

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Hussain

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Alcock, G. Alexander, Ames, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Blyth, Briggs, Brownridge, A Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dawson, Dean, Dearden, J Dillon, Fielding, Garry, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Houle, Hudson, Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Judge, Kirkham, Klonowski, Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, McMahan, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth

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

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 the 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 Graham Wilcock via email

“Earlier this year OMBC passed a Parking Management Plan for Crompton House School.

The Parking Management Plan is supposed to provide ‘adequate off-street parking’ when the new sports facility opens. The Parking Plan does not take into account a single one of the vehicles belonging to the 113 plus staff, the hundreds of parents, students and the 50 community sports hall users who visit Crompton House School when evening events/productions/sports hall events take place on evenings and during the same hours (17.30hrs and 21.30hrs) when the new sports facility and the sports hall are in community use. Can somebody from OMBC please explain exactly where the ‘adequate off-street parking facilities are shown to be provided on the Crompton House School site’ that caters for these vehicles so that parking does not take place on the surrounding highways to the detriment of highway safety on any evening when school evening events/sports hall use coincides with the community use of the new sports facility (that is between 17.30hrs and 21.30hrs)?”

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“Mr. Wilcock has been in contact with the Council on many occasions and has asked this question many times and has

received a consistent answer. The issues he raises were also considered via the Council's complaints procedures and ultimately referred to the Local Government Ombudsman who found in the favour of the Council.



The Parking Management Plan to which he refers was part of the planning application process for new sports facilities at the school. It has been made clear on many occasions that the Parking Management Plan can only relate to the management of the additional traffic arising from the new development to which the planning application refers and cannot be used to resolve any existing parking problems that might exist.

On this basis, the parking provision approved for the new sports facilities was considered adequate by the Local Government Ombudsman and the Council has performed its responsibilities as a planning authority correctly.

However, the Council is investigating the parking issues raised by Mr. Wilcock and in its role as highways authority is meeting with the school to see what improvements can be made."

2. Question received from Joe Fitzpatrick via email:

"This time last year you were boasting that the Arts Council had granted £5 million towards the flagship scheme for a new theatre and heritage centre, to be built on the car park at the side of the old library. There is never any mention of the scheme these days. When will work start on the theatre or is this another of your projects that has collapsed."

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region gave the following response to Mr Fitzpatrick's question:

Councillor McMahon stated that the scheme was going to plan and that it would happen.

3. Question received from Louie Hamblett via email

"Why isn't the current site not being considered as an option for the Shaw Market. consultation is this a done deal as our MP Debbie Abrahams has put out communication's stating it is going be moved to Milne Street?"

Councillor Stretton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Culture and Tourism gave the following response:

"The consultation concluded last week and we are now analysing the results of that consultation. No change is always an option. The market could stay on the existing site. What is not included in the proposals is to spend considerable sums of public money on changing the stalls on the existing site. We do not believe that this would encourage more traders or more customers to come to Shaw market.

The development of Asda and Aldi has shifted the main footfall in Shaw and we believe that by moving the market where it is more visible to supermarket shoppers we may encourage more people to also visit the market. If we can draw more people to visit the market, they may also be more likely to visit the independent shops in Shaw town centre and increase the vibrancy of Shaw District centre as a whole. This option to invest up to £120,000, depending on the chosen location, is in addition to the £100,000 Shaw High Street scheme where we are offering grants of up to £3,000 to local independent businesses to help grow their business. Together these funds represent a significant investment by this administration in Shaw.

We regularly brief our MPs on issues that affect their constituency. The option to include Market Street only became available late in the day after First Bus indicated that they were prepared to consider rerouting their bus services on market day. This opened up the additional opportunity to include an on street market on Market Street as one of the possible options.

We will be making our decision in the near future and that decision will be informed by all of the representations made during the consultation.”

4. Question received from LionGirl via Twitter

“Why is it that some people are charged for council land, and some aren't? Its not fair to those that have to pay for it. oldham council failed to put my access on the deeds resulting in my garden being cut off, so I cant get anything in or out of. I asked the council for a path, but me and my neighbour have to pay 1,800 pounds for a mitre wide strip of land. I found it quite hard to swallow when you see people with extended gardens all around you. as it happens cant raise the money for it yet, so my garden will be a mess for longer through no fault of my own had access from 2003 until 2010 if I was here and had the house with no access, then I could understand it. doesnt give me any confidence with the council. i never miss my council tax. Thats why I wanted to know. Thank you.”

Councillor Jabbar Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources gave the following response:

“I am unable to comment in detail on individual cases in this forum. However, I can confirm that land related matters are dealt with in accordance with the Council's Land and Property Protocol.”

Councillor Jabbar advised that if the questioner provided further information to the Council, in particular, name, the address and title details of the property concerned, then he would instruct officers in the Legal Department to investigate the queries and provide a detailed response.

5. Question received from Chronic Oldham via Twitter

"In 2014 how many Council meeting info releases have had information redacted because it's designated commercially sensitive?"



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Councillor Shah, Deputy Cabinet Member for Policy and Communications, gave the following response:

“During 2014 there have been 28 reports to Cabinet that have had excluded information.

This exemption is used where the council is negotiating contracts or services and the sharing of financial information could compromise our negotiating position. This approach enables us to drive the best value from our contracts for local taxpayers.

All of these reports are provided in two parts to ensure that we are able to share all the information we can in the Part A report which is public, keeping the information we need to keep private for the Part B report. The Part A of each of these reports will include a high-level explanation of why the information in the Part B report cannot be shared.

On the issue of press releases - We do not redact information from press releases due to commercial sensitivity – the releases are drafted to include only the information we can share which means there is no need for redaction.”

Councillor Shah urged the questioner to contact her if they required further information.

6. Question received from Paul De Ath via Facebook

“Why did they allow the Metrolink plans to go ahead, when the country was in recession?”

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“The Metrolink plans for the Oldham/Rochdale line were finalised long before the recent recession and in fact work started in 2008. Upgrading the route to Metrolink has resulted in more than doubling passenger journeys, compared to the old heavy rail route, and is a catalyst for sustainable economic growth along the route, which is already evident in Oldham town centre.”

7. Question received from Deborah Wroe

“I may have asked this before - Do you have an annual £ figure for cost of FOI requests? i.e. staff time?”

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources gave the following response:

“Requests are centrally logged for performance management purposes, but the requests are answered within the individual Council services. There is no process in place to capture time spent and by whom on individual FOI's as this is difficult to measure and involve a range of officers across multiple

services. i.e. the Council would expend equal amounts monitoring as we would managing Fol's.

However, research undertaken by University College London, indicates a nominal cost per request as being approx. £293 per request/transaction.



The number of requests the Council receives increases year on year. The Council received 195 requests in the first year FOI came into effect, to approximately 1048 plus as at October 2014. All of which are responded to as part of business as usual."

8. Question received from Ali Abbas via Twitter

"Will you declare Oldham a Frack Free Borough due to the unacceptable risks to local people and the environment of fracking?"

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

"Oldham cannot be declared a Frack Free Borough as this is outside the control of the Council. I can however make clear that The Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan sets out strict planning policies to ensure that if an application for fracking was submitted to the council such development would need to meet rigorous environmental standards and not result in an unacceptable impact on the environment or local residents."

9. Question received from Chris Henthorn via email

"How much did the floral displays in the town centre which has won Oldham a Britain in bloom prize, cost?"

Councillor Brownridge Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives informed the meeting that this was quite a hard question to answer and it was difficult to quantify the cost in isolation. The finance had come from a number of different streams with across the board involvement from local businesses, volunteers and local school children. Councillor Brownridge pointed out that it was not just about flowers; it was also about the cooperative effort. She had received so many compliments from outside the town and congratulated all the staff and everyone else that had been involved, for all their efforts.

10. Question received from Rhona Tupman via Facebook

"What are the plans for the site where the hostel was on Swift Road, Sholver?"

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“The former homeless hostel building on Swift Road, Sholver has recently been cleared and the site has been made secure to ensure no unauthorised access.



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In December, through our Residential Development Prospectus, the Council confirmed that we would work with First Choice Homes Oldham on plans to improve and generate new housing in Sholver. First Choice Homes have recently completed 27 new homes for affordable rent at Coleridge Road and are underway with a major refurbishment programme in the estate.

Over the next year, we will be developing a joint plan with First Choice Homes Oldham to build new homes on other sites in Sholver, including the area of the former Swift Road hostel site.”

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

The following questions were submitted by Councillors on Ward or District matters:

1. Councillor Houle to Councillor Brownridge

“Residents in Chadderton North are very concerned about the state of the streets and footpaths and particularly dislike litter. Can the appropriate cabinet member update Council and residents on the pledge that was made to recruit an additional 10 street cleaning staff and say what difference this will make in Chadderton?”

Councillor Brownridge Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“Ten additional staff continue to be employed pending the recruitment of permanent staff. Although this process is now complete we are currently awaiting DBS(CRB) checks to be returned to finalise appointments

As Cllr Houle is aware they will operate in those areas which suffer from the highest level of fly tipping and littering and will complement the cooperative approach ensuring more people take responsibility for their local environment which includes a strong approach to enforcement.

In Chadderton and some other areas of the borough the Environmental Services teams continue to maintain the streets, open spaces and Parks to the highest levels possible even though these areas do not suffer on the same scale as Oldham District. We will continue to rely on residents and Members in their role as local leaders to take an active role in their communities and pick up litter themselves. Together by taking a pride in our area we can make a big difference to the cleanliness of the town and save considerable cost.”

2. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Moores



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“Several months ago I raised the issue with regards to a footpath 190 from Thorpe Lane to Huddersfield Road in Austerlands.

We eventually got agreement that the footpath needed and would be repaired and we were told we would get progress when the new budget became available in April 2014.

Both I and the Scouthead and Austerlands Community Association have been trying to get progress ever since.

One quote for the repair work was apparently received but rejected.

Further updates have not been forthcoming. Could the cabinet member please update me on when we will get the much needed repair work to this footpath?”

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“Footpath 190 extends from Huddersfield Road, Austerlands to Thorpe Close and beyond. Part of the section from Huddersfield Road to Thorpe Close, which has a crushed stone surface, has suffered from water erosion. The section is passable by most walkers but would cause some difficulties for less able bodied persons. As such, the Highways section has agreed to carry out repairs.

In terms of timescales and value for money, the original quote for the works was considered to be too high so the Highways section has asked for more quotes from other contractors in order to benchmark the value of the works properly. In the interest of achieving value for money the works are likely to be carried out together with other similar types of programmed works for footpath repairs. It is anticipated that the works will now take place by the end of this month.”

3. Councillor Sheldon to Councillor Harrison

“My ward question relates to the trial imposed by OCL on the adult swimming sessions, by making the sessions open to all. I am concerned that OCL did not consult with the adult swimmers before introducing this trial. Uppermill pool compared to others in the borough is small in comparison. The OCL team have split the pool in half to try and accommodate part use of the pool to lane swimming. This appears not to be enough space for the adult users. There are many adult users of this session with health problems and illnesses. Swimming is the only exercise they can take part in and the adult time is so special to them.

I urge OCL to consider the merits of providing time to adults only, some with special circumstances that swimming is their only chance to exercise.

I would also like to ask OCL to canvass all users of the Saddleworth pool by means of a questionnaire before making any final decision. I believe this council and OCL should look at the advantages of the services we provide to all members of the community, and communicating with these groups find a solution best for all. The heavy handed approach to change the

service and then to call the actions a trial, are sadly lacking in what I would call a fair and democratic way of running a public service.”



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Councillor Harrison Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health gave the following response:

“As per agreement with Oldham Council and also outlined in the terms and conditions of Oldham Community Leisure’s membership, programs are subject to changes. OCL agree changes with the Council and publicise all program changes in advance on its website and at its facilities.

The Council has asked OCL to monitor all attendances to its pool programme during this trial period and report back on these on a quarterly basis. The impact of the change will be reviewed.”

4. Councillor M Bashforth to Councillor Moores

“At a recent District Executive meeting we were asked to consider a report titled "20mph Speed Limits in Residential Areas. The report asked members to support, or not, the principle of introducing such schemes where appropriate and goes on to say "implement a pilot scheme in an area". All Royton North and South members agreed to this.

In Royton South we believe we have an idea area for any proposed such pilot scheme and are asking that it can be investigated further. The area would be the streets immediately surrounding Royton Park ie Bleasdale Street, Milton Street and Radcliffe Street. These streets are residential and surround a very busy well used public park in the centre of Royton, an area that is very busy during the daytime, especially on market days. Additionally, Bleasdale Street is the main access route to several 100 homes on the 'Dales' and is the site for some 32 new homes currently being built. Radcliffe Street is a main access to Royton Park, Chaser Street estate and Royton ATC, and is soon to be adjacent to the site of the new Royton Leisure Centre.

I believe these conditions make the site idea for a pilot and ask that this is seriously considered with a view to starting as soon as possible.”

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“Over the last 6 months at the request of Council, officers have been looking at the feasibility of introducing a 20mph speed restriction on residential roads within the borough. It is still early days and the effectiveness of introducing 20mph speed limits without physical measures has not yet been fully evaluated. However, where evaluation by other authorities has taken place, it has identified a positive effect on the reduction of traffic speed in residential areas and consequently the level of accident occurrence.



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As a result, an options paper is being developed which includes an option to develop a pilot scheme in one particular area of the Borough.

The options paper has been provided to O/S for pre scrutiny, which was recommended to be taken forward to Full Council. Clarification was requested as to the process undertaken to choose the pilot scheme area.

In relation to the choice of pilot area detailed within the options report, we recognise that there are potentially numerous suitable areas for consideration but need to prioritise one area specifically. The proposal was developed on an area with the highest accident rate. The Coldhurst Ward has the highest record in all three measured areas namely;

- The number of accidents that have occurred
- The severity of injury and
- The number of pedestrian accidents that have occurred

In terms of the area proposed as a pilot, approximately 1/3rd of Coldhurst already has traffic calming measures in place (physical measures such as road humps) whilst 1/3rd is medical / Industrial. The remaining 1/3rd does not have any type of speed reducing features in place. Despite this Coldhurst still represents a suitable area to carry out the pilot, not least of all, due to the high level of actual accidents.

It should also be noted that due to the layout of the road network, the pilot area also encroaches into the St Mary's Ward. As a point to note St Mary's has the second highest number of recorded accidents in the Borough. Although this pilot is not representative of the Borough it does allow for learning points in terms of a high density/ high accident area and enables early interventions to be determined within available funding."

5. Councillor McCann to Councillor Moores

"Once again we seem to have an increasing number of "A Boards" and other signage on pavements which in many areas, especially the older ones as in Saddleworth, are narrow enough without further obstructions.

They are found not only up against the advertiser's wall and so may be on the curtilage of that property, but also on the outside of the pavement or just plonked in the middle. These are very noticeable and easily skirted by the majority of pedestrians, but they are a real hazard for the blind or partially sighted, and an obstruction for a wheelchair or pram.

Could I therefore ask what action Council officers are authorised to take to remove or re-position such items when A-boards are seen to be on the pavement or otherwise in the public realm before someone is hurt?"

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

"The Council is committed to supporting local businesses in the Borough and has therefore resisted the implementation of a

restrictive licensing regime for the placing of 'A' boards on the highway.

It is a relatively few boards which cause an issue to pedestrians and any reported concerns are investigated on a case by case basis to enable an informed view to be taken. Whilst Officers could serve notices for the removal of such items from the pavements, the current approach is informed by the risk presented and working with the support of local businesses.”



6. Councillor Sheldon to Councillor Moores

“The footpath from Bridge St to Spring St Uppermill has been closed for many months after a land slip. Can Councillor Moores please confirm that a way forward is being made to determine who owns the land which has slipped on to the path, and when we can expect the path to be open for public use again?”

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“Footpath 242 Saddleworth was closed on the 23 January 2014. Sections of the footpath had been eroded and trees from the adjacent land had fallen across the path blocking the right of way. The trees were removed at the expense of the adjacent landowner after serving a notice on the landowner.

These events took place after a period of heavy rain and at a time when the adjacent landowner was carrying out earthworks for an extension. The Council’s Geotechnical expert stated that the land was unstable and unsafe for public use.

The Council do not own the land on which the footpath is situated. We have an obligation to maintain the surface safe to use but this obligation does not extend to the repair of the river bank or stabilising the land on which the footpath is situated. It is not considered practical to instruct or order the adjacent landowner to stabilising the land. We have no evidence of the land’s previous stability and with heavy rainfall and consequent high river levels, which can erode the riverbank, there are a number of contributory factors which could have contributed to the current situation.

It is considered practical for the Council to commission a reassessment of the situation after the heaviest rainfall months. As erosion of the footpath has occurred by collapse of land into the river it is considered that any repair will involve river bank stabilization which will have to involve bidding for a capital allocation.”

7. Councillor Roberts to Councillor Harrison

“Would the relevant Cabinet member join with me in congratulating Oldham's Jess Lloyd and Nicola White for their medal winning performances at the Commonwealth Games and Jess Fullalove from Royton for her contribution as the youngest member of the England's swimming team in Glasgow and her

medal winning performances at the Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing.”



Councillor Harrison Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health informed the meeting that she would be delighted to join Councillor Roberts in congratulating the two athletes on their fantastic performances and would ensure that this was conveyed to them all.

8. Councillor Azad to Councillor Moores

“Can the relevant cabinet member, please tell us when the subway on Oldham by pass opposite the Westhulme Avenue will be reopened.”

Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“The civil engineering works to refurbish the subway are now complete, the only outstanding works relate to the replacement of the lighting system which was destroyed by vandalism of the subway. Fortunately, the lighting system forms part of the contractual arrangement with Eon and discussions are underway to timetable the work at no additional cost to the Council. Eon has been requested to progress this works so the subway can be reopened in the near future.”

9. Councillor Murphy to Councillor Moores

“Due to the positive response to the consultation on local areas being included in the Site Allocation Plan and the responses by residents concerned about Shawside Park being looked at for potential housing or mixed use, can the cabinet member please provide an update as to when the Site Allocation Plan will be considered by the Independent Planning Inspectorate as detailed in the Head of Planning's email at the beginning of March?”

Councillor Moores Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member gave the following response:

“The Site Allocation Plan process is still on-going but will now directly relate to the emerging Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, Development Plan Document, which on the basis of robust evidence and the latest population projections will set out employment and housing land requirements across the 10 districts within Greater Manchester for the next 15/20 years. This document is an integral part of Oldham's duty to co-operate and as such both processes will need to be carried out in unison. As such whilst work will continue on the allocations plan it is unlikely that it will be ready to be examined in public by the Planning Inspectorate before 2018.”

10. Councillor Garry to Councillor Chadderton

“The UKIP twitter page dated 18 August contains the following post:

“Remember, we don’t just target universities! Contact chris-simpson31 if you have any ideas regarding UKIP in schools or colleges.”

What reassurance can I receive that this will not happen in any Failsworth or Oldham Schools or colleges?”

Councillor Chadderton Cabinet member for Education and Safeguarding gave the following response:

“All schools are mindful of their duties in regard to improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) development of all pupils. This is inspected by OFSTED and is the subject of guidance from the Department for Education.

Recent amendments are aimed to ensure that schools do not promote extremist views, or partisan political views, through their curriculum and/or teaching, but also offer pupils a balanced presentation of views when political issues are brought to their attention.

On this basis schools in Oldham would resist campaigning by any political party, and would only invite a speaker in if it was as part of a balanced political debate.

Political activity by any party aimed at recruiting members or supporters would not be tolerated by schools, and if this took place immediately outside of school or college premises would be reported via Oldham Council’s Community Tensions reporting mechanism or to my team.

I hope this gives Councillor Garry the assurances she requires.”

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

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adrian Alexander, Hibbert and Sedgwick.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2014 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2014 be approved as a correct record.

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

In accordance with the Code of Conduct Councillors Dean, Jabbar, McCann, Shah and Sykes all declared a personal interest in Item 15 – Minutes of the Unity Partnership Board, by virtue of their appointment to the Board. Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary interest in Item 12 – Notice of Administration Business - Motion 1 relating to cuts in police funding.

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

The Mayor informed the meeting that no items of Urgent Business had been received.

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

The Mayor informed the meeting of the recent deaths of Harry Burns, FCHO Chair and Keith Bennell, a former member of staff. Council stated that Members' thoughts were with both families and friends

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that four petitions had been received for noting by Council.

RESOLVED that the following petitions received since the last meeting of the Council be noted:

Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives

Petition relating to Land Surrounding the Former Fytton Arms, Oldham (received 5th September 2014) (126 signatures) (Ref 2014-015)

Corporate and Commercial Services

Petition relating to a request to Move Free Car Parking Monday to Fridays from 2pm to 6pm on Council Owned Car Parks in the Town Centre (received 30th September 2014) (76 signatures) (Ref 2014-017)

Petition Against Non-Residents Parking on Egerton Street Car Parks (received 3rd October) (58 signatures) (Ref 2014-018)

Petition Against the Use of Denton Lane by Large Long Heavy Goods Vehicles (received 8th October 2014) (203 signatures) (Ref 2014-21)

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 3

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council is proud to offer its support to former and current service personnel in Britain's armed forces. This support is encapsulated in its Community Covenant.

Royal British Legion Industries is a registered charity that provides rehabilitation, accommodation and employment for disabled and disadvantaged former service personnel. RBLI operates as a social enterprise deriving its income from the manufacture of Department for Transport regulatory road signage and other instructional and safety critical items for local authorities, the Ministry of Defence, Network Rail, and other partners.

Profits derived from these commercial activities are recycled to provide support and training to former service personnel and their families wherever they may be located.

Amongst the services this income supports are Lifework courses for service personnel adjusting to a civilian life and career.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport to investigate appointing Royal British Legion Industries as a preferred supplier of road signage to this authority
- Ask the Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise to provide the necessary Council facilities and any other assistance free of charge to the Royal British Legion Industries to enable them to offer Lifework courses in this borough
- Ask these Cabinet Members to bring a progress report to December's Council meeting."

AMENDMENT

Councillor Harrison MOVED and Councillor Brownridge SECONDED the following Amendment:

Delete: – Ask the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport to investigate appointing Royal British Legion Industries as a preferred supplier of road signage for this authority.

Ask the Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise to provide the necessary Council facilities and any other assistance free of charge to the Royal British Legion Industries to enable them to offer Lifework courses in this borough.

Ask the Cabinet Members to bring a progress report to December's Council meeting.

Insert: – Contact the Royal British Legion Industries to encourage them to participate in the tendering process to supply road signage to the borough.

Ensure that the Royal British Legion Industries is aware of the Council's community lettings policy to assist them to offer Lifework Courses in the borough.

Motion will then read:

This Council is proud to offer its support to former and current service personnel in Britain's armed forces. This support is encapsulated in its Community Covenant.

Royal British Legion Industries is a registered charity that provides rehabilitation, accommodation and employment for disabled and disadvantaged former service personnel. RBLI operates as a social enterprise deriving its income from the manufacture of Department for Transport regulatory road signage and other instructional and safety critical items for local authorities, the Ministry of Defence, Network Rail, and other partners.

Profits derived from these commercial activities are recycled to provide support and training to former service personnel and their families wherever they may be located.

Amongst the services this income supports are Lifework courses for service personnel adjusting to a civilian life and career.

This Council resolves to:

Contact the Royal British Legion Industries to encourage them to participate in the tendering process to supply road signage to the borough.

Ensure that the Royal British Legion Industries is aware of the Council's community lettings policy to assist them to offer Lifework Courses in the borough."

No Members spoke on the AMENDMENT.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.

Councillor Harrison exercised her right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. Council contact the Royal British Legion Industries to encourage them to participate in the tendering process to supply road signage to the borough.
2. Ensure that the Royal British Legion Industries is aware of the Council's community lettings policy to assist them to offer Lifework Courses in the borough."

9

YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Councillors spoke on the following Motion:

"The Youth Council note that political apathy is a term usually associated with young people. Whether it is low voter turnout, absence from democratic processes or the lack of knowledge to make informed decisions, young people have been identified as the one demographic extremely disengaged from politics.

The Youth Council believe the Political parties represented in our council should consider creating youth manifestos for the

young people in Oldham in the run up to the 2015 May elections.



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A youth manifesto could contain party values and pledges, as a normal manifesto would, but would be relevant to young people. Engage us. It would enable the young people of Oldham to understand how each political party plans to make their lives and the society we live in a better place through your party politics.

The Green Party is currently the only political party in the country to have a youth manifesto. Their youth manifesto is easily accessible, caters for a young audience and is relevant. It's no wonder Young Greens have a membership of over 3000. With only 1% of the population belonging to political parties at all, this is a huge statistic. Let's learn from this, and see Oldham Council reap the rewards of politically educating its fantastic young people.

This motion is a part of our Borough wide League of Young Voters campaign which aims to revive the youth vote. Oldham Council has already moved mountains by offering £1000 to support the Youth Council to increase voter turnout amongst 18-24 year olds. This is a massive step in the right direction. As part of this work we will be carrying out a Borough wide consultation on young peoples attitudes to voting, delivering workshops to young people about why engaging in democracy is important and delivering a roadshow around colleges and 6th forms that will encourage young people on to the electoral register. We want the youth in Oldham to be aware of the political stance of the parties that make up their council. Each party would be able to tell the youth of Oldham where your party stands on the economy, the environment, jobs, education and housing and so much more. Oldham Youth Council aspires to see this generation in our Borough acknowledge that Oldham Council cares about the youth vote.

This Youth Council resolves:

- That each political party considers creating a youth manifesto and make voter apathy amongst young people in Oldham a thing of the past.
- That the political parties represented in this chamber consider creating and delivering a youth specific manifesto that reaches out to the many thousands of potential young voters in Oldham in the run up to the May 2015 elections.

Please show your support and vote in favour of this motion. Young people are the future of democracy. If we don't take an interest now, where does this leave our democratic process in 20 years?"

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and City Region, thanked the Youth Council for submitting the motion to the meeting, he pointed out however that there was an issue with the motion itself in that as it stood a number of holes were evident. He went on to point out that at this stage in the political calendar all the Party manifestos

had already been agreed and the opportunity for did not exist between now and the General Election to create such a manifesto. Councillor McMahon also pointed out that Members belonged to Political Parties but served on Groups on the Council and did not have Leaders of the Parties but Group Leaders. It was with these Group Leaders that Councillor McMahon suggested that a meeting be convened and a Youth Council representative be invited to discuss the issues arising.

Councillors Chadderton, Williamson, Fielding and Hudson all spoke on the Motion.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor McMahon and **SECONDED** by Councillor Hudson that under the Council's Constitution - Part 4 - Rules of Procedure - Rule 8.4d this motion be referred to a future meeting of Joint Leadership to which a representative of the Youth Council would be invited.

On being put to the **VOTE** this suggestion was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

RESOLVED that the Motion be referred to a future meeting of Joint Leadership to which representatives of the Youth Council would be invited to attend.

10

LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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

Question 1 – “My first question to the Leader tonight concerns the all-important issue of Devolution.

The enthusiasm of the people of Scotland in campaigning in the Referendum and in casting their ballot on 18 September provides a model for participatory democracy that we should hope to emulate in this Borough.

Particularly noteworthy, when related to the business brought before this Council by the Youth Council is that young voters in Scotland, especially those voters aged 16 and 17, became fully engaged in the Democratic Process.

The Leader is, I know, well aware that the Scottish Referendum has led to increased discussion on the devolution of further powers and revenue not only to Scotland, but from Central Government in Westminster and Whitehall to Town Halls throughout England.

The desire amongst elected Members and voters in England for devolution is also great.

For too long now, Central Government has been seen to be just that – central and remote from the lives of people in their own localities with powers and monies flowing downwards from the centre and sometimes grudgingly given.

Yet elected Members and local people know what is best for their own towns and communities. And Councils have well-established partnership arrangements to enable them to work effectively with key local players in the statutory, voluntary, faith and business sectors.

These two factors mean that Councils could deliver a greater range of Devolved Services more efficiently and responsively. I am sure that every elected Member in this Chamber would welcome more authority to do things that benefit the people of this Borough and to keep more of the revenue raised locally in order to do so.

The Liberal Democrat Group would certainly welcome the chance to work with this Administration to secure for Oldham the powers and finance to build a successful and prosperous future for our Borough and its people.

Can the Leader tell me how the Liberal Democrat Group can work with Labour to press the case for devolution?

And can he please tell us what progress has so far been made by the Leaders in the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities in making the case to Government?

And what the proposal for 'an Eleventh Leader' of the Combined Greater Manchester Authority actually means in practice?"

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council, appreciated the sentiment and acknowledged that the recent referendum in Scotland had sparked a debate in England; he stated that this was something that as a town or a City Region we should grab. Discussions were currently taking place at Government level and hopefully a statement would be issued before Christmas on what devolution would mean for Greater Manchester. In the Leader's opinion Oldham's position was clear, the Council wanted to retain sovereignty; it was not about giving up powers but gaining additional power and it needed to be something that was wanted by the general public, but not another layer of government or bureaucracy. The Leader had a strong belief that this was about economic growth.

Question 2 - Public Health.

"I want to highlight two Public Health issues.

First a success story; this Borough has recently recorded one of the biggest falls in teenage pregnancies in the Country.

The Office for National Statistics has recently confirmed that the Teenage Conception Rate has dropped by almost two thirds since 1998; the largest reduction anywhere outside of London and Darlington.

This is all down to the outstanding work of the Oldham Teenage Pregnancy Partnership to whom I want to place on record my congratulations and thanks for a job well done.

However I now want to highlight a health issue in which Oldham is far from the leader.

In recently released Public Health England data, that compared all Local Authorities in England, more than one-quarter of three-year-olds in Oldham were found to be suffering from tooth decay.

We are not the worst - in Leicester it is tragically 34 per cent of three-year-olds – but we are far from the best.

The high level of tooth decay is in large part due to the fact that parents are giving infants too much fruit juice and squash.

Tooth decay is no small matter.



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Quite apart from the discomfort and pain that is suffered, it has been shown that small children struggle to feed nutritiously and it has an impact on social skills and vocalisation.

So there is much work to be done in this area, yet it is estimated that this year there will be a significant underspend in Public Health funding.

I should very much look forward to the day on which I can rise in this Chamber to congratulate our Public Health Team on being number 1 on this issue also.

So can the Leader please tell me what has been done so far to educate parents on this issue?

And can he tell me how much of the under-spend from the Public Health Budget he will use to re-double our efforts to educate parents about tooth decay in young children?"

Councillor McMahon acknowledged that these were both very important issues; the teenage pregnancy statistics for the Borough had not been good and this had resulted in work being undertaken to combat the issue. There was a need for people to make conscious decisions about their future for themselves and not rely on other people; it was an issue of raising awareness, giving contraceptive advice and also providing emotional support. The Leader promised to circulate a briefing note to all Members informing them of the work being carried out by the Council in relation to the issue of tackling tooth decay.

Question 3 - Geothermic Heat

"My final question concerns geothermic heat; that is heat sourced from below ground to heat homes and other buildings. Let us be clear from the outset – I am not referring to fracking. The Times reported recently that a 350-million year old volcano located deep beneath Stoke-on-Trent could help to heat more than a thousand homes.

On reading this article I naturally checked the facts as my first thought was that this must be a late-running April Fools' Day joke.

But no; Stoke-on-Trent City Council has prepared a business case to drill a 2.5km borehole to an aquifer in which the water is heated naturally to at least 85C (185F in old money).

This heat would be transferred to the surface to heat homes and the Government has pledged £20million to fund it.

This got me thinking.

It is unlikely that Oldham sits on an ancient volcano, but we do have a rich coal mining heritage (as those amongst you who have seen the 19th Century photographic panorama of the Town Centre in Gallery Oldham will know).

So I wondered do former coal mines give off residual ground-source heat which we could possibly utilise as part of the borough's renewable energy strategy.

And guess what they DO....

The Herald in Scotland reported in November 2013 that:

"As much as a third of the heat needed to keep Scotland warm could be provided by tapping geothermal energy from old coal mines across the central belt, a major new study for the Scottish Government has concluded.

“Warm water piped up from abandoned mine shafts between Glasgow and Edinburgh and in Ayrshire and Fife could help heat many thousands of homes and other buildings for decades, Researchers said. They are urging Ministers to embark on an ambitious attempt to make geothermal energy a major new source of clean, renewable power within a few years.”

As Oldham is far from unique in historically sourcing power from coal, would the Leader be agreeable to looking to commission with the other Leaders of the Greater Manchester Authorities a study of the potential of this power source across our county?”

Councillor McMahon advised that he did not have the details to hand to respond to this question but informed the meeting that Oldham College was currently looking at green technology and advised that a cross party group would be coming together on 11th November 2014 to discuss these type of issues.

Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Hudson, put the following question to the Leader:

Councillor Hudson referred to the fact that sewer works on Church Road had now been completed and asked that the measures that had been put in place in relation to car parking and charges etc. during the road works could remain. He pointed out that the arrangements appeared to be working for both residents and businesses and asked the Leader if he would look into the possibility of retaining these arrangements.

Councillor McMahon agreed to speak with the relevant Cabinet Member regarding this issue.

The Leader of the UKIP Group, Councillor Klonowski, put the following question to the Leader:

Councillor Klonowski referred to a recent meeting that had taken place in relation to a planning application in the Chadderton South Ward. Prior to the application being submitted to Planning Committee; a meeting, from which a resident had been banned from attending, had taken place. Councillor Klonowski advised that the person in question had been asked to attend the meeting by, and on behalf of local residents.

Councillor McMahon advised that he had been made aware of the issue and requested that it be placed on record that no member of the public had been asked to leave a public meeting. The situation had arisen whereby a member of the public had been requested to leave a private meeting between a Cabinet Member and one of his constituents.

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Briggs to Councillor Moores

“The introduction of Metro Link to Oldham Town Centre has proved to be a great success. It is now so popular that it is often impossible to get a seat.

Can the Cabinet Member responsible for Transport tell us whether there are any plans to increase provision by either increasing the number of carriages on each tram, or increasing the number of trams by running them more frequently?”



Councillor Moores, Cluster Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave the following response:

“The success of the Metrolink service in Oldham is something that we can all celebrate. Transport for Greater Manchester is keen to add extra capacity to the Oldham/Rochdale line and have plans in place to do this. However, there are a number of factors that have to be taken into consideration including track capacity, buying more trams and having the new Tram Management System in place across the whole of the Greater Manchester network.

The implementation of the Second City Crossing will provide additional track capacity and resilience through the City Centre which is vital to the ability to operate more frequent services.

Metrolink monitors demand on all its services constantly and they have been able to increase the number of double units operating on Oldham Rochdale Line service particularly at important peak times and the frequency of services will increase when the additional Shaw and Crompton service commences.

When the network is complete the additional services and higher frequency capability will provide much greater interchange opportunities allowing a wider range of journey opportunities with many interchanges not requiring a change of platform.

There is a steady programme to increase the numbers of available trams and during 2015 Metrolink will take delivery of their 104th tram. The availability of vehicles and the further spread of the tram management system across the network also enhances the ability to add capacity. You may have also heard that Greater Manchester, as part of the city deal agreed between Government and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority a couple of weeks ago, that additional funding has been agreed to increase the number of Metrolink trams. All of this is good news for the Greater Manchester and Oldham economy.

Lastly, whilst it may seem to be a relatively simple exercise to have trams run more frequently on one line, Greater Manchester now has a much larger network to manage. There will be changes made to a number of services once the Second City Crossing has been completed and once the new Tram Management System is in place across the whole network.

As soon as we have more information about the changes, I will make sure that they are announced”

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that the time limit for this section had expired and invited observations on the responses received.



Observations

Councillor Dillon – Metrolink – commented on his involvement in the expansion of Metrolink and stated that he was pleased that the line to the Airport would be open in November.

Councillor Moores referred to the fact that further additional trams had been purchased and the project was progressing well; he was pleased that there was all party support for Metrolink.

Councillor Shuttleworth commented on Councillor Klonowski's question to the Leader and urged Members to obtain the full facts before raising questions at Council meetings.

Councillor McMahon commented that he had respect for everyone in the Chamber who had been elected but pointed out that with election came a great weight of responsibility from the moment that your name appears on the ballot paper.

Councillor Bates commented that he had been elected locally and at the end of the day would always support local residents.

The Mayor advised that if there were no further observations then there would be sufficient time under this item to take further questions from Members and the following questions were raised:

2. Councillor Shuttleworth to Councillor Jabbar

“The Liberal Democrats have been accused of *'outrageous hypocrisy'* by one or two Tory MP's following their all too late opposition to the bedroom tax, and for the benefit of Cllr Harkness and his colleagues, I repeat bedroom tax, a phrase reportedly used by Vince Cable as he went to cast his vote in August.

Remember it was only two years ago that the Liberal Democrats backed this policy.

Of course the Party opposite have always opposed any criticism which this side of the Chamber has levelled against a coalition policy that has had such a detrimental impact on many residents within Oldham.

May I therefore ask Cllr Jabbar if he would inform Members?

1. how many residents within Oldham has this tax affected?
2. what has been the economic cost to the borough?
3. and with both the local and general elections now some 8 months away, does he believe that we should remove or at least cover up the 'no u turn' signs on the highways in order to prevent any confusion for the Liberal Democrats”

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member, Finance and Human Resources responded stating that the bedroom tax had had a

devastating effect on many local residents. This policy had not achieved what the Government had originally intended but had caused hardship and misery. People had been allocated housing on the grounds of medical need and had gone through a process to get the accommodation but now could not afford it. In response to the first question Councillor Jabbar informed the meeting that the current number of properties that had been subject to a reduction in benefit was 1,769. To answer Councillor Shuttleworth's second question he added that the economic cost to the borough had been a £1.078m reduction in Housing Benefit per annum.

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

RESOLVED that the questions raised and the responses to those questions; along with the observations made, be noted.

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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 Cabinet Minutes for the Meeting held on 26th August 2014 were submitted. The Mayor reminded the meeting that, as previously agreed by Council, the last eight minutes of this section would be reserved for observations on responses received and responses to observations.

Questions and observations were raised by the following Councillors on Cabinet Minutes, as detailed below:

Questions

1. Councillor Rehman – Cabinet Meeting – 26th August 2014 – page 39 – Item 6 - Oldham Interim Education Strategy 2014/15. Councillor Rehman congratulated the Cabinet Member for the work carried out on Oldham's Interim Education Strategy and asked for a brief summary of what it would mean for the Borough.

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Safeguarding, advised that the Strategy was an Interim Strategy and so was not a lengthy document. Members were informed that the purpose of the full Strategy was to drive up standards of Education in the Borough whilst at the same time maximising the contribution that education could play in a co-operative Borough.

Observations



1. Councillor Harkness - Cabinet Meeting – 26th August 2014 – page 40 – Item 7 – DWP Youth Contract Wage Incentive Scheme. Councillor Harkness pointed out that Greater Manchester had received one of the largest shares from the Youth Contract Wage Incentive Scheme and added that more had been carried out by this government to get people back in to work than any previous government. Councillor Harkness expressed his surprise at the fact that the Cabinet had not been aware of the fact that the cut off period had been brought forward.

Councillor Akhtar Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise pointed out that the Get Oldham Working Programme had created 1300 work related opportunities and the Council had utilised the youth contract to maximum effect. Colleagues from AGMA had been surprised at the decision which had been communicated at a week's notice. Councillor Akhtar stated that the harsh reality was that the Coalition Government had pulled the funding without any consultation which, when dealing with young people, in his opinion, was irresponsible. The Council had been left to pick up the pieces.

2. Councillor S Bashforth - Cabinet Meeting – 26th August 2014 – page 43 – Item 11 – Quarter 1 Performance Report June 2014 Councillor Bashforth commented on the Get Oldham Working figures; the success of the Warm Homes Initiative and the number of empty properties that had been brought back in to use; all these were good news stories and asked that congratulations be conveyed to all those involved in these schemes/projects.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Minutes of the Cabinet held on 26th August 2014 be noted.
2. The questions and observations on the Cabinet Minutes, together with the responses given, be noted.

12

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Shuttleworth MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following Motion:

“This Council expresses its grave concern and profound dismay at the serious effect past, recent and future cuts in police funding are having and will have, on neighbourhood policing throughout Oldham. Neighbourhood policing teams have been reduced so much in terms of police numbers that whole communities fear that they will be left without an adequate police presence.

This Council believes that, as a result of the continuing reduction in police funding, with reportedly another £80 million still to be

found and its detrimental effect on the concept of neighbourhood policing, there is an urgent need for immediate and concentrated action on this matter.



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This Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to make strong representations to: The three Members of Parliament who represent the borough, the Home Secretary, the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police to immediately remedy this situation.”

Councillor Harrison spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor S Bashforth spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Alcock spoke on the motion.

Councillor Dean spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ames spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor McLaren spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Shuttleworth exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be instructed to make strong representations to the three Members of Parliament who represent the borough and also to the Home Secretary, the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police asking them to immediately remedy this situation.

Motion 2

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Dearden as Mover of the Motion, and Councillor Haque as Secunder of the Motion, requested that Council permit the following Motion to be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting:

“Oldham Council, with its responsibility for Public Health, is determined to improve health outcomes in the borough.

This Council notes:

There are three and a half million overweight or obese children in England.

That one in every seven hospital beds is occupied by someone with diabetes.

The number of admissions in NHS hospitals with a primary diagnosis of obesity has risen over 11 times in the last decade.

That 34 per cent of children in year six in Oldham are overweight or obese.

That 6.4 per cent of Oldham’s population are recorded as having diabetes; this is above the average for England.

The NHS currently spends £1 million an hour on diabetes, equivalent to 10 per cent of its annual budget. If a new

government allows local government to reinvest a fifth of existing VAT on soft drinks, fast food and confectionery in activity programmes, it could help to prevent problems such as obesity and diabetes to help reduce the burden of ill health later in life.

This Council Resolves:

To support the Local Government Association's First 100 days of the next government campaign.

Also to instruct The Chief Executive to write to the leaders of all three parties calling on them to adopt the proposal in '100 days' to help the three and a half million overweight or obese children by reinvesting a fifth of existing VAT on soft drinks, fast food and confectionery on activity programmes."

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over to the next Council meeting, to be held on 17th December 2014.

13

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Blyth SECONDED the following motion:

"This Council notes the publication in August by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of a report on e-cigarettes.

Since 2005, the e-cigarette industry has grown to an estimated £2 billion global business with 466 brands. Many manufacturers are unregulated cottage industries in China, but this is a business in which the established tobacco industry is gaining an increasing market share.

E-cigarettes and similar devices are frequently marketed by manufacturers as aids to quit smoking, or as a healthier alternative to tobacco.

The WHO has concluded that:

- There is insufficient evidence that e-cigarettes help smokers to quit. The organisation therefore recommends that smokers should first be encouraged to quit smoking by using a combination of already-approved treatments.
- The marketing of e-cigarettes with fruit, candy and alcohol-drink flavours makes them particularly attractive to young people, with an estimate that e-cigarette use amongst adolescents has doubled between 2008 and 2012.
- Whilst e-cigarettes are likely to be less toxic than conventional cigarettes, they do contain nicotine so their use can harm adolescents and the unborn children of pregnant mothers, and those in the vicinity of a user are exposed to nicotine and other toxicants.

The WHO calls for the introduction of international regulations to:

- Impede e-cigarette promotion to non-smokers and young people

- Minimise health risks to e-cigarette users and non-users
- Prohibit unproven health claims about e-cigarettes
- Protect existing tobacco control efforts from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry
- Further research on the impact of e-cigarette use

The report makes several recommendations to national Governments to:

- Establish an appropriate body to restrict e-cigarette advertising, promotion and sponsorship, to ensure that these products are not targeted at young people and non-smokers.
- Enact legislation to end the use of e-cigarettes indoors in public or work places.
- A ban on e-cigarettes with fruit, candy or alcohol-drink flavours to deter take up by young people.
- A ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and the prohibition of vending machines
- Regulate the involvement of the established tobacco industry.

Council notes also the work of the UK Government's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency review of the efficacy of e-cigarettes in helping smokers to quit.

This Council resolves to:

Ask the Director of Public Health to:

- ensure that measures are in place to make Council staff and the public aware of the dangers associated with the use of e-cigarettes
- promote the use of existing proven treatments and support services, rather than the use of e-cigarettes, as the means to stop smoking
- support the recruitment and training of Council employees to become Community Health Champions to help take these messages to their colleagues and to the public
- ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, asking the minister to:
adopt the recommendations of the WHO report as part of Government policy, enacting the necessary legislation and regulations as soon as possible and publish the findings of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency review at the earliest possible opportunity"

AMENDMENT

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following Amendment:

"Insert after the words "the work of the UK Government's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency review of the efficacy of e-cigarettes in helping smokers to quit" a further bullet point and further wording as follows:-

“with regret, the decision by the Committee of Advertising Practice to issue revised guidance permitting advertisements on television showing e-cigarettes in use from 10th November”



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Insert a further bullet point and further wording at the very end of the original motion:-

“Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Committee of Advertising Practice drawing attention to the WHO research and asking them to rescind approval of the revised guidance in light of the findings”

The motion as amended would then read:

“This Council notes the publication in August by the World Health Organisation (WHO) of a report on e-cigarettes. Since 2005, the e-cigarette industry has grown to an estimated £2 billion global business with 466 brands. Many manufacturers are unregulated cottage industries in China, but this is a business in which the established tobacco industry is gaining an increasing market share.

E-cigarettes and similar devices are frequently marketed by manufacturers as aids to quit smoking, or as a healthier alternative to tobacco.

The WHO has concluded that:

- There is insufficient evidence that e-cigarettes help smokers to quit. The organisation therefore recommends that smokers should first be encouraged to quit smoking by using a combination of already-approved treatments.
- The marketing of e-cigarettes with fruit, candy and alcohol-drink flavours makes them particularly attractive to young people, with an estimate that e-cigarette use amongst adolescents has doubled between 2008 and 2012.
- Whilst e-cigarettes are likely to be less toxic than conventional cigarettes, they do contain nicotine so their use can harm adolescents and the unborn children of pregnant mothers, and those in the vicinity of a user are exposed to nicotine and other toxicants.

The WHO calls for:

- The introduction of international regulations to:

Impede e-cigarette promotion to non-smokers and young people

Minimise health risks to e-cigarette users and non-users

Prohibit unproven health claims about e-cigarettes

Protect existing tobacco control efforts from commercial and other vested interests of the tobacco industry

- Further research on the impact of e-cigarette use

The report makes several recommendations to national Governments to:

- Establish an appropriate body to restrict e-cigarette advertising, promotion and sponsorship, to ensure that

these products are not targeted at young people and non-smokers.

- Enact legislation to end the use of e-cigarettes indoors in public or work places.
- A ban on e-cigarettes with fruit, candy or alcohol-drink flavours to deter take up by young people.
- A ban on the sale of e-cigarettes to minors and the prohibition of vending machines
- Regulate the involvement of the established tobacco industry.

Council notes also:

- the work of the UK Government's Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency review of the efficacy of e-cigarettes in helping smokers to quit
- with regret, the decision by the Committee of Advertising Practice to issue revised guidance permitting advertisements on television showing e-cigarettes in use from 10th November

This Council resolves to:

Ask the Director of Public Health to:

- ensure that measures are in place to make Council staff and the public aware of the dangers associated with the use of e-cigarettes
- promote the use of existing proven treatments and support services, rather than the use of e-cigarettes, as the means to stop smoking
- support the recruitment and training of Council employees to become Community Health Champions to help take these messages to their colleagues and to the public
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, asking the minister to:

adopt the recommendations of the WHO report as part of Government policy, enacting the necessary legislation and regulations as soon as possible
publish the findings of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency review at the earliest possible opportunity

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Committee of Advertising Practice drawing attention to the WHO research and asking them to rescind approval of the revised guidance in light of the findings”

Councillor Dearden spoke in the support of the Amendment.

Councillor Heffernan spoke in support of the Amendment.

It was **MOVED** by Councillor Fielding and **SECONDED** by Councillor Chadderton that without further debate Council **MOVE TO THE VOTE** on the **AMENDMENT**.

On being put to the vote Council AGREED UNANIMOUSLY to MOVE TO THE VOTE.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT

On being put to the vote it was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the AMENDMENT be CARRIED.

Councillor Sykes waived his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION and it was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY that the MOTION be CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. Council ask the Director of Public Health to:

- ensure that measures are in place to make Council staff and the public aware of the dangers associated with the use of e-cigarettes
- promote the use of existing proven treatments and support services, rather than the use of e-cigarettes, as the means to stop smoking
- support the recruitment and training of Council employees to become Community Health Champions to help take these messages to their colleagues and to the public

2. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, asking the Minister to:

- adopt the recommendations of the WHO report as part of Government policy, enacting the necessary legislation and regulations as soon as possible
- publish the findings of the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency review at the earliest possible opportunity

3. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Committee of Advertising Practice drawing attention to the WHO research and asking them to rescind approval of the revised guidance in light of the findings.

Motion 2

The Mayor advised the meeting that the Chief Executive had received notice that Councillor Sedgwick was unable to second this Motion and had nominated Councillor McCann to take her place.

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor McCann SECONDED the following motion:

This Council notes:

- That the vast majority of dog owners are responsible and law-abiding individuals; however a small number of



irresponsible pet owners continue to fail to remove faeces deposited by their dogs or to keep their dogs under proper control in public places

- There are legal requirements placed upon owners to clean up after their dogs in public places, to keep control of their pets, and to ensure their animal displays a dog collar with the name and address of the owner
- In 2010, this Council introduced three Dog Control Orders to:
 - exclude dogs from designated children's play areas
 - require a dog to be kept on a lead in designated cemeteries
 - restrict the number of dogs that can be kept under control by any one individual to four

This Council further notes that:

- Calderdale and Tameside Councils have introduced additional Dog Control Orders, which:
 - exclude dogs from other public areas (such as tennis courts, bowling greens, skate parks, and a limited number of designated sports pitches)
 - require a dog to be kept on a lead in other designated areas (such as on roads, around unfenced children's play areas, on school grounds, and in public car parks, allotments and religious grounds)
- Local authorities can use recent legislation to combat dog fouling and nuisance:
 - The 2005 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act) permits local authorities to establish its own fixed penalties for dog fouling offences and that the level of such penalties can act as a deterrent

The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 permits Councils to ask Government for permission to assume new responsibilities and powers within its boundaries, for example to establish a local dog registration scheme

The Localism Act 2011 grants the 'general power of competence' to local authorities in England to do 'anything that individuals generally may do'.

The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 permits councils to impose Public Spaces Protection Orders to ban or regulate any activity in public spaces which is believed to have a 'detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality'.

This Council wishing to more effectively prevent dog fouling and nuisance in this borough resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to:

Carry out an inquiry to ensure this Council is following best practice, taking account of recent research,

current practice in our own and other local authorities, and the powers granted to it in recent legislation

Present a report on this matter to a future Council meeting at the earliest opportunity.”



The Mayor advised the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and without debate Council MOVED TO THE VOTE on this motion.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board be requested to:

1. Carry out an inquiry to ensure this Council is following best practice, taking account of recent research, current practice in our own and other local authorities, and the powers granted to it in recent legislation

2. Present a report on this matter to a future Council meeting at the earliest opportunity.

Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Heffernan, as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Williamson, as Seconder of the Motion, requested Council to permit the following Motion to be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting:

“Motion 3

The Council notes that:

- Local authorities are currently obliged by law to sell entries from the open electoral register to marketing companies. This personal information – the names and addresses of electors in this borough – is used by these companies for direct marketing purposes generating junk mail.
- Like nuisance calls, junk mail is an irritant to many residents in this borough.
- 90% of all junk mail is immediately deposited by its recipients in the bin
- 17.5 billion items of junk mail are produced every year in the UK, using 550,000 tonnes of paper and 16.5 billion litres of water. It takes about 17 mature trees to produce a tonne of paper. The equivalent of 550,000 tonnes of paper is therefore 9.35 million trees.

This Council believes that this legal obligation:

- Demeans and cheapens local democracy
- Deters some potential voters from registering to vote by compromising their privacy

- Is damaging to our local environment and runs contrary to the authority's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint

This Council therefore supports the position of the Local Government Association that:

- The open register be scrapped
- The obligation on local authorities to sell electors' personal details be abolished

This Council resolves to:

- Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, The Rt. Hon. Mr. Eric Pickles MP, outlining the Council's support for the LGA's position.
- Request that the Chief Executive also write to our three local MPs asking them to make representations to the Secretary of State supporting this position."

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled forward and considered at the next Council meeting to be held on 17th December 2014.

14

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING JOINT AUTHORITY MEETINGS AND THE RELEVANT SPOKESPERSONS TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:

| | |
|--|---|
| Greater Manchester Combined Authority | 29 th August 2014 |
| Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive | 29 th August 2014 |
| National Park Authority | 4 th July 2014 (AGM) 8 th September 2014 (Extraordinary) |
| Transport for Greater Manchester | 11 th July 2014 |
| Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority | 26 th June 2014 |
| Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority | 7 th July 2014 |

The following question was raised:

1. Councillor McCann – Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee held on 11th July 2014 – page 76 - Minute TfGMC14/35 – Northern and Transpennine Rail Franchises: Stakeholder Consultation – Councillor McCann referred to the accessibility of Greenfield Station and the suggestion that improvements to accessibility should be undertaken whilst the electrification works were being undertaken; he thanked the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Transport for their support in this matter

and requested that Members continued to keep pressing for funding for this to be included in the scheme.

Councillor McMahon advised Council that a meeting had taken place with the Chief Executive today and that an update would be provided for Members by way of a briefing note.

Observations

1. Councillor Heffernan – Minutes of the Meeting of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority held on 26th June 2014 – page 82 - Minute 8 – Chairman’s Announcements. Councillor Heffernan referred to the third phase of the North West Fire Control project which had gone live on 28th May 2014 and which, it was envisaged, would save approximately £1million in expenditure. Councillor Heffernan mentioned the comments that had appeared in the press recently which had stated that problems were being experienced within the service; he advised that after visiting the centre he could assure people that no such problems existed and that everyone should feel safe.

2. Councillor Sykes – Minutes of the Meeting of the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee held on 11th July 2014 – page 75 - Minute TfGMC14/35 – Northern and Transpennine Rail Franchises: Stakeholder Consultation

- Councillor Sykes welcomed the Leader’s announcement and added that the issue would continue to be raised at meetings of TfGM at every opportunity.
- Councillor Sykes also expressed his concerns about the proposals to remove guards from this service; this raised issues affecting people with disabilities accessing the service and also safety issues around isolation. Councillor Sykes stated that strong representations needed to be made concerning these issues.

Councillor Briggs, advised that he agreed with Councillor Sykes and that he had also raised the issue at Committee.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Minutes of the Joint Authorities as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The question raised and the observations made, along with the responses given be noted.

15

TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING PARTNERSHIP MEETINGS AND THE RELEVANT SPOKESPERSON TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Minutes of the Partnerships Meetings were submitted as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Health and Wellbeing Board | 25 th June 2014 |
| Oldham Care and Support Company | 16 th July 2014 |
| Unity Partnership Board | 17 th June 2014 |
| | 23 rd July 2014 |
| | (Extraordinary) |
| Oldham Leadership Board | 1 st October 2014 |



Questions

The following questions were raised:

1. Councillor Heffernan – Minutes of the Meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 25th June 2014 – page 107 - Minute 10 – Wider Primary Care Delivered at Scale.
Councillor Heffernan referred to the new Clinic that had recently been built in Delph but was not in use due to the fact that BT had not connected the phone lines. This had resulted in patients from Delph having to travel to the Uppermill surgery.
Councillor Heffernan asked if something could be done about this issue.

Councillor Dearden advised that the Health and Wellbeing Board did not have that sort of power but that she would raise the issue with the CCG.

2. Councillor Bates raised a question relating to a fatal accident that had taken place in Failsworth and a request that condolences should be sent to the woman's family – the Mayor advised Councillor Bates that this question should be raised elsewhere in the Council meeting and not under Partnership Minutes.

Observations

1. Councillor Harrison – Minutes of the Meeting of the Oldham Leadership Board held on 1st October 2014 – page 121.
Councillor Harrison advised that she had in fact submitted her apologies to the meeting but these had not been recorded.
2. Councillor McMahon - Minutes of the Meeting of the Unity Partnership Board held on 17th June 2014 – page 115 Managing Director's Report. Councillor McMahon congratulated the Members of the Board who today had been able to sign the extension of the contract. This now meant that a secure partnership now existed which would take the Authority up to 2022. Councillor McMahon requested that his thanks and appreciation be placed on record to Board Members who had worked hard to achieve this result.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Minutes of the Partnerships as detailed in the report be noted.
2. Thanks and appreciation be placed on record to all those Board Members who had been involved in successfully securing an extension to the Contract.

THE IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM IN OLDHAM

Consideration was given to a report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources which provided an update on welfare reform in Oldham and the actions which had been taken to mitigate its impact.



RESOLVED that the content of the report, together with the Dashboard as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted.

17

DISTRESS FUND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Town Centres, Culture and Tourism. The annual report which provided the finance statements that had been publicised on the Charity Commission website for the year ended 31st March 2014 were detailed for Members. Councillor Stretton advised that the figure on page 146 which appeared as “Baby” - £387.96 should read – “Baby related costs.”

RESOLVED that, subject to the amendment outlined above the Oldham Distress Fund Annual Report, including the Financial Statement, be noted.

18

OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS 2014

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor which informed Members that the Government had recently introduced the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 which required local authorities to allow any member of the public to take photographs; film and audio record all public meetings. The protocol to assist in the implementation of the new regulations was outlined for Members.

RESOLVED that the protocol and specified announcements by Chairs of meetings, as outlined in the report, be approved.

19

AMENDMENT TO SANCTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor which reminded Members that the Localism Act 2011 had made fundamental changes to the system of regulations of standards of conduct for elected Members. Members were informed that additional sanctions had been introduced in some authorities across Greater Manchester, one of which had been to introduce the restriction of the ability of Councillors to allocate an individual budget, as a power available to the Standards Committee, should a breach of the Code be found. The report recommended giving the Standards Committee an additional power of sanction as contained in the report.

RESOLVED that the proposed amendment to the sanctions powers available to the Standards Committee, as outlined in the report, be approved.

20

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report of the Borough Solicitor informing Members of actions that had been taken following previous Council meetings and providing feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.30 pm

