

# **Oldham Borough Council**



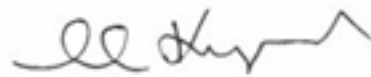
**Council Meeting  
Wednesday 17 September 2025  
Amendments to Motions**

## **OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **AMENDMENTS TO MOTIONS**

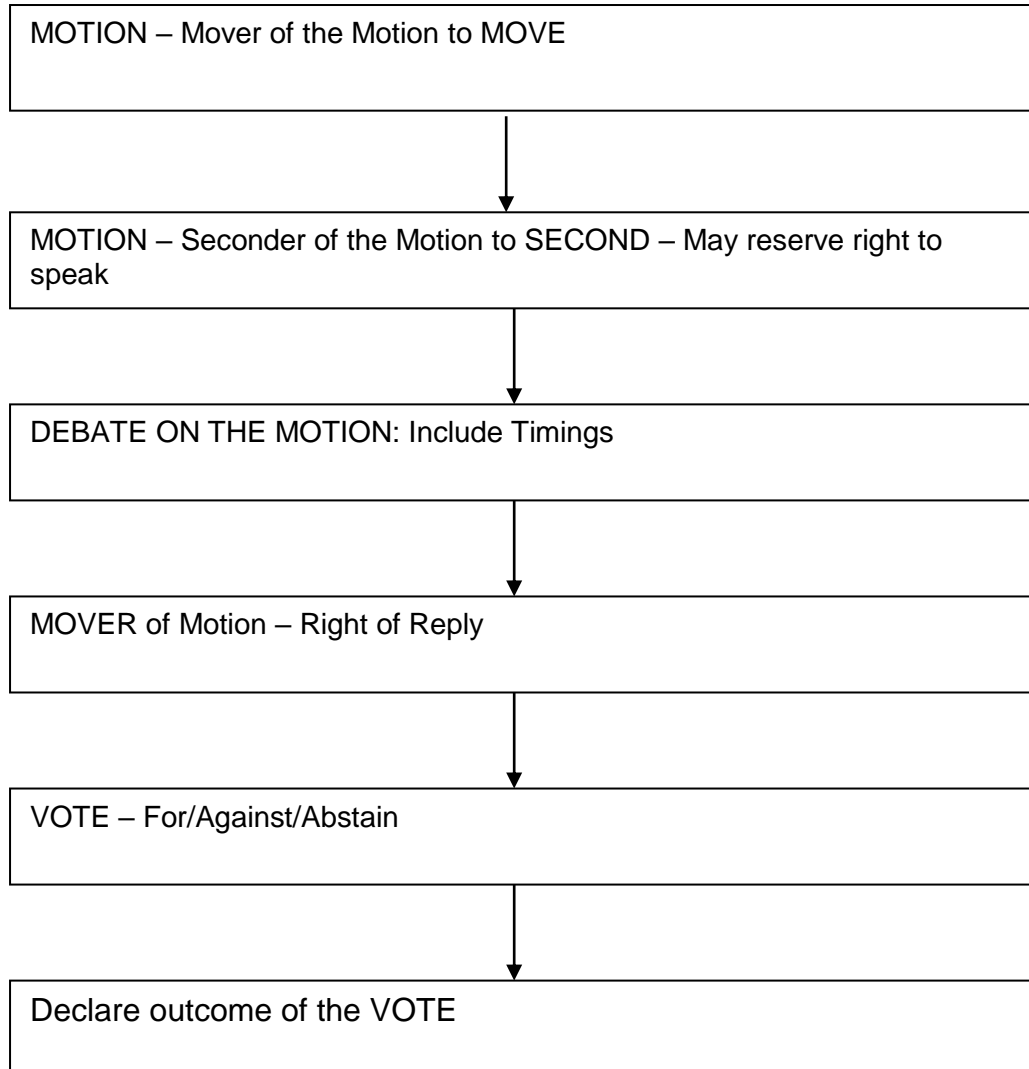
10. Notice of Administration Business (Pages 1 - 6)

11. Notice of Opposition Business (Pages 7 - 20)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Kipling', is centered on the page.

**Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive**

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

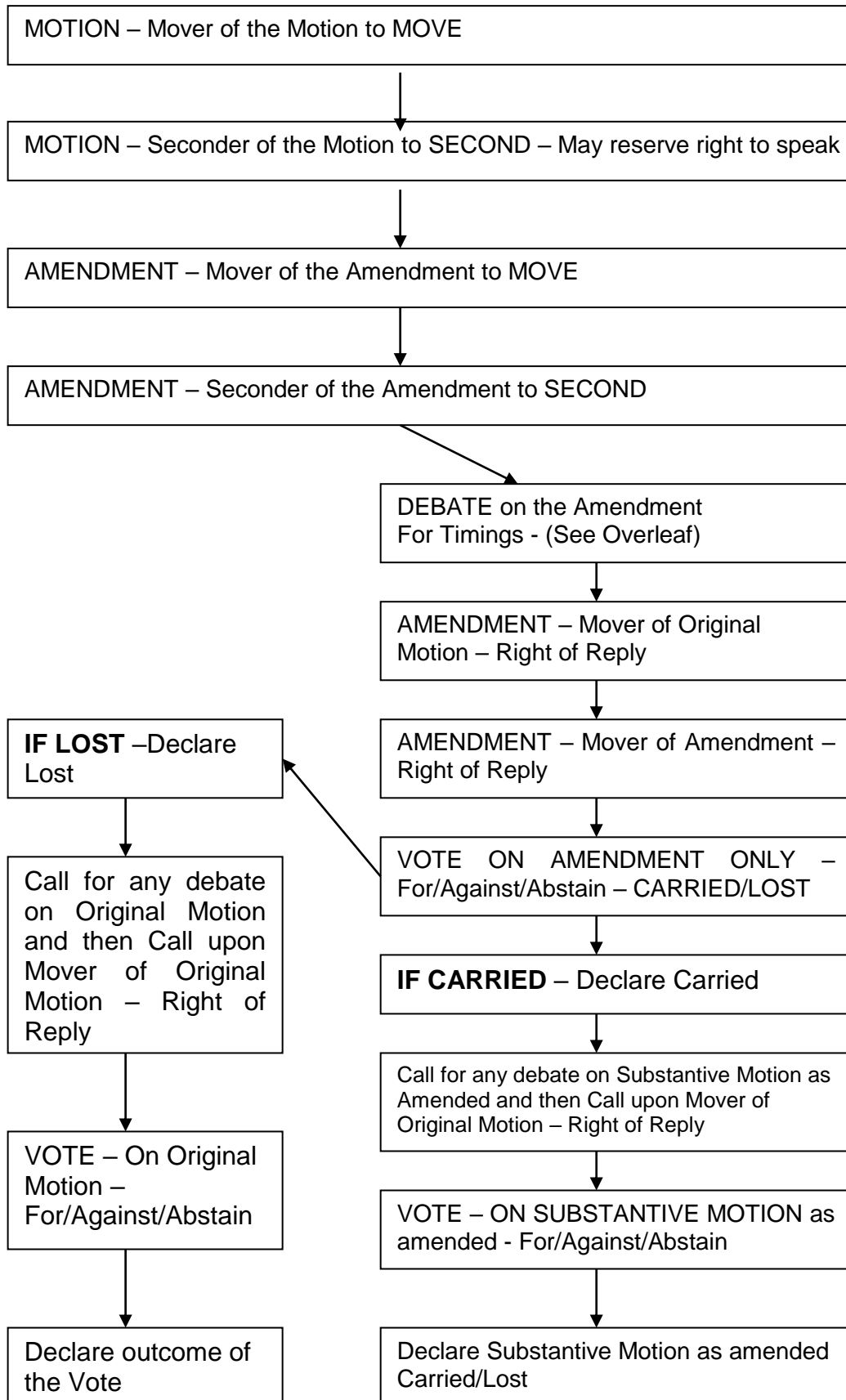


### **RULE ON TIMINGS**

(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



## Oldham Group Amendment to Administration Motion 1: Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza

(Insertions in **bold**, deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ for Council papers)

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**Moved by Cllr Kamran Ghafoor**

**Seconded by Cllr Abdul Wahid**

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7<sup>th</sup>, leaked data from the IDF's own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza ~~war~~ **Genocide** that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state "That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time." **This level of civilian death is as a result of deliberate ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, deliberate act of forced starvation as a weapon of war consistent with the definition of genocide.**

When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties.

The number of civilians impacted by this ~~war~~ **Genocide** in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

### **This Council notes:**

- The UK Government's announcement on 29 July 2025 that it will formally recognise the State of Palestine in September.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government's aid delivery model as "dangerous, fuelling instability and depriving Gazans of human dignity," and called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire".
- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as "inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability," and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.

- That the famine is ~~a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict, displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access~~ **not a natural disaster but a deliberate act of forced starvation as a weapon of war, consistent with the definition of genocide.**
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### **This Council believes:**

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region.
  - That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza ~~demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life~~ **is the result of deliberate ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, and mass displacement that demands urgent accountability as well as humanitarian action.**
  - That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the ~~famine~~ **man-made famine and forced starvation.**
  - That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a ~~growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution~~ **failure of moral clarity when they praise "moral leadership" while continuing to arm and politically shield Israel.**
  - That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues **and local authorities must not collude in the sanitisation of atrocity crimes. Our residents deserve honesty: this is genocide and ethnic cleansing, not simply a "humanitarian crisis."**
  - That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.
- 

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

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. ~~Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.~~ **This Council reaffirms that recognition is long overdue and must be accompanied by a full suspension of UK arms sales to Israel and support for international accountability.**
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of ~~moral leadership and international solidarity~~ **diplomatic progress, while recognising they fall short of calling out genocide and forced starvation by name.**
3. Urge the UK Government to ~~accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access~~ **acknowledge genocide, suspend arms sales to**

**Israel, accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance, and demand unrestricted aid access.**

4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs ~~expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action~~ **calling not only for recognition of a Palestinian state but also for explicit recognition of genocide, suspension of arms sales, and support for international criminal accountability.**

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## **Liberal Democrat amendment to administration motion 1**

**Proposer: Sam Al-Hamdani**

**Second: Howard Sykes**

After “This Council notes”, after “that it” insert “would”, and at the end of bullet point 1, “, unless Israel meets certain conditions.”

After “This Council believes:” at the end of the first bullet point, add “, and should not be a bargaining chip in negotiations”.

After “This Council resolves to:” in the first bullet point, delete: “Given that the Israeli Government hasn’t complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July,” and start the next sentence “That”.

### **The final motion to read:**

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7<sup>th</sup>, leaked data from the IDF’s own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza war that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state “That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time.”

When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties.

The number of civilians impacted by this war in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

### **This Council notes:**

- The UK Government’s announcement on 29 July 2025 that it ~~will~~would formally recognise the State of Palestine in September, unless Israel meets certain conditions.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government’s aid delivery model as “dangerous, fuelling instability and depriving Gazans of human dignity,” and called for an “immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire”.
- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as “inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability,” and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.
- That the famine is a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict, displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access.

### **This Council believes:**

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region, and should not be a bargaining chip in negotiations.
- That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life.

- That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the famine.
- That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution, but the time for action has never been more apparent given that a famine has been declared.
- That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues.
- That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. ~~Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July~~ This Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.
3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.
4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.

## Oldham Group Motion (AMENDMENT)

### Provision of Free School Travel for All Children in Temporary Accommodation

**Proposer:** Councillor Ghafoor

**Seconded:** Councillor Wahid

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#### 1. Reason for Motion

To ensure that children living in temporary accommodation (TA) in Oldham are not disadvantaged by their housing situation and can maintain stability in education.

*“No child should be punished for their family’s housing situation.”*

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#### 2. Background (Latest Facts)

##### Oldham picture

- At **31 March 2025**, there were **562 households** in temporary accommodation in Oldham (Table TA4).
- In **Q1 2025 (Jan–Mar)** there were **310 households with children (748 children aged 0–18)** in TA (most recently published government data).
- TA is intended to be short-term (around **six weeks**), but Oldham data show many households remain **beyond 6 months** across B&B and nightly-paid placements.
- Composition (Oldham, 31 Mar 2025):
  - **B&B:** 173 households (includes cases >6 months).
  - **Nightly paid, self-contained:** 259 households (many **6–12 months** and **1–2 years**).
  - **Hostels:** 5 | **Private sector leased:** 87 | **LA/HA stock:** 38.

##### National/GM context

- **England total:** 131,140 households in TA (31 Mar 2025).
- Statutory free school travel where:
  - **>2 miles** (under 8) or **>3 miles** (8+), or
  - **no safe walking route**, or
  - **SEND/disability/mobility** prevents walking.
- Locally, children with an **EHC Plan** are supported from a SEN perspective and continue to receive travel assistance where already in place.

- **GM practice:** families in **paid nightly TA** in another GM borough may apply for bus passes from the **host borough**, but only if they meet **standard distance criteria**—leaving a gap for many placed nearer than mileage thresholds yet far from their original school.
- **Political momentum:** the *Manchester Evening News* campaign calls for free bus passes for children in TA **>30 minutes' walk** from school. As of **25 Aug 2025**, **six GM MPs** publicly back the campaign. **No GM local authority** has yet adopted a borough-wide concession.

#### **Why discretionary action is needed**

Children rehoused (often suddenly) can face long, complex and costly journeys to their existing school—leading to **lateness, absence and stress**. The statutory mileage rules **do not cover many TA cases**; discretionary support is therefore required to protect educational continuity.

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### **3. Current Position in Oldham**

Oldham complies with national transport duties and supports pupils eligible under **distance/safety/SEND** criteria. Children in TA who fall short of mileage thresholds (or are rehoused across GM) face a **policy gap**. Acting now would make Oldham the **first GM authority** to introduce a dedicated concession for children in TA.

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### **4. Proposal (Re-ordered to comply with Budget & Policy Framework)**

**This Council resolves:**

1. **To request the Cabinet** to bring forward, within **12 weeks**, a report setting out **options** to improve access to school for children in TA, including (but not limited to):
  - The feasibility of **extending free school travel** (bus pass and/or taxi) to children in TA irrespective of mileage thresholds;
  - Eligibility definitions based on **verified TA status** (including placements within and across GM);
  - Delivery models (**bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts**, or hybrid), with clear **safeguarding standards**;
  - **Legal, financial and equality** implications (including Section 149 Equality Act assessment);
  - **Funding options** (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding, partnership with **TfGM** and operators, and targeted charitable/hardship support);
  - An **implementation timetable** (including scope for a time-limited **pilot**).
2. **That no decision to implement** any new concession is taken **until** Cabinet (or Council where required) has considered the report and **identified funding**

in line with the **Financial Procedure Rules** and the **agreed budget/MTFP** (or approved virement/other lawful funding mechanism).

3. **Subject to** such approval and funding being identified, to **proceed to implement** the preferred option, ensuring alignment with existing **SEND/EHC** travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.
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## 5. Additional Resolution

This Council further resolves to:

- **Call on Oldham's two Members of Parliament** to publicly support the campaign for free school travel for children in TA across Greater Manchester; and
  - **Urge the Mayor of Greater Manchester** to introduce a **region-wide** scheme that guarantees free transport for children in TA, ensuring no child is penalised for their family's housing situation.
- 

## 6. Expected Outcomes

- **Improved attendance and punctuality** for children in TA.
  - **Educational continuity and wellbeing** during periods of acute housing instability.
  - **Oldham leadership** in closing a known policy gap ahead of GM peers.
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## 7. Recommendation

That Council adopts this amended motion and refers it to **Cabinet** for the options report and subsequent decision in line with budgetary and constitutional requirements.

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## Labour Group Amendment - Oldham Group Motion

Moved by: Cllr Elaine Taylor

Seconded by: Cllr Mohon Ali

### 1. Reason for Motion

To ensure that children living in temporary accommodation (TA) in Oldham **or are from Oldham but are housed out of borough** are not disadvantaged by their housing situation and can maintain stability in education. “No child should be punished for their family’s housing situation”.

### 2. Background (Latest Facts)

#### Oldham picture

- At 31 March 2025, there were 562 households in temporary accommodation in Oldham (Table TA4).
- In Q1 2025 (Jan–Mar) there were 310 households with children (748 Children between 0–18) in TA (most recently published government data).
- TA is intended to be short-term (around six weeks), but Oldham data show many households remain beyond 6 months across B&B and nightly-paid placements.
- Composition (Oldham, 31 Mar 2025):
  - B&B: 173 households (incl. cases over 6 months).
  - Nightly paid, self-contained: 259 households (many 6–12 months and 1–2 years).
  - Hostels: 5 | Private sector leased: 87 | LA/HA stock: 38.

#### National/GM context

- England total: 131,140 households in TA (31 Mar 2025).
- Law already provides free school travel if:
  - >2 miles (under 8) or >3 miles (8+), or
  - no safe walking route, or
  - child cannot walk due to SEND/disability/mobility needs.
- Locally, children with an EHC Plan are supported from a SEN perspective and continue to receive travel assistance where already in place.
- GM operating practice: when a family is in paid nightly TA in another GM borough, they can apply for bus passes from the host borough, but only if they meet standard distance criteria—leaving a gap for many placed nearer than the mileage thresholds yet far from their original school.

**Political momentum:** The Manchester Evening News campaign calls for free bus passes for children in TA living >30 minutes’ walk from school. As of 25 Aug 2025, six GM MPs publicly back the campaign. ~~No GM local authority has yet adopted a borough-wide concession.~~ **Oldham Council could be the first local authority in Greater Manchester to adopt this campaign, however we need to ensure that this is the right approach for families.**

**Why discretionary action is needed** Children rehoused (often suddenly) can face long, complex, and costly journeys to their existing school—leading to lateness, absence, and stress. The statutory mileage rules do not cover many TA cases; discretionary support is therefore required to protect educational continuity.

### 3. Current Position in Oldham

Oldham complies with national transport duties and supports pupils eligible under distance/safety/SEND criteria. Children in TA who fall short of mileage thresholds (or are rehoused across GM) face a policy gap. Acting now would make Oldham the first GM authority to introduce a dedicated concession for children in TA.

### 4. Proposal

This Council resolves:

1. To perform a piece of analysis to see if extending free school travel (bus pass or taxi, as appropriate) to all school-aged children living in TA in Oldham, irrespective of statutory mileage thresholds is the most appropriate way to support families.
2. To instruct ~~officers in Children's Services, Education and Transport to:~~ relevant officers to:
  - Define eligibility based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM).
  - Develop delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid models), with clear safeguarding standards.
  - Assess financial implications and identify funding sources ~~(e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding; partnership with TfGM and operators; targeted charitable/hardship support).~~
  - Liaise with Transport for Greater Manchester to ensure that work isn't being duplicated
- ~~3. To report back to Cabinet within 12 weeks with:~~
  - ~~— A recommended delivery model;~~
  - ~~— Estimated budget and funding options;~~
  - ~~— An implementation timetable aiming to begin before the next academic term~~
3. Report back to Cabinet with recommendations for delivering support to families and how this would be funded
4. To ensure the scheme embeds safeguarding, equality and inclusion, and aligns with existing SEND/EHC travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.

## 5. Additional Resolution

This Council further resolves to:

- ~~• Call on Oldham's two Members of Parliament to publicly support the campaign for free school travel for children in TA across Greater Manchester.~~
- Write to the borough's 3 MPs asking them to support the campaign
- ~~• Urge the Mayor of Greater Manchester to introduce a region wide scheme that guarantees free transport for children in TA, ensuring no child is penalised for their families housing situation.~~
- Write to the other 9 leaders of Greater Manchester Authorities, as well as the Mayor of Greater Manchester, asking them to work alongside Oldham Council to provide this as a GM wide initiative.

## 6. Expected Outcomes

- ~~• Improved attendance and punctuality for children in TA.~~
- ~~• Educational continuity and wellbeing during periods of acute housing instability.~~
- ~~• Oldham leadership in closing a known policy gap ahead of GM peers.~~

## 7. Recommendation

~~That Oldham Council supports this motion, becoming the first authority in Greater Manchester to guarantee free school travel for children in temporary accommodation, setting a clear and compassionate standard for others to follow.~~



Amended Motion to read:

### 1. Reason for Motion

To ensure that children living in temporary accommodation (TA) in Oldham or are from Oldham but are housed out of borough are not disadvantaged by their housing situation and can maintain stability in education. “No child should be punished for their family’s housing situation”.

### 2. Background (Latest Facts)

#### Oldham picture

- At 31 March 2025, there were 562 households in temporary accommodation in Oldham (Table TA4).
- In Q1 2025 (Jan–Mar) there were 310 households with children (748 Children between 0-18) in TA (most recently published government data).
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- Composition (Oldham, 31 Mar 2025):
  - B&B: 173 households (incl. cases over 6 months).
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#### National/GM context

- England total: 131,140 households in TA (31 Mar 2025).
- Law already provides free school travel if:
  - >2 miles (under 8) or >3 miles (8+), or
  - no safe walking route, or
  - child cannot walk due to SEND/disability/mobility needs.
- Locally, children with an EHC Plan are supported from a SEN perspective and continue to receive travel assistance where already in place.
- GM operating practice: when a family is in paid nightly TA in another GM borough, they can apply for bus passes from the host borough, but only if they meet standard distance criteria—leaving a gap for many placed nearer than the mileage thresholds yet far from their original school.

**Political momentum:** The Manchester Evening News campaign calls for free bus passes for children in TA living >30 minutes’ walk from school. As of 25 Aug 2025, six GM MPs publicly back the campaign. Oldham Council could be the first local authority in Greater Manchester to adopt this campaign, however we need to ensure that this is the right approach for families.

**Why discretionary action is needed** Children rehoused (often suddenly) can face long, complex, and costly journeys to their existing school—leading to lateness, absence, and stress. The statutory mileage rules do not cover many TA cases; discretionary support is therefore required to protect educational continuity.

### 3. Current Position in Oldham

Oldham complies with national transport duties and supports pupils eligible under distance/safety/SEND criteria. Children in TA who fall short of mileage thresholds (or are rehoused across GM) face a policy gap. Acting now would make Oldham the first GM authority to introduce a dedicated concession for children in TA.

### 4. Proposal

This Council resolves:

1. To perform a piece of analysis to see if extending free school travel (bus pass or taxi, as appropriate) to all school-aged children living in TA in Oldham, irrespective of statutory mileage thresholds is the most appropriate way to support families.
2. To instruct relevant officers to:

- a. Define eligibility based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM).
  - b. Develop delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid models), with clear safeguarding standards.
  - c. Assess financial implications and identify funding sources
  - d. Liaise with Transport for Greater Manchester to ensure that work isn't being duplicated
3. Report back to Cabinet and the Corporate Parenting Panel with recommendations for delivering support to families and how this would be funded
  4. To ensure the scheme embeds safeguarding, equality and inclusion, and aligns with existing SEND/EHC travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.

## **5. Additional Resolution**

This Council further resolves to:

- Write to the borough's 3 MPs asking them to support the campaign
- Write to the other 9 leaders of Greater Manchester Authorities, as well as the Mayor of Greater Manchester, asking them to work alongside Oldham Council to provide this as a GM wide initiative.

## Labour Group Amendment - Lib Dem Motion

Moved by: Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconded by: Cllr Aftab Hussain

Add

Delete

The Council notes that:

- With the closure of custody suites at both Oldham and Chadderton, Oldham Borough currently has no dedicated facilities open to process detainees.
- Additional services lost include the Magistrates Court, County Court, and police stations in Failsworth, Chadderton and Royton, with other facilities having no face-to-face service, and access to other sites removed, such as in Shaw.
- Current processes mean that officers are required to process detainees at Tameside, which means additional travel time of over an hour for each arrest.
- The current police station in Oldham has been beyond its service life for a number of years, with the current chief constable in 2021 describing the comparing the building to those in the old East Germany.
- The Chief Constable also noted that: “custody facilities being tethered to the right operating base is really important”.

The Council further notes the most recent report of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on custody provision in Manchester, including that:

- Leadership for custody provision isn’t strong enough to make sure the service is provided well and achieves appropriate outcomes for detainees. There is limited prioritisation of custody by senior officers or engagement in how custody is provided. There hasn’t been enough improvement since our previous inspection. Significant concerns remain.
- The position is exacerbated by a large increase in the number of detainees entering custody. This makes it difficult for staff to fulfil all their duties and meet detainees’ needs.
- The force should deal with detainees promptly and minimise the time they spend in custody by - booking detainees into custody promptly and prioritising them appropriately, especially children and those who are vulnerable; ...

And finally, the Council notes that:

- Oldham Council has been in discussions with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Police for a number of years over a new site for a police station, with no location having currently been identified.
- During these conversations the Council has been clear that any new police station should have custody provision for the Borough and the north-east of Greater Manchester conurbation.
- These conversations have been well received by Greater Manchester Police’s estates team.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Kate Green has acknowledged in a written response to enquiries from the Liberal Democrats that: “there is no immediate intention to locate a custody suite in Oldham, but it may be sensible to future-proof the design of the site to enable this in future if needed”.
- The Council and Oldham’s MPs have called for this too, with Jim McMahon OBE MP recently raising this issue with the Mayor of Greater Manchester directly.

Therefore, the Council resolves:

1. To formally note its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.
2. Set a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, to provide a report to the appropriate scrutiny committee detailing:

- a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.
- b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.
- c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.

Amended motion to read:

The Council notes that:

- With the closure of custody suites at both Oldham and Chadderton, Oldham Borough currently has no dedicated facilities open to process detainees.
- Additional services lost include the Magistrates Court, County Court, and police stations in Failsworth, Chadderton and Royton, with other facilities having no face-to-face service, and access to other sites removed, such as in Shaw.
- Current processes mean that officers are required to process detainees at Tameside, which means additional travel time of over an hour for each arrest.
- The current police station in Oldham has been beyond its service life for a number of years, with the current chief constable in 2021 describing the comparing the building to those in the old East Germany.
- The Chief Constable also noted that: “custody facilities being tethered to the right operating base is really important”.

The Council further notes the most recent report of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on custody provision in Manchester, including that:

- Leadership for custody provision isn’t strong enough to make sure the service is provided well and achieves appropriate outcomes for detainees. There is limited prioritisation of custody by senior officers or engagement in how custody is provided. There hasn’t been enough improvement since our previous inspection. Significant concerns remain.
- The position is exacerbated by a large increase in the number of detainees entering custody. This makes it difficult for staff to fulfil all their duties and meet detainees’ needs.
- The force should deal with detainees promptly and minimise the time they spend in custody by - booking detainees into custody promptly and prioritising them appropriately, especially children and those who are vulnerable; ...

And finally, the Council notes that:

- Oldham Council has been in discussions with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Police for a number of years over a new site for a police station, with no location having currently been identified.
- During these conversations the Council has been clear that any new police station should have custody provision for the Borough and the north-east of Greater Manchester conurbation.
- These conversations have been well received by Greater Manchester Police’s estates team.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Kate Green has acknowledged in a written response to enquiries from the Liberal Democrats that: “there is no immediate intention to locate a custody suite in Oldham, but it may be sensible to future-proof the design of the site to enable this in future if needed”.
- The Council and Oldham’s MPs have called for this too, with Jim McMahon OBE MP recently raising this issue with the Mayor of Greater Manchester directly.

Therefore, the Council resolves:

3. To formally note its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.
4. Set a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, to provide a report to the appropriate scrutiny committee detailing:
  - a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.
  - b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.
  - c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.

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Lib Dem amendment to Conservative motion  
Proposed by Garth Harkness  
Seconded by Howard Sykes

After “Therefore this Council notes” add a new first bullet point:

- **That there was no process that took place in naming the building. There was just an announcement.**

Before “This Council resolves:”, add a new paragraph:

**This Council believes that the name of the building should have been an opportunity to involve the community and bring people together. There are many people who have provided exemplary service to our Borough, or the name represents the Borough’s rich and diverse heritage.**

At the end of point 3, add “, **and hold a working group to provide a list of suitable shortlist of names for residents to be consulted on**”

At the start of point 4, replace “To present a suitable short list of names to the public of Oldham” with “**Allow residents to vote for the new name of the Old Library,**” and at the end of point 4 add: “, **and endorse the public’s choice with a formal agreement at the soonest Council meeting after the consultation, as a mark of that public voice and in the spirit of democracy.**”

The final motion to read:

On the 16th August 2025 the Leader of Oldham Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, announced she had unilaterally decided to rename the Old Library on Union Street the ‘J. R. Clynes Building’ to the bemusement of many residents of Oldham Borough.

This follows a £30+ million renovation project, yet the Council Tax paying **public** of Oldham were not given an opportunity to express their preference on the title that this **public** building would take.

The Conservative Group on Oldham Council believe this is not only anti-democratic but also shameful.

Therefore, this Council notes:

- That there was no process that took place in naming the building. There was just an announcement.
- That no public consultation took place in the naming process of the Old Library building.
- That the Leader of the Council shamefully and wilfully excluded democratically elected Councillors and the taxpaying public from the naming process.
- That the first decision to come out of the Borough’s new Council Chambers is anti-democratic diktat by Councillor Arooj Shah, which has no popular consent from the public.

This Council believes that the name of the building should have been an opportunity to involve the community and bring people together. There are many people who have provided exemplary service to our Borough, or the name represents the Borough's rich and diverse heritage.

This Council resolves:

- To reveal all information, including associated costs, in relation to the naming process of the Old Library.
- To review the naming process and suitability of 'J. R. Clynes' as the title of the building.
- To consult the wider body of democratically elected Members of Oldham Council from across the Borough, and hold a working group to provide a list of suitable shortlist of names for residents to be consulted on.
- Allow residents to vote for the new name of the Old Library, to give them a voice in the naming process of a building which should be the Borough's beating heart of democracy, and endorse the public's choice with a formal agreement at the soonest Council meeting after the consultation, as a mark of that public voice and in the spirit of democracy.