cheap to collect and very difficult to evade.

Council further notes that:

- Some form of LVT is already successfully in operation in over 30 countries (including Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore and several US states);
- The International Monetary Fund, the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development have all come out in favour of the tax;
- A Private Members Bill was introduced in Parliament by Caroline Lucas MP supporting LVT, and the proposal has cross-party support in principle;
- The Scottish and Welsh Governments are currently investigating the options for implementing such a tax;
- The Parliamentary Communities and Local Government Committee have just conducted an enquiry into the efficacy of various taxation methods to 'capture' increases in land value;
- The Government has appointed a panel of experts, chaired by Sir Oliver Letwin, charged with carrying out a review to 'explain the gap between the number of planning permissions being granted (for houses) against those built in areas of high demand'

This Council, recognising the merits of introducing Land Value Taxation, resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:

- Sir Oliver Letwin as Chair of the Review outlining the Council's position and asking the panel to give serious consideration to recommending to Government that LVT be introduced as a means to discouraging land-banking and accelerating housing development.
- Our three local Members of Parliament asking for their support for this position.

Motion 3 – Restricting New Hot Food Takeaways near Schools

Councillor Williamson to MOVE and Councillor Turner to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- Childhood obesity has risen to epic proportions. In October 2017, the medical journal, The Lancet, reported one in every ten young people, aged 5 to 19, in the UK are classed as obese;
- In Oldham, sadly the situation is even worse. The Public Health England profile for the Borough, published July 2017, reported that 21.9% of children at Year 6 (660 in

- total) were classed as obese;
- Obese children are more likely to become obese adults, putting them at risk of developing serious health conditions (such as type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and certain types of cancer);
 - Takeaway food, where it is unhealthy, so called junk food, is undoubtedly a contributing factor in the increase;
 - Although the Oldham School Meals Service is a Gold standard provider, regrettably some pupils chose to eat at or from takeaways;
 - In June 2016, the Royal Society for Public Health called for a ban on the delivery of takeaway meals to school gates. A survey conducted by the RSPH amongst young people found half had ordered takeaways on their smart phones and a quarter had paid for fast food to be delivered to the school gates;
 - At least 22 local authorities have adopted Supplementary Planning Documents and Local Plans that include a prohibition on new fast food takeaways within 400 metres of local schools (a buffer zone);
 - In July 2012, Oldham Council adopted a Supplementary Planning Document which placed restrictions on the density of hot food takeaways, but which did not include any restriction on new takeaways within a specified buffer zone.

Council resolves to ask the Planning Committee to investigate the desirability and practicality of:

- Introducing a prohibition on new takeaways within a 400 metre buffer zone as part of the Local Plan;

Council shall also contact all schools within the Borough to seek reassurances they:

- Enforce a 'stay-on-site' policy at lunchtimes;
- Ban the delivery of takeaways to the school gates for collection by pupils;

And to ask them to do so; if they do not.

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 77 - 112)

(time limit 7 minutes)

Health and Wellbeing Board	19 September 2017 12 December 2017
Unity Partnership Board	12 September 2017 6 December 2017
Oldham Leadership Board	24 January 2018
MioCare Board	20 November 2017

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 113 - 244)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

National Peak Park Authority	1 December 2017 2 February 2018
Police and Crime Panel	12 December 2017 18 January 2018
Fire Committee	9 February 2018

Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership Board	13 October 2017 19 January 2018
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority (GMWDA)	19 October 2017 21 December 2017 18 January 2018 8 February 2018
Transport for Greater Manchester	12 January 2018
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	24 November 2017 15 December 2017 26 January 2018
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)	24 November 2017

16 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 245 - 354)

17 Political Balance Review

Report to follow.

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

