

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Supplementary Papers**

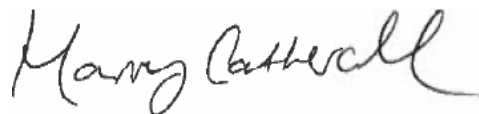
**OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA  
(Amendments to Motions)**

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

10 Notice of Administration Business (Pages 1 - 4)

11 Notice of Opposition Business (Pages 5 - 24)

**NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 3 hours and 30 minutes after the commencement of the meeting.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harry Catherall', written in a cursive style.

**Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive**

**PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



MOTION – Secunder of the Motion to SECOND – May reserve right to speak



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



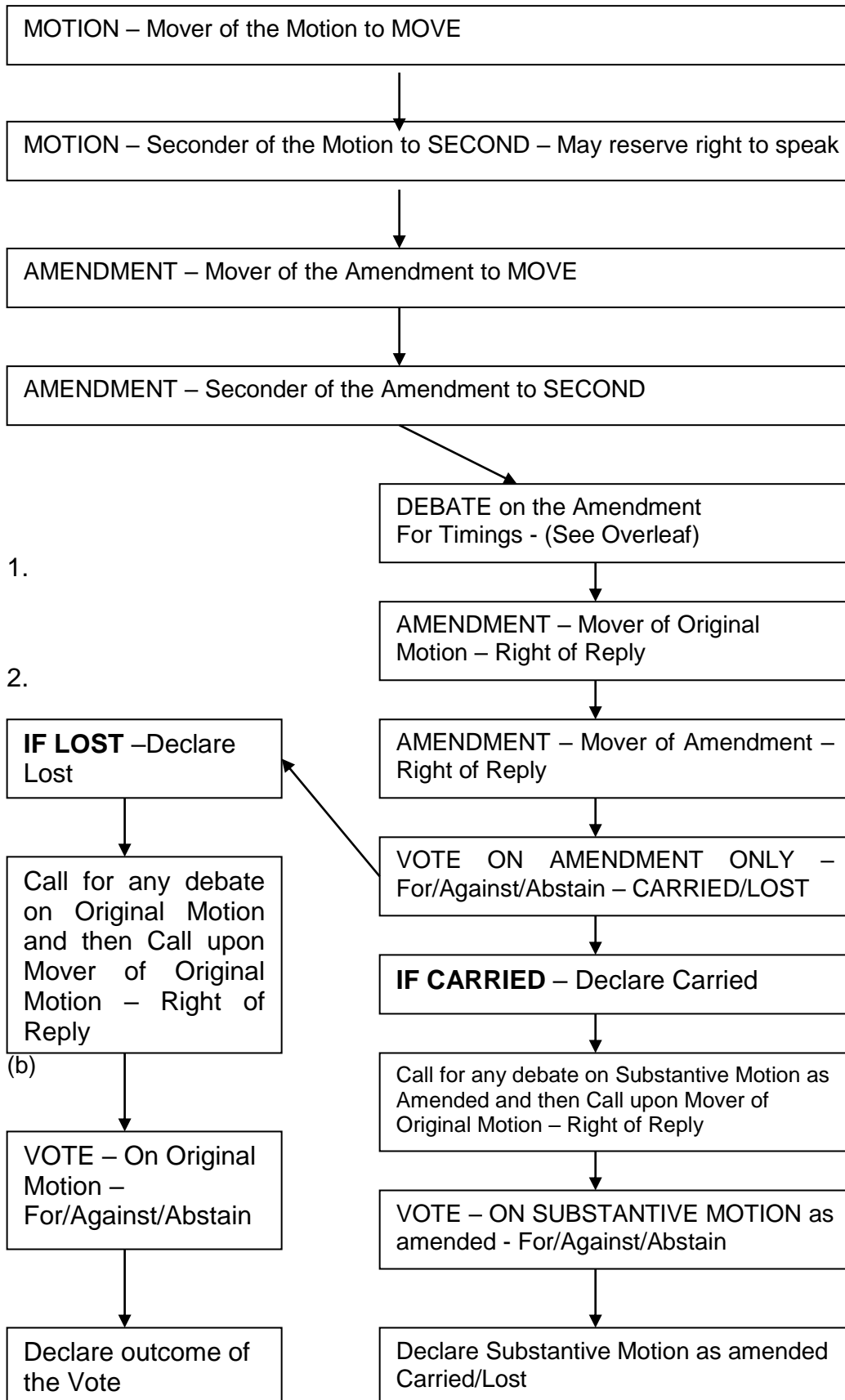
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**RULE ON TIMINGS**

(a) No Member shall speak longer than four minutes on any **Motion or Amendment**, or by way of question, observation or reply, unless by consent of the Members of the Council present, he/she is allowed an extension, in which case only one extension of 30 seconds shall be allowed.

(b) A Member replying to more than one question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

## WITH AMENDMENT



## Liberal Democrat amendment to Administration Motion 2

Proposer: Sam Al-Hamdani

Seconder: Louie Hamblett

Add after "This Council notes ... feel lonely": "4. Every child that goes into kinship care instead of local authority care could save the taxpayer more than £35,000 a year." and renumber accordingly.

Add after "This Council resolves to ... Council's website": "2. Supports kinship carers being given the same financial support as foster carers, and write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to advocate for this." and renumber accordingly.

To read:

### Supporting Kinship Carers

Mover: Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconder: Cllr Shaid Mushtaq

Council believes that children and young people who are unable to live with their parents should receive the support that they and their carers need to safeguard and promote their welfare, whether or not they are looked after by the state

This Council notes:

1. that there are 141,000 children in Kinship Care in England and Wales – carers who are friends or family who step up to care for a child where their parents can't. Many children and young people in the care of Oldham Council are looked after by Kinship Carers and the numbers are increasing.
  2. that in October 2024 the Government has published 'Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' which pulls together the responsibilities of Councils in supporting all forms of kinship care (informal arrangements, private fostering, Kinship Foster Care, Child Arrangement Orders, Special Guardianship Orders and adoption).
  3. Research by the charity Kinship has highlighted the need for practical support for Kinship Carers - one third said their income had dropped by 50% after taking on caring responsibilities and one in five often or always feel lonely.
  4. Every child that goes into kinship care instead of local authority care could save the taxpayer more than £35,000 a year.
  5. There are Council employees who have taken on the responsibility of providing kinship care or who are approved Foster Carers
- Council recognises the increasing demands being made of the Fostering Service and the valuable work done by Kinship and Mainstream Foster Carers in caring for children looked after by the Council and the investment made into the service to support carers and those taking Special Guardianship Orders.

This Council resolves to:

1. Instruct the Director of Children's Services to urgently review the new statutory guidance and ensure that the Council is compliant, particularly in making available the Kinship Local Offer on the Council's website

2. Supports kinship carers being given the same financial support as foster carers, and write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to advocate for this.
3. Become a Kinship Friendly Employer as soon as is practicable, working towards achieving the Gold Standard
4. Record its thanks to all those who provide Kinship Care and mainstream Foster Care in Oldham

## **Motion 2: Supporting Kinship Carers-Amendment**

**Proposed: Cllr Pam Byrne**

**Seconded: Cllr Graham Sheldon**

Council believes that children and young people who are unable to live with their parents should receive the support that they and their carers need to safeguard and promote their welfare, whether or not they are looked after by the state.

### **This Council notes:**

1. 1. that there are 141,000 children in Kinship Care in England and Wales – carers who are friends or family who step up to care for a child where their parents can't. Many children and young people in the care of Oldham Council are looked after by Kinship Carers and the numbers are increasing.
2. 2. that in October 2024 the Government has published 'Kinship Care: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' which pulls together the responsibilities of Councils in supporting all forms of kinship care (informal arrangements, private fostering, Kinship Foster Care, Child Arrangement Orders, Special Guardianship Orders and adoption).
3. 3. Research by the charity *Kinship* has highlighted the need for practical support for Kinship Carers - one third said their income had dropped by 50% after taking on caring responsibilities and one in five often or always feel lonely.
4. 4. There are Council employees who have taken on the responsibility of providing kinship care or who are approved Foster Carers Council recognises the increasing demands being made of the Fostering Service and the valuable work done by Kinship and Mainstream Foster Carers in caring for children looked after by the Council and the investment made into the service to support carers and those taking Special Guardianship Orders.

### **This Council resolves to:**

1. 1. Instruct the Director of Children's Services to urgently review the new statutory guidance and ensure that the Council is compliant, particularly in making available the Kinship Local Offer on the Council's website.
2. 2. Become a Kinship Friendly Employer as soon as is practicable, working towards achieving the Gold Standard
3. 3. Record its thanks to all those who provide Kinship Care and mainstream Foster Care in Oldham.

**4. Make sure the policy will have adequate financial support to implement all the aforementioned policies that the Council should already be adhering to and that a report will be made available at the next Council meeting on the implementation of this policy.**

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## Labour Group Amendment to Liberal Democrat Motion - Stop the Winter Fuel Payment Cuts

Moved by Councillor Peter Dean

Seconded by Councillor Aftab Hussain

~~Delete~~

Insert

### This Council notes that:

The recent announcement by the Labour Government to end universal Winter Fuel Payments has restricted eligibility to only those in receipt of Pension Credit, ~~excluding too many vulnerable pensioners.~~ In addition, Labour is keeping the triple lock which increased a full state pension by £902.20 PA in April 2024 and will rise again by £470.60 PA in April 2025.

Many pensioners on lower and middle incomes will no longer receive the payments. Across England and Wales, the number of people eligible for Winter Fuel Payments will fall by 10 million (from 11.4 million to only 1.5 million).

While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance. However, those on the full state pension who aren't now entitled to Winter Fuel Allowance are receiving just £41.40 a year less than someone on Pension Credit who is also in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance of £200 a year – a difference of 79p a week.

~~According to data obtained by the Liberal Democrats from the Department of Work and Pensions, 85% of pensioners in Oldham Borough will lose out. There are an estimated 7,800 pensioners in Oldham over the age of 80 set to lose their winter fuel payment who do not receive pension credit.~~

### This Council believes that:

The criteria for Winter Fuel Payments that the Labour Government is using will exclude too many pensioners who need help. ~~Only those receiving a pension of less than £218.15 a week (or £332.95 a week for couples) are eligible for Pension Credit.~~ The standard minimum guarantee has been raised to £227.10 a week meaning pensioners earning up to £11,809 PA can now claim pension credit.

This is significantly lower than the living wage rate.

Take up of Pension Credit has been worryingly low, more than one in three eligible pensioners are not signed up. ~~We have a role to play~~ Oldham Council is working with partners to increase awareness of welfare support such as Pension Credit to ensure people get the help that they need.

### This Council further notes that:

The Energy Price Cap has risen by 10% in October, which combined with the removal of Winter Fuel Payments will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty.

**Universal Winter Fuel Payments has been a neglected and overlooked benefit payment during the period of the last Conservative Government having sat statically at £200 and £300. Between 2010 and 2023 state pensions have risen from £97.65 a week to £221.20, and average combined energy bills have risen from £1076 to £1,834. The effective spending power of the Winter Fuel Allowance due to this has been greatly eroded.**

**This Council resolves to:**

~~1. Instruct the Council's Communications Team to urgently commence a significant awareness campaign to maximise uptake of Pension Credit. This should include a dedicated advice line, promotion in the local press as well as targeted letters to those who may be eligible.~~

**1. Reconfirm the Council's resolution to launch a targeted Awareness Campaign to maximise the uptake of Pension Credit; collaborate with local organisations to inform and assist residents with applications; identify and prioritise staff to help residents complete application; monitor and report on the effectiveness of the campaign.**

**2. Instruct the ~~Leader of the Council~~ Acting Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer ~~calling for to express Council's view that~~ the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt ~~to be immediately paused should be reviewed~~ and ~~introduce~~ a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments ~~be considered~~. Council further requests the ~~Leader of the Council~~ Acting Chief Executive write to Oldham's three MPs asking them to give their formal support to ~~a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments be considered. halting these changes to the Winter Fuel Payment eligibility.~~**

## **Amended Motion to read:**

### **This Council notes that:**

The recent announcement by the Labour Government to end universal Winter Fuel Payments has restricted eligibility to only those in receipt of Pension Credit. In addition, Labour is keeping the triple lock which increased a full state pension by £902.20 PA in April 2024 and will rise again by £470.60 PA in April 2025.

Many pensioners on lower and middle incomes will no longer receive the payments. Across England and Wales, the number of people eligible for Winter Fuel Payments will fall by 10 million (from 11.4 million to only 1.5 million).

While some pensioners currently in receipt of the Winter Fuel Payment may not require it, many sit just above the cut-off for Pension Credit and will now lose their allowance. However, those on the full state pension who aren't now entitled to Winter Fuel Allowance are receiving just £41.40 a year less than someone on Pension Credit who is also in receipt of the Winter Fuel Allowance of £200 a year – a difference of 79p a week.

### **This Council believes that:**

The criteria for Winter Fuel Payments that the Labour Government is using will exclude too many pensioners who need help. The standard minimum guarantee has been raised to £227.10 a week meaning pensioners earning up to £11,809 PA can now claim pension credit.

This is significantly lower than the living wage rate.

Take up of Pension Credit has been worryingly low, more than one in three eligible pensioners are not signed up. Oldham Council is working with partners to increase awareness of welfare support such as Pension Credit to ensure people get the help that they need.

### **This Council further notes that:**

The Energy Price Cap has risen by 10% in October, which combined with the removal of Winter Fuel Payments will push thousands of local pensioners into fuel poverty.

Universal Winter Fuel Payments has been a neglected and overlooked benefit payment during the period of the last Conservative Government having sat statically at £200 and £300. Between 2010 and 2023 state pensions have risen from £97.65 a week to £221.20, and average combined energy bills have risen from £1076 to £1,834. The effective spending power of the Winter Fuel Allowance due to this has been greatly eroded.

### **This Council resolves to:**

1. Reconfirm the Council's resolution to launch a targeted Awareness Campaign to maximise the uptake of Pension Credit; collaborate with local organisations to inform and assist residents with applications; identify and prioritise staff to help

residents complete application; monitor and report on the effectiveness of the campaign.

2. Instruct the Acting Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to express Council's view that the policy on linking Winter Fuel Payments to Pension Credit receipt should be reviewed and a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments be considered. Council further requests the Acting Chief Executive write to Oldham's three MPs asking them to give their formal support to a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments be considered.

## Conservative Group Motion

### ***THE BUDGET CHALLENGE***

PROPOSED: Councillor Luke Lancaster

SECONDED: Councillor Max Woodvine

AMENDMENT PROPOSED: Councillor Luke Lancaster

AMENDMENT SECONDED: Councillor Max Woodvine

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has delivered a ~~h~~Budget which will adversely impact the people who live in ~~the~~ Oldham Metropolitan Borough.

This Council notes that:

- Following the coronavirus pandemic and pressures caused by the Russo-Ukrainian War in recent years, this Labour Government assumed a stable inheritance from the previous Conservative Government – inflation at the 2% target, mortgage rates being cut, low unemployment, lower borrowing than other major economies, second lowest debt across the G7, and the fastest growing advanced economy.
- The supposed ‘£22 billion black hole’ is entirely fictitious, has failed to be evidenced, and is simply a political pretext to raise taxes.
- Despite pre-election promises to the contrary, the UK Government are set to significantly raise taxation to a new historic high point.
- The Budget sets a concerning, high risk increase in state borrowing of £32 billion additional per annum.
- The Budget represents a return to tired ‘tax and spend’ policies which will stifle long-term economic growth, as the Office for Budget Responsibility has forecast.
- With a £25 billion raid through employers’ National Insurance contributions, this Budget is bad for business, and will inevitably lead to higher consumer costs, suppressed wages, and lower employment.
- This Budget will cause further hardship through increases to Capital Gains Tax, Stamp Duty, energy taxes, inheritance and education taxes, and cuts to agricultural and business reliefs.
- Poorer pensioners will particularly suffer through strict means testing of the Winter Fuel Payment, which will result in around 34,000 Oldhamers losing this vital support provision.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to Oldham’s three MP’s, the relevant government departments, and agencies to reinstate Winter Fuel Payments for all pensioners, without any means testing. All pensioners, regardless of income or other financial factors, should receive this payment automatically in recognition of their lifelong contributions to society through taxes.
2. That the Council will do all it can to help alleviate those who are struggling paying for winter fuel bills this winter, given that the Energy Price Cap has increased by 10%, ~~also~~ adding £150 to the average fuel bill.
3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to Oldham’s three MPs, the relevant government departments, and agencies to articulate the adverse impact which the national Budget will

inflict on residents of our Borough, to express deep concern about the many tax rises, and to invite an alternative policy direction.

## Labour Group Amendment to Conservative Motion - The Budget Challenge

Moved by Councillor Abdul Jabbar.

Seconded by Councillor Colin McLaren.

**Delete**

**Insert**

The **first woman to serve as** Chancellor of the Exchequer, **Rachel Reeves MP**, has delivered a budget which will impact the people who live in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough **for the better**.

**Delivering a budget that will restore stability, protect working people, fix the NHS and rebuild Britain.**

**Fixing the foundations of our economy following fourteen years of failed Conservative austerity.**

**Restoring fiscal responsibility following Conservative economic mismanagement including Liz Truss's 2022 mini budget and an inherited £22 billion spending black hole.**

**This Labour budget invests in Britain and the public services so vital to our residents, the Chancellor has delivered:**

- **A pay rise for 3 million workers**
- **A freeze on fuel duty**
- **New funding to deliver an extra two million NHS operations, scans and appointments a year.**
- **No tax increases for working people.**
- **£30million for breakfast clubs.**
- **£240million package to Get Britain Working again.**
- **£1.4billion to rebuild 500 schools.**
- **£500m investment to build thousands of new social homes.**
- **£1billion boost to the Household Support Fund.**
- **£1.3billion extra funding for Local Government, including £600m for social care.**
- **An increase in the state pension by up to £470.**
- **The biggest increase to Carer's Allowance eligibility since its introduction.**
- **40% relief on business rates for hospitality and leisure sectors.**
- **Non-dom tax status abolished.**
- **£500million to fix roads and fill potholes.**
- **Increased the employment allowance to support small businesses.**
- **A crack down on fraud, waste and tax avoidance.**

**This Council notes that:**

- Universal Winter Fuel Payment had been a neglected and overlooked benefit payment during the period of the last Conservative Government having sat statically at £200 and £300.
- Between 2010 and 2023 state pensions have risen from £97.65 a week to £221.20, and average combined energy bills have risen from £1076 to £1,834.
- The effective spending power of the Winter Fuel Allowance due to this has been greatly eroded.
- Maintaining the Triple Lock means State Pensions will rise further to £235.25 a week in April 2025.
- It is regrettable that those over 75 who sit just above the Pension Credit cut-off suffer additional financial hardship due to the Conservative Party's broken manifesto commitment to protect free TV licences, limiting it instead to just those on Pension Credit.
- The government's approach understands there are barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to congratulate her on being the first woman to deliver a budget in our Country's history.
2. To write to Oldham's three MP's, ~~the relevant government departments and agencies to reinstate Winter Fuel Payments for all pensioners, without any means testing. All pensioners, regardless of income or other financial factors, should receive this payment automatically in recognition of their lifelong contributions to society through taxes.~~ asking them to give their support to a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments be considered.
3. That the Council will do all it can to help alleviate those struggling paying for winter fuel bills this winter, given the Energy Price Cap has increased by 10% also adding £150 to the average fuel bill, **including implementing the agreed Awareness Campaign.**

**Amended motion to read:**

The first woman to serve as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves MP, has delivered a budget which will impact the people who live in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough for the better.

Delivering a budget that will restore stability, protect working people, fix the NHS and rebuild Britain.

Fixing the foundations of our economy following fourteen years of failed Conservative austerity.

Restoring fiscal responsibility following Conservative economic mismanagement including Liz Truss's 2022 mini budget and an inherited £22 billion spending black hole.



This Labour budget invests in Britain and the public services so vital to our residents, the Chancellor has delivered:

- A pay rise for 3 million workers
- A freeze on fuel duty
- New funding to deliver an extra two million NHS operations, scans and appointments a year.
- No tax increases for working people.
- £30million for breakfast clubs.
- £240million package to Get Britain Working again.
- £1.4billion to rebuild 500 schools.
- £500m investment to build thousands of new social homes.
- £1billion boost to the Household Support Fund.
- £1.3billion extra funding for Local Government, including £600m for social care.
- An increase in the state pension by up to £470.
- The biggest increase to Carer's Allowance eligibility since its introduction.
- 40% relief on business rates for hospitality and leisure sectors.
- Non-dom tax status abolished.
- £500million to fix roads and fill potholes.
- Increased the employment allowance to support small businesses.
- A crack down on fraud, waste and tax avoidance.

**This Council notes that:**

- Universal Winter Fuel Payment had been a neglected and overlooked benefit payment during the period of the last Conservative Government having sat statically at £200 and £300. Between 2010 and 2023 state pensions have risen from £97.65 a week to £221.20, and average combined energy bills have risen from £1,076 to £1,834.
- The effective spending power of the Winter Fuel Allowance due to this has been greatly eroded.
- Maintaining the Triple Lock means State Pensions will rise further to £235.25 a week in April 2025.
- It is regrettable that those over 75 who sit just above the Pension Credit cut-off suffer additional financial hardship due to the Conservative Party's broken manifesto commitment to protect free TV licences, limiting it instead to just those on Pension Credit.
- The government's approach understands there are barriers and stigma that prevent eligible pensioners from claiming Pension Credit, leaving many without the support they desperately need.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to congratulate her on being the first woman to deliver a budget in the history of our country.

2. To write to Oldham's three MP's asking them to give their support to a new threshold to determine eligibility for Winter Fuel Payments be considered.
3. That the Council will do all it can to help alleviate those struggling paying for winter fuel bills this winter, given the Energy Price Cap has increased by 10% also adding £150 to the average fuel bill, including implementing the agreed Awareness Campaign.

## Labour Group Amendment to Oldham Group Motion - Immediate Ceasefire in Gaza

Moved by Councillor Shaid Mushtaq.  
Seconded by Councillor Nazrul Islam

**Delete**

**Insert**

### **Background:**

As of October 2024, the situation in Gaza has reached a dire humanitarian crisis, with the Gaza Health Ministry reporting that over **42,000** individuals have lost their lives due to ongoing military operations. This includes approximately **14,100 children** and **9,000 women**, indicating a

devastating toll on the civilian population. In addition to the loss of life, the health infrastructure in Gaza has been severely impacted. The

World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed that there have been **over 516 verified attacks on healthcare facilities** in the Gaza Strip since the conflict escalated.

The attacks have resulted in significant damage to hospitals, disrupting essential healthcare services and leaving many without access to medical care. The United Nations has expressed deep concern over the escalating violence. Secretary-General António Guterres stated, on 20th October 2024, "The violence must stop immediately," emphasising that "the protection of civilians is paramount."

Furthermore, world leaders have called for an immediate ceasefire. French President Emmanuel Macron stated on 18th October 2024, "We must work together to bring about an immediate ceasefire and ensure the safety of all civilians." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau echoed this sentiment on 19th October 2024, stating, "Canada calls for an end to hostilities and the protection of human rights in Gaza."

**This council called for a ceasefire at the start of the hostilities, and Cllr Arooj Shah called for a ceasefire with other Greater Manchester Leaders on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Oldham's Mayor Cllr Zahid Chauhan OBE wrote to the former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak MP on 2nd November 2023 telling him that the people of Oldham called for a ceasefire.**

**The borough's MPs voted for a ceasefire in February 2024, and the ending of hostilities in the region to allow humanitarian aid and a diplomatic solution has been the consistent policy of the UK Government since Sir Keir Starmer became Prime Minister in July 2024.**

**Since then, Israel has attacked and invaded Lebanon, escalating a conflict and affecting even more innocent civilians, including those here in Oldham with loved ones in the region.**

**Israel's Parliament has passed legislation banning UNWRA from operating within Israeli occupied territory, including Gaza, the West Bank and occupied**

**East Jerusalem, preventing a key provider of aid from reaching the people who need it the most during this conflict. This has been condemned by the US State Department, the Secretary General of the UN and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, amongst other international partners.**

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) raised alarms about the situation on 15th October 2024, indicating that the ongoing actions in Gaza may constitute violations of international law and could be characterised as genocide. The ICJ noted, "All parties must adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law and protect the civilian population."

Humanitarian organisations, including UNICEF, state that "every child in Gaza is in danger," highlighting the urgent need for safe corridors for aid to reach those in need.

### **Justification:**

This motion is brought to the council as a matter of urgency due to the following reasons:

- 1. Humanitarian Responsibility:** As representatives of our community, we have a moral obligation to advocate for the protection of human rights and the welfare of civilians in conflict zones. The ongoing violence in Gaza has led to a humanitarian catastrophe that requires immediate action.
- 2. International Law:** The situation in Gaza poses serious questions regarding adherence to international humanitarian law. By passing this motion, the council can reaffirm its commitment to upholding these principles and advocate for accountability on the global stage.
- 3. Community Sentiment:** There is a growing concern among constituents regarding the ongoing conflict and its humanitarian impact. Bringing this motion forward allows the council to express solidarity with affected populations and demonstrate responsiveness to community concerns.
- 4. Global Leadership:** The motion aligns with the calls from world leaders and international organisations for immediate action. By taking a stand, the council can contribute to a collective global response aimed at de-escalating the conflict and ensuring the protection of civilians.

In light of these developments, the council resolves to:

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, urging all parties involved to halt hostilities, **and** prioritise the protection of civilian lives **and the immediate release of the Israeli hostages taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**
2. Support the rapid entry of humanitarian aid to address the urgent needs of the population affected by the ongoing conflict.
3. ~~Call and enforce a ban on the supply of military equipment specifically used to bomb Palestinian civilians, while allowing for the entry of supplies intended solely for genuine defence purposes.~~ **Support the UK Government's decision to withdraw export licences to Israel, preventing**

equipment that would be used in the conflict in Gaza from reaching the front line.

4. Condemn the decision by the Israeli Knesset to ban the UNWRA from operating in Israeli controlled territory, including Gaza, the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, noting that this has been met with widespread international condemnation, including from the United States government and the Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.
5. Condemn both Hamas and Hezbollah for their terrorist attacks on civilians and the taking of hostages by Hamas on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, and support calls from the international community to lay down arms and instead work with international partners to reach a diplomatic solution that safeguards innocent civilians in Lebanon, Palestine and Israel.

Furthermore, the council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister, urging the UK government to:

1. ~~Call and enforce an immediate ceasefire in international forums.~~ Re-iterate calls for an immediate Ceasefire in both Gaza and Lebanon and work with international partners to achieve this
2. Facilitate the rapid entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and Lebanon.
3. ~~Meet their moral obligation by suspending all arms sales to Israel until such time that international humanitarian law is observed and respected.~~ Continuously review export licences for international Arms Sales and suspend any that could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Through these actions, the council seeks to contribute to the restoration of peace and the protection of human rights in the region.

## **Amended motion to read:**

### **Background:**

As of October 2024, the situation in Gaza has reached a dire humanitarian crisis, with the Gaza Health Ministry reporting that over **42,000** individuals have lost their lives due to ongoing military operations. This includes approximately **14,100 children** and **9,000 women**, indicating a

devastating toll on the civilian population. In addition to the loss of life, the health infrastructure in Gaza has been severely impacted. The

World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed that there have been **over 516 verified attacks on healthcare facilities** in the Gaza Strip since the conflict escalated.

The attacks have resulted in significant damage to hospitals, disrupting essential healthcare services and leaving many without access to medical care. The United Nations has expressed deep concern over the escalating violence. Secretary-General António Guterres stated, on 20th October 2024, "The violence must stop immediately," emphasising that "the protection of civilians is paramount."

Furthermore, world leaders have called for an immediate ceasefire. French President Emmanuel Macron stated on 18th October 2024, "We must work together to bring about an immediate ceasefire and ensure the safety of all civilians." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau echoed this sentiment on 19th October 2024, stating, "Canada calls for an end to hostilities and the protection of human rights in Gaza."

This council called for a ceasefire at the start of the hostilities, and Cllr Arooj Shah called for a ceasefire with other Greater Manchester Leaders on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Oldham's Mayor Cllr Zahid Chauhan OBE wrote to the former Prime Minister Rishi Sunak MP on 2nd November 2023 telling him that the people of Oldham called for a ceasefire.

The borough's MPs voted for a ceasefire in February 2024, and the ending of hostilities in the region to allow humanitarian aid and a diplomatic solution has been the consistent policy of the UK Government since Sir Keir Starmer became Prime Minister in July 2024.

Since then, Israel has attacked and invaded Lebanon, escalating a conflict and affecting even more innocent civilians, including those here in Oldham with loved ones in the region.

Israel's Parliament has passed legislation banning UNWRA from operating within Israeli occupied territory, including Gaza, the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, preventing a key provider of aid from reaching the people who need it the most during this conflict. This has been condemned by the US State Department, the Secretary General of the UN and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, amongst other international partners.

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) raised alarms about the situation on 15th October 2024, indicating that the ongoing actions in Gaza may constitute

violations of international law and could be characterised as genocide. The ICJ noted, "All parties must adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law and protect the civilian population."

Humanitarian organisations, including UNICEF, state that "every child in Gaza is in danger," highlighting the urgent need for safe corridors for aid to reach those in need.

**Justification:**

This motion is brought to the council as a matter of urgency due to the following reasons:

**1. Humanitarian Responsibility:** As representatives of our community, we have a moral obligation to advocate for the protection of human rights and the welfare of civilians in conflict zones. The ongoing violence in Gaza has led to a humanitarian catastrophe that requires immediate action.

**2. International Law:** The situation in Gaza poses serious questions regarding adherence to international humanitarian law. By passing this motion, the council can reaffirm its commitment to upholding these principles and advocate for accountability on the global stage.

**3. Community Sentiment:** There is a growing concern among constituents regarding the ongoing conflict and its humanitarian impact. Bringing this motion forward allows the council to express solidarity with affected populations and demonstrate responsiveness to community concerns.

**4. Global Leadership:** The motion aligns with the calls from world leaders and international organisations for immediate action. By taking a stand, the council can contribute to a collective global response aimed at de-escalating the conflict and ensuring the protection of civilians.

In light of these developments, the council resolves to:

1. Call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, urging all parties involved to halt hostilities, prioritise the protection of civilian lives and the immediate release of the Israeli hostages taken on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
2. Support the rapid entry of humanitarian aid to address the urgent needs of the population affected by the ongoing conflict.
3. Support the UK Government's decision to withdraw export licences to Israel, preventing equipment that would be used in the conflict in Gaza from reaching the front line.
4. Condemn the decision by the Israeli Knesset to ban the UNWRA from operating in Israeli controlled territory, including Gaza, the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem, noting that this has been met with widespread international condemnation, including from the United States government and the Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer.
5. Condemn both Hamas and Hezbollah for their terrorist attacks on civilians and the taking of hostages by Hamas on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, and support calls from the international community to lay down arms and instead work with

international partners to reach a diplomatic solution that safeguards innocent civilians in Lebanon, Palestine and Israel.

**Furthermore, the council requests** that the Chief Executive write to the Prime Minister, urging the UK government to:

1. Re-iterate calls for an immediate Ceasefire in both Gaza and Lebanon and work with international partners to achieve this
2. Facilitate the rapid entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza and Lebanon.
3. Continuously review export licences for international Arms Sales and suspend any that could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Through these actions, the council seeks to contribute to the restoration of peace and the protection of human rights in the region.



## Labour Group amendment to Independent Motion - Honouring Veterans

Moved by Councillor Ken Rustidge.

Seconded by Councillor Josh Charters.

**Delete**

**Insert**

Our veterans have served King and Country with distinction, honour, and integrity.

**This Remembrance Sunday and throughout the year a great many of Oldham's residents will remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.**

**Remembering not just ~~It is why as we come up to remembrance, that we use this time to recall~~ the sacrifice of those ~~not just~~ who died ~~in service~~ serving our nation but all those ~~who came home also~~ whose lives were forever changed by their service too.**

For some the change from being a serving soldier to civilian life can be difficult. It is why ~~we ask that the~~ Oldham Council **is committed to achieving the Gold Award under the Armed Forces Covenant ~~do all they can~~ to support our veterans and ~~to make sure~~ ensures** that our Borough's War memorials, war graves and all other assets are kept safe and secure for future generations. We must also remember the sacrifice of those from this Borough who served not just King, ~~and~~ Country **and the Commonwealth**, but those who made the **ultimate sacrifice and died in service. ~~for King and Empire, as well as the Commonwealth.~~**

~~It is why it is imperative that the Council call on the government to do more to protect our veterans from malicious prosecution, especially those from Northern Ireland who served under Operation Banner, where several veterans in their twilight years have faced worry and fear of reprisal. This is also the case with the more recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.~~

**Resolution to The Troubles in Northern Ireland ended a dark chapter in the history of our nation, with the deaths of approximately 3,500 people. A consensus on how to deal with this legacy has proved difficult and efforts to bring truth and reconciliation that enjoy broad support across Northern Ireland remain ongoing.**

**This Council notes that:**

- 3.4% of Failsworth's population are veterans, 1.8% of Oldham's population are veterans, 2.5% of Chadderton, Saddleworth and Lees population are veterans, 3.4% in Shaw and Crompton and 4.1% in Royton are veterans.
- **Oldham Council proudly holds a Silver Award under the Armed Forces Covenant, and we're working toward achieving Gold to recognise our continued support for veterans.**
- **In July, we passed a motion honouring veterans, and since then, we've secured a discount at Oldham Community Leisure for veterans. This provides affordable access to facilities that help promote their physical and mental well-being.**
- **Through our Armed Forces Covenant Partnership, we regularly meet with partners to discuss veterans' challenges and develop solutions, working closely with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Mayor to amplify our efforts in Greater Manchester.**
- **Across GM we have recently developed a 5-year roadmap and delivery plan which seeks to formalise the way in which partners come together to support the armed forces community.**

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Support the work of the Royal British Legion and other veterans' charities to help improve the lives of those who served King and Country.
2. Maintain up-to-date assets register of all monuments **and** memorials ~~and other valued objects~~ that relate to the proud history of HM Armed Forces in Oldham.
3. Continue to fight for our veterans when it comes to providing the necessary support once they have left the service but also for those who currently serve.
4. Reaffirms its commitment to HM Armed Forces and the Armed Forces Covenant.

***This Council further resolves:***

1. To **ask the Acting Chief Executive to** write
  - a. to Oldham's Members of Parliament to ~~use their offices to do everything they can to protect veterans, especially those who served under Operation Banner and subsequent conflicts from malicious prosecutions. Asking them to stand by all those that served King and Country.~~ **confirm to them Oldham Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and to ask them to support our efforts to achieve the Gold Award.**
  - b. **to the Minister for Veterans and People to ask what measures the Government is taking to support our veterans and ensure they have access to the services they need.**

## **Amended motion to read:**

Our veterans have served King and Country with distinction, honour, and integrity.

This Remembrance Sunday and throughout the year a great many of Oldham's residents will remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedom and protected our way of life.

Remembering not just the sacrifice of those who died serving our nation but all those whose lives were forever changed by their service too.

For some the change from being a serving soldier to civilian life can be difficult. It is why Oldham Council is committed to achieving the Gold Award under the Armed Forces Covenant to support our veterans and ensures that our Borough's War memorials, war graves and all other assets are kept safe and secure for future generations. We must also remember the sacrifice of those from this Borough who served not just King, Country and the Commonwealth, but those who made the ultimate sacrifice and died in service.

Resolution to The Troubles in Northern Ireland ended a dark chapter in the history of our nation, with the deaths of approximately 3,500 people. A consensus on how to deal with this legacy has proved difficult and efforts to bring truth and reconciliation that enjoy broad support across Northern Ireland remain ongoing.

## **This Council notes that:**

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## **This Council resolves to:**

1. Support the work of the Royal British Legion and other veterans' charities to help improve the lives of those who served King and Country.
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## ***This Council further resolves:***

1. To ask the Acting Chief Executive to write
  - a. to Oldham's Members of Parliament confirm to them Oldham Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant and to ask them to support our efforts to achieve the Gold Award.

- b. to the Minister for Veterans and People to ask what measures the Government is taking to support our veterans and ensure they have access to the services they need.