

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 December 2024
Supplementary Papers**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Supplementary Agenda – Amendments to Motions

- 10 Notice of Administration Business (Pages 1 - 10)

- 11 Notice of Opposition Business (Pages 11 - 26)

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



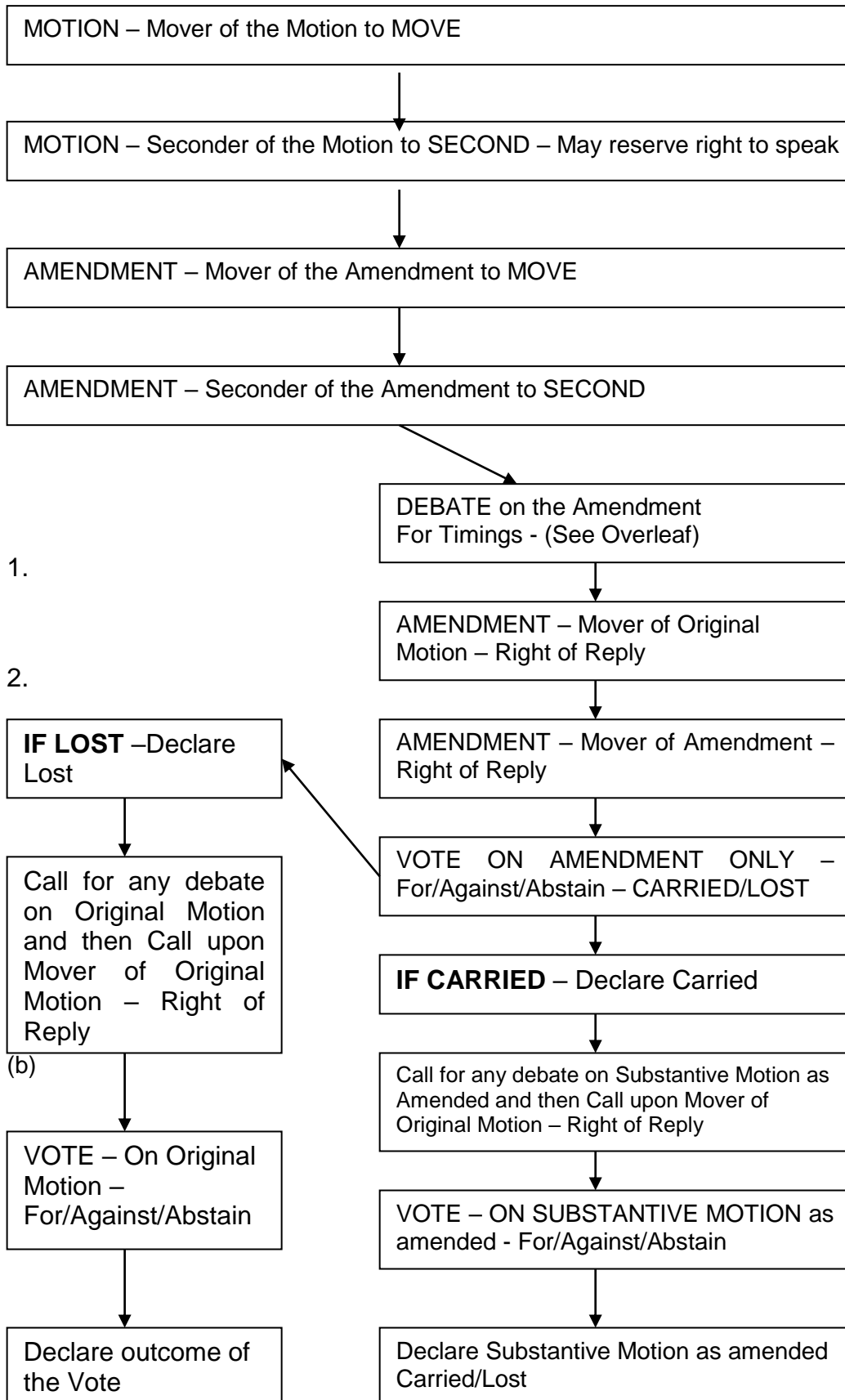
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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



Get Britain Working- **Amendment**

Moved by: Councillor Lewis Quigg

Seconded by: Councillor Dave Arnott

This Council notes the publication of the Get Britain Working White Paper which signals a cross-Government approach to building an economy where everyone can have the opportunity of secure, rewarding and fulfilling work.

This Council further notes that Get Oldham Working has been providing support for employees, employers and those seeking employment since 2013 and has created almost 20,000 opportunities including filling 12,000 jobs, nearly 2,000 apprenticeships and 400 traineeships plus helping just under 1,800 residents into work experience placements. This Council supports the approach laid out in the White Paper which will provide:

- support for people to get back into work if they are outside the workforce (and help to stay in employment if they have a health condition)
- access to training, an apprenticeship, or help to find work for young people (including help to avoid losing touch with the workforce at a young age)
- help for people to get a job, upskill, and get on in their career, whether they are unemployed or in employment, alongside clear obligations on people to take up support and do in return everything they can to work
- support for employers to recruit, retain and develop staff

This Council welcomes the joined-up proposals including investing in the NHS to get people treated more quickly, expansion of mental health support and setting up a Jobs and Careers Service (replacing JobCentre +) with the focus on supporting people back into work by providing a personalised service. Every 18-to-21-year old in England will have access to an apprenticeship, quality training and education opportunities or help to find a job under a new 'Youth Guarantee'. The Connect to Work scheme will provide voluntary employment offers to people with disabilities, health conditions or complex barriers to work.

This Council looks forward to the outcome of the Independent Review to better support employers to take on, and keep in work, people with disabilities.

This Council believes that the experience of Get Oldham Working and the Greater Manchester Live Well programme means Oldham is well placed to make the most of these opportunities, in particular the investment from the Greater Manchester trailblazer to mobilise local work, health and skills support.

This Council notes in particular:

1. That the threshold on employee earnings at which National Insurance (NI) applies will drop from £9,100 to £5,000.
2. That the NI rate will increase from 13.8% to 15%.
3. That for many businesses, these new NI requirements represent a big increase in costs. Employers will have to pay an additional £770 in NI contributions for each

minimum wage worker, or an extra £900 for each employee on median earnings, adding up quickly for businesses.

4. That for some employers impacted by NI increases, salary sacrifice has become an essential tool for cost-saving and can provide much-needed relief. By allowing employees to divert part of their salary into their workplace pension, employers reduce the salary on which they pay NI – an effective way to manage payroll costs while also demonstrating a commitment to employee financial wellbeing.
5. That the 75% discount on business rates, due to expire in April 2025, will be replaced by a discount of 40%, up to a maximum of £110,000. It still means that many businesses will see their business rates more than double. Adding another pressure on employers and discouraging them from hiring new staff.
6. That the Office for Budget Responsibility, the UK's official economic forecaster, said it assumed "most" of the increased National Insurance cost would be passed on to workers and consumers from employers through lower wages and higher prices.
7. The comments by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research noted that the NI hike would "reduce job creation," contributing to rising joblessness over the next few years.
8. The Chief Business Economist and an executive director at S&P Global Market Intelligence said: "Firms are responding to the increase in national insurance contributions and new regulations around staffing with a marked pull-back in hiring, causing employment to fall in December 2024 at the fastest rate since the global financial crisis in 2009 if the pandemic is excluded. While the December 2024 PMI is indicative of the economy, which more or less stalled in the fourth quarter, the loss of confidence and increased culling of jobs hints at worse to come as we head into the new year."

This Council resolves to:

1. ~~Organise a Get Britain Working summit in as soon as practicable to brief partners on the White Paper and to work through the opportunities from the Labour Government's investment, including the trailblazer, to design a Get Britain Working Plan for Oldham.~~
2. Review the impact of Get Oldham Working and consider how Get Britain Working can enhance our local offer building on the good links with 800 local employers, integrated and personalised advice, guidance and skills support and mental health therapy already available.
3. Do everything possible to ensure Oldham residents benefit from the opportunities offered by Get Britain Working, including ensuring that our young people make the most of the 'Youth Guarantee'
4. Instruct officers to compile a report on the economic, employment, and financial impact the Employee National Insurance increase will have on private sector and third sector businesses within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough which will be presented at the next full Council meeting.
5. Create an Oldham board of trade with its own elected Chairman and board, with the purpose of increasing foreign direct investment to Oldham. With quarterly meetings and reports issued accordingly, which are then presented at every Council meeting where appropriate.

6. Provide a quarterly report (delivered electronically) to members on economic inactivity and business activity by ward.
7. That this Council will immediately instruct the relevant officers to:
 - a. Type up a letter within 14 working days of this meeting which condemns the recent budget announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer which increases National Insurance (NI) for employers.
 - b. That on the 15th working day that a draft copy is circulated to the group leaders for oversight.
 - c. That on the 16th working day a final draft of the letter condemning the NI increase for employers is signed by the Leader of the Council and emailed by the Acting Chief Executive no less than 24 hours after signing the letter to the offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
 - d. That a reply from the offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be published at the next or closet available full Council meeting.

Get Britain Working- Amendment to the motion- AS READ

Moved by: Councillor Lewis Quigg

Seconded by: Councillor Dave Arnott

This Council notes the publication of the Get Britain Working White Paper which signals a cross-Government approach to building an economy where everyone can have the opportunity of secure, rewarding and fulfilling work.

This Council further notes that Get Oldham Working has been providing support for employees, employers and those seeking employment since 2013 and has created almost 20,000 opportunities including filling 12,000 jobs, nearly 2,000 apprenticeships and 400 traineeships plus helping just under 1,800 residents into work experience placements. This Council supports the approach laid out in the White Paper which will provide:

- support for people to get back into work if they are outside the workforce (and help to stay in employment if they have a health condition)
- access to training, an apprenticeship, or help to find work for young people (including help to avoid losing touch with the workforce at a young age)
- help for people to get a job, upskill, and get on in their career, whether they are unemployed or in employment, alongside clear obligations on people to take up support and do in return everything they can to work
- support for employers to recruit, retain and develop staff

This Council welcomes the joined-up proposals including investing in the NHS to get people treated more quickly, expansion of mental health support and setting up a Jobs and Careers Service (replacing JobCentre +) with the focus on supporting people back into work by providing a personalised service. Every 18-to-21-year old in England will have access to an apprenticeship, quality training and education opportunities or help to find a job under a new 'Youth Guarantee'. The Connect to Work scheme will provide voluntary employment offers to people with disabilities, health conditions or complex barriers to work.

This Council looks forward to the outcome of the Independent Review to better support employers to take on, and keep in work, people with disabilities.

This Council believes that the experience of Get Oldham Working and the Greater Manchester Live Well programme means Oldham is well placed to make the most of these opportunities, in particular the investment from the Greater Manchester trailblazer to mobilise local work, health and skills support.

This Council notes in particular:

1. That the threshold on employee earnings at which National Insurance (NI) applies will drop from £9,100 to £5,000.
2. That the NI rate will increase from 13.8% to 15%.
3. That for many businesses, these new NI requirements represent a big increase in costs. Employers will have to pay an additional £770 in NICs for each minimum wage

worker, or an extra £900 for each employee on median earnings, adding up quickly for businesses.

4. That for some employers impacted by NI increases, salary sacrifice has become an essential tool for cost-saving and can provide much-needed relief. By allowing employees to divert part of their salary into their workplace pension, employers reduce the salary on which they pay NI – an effective way to manage payroll costs while also demonstrating a commitment to employee financial wellbeing.
5. That the 75% discount on business rates, due to expire in April 2025, will be replaced by a discount of 40%, up to a maximum of £110,000. It still means that many businesses will see their business rates more than double. Adding another pressure on employers and discouraging them from hiring new staff.
6. That the Office for Budget Responsibility, the UK's official economic forecaster, said it assumed "most" of the increased National Insurance cost would be passed on to workers and consumers from employers through lower wages and higher prices.
7. The comments by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research that the NI hike would "reduce job creation," contributing to rising joblessness over the next few years.
8. The Chief Business Economist and an executive director at S&P Global Market Intelligence who said: "Firms are responding to the increase in national insurance contributions and new regulations around staffing with a marked pull-back in hiring, causing employment to fall in December at the fastest rate since the global financial crisis in 2009 if the pandemic is excluded. While the December PMI is indicative of the economy more or less stalled in the fourth quarter, the loss of confidence and increased culling of jobs hints at worse to come as we head into the new year."

This Council resolves to:

1. Review the impact of Get Oldham Working and consider how Get Britain Working can enhance our local offer building on the good links with 800 local employers, integrated and personalised advice, guidance and skills support and mental health therapy already available.
2. Do everything possible to ensure Oldham residents benefit from the opportunities offered by Get Britain Working, including ensuring that our young people make the most of the 'Youth Guarantee'
3. Instruct officers to compile a report on the economic, employment, and financial impact the Employee National Insurance increase will have on private sector and third sector businesses within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough which will be presented at the next full Council meeting.
4. Create an Oldham board of trade with its own elected Chairman and board, with the purpose of increasing foreign direct investment to Oldham. With quarterly meetings and reports issued accordingly, which are then presented at every Council meeting where appropriate.
5. Provide a quarterly report (delivered electronically) to members on economic inactivity and business activity by ward.
6. That this Council will immediately instruct the relevant officers to:

- a. Type up a letter within 14 working days of this meeting which condemns the recent budget announcement by the Chancellor of the Exchequer which increases National Insurance (NI) for employers.
- b. That on the 15th working day that a draft copy is circulated to the group leaders for oversight.
- c. That on the 16th working day a final draft of the letter condemning the NI increase for employers is signed by the Leader of the Council and emailed by the Acting Chief Executive no less than 24 hours after signing the letter to the offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer.
- d. That a reply from the offices of the Chancellor of the Exchequer will be published at the next or closet available full Council meeting.

Bee Network Motion- Amendment

Moved by Councillor Lewis Quigg

Seconded by Councillor Max Woodvine

In August 2022, Greater Manchester became the first major city outside of London to introduce a cap on bus fares, prices for adults were capped at £2 a journey or £5 a day, and £1 for journey or £2.50 a day for children under 16.

Oldham was chosen to host the launch of the Tranche 2 bus franchising area in March 2024 and four months later we hosted a visit from the ~~new former~~ Secretary of State for Transport **Louise Haigh**. On both occasions we were able to showcase our new space in the Spindles, the relocated, integrated TfGM Travelshop and the fully electrified bus depot at Mumps.

The upcoming network review in Oldham is a real opportunity to affect change on future bus services in Oldham. As an example, Bolton and Wigan have seen services reintroduced and new all-night services introduced to serve the night-time economy and large employment sites such as Bolton Hospital being served through the night.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester announced that due to the Bee Network model, which relies on low fare, high patronage system like in London, that Greater Manchester will continue with the £2 bus fare until the end of 2025, subject to a mid-year review to ensure that it is still financially viable.

This Council notes:

- The per-kilometre cost of Bee Network contracts are on average one third cheaper than previous tenders under the ~~previous operating~~ **deregulated** system
- ~~Control of~~ Under the new Franchising system, buses are controlled by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), which sets the routes, frequencies, tickets and standards, and the private operators are only able to provide services under contract to TfGM. Greater Manchester's ~~buses services~~ are run to provide the best value to taxpayers which should means that profits from rising patronage of buses will be re-invested into the service and for the benefit of residents. ~~rather than going into the pockets of shareholders~~
- Control of the system means that we can help residents in other ways, such as offering an annual Bee Network bus pass through Oldham Credit Union, cutting the cost of bus travel by around £5 a week.
- That the Bee Network ~~needs to be a first-class public transport system that is self-sustaining and works for~~ **has been a success for** Oldham's commuters, ~~ensuring that they so they~~ are able to get to work or school on time for less money than under the ~~previous operating~~ **deregulated** system.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to work alongside our Greater Manchester partners, including the GMCA, Transport for Greater Manchester and the other 9 GM authorities to ensure that decisions made around public transport are focused on improving the ~~resident experience.~~ **reliability of public transport in Greater Manchester.**

- Engage pro-actively with the Network Review in early 2025, ensuring that all residents voices are heard in the process.
- That the Council will monitor the financial resilience of TfGM so that it does not require any increase in higher taxation from residents to further subsidise services.
- Write immediately to TfGM to:
 - Ask for an immediate review of the 182/181 Bus Service as residents have complained of 2-hour journeys to get from Manchester to Chadderton/ Royton/Shaw and vice versa.
 - That the 409 Bus Service which is one of longest serviceable routes in Greater Manchester is closely monitored due to residents facing delays between services.
 - That they provide clarification on why trackers on the Bee Network App according to some passengers being switched off when a bus is running late.
 - Confirm the dates for public consultations regarding any improvements along the Rochdale-Oldham-Ashton bus corridor.

Bee Network Motion- Amendment

Moved by Councillor Lewis Quigg

Seconded by Councillor Max Woodvine

In August 2022, Greater Manchester became the first major city outside of London to introduce a cap on bus fares, prices for adults were capped at £2 a journey or £5 a day, and £1 for journey or £2.50 a day for children under 16.

Oldham was chosen to host the launch of the Tranche 2 bus franchising area in March 2024 and four months later we hosted a visit from the former Secretary of State for Transport Louise Haigh. On both occasions we were able to showcase our new space in the Spindles, the relocated, integrated TfGM Travelshop and the fully electrified bus depot at Mumps.

The upcoming network review in Oldham is a real opportunity to affect change on future bus services in Oldham. As an example, Bolton and Wigan have seen services reintroduced and new all-night services introduced to serve the night-time economy and large employment sites such as Bolton Hospital being served through the night.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester announced that due to the Bee Network model, which relies on low fare, high patronage system like in London, that Greater Manchester will continue with the £2 bus fare until the end of 2025, subject to a mid-year review to ensure that it is still financially viable.

This Council notes:

- The per-kilometre cost of Bee Network contracts are on average one third cheaper than previous tenders under the previous operating system
- Under the new Franchising system, buses are controlled by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), which sets the routes, frequencies, tickets and standards, and the private operators are only able to provide services under contract to TfGM. Greater Manchester's bus-services are run to provide the best value to taxpayers which should mean that profits from rising patronage of buses will be re-invested into the service and for the benefit of residents.
- Control of the system means that we can help residents in other ways, such as offering an annual Bee Network bus pass through Oldham Credit Union, cutting the cost of bus travel by around £5 a week.
- That the Bee Network needs to be a first-class public transport system that is self-sustaining and works for Oldham's commuters, so they are able to get to work or school on time for less money than under the previous operating system.

This Council resolves to:

- Continue to work alongside our Greater Manchester partners, including the GMCA, Transport for Greater Manchester and the other 9 GM authorities to ensure that decisions made around public transport are focused on improving the reliability of public transport in Greater Manchester.
- Engage pro-actively with the Network Review in early 2025, ensuring that all residents voices are heard in the process.

- That the Council will monitor the financial resilience of TfGM so that it does not require any increase in higher taxation from residents to further subsidise services.
- Write immediately to TfGM to:
 - Ask for an immediate review of the 182/181 Bus Service as residents have complained of 2-hour journeys to get from Manchester to Chadderton/ Royton/Shaw and vice versa.
 - That the 409 Bus Service which is one of longest serviceable routes in Greater Manchester is closely monitored due to residents facing delays between services.
 - That they provide clarification on why trackers on the Bee Network App according to some passengers being switched off when a bus is running late.
 - Confirm the dates for public consultations regarding any improvements along the Rochdale-Oldham-Ashton bus corridor.

Amendment - Social care funding in crisis: National Insurance Contributions

Proposed by: Councillor Brownridge

Seconded by: Councillor Mushtaq

~~Delete~~

Insert

Council notes that:

From April next year employer's National Insurance contributions will increase by 1.2% and the threshold at which employers must contribute to National Insurance will be reduced to all employees earning £5,000 or more.

The Institute of General Practice Management has estimated that the rise will mean the average GP surgery's tax bill will go up by around £20,000 a year. The 6,275 GP practices in England could end up facing a total of £125.5M a year in additional costs. This and other key parts of our health services unlike hospital staff are not except from this increase.

~~This is the equivalent of providing 2.24 million GP appointments, at £56 per appointment. The average GP surgery could therefore lose the equivalent of 357 appointments a year.~~

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has revealed that, by its calculations, local authorities would face £1.8B in extra costs in 2025-26 due to increases in employers' NICs and the national living wage (NLW) announced in the last Budget, along with inflation.

While principal councils will be exempt from the rise in employer NICs, the Government it has offered no such protection to care providers, which the Nuffield Trust has estimated will face £940m in extra costs from the measure in 2025-26.

Council further notes that:

This ~~is likely to~~ could have a significant impact on the cost of the social care to Oldham Council, which is already this year facing a £20 million overspend predicted, with overspend on adult social care at £3.8m, and children's services at £6.6m. This increase in NICs ~~will severely~~ could hamper the Council's attempts to cut its overspend and could ~~wipe out~~ potentially negate any predicted improvements in its financial position as a result of changes to the formula for spending indicated.

That as per the Care Act (2014) the Council has a duty, to ensure a diverse, sustainable and quality adult social care market for Oldham residents meeting their assessed eligibility needs.

This Council will outline the projected and potential financial impact to Oldham's commissioned social care providers as part of the annual fee review, with the rates modelling process that takes place for annual budget setting and is due to be ratified at Budget Council on March 6th.

Council resolves to:

Write to the **Minister Deputy Prime Minister & Secretary of State** for Housing, Communities and Local Government **and the Chancellor of the Exchequer** to **demand that the NIC exemption is changed to ensure that health services and social care – which makes** urge them to consider the potential impact of NIC on the cost of commissioned social care services when confirming the Local Government Finance Settlement, as social care services make up such a significant proportion of local government spending. ~~– are included, in line with their statement that~~ and welcoming the government’s recognition in the Local Government Finance Policy Statement that “Reform and prevention are critical if we are to turn around the cycle of system failure and cost escalation.”

To write to local MPs Jim McMahon, Debbie Abrahams, and Lucy Powell **asking for their support in a review of the impact of the increase, including:** to inform them that Oldham Council is exploring:

- the cost implications for funding health and social care in Oldham of the NIC increase;
- the implications for **Council Tax rises** budget setting to meet the demand for social care funding;
- ~~the potential reduction in availability of GP services which are already stretched~~
- And seek their support to lobby government to minimise any potential adverse impacts from NIC rises.

Ask the Deputy Chief Executive (Health & Care) and the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing to investigate the potential impact on existing and future GP services in the Borough.

Amended motion to read:

Council notes that:

From April next year employer's National Insurance contributions will increase by 1.2% and the threshold at which employers must contribute to National Insurance will be reduced to all employees earning £5,000 or more.

The Institute of General Practice Management has estimated that the rise will mean the average GP surgery's tax bill will go up by around £20,000 a year. The 6,275 GP practices in England could end up facing a total of £125.5M a year in additional costs. This and other key parts of our health services unlike hospital staff are not except from this increase.

The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) has revealed that, by its calculations, local authorities would face £1.8B in extra costs in 2025-26 due to increases in employers' NICs and the national living wage (NLW) announced in the last Budget, along with inflation.

While principal councils will be exempt from the rise in employer NICs, the Government it has offered no such protection to care providers, which the Nuffield Trust has estimated will face £940m in extra costs from the measure in 2025–26.

Council further notes that:

This could have a significant impact on the cost of the social care to Oldham Council, which is already this year facing a £20 million overspend predicted, with overspend on adult social care at £3.8m, and children's services at £6.6m. This increase in NICs could hamper the Council's attempts to cut its overspend and could potentially negate any predicted improvements in its financial position as a result of changes to the formula for spending indicated.

That as per the Care Act (2014) the Council has a duty, to ensure a diverse, sustainable and quality adult social care market for Oldham residents meeting their assessed eligibility needs.

This Council will outline the projected and potential financial impact to Oldham's commissioned social care providers as part of the annual fee review, with the rates modelling process that takes place for annual budget setting and is due to be ratified at Budget Council on March 6th.

Council resolves to:

Write to the Deputy Prime Minister & Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge them to consider the potential impact of NIC on the cost of commissioned social care services when confirming the Local Government Finance Settlement, as social care services make up such a significant proportion of local government spending and welcoming the government's recognition in the Local Government Finance Policy Statement that "Reform and prevention are critical if we are to turn around the cycle of system failure and cost escalation."

To write to local MPs Jim McMahon, Debbie Abrahams, and Lucy Powell to inform them that Oldham Council is exploring:

- the cost implications for funding health and social care in Oldham of the NIC increase;
- the implications for budget setting to meet the demand for social care funding.
- And seek their support to lobby government to minimise any potential adverse impacts from NIC rises.

Ask the Deputy Chief Executive (Health & Care) and the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing to investigate the potential impact on existing and future GP services in the Borough.

Amendment - Ethical Investment: Divestment from Fossil Fuels and Arms by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund

Proposed by: Cllr Shaid Mushtaq
Seconded by: Cllr Abdul Jabbar

~~Delete~~
Insert

This Council notes:

Oldham's Ethical and Climate Leadership:

- In ~~July~~ September 2019, Oldham Council declared a **Climate Emergency**, committing to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2038. As part of this, the Council agreed to encourage the **Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF)** to divest from fossil fuels.

Investments in Fossil Fuels and Arms:

- Approximately **6% of GMPF's portfolio** (around £1.5 billion) is invested in fossil fuel companies such as Shell, BP, and Glencore.
- ~~○ GMPF also holds over **£241 million** in arms companies, including BAE Systems, Boeing, and Honeywell, which supply weapons to regimes implicated in human rights abuses and violations of international law, including in Palestine and Yemen.~~
- The GMPF also invests over £241 million in companies such as BAE Systems, Boeing and Caterpillar, which indirectly profit from arms sales to states involved in conflicts including Palestine, Lebanon, the Congo, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

Momentum for Divestment:

- On 1 November 2024, **Manchester City Council** passed a motion calling for GMPF to divest from fossil fuels and arms, joining a growing number of councils across the UK.
- Councils such as **Liverpool, Waltham Forest, Islington, and Inverclyde** have also passed motions demanding divestment from fossil fuels and arms.
- These councils, like Oldham, recognise that investments in fossil fuels and arms are incompatible with their ethical, environmental, and social responsibilities.

Human Rights and Legal Context:

- ~~○ Arrest warrants issued by international legal bodies against political figures like **Benjamin Netanyahu** for alleged war crimes underline the~~

~~urgent need to ensure public funds are not complicit in human rights violations.~~

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants on November 21, 2024, for several high-profile individuals in relation to the situation in Gaza. The warrants were issued for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif .
- ~~Arms companies in GMPF's portfolio supply weapons used in illegal wars, repression, and breaches of international law.~~

Environmental and Financial Risks:

- Fossil fuel investments directly contribute to climate destruction and risk becoming stranded assets as global decarbonisation accelerates.
- Arms manufacturing and deployment result in environmental devastation, the destruction of habitats, and carbon-intensive recovery processes, further exacerbating the climate crisis.

GMPF's Policy Contradiction:

- GMPF's Responsible Investment Policy commits to considering the environmental and social impact of investments, but its holdings in fossil fuels and arms directly contradict this policy.

This Council believes:

1. Investments in fossil fuels and arms perpetuate climate destruction, human suffering, and global instability, making them morally indefensible and financially risky.
2. Divestment aligns with Oldham's commitments to human rights, climate action, and ethical governance, while mitigating financial risks.
3. Arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif ~~figures like Netanyahu~~ emphasise the urgent need to act decisively against complicity in human rights abuses.

This Council resolves to:

1. ~~Demand~~ Step up d ~~Divestment:~~
Request the Leader of the Council to write to GMPF and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, urging GMPF to:
 - within 12 months Ddevelop a clear plan to **divest from fossil fuels** and arms ~~within 12 months~~.

- Align with GMCA's **2038 net-zero target** (instead of GMPF's current 2050 target) and establish a medium-term milestone for 2030.
 - Commit to divesting the millions it invests in companies involved either directly or indirectly in arms production. ~~from arms companies supplying weapons to regimes engaged in breaches of international law and human rights abuses.~~
2. **Ensure Transparency:**
Request GMPF to implement robust and transparent reporting mechanisms, including annual updates on:
 - Investments in fossil fuels, arms, and companies operating in **occupied territories** under as defined in international law.
 - Progress towards divestment ~~and outcomes of company engagements.~~
 3. **Empower Representation:**
Mandate Oldham's representative on GMPF to advocate for divestment from fossil fuels and arms ~~at all meetings~~ and provide regular updates to this Council on progress.
 4. **Collaborate Regionally:**
Request the Leader of the Council to write to the other nine Greater Manchester councils, urging them to join Oldham, Manchester, and other councils in advocating for ethical investment reforms at GMPF.
 5. **Promote Ethical Reinvestment:**
Work with GMPF to explore reinvestment in industries aligned with Oldham's ethical and environmental priorities, such as renewable energy, social housing, and sustainable infrastructure.
 6. **Engage the Public:**
Collaborate with residents, advocacy groups, and trade unions to build awareness and support for ethical investment in Greater Manchester.

Supporting Statement:

This motion builds on the recent decision by **Manchester City Council**, which joins other councils like **Liverpool, Waltham Forest, Islington, and Inverclyde** in calling for divestment from fossil fuels and arms. Oldham has the opportunity to strengthen its leadership on climate and human rights by standing in solidarity with these councils and advocating for change at GMPF.

Arrest warrants against ~~figures such as Benjamin Netanyahu~~ Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif for alleged war crimes highlight the moral imperative to ensure public investments are not complicit in such acts. Divesting from fossil fuels and arms not only addresses these ethical concerns but also aligns with our fiduciary responsibility to mitigate financial risks and support sustainable, long-term investments.

By supporting this motion, Oldham Council can reaffirm its commitment to ethical governance, climate action, and human rights, paving the way for a more sustainable and just future.

Amended motion to read:

This Council notes:

Oldham's Ethical and Climate Leadership:

- In September 2019, Oldham Council declared a **Climate Emergency**, committing to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2038. As part of this, the Council agreed to encourage the **Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF)** to divest from fossil fuels.

Investments in Fossil Fuels and Arms:

- Approximately **6% of GMPF's portfolio** (around £1.5 billion) is invested in fossil fuel companies such as Shell, BP, and Glencore.
- The GMPF also invests over £241 million in companies such as BAE Systems, Boeing and Caterpillar, which indirectly profit from arms sales to states involved in conflicts including Palestine, Lebanon, the Congo, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen.

Momentum for Divestment:

- On 1 November 2024, **Manchester City Council** passed a motion calling for GMPF to divest from fossil fuels and arms, joining a growing number of councils across the UK.
- Councils such as **Liverpool, Waltham Forest, Islington, and Inverclyde** have also passed motions demanding divestment from fossil fuels and arms.
- These councils, like Oldham, recognise that investments in fossil fuels and arms are incompatible with their ethical, environmental, and social responsibilities.

Human Rights and Legal Context:

- The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants on **November 21, 2024**, for several high-profile individuals in relation to the situation in Gaza. The warrants were issued for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the conflict by **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif**.

Environmental and Financial Risks:

- Fossil fuel investments directly contribute to climate destruction and risk becoming stranded assets as global decarbonisation accelerates.
- Arms manufacturing and deployment result in environmental devastation, the destruction of habitats, and carbon-intensive recovery processes, further exacerbating the climate crisis.

GMPF's Policy Contradiction:

- GMPF's Responsible Investment Policy commits to considering the environmental and social impact of investments, but its holdings in fossil fuels and arms directly contradict this policy.
-

This Council believes:

1. Investments in fossil fuels and arms perpetuate climate destruction, human suffering, and global instability, making them morally indefensible and financially risky.
 2. Divestment aligns with Oldham's commitments to human rights, climate action, and ethical governance, while mitigating financial risks.
 3. Arrest warrants against **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**, **former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant**, and **Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif**—emphasise the urgent need to act decisively against complicity in human rights abuses.
-

This Council resolves to:

1. **Step up divestment:**
Request the Leader of the Council to write to GMPF and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, urging GMPF to:
 - within 12 months develop a clear plan to **divest from fossil fuels** and arms.
 - Align with GMCA's **2038 net-zero target** (instead of GMPF's current 2050 target) and establish a medium-term milestone for 2030.
 - Commit to divesting the millions it invests in companies involved either directly or indirectly in arms production.
2. **Ensure Transparency:**
Request GMPF to implement robust and transparent reporting mechanisms, including annual updates on:
 - Investments in fossil fuels, arms, and companies operating in **occupied territories** as defined in international law.
 - Progress towards divestment.
3. **Empower Representation:**
Mandate Oldham's representative on GMPF to advocate for divestment from fossil fuels and arms and provide regular updates to this Council on progress.
4. **Collaborate Regionally:**
Request the Leader of the Council to write to the other nine Greater Manchester councils, urging them to join Oldham, Manchester, and other councils in advocating for ethical investment reforms at GMPF.
5. **Promote Ethical Reinvestment:**
Work with GMPF to explore reinvestment in industries aligned with Oldham's ethical and environmental priorities, such as renewable energy, social housing, and sustainable infrastructure.

6. Engage the Public:

Collaborate with residents, advocacy groups, and trade unions to build awareness and support for ethical investment in Greater Manchester.

Supporting Statement:

This motion builds on the recent decision by **Manchester City Council**, which joins other councils like **Liverpool, Waltham Forest, Islington, and Inverclyde** in calling for divestment from fossil fuels and arms. Oldham has the opportunity to strengthen its leadership on climate and human rights by standing in solidarity with these councils and advocating for change at GMPF.

Arrest warrants against **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas military commander Mohammed Deif** for alleged war crimes highlight the moral imperative to ensure public investments are not complicit in such acts. Divesting from fossil fuels and arms not only addresses these ethical concerns but also aligns with our fiduciary responsibility to mitigate financial risks and support sustainable, long-term investments.

By supporting this motion, Oldham Council can reaffirm its commitment to ethical governance, climate action, and human rights, paving the way for a more sustainable and just future.

This page is intentionally left blank

Amendment - Old Failsworth Library Motion

To be moved by Councillor Hobin

To be seconded by Councillor Hindle

The **DELETE: Old** **INSERT:** 'former' Failsworth Library, on Main Street, Failsworth which was bequeathed to the people of Failsworth by Sidlow Family has fallen into a great state of disrepair. A Nursery that currently rents part of the building is a popular and well used facility in Failsworth and wants to stay in the current building as it is an ideal and well-known location.

The Council has not fully utilised The **DELETE: Old** **INSERT:** former Failsworth Library **INSERT:** 'because of the renovation of the Town Hall', and **DELETE: it** **INSERT:** 'the former Failsworth Library' is only half used. It is a large and spacious building which could have partially replaced the old Community Centre and allowed local groups to use the space.

The state of repair to the building is less than satisfactory. There have been reports of leaks, damp, mould and other issues which should have been addressed before they became too expensive to repair. It is shocking that a public building has been left to rot.

The evidence of damp and mould is clear to see. The current tenant has been proactive in trying to maintain the building, while doing so they have continued to ask for repairs to be completed.

Some Failsworth Councillors have contributed in trying to help, and the money donated helped the nursery to source much needed furniture as they had been spending nursery funds allocated for the furniture on trying to spruce up the interior of the building.

Councillors and the tenant have written to the former Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Raynor MP, Jim McMahon MP and Lucy Powell MP to see what help they can provide.

Inside the nursery we have seen where parts of a ceiling had come down, where the window area had rotted away and with gaps large enough for children to put fingers into the gap. There was a room so cold and damp that OMBC had to fit a very small electric wall heater high up near the ceiling which was inadequate.

We know of a number of buildings which are publicly owned, or considered public assets, which have sadly fallen into a state of disrepair. **DELETE: It is disappointing that buildings outside of Oldham Town Centre, such as the Old Failsworth Library are being put at risk and could end up costing the Council more in the long run due to inaction rather than taking proactive steps to protect our public assets.**

INSERT:

'This Council notes:

- The renovation of Failsworth Town Hall and the extension to include the library mean that the former library was no longer used as a community asset but was

leased to a nursery and recently used as storage while Royton Town Hall and Library underwent renovations.'

The Council therefore resolves to:

- **DELETE:** Inform and work with all Failsworth Councillors to ensure that the current tenant of the building is kept up to date with all information regarding the lease and the repairs needed to the building.
- **INSERT:** 'Continue to keep the current tenant of the former library on Main Street up to date with information regarding the lease and potential repairs to the building.'
- That Council officers will keep all Failsworth Councillors up to date **DELETE:** with quarterly reports on the repairs needed to the building and other issues that may arise. **INSERT:** 'on potential renovations and future uses of the former Failsworth library building.'
- **DELETE:** That the Old Failsworth Library is renovated and brought up to a workable standard
- **INSERT:** 'Explore opportunities to renovate the former Failsworth Library on Main Street' so that it can be used by other local community groups and or businesses **INSERT:** 'subject to funding'.
- **DELETE:** That the underuse of the building for the past decade has meant the Council has lost revenue and the people of Failsworth have lost out on a community facility.
- That **DELETE:** a plan is put in place involving all Failsworth Councillors **INSERT:** 'are given opportunities to be involved in plans' to **DELETE:** save **INSERT:** 'potentially renovate' this building for future community use.

Amended motion to read:

To be moved by Councillor Hindle

To be seconded by Councillor Hobin

The former Failsworth Library, on Main Street, Failsworth which was bequeathed to the people of Failsworth by Sidlow Family has fallen into a great state of disrepair. A Nursery that currently rents part of the building is a popular and well used facility in Failsworth and wants to stay in the current building as it is an ideal and well-known location.

The Council has not fully utilised the former Failsworth Library because of the renovation of the Town Hall', and the former Failsworth Library is only half used. It is a large and spacious building which could have partially replaced the old Community Centre and allowed local groups to use the space.

The state of repair to the building is less than satisfactory. There have been reports of leaks, damp, mould and other issues which should have been addressed before they became too expensive to repair. It is shocking that a public building has been left to rot.

The evidence of damp and mould is clear to see. The current tenant has been proactive in trying to maintain the building, while doing so they have continued to ask for repairs to be completed.

Some Failsworth Councillors have contributed in trying to help, and the money donated helped the nursery to source much needed furniture as they had been spending nursery funds allocated for the furniture on trying to spruce up the interior of the building.

Councillors and the tenant have written to the former Member of Parliament and Deputy Prime Minister Angela Raynor MP, Jim McMahon MP and Lucy Powell MP to see what help they can provide.

Inside the nursery we have seen where parts of a ceiling had come down, where the window area had rotted away and with gaps large enough for children to put fingers into the gap. There was a room so cold and damp that OMBC had to fit a very small electric wall heater high up near the ceiling which was inadequate.

We know of a number of buildings which are publicly owned, or considered public assets, which have sadly fallen into a state of disrepair.

This Council notes:

- The renovation of Failsworth Town Hall and the extension to include the library mean that the former library was no longer used as a community asset but was leased to a nursery and recently used as storage while Royton Town Hall and Library underwent renovations.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Continue to keep the current tenant of the former library on Main Street up to date with information regarding the lease and potential repairs to the building.
- That Council officers will keep all Failsworth Councillors up to date potential renovations and future uses of the former Failsworth library building.
- Explore opportunities to renovate the former Failsworth Library on Main Street so that it can be used by other local community groups and or businesses subject to funding.
- That all Failsworth Councillors are given opportunities to be involved in plans to potentially renovate this building for future community use.

This page is intentionally left blank