

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting Wednesday 13 March 2024 Amendments to Motions and Reports

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS AND REPORTS

- 10 Notice of Administration Business (Pages 1 - 6)
 - A. Liberal Democrat Amendment (1- 4)
 - B. Oldham group Amendment (5 – 6)

- 11 Notice of Opposition Business (Pages 7 - 28)
 - a. Labour amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion (7-10)
 - b. Liberal Democrat amendment to Oldham Group Motion (11-16)
 - c. Labour Group amendment to Oldham Group Motion (17-22)
 - d. Independent Group to FIP Motion (23-28)

- 14 Members Allowances Scheme 2024/25 (Pages 29 - 32)
Conservative amendment to Members Allowance Scheme for 2024/25

- 16 Adoption of Places for Everyone Plan (Pages 33 - 34)
Liberal Democrat Amendment to Adoption of Places for Everyone Plan

Liberal Democrat amendment

Moved by Cllr Al-Hamdani

Seconded by Cllr Harkness

This Council calls for a lasting peace in Palestine & Israel.

Moved by: Cllr Arooj Shah
Seconded by: Cllr Ros Birch

The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have died in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

The conflict has had a deep and emotional impact on many Oldhamers, some of whom may have friends or relatives in the region.

Whilst this Council is limited in our ability to affect change in foreign policy, we have a duty to express the concerns of our residents.

This Council Notes:

- that the House of Commons passed a resolution backing calls for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages.
- that members of this Council, led by the Mayor Cllr Dr Zahid Chauhan and Leaders of all Political Groups, called for a ceasefire in early November.
- the international community is increasingly backing calls for a ceasefire and welcomes comments in this regard by the UK Foreign Secretary and US President but recognises that words are not enough, and Palestinian civilians need urgent action to prevent further loss of life.
- the International Court of Justice's provisional measures and expresses concerns at reports that Israel has failed to comply with this ruling.
- that Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7th – the largest volume of cases recorded in four months since Tell MAMA was founded in 2011.
- that the Community Safety Trust recorded 2,699 incidents of anti-Jewish hate between October 7th and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023 and the taking of hostages;
- condemns the scale of the Israeli military actions in Gaza where they have targeted civilian infrastructure, and not adhered to international law by making a clear distinction between military and civilian targets; and for imposing a total siege on the civilian population Gaza denying them adequate supplies of food, water, medicines and power-

- reiterates calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza, [and secure the release of hostages and detainees.](#)
- urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, [the creation of a viable Palestinian state, the two states with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable Palestinian state, living side by side in peace and security.](#)
- recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

- resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
- supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
- regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.

Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place

Liberal Democrat Group amendment

Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani

Seconded by Councillor Harkness

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The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have died in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

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This Council:

- condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023 and the taking of hostages;
- condemns the scale of the Israeli military actions in Gaza where they have targeted civilian infrastructure, and not adhered to international law by making a clear distinction between military and civilian targets; and for imposing a total siege on the civilian population Gaza denying them adequate supplies of food, water, medicines and power
- reiterates calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza, and secure the release of hostages and detainees.

- urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, the creation of a viable Palestinian state, the two states living side by side in peace and security.
- recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

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- supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
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This Council calls for a lasting peace in Palestine & Israel.

Moved by: Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconded by: Cllr Ros Birch

Amendment:

Moved by: Cllr Kamran Ghafoor

Seconded by: Cllr Abdul Wahid

The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have **died** **been killed** in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

The conflict has had a deep and emotional impact on many Oldhamers, some of whom may have friends or relatives in the region.

Whilst this Council is limited in our ability to affect change in foreign policy, we have a duty to express the concerns of our residents.

This Council Notes:

- that the House of Commons passed a resolution backing calls for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages.
- that members of this Council, led by the Mayor Cllr Dr Zahid Chauhan and Leaders of all Political Groups, called for a ceasefire in early November.
- **as the occupying power, under international law, Israel has a clear obligation to ensure the basic needs of Gaza's population are met.**
- the international community is increasingly backing calls for a ceasefire and welcomes comments in this regard by the UK Foreign Secretary and US President but recognises that words are not enough, and Palestinian civilians need urgent action to prevent further loss of life.
- the International Court of Justice's provisional measures and expresses concerns at reports that Israel has failed to comply with this ruling.
- **according to Human Rights Watch, Israel's policies in the occupied territories amount to apartheid and persecution, both crimes against humanity.**
- **The UN, Human Rights Watch, and humanitarian organisations have warned that starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is being used in Gaza. Starvation of the civilian population is illegal under International Humanitarian Law, and in direct breach of UNSC Resolution 2417.**
- that Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7th – the largest volume of cases recorded in four months since Tell MAMA was founded in 2011.
- that the Community Safety Trust recorded 2,699 incidents of anti-Jewish hate between October 7th and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- condemns the killing of 234 Palestinian in the West Bank by the state of Israel in the calendar year 2023 which preceded the attack carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023
- condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023.
- condemns all acts of collective punishment which is prohibited under international law and amounts to a war crime including the statement made by leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to continue bombing Gaza and cutting off electricity and water to its population of over 2 million people
- reiterates calls for an immediate **humanitarian** and permanent ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza.
- urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable Palestinian state.
- recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

- resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
- resolves to support any action taken by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) following Israel's actions in Gaza which the ICJ has said places the civilian population at imminent risk of genocide.
- share details of *Save the Children's Stand with children open letter campaign calling for a ceasefire with every school in Oldham.*
- supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
- regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.

Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place

Lab Group Amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion

Moved by: Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconded by: Cllr Peter Dean

Delete **was**

Insert **is**

Delete **home signifies a serious failure by all parties involved, with**

Insert **on the back of**

Delete **. – and the failure to secure the long-term future of the site, despite missed opportunities linked with town centre regeneration projects.**

Insert **was regrettable**

Delete **; and keep it on Fairbottom Street where it belongs.**

Delete **despite the then leadership of this Council publicly stating otherwise,**

After “Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building” insert **alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.**

Before “Explore funding streams” insert **Continue to**

After “Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council” insert **“is taking”**

After “to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to” insert **“retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to”**

This Council believes:

Oldham Coliseum Theatre **was is** a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. Its productions have put Oldham on the map and brought acclaim from across the UK’s arts and culture sector.

For many years, the Coliseum has been one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London, providing a platform for the development of new work. The closure of its Fairbottom Street ~~home signifies a serious failure by all parties involved, with~~ **on the back of** the withdrawal of ACE funding **was regrettable.** ~~—and the failure to secure the long-term future of the site, despite missed opportunities linked with town centre regeneration projects.~~

This Council notes that:

Since the Coliseum announced that it would close in March 2023, the public support for the Theatre has been phenomenal. Oldham residents, theatregoers from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts are united by a desire to resolve the difficulties facing the Oldham Coliseum. ~~; and keep it on Fairbottom Street where it belongs.~~

In September 2023, ~~despite the then leadership of this Council publicly stating otherwise,~~ a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building is not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment. Investing in the Fairbottom building could be a much more cost-effective proposal freeing up millions for other projects and much needed regeneration.

This Council resolves to:

1. Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building **alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.**
2. **Continue to** Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council **is taking** to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to **retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to** remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.

Amended Motion to read:

This Council believes:

Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. Its productions have put Oldham on the map and brought acclaim from across the UK's arts and culture sector.

For many years, the Coliseum has been one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London, providing a platform for the development of new work. The closure of its Fairbottom Street on the back of the withdrawal of ACE funding was regrettable.

Since the Coliseum announced that it would close in March 2023, the public support for the Theatre has been phenomenal. Oldham residents, theatregoers from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts are united by a desire to resolve the difficulties facing the Oldham Coliseum.

In September 2023, a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building is not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment. Investing in the Fairbottom building could be a much more cost-effective proposal freeing up millions for other projects and much needed regeneration.

This Council resolves to:

1. Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.
2. Continue to Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council is taking to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.

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Liberal Democrat amendment

Moved by Cllr Al-Hamdani

Seconded by Cllr Harkness

The Oldham Group Motion
Proposed by: Cllr Kamran Ghafoor
Seconded by: Cllr Abdul Wahid

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.

As national politicians squabble in parliament, the ongoing conflict has resulted in significant loss of life. Over 30000 ~~Palestinians dead have died~~ so far. The majority, 21000 at the most recent count, are women and children. This is in addition to the nearly 1200 Israelis and others who were killed as a result of the Hamas attacks on 7 October. The majority, 21000 at the most recent count, are children.

As the numbers of the ~~innocent massacres~~ innocent Palestinians being killed increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives. This should include the release of hostages and detainees, and lead to a long-lasting credible solution to this conflict.

However insignificant we know our influence to be, we must speak out in support of the aid agencies that are being prevented from reaching those that are starving to death. The need for humanitarian agencies to provide essential aid and assistance to those affected by the conflict is critical.

As this council knows, many Oldhamers have donated to these agencies. As we debate this issue, there are groups of children and young people from across our town raising funds for these aid agencies. They are pleading with us to help get the aid through. We are pleading with you all here to do what can be done and help people from starving to death.

~~The people of Oldham are neither Islamists today anymore than they were Far Right yesterday.~~
Caring about others does not make us extremists. From all backgrounds, all of us are traumatised by the images of the horrors of the conflict in Gaza. We are concerned about the daily reported breaches of human rights, including allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing. No one, however powerful they are, should be above the law. Which is why the people of this borough believe it is right that investigations to hold perpetrators accountable are done so through the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court.

This is why so many of us were shocked by the comments of the leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to continue bombing Gaza and cutting cut off electricity and water to its the population of over 2 million people-civilians in Gaza. What the Labour Party leader is describing is collective punishment.

Commented [CD1]: The figures indicate 70% are women and children.

Commented [CD2R1]: May wish to add the 1200 Israeli killed on 7 October.

Commented [CD3]: The figures indicate 70% are women and children.

Commented [CD4R3]: May wish to add the 1200 Israeli killed on 7 October.

Collective punishment is a war crime.

At its core, this motion seeks to affirm the United Kingdom's commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and holding perpetrators of violence and atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

The Council notes;

the convention of the prevention and punishment of the crime and genocide as the first human right treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9th December 1948 that according to the Genocide Convention, ratified by 153 states including the United Kingdom, that genocide is a crime prohibited under international law that collective punishment is a war crime as prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, more specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II

The council further notes;

- that after initially abstaining or failing to turn up to vote supporting a ceasefire, all 3 Oldham Labour Party MPs now support what Labour describe as an 'immediate humanitarian ceasefire' which does not go far enough to stop the plausible case of genocide
- the statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza [on 29 February](#) in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages
- the head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."
- the order from the ICJ for Israel to [provide-facilitate the provision](#) aid was one of six provisional measures ordered by the Court on 26 January 2024. Since that period, Amnesty International has reported that Israel has continued to disregard its obligation as the occupying power to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met and failed to lift restrictions on the entry of life-saving goods, or open additional aid access points and crossings or put in place an effective system to protect humanitarians from attack that in its January 26 decision, the ICJ ordered Israel to take steps to prevent any acts of genocide in Gaza. The Court required that Israel ensure that it does not commit acts that might fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes that Israel takes steps to punish any Israeli who might have individually committed acts of genocide or incited others to commit acts of genocide in Palestine.

The Council resolves;

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all
2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to all 3 Oldham MPs, Debbie Abrahams, Jim McMahon &

Angela Raynor, on behalf of the people of Oldham, condemning the statement issued by their party leader Sir Keir Starmer and ask that all 3 MPs confirm their understanding that collective punishment is a war crime

3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza

4. To write to the Foreign Secretary requesting that our government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk

CLlR Kamran Ghafoor MSc BSc

Hollinwood Ward

Tel: 07894208888

Email: kamran.ghafoor@oldham.gov.uk

Liberal Democrat amendment to Oldham Group Motion: The Conflict in Gaza

Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani

Seconded by Councillor Harkness

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.

As national politicians squabble in parliament, the ongoing conflict has resulted in significant loss of life. Over 30000 Palestinians have died so far, The majority, 21000 at the most recent count, are women and children. This is in addition to the nearly 1200 Israelis and others who were killed as a result of the Hamas attacks on 7 October.

As the numbers of the innocent Palestinians being killed increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives. This should include the release of hostages and detainees, and lead to a long-lasting credible solution to this conflict.

However insignificant we know our influence to be, we must speak out in support of the aid agencies that are being prevented from reaching those that are starving to death. The need for humanitarian agencies to provide essential aid and assistance to those affected by the conflict is critical.

As this council knows, many Oldhamers have donated to these agencies. As we debate this issue, there are groups of children and young people from across our town raising funds for these aid agencies. They are pleading with us to help get the aid through. We are pleading with you all here to do what can be done and help people from starving to death.

Caring about others does not make us extremists. From all backgrounds, all of us are traumatised by the images of the horrors of the conflict in Gaza. We are concerned about the daily reported breaches of human rights, including allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing. No one, however powerful they are, should be above the law. Which is why the people of this borough believe it is right that investigations to hold perpetrators accountable are done so through the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court.

This is why so many of us were shocked by the comments of the leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to cut off electricity and water to the population of over 2 million civilians in Gaza. What the Labour Party leader is describing is collective punishment. Collective punishment is a war crime.

At its core, this motion seeks to affirm the United Kingdom's commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and holding perpetrators of violence and atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

The Council notes;

the convention of the prevention and punishment of the crime and genocide as the first human right treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9th December 1948

that according to the Genocide Convention, ratified by 153 states including the United Kingdom, that genocide is a crime prohibited under international law that collective punishment is a war crime as prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, more specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II

The council further notes;

- that after initially abstaining or failing to turn up to vote supporting a ceasefire, all 3 Oldham Labour Party MPs now support what Labour describe as an 'immediate humanitarian ceasefire' which does not go far enough to stop the plausible case of genocide

- the statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza on 29 February in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages

- the head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."

-the order from the ICJ for Israel to facilitate the provision aid was one of six provisional measures ordered by the Court on 26 January 2024. Since that period, Amnesty International has reported that Israel has continued to disregard its obligation as the occupying power to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met and failed to lift restrictions on the entry of life-saving goods, or open additional aid access points and crossings or put in place an effective system to protect humanitarians from attack that in its January 26 decision, the ICJ ordered Israel to take steps to prevent any acts of genocide in Gaza. The Court required that Israel ensure that it does not commit acts that might fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes that Israel takes steps to punish any Israeli who might have individually committed acts of genocide or incited others to commit acts of genocide in Palestine.

The Council resolves;

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law

and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all

2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to all 3 Oldham MPs, Debbie Abrahams, Jim McMahon & Angela Raynor, on behalf of the people of Oldham, condemning the statement issued by their party leader Sir Keir Starmer and ask that all 3 MPs confirm their understanding that collective punishment is a war crime

3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza

4. To write to the Foreign Secretary requesting that our government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk

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Motion 3 Amendments

Proposed by: Cllr S Mushtaq

Seconded by: Cllr E Taylor

The Conflict in Gaza

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.

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As the numbers of the innocent massacres increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives.

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DELETE: This is why so many of us were shocked by the comments of the leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to continue bombing Gaza and cutting off electricity and water to its population of over 2 million people. What the Labour Party leader is describing is collective punishment. Collective punishment is a war crime.

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atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

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The council further notes;

~~DELETE- that after initially abstaining or failing to turn up to vote supporting a ceasefire, all 3 Oldham Labour Party MPs~~ ~~DELETE: now support~~ ~~DELETE: what Labour describe as an~~ ~~DELETE: 'immediate humanitarian ceasefire~~ ~~DELETE:'~~ which does not go far enough to stop the plausible case of genocide

Insert: All 3 Oldham MPs supported an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Parliament

INSERT: That the tragedy of what is happening in Gaza is not an issue that is party political, and that people on all sides of the chamber want an end to the violence and a peaceful resolution, and that this shouldn't be an opportunity to play politics or electioneer before council elections in May.

- the statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages

- the head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."

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The Council resolves;

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all

DELETE: 2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to all 3 Oldham MPs, Debbie Abrahams, Jim McMahon & Angela Raynor, on behalf of the people of Oldham, condemning the statement issued by their party leader Sir Keir Starmer and ask that all 3 MPs confirm their understanding that collective punishment is a war crime

3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza

4. To write to the Foreign Secretary **INSERT: and the Shadow Foreign Secretary**, requesting that our government **INSERT: and a future Labour Government** does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two-state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk.

Amended Motion to Read

The Conflict in Gaza

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.

As national politicians squabble in parliament, the ongoing conflict has resulted in significant loss of life. Over 30000 dead so far. The majority, 21000 at the most recent count, are children.

As the numbers of the innocent massacres increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives.

However insignificant we know our influence to be, we must speak out in support of the aid agencies that are being prevented from reaching those that are starving to death. The need for humanitarian agencies to provide essential aid and assistance to those affected by the conflict is critical.

As this council knows, many Oldhamers have donated to these agencies. As we debate this issue, there are groups of children and young people from across our town raising funds for these aid agencies. They are pleading with us to help get the aid through. We are pleading with you all here to do what can be done and help people from starving to death.

The people of Oldham are neither Islamists today anymore than they were Far Right yesterday. Caring about others does not make us extremists. From all backgrounds, all of us are traumatised by the images of the horrors of the conflict in Gaza. We are concerned about the daily reported breaches of human rights, including allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing. No one, however powerful they are, should be above the law. Which is why the people of this borough believe it is right that investigations to hold perpetrators accountable are done so through the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

At its core, this motion seeks to affirm the United Kingdom's commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and holding perpetrators of violence and atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

The Council notes;

the convention of the prevention and punishment of the crime and genocide as the first human right treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9th December 1948

It is prohibited under international law that collective punishment is a war crime as prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, more

specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II

The council further notes;

All 3 Oldham MPs supported an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Parliament.

That the tragedy of what is happening in Gaza is not an issue that is party political, and that people on all sides of the chamber want an end to the violence and a peaceful resolution, and that this shouldn't be an opportunity to play politics or electioneer before council elections in May.

- the statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages

- the head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."

-the order from the ICJ for Israel to provide aid was one of six provisional measures ordered by the Court on 26 January 2024. Since that period, Amnesty International has reported that Israel has continued to disregard its obligation as the occupying power to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met and failed to lift restrictions on the entry of life-saving goods, or open additional aid access points and crossings or put in place an effective system to protect humanitarians from attack that in its January 26 decision, the ICJ ordered Israel to take steps to prevent any acts of genocide in Gaza. The Court required that Israel ensure that it does not commit acts that might fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes that Israel takes steps to punish any Israeli who might have individually committed acts of genocide or incited others to commit acts of genocide in Palestine.

The Council resolves;

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all

2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza

3. To write to the Foreign Secretary and the Shadow Foreign Secretary requesting that our government and a future Labour Government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two-state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk.

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The Independent Group's Amendment to

Failsworth Independent Party Motion March 2024

Councillor Marc Hince to MOVE, Councillor Sandra ball to SECOND

RED Remove GREEN Insert

Commission a Judge Led non-statutory independent inquiry into all aspects of historical and current instances of child sexual exploitation within the borough

Contrary to the claim made by the previous Council leader, being groomed and gang raped did and still does destroy lives. The initial failures of those whose responsibility to protect them were scandalous and it is right that she was forced to publicly apologise for the failings of this council.

The systematic grooming and sex abuse of some of the most vulnerable within the borough will live with the victims, their families, carers, and friends for life. The reputation and confidence in this council and other agency's ability to serve the needs of the community, protecting those who need protecting most damaged seemingly beyond repair.

Rather than working toward recapturing that confidence and trust by implementing a full independent inquiry into historic child sex abuse within the borough. As repeatedly called for by opposition parties, independent groups, and campaigners. The controlling Labour administration chose to commission a GM Mayors Assurance review . Which by association and political allegiances could not be asserted as impartial our independent.

The victims were promised the GM Mayors Assurance review would be a comprehensive review of historic CSE giving victims a chance to tell their stories with the promise lessons would be learned.

Unfortunately, the findings of GM Mayor's so-called Assurance Review neither provided assurance nor sufficiently reviewed what had taken place. Despite claiming there was no cover up, and that lessons had been learned, allegation after allegations have proven to be true.

The most terrifying was that the ringleader of the infamous Rochdale Grooming Gang, had been an Oldham Council employee with access to children for 18 years. People from across all communities of Oldham have lost trust in this council after this revelation was confirmed as accurate. A

revelation that had been kept hidden from all of us.

As recently as this January, the highly respected Maggie Oliver referenced the Oldham Assurance Review and told its authors Malcom Newsam & Gary Ridgway that in Oldham they had been prevented from getting to the truth. This is after it emerged that survivors had been prevented from giving testimony to the Review Team. The individual identified within the Assurance Review as responsible for preventing survivors from testifying is a senior Oldham Council employee.

There have been several attempts so far to secure the support of this Labour Party run council, under 3 different leaders, to call in the government and lead a fit for purpose inquiry. On each occasion, including calls for a Public Inquiry, every Labour Party councillor has voted to block these motions.

Given Maggie Oliver's most recent statement, and the failure of Operation Sherwood to so far charge a single offender, it is time that this Council looked to itself to secure justice for the as of yet unknown number of children that this council failed.

The commissioning of a non-statutory inquiry, an action within the powers of this Council, will allow the opportunity for victims, survivors and whistleblowers to give evidence in private and free from any other pressures or interference. This is especially important because of the up to now less than candid role of both Oldham Council and Greater Manchester Police. Such arrangements will hopefully also encourage other victims to come forward and once and for all lift this dark cloud that has hung over this town for too long.

The Council notes;

That since the review in 2022, little has been done to bring to account those responsible, both within the Council and other authorities and externally by way of criminal prosecutions.

That survivors deserve to see the full powers of law enforced on perpetrators and facilitators.

We as a council, and as such members herein, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure that failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

It is very clear there is significant dissatisfaction from the public and opposition parties on the lack of action on this issue and this has been further evidenced in the press and on social media. There is a significant groundswell of opinion that an independent inquiry is needed to address the issue of CSE in Oldham, both historically and in the present.

It is beyond question that the failure of the council to act in accordance with the wishes of both victims and growing public opinion, means that calls for an independent inquiry grow ever stronger.

Therefore, a Judge Led non-statutory independent inquiry enquiry is clearly in the public interest and will give the council chance to finally satisfy its publicly perceived moral obligations.

The purpose of the Inquiry should be to fully investigate and establish the facts of child sexual exploitation across the Borough of Oldham, to identify if, and where, public, and other, services had failed and where possible, to establish who was accountable for any failure and to make recommendations for the future.

So that trust can once again be rebuilt in this borough, survivors finally have their testimonies heard and those that abused our children and those also that covered up the abuse are brought to justice, and lessons learned.

This Council resolves;

- to approve the commissioning and implementation of a non-statutory independent inquiry into all aspects of historical and current instances of child sexual exploitation within the borough.
- to ensure the inquiry has a clear and transparent terms of reference, with unimpeded access to employees, records and any such material deemed relevant to the enquiry.
- to ensure victims are treated with the upmost dignity and are central to the inquiry and its outcomes.
- instruct council officers to commission such an inquiry immediately.

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Amendment

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg Seconded: Cllr Max Woodvine

Appendix 1

Position	Index	Explanatory Note	Amount
All Members of the Council		BASIC ALLOWANCE	£10,922
All Positions set out below		SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE (SRA)	
Executive Leader	100%	Fixed point for the SRA's where indicated, to be set at 3 times the basic members allowance. Combined Authority Element for CA duties	£32,766 £26,214 £6,552
Deputy Leader	70%		£22,937 £13,937
Main Opposition Leader	50%		£16,383 £5343
Deputy Main Opposition Leader	20%		£6,553 £0
Executive Members	60%		£19,659 £10,659
Chairs of: Licensing Planning Each Overview and Scrutiny Board Health and Well-being Board	30%		£9,830 £0
Deputy Executive Member	25%		£8,192 £0
District Leads: Appointed Deputy District Lead			£6,553 £0 £1,353 £0
Minority Opposition Leader (provided the group has 6 members)	15%		£4,915 £0
GM Scrutiny Panel Member Substitute Member Variable for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Task and Finish Group attended			£3,228 £536 £134.52
GM Transport Committee			£4,392
Co-opted/Independent Members of Audit and Independent Persons on Standards Committee	n/a		£446
Chair of Audit Committee	n/a		£2,415
Chair of Standards Committee	n/a		£763
Refreshment Allowance		Subsistence when absent from normal place of residence Lunch Evening meal	£8 £14
Mileage			45p per mile for first 10,000 miles,

Amendment

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg Seconded: Cllr Max Woodvine

			outside the borough,
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Amendment

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg Seconded: Cllr Max Woodvine

			per annum and a rate of 25p per mile over 10,000 miles
Mayoral Allowance	n/a		£17,135 £8567.50
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	n/a		£3,129 - £0

The Council representative on the GM Pension Fund management panel receives £1,460 paid by GMPF.

Amendment

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg Seconded: Cllr Max Woodvine

No member is entitled to more than one SRA where it relates to internal Council business.

Full Council 13/03/2024 – Notice of Opposition Business

Liberal Democrat Group Amendment to Item 16 – Adoption of Places for Everyone

Proposed by: Councillor Howard Sykes

Seconded by: Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani

List of Amendments

Under Page 2 'Recommendations'

Delete 'is recommended'

Insert 'resolves'

Delete recommendations *i.* to *vi.*

Insert new recommendation *i.* to read:

Reject the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022-2039 and remove Oldham Borough from Places for Everyone.

Insert new recommendation *ii.* to read:

Pursue the development of an 'Oldham Local Housing Strategy' which prioritises 'Brownfield First' development and truly affordable housing.

Final amended section to read:

Recommendations

This Council resolves to:

- i.* Reject the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022-2039 and remove Oldham Borough from Places for Everyone.
- ii.* Pursue the development of an 'Oldham Local Housing Strategy' which prioritises 'Brownfield First' development and truly affordable housing.

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