

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 16th July 2025
(Amendments to Motions)**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

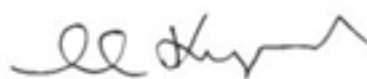
**To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,
CIVIC CENTRE, OLDHAM**

10 Notice of Administration Business (*pages 1- 10*)

- Labour Group Amendment to Motion 1 - Article 4(1) Direction on Small HMO's
- Royton Local Group Amendment to Motion 1 - Article 4(1) Direction on Small HMO's
- Conservative Amendment to Motion 1 - Article 4(1) Direction on Small HMO's

11 Notice of Opposition Business (*pages 11 – 19*)

- Labour Group Amendment to Motion 1 – Adult Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Support
- Labour Group Amendment to Motion 2 – Investing in Coldhurst



**Shelley Kipling
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



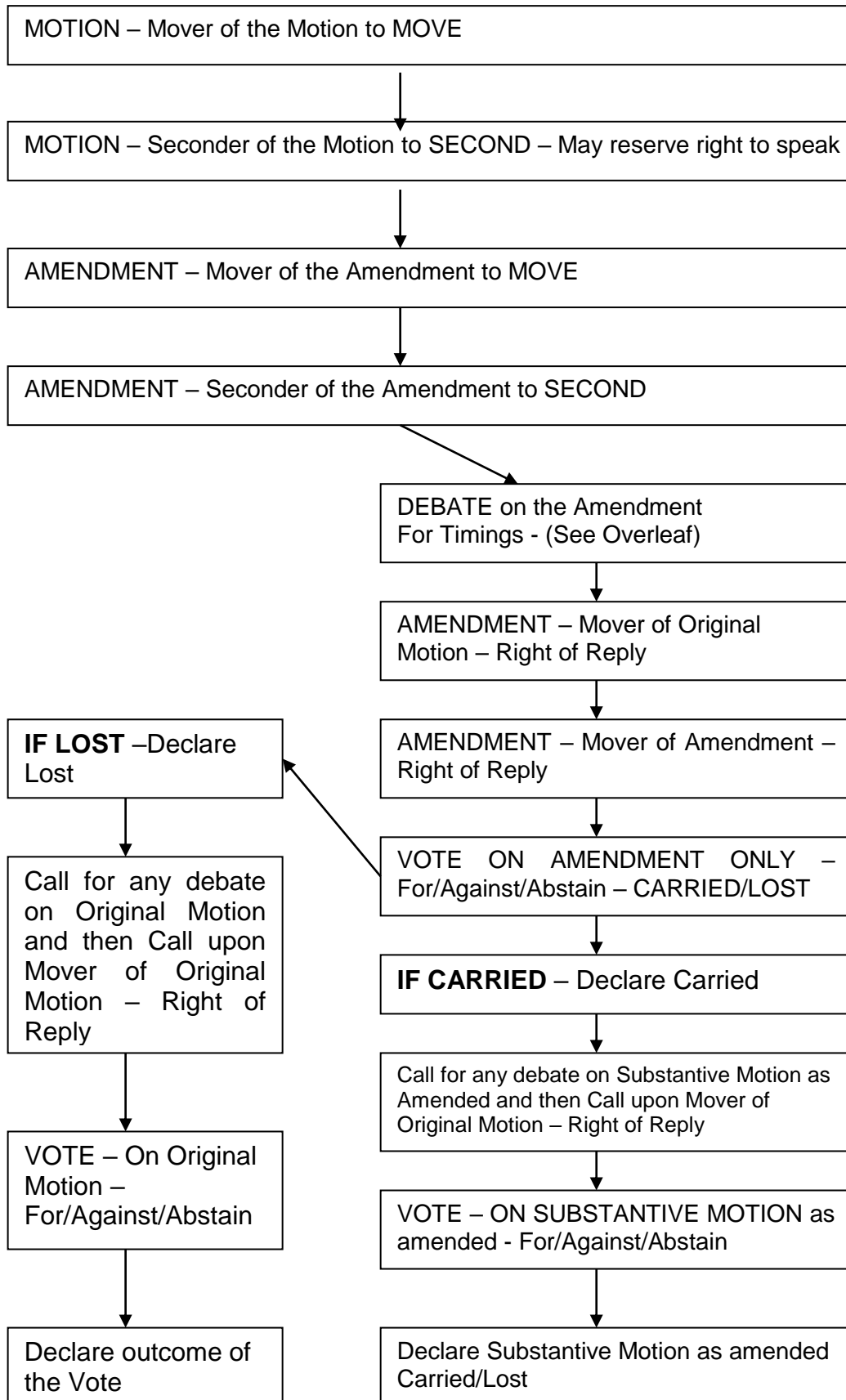
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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



This page is intentionally left blank

The Independent Group (TIP) & Failsworth Independent Party (Joint Motion)

Labour Amendment

Moved by: Cllr Elaine Taylor

Seconded by: Cllr Davis

Delete

Add

Article 4(1) direction on small HMOs

Residents are rightly concerned with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) which are currently being introduced across the borough.

We have always believed HMOs are a symptom of the housing crisis and not a solution. In some cases, exploiting some of the most vulnerable people within our community through substandard and unsafe accommodation.

Whilst it is not possible to prevent full planning applications from being submitted, we can act to close the loophole that allows for permitted development rights for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where between three and six unrelated people share basic amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom.

Oldham Council currently permits, without the need for planning permission under 'permitted development rights', the change of use of a typical dwelling house occupied by a single household in use class C3, to a property used as a 'small' HMO that is shared by between three and six unrelated people in use class C4.

The Council can, however, adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove these permitted development rights. This will require a planning application to be submitted for change of use from class C3 to C4. This means due process will be applied giving residents a say in what happens in their communities.

We had hoped the government would introduce new legislation to make HMO developers more accountable and give residents a greater say by making it mandatory for small HMO developers to be licensed with the local authority.

In addition, the government has stated it is committed to removing all asylum applicants (approximately thirty thousand) from temporary hotel accommodation. We believe this action will inevitably mean further demand for HMOs.

We acknowledge and accept that the implementation of Article 4 borough wide will have a significant impact on available resources particularly the Planning Department. ~~Therefore, to enable the council to gear up to meet requirements, the~~

~~Civil Parish of Shaw & Crompton and Failsworth are to be prioritised with the implementation of Article 4. With Article 4 being extended to the rest of the borough no later than twelve months thereafter.~~

This Council resolves to:

1. As soon as possible, Cabinet to consider and make a direction pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 on a borough wide basis. ~~prioritising the Civil Parish of Shaw & Crompton and Failsworth.~~ Withdrawing the permitted development rights to convert a dwellinghouse (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (C4) is appropriate, and justified, to prevent harm to local amenity and promote the wellbeing of the aforementioned areas.
2. To delegate authority to OMBC Planning Department to carry out all necessary consultation and to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements.
3. That, the ~~Shaw & Crompton Civil Parish and Failsworth~~ Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. ~~To implement Article 4(1) Direction borough wide, no later than twelve months after coming into effect in the aforementioned priority areas.~~ To put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1st January 2026.

Oldham Council ~~cannot~~ does not intend to rely on or hide behind government legislation on this issue.

An Article 4(1) Direction can be used to manage HMO concentration and prevent the formation of imbalanced communities and negative impact on local amenity.

~~If the Council values~~ As a resident focused Council, we value resident's' opinions and puts communities at the forefront of decision making. ~~, it must give~~ We are committed to giving residents a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views are heard.

The adoption of this motion demonstrates to the people of the borough that the council is prepared to act in their interests.

Motion as Amended

Article 4(1) direction on small HMOs

Residents are rightly concerned with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) which are currently being introduced across the borough.

We have always believed HMOs are a symptom of the housing crisis and not a solution. In some cases, exploiting some of the most vulnerable people within our community through substandard and unsafe accommodation.

Whilst it is not possible to prevent full planning applications from being submitted, we can act to close the loophole that allows for permitted development rights for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where between three and six unrelated people share basic amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom.

Oldham Council currently permits, without the need for planning permission under 'permitted development rights', the change of use of a typical dwelling house occupied by a single household in use class C3, to a property used as a 'small' HMO that is shared by between three and six unrelated people in use class C4.

The Council can, however, adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove these permitted development rights. This will require a planning application to be submitted for change of use from class C3 to C4. This means due process will be applied giving residents a say in what happens in their communities.

We had hoped the government would introduce new legislation to make HMO developers more accountable and give residents a greater say by making it mandatory for small HMO developers to be licensed with the local authority.

In addition, the government has stated it is committed to removing all asylum applicants (approximately thirty thousand) from temporary hotel accommodation. We believe this action will inevitably mean further demand for HMOs.

We acknowledge and accept that the implementation of Article 4 borough wide will have a significant impact on available resources particularly the Planning Department.

This Council resolves to:

1. As soon as possible, Cabinet to consider and make a direction pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 on a borough wide basis. Withdrawing the permitted development rights to convert a dwellinghouse (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (C4) is appropriate, and justified, to prevent harm to local amenity and promote the wellbeing of the aforementioned areas.
2. To delegate authority to OMBC Planning Department to carry out all necessary consultation and to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements.

3. That, the Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. To put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1st January 2026.

Oldham Council does not intend to rely on or hide behind government legislation on this issue.

An Article 4(1) Direction can be used to manage HMO concentration and prevent the formation of imbalanced communities and negative impact on local amenity.

As a resident focused Council, we value residents' opinions and put communities at the forefront of decision making. We are committed to giving residents a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views are heard.

The adoption of this motion demonstrates to the people of the borough that the council is prepared to act in their interests.



Royton Local Group Amendment to:

The Independent Group (TIP) & Failsworth Independent Party (Joint Motion)

Article 4(1) direction on small HMOs

Proposed by: Councillor Dave Arnott

Seconded by: Councillor Christine Adams

Residents are rightly concerned with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) which are currently being introduced across the borough.

We have always believed HMOs are a symptom of the housing crisis and not a solution. In some cases, exploiting some of the most vulnerable people within our community through substandard and unsafe accommodation.

Whilst it is not possible to prevent full planning applications from being submitted, we can act to close the loophole that allows for permitted development rights for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where between three and six unrelated people share basic amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom.

Oldham Council currently permits, without the need for planning permission under 'permitted development rights', the change of use of a typical dwelling house occupied by a single household in use class C3, to a property used as a 'small' HMO that is shared by between three and six unrelated people in use class C4.

The Council can, however, adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove these permitted development rights. This will require a planning application to be submitted for change of use from class C3 to C4. This means due process will be applied giving residents a say in what happens in their communities.

We had hoped the government would introduce new legislation to make HMO developers more accountable and give residents a greater say by making it mandatory for small HMO developers to be licensed with the local authority.

In addition, the government has stated it is committed to removing all asylum applicants (approximately thirty thousand) from temporary hotel accommodation. We believe this action will inevitably mean further demand for HMOs.

We acknowledge and accept that the implementation of Article 4 borough wide will have a significant impact on available resources particularly the Planning Department. Therefore, to enable the council to gear up to meet requirements, the Civil Parish of Shaw & Crompton, Failsworth **and Royton** are to be prioritised with the implementation of Article 4. With Article 4 being extended to the rest of the borough no later than twelve months thereafter.

This Council notes that:

- 1. Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council has recently undertaken to implement Article 4 Directions across the entire Borough in response to concerns from residents.**

This Council resolves to:

1. As soon as possible, Cabinet to consider and make a direction pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 on a borough wide basis prioritising the Civil Parish of Shaw & Crompton, Failsworth **and Royton** Withdrawing the permitted development rights to convert a dwellinghouse (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (C4) is appropriate, and justified, to prevent harm to local amenity and promote the wellbeing of the aforementioned areas.
2. To delegate authority to OMBC Planning Department to carry out all necessary consultation and to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements.
3. That, the Shaw & Crompton Civil Parish, Failsworth **and Royton** wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. To implement Article 4(1) Direction borough wide, no later than twelve months after coming into effect in the aforementioned priority areas.

Oldham Council cannot rely on or hide behind government legislation on this issue.

An Article 4(1) Direction can be used to manage HMO concentration and prevent the formation of imbalanced communities and negative impact on local amenity.

If the Council values resident's opinions and puts communities at the forefront of decision making, it must give residents a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views are heard.

The adoption of this motion demonstrates to the people of the borough that the council is prepared to act in their interests.

This page is intentionally left blank

Conservative Amendment to Administration Motion 1

Proposer: Councillor Beth Sharp
Secunder: Councillor Lewis Quigg

Amend point 4

4. To implement Article 4(1) Direction borough wide, no later than twelve months after coming into effect in the aforementioned priority areas.

To read:

4. This Council will immediately implement a Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction alongside *the aforementioned priority areas*.

This page is intentionally left blank

Adult neurodevelopmental assessment and support

Moved by Cllr Barbara Brownridge

Seconded by Cllr Ken Rustidge

The council notes that:

~~There is c~~Currently ~~no the~~ NHS provision for adults in Oldham who have a neurological condition such as Autism, ADHD or Dyspraxia, to access diagnostic or appropriate therapeutic support ~~is provided by Right to Choose~~. ~~There has been no statutory support offer for neurodivergent adults in Oldham for years, and the result has had severe repercussions for our mental health services, who see many presentations from people who fall into this category and have not been able to cope with their condition without therapeutic support and intervention. It has also meant additional pressure for their carers, parents or families who are left to pick up the pieces and try to manage as best they can, often with no training or support themselves.~~ Optimise Health Care is in the process of being contracted to undertake ADHD and autism diagnosis work in Oldham. This is to ensure continuity of support in the borough until NHS Greater Manchester puts a new triage process and pathway for assessment and diagnosis in place across the county.

Currently, Northern Care Alliance's (NCA) Paediatric Services provide assessment and diagnosis for children aged 0-~~18~~ 8 years, take referrals up to the age of 8 years old for those with ADHD and/or autism, and Oldham CAMHS, provided by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust support those over the age of 8. There are pathways in place to support the transition into adulthood, including in relation to medications, and at 18 they would be able to access services via Right to Choose, and going forward, Optimise Healthcare. ~~diagnosing and planning the care management for children with neuro-developmental concerns, neuro-disabilities or complex health needs. Once diagnosed, children and young people with neuro-developmental conditions have historically had an annual appointment with a consultant paediatrician, who assesses their ongoing needs and in turn signposts them to additional therapeutic services where appropriate. However, once they turn 18, they are discharged and there is no transitional support nor an adult equivalent service and those adults who are undiagnosed have no access to an assessment pathway at all.~~

On the NHS own website, it states, 'We know that with earlier, well-targeted community support, many admissions and long stays in mental health inpatient units could potentially be avoided.' So, this situation is not just an ethical one, it is also a pragmatic and a fiscally prudent one. With recognition and support, we could reduce the costs associated with mental health burnout, breakdowns and crisis presentations, as well as the number of people experiencing extreme distress.

Autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions are not something which only affect children. In fact, recent research has suggested that as many as 90% of adults who have Autism are undiagnosed. Additionally, according to a study by Willis Towers Watson (WTW), nearly three-quarters (70 per cent) of neurodivergent employees experience mental health issues. Therefore, there is a real impact upon productivity, absence rates and wellbeing in the workforce and avoiding addressing it is only compounding the problem.

There has nationally been a rise in demand for ADHD and autism assessments, and as mentioned, NHS Greater Manchester is working on a new model for this as part of re-doing the entire pathway for adults, which is currently being consulted on with the public, and we need to be part of shaping these proposals for our residents so that access to assessments and treatment is timely, and also that the support provided is of a high quality.

~~Currently, if an adult visits their GP to request an assessment, they are directed towards the Right to Choose option, which invites them to access private provision.~~

~~The problem with this is that it provides barriers to accessing future NHS support and medication if necessary. In other words, it is not a choice, and many vulnerable people are being failed, and our mental health services and economy are suffering the consequences, as well as those individuals experiencing distress.~~

~~The council further notes that:~~

- ~~There is currently no diagnostic or therapeutic support pathway for adults with a neurodevelopmental condition in Oldham.~~
- ~~the lack of such a service for adults with a neurodevelopmental condition is having a detrimental effect on the individuals themselves, their carers/families, mental health services and the local economy.~~
- ~~A significant percentage of those people presenting at A&E in mental health crisis are neurodivergent and it is important for many reasons to take proactive steps to reduce this.~~

The council resolves to:

- work closely with ~~the local health care authorities to support the expedition of the commissioning of a suitable assessment and therapeutic provision for neurodivergent adults in Oldham;~~ NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults.
- ~~work closely with local health care authorities to provide a timeframe for actioning the commissioning of this service and to provide a suitable strategy for dealing with the backlog that many years with a lack of this service has resulted in;~~
- ~~commission a report for scrutiny on supporting adults with neurological developmental conditions within the community in the borough of Oldham, with suggested approaches to for further ways to achieve this.~~ ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.

Amended motion to read:

Adult neurodevelopmental assessment and support

Proposed by: Helen Bishop

Seconded by: Garth Harkness

The council notes that:

Currently the NHS provision for adults in Oldham who have a neurological condition such as Autism, ADHD or Dyspraxia, to access diagnostic or appropriate therapeutic support is provided by Right to Choose. Optimise Health Care is in the process of being contracted to undertake ADHD and autism diagnosis work in Oldham. This is to ensure continuity of support in the borough until NHS Greater Manchester puts a new triage process and pathway for assessment and diagnosis in place across the county.

Currently, Northern Care Alliance's (NCA) Paediatric Services provide assessment and diagnosis for children aged 0-8 years, take referrals up to the age of 8 years old for those with ADHD and/or autism, and Oldham CAMHS, provided by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust support those over the age of 8. There are pathways in place to support the transition into adulthood, including in relation to medications, and at 18 they would be able to access services via Right to Choose, and going forward, Optimise Healthcare.

On the NHS own website, it states, 'We know that with earlier, well-targeted community support, many admissions and long stays in mental health inpatient units could potentially be avoided.' So, this situation is not just an ethical one, it is also a pragmatic and a fiscally prudent one. With recognition and support, we could reduce the costs associated with mental health burnout, breakdowns and crisis presentations, as well as the number of people experiencing extreme distress.

Autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions are not something which only affect children. In fact, recent research has suggested that as many as 90% of adults who have Autism are undiagnosed. Additionally, according to a study by Willis Towers Watson (WTW), nearly three-quarters (70 per cent) of neurodivergent employees experience mental health issues. Therefore, there is a real impact upon productivity, absence rates and wellbeing in the workforce and avoiding addressing it is only compounding the problem.

There has nationally been a rise in demand for ADHD and autism assessments, and as mentioned, NHS Greater Manchester is working on a new model for this as part of re-doing the entire pathway for adults, which is currently being consulted on with the public, and we need to be part of shaping these proposals for our residents so that access to assessments and treatment is timely, and also that the support provided is of a high quality.

The council resolves to:

- work closely with NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults
- Ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.

This page is intentionally left blank

Amendment to Motion: Investing in West End Street Pitch, Coldhurst – Resurfacing West End Street Pitch and Reclaiming Merton Fields for Open Community Use

Proposer: Cllr Abdul Malik

Seconder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar

Council Notes:

~~1. Historic and Ongoing Underinvestment in Coldhurst Community Facilities. Coldhurst has experienced long-standing neglect in relation to youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre — followed by the sale of the site to a private developer — resulted in the permanent loss of a vital youth provision hub. The play space adjoining the site has since deteriorated and is now deemed unplayable.~~

- Coldhurst, like many working-class communities across the country, has suffered from years of national government austerity and underinvestment in youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre and the loss of the adjoining play space reflect the wider challenges imposed by more than a decade of cuts to local government budgets.

~~2. Condition of West End Street Weather Pitch.~~

- The pitch at West End Street, once a popular and well-used grassroots football and recreation space, has fallen into disrepair. The surface is cracked, drainage is poor, and markings are faded — making it unsafe and unfit for its intended use.
- Coldhurst Labour councillors — notably Cllr Abdul Jabbar and Cllr Abdul Malik — have worked consistently to highlight these challenges and advocate for improvements at West End Street, in close collaboration with local residents, volunteers and youth groups.
- That thanks to an intervention by Cllr Jabbar, the West End Street pitch was included in Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) agreed by Cabinet in March this year.

~~3. Community Effort and Engagement In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors began efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These community-led actions show a strong appetite for investment and governance of grassroots sports infrastructure.~~

- In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors — including longstanding Labour representatives — continued efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These actions build on work led by Coldhurst Labour councillors and Jim McMahon MP, who have been working on a masterplan to bring this asset back into full community use through the establishment of a community co-operative.

~~4. Council's SportsTown Investment and Community Commitments.~~

- The Council has endorsed committed £6 million as part of the first phase of a £70 million "SportsTown" regeneration programme, which includes:
 - The Council administered a £5 million grant from the Government's Community Regeneration Fund to develop a new 3G pitch at Little Wembley, a new stand educational centre at Boundary Park, and supporting community facilities.
 - £1 million was invested from Oldham Council for a new stitched pitch at Boundary Park and to secure a permanent base for Oldham Rugby League Football Club and enhanced community use.
 - Public commitments that SportsTown will benefit community access borough-wide, including increased opportunities for education, health, and sport.
- These investments demonstrate the Council's commitment to ensuring regeneration funding reaches communities like Coldhurst, building resilience and opportunity where it's most needed.

- ~~5. Merton Fields — A Missed Opportunity. Another key green space in Coldhurst, Merton Fields, has been leased to Hulme Grammar School. However, the land remains undeveloped and unused. In light of recent financial pressures facing private schools — including VAT changes on tuition fees — Hulme Grammar appears to be selling off assets rather than investing in facilities.~~

Council further notes:

- That West End Street Pitch and associated changing rooms exist because of the work of Cllr Abdul Jabbar to secure a grant from Sports England and SRB1 in 1998.
- Both Cllr Malik and Cllr Jabbar have consistently raised the condition of West End Street pitch with officers and Cabinet colleagues and continue to explore opportunities for resources to improve the facility for the community.
- That in February 2025 all five of Oldham's district community councils had the opportunity to input into Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) and there was unanimous agreement amongst elected members that West End St pitch is a vital community resource and must be protected and enhanced.
- That a community consultation day will be held over the future of West End Street pitch over the summer.

Council Believes:

- That open-access, local sports facilities such as West End Street pitch ~~and Merton Fields~~ should continue to be fully explored as part of Oldham's wider ambitions for health, youth development, and community regeneration.
- That the borough's regeneration strategies must include local, ward-level opportunities for inclusive sport and recreation.
- That it is in the public interest for the Council to review existing leases, funding options, and strategic opportunities ~~for both sites in consultation with community stakeholders~~
- That residents themselves should have a meaningful say in the use and future of these facilities, and that a community cooperative model should be explored for the West End Street pitch — governed by and for the people who use it.
- The current plan, devised by the Council, ward councillors and supported by Jim McMahon MP to create a co-operative ownership model, will successfully bring this asset back into community use.

Council Resolves to:

- Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities, and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.
- Request that officers prepare a report for ~~Cabinet and/or the Communities & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee within six months~~ Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:
 - a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of:
 - West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
 - ~~Merton Fields (Hollinwood)~~
 - b. Explore further opportunities to:
 - ~~C~~. Consider how existing and future **government regeneration funding** streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
 - ~~D~~. Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
 - Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality ~~of both sites to West End Street Pitch.~~
 - ~~Review or renegotiate lease arrangements if aligned with community benefit.~~
 - Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.
 - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.

- Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
- Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst. ~~and Hollinwood.~~
- Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.
- Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level, and confirm what the government can do to support this.
- Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.

Amended Motion to read:

Investing in West End Street Pitch, Coldhurst

Council Notes:

- Coldhurst, like many working-class communities across the country, has suffered from years of national government austerity and underinvestment in youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre and the loss of the adjoining play space reflect the wider challenges imposed by more than a decade of cuts to local government budgets.
- The pitch at West End Street, once a popular and well-used grassroots football and recreation space, has fallen into disrepair. The surface is cracked, drainage is poor, and markings are faded — making it unsafe and unfit for its intended use.
- Coldhurst Labour councillors — notably Cllr Abdul Jabbar and Cllr Abdul Malik — have worked consistently to highlight these challenges and advocate for improvements at West End Street, in close collaboration with local residents, volunteers and youth groups.
- That thanks to an intervention by Cllr Jabbar, the West End Street pitch was included in Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) agreed by Cabinet in March this year.
- In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors — including longstanding Labour representatives — continued efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These actions build on work led by Coldhurst Labour councillors and Jim McMahon MP, who have been working on a masterplan to bring this asset back into full community use through the establishment of a community co-operative.
- The Council has endorsed £6 million as part of the first phase of a £70 million “SportsTown” regeneration programme, which includes:
 - The Council administered a £5 million grant from the Government's Community Regeneration Fund to develop a new 3G pitch at Little Wembley, a new educational centre at Boundary Park, and supporting community facilities.
 - £1 million was invested for a new stitched pitch at Boundary Park and to secure a permanent base for Oldham Rugby League Football Club and enhanced community use.
 - Public commitments that SportsTown will benefit community access borough-wide, including increased opportunities for education, health, and sport.
- These investments demonstrate the Council's commitment to ensuring regeneration funding reaches communities like Coldhurst, building resilience and opportunity where it's most needed.

Council further notes:

- That West End Street Pitch and associated changing rooms exist because of the work of Cllr Abdul Jabbar to secure a grant from Sports England and SRB1 in 1998.

- Both Cllr Malik and Cllr Jabbar have consistently raised the condition of West End Street pitch with officers and Cabinet colleagues and continue to explore opportunities for resources to improve the facility for the community.
- That in February 2025 all five of Oldham's district community councils had the opportunity to input into Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) and there was unanimous agreement amongst elected members that West End St pitch is a vital community resource and must be protected and enhanced.
- That a community consultation day will be held over the future of West End Street pitch over the summer.

Council Believes:

- That open-access, local sports facilities such as West End Street pitch should continue to be fully explored as part of Oldham's wider ambitions for health, youth development, and community regeneration.
- That the borough's regeneration strategies must include local, ward-level opportunities for inclusive sport and recreation.
- That it is in the public interest for the Council to review existing leases, funding options, and strategic opportunities.
- That residents themselves should have a meaningful say in the use and future of these facilities, and that a community cooperative model should be explored for the West End Street pitch — governed by and for the people who use it.
- The current plan, devised by the Council, ward Councillors and supported by Jim McMahon MP to create a co-operative ownership model, will successfully bring this asset back into community use.

Council Resolves to:

- Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities, and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.
- Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:
 - c. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of:
 - West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
 - d. Explore further opportunities to:
 - Consider how existing and future **government regeneration funding** streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
 - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
 - Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch.
 - Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.
 - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
 - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
 - Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.
- Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.
- Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level, and confirm what the government can do to support this.

- Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.

This page is intentionally left blank