

**Public Document Pack**  
**CABINET**  
**17/11/2014 at 6.00 pm**



**Present:** Councillor McMahon  
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, A Chadderton, Harrison,  
Hibbert, Jabbar and Stretton

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5           **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE  
20TH OCTOBER 2014**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on  
the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014 be approved.

6           **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015/16**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Interim  
Borough Treasurer which sought approval of the Council Tax  
Reduction scheme 2015/16 as detailed at appendix 2 of the  
report.

It was reported that Council from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 introduced a  
localised Council Tax reduction scheme as required by the Local  
Government Finance Act 2012.

Each year a collection authority must formally consider revising  
its Council Tax reduction scheme and ensure there is  
consultation on a proposed scheme.

**Consultation**

The Council began its consultation on two options on the 25<sup>th</sup>  
July 2014 until 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Option 1 – Leave the current Council Tax reduction scheme  
unchanged from 2015 onwards.

Option 2 – Increase the level of Council Tax reduction should  
the financial position of the Council be able to support the  
change.

Feedback from consultation was included within the report.

**Options/Alternatives considered**

There were two options to be considered in line with the  
consultation questions and the financial information as detailed  
at section 6 of the report.

Option 1 – Leave the current Council Tax Reduction scheme  
unchanged for 2015 onwards.

Option 2 – Increase the maximum amount of reduction available  
to 85% of Band A rate of Council Tax, in line with the draft  
scheme at appendix 2 of the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. Option 2 be agreed and commended to Council, to implement a Council Tax reduction scheme from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 for all applicants of working age which would:
  - Increase the maximum amount of reduction available to 85% of a band A rate of Council Tax.
  - Maintain the changes introduced in the 2014/15 Oldham Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
2. The Cabinet noted that the scheme at appendix 2 was subject to any changes resulting from prescribed requirements issued by the Secretary of State under paragraph 2 (8) of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any changes from time to time to the figures prescribed by central government for welfare benefits purposes.

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### **REVENUE MONITOR 2014/15; MONTH 06 (SEPTEMBER 2014)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which provided Cabinet with an update on the Council's revenue budget position forecast to the year end, as at the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

Members were advised that the current position was a possible projected under spend of £342k following reserve transfers.

Options/Alternatives considered

Section 6 of the report summarised a transfer to and from reserves request at month 6.

Option 1 – To approve all management actions outlined within the report.

Option 2 – To approve some of the management actions outlined in the report.

Option 3 – Not to approve the management actions outlined within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast position at the end of Month 6 (September 2014), a possible projected of £342k under spend following reserve transfers be agreed.
2. The budget be revised following the receipt of new funding totalling £19k.
3. The transfer to/from reserves as detailed at section 6 of the report be approved.
4. The forecast positions for the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be agreed.

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### **CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2014/15 MONTH 6**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Interim Borough Treasurer which sought to inform Cabinet of the financial position of the capital programme at the end of month 6 2014/15 and the proposed changes to the capital programme as outlined in section 3 of the report.

It was reported that the financial monitoring element of the report outlined the most up to date capital spending proposals for 2014/18, including the current project managers forecast outturn position of £107.555m expenditure.



In arriving at that position there was potentially a resource of £9.601m available for an alternative use. This detail was set out at Table 1 - 2014/15 capital programme.

The forecast outturn position based upon statistical analysis was £96.708m.

It was noted that as the financial year progressed, the position in relation to each of the projections in the programme would become clearer, enabling a more informed projection of the year end position.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The projected capital outturn for 2014/15 at the end of month 6 be noted.
2. The variations to the 2014/15 capital programme as detailed within Appendix A to the report which advised of budget movements of schemes resulting in a net decrease in expenditure of £3.546m and a decrease in resources of £3.546 in 2014/15 be approved.
3. The current progress in relation to the annual review of the capital programme where the possible alternative use of resources, currently in the sum of £9.061m would be examined be approved.

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## **COMMUNITY ENERGY - 'GENERATION OLDHAM'**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Commercial Services which sought approval of an approach to deliver renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements in community owned assets across the Borough. It was reported that the project would create an opportunity for community groups to install solar photovoltaic (PV) on roofs of community owned buildings across Oldham, supported with resources and expertise from the Council.

The benefits of the project included:

- Benefit to community buildings receiving solar PV systems from reduced energy bills due to the free electricity generated.
- Benefit to local residents from the opportunity to invest in new community energy projects, including receiving tax relief on their investments through the Enterprise Investment Scheme and Small Enterprise Investment Schemes.
- Benefit in the form of a 'dividend' to local communities from funding pots generated by new renewable energy projects from Feed In Tariff payments, which would be spent on local projects, programmes and initiatives.
- Electricity exported to the grid from the solar PV installations ultimately being supplied at a discount to fuel poor neighbourhoods on a social tariff, through a partnership with an energy supply company offering a 'licence lite' service to local authorities and community energy organisations, as part of a wider Oldham scheme.
- Benefit to members of the Youth Council, through their involvement in the programme, from training and experience in one of the fastest growing sectors of the economy, renewable energy. This package would be

developed in partnership with Oldham College and solar PV installers.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Approve the report. The option would require a limited resource input from the Council in terms of officer time and an assessment of local energy opportunities, but many resources already existed to support community energy which the Council could draw upon.

Option 2 – Not to approve the report. The option would not require any resource input from the Council for the development of an energy strategy, however this option would leave Oldham community groups entirely reliant on the “big six” energy companies for their energy provision with no income from local energy investments.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Generation Oldham ‘initiative of community energy in community buildings across the Borough be approved.
2. The ‘Generation Oldham’ initiative would form part of an overall approach to community energy across all sectors in Oldham.
- 3.

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#### **TRANSFER OF ALT PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning and Attainment which provided Members with details of the conversion of Alt Primary School to sponsored academy status.

It was reported that it was a statutory requirement that all schools placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate or special measures must convert to academy status. Alt Primary School was placed in ‘special measures’ on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013. It was further reported that the school would be sponsored by the Harmony Trust.

RESOLVED – That the conversion to academy status by Alt Primary School be noted.

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#### **TRANSFER OF WESTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning and Attainment which provided Members with details of the conversion of Westwood Primary School to sponsored academy status.

It was reported that it was a statutory requirement that all schools placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate or special measures must convert to academy status. Westwood Primary School was judged as inadequate on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014. It was further reported that the school would be sponsored by the Harmony Trust.

RESOLVED – That the conversion to academy status by Westwood Primary School be noted.



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### **TRANSFER OF RICHMOND PRIMARY SCHOOL TO ACADEMY STATUS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Executive Director, Learning and Attainment which provided Members with details of the conversion of Richmond Primary School to sponsored academy status.

It was reported that it was a statutory requirement that all schools placed in an Ofsted category of inadequate or special measures must convert to academy status. Richmond Primary School was placed in special measures on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012. It was further reported that the school would be sponsored by the Harmony Trust.

RESOLVED – That the conversion to academy status by Richmond Primary School be noted.

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### **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2014**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Chief of Staff which provided the Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance against priorities outlined in the Corporate Plan during the period June to September 2014.

The Council was achieving 58% of the 50 rated measures and the 27 Corporate plan actions this quarter 92% were on track or had been completed.

Highlights within the report included:

- 320 people were no longer experiencing fuel poverty
- 543 empty properties had been brought back into use
- The number of successful outcomes for troubled families had increased to 442 in September compared to 409 in July

The report also provided details of areas of underperformance and action status commentary.

RESOLVED - That the Council Performance report for September 2014 be noted.

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### **REPORT ON EASTERN GATEWAY**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Development and Infrastructure which sought to update Cabinet on the progress of the Eastern Gateway project and sought approval of commercially sensitive recommendations as detailed at Item 17 of the agenda.

The report provided details of the comprehensive development of the Oldham Eastern Gateway including a range of possible economic benefits that could arise from the development of this strategically important area.

The proposed Eastern Gateway scheme was spread over a number of sites covering the eastern entrance to the Town Centre at the bottom of the moor and the Alexandra Retail Park investment zones as detailed within the report.

The project would involve the reuse of existing buildings and development of vacant land currently owned by the Council and others including the old bank building and bus depot.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – Not to approve the recommendations in relation to the Eastern Gateway project.

Option 2 – To approve the recommendations in relation to the Eastern Project

RESOLVED – That:

1. The information within the report be noted.
2. The Eastern Gateway Master plan be approved.
3. The economic outcomes, additional GVA and jobs resulting from the completion of the development areas within the Masterplan be noted;
  - a. Gross construction employment – 74 FTEs
  - b. Additional construction employment – 40 FTEs
  - c. Net additional employment – 358
  - d. Total additional expenditure –£21.7 m per annum
4. The completion of legal agreements with Transport for Greater Manchester and prospective occupiers be approved.
5. The Leader of the Council be authorised in consultation with the Chief Executive, Director of Development and Infrastructure, Borough Solicitor and Borough Treasurer to negotiate and conclude an agreement with prospective occupiers.
6. The submission of two planning applications at the Eastern Gateway be agreed.
7. The full release of the £1,500,000 Eastern Gateway budget in the Capital Programme be approved.
8. That a further report is submitted to a future Cabinet meeting outlining the capital costs and values following the completion of the design review and negotiations with potential retailers. This would include a full financial appraisal of the preferred delivery option and include the affordability for the Council. The report would also seek approval to enter into an agreement with a residential development partner.
9. The Cabinet would consider further commercially sensitive recommendations at Item 17 in relation to the project.

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### **SHAW PARK AND RIDE - LEASE OF LAND AT FORMER TALENTUM, BEAL WORKS, BEAL LANE, SHAW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Development and Infrastructure which sought approval to enter into an agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester in respect of the cleared site of the former Beal Works, Beal Lane Shaw.

The report provided details of the of the Council's acquisition of the Talenteum property, Beal Works, Beal Lane, Shaw to support the development of an enlarged park and ride facility in Shaw.

The Council had proceeded to complete all service disconnection works and asbestos removal. Demolition of the property was due to be completed on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The site would be vacant from this time pending the

development of the park and ride by Transport for Greater Manchester.

The park and ride would be completed by September 2015.

Options/Alternatives

Option 1 – Do nothing

Option 2 – Sell the land on the open market

Option 3 – Enter into a legal agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester and have provisionally agreed heads of terms which would contract Transport for Greater Manchester into development arrangements. The park and ride facility on the land would provide in the region of 50 car park spaces for the Shaw area. There was also future expansion space on additional area of land on the opposite side of the River Beal acquired by the Council at auction.

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

16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

17 **REPORT ON EASTERN GATEWAY**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 15 – Report on Eastern Gateway which provided details of further necessary actions, delegations, negotiations and financial information in relation to the project.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as detailed with the report be agreed.

18 **SHAW PARK AND RIDE - LEASE OF LAND AT FORMER TALENTUM, BEAL WORKS, BEAL LANE, SHAW**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 16 – Shaw Park and Ride - Lease of land at former Talentum, Beal Works, Beal Lane, Shaw.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The disposal of the land is agreed as detailed within the report.
2. The Council proceed to enter into an agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester in accordance with the terms and conditions as detailed at section 4.2 of the report.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished 6.38pm

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