

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting  
Wednesday 10 December 2025  
Amendments to Motions**

## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, JR CLYNES BUILDING, CULTURAL QUARTER, GREAVES STREET, OLDHAM, OL1 1AL

### Amendments to Motions (items 10 and 11)

Item No

10 Notice of Administration Business (Pages 1 - 10)

#### **Motion 1: Strengthening Standards and Restoring Confidence in Local Democracy**

- Amendment from Reform UK
- Amendment from Liberal Democrats

#### **Motion 2: Fairer Parking Charges at Manchester Airport**

- Amendment from Liberal Democrats
- Amendment from Reform UK

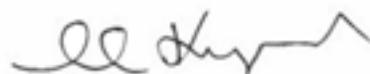
11 Notice of Opposition Business (Pages 11 - 18)

#### **Motion 1: Werneth Park Music Rooms – Community-Led Regeneration and Asset Transfer**

- Amendment from Labour Group

#### **Motion 2: Fair funding for Local Government**

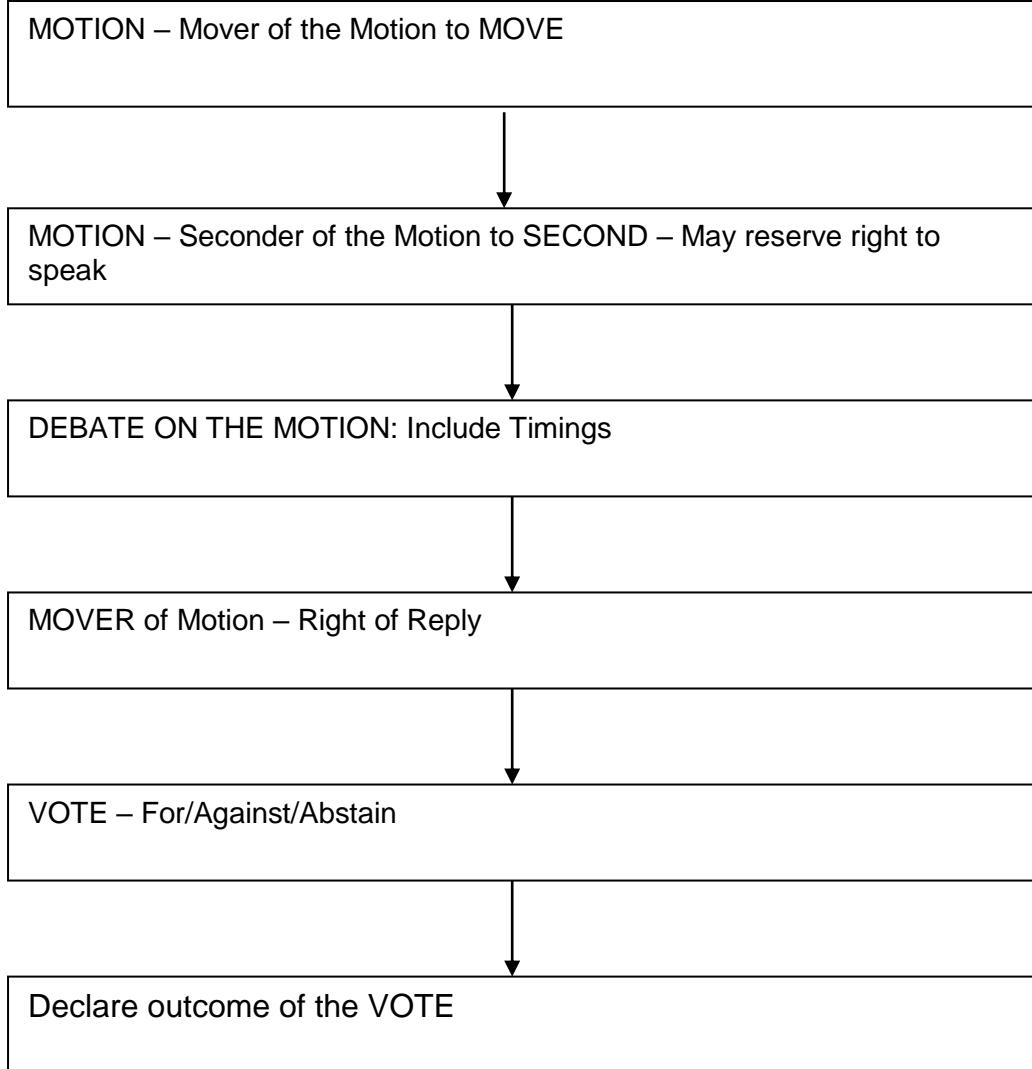
- Amendment from Labour Group



Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive

## **PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

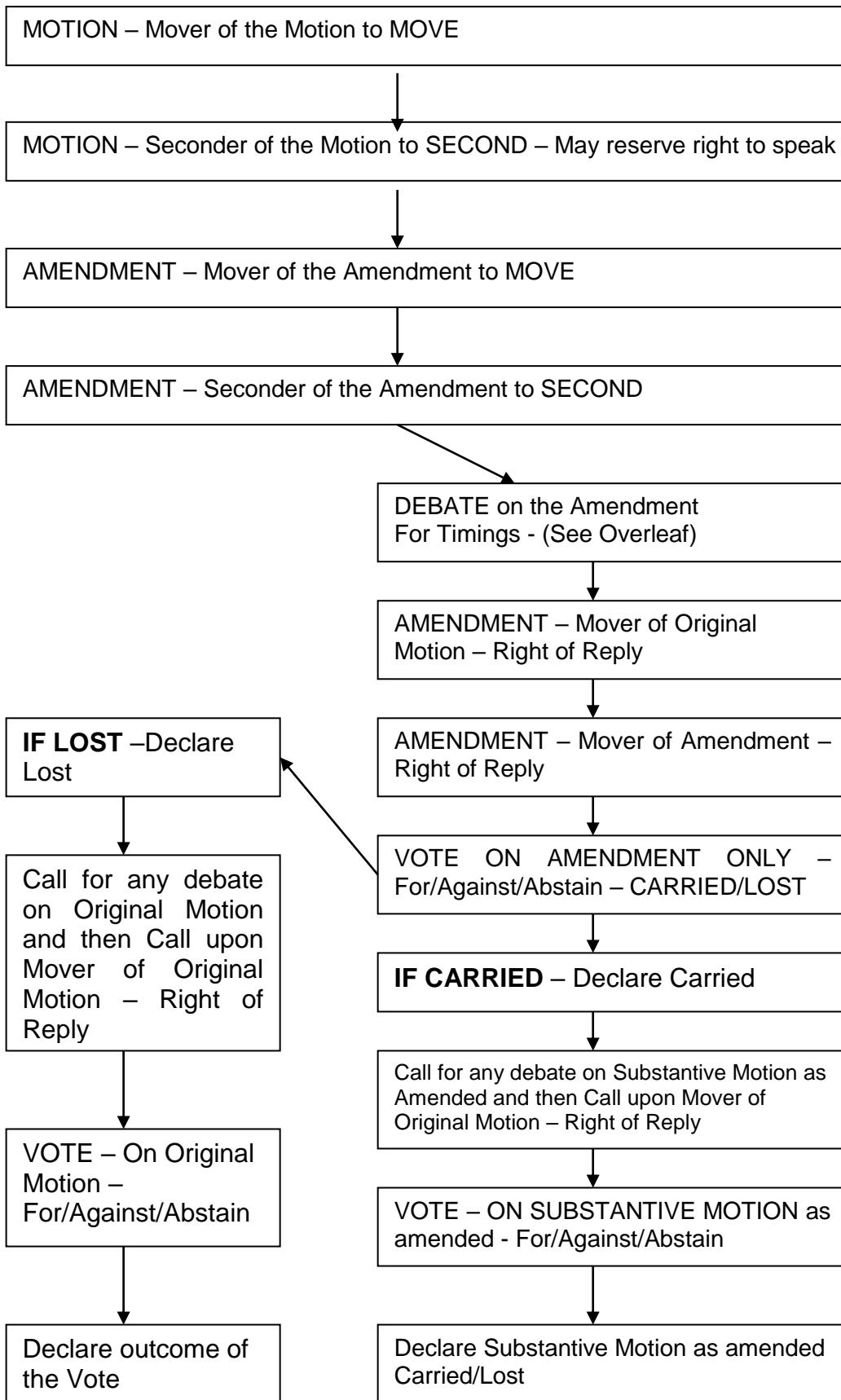
### **NO AMENDMENT**



### **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**



# Agenda Item 10

## **Amendment 1- Administration Business- Motion 1**

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg  
Seconded: Cllr Mark Wilkinson

This Council further resolves and believes:

That this Council will write to HM Government and the relevant Minister to demand a change in the law that disqualifies anyone convicted of an offence and who received a custodial sentence including a suspended sentence, being prohibited from ever standing in any local government election in England and Wales.

## **Amendment 2- Administration Business- Motion 1**

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg  
Seconded: Cllr Mark Wilkinson

This Council further resolves and believes:

That all Councillors should have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

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Amendment to Administration Motion 1

Proposed by: Howard Sykes  
Seconded by: Alicia Marland

Under “This Council notes:”

In the second bullet point, edit the introduction to read “That the”

Insert two new subpoints after “investigation outcomes”, insert:

- A recommendation that the chair of standards committees should not be an elected member.
- Best practice procedures for code of conduct complaint handling.

At the end of the bullet point finishing “in complex cases” insert: , in line with the procedures in place for MPs.

Insert a new third bullet point:

- That the report acknowledges concerns that safeguards (such as a requirement to evidence that investigations were actively ongoing) should be put in place to ensure that interim suspension was not politically weaponised.

Under “This Council notes”

Insert a new fourth bullet point:

That the public and the process of democracy are fundamental to ensuring fairness, transparency and high standards, and that therefore the democratic power of recall, which applies to MPs, should also apply to local councillors, additionally ensuring that sanctions are as consistent as possible between different tiers of Government.

The amended motion to read:

**Motion 1: Strengthening Standards and Restoring Confidence in Local Democracy**

To be Moved by Councillor Harrison

To be Seconded by Councillor Shuttleworth

**This Council notes:**

- The Government’s recent response to its consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England, following widespread concerns about inconsistent enforcement and inadequate sanctions under the current regime.
- That the proposals include:
  - A mandatory minimum code of conduct for all local authorities.
  - A requirement for formal standards committees to oversee breaches and publish investigation outcomes.

- A recommendation that the chair of standards committees should not be an elected member.
- Best practice procedures for code of conduct complaint handling.
- New powers to suspend councillors or mayors for serious misconduct, including interim suspensions in complex cases, in line with the procedures in place for MPs.
- A national appeals body to ensure consistency.
- A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct or repeated breaches.
- Measures to empower victims of councillor misconduct and improve transparency.

- That the report acknowledges concerns that safeguards (such as a requirement to evidence that investigations were actively ongoing) should be put in place to ensure that interim suspension was not politically weaponised.

**This Council believes:**

- High standards of conduct are essential to maintaining public trust in local democracy.
- A clear, consistent, and enforceable framework will help councillors uphold the integrity of public office and protect the reputation of local government.
- These reforms will strengthen accountability and ensure that misconduct is dealt with swiftly and fairly across all tiers of local government.
- That the public and the process of democracy are fundamental to fairness, transparency and high standards, and that therefore the democratic power of recall, which applies to MPs, should also apply to local councillors, additionally ensuring that sanctions are as consistent as possible between different tiers of Government.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. **Welcome the Government's proposals** to strengthen the standards regime and restore confidence in local democracy.
2. **Commit to adopting the mandatory minimum code of conduct** once implemented in legislation.
3. **Ensure our Standards Committee is fully prepared** to meet the new requirements, including publishing investigation outcomes transparently and regularly reporting these outcomes to Council.
4. **Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** expressing our support for these reforms and urging timely implementation.
5. **Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Local Government Association**, urging them to consider the development of a training programme aligned with the new standards regime.

6. **Ask our Standards Committee** to work with the relevant Officers locally to review Oldham's elected member behaviour standards training programme and ensure it is fit for purpose, with a view to making it a mandatory training unit.

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## **Amendment to Motion 2**

Proposer: Sam Al-Hamdani  
Seconder: Howard Sykes

Insert a new final bullet point to read:

4. To use its position as a shareholder in Manchester Airport Group to advocate and vote for changes to the parking charges.

The amended motion to read:

### **Motion 2: Fairer Parking Charges at Manchester Airport**

To be Moved by: Councillor Shah  
to be Seconded by: Councillor Charters

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

- Manchester Airport is the third busiest airport in the UK and a vital gateway for Greater Manchester residents and businesses.
- Current drop-off and pick-up charges at Manchester Airport are £5 for five minutes, £6.40 for up to 10 minutes, and £25 for up to 30 minutes, with fines of £100 (reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days) for late payment under the barrierless system.
- The RAC has ranked Manchester Airport among the most expensive UK airports on a cost-per-minute basis.
- Jim McMahon MP has called for a full review of signage, an end to the practice of stacking up charges, an extension of the time allowed to pay, and greater transparency on income from these charges.

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

- Parking charges should be fair, transparent, and not penalise genuine mistakes.
- The current system risks disproportionately impacting local residents and visitors, especially given the complexity of the barrierless payment process.
- Clear signage and user-friendly payment options are essential to avoid confusion and unnecessary fines.

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

1. **To formally support Jim McMahon MP's campaign** for fairer and more transparent parking charges at Manchester Airport.
2. **To ask the Chief Executive to write to Manchester Airport Group urging:**
  - A review of the current charging structure with a view to reducing costs.
  - Improved signage and introduction of a "tap-out" payment option at exit points.
  - Publication of data on income from drop-off and pick-up charges.

- A fair and accessible appeals process that does not increase penalties for unsuccessful appeals.
- 3. **To ask the Chief Executive to write** to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Leaders of the other 9 GM Local Authorities to share this motion seek wider regional support.
- 4. To use its position as a shareholder in Manchester Airport Group to advocate and vote for changes to the parking charges.

**Amendment 1- Administration Business-  
Motion 2**

Proposed: Cllr Lewis Quigg  
Seconded: Cllr Mark Wilkinson

This Council further resolves and believes:

- To write to all 10 Greater Manchester Councils and to ask them to use their majority shareholding position to move a resolution at the Annual General Meeting to suspend and review parking charges at Manchester Airport permanently.

Notes:

+Manchester City Council: 35.5%

+Oldham, Bury, Bolton, Wigan, Tameside, Rochdale, Salford, Trafford and Stockport: 29% combined.

+IFM Global Infrastructure Fund: 35.5%

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# Agenda Item 11

## 251210 – Administration Amendment - Werneth Park Music Rooms – Community-Led Regeneration and Asset Transfer

Moved by Cllr Peter Dean  
Seconded by Cllr Fida Hussain

[Delete](#)

[Insert](#)

### This Council Notes:

#### Historical Significance

The Grade II listed Werneth Park Music Rooms is one of Oldham's most significant historic buildings.

Located in Werneth Park – Oldham's second most eminent Victorian park – it has served local communities since the 1930s, when it was gifted to the Borough under covenants requiring continued community use.

#### Long-Term Closure and Decline

The Music Rooms were closed in 2001 due to budget cuts.

Since closure, the building has remained derelict, suffering extensive vandalism and deterioration, driving up potential refurbishment costs.

Responsibility for the building currently sits [the Council's Estates team](#). ~~within Environmental Services, and the Council continues to incur annual costs of approximately £125,025 for a building that remains closed and unused.~~

#### Evidence of Community Need and Previous Work

- A 2002 SRB6-funded study identified a shortage of community facilities in Werneth and Freehold and found strong resident support for restoring the Music Rooms.
- A feasibility study in 2007 estimated renovation costs in the region of £2.85m–£4.1m, and a steering group was subsequently formed to progress a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.
- ~~There has been no updated feasibility or options appraisal work for nearly a decade, despite continuing community interest.~~
- [Feasibility and due diligence has been undertaken when options have been brought forward, to date no viable option has been identified.](#)

#### ~~Current Position and Financial Context~~

~~Continuing to pay to hold a derelict listed asset represents poor value for money for Oldham residents, especially in the context of severe financial pressures on the Council.~~

#### Funding Opportunities

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) currently offers grant routes from £100,000 to £5 million, which are well suited to the restoration and reuse of derelict historic buildings.

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) provides development funding and support for community-led heritage schemes, including business planning and governance development.

Taken together, these funds provide a realistic route to securing the capital required for restoration, provided there is strong community involvement and a clear, sustainable business model.

## **Vision for the Music Rooms**

The music rooms could benefit the local community by offering:

- A permanent curated exhibition space for Oldham's cultural heritage;
- A community tea room and social space; and
- A flexible events and performance venue for music, arts, learning and community activity.
- Regeneration would create employment and apprenticeship opportunities, support local suppliers, and enable partnerships with major cultural institutions.

## **This Council Believes:**

Werneth Park Music Rooms is an iconic historic building and a symbol of Oldham's cultural heritage; its continued dereliction sends a damaging message about Oldham's commitment to its history and its parks.

## **This Council Resolves To:**

1. ~~Support in Principle any suitable~~ **Welcome any viable** Community-Led Regeneration of Werneth Park Music Rooms
2. **Continue to Explore** all options ~~that could be applicable for this building~~ to bring **it Werneth Park Music Rooms** back into use for the community,
3. Work proactively with interested community organisations and Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust to explore viable options for the future of Werneth Park Music Rooms ~~and to support in any way possible.~~
4. ~~Request that relevant officers prepare a progress report back to Council Within 6–12 months setting out any progress that can be reported upon to Full Council regarding this building:~~

## **This Council Notes:**

### **Historical Significance**

The Grade II listed Werneth Park Music Rooms is one of Oldham's most significant historic buildings.

Located in Werneth Park – Oldham’s second most eminent Victorian park – it has served local communities since the 1930s, when it was gifted to the Borough under covenants requiring continued community use.

## **Long-Term Closure and Decline**

The Music Rooms were closed in 2001 due to budget cuts.

Since closure, the building has remained derelict, suffering extensive vandalism and deterioration, driving up potential refurbishment costs.

Responsibility for the building currently sits the Council’s Estates team.

## **Evidence of Community Need and Previous Work**

- A 2002 SRB6-funded study identified a shortage of community facilities in Werneth and Freehold and found strong resident support for restoring the Music Rooms.
- A feasibility study in 2007 estimated renovation costs in the region of £2.85m–£4.1m, and a steering group was subsequently formed to progress a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.
- Feasibility and due diligence has been undertaken when options have been brought forward, to date no viable option has been identified.

## **Funding Opportunities**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) currently offers grant routes from £100,000 to £5 million, which are well suited to the restoration and reuse of derelict historic buildings.

The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) provides development funding and support for community-led heritage schemes, including business planning and governance development.

Taken together, these funds provide a realistic route to securing the capital required for restoration, provided there is strong community involvement and a clear, sustainable business model.

## **Vision for the Music Rooms**

The music rooms could benefit the local community by offering:

- A permanent curated exhibition space for Oldham’s cultural heritage;
- A community tea room and social space; and
- A flexible events and performance venue for music, arts, learning and community activity.
- Regeneration would create employment and apprenticeship opportunities, support local suppliers, and enable partnerships with major cultural institutions.

## **This Council Believes:**

Werneth Park Music Rooms is an iconic historic building and a symbol of Oldham’s cultural heritage; its continued dereliction sends a damaging message about Oldham’s commitment to its history and its parks.

## **This Council Resolves To:**

1. Welcome any viable Community-Led Regeneration of Werneth Park Music Rooms
2. Continue to explore all options to bring Werneth Park Music Rooms back into use for the community,

3. Work proactively with interested community organisations and Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust to explore viable options for the future of Werneth Park Music Rooms

## Administration Amendment - Lib Dem Motion

Moved by: Cllr Abdul Jabbar

Seconded by: Cllr Arooj Shah

**Remove**

**Add**

### **This Council Notes:**

- Local councils across England face unprecedented financial pressures after more than a decade of real-terms funding cuts from central government.
- Demand for key services such as adult social care, children's services, and housing support has risen sharply during this period.
- ~~The Liberal Democrats have~~ **This Council has** consistently campaigned for fair funding for local government, recognising that councils are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities, including in July 2025 when this council responded to the Fair Funding Review 2.0 in July, after a motion from the administration calling for:
  1. **The proposed changes to improve funding for councils like Oldham who have a lower tax base, a lower Business Rates base and a higher level of demand for their services.**
  2. **A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning**
  3. **A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.**
- ~~The government's ongoing failure to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system has led to significant inequalities between different areas, undermining local accountability and the ability of councils to plan for the long term.~~
- **The previous Government failed to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system. However, the current Labour Government has now committed to delivering a new Fair Funding Formula that reflects deprivation, low council tax base and local need, ensuring greater stability and fairness for councils like Oldham.**

### **This Council Believes:**

- Local government is essential to delivering strong, healthy, and prosperous communities.
- Councils should be properly funded to meet the needs of their residents, and funding should reflect need, deprivation, and local circumstances, not political favouritism or outdated formulas.
- ~~Local authorities should have greater financial autonomy, including the ability to raise and retain more of their own revenue.~~
- **Local authorities benefit from stability, certainty and fair distribution of resources, supported by the Labour Government's move towards multi-year settlements and a funding system rooted firmly in need and deprivation.**
- Investment in prevention and local services saves money in the long term, reduces demand on the NHS and emergency services, and supports local economic growth.

### **This Council Resolves to:**

1. **Call on Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding by including:**

- a. ~~Introducing a fair funding formula that reflects actual local need and deprivation levels.~~ **The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.**
  - b. ~~Restoring revenue support grant and other core funding streams to sustainable levels.~~ **A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.**
  - c. ~~Providing multi-year settlements to allow councils to plan ahead with confidence.~~ **The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.**
  - d. ~~Giving local authorities greater freedom to raise and retain local revenue, including through reform of council tax and business rates.~~ **A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.**
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to local MPs, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government. **and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.**
3. **Continue to** work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.
4. ~~Publicise this motion to residents and local media to raise awareness of the impact of government underfunding on local services.~~

Amended Motion to read:

**This Council Notes:**

- Local councils across England face unprecedented financial pressures after more than a decade of real-terms funding cuts from central government.
- Demand for key services such as adult social care, children's services, and housing support has risen sharply during this period.
- This Council has consistently campaigned for fair funding for local government, recognising that councils are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities, including in July 2025 when this council responded to the Fair Funding Review 2.0 in July, after a motion from the administration calling for:
  1. The proposed changes to improve funding for councils like Oldham who have a lower tax base, a lower Business Rates base and a higher level of demand for their services.
  2. A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning
  3. A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.
- The previous Government failed to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system. However, the current Labour Government has now committed to delivering a new Fair Funding Formula that reflects deprivation, low council tax base and local need, ensuring greater stability and fairness for councils like Oldham.

**This Council Believes:**

- Local government is essential to delivering strong, healthy, and prosperous communities.
- Councils should be properly funded to meet the needs of their residents, and funding should reflect need, deprivation, and local circumstances, not political favouritism or outdated formulas.
- Local authorities benefit from stability, certainty and fair distribution of resources, supported by the Labour Government's move towards multi-year settlements and a funding system rooted firmly in need and deprivation.
- Investment in prevention and local services saves money in the long term, reduces demand on the NHS and emergency services, and supports local economic growth.

**This Council Resolves to:**

1. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding including:
  - a. The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.
  - b. A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.
  - c. The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.
  - d. A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to local MPs, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West,

Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.

3. Continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.