

Oldham Borough Council



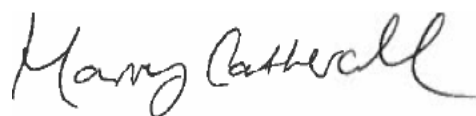
Council Meeting
Wednesday 7 September 2022

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, CIVIC CENTRE, OLDHAM, OL1 1NL

8a Public Questions (Pages 1 - 26)

(time limit 30 Minutes)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Catherall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive

Public Questions - Full Council 7th September 2022

	From / Date	To	Question	Response
1	Matthew Smith 14 th July 2022	Councillor Chadderton	In the last local election, I didn't vote for anyone, as I've been extremely disappointed in the way parties have behaved in council meetings and also lost all trust in local councillors for a number of reasons. I decided to watch the last council meeting (July) in the hope that, with a new leader, things may have changed. How wrong could I be? I would like to say how disappointing it was to see the mayor lose complete control of the meeting and councillors behaving worse than school children. We had Councillor Steve Bashford using the lords' name in vain and then shouting out in reply 'I use any one I want' when challenged. There would be uproar if other religious figures had been mentioned in the same way, yet this was totally ignored by the mayor, whom seemed more upset over Councillor Barnes' not sitting down. I do not condone Councillor Barnes' behaviour in refusing to sit down either. I was also shocked to hear Councillor Phythian describe the suggestion of a government-appointed enquiry as a waste of money, despite the	<p>I'm glad you raised this issue. Behaviour at the last two Council meetings, from a small number of those in the public gallery and – disappointingly – a number of elected members, has been reprehensible.</p> <p>The taxpayers of Oldham have a right to expect Council business to be carried out safely, fairly, and in accordance with the law. The Council has taken swift action following the last full Council meeting, setting out clearly what we expect from all those attending our meetings, and telling a small number of those who caused the worst disruption – including throwing missiles, unplugging equipment and tampering with fire alarms – that they are banned from our public meetings for a period of time.</p> <p>You also mention a public enquiry into CSE in Oldham – which I understand was ruled out by Government yesterday.</p> <p>We have already had an independent review, from the very best people in the business. These are the people the Government have appointed to review responses to CSE in other authorities – and they have already</p>

			<p>comments of victims; total disregard for the victims. The chamber should be ashamed of themselves. Labour's stubbornness around a government-appointed enquiry is clearly an issue which won't go away, as there appears to be a growing demand for one. Therefore, is there no way the Oldham public could be consulted on this to determine whether it is something we want? The reason around cost shouldn't never be used, like councillor Phythian tried. This council has and continues to waste hundreds of thousands of pounds on vanity projects or just clear wastage, so maybe if cost is such an issue then may be look into this? In addition, what do you intend to do regarding the behaviour of your colleagues in the Labour party in how they conducted themselves in the chamber, like Councillor Bashford's comments? By saying nothing, you're condoning this behaviour. And finally, as leader do you intend to have any meetings with other party leaders to tone down this bad behaviour from your own party and that of other parties?</p>	<p>spent more than two and a half years examining thousands of pieces of evidence here in Oldham.</p> <p>I have never ruled out a further enquiry into CSE in Oldham. But what I have been clear on is that we must focus on the survivors of the CSE and listening to what they want.</p> <p>That's why we are working with Keeping Our Girls Safe (KOGS) to create an independent victim support advisory group, to ensure the voice of local survivors shapes our work. That's why we're providing funding for independent – fully independent – legal advice so survivors can get the legal support they need.</p> <p>And that's why we've set up a cross-party group with councillors from all parties to provide direction and scrutiny as we further improve our safeguarding services. Finally, I have already spoken to elected members from all parties about the horrendous behaviour at the last Council meeting, and asked that we work together, as representatives of the people of Oldham, to give people the fair, informed and respectful representation they deserve.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
2	Hannah Roberts 19 th July 2022	Councillor Chadderton	The Local Plan, together with Places for Everyone when approved and any completed Neighbourhood	Thank you for your question. An updated Local Development Scheme, which includes

			<p>Plans, will help to shape housing, infrastructure and the local economy for the next 10 years. When finalised, the Local Plan will also be a material consideration in any decisions made on individual Planning Application and will have a big impact of the lives of many Oldham residents. The Issues and Options consulted on last year also contained ground-breaking proposals for making a Green Oldham and helping us to get to net zero. Can the Leader of the Council confirm both the timetable for consultation on the draft Local Plan and how that consultation process will be carried out so that as many residents as possible are aware of what will be in the Local Plan and have the chance to state their views?</p>	<p>the timetable for preparing a new Local Plan for Oldham, will be considered later this month and, if approved, published on the Council's website shortly after. When the draft Local Plan is published for public consultation, all residents of the borough, and any other interested parties, will be able to view and comment on the various proposed policies. How to do this, and any other details of how to engage in the public consultation, will be publicised closer to the time of the actual consultation.</p>
3	Stephen Ingram 21 st July 2022	Councillor Stretton/Cllr Mohon Ali	<p>Inconsiderate parking outside schools is a problem across the Borough. Other Local Authorities in Greater Manchester have implemented trials of "school streets" to combat this. This is where cars are prohibited from accessing the streets that schools are on to improve safety for children during pick up and drop off times. Are there any plans to trial any such schemes in Oldham?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question. Parking outside schools is a national problem and something we have been reviewing following the escalation of concerns from both schools, parents and our local communities. Oldham will be trialling a School Streets programme with a number of schools across the borough. In November, the Council will be consulting the schools involved, parents, pupils, residents and local businesses to gain their views on the proposed schemes. All of the</p>

				<p>schemes will be implemented using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which means that ongoing consultation and engagement will be taking place to measure the effectiveness of the schemes and if they can be improved in any way.</p> <p>Additional information:- The following primary schools will be included in the School Street's trial; Hey with Zion – Lees, in conjunction with St. Edward's – Lees as they are both in the same location. Corpus Christi – Chadderton, in conjunction with Stanley Road – Chadderton as they are also in close proximity to each other. St. Anne's – Royton Christ Church – Chadderton. Buckstones – Shaw. St. Luke's – Chadderton. Northwood Academy – Coldhurst. Two further schools will also be considered for a School Street scheme, as part of the development of an Active Travel Neighbourhood, but this is subject to further engagement.</p>
4	Alison Shore 21 st July 2022	Councillor Jabbar	The failure of the government to reduce our reliance on natural gas for energy has left people in Oldham vulnerable to the volatility of the price of natural gas. This has already seen energy prices rise by around £600 per year for the average	Thank you for your question - as a Council, we are committed to ensuring that support is available to help Oldhamers get through the coming winter months. We are looking at a range of different measures that we can take to meet this challenge, including setting up

			<p>household when the price cap was last reviewed in April. One estimate suggests that there could be a further increase of £1200 for the average household when the cap is reviewed again in October.</p> <p>Other local authorities around the country are proposing "warm banks" - warm places for people to go during the winter to reduce how much energy is used keeping their homes warm. Does Oldham have any plans for "warm banks" in the Borough?</p>	<p>warm banks for people to access, and will be releasing our plans in the near future.</p>
5	David Barter 21 st July 2022	Councillor Jabbar	<p>The Government has made money available to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of public sector buildings as part of the "Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme" (PSDS). £1.425 billion has reportedly been made available as part of the third phase of the scheme, with more having been awarded in previous phases.</p> <p>Has Oldham Council benefitted from previous phases of the PSDS and if so, what has this money been spent on and what are the estimated Carbon emission reductions from any investment that has taken place? Does Oldham Council intend to submit a bid to phase 3b of the</p>	<p>Thank you for your question - I can confirm that the Council has benefited from previous rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, securing around £290K in round 1 (via a direct application to Salix) for Air Source Heat Pumps at Alexandra Park Depot, and around £100K for a project to upgrade the lighting at Oldham Leisure Centre to LED lighting (via a GMCA consortium bid).</p> <p>The estimated carbon emissions reduction from these two projects is 30.47tCO₂/annum for Alexandra Park Eco-Centre and 15.94tCO₂/annum for Oldham Leisure Centre.</p>

			scheme, for which applications were intended to open this month (September)?	The Council does intend to submit an application to the latest bidding round for this fund when it opens later this month – details of the application are still under development.
6	Brian Kelly 21 st July 2022	Councillor Moores	Daycare provision has been closing across Oldham including Stepping Stones Nursery in Uppermill and Hillside Nursery in Sholver. We know that good quality nursery education is important for children to get off to a good start and how difficult it is for them to catch up once they fall behind. Can the Cabinet Member for Children tell us how many other day nurseries and childminders have had to close in the past two years and what the impact is on communities like Sholver and Derker in St James Ward? What can the Council do to support day care provision and to encourage every family to use the free early education offer for two-to-four-year-olds?	<p>Between March 2020 and the end of June this year we have seen the closure of 57 early years settings across Oldham. The breakdown includes 4 day nurseries, 2 playgroups and 42 childminders. The remainder are holiday schemes and out of school clubs.</p> <p>However, over the same period we have seen new provision starting up, which means little change to the net supply of early years places across the borough:</p> <p>Period Number of registered providers Breakdown</p> <p>March 2020 239 154 x childminders 85 group settings</p> <p>June 2022 240 154 childminders 86 settings</p> <p>The closure of one day nursery and 3 childminders in St James ward has contributed to the most recent childcare sufficiency rating for the ward (Spring term 2022) showing a RAG rating of red for 2-year-old places. This means a shortage of places if all eligible children were to access</p>

				<p>their free entitlement within the ward where they live.</p> <p>There is no current evidence of unmet need. This can be explained by the fact that some cross-ward boundary movement is common.</p> <p>The RAG rating for 3 and 4 year old places is green.</p> <p>The Council is working pro-actively with partners delivering front-line services, to raise awareness of the free early education entitlements and to support parents through the eligibility-checking process.</p> <p>Most recent comparative data from the DfE (published June 2022) shows uptake of the 2-year-old entitlement in Oldham in the January Early Years census at 72% was the same as the national average and slightly ahead of statistical neighbours (71%)</p> <p>For 3 & 4 year olds, Oldham recorded 95% uptake compared to 92% nationally and a 93% average among statistical neighbour LA's.</p>
7	Megan Birchall 21 st July 2022	Councillor Jabbar	Oldham Council has previously announced a project to harness latent heat from mineshafts in the Borough to use to heat buildings in Oldham Town Centre via a District	Thank you for your question – I can confirm that the Council is in the process of appointing external technical and project management consultants to develop the

			<p>Heat Network. In March 2022 it was reported that the project had been awarded £160,000 from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy for feasibility works.</p> <p>Can Councillors confirm the status of this project?"</p>	<p>Outline Business Case for the project. Once appointed it is expected that this work will take around 12 months to complete. The Council continues to be in regular discussions with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy around the potential for additional capital grant funding from the Green Heat Network Fund to help develop the project.</p>
8	Dion Linton 22 nd July 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>What can be done to stop pubs, family homes and shops being converted into HMOs?</p>	<p>Planning permission is not needed to convert buildings into a House of Multiple Occupation for up to 6 people: all larger properties require a full planning application to be considered. The Council are exploring whether there is the evidence to justify removing such permitted development rights, so that we have visibility on all HMO proposals, but it is not something encouraged under national planning policy.</p>
9	Josh Charters 22 nd July 2022	Councillor Brownridge	<p>There's been another big reorganisation in the NHS with the creation of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership replacing the CCGs across Greater Manchester including Oldham's.</p> <p>CCGs were set up by the Coalition's Lansley reforms so it is interesting the Government doesn't think this worked and has carried out yet another reorganisation.</p>	<p>Integrated care systems (ICSs) are partnerships of health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined-up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in their area.</p> <p>Following several years of locally-led development, and based on the recommendations of NHS England and NHS Improvement, the government set out plans to put ICSs on a statutory footing. They exist to achieve four aims:</p>

			<p>Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care explain how the new structure will work, who represents Oldham and tell us if she thinks this will help reduce health inequalities and improve delivery of NHS services.</p> <p>Would she agree with me that the NHS is not safe in the hands of this Government?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve outcomes in population health and healthcare • tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access • enhance productivity and value for money • help the NHS support broader social and economic development. <p>All relevant clinical commissioning group (CCG) functions and duties transferred to the ICS NHS body on 1 July 2022 when they were established, along with all CCG assets and liabilities, including their commissioning responsibilities and contracts.</p> <p>Under the Health & Care Bill, a statutory ICS will be led by two related entities operating at system level – an ‘ICS NHS body’ and an ‘ICS health and care partnership’ – together, these are referred to as the ICS.</p> <p>Each ICS partnership is responsible for agreeing an integrated care strategy for improving health care, social care and public health across their whole population, using the best insights from data available, built bottom-up up from local assessments of needs and assets identified at place level and focusing on reducing inequalities and addressing the consequences of the pandemic for communities. The ICS partnership is expected to be established locally and jointly by the relevant local</p>
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				<p>authorities and the ICS NHS body, evolving from existing arrangements and with mutual agreement on its terms of reference, membership, ways of operating and administration. Local authorities that provide social care services in the ICS area and NHS organisations must be included. Beyond this, members may be from health and wellbeing boards, other statutory organisations, VCSE sector partners, social care providers and organisations with a relevant wider interest such as employers, housing and education providers. The membership may change as the priorities of the partnership evolve. By comparison, each ICS NHS body is the employer and recipient of the national allocation and as an example, is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a plan to meet the health needs of the population • Allocating resources to deliver the plan by deciding how its national allocation will be spent across the system. • Establishing joint working arrangements with partners that embed collaboration as the basis for delivery of joint priorities. • Arranging for the provision of health services in line with the allocated resources across the ICS footprint through a range of collaborative leadership activities, including: putting contracts and agreements in place to
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				<p>secure delivery of its plan by providers; convening and supporting providers to lead major service transformation programmes; and putting in place personalised care.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working alongside councils to invest in local community organisations and infrastructure and, through joint working between health, social care and other partners including police, education, housing, safeguarding partnerships, employment and welfare services, ensuring that the NHS plays a full part in social and economic development and environmental sustainability. <p>As part of these new arrangements, Oldham has established an Integrated Health and Care Partnership. This brings together all parts of the health service with local government and voluntary sector. The year ahead will be a transition year for the new arrangements to be bed in. The Oldham Integrated Care Partnership is led by a Chief Officer, Mike Barker, and overseen by a Board which is chaired by myself as the Cabinet Member and includes Chief Executives from the Council and local NHS providers including the Royal Oldham and Pennine Care.</p> <p>And, yes I do agree our NHS is NOT safe in the hands of this Government.</p>
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				<p>Under their leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a record number of people are now waiting longer than at any time in the history of the NHS. And that was a fact prior to the start of the pandemic. • Life expectancy is lessening – people are dying earlier. • Hospitals are opening foodbanks to support their own staff. • This Government promised 6,000 more GPs, there has not been a single additional GP given to Oldham <p>And before my opposition colleagues try to deflect attention away from this appalling track record, let me head some things off at the pass.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whilst we are seeing the development of a new GP facility in Shaw it is our Integrated Care Partnership that is making this happen – it was at one point at risk until our Integrated Care Partnership Chief Officer stepped in and he and I are both grateful for the support from local Ward Members including those from the Liberal Democrats. • And, it is good we are seeing new building works to upgrade parts of the Royal Oldham but this is a long way short of what is
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				<p>needed. That pretty much confirms Rishi Sunak's boast that he is proud to have taken money away from deprived urban areas in order to give it to wealthy Tory heartlands like Tunbridge Wells.</p> <p>So, our NHS is NOT safe in the hands of this Tory Government. But under my leadership I am determined that we will continue to fight for it as long as that fight is needed.</p>
10	Chris Morris 22 nd July 2022	Councillor Mushtaq	It is reported that Cllr Montaz Ali Azad had an outstanding liability of over £50,000 following his failed legal action against the council. Can the council confirm that this has been settled in full and the taxpayers of Oldham are not left out of pocket?	I can confirm that Oldham Council Tax payers are not out of pocket. There is no financial liability outstanding to the Council.
11	Lynne Kovacs 25 th July 2022	Councillor Jabbar	<p>Will the relevant Council Officer please clarify the Council's involvement with Frank Rothwell:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm what contracts it has awarded to him or any firm associated with him over the last 5 year? 2. Clarify the Council's role in The Mills, Hollinwood project and confirm what financial and in-kind support it has provided to this venture? 	<p>The only current business with Mr Rothwell personally is that he is the Leader's Business Ambassador, which is an unpaid position, to help champion economic recovery, business support and business networking opportunities for the benefit of local businesses. The Council were delighted to hear about the decision Mr Rothwell and his family made to buy Oldham Athletic Football Club, but this decision and transactional process had no Council involvement.</p> <p>With regards to the specific questions –</p>

				<p>i) The Council has no contracts with Mr Rothwell's businesses, and over the last 5 years there has been a total of £7,144.40 paid to Manchester Cabins for itemised goods / services.</p> <p>ii) The Council has no role or involvement with The Mills, Hollinswood and there has been no financial or in-kind support provided to this venture.</p>
12	Tony Birchall 25 th July 2022	Councillor Stretton	Will the council be continuing its plan to clean up alleyways in Oldham and will it take further enforcement action against landlords and businesses who undermine those efforts to keep our town clean by illegally dumping their waste across the borough?	I can confirm that the Council is reviewing the success and next steps for the 'Don't Trash Oldham' initiative and this will be reported and discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 19th September. Enforcement Officers continue to investigate and take enforcement action on anyone who can be proven to have fly-tipped and I would like to repeat my request that all incidents of fly-tipping are reported to the Council.
13	Mahaira Afshaan 25 th July 2022	Councillor Chadderton	It is fantastic news that Oldham Council is taking action to protect historic buildings on Union Street. I am pleased that a compulsory purchase order for the Prudential Assurance Building has been issued and that the Old Library building will be brought back in to use for a range of purposes, including a space for community groups to meet.	Union Street forms a key part of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. It is an area of special architectural and historic interest and is underpinned by the Conservation Management Plan which addresses key issues and challenges and, in turn, provides guidance and policy on how these can be addressed. These policies include the reuse of vacant heritage assets, design guidance, and potential avenues the Council can take in terms of enforcement and funding.

			<p>There are several other grand historic buildings along the Union Street corridor which are disused including the old Masonic Hall and half of the Lyceum. Does the Council have any plans to try and bring these back in to use too?</p>	<p>Officers are making progress with the private sector owner of the Masonic Hall to establish a way forward for its future use. The Lyceum is partly occupied at present by the Music Service and we looking into options to bring the remaining empty space back into use. As result both the Masonic Hall and Lyceum formed part of the Council's submission for the Levelling Up Fund</p>
14	Eesa Hussain 25 th July 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>I would like to ask the following question at the next council meeting please:</p> <p>Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has announced that single bus fares could be capped at £2 and day tickets £5 from September as part of fast-tracked plans to reform the fragmented bus network.</p> <p>Currently TfGM's "get me there" mobile app only enables passengers to buy tickets for Metrolink. As part of the plans coming forward in September could bus tickets also be made available on this app so that passengers can pay for their travel before leaving the house and is there any threat to this welcome reform because of the renewed legal action being taken by the bus operator Rotala?</p>	<p>I am pleased to advise that since you contacted us with your question, Rotala lost their court appeal, which was the last legal challenge standing in the way of the ambitious plans to franchise bus services across Greater Manchester.</p> <p>Currently you can use the GetMeThere app to purchase adult 'AnyBus & Tram' combined tickets in advance (you need to touch-in using a smart reader at a tram stop, before using your smart card on a bus.) . You can also buy many types of saver tickets in advance that give you several journeys in a day, or season tickets on bus company websites like Arriva, Diamond First Bus or Stagecoach.</p> <p>As buses get bought into public control then it would make sense that all GM bus tickets could also be made available to purchase in advance on the GetMeThere app, and Oldham officers will liaise with TfGM to see how early this can be introduced as franchising is phased in.</p>

15	Dale Rees 26 th July 2022	Councillor Stretton	In the stormy weather months ago a tree came down near Ink tattoo studio. On Ripponden Road, please can I ask when the council will be repairing the wall to the raised bed damaged by the tree and tidying it up as when the tree came down its made right a mess.	Thank you for your question. The works have been costed and commissioned with a local contractor, and they are scheduled to start on site this week. Weather permitting, the works will be completed by the end of next week. The only works outstanding are to fix the street fencing, as there are delays with manufacture, but this will also be rectified as soon as possible.
16	Chelsea Marie 26 th July 2022	Councillor Stretton	Residents of Derker are concerned as the current bus service 411 funded by TfGM has changed to a double decker including a route which is not accessible for older residents or residents with mobility issues. There are concerns that the reduced numbers using the service due to these issues will make it seem it's not needed. Please can we ask for the council to ask TfGM to go back to a smaller bus and to the route which worked for the residents of Derker including access to the Derker Tram stop.	<p>Thank you for your question. I am aware of the issues of poor public transport connections serving Derker's local community. I recently provided a list of priorities for bus route improvements to Transport for Greater Manchester's Network review and renewal – and within the top three priorities, I included a request for a route that will connect Derker with Oldham Town Centre and other isolated areas.</p> <p>Officers continue to work with TfGM to make the case for improved bus connections and service improvements within Derker and other areas of the borough that are poorly served by public transport.</p> <p>TfGM provide a limited amount of funding to support routes such as the 411 service that are not considered to be commercially viable, and they have advised the Council that the new service 411 was introduced to replace the 402 journeys between Derker and Oldham. However, as the previous 402 route cannot be services by a double decker bus</p>

				<p>(some of the junction turns are too tight) the 411 service route has had to be amended slightly.</p> <p>When looking into these concerns - TfGM have stated that passengers who have difficulty accessing public transport may be eligible to use the Ring & Ride Service. This service provides door-to-door accessible minibuses between 8:00am and 10.45pm daily, for people of all ages who find it difficult to use other methods of public transport and can be booked online or by telephone. I will provide the weblink and phone details for the minutes and public question responses</p> <p>www.tfgm.com/public-transport/ring-and-ride-minibuses 0161 200 6011 or 0845 688 4933.</p>
17	Ghazala Rana 15 th Aug 2022	Councillor Stretton	<p>The pirate ship play area at Daisy Nook visitors centre was much loved by local children. The Council recently announced that it had to be removed as it had reached the end of its life and could become dangerous. It is disappointing that, in the Facebook post with the announcement, the Council did not seem to know where money would be sourced from for a replacement.</p> <p>> It is my understanding that each Councillor gets a personal budget to spend on projects in their ward.</p> <p>Given that the play area is in</p>	<p>The play barge was installed in 2009/10 as part of the play builder scheme. Regular inspections noted that the structure was in decline and discussions were taking place as to its ultimate replacement. However, a number of deck boards had given way resulting in the structure becoming a H&S risk and this required immediate action.</p> <p>Initial quotes of £150k were received for its replacement which could not be funded from existing environmental services budgets. We are currently exploring a variety of funding stream options. Since the boat has been removed, we have installed a sand play pit</p>

			Failsworth East ward why have the Failsworth East Councillors not pledged all or part of their budgets towards a replacement play area?	with boulder seating/tables so the site can still be used whilst we consider how the area can be developed in the future and how that will be funded.
18	Karl Bardsley 26 th Aug 2022	Councillor Chadderton	I would like to submit two questions for the full council meeting and for the relevant person to answer. 1)Why is the council only broadcasting these council meetings live and not putting them on the network after? As some people can't always watch them live as they maybe working etc etc. 2)When will the draconian measures of the Perspex barriers in the public gallery be removed. Thank you	Thank you for your questions. In response to question 1 – I have made a statement at the start of this Council meeting confirming that the meetings will continue to be live streamed and that the recordings of these meetings will be available for members of the public and media to access them afterwards. In response to question 2- the Perspex screens have been in place during and since the Covid-19 pandemic. In line with safety requirements a decision by Council Officers and Group Leaders was made to keep the screens in place. This remains the case.
19	Neil Wilby 26 th August 2022	Councillor Chadderton	Does the Council Leader agree with me that the decision to remove all past recordings of Council meetings from their YouTube channel is crass, undemocratic and, rightly or wrongly, adds fuel to the CSE cover-up rhetoric. Does she also agree with me that it should be reversed at the earliest possible opportunity?"	Thank you Madam Mayor. I am aware there have been several public questions submitted to Council this evening about the removal of recordings of public meetings online. Given the number of questions received on various matters, I wanted to ensure there was opportunity to provide members of the public with a response on public meetings position.

				<p>Recordings of public meetings were removed from the website on a temporary basis whilst a review of conduct at those meetings were undertaken by Officers of this Council. I can confirm that all recordings are now back online for residents and the media to access them.</p> <p>You will also see that we are continuing our commitment to live streaming full council meetings, and these will remain online for people to catch-up on.</p> <p>When I became Leader, I made it clear I wanted to lead a Council that is responsive to residents and one that operates in an open and transparent way. I am pleased to have been the leader who presented a change to the meetings of full council for the better of our residents by extending public question time and putting in place a process that allows residents and those people who own a business in the Borough to ask a question.</p>
20	Nick Summerscales 4 th September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>I am providing these details of what I viewed previously on YouTube as a reference for the Council, the section that I am referring to, which I believe has the following words: “since the publication of that report two weeks ago, I’ve spoken to a number of victims, the victims that were referenced in that report but</p>	<p>Following the publication of the independent review into CSE in Oldham, I have been speaking to survivors to ensure that future improvements to our services are fully focused on what survivors want and deserve.</p> <p>Victims of sexual offences are, legally, entitled to lifelong anonymity. It is breaking</p>

			<p>also other victims of CSE in Oldham and speaking to those people and how it has affected their lives, you can't say it's destroyed their lives, the people I spoke it hasn't but it has had an impact into adulthood " Cllr Amanda Chadderton (sic)</p> <p>My question:- Please can I ask, for the avoidance of doubt the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council to release the number of other grooming gang CSE victims that Cllr Chadderton is aware of/ or in contact with the Council who are not referenced in the CSE review; specifically the number of "other victims" that were referred to by Cllr Amanda Chadderton at the last all council meeting. 2. The Council to release a statement explaining why they are in contact with CSE grooming gang victims and why those victims have not been included in the recently published CSE review? 	<p>the law to do anything that could risk them being identified. I am therefore not prepared to give any further details about who I have been speaking to, how many people I have been speaking to, or what these conversations have involved.</p> <p>I can also not comment on which of these women were involved in the independent review and which were not – it was the decision of the independent review authors as to who they spoke to, and when, during the two and a half year period the Review was carried out. You will also note that none of these women are identified in the Review, in line with our legal and ethical obligations to protect their identities.</p> <p>What I can say, though, is that we are speaking to these women, wherever they are happy to talk to us, to ensure the voice of local survivors shapes our work.</p> <p>We are also working with the fully independent organisation Keeping Our Girls Safe (KOGS) to create an independent victim support advisory group, and providing funding for fully independent legal advice so survivors can get the legal support they need.</p>
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21	Gavin Withey	Councillor Stretton	<p>I have been attempting to stop parents from parking to drop their children of at school. The schools in question are North Chadderton and sixth form, St. Matthews juniors, St. Matthews infants and St Matthews play group which are all on a 500-metre stretch of Chadderton Park road. There are approximately 2.5 thousand children attending these schools. The problem is a bus lay-by facing St. Matthews juniors which after speaking to 3 bus drivers is never used to pick up or drop of passengers and is adjacent to the school crossing, a small lay-by which was put in place for camera vehicles and a paved area next to the play group all of which are used by these irresponsible parents. I have corresponded with councillor Brownridge on a number of occasions with ideas to solve this but nothing has been done.</p>	Please refer the response to question 3, above
22	Md Moudud Ahmed	Councillor Stretton	<p>It has been brought to my attention by residents after canvassing north Chadderton as a community campaigner that the number of fireworks going off between 6pm and 4am has become unbearable, can I ask what are the council and police</p>	Please refer the response to question 3, above

			are doing about this ongoing situation? Because from the evidence I have received from residents on the doorsteps is that nothing is being done, and that the council and police can't agree on who should be doing something?	
23	David Barter 22 nd July 2022	Councillor Jabbar	There are lots of new homes being built but many have little green spaces or trees, and almost none have solar panels or electric car charging points. Will the council consider making climate and nature an essential requirement of new homes?	<p>Thank you for your question – the Council's current local planning policies require residential developments to incorporate carbon reducing measures and energy efficiencies. We've not specified solar panels or electric vehicle charging points at this stage, however numerous other measures are included and as a result all new homes are more energy efficient than those developed previously, particularly those being developed directly by the Council. Local planning policies require all new developments to incorporate new green spaces. Where this is not possible, a financial contribution is required towards the improvement of existing green space in the area surrounding the development.</p> <p>Unfortunately, many sites in Oldham have challenging viability and national planning policy requires the Council to reduce what is asked for, to ensure the development remains viable – therefore we have no choice to make these measures essential requirements at this time.</p>

				<p>However, as part of the new Local Plan for Oldham, which is currently in preparation, new and up-to-date policies for green spaces, trees and low carbon solutions like solar panels and electric vehicle charging points will be needed.</p> <p>Some examples of new homes being built are set out below: -</p> <p>Some examples of where the Council has confirmed climate and nature improvements into new housing developments –</p> <p>i) the Council recently completed 19 new family homes at Primrose Bank which are fitted with solar panels and battery storage systems and are zero carbon complaint depending upon which electrical tariff occupants choose to take.</p> <p>ii) Working with the Council, Hive Homes are due to submit plans very soon for 131 new homes on vacant brownfield land in Derker. All properties will be zero carbon compliant and should be fitted with electric car charging points.</p> <p>iii) Plans are also being developed for 130 new houses and apartments at Southlink which will be zero carbon compliant and are due to have electric vehicle charging points.</p>
24	Karl Bardsley 2 nd September 2022	Councillor Ali	Around the north Chadderton school area, a number of residents have raised some very serious issues with	Thank you for your question. Unfortunately, the issues you described are not uncommon on streets located within the vicinity of

			<p>me regards illegal parking and near miss incidents around north Chadderton school and St Matthews at drop off and pick up times.</p> <p>The residents have contacted there local councillors but are constantly ignored and fobbed off</p> <p>I was wondering what the council are doing or are going to do about this serious issue, around all schools in the borough, not only to protect and safeguard our children but also clamp down on the illegal parking.</p>	<p>schools. Addressing these requires a multi discipline approach including council led intervention such as introducing restrictions to parking and movement, where necessary, as well as community engagement, working with the school, the parents and students to educate and encourage safer behaviours and mode shift from private car to walking, cycling and public transport to reduce congestion.</p> <p>The area is covered by Traffic Regulation Orders which allow penalty charge notices to be issued to vehicles found parked in contravention; this could be by an officer on foot or by the CCTV car. Officers visit all school areas with TROs in term times to help prevent parking in dangerous locations outside schools.</p> <p>I am aware that North Chadderton School have recently taken part in the Youth Travel Ambassador Programme to encourage pupils to walk and cycle to school and to challenge behaviour change. This school is also one of those who have signed up for Modeshift STARS for Education to develop School Travel Plans leading on to achieving Nationally Accredited Awards in Active Travel.</p>
25	Karl Bardsley 5 th September 2022	Councillor Stretton	New figures from the Department for Transport show the proportion of people regularly cycling in Oldham	Please refer to the response to question 24, above.

			<p>has decreased compared to 2020 and 2019.</p> <p>According to the survey, 41 per cent fewer people cycled in 2021 than in 2020, with 3.3 per cent of adults in Oldham cycling at least once a week</p> <p>What are the councils plans on making cycling more accessible and safer for the people of Oldham that would love to cycle more to work and for leisure?</p> <p>I do see there are plans to spend £5million on a cycling bridge that will more than likely end up being a gateway for the delivery of illegal drugs between Tameside and Oldham.</p> <p>Would it not be better to spend that £5 million on something that benefits most cyclists, example better cycle lanes on main routes, like Oldham Road, Broadway or Ashton Road</p>	
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