

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

# **OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

10 (a) **Public Questions** (Pages 1 - 18)

**Public Questions Full Council 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022**

	<b>From / Date</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Sent to</b>	<b>Response</b>
1	Jeffrey Smith 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	These old council street litter bins I've asked council coordinators councillors etc to get one for my community to help reduce litter as it's a spot where fly tipping and litter is rife, so I was wondering if I could acquire one for my area Royton Hall Walk Royton as the area would benefit a litter bin, most are going to be scrapped anyway, I also run Oldham Wombles community litter picking group 😊 so please consider me for a single bin. if I ever acquired one would be kept clean and not over-flowing so no complaints	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question, Mr Smith - I understand you have been in direct discussion with officers on this matter, who have confirmed that we are unable to provide a Council branded bin directly to you as there is liability involved for which you are not covered.</p> <p>I am aware that the location for the bin is owned by the Guinness Housing Association and we're keen to work in partnership with them to support the work you are doing in the area.</p> <p>I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for all the work that you do to assist us in keeping our streets and open spaces clear of litter. Hope more of the community can get involved when Don't Trash Oldham comes to your area again.</p>
2	Hannah Roberts 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	The former Dog and Partridge pub on Middleton Road in Royton has been under development for some time. I know that the developer has had to reapply for planning permission to change the scheme because the building was in such a poor structural state which caused some delay. I also know that the Council has previously taken action to ensure that the site is cleaned up and the building is made secure. I can see though that the site is again covered in rubbish and the building	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question – I am aware that we have written to the landowner advising them to secure the site and recommended that they resume construction to resolve the challenges with maintaining the site.</p> <p>If no positive actions are taken by the landowner, the Council will investigate whether enforcement action would be appropriate under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.</p>

			is no longer sealed up. Work also seems to have stopped. Can the Council take any action to make the owner keep the site clear and to ensure that it is secured against trespassers? And does the Council have any information about the timetable for the building work?		The Council does not have a current position from the landowner on the timetable for the building work – however we will continue to chase updates.
3	Mick Harwood 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	Can I have an update on the work on Royton Town Hall and Library, is there space for the local community to use and is work on schedule and has the opening date been confirmed?	Emma Barton	Thank you for your question Mr Harwood. The Victorian styled Royton Town Hall and Library buildings are planned to undergo major alterations and refurbishment works to ensure these buildings of local heritage importance are retained and improved. The project includes various improvements for the benefit of the local community including a refurbished library and bring the Town Hall Meeting Room back in to use for the Community, Voluntary and Faith sectors. We have already completed some work on the Town Hall building including demolition of the rear extension and the necessary repairs to the clock tower, clock faces and mechanisms. We are currently within the procurement phase of a contractor for further works and will be able to advise on completion of all the works in due course.
4	Shazia Aktar 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Akhtar	It is good to see that the Get Oldham Working Jobs Fair is being held again this September. Please can we have an update at the next council meeting of how many employers, job seekers and students attended? It would also be good to know how many	Emma Barton	Thank you for your question. I can confirm that attendance comprised - 61 employers and 1,143 members of the public  The opportunities available at the event included - 678 Jobs, 152 apprenticeships and 120 Work experience / Volunteering positions

			people find a job, an apprenticeship or new career as a result.		<p>Officers are currently tracking the outcomes of the Jobs Fair with employers, but at this time, we know that 60 attendees have found employment, and there are many interviews scheduled for the coming week/s now half term has passed.</p> <p>Case Study - NHS Professionals feedback: We spoke to over 100 candidates on the day and have applications from over 60 prospective candidates for our bank and flexible positions across Care, Estates and Facilities, Domestic and Clerical to work within our client Northern Care Alliance.</p> <p>A great success story from the day was meeting Catherine, an experienced Catering Assistant. Catherine sent us her CV whilst chatting with our Consultant Alex, Alex sent her CV immediately to the Catering Manager at Royal Oldham Hospital and an interview was confirmed within the hour. After a second interview today, Monday, Catherine has now been offered a full-time position within the department to start on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. This offers Catherine flexibility, a long-term contract and has provided the NHS with a fantastic member of staff within a very short-staffed team. – <b>She started yesterday</b></p>
5	Andrew Holt 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Jabbar	Given the looming energy crisis and the broader issue of climate change, what plans do the Council have for sustainability across the borough?"	Emma Barton	Thank you for your question Mr Holt. The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy, was adopted in March 2020 and is available on the Council's website. This plan sets out the Council's approach to energy for the borough which aims to secure large-scale inward

					<p>investment in low carbon infrastructure for the borough to cut carbon emissions and stabilise energy bills.</p> <p>A key initiative to achieve this is our ongoing work to develop an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership, building on key Greater Manchester level initiatives such as the GM Local Energy Market project.</p> <p>We also aim to make sure that Oldham's local Green Technology and Services supply chain companies are involved as much as possible in delivering low carbon infrastructure in the borough, bringing new opportunities for jobs and training opportunities in this growing sector.</p>
6	Larry Patrick 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Brownridge	<p>I am really pleased that Oldham's Labour Council has worked with the CCG to find a way to build a long-awaited new Health Centre in Shaw which will deliver modern health services for local residents and improve part of Shaw centre.</p> <p>Does the Council know what the timetable is for delivering the new Health Centre and when it will be open to patients?</p>	Mike Barker	<p>We are delighted that the residents of Shaw and Crompton are on track to have access to a modern and fit-for-purpose local healthcare facility. Subject to planning approval and the completion of site purchase, preparatory work will begin early in January, with contractors on-site the following month. Handover of the building is scheduled for March 2024, with the new SHAW CROMPTON MEDICAL CENTRE opening to patients as soon as possible after that. The Council is working closely with the NHS to support and facilitate this much needed project, which is currently on plan with no delays envisaged.</p>
7	Dawn Stewart 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>It has been well publicised in the press that a vote by Conservative MPs has allowed vast quantities of raw sewage to be pumped into Britain's rivers and onto Britain's beaches. Has the council itself incurred any costs of clean up and if</p>	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question regarding sewage contamination of the Country's rivers and beaches. I can confirm that Oldham Council has not incurred any costs relating to actions required within the borough. The Environment Agency will take action and ensure</p>

			so, will it be seeking to reclaim these costs from the profiteering privatised water companies?		compliance for any matters relating to contamination of rivers and seas
8	Syed Maruf Ali 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Mohon Ali	<p>What is the NEET figure for Oldham? Which ward have the highest and lowest number of NEETS? What help and support are available to help young people get into education, employment or training? How many young people from Werneth Ward between 16 to 25 are NEET? Can you please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity?</p>	Gerard Jones	<p>The current NEET rate for Oldham (September 2022) is 2.12%. This covers Year 12 and Year 13 and as per our statutory duty to report to the DfE.</p> <p>The most recent comparator data available by ward is June 2022. At that point, Hollinwood had the highest number of young people who were NEET, and Saddleworth West and Lees had the lowest.</p> <p>The council commissions a trusted and skilled partner ,Positive Steps, to work with our young people to provide support, advice and career guidance during their participation age (Year 12 and 13). They offer appointments to Year 12 and 13 NEET young people in person, over the phone or online. Positive Steps also hold drop in sessions every week, working with various other providers and Connect to Your Future mentors to ensure those young people have access to more intensive mentoring support where necessary.</p> <p>In addition, Connect to your Future provides engagement, mentoring and transition support, utilising Positive Steps to deliver support for 15 – 18 year olds and Ingeous for the 19+ age group.</p> <p>Northern Roots continues empowering young people and connects them with growth opportunities in the green sector.</p>

				<p>Get Oldham Working (GOW) Youth continues to develop, initially supporting Care Leavers to become EET via the Youth Hub model.</p> <p>GOW Working Wardrobe supports young people to access interview clothing to alleviate some of the barriers to employment.</p> <p>Oldham Council has committed to 20 apprenticeships across council services to support young people to achieve qualifications, work experience and establish careers.</p> <p>We have introduced a NEET survey, directed at young people to understand better the barriers to engagement.</p> <p>Introduced a padlet (an online platform that houses posts from multiple sources all in one place) showing opportunities for engagement, education and training for young people.</p> <p>Events have been targeted at School leavers over the summer with education, training and engagement providers to support with understanding the range of options available to them.</p> <p>There are also a variety of pre-employment and engagement programmes available through providers such as Groundworks and the Princes Trust.</p> <p>The most recent comparator data available by ward is June 2022. The Oldham NEET rate was 3.9% (16–18-year-olds). Of the 3.9%, twenty-one young people</p>
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					<p>who were NEET resided in the Werneth ward. This equates to 4.2% of the June NEET population.</p> <p>Of the 9.1% Oldham Youth Unemployment (18 – 24 year olds) population, 12% resided in the Werneth Ward.</p> <p>We are unable to report any further in relation to age, gender and ethnicity.</p>
9	Sholver Travel Futures 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	We are a group of residents who are concerned about safe, more direct pedestrian & cycle access down Bullcote Lane, particularly for pupils of Royton & Crompton School. Will the Council put forward a scheme which separates walkers & cyclists from cars in the next round of Mayor's Challenge Fund bidding?	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for submitting this question - we are currently using the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge 'Capability' Funding to identify gaps in our walking and cycling network to inform a delivery pipeline to improve access for walking, cycling and wheeling in Oldham.</p> <p>We have applied for additional funding to review Active Travel and Road Safety requirements around our schools. The outcomes of these studies, plus requests like yours are used to prioritise locations and develop schemes that we put forward in the next round of funding bids.</p>
10	Norma Taylor 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Jabbar	The Tories cost of living crisis is having a terrible effect on many Oldham households and businesses. It's not just the cost of petrol, gas and electricity, but also food and many other goods. Inflation must be affecting our Council's budget too. Could the Cabinet member for Finance explain what is happening and how the Council is dealing with it?	Anne Ryans	<p>We know how tough things are for many of our residents right now, and sadly it looks as if things could get even harder this winter, especially as the cost of many household essentials continues to rise.</p> <p>To help those who need it most, we have invested more than £3 million to provide funding for energy, food and childcare, as well as extending the range of existing support available such as the Citizens' Advice service and community engagement teams, who go</p>

					<p>door-to-door checking on people's welfare and helping them access the support they are entitled to.</p> <p>We are opening 'warm banks' in every District, open to anyone who needs a warm, inviting space through the colder months. We are working with local partners to identify local spaces that can provide warm spaces free of charge for residents. These includes our libraries and local community centres.</p> <p>We are also providing an additional £1.95m of food vouchers to households in receipt of free school meals during the October, Christmas, February and Easter holidays, easing the financial burden that many parents are facing.</p> <p>When it comes to the Council's budget, it's clearly a very challenging time. We have faced over a decade of austerity, responded to a pandemic and are now doing everything we can to help during the cost-of-living crisis. However, we are responding to this challenge proactively, delivering a wide-ranging transformation plan to improve our residents experience of council services, reduce demand and drive long-term efficiencies.</p>
11	Pete Grubb 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Chadderton	In view of increasing fuel costs, and the need to improve health by encouraging exercise could the leader of the council indicate what plans are in place to provide safe and contiguous cycle routes and secure cycle storage at schools, shopping areas, council workplaces and public transport interchanges?	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question. We are currently finalising a new Transport Strategy, which sets out actions to increase access to key destinations across the borough and promote Active Travel (walking, cycling and the use of public transport).</p> <p>This will significantly help contribute to improving the health of our residents and communities.</p> <p>To date, we have successfully bid for funding via Transport for Greater Manchester to connect the gaps</p>

					<p>in our walking and cycling routes. We are also working with developers to contribute to highways improvements.</p> <p>As we develop our new Local Plan we are also including parking guidance to ensure all developments and transport interchanges include safe and secure cycle parking for residents, business use and visitors.</p>
12	Ceridwen Short 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Jabbar	<p>I understand that the reason the Council could not go ahead with the Wrigley Head Solar Farm was because the income generated by the sale of electricity was too low to make it cost effective. Given the extraordinary hike in unit cost of electricity since this decision was made, is it being looked at again as the cost-benefit ratio must now be more favourable?</p> <p>Using solar panels to produce electricity must also be better than carbon-based options like fracking or extracting more gas from the North Sea?</p>	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question. The Wrigley Head Solar Farm project is currently under review following the rises in energy prices – and with fossil fuels becoming more difficult, risky and costly to produce as the easy-to-access reserves become depleted.</p> <p>Low carbon energy generation options such as solar panels are not only a relatively cleaner way of generating the energy we need, they provide secure, local supplies and are also one of the cheapest ways of generating energy.</p>
13	Hayley Wood 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Moores	<p>We write to you as Oldham Foster Carer's Working Group, we are a group of foster carers who's aim it is to be bring improvements to the lives of Oldham local authority foster carers and their children &amp; young people.</p> <p>Sadly, the group are finding themselves having to follow this route to get our elected leaders to listen to our plight and to take seriously our concerns with regards to the Cost of Living &amp; Energy Crisis and the ongoing pressure and</p>	Gerard Jones	<p>Information for members: Payments to carers are divided into 2 categories as follows</p> <p><b>Fostering allowances:</b> These are paid to cover the daily costs of caring for a child or Young Person and other payments made to cover costs they incur.</p> <p><b>Skills based payments:</b> These are fee payments, paid to carers recognising their skills, experiences in caring for children and young people based on their assessment.</p>

		<p>effects it is having on carers and the children in their care. Carers cannot continue to care for the children and young people to statutory requirements without adequate resources that are needed to meet them. Whilst the 4% uplift which was applied to the child's allowance earlier this year &amp; the £250 one off payment was welcome it does not meet the extra cost to what is needed to carry out our roles and to give the young people in our care the experiences they should be having.</p> <p>It is a sad fact that carers are now having to make decisions resulting in children missing out on activities, day trips etc as carers simply do not have the funds to allow them to do them, carers are also now using their savings to enable them to live and to subsidise the shortfall they are experiencing due to the inadequate funds they are being given to them to carry out their roles.</p> <p>We feel we need to remind the Council that you are the Corporate Parent and it is your duty to ensure that we are given enough to care for the children you are responsible for, no foster carer should be out of pocket in the fostering role yet all foster carers are out of pocket and no concern or regard is being shown by either the Council or the Fostering Service.</p> <p>Mention should also be given to the foster carers skills payments review which is currently taking place, it is very</p>		<p><b>Fostering allowances (weekly rates) in light of the cost of living crisis were agreed and paid to Foster Carers 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 above National minimum standards by the Government as set out below:</b></p> <p>We reviewed our financial support to foster carers due to this increased financial pressure and enable our Looked After Children and Young People to have their basic needs met and have continued opportunities to experience activities within the community.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1487 568 2210 903"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>2022/23 National Minimum £</th> <th>2022/23 Oldham Rates £</th> <th>Increase %</th> <th>Increase £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Age 0-4</td> <td>141.00</td> <td>141.00</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>5.64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age 5-10</td> <td>156.00</td> <td>156.00</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>6.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age 11-15</td> <td>177</td> <td>177.38</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>7.10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Age 16+</td> <td>207</td> <td>215.74</td> <td>4.00</td> <td>8.63</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Supplementary payments were also raised to the same rates as above from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022</p> <p>Birthday allowances – equivalent of one weeks fostering allowance at new rate Festival allowances -equivalent of one weeks fostering allowance at new rate Holiday allowance -equivalent of 2 weeks fostering allowance at new rate.</p> <p>In addition mileage was increased to 45p per mile from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.</p>	Age	2022/23 National Minimum £	2022/23 Oldham Rates £	Increase %	Increase £	Age 0-4	141.00	141.00	4.00	5.64	Age 5-10	156.00	156.00	4.00	6.24	Age 11-15	177	177.38	4.00	7.10	Age 16+	207	215.74	4.00	8.63
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		<p>disappointing that this review has not been completed as yet and carer's are being fobbed off with non sensical answers which only serve to insult our intelligence. The local authority need to start looking after existing carers or their recruitment programme is a waste of time as we are unwilling to recommend anyone to foster for Oldham under the present conditions plus carers are tired of not being listened to and leave.</p> <p>Oldham Foster Carer Working Group with respect ask that the Council act now to ensure that the children &amp; young people and their carers have what they need to meet the national minimum standards set out by the DfE.</p> <p>We need extra finances to meet our obligations and we need it is a matter of urgency.</p>	<p>We also provided a £250 payment for each fostering household to support with an increase in energy costs, we agreed to review again in October 22 but due to the financial support offered by the Government to households we have agreed to review a further energy payment early next year when we have further details from the Government on support packages.</p> <p>We worked with identified foster carers by the forum in increasing the basic allowance package for furniture starter kit- includes, beds, cots, prams, baby monitors etc dependant on the needs. We agreed the increases suggested by the foster carers and implemented early this year.</p> <p>There is discretionary arrangements for educational field trips , spectacles, passports and school photographs</p> <p>In addition to we continue to support allowances with an initial clothing payment at the discretion of the Team Manager and HOS of <b>up to</b> the following amounts within the first 6 months of a child Looked After and up to £175 to assist towards the purchase of a School uniform.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1487 1075 2130 1222"> <tr> <td>0-4 yrs</td> <td>£350</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-10 yrs</td> <td>£375</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11-15 yrs</td> <td>£400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16 +</td> <td>£450</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Skills Payment:</b> We at OMBC are committed to reviewing the skills payment which we said would be reviewed in the Autumn, we have agreed at the forum</p>	0-4 yrs	£350	5-10 yrs	£375	11-15 yrs	£400	16 +	£450
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				<p>that we would present our initial ideas in a special meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November for consultation with those who would want to attend.</p> <p>It is likely that a finalised version of the plans will not be submitted to DMT until early next year so there will be some delay.</p> <p>The issue for foster carers are that they require an uplift on skills payments, as a Local Authority we would want to link training and skills with rewards/incentives for carers who are able to provide stability for complex, harder to place children and young people.</p> <p>In addition to the fostering allowances skills paid per child</p> <p>Group 1 – (carers with no relevant skills and experience and less than 6 months fostering/relevant experience do not get a skills payment</p> <p>Group 2 – basic allowance plus £79.38 per week skills payment per child (more than 6 months experience and agreed to attend core training)</p> <p>Group 3 – basic allowance plus £158.76 per week skills payment per child</p> <p>Group 4 - basic allowance plus £237.23 per week skills payment per child</p> <p>Group 5 - basic allowance plus £340.76 per week skills payment per child (e.g meet criteria for group 4</p>
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					<p>and able to support most complex children and young people)</p> <p>If you for example are a carer with 1 child aged 10 and 1 aged 4 as a group 3 carer- weekly income is £626.40</p>
14	Simon Wynn 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	Councillor Jabbar	Does Oldham Council have any financial involvement in the recent purchase of boundary park by the new owners of Oldham Athletic? and by financial involvement I mean have you provided a loan? Or become joint owners of Boundary Park?	Anne Ryans/Shelley Kipling	The Council had no financial involvement in the recent purchase of boundary park by the new owners of Oldham Athletic. The Council is not a joint owner of Boundary Park, nor does it have an outstanding loan with Oldham Athletic.
15	Jason Pape- Jones 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Councillor Jabbar	I recently spent nearly two hours waiting on hold to get through to the council tax team, and it's taken weeks to make progress with my issue. Can the council not do something to make it easier when residents have an issue with services?	Anne Ryans	<p>I am sorry that you had to wait such a long period to get through to the Council Tax team. However, Council Tax is an area of understandably high demand. The average call length for Council Tax is 10 minutes, and the average wait time is 22 minutes. At peak periods, unfortunately, this waiting time can increase.</p> <p>Residents are able to manage their Council Tax account using "My Account", and are able to sign up using the links on the website. The Council is expanding digital self-serve options so that residents can access and request services at a time that suits them without having to wait in call queues. Information about this is on our website</p>

					The Council is looking to improve its performance in this area and I will work with the Director responsible for the Contact Centre in this regard.
16	Anita Lowe 13 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>During my attendance at one of the Big Conversation events held by Oldham Council at East Methodist Church.</p> <p>With Chief Executive, Harry Catherall and the previous Council Leader, Arooj Shah, leading the event.</p> <p>Ms Shah made a statement after questions were raised and I quote -:</p> <p>"we have a nice surprise for something happening at Mumps Princess Gate and have decided to divulge the news this evening</p> <p>To confirm the agreement of a new build of a hotel and supermarket on the site at Mumps"</p> <p>The Chief Executive agreed and said it was great news for the area.</p> <p>Please can the Chief Executive confirm any further news regarding this information that was spoken at this meeting regarding the hotel and supermarket plans.</p> <p>As these plans go back to November 2018 when 60 million pounds was allocated for The Princess Gate Masterplan as stated in</p>	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question Anita.</p> <p>The development plans at Mumps are not fake statements - the Council entered in to a legal agreement in 2019, which would see a new supermarket and hotel built by the purchaser.</p> <p>During the covid pandemic - the original planning and development timescales were delayed by the developer. However, the lack of progress is noted by the Council and is frustrating given the legal contract in place. However, the local economy is seeing unprecedented situations with the combination of effects from Brexit, the pandemic and the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine.</p> <p>We can understand why our local communities are frustrated - we share that frustration and the Council are in continued dialogue with the developer to chase progress.</p>



			<p>The Oldham Times by a local democracy reporter and by another previous council leader.</p> <p>Of course we observe the housing-development taking place nearby on the Oldham - by - pass - which in effect will no longer be a by-pass with traffic light restrictions for access to the development.</p> <p>But my question for you is when is the Hotel and Supermarket ever going to appear?</p> <p>Or are these all-fake statements and false promises.</p>		
17	Mark Birchall 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>With the spectre of HMOs springing up at great pace in Oldham and some actually being two bedrooms small terraced being converted into 4-bedroom bedsits with no living accommodation. Residents are in fear of one turning up on their doorstep devaluing their property overnight and bringing the well documented issues along with them. Many families are in B&amp;B awaiting a home how can this be allowed to happen in this borough, we are creating a looming problem with this rise.</p> <p>Interestingly you have been talking! about this for over a year as a council alongside our local MP Jim McMahan. Are these just platitudes you want residents to hear or are they actual discussions to implement</p>	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question Mr Birchall. The Council do monitor HMOs, however there is no evidence that would justify the removal of permitted development rights for the conversion of a home to a 3-6 bed HMO through an Article 4 Direction.</p> <p>There has to be a cumulative impact which is proven to harm the local area – but this does not apply in any community in Oldham, and there is no evidence of an increase in upheld complaints against HMO properties or their occupiers as causing harm through their presence / actions to other residents. All other HMO proposals already require planning permission.</p> <p>The comparison to Liverpool is not appropriate, as the challenge with HMOs in parts of Liverpool is far greater due to the high demand for student HMOs coupled with non-student HMOs in certain areas of the</p>

			<p>something. It surprises me that Liverpool council in their wisdom only took two months from discussion to implementation to stop this problem, yourselves as the council along with our MP have been doing this for over a year. When will you actually do something is the answer, we are all waiting for?</p>		<p>city creating significant clusters of HMOs in those areas. The number of HMOs being created in Oldham is far smaller and is not clustered in any particular area(s).</p>
18	Abdul Malik 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>Following recent public consultations, it is clear that local residents and business are not in favor of the current scheme especially regarding the bus gates and road closure plans. Local residents and businesses are very keen that the council are listening to them and need confirmation that this current scheme will not go ahead. Therefore, can the relevant Cabinet Member, give me the assurance that the Council is listening to the local residents and business and the current scheme will not go ahead.</p>	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question and I would like to assure you that we are listening to all the views shared by local residents and businesses within this area as part of the ongoing consultation which is still open until the 4 November and I would urge anyone with a view on these proposals to share them with us.</p> <p>I understand that there was significant opposition to some elements of the proposals, in particular, the bus gates at the public meetings held recently. If the majority of responses to the consultation reflect the views shared at the meetings, then we will not progress these elements of the scheme. However, the funding allocated is for a package of measures in the identified neighbourhoods – therefore we cannot pick n mix - we have to ensure the measures being proposed comply with the funding objectives and reduce traffic levels, improve road safety and increasing active and sustainable modes of travel. So, we are keen to work with the community to develop a scheme that can bring these benefits to the area.</p>

					<p>As we have yet to reach the end of the consultation period, I cannot advise the outcome until all responses have been reviewed and the analysis of all feedback has been completed by the independent company helping us with the consultation.</p> <p>A position statement setting out the next steps based on the online survey, returned questionnaires and verbal/written feedback received at the public meetings will be shared before the end of this year.</p>
19	Karl Bardsley 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2022	Councillor Mushtaq	How can confidential information, from the proceedings of the standards committee on Thursday 20th October 2022 be leaked to Neil Wilby?	Paul Entwistle	It is not known how this information was provided to a third party.
20	Dhanyaal Rashid 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Councillor Chadderton	<p>I saw in the Oldham Times some months ago that the Council is buying new larger bins to put in across the borough and in Werneth, as well as some hi-tech ones in the Town Centre.</p> <p>Can the Cabinet Members for Neighbourhoods tell me how far the bin replacement programme has got and what are the reasons for any delay please? As residents have complained and asked to raise this question.</p>	Emma Barton	<p>Thank you for your question. Bins have been installed in Oldham Town Centre, Coldhurst, St Mary's &amp; Crompton Wards so far, and we are currently working in Shaw, which we hope to complete this week. Any delays in the installation of bins have been a result of the supply chain from the approved contractor. In addition to this and to ensure the project remains value for money the installation is being carried out by the council's environmental services team rather than an external contractor. We are committed to providing the new bins in all areas by the end of this financial year.</p>
21	Brenda Rustidge 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Councillor Chadderton	The new Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was filmed this summer bragging that he had helped divert funding in deprived areas to wealthier parts of the country. How has	Anne Ryans	It is not possible to directly assess the impact of the Prime Minister's comments, however, the Government allocates general revenue grant funding to Councils by means of a funding formula. Changes to the formula

			this policy that he is so proud of, affected Oldham?		can have a major redistributive affect. There have been no major changes to the general funding formula recently, although such changes have been discussed for some time including the introduction of the Fair Funding Review which would use more up to date indices for factors such as deprivation in determining grant allocations. The Government has repeatedly deferred the introduction of Fair Funding. If it had been introduced, it would undoubtedly have increased the funding received by Oldham and reduced funding for more affluent boroughs.