

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**Supplementary agenda**

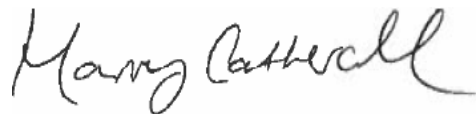


## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

### **Supplementary Agenda**

- 3 Request for a National Public Inquiry that Investigates the Scourge of Child Sexual Exploitation' (Pages 1 - 16)
  1. Amendment 1 – to be Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani and Seconded by Councillor Bishop
  2. Amendment 2 – to be Moved by Councillor Hobin and Seconded by Councillor Hince
  3. Amendment 3 – to be Moved by Councillor Wahid and Seconded by Councillor Ghafoor



**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



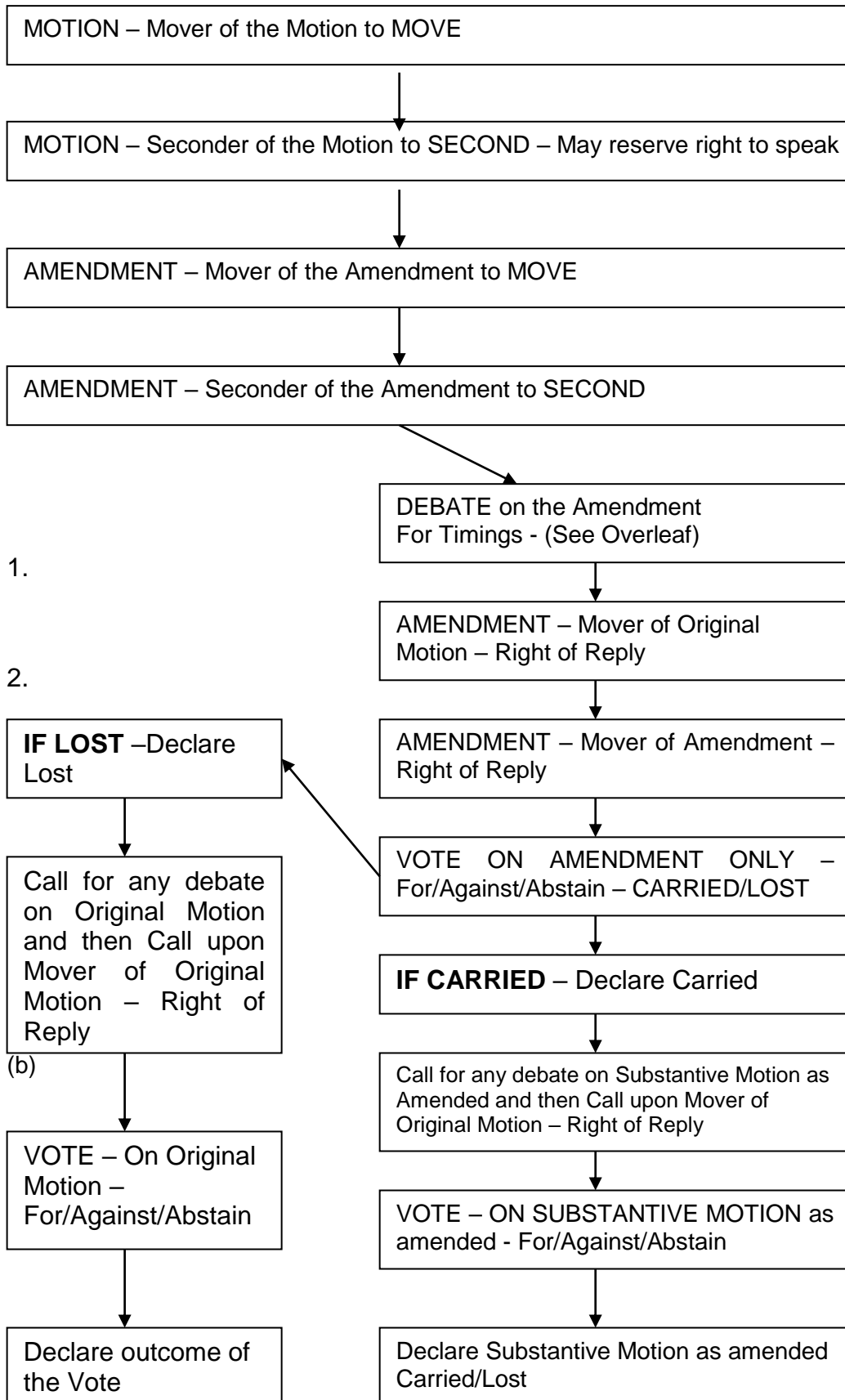
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**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



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# Agenda Item 3

Amendment to the motion on CSE from the Liberal Democrat Group

Proposer: Sam Al-Hamdani

Seconder: Helen Bishop

Survivors of sexual violence must at all times be given the opportunity to lead the process of seeking both support and justice over the traumatic abuse that they have undergone, and to determine what support they need to achieve those goals.

Two survivors' statement was read out at the last Council meeting. These are their words, not ours. The first stated the following:

"Whilst we hoped for and would have liked a national inquiry, we appreciate they have come up with a compromise. For now, we are satisfied that our voices are finally being heard, although we will continue the fight in a way that works for us, to lobby for changes we feel are necessary in shaping a suitable inquiry. Our biggest priority is to hope we can achieve that it be a statutory one."

The second stated the following:

"We are still not happy with the overall decision, but we are happy to continue with a local inquiry ... we hope the Council remain transparent and politics are kept aside."

The Council, and all commentators, must listen to and amplify the voices of young women, particularly young, working class women, those who have lived in care, and those who have survived abuse and violence.

This Council notes that:

It is important that the language that is used when discussing the issue of abuse and sexual violence is clear and does not hide the violence that has taken place, while it must not retraumatise the survivors by using terms of extreme violence casually. Following requests from survivors, this amendment has specifically removed some of the extremely explicit descriptions of sexual violence, as when survivors hear this in a public forum it plays a role in re-traumatising them.

We humbly request that this Council call upon His Majesty's Government to **initiate** ensure a **national-statutory** public inquiry that investigates the scourge of **both historic and current** child sexual exploitation **by rape gangs both historic and current** in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham. ~~but also across~~ Any national investigations into the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland **must not relegate an examination of Oldham into a paragraph in another report.**

We request that a full **national-statutory** public inquiry is held urgently, as villages, towns and cities up and down the spine of the country have been affected by child

sexual exploitation [and abuse](#) which was carried out by evil [rape-criminal](#) gangs on an unprecedented scale, [and the even more widespread levels of sexual and sexually-motivated violence that are endemic in British society, across people of all colours and creeds.](#)

This Council [further](#) notes ~~that~~:

1. The employment by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council of the ringleader of the ~~Rochdale rape~~ gang [that sexually abused so many girls in Rochdale](#) which was stated in the 2022 Assurance review quote: “Offender A worked for Oldham Council between 1988 and 2006. He was employed as a welfare rights officer in the welfare rights unit of the council seconded to the Oldham Pakistani Community Centre. In May 2012 he was found guilty of two rapes, aiding and abetting rape, sexual assault and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and sentenced to 19 years’ imprisonment. In June 2012 he was found guilty of a further 30 rape charges and was jailed for an additional 22 years. Offender A lived in Oldham and was a member of the Oldham Labour Party. We believe there were serious failings in how both the council and Greater Manchester Police investigated concerns in respect of Offender A.”
2. That this Council voted down multiple requests from 2020 to 2024 for inquiries of different kinds until it [was](#) agreed to hold a non-statutory local inquiry in July 2024 following the Council falling into no overall control.
3. That no Council officers who worked or currently work at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council have been disciplined or lost their job for professional failures in protecting children from rape gangs and child sexual exploitation to date.
- ~~4.—That at the reconvened Council meeting on the 20th January 2025 that the Chairman of the Council meeting sanctioned a Conservative Councillor and asked her to withdraw her remarks for using the term “Pakistani heritage rape gangs” when asking if the Council Leader would support a national inquiry.~~
- ~~5.4.~~ [\\_\\_\\_\\_\\_](#) Notes the comments made by the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Yvette Cooper MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; “Ten years ago, two reports by Alexis Jay and Louise Casey in Rotherham found that 1,400 children had been sexually exploited, raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked across other towns, ~~abducted, beaten and threatened with guns. Children had even been doused in petrol. Girls as young as 11 had been raped...~~ Those reports a decade ago identified a failure to confront Pakistani heritage gangs and a “widespread perception” that they should “downplay’ the ethnic dimensions” for fear of being seen to be racist. When those reports came out, those failings in Rotherham were condemned across the board by both Government and Opposition in this House. As I said at the time: “It is never an excuse to use race and ethnicity or community relations as an excuse not to investigate and punish sex offenders.” [—\[Official Report, 2 September 2014; Vol. 585, c. 169.\]](#)”



5. Notes the comments made by the Shadow Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Chris Philp MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; ~~“The whole country is shocked by the rape gang scandal. Over years or decades, thousands or maybe tens of thousands of vulnerable young girls were systematically raped by organised gangs of men, predominantly of Pakistani heritage.~~ Instead of those victims being protected and the perpetrators prosecuted, those girls were systematically failed. Many cases were covered up because of absurd concerns about so-called community relations. Often, the police did not investigate. Local councils covered things up. The Crown Prosecution Service frequently failed victims. ~~Those raising concerns were frequently accused of racism. Never again can people be silenced in that way. I pay tribute to people who have raised these cases over the years, starting with former Labour MP Ann Cryer, who first raised these problems nearly two decades ago and bravely persevered despite accusations of racism and worse, including from her own colleagues. In that vein, let me say a word on the Prime Minister’s comments this morning: it is not far-right to stand up for victims of mass rape.”~~

6. That no individual or political group should ever seek to exploit the tragedies of sexual violence that have been committed, Everyone must at all times ensure that they listen to what survivors want, to ensure their voices are at the heart of all proposals, and to ensure that they are heard, supported and empowered,

6.—

7. That for too long governments of all colours have rejected this much needed national statutory inquiry. It is time to hear from the survivors and victims who have been affected, and to expose those organisations, individuals and institutions that either covered it up, colluded in this scandal or stood by and did nothing.

7.—

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Home Office to demand that His Majesty’s Government initiate ensure without any further delay a national statutory public inquiry into the scourge of child sexual exploitation both historic and current by rape gangs and individuals both historic and current in Oldham. A specific inquiry into Oldham is required so that an examination of Oldham does not relegate it into another paragraph in another report.
- Support further national inquiries into the endemic levels of sexual violence against women and girls – and also against men – both in Greater Manchester and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to explore all the factors which contribute to this level of violence. This must never avoid confronting harsh truths, about who has committed violence, or about who has failed to deal with sexual violence, in a country which has failed to do this for too long.:-

The amended motion to read:

Survivors of sexual violence must at all times be given the opportunity to lead the process of seeking both support and justice over the traumatic abuse that they have undergone, and to determine what support they need to achieve those goals.

Two survivors' statement was read out at the last Council meeting. These are their words, not ours. The first stated the following:

“Whilst we hoped for and would have liked a national inquiry, we appreciate they have come up with a compromise. For now, we are satisfied that our voices are finally being heard, although we will continue the fight in a way that works for us, to lobby for changes we feel are necessary in shaping a suitable inquiry. Our biggest priority is to hope we can achieve that it be a statutory one.”

The second stated the following:

“We are still not happy with the overall decision, but we are happy to continue with a local inquiry ... we hope the Council remain transparent and politics are kept aside.”

The Council, and all commentators, must listen to and amplify the voices of young women, particularly young, working class women, those who have lived in care, and those who have survived abuse and violence.

This Council notes that:

It is important that the language that is used when discussing the issue of abuse and sexual violence is clear and does not hide the violence that has taken place, while it must not retraumatise the survivors by using terms of extreme violence casually. Following requests from survivors, this amendment has specifically removed some of the extremely explicit descriptions of sexual violence, as when survivors hear this in a public forum it plays a role in re-traumatising them.

We humbly request that this Council call upon His Majesty's Government to ensure a statutory public inquiry that investigates the scourge of both historic and current child sexual exploitation in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham. Any national investigations into the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland must not relegate an examination of Oldham into a paragraph in another report.

We request that a full statutory public inquiry is held urgently, as villages, towns and cities up and down the spine of the country have been affected by child sexual exploitation and abuse which was carried out by evil criminal gangs on an unprecedented scale, and the even more widespread levels of sexual and sexually-motivated violence that are endemic in British society, across people of all colours and creeds.

This Council further notes:

1. The employment by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council of the ringleader of the gang that sexually abused so many girls in Rochdale which was stated in the 2022 Assurance review quote: “Offender A worked for Oldham Council between 1988 and 2006. He was employed as a welfare rights officer in the welfare rights unit of the council seconded to the Oldham Pakistani Community Centre. In May 2012 he was found guilty of two rapes, aiding and abetting rape, sexual assault and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and sentenced to 19 years’ imprisonment. In June 2012 he was found guilty of a further 30 rape charges and was jailed for an additional 22 years. Offender A lived in Oldham and was a member of the Oldham Labour Party. We believe there were serious failings in how both the council and Greater Manchester Police investigated concerns in respect of Offender A.”
2. That this Council voted down multiple requests from 2020 to 2024 for inquiries of different kinds until it was agreed to hold a non-statutory local inquiry in July 2024 following the Council falling into no overall control.
3. That no Council officers who worked or currently work at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council have been disciplined or lost their job for professional failures in protecting children from rape gangs and child sexual exploitation to date.
4. Notes the comments made by the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Yvette Cooper MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; “Ten years ago, two reports by Alexis Jay and Louise Casey in Rotherham found that 1,400 children had been sexually exploited, raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked across other towns, ... Those reports a decade ago identified a failure to confront Pakistani heritage gangs and a “widespread perception” that they should “‘downplay’ the ethnic dimensions” for fear of being seen to be racist. When those reports came out, those failings in Rotherham were condemned across the board by both Government and Opposition in this House. As I said at the time: “It is never an excuse to use race and ethnicity or community relations as an excuse not to investigate and punish sex offenders.”—[\[Official Report, 2 September 2014; Vol. 585, c. 169.\]](#)”
5. Notes the comments made by the Shadow Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Chris Philp MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; “Instead of those victims being protected and the perpetrators prosecuted, those girls were systematically failed. Many cases were covered up because of absurd concerns about so-called community relations. Often, the police did not investigate. Local councils covered things up. The Crown Prosecution Service frequently failed victims.
6. That no individual or political group should ever seek to exploit the tragedies of sexual violence that have been committed, Everyone must at all times ensure that they listen to what survivors want, to ensure their voices are at the heart of all proposals, and to ensure that they are heard, supported and empowered,
7. That for too long governments of all colours have rejected this much needed statutory inquiry. It is time to hear from the survivors and victims who have been

affected, and to expose those organisations, individuals and institutions that either covered it up, colluded in this scandal or stood by and did nothing.

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Home Office to demand that His Majesty's Government ensure without any further delay a statutory public inquiry into the scourge of child sexual exploitation both historic and current by gangs and individuals in Oldham. A specific inquiry into Oldham is required so that an examination of Oldham does not relegate it into another paragraph in another report.
- Support further national inquiries into the endemic levels of sexual violence against women and girls – and also against men – both in Greater Manchester and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to explore all the factors which contribute to this level of violence. This must never avoid confronting harsh truths, about who has committed violence, or about who has failed to deal with sexual violence, in a country which has failed to do this for too long.

Moved by Cllr Brian Hobin  
Seconded by Cllr Marc Hince

Draft amendment:

~~We humbly request that this Council call upon His Majesty's Government to initiate a national public inquiry that investigates the scourge of child sexual exploitation by rape gangs both historic and current in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham but also across the whole of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.~~

~~We request that a full national public inquiry is held urgently, as villages, towns and cities up and down the spine of the country have been affected by child sexual exploitation which was carried out by evil rape gangs on an unprecedented scale.~~

This Council notes that:

- In July 2024, the Council unanimously supported a motion to write to the Home Secretary requesting a Home Office led Public Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in the borough of Oldham and should the Home Office not grant this request – as they had previously indicated it was for Local Authorities to commission such a review – that we work with survivors to prepare a framework and to commission an independent inquiry.
- In January 2025, the Home Secretary announced that the Home Office would provide support to Oldham Council to work with Tom Crowther KC – the Chair of the Telford Inquiry – to develop a framework for victim-centred local inquiries, and that Baroness Louise Casey would conduct a rapid audit of the scale and nature of gang-based exploitation across the country, which will include thorough examination of the demographics of perpetrators and victims, as well as cultural and societal drivers for this type of offending including amongst different ethnic groups.
- The Home Secretary also announced work is underway to introduce the duty of candour as part of the Hillsborough Law – something this chamber has called for numerous times, to ensure that public servants who fail victims and survivors are held to account.
- The voices and experiences of victims and survivors is the most important thing here, it is with regret that the survivors' requests appear to have been ignored by some in this chamber causing greater trauma.
- It is important that this council recognises that girls and boys of all demographics are victims and survivors of sexual abuse and exploitation, just as perpetrators also come from a variety of groups. Focusing only on one demographic type does an injustice to victims and survivors across the board.

~~1. The employment by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council of the ringleader of the Rochdale rape gang which was stated in the 2022 Assurance review quote: "Offender A worked for Oldham Council between 1988 and 2006. He was employed as a welfare rights officer in the welfare rights unit of the council seconded to the Oldham Pakistani Community Centre. In May 2012 he was found guilty of two rapes, aiding and abetting rape, sexual assault and trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, and sentenced to 19 years' imprisonment. In June 2012 he was found guilty of a further 30 rape charges and was jailed for an additional 22 years. Offender A lived in Oldham and was a member of the Oldham Labour Party. We believe there were serious failings in how both the council and Greater Manchester Police investigated concerns in respect of Offender A."~~

~~2. That this Council voted down multiple requests from 2020 to 2024 for inquiries of different kinds until it agreed to hold a non-statutory local inquiry in July 2024 following the Council falling into no overall control.~~

~~3. That no Council officers who worked or currently work at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council have been disciplined or lost their job for professional failures in protecting children from rape gangs and child sexual exploitation to date.~~

~~4. That at the reconvened Council meeting on the 20th January 2025 that the Chairman of the Council meeting sanctioned a Conservative Councillor and asked her to withdraw her remarks for using the term "Pakistani heritage rape gangs" when asking if the Council Leader would support a national inquiry.~~

~~5. Notes the comments made by the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Yvette Cooper MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; "Ten years ago, two reports by Alexis Jay and Louise Casey in Rotherham found that 1,400 children had been sexually exploited, raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked across other towns, abducted, beaten and threatened with guns. Children had even been doused in petrol. Girls as young as 11 had been raped. Those reports a decade ago identified a failure to confront Pakistani heritage gangs and a "widespread perception" that they should "downplay" the ethnic dimensions" for fear of being seen to be racist. When those reports came out, those failings in Rotherham were condemned across the board by both Government and Opposition in this House. As I said at the time: "It is never an excuse to use race and ethnicity or community relations as an excuse not to investigate and punish sex offenders."—[Official Report, 2 September 2014; Vol. 585, c. 169.]"~~

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~~7. That for too long governments of all colours have rejected this much needed national inquiry. It is time to hear from the survivors and victims who have been affected, and to expose those organisations, individuals and institutions that either covered it up, colluded in this scandal or stood by and did nothing.~~

This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Home Office to ~~ask~~ **demand** that His Majesty's Government ~~initiate without any further delay a~~ **ensure that review led by survivors and Tom Crowther feeds into an independent national public inquiry with statutory powers to compel witnesses** into the scourge of child sexual

exploitation ~~by rape gangs~~ both historic and current in Oldham, Greater Manchester and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Amended motion to read:

This Council notes that:

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This Council resolves to:

- Write to the Home Office to ask that His Majesty's Government ensure that review led by survivors and Tom Crowther feeds into an independent national public inquiry with statutory powers to compel witnesses into the scourge of child sexual exploitation both historic and current in Oldham, Greater Manchester and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



# Amendment to Conservative Motion – Submitted by Cllr Abdul Wahid & Seconded by Cllr Kamran Ghafoor

## IN BOLD

This Council notes that:

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4. That at the reconvened Council meeting on the 20th January 2025 that the Chairman of the Council meeting sanctioned a Conservative Councillor and asked her to withdraw her remarks for using the term “Pakistani heritage rape gangs” when asking if the Council Leader would support a national inquiry.
5. Notes the comments made by the Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Yvette Cooper MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; “Ten years ago, two reports by Alexis Jay and Louise Casey in Rotherham found that 1,400 children had been sexually exploited, raped by multiple perpetrators, trafficked across other towns, abducted, beaten and threatened with guns. Children had even been doused in petrol. Girls as young as 11 had been raped. Those reports a decade ago identified a failure to confront Pakistani heritage gangs and a “widespread perception” that they should “downplay’ the ethnic dimensions” for fear of being seen to be racist. When those reports came out, those failings in Rotherham were condemned across the board by both Government and Opposition in this House. As I said at the time: “It is never an excuse to use race and ethnicity or community relations as an excuse not to investigate and punish sex offenders.”—[\[Official Report, 2 September 2014; Vol. 585, c. 169.\]](#)”
6. Notes the comments made by the Shadow Home Secretary, the Rt. Hon, Chris Philp MP, which is noted in Hansard quote; “The whole country is shocked by the rape gang scandal. Over years or decades, thousands or maybe tens of thousands of vulnerable young girls were systematically raped by organised gangs of men, predominantly of Pakistani heritage. Instead of those victims being protected and the perpetrators prosecuted, those girls were systematically failed. Many cases were covered up because of absurd concerns about so-called community relations. Often, the police did not investigate. Local councils covered things up. The Crown Prosecution Service frequently failed victims. Those raising concerns were frequently accused of racism. Never again can people be silenced in that way. I pay tribute to people who have raised these cases over

the years, starting with former Labour MP Ann Cryer, who first raised these problems nearly two decades ago and bravely persevered despite accusations of racism and worse, including from her own colleagues. In that vein, let me say a word on the Prime Minister's comments this morning: it is not far-right to stand up for victims of mass rape."

7. That for too long governments of all colours have rejected this much needed national inquiry. It is time to hear from the survivors and victims who have been affected, and to expose those organisations, individuals and institutions that either covered it up, colluded in this scandal or stood by and did nothing.

**8. That following repeated calls for a local inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Oldham, the Council voted in July 2024 to establish a non-statutory local inquiry. This decision came after years of resistance, despite multiple reports highlighting institutional failures. However, concerns remain that without statutory powers, this inquiry will lack the ability to compel key witnesses, access crucial documents, or hold individuals and organisations fully accountable.**

**9. That survivors, campaigners, and members of this Council have consistently argued that only a statutory inquiry can deliver full transparency and justice. A statutory inquiry would ensure**

that all survivors and individuals who have given testimony are legally compelled to provide evidence, while also creating a safe and supportive process for new witnesses and survivors to come forward.

10. That the credibility and effectiveness of the local inquiry depend on an independent panel determining the terms of reference, ensuring that the investigation is free from political influence and fully focused on uncovering the truth.

This Council **FURTHER** resolves to:

**1. Write to the Home Office to demand that His Majesty's Government initiate without any further delay a national public inquiry into the scourge of child sexual exploitation by rape gangs both historic and current in Oldham, Greater**

## **Manchester and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.**

**2. Write to the Home Office to request that His Majesty's Government grants statutory powers to the local inquiry into child sexual exploitation in Oldham. This would ensure the inquiry has the authority to compel witnesses, demand full disclosure of evidence, and hold those responsible to account.**

**2. Request that an independent panel is appointed to set the terms of reference for the inquiry, ensuring that it is survivor-led, transparent, and robust.**

**3. Seek confirmation from the inquiry leadership on the actions that will be taken to ensure that all survivors and individuals who have previously given testimony are compelled to provide evidence, while also establishing a process**

**to invite new witnesses and survivors to come forward.**

**4. Engage with survivor support organisations, legal experts, and national agencies to guarantee that all testimony is collected safely, ethically, and with appropriate safeguarding in place.**

**5. Call upon the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Mayor of Greater Manchester to publicly support granting statutory powers to the local inquiry, reinforcing the need for full transparency and accountability.**

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