

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15th July 2026
Supplementary Agenda**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Supplementary Agenda

Item No

- 10 To appoint the Deputy Mayor for 2026/27 (Pages 1 - 4)
- 11 Leader of the Council (Pages 5 - 14)
- To appoint a Leader of the Council, in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.
- 13 Main Opposition Nominations to the Shadow Cabinet 2026/27 (Pages 15 - 16)
- Report to follow*
- 17 Notice of Motions (Pages 17 - 30)
- (time limit 30 minutes)*

Motion 1: A New Start for Oldham Borough

Amendment:

To be Moved by Cllr I-Hamdani and Seconded by Cllr Kenyon

Motion 2: Managing HMO Proliferation and Prioritising Oldham Residents

Amendment:

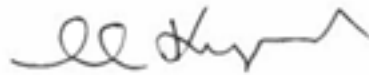
To be Moved by Councillor Brownridge and Seconded by Councillor Iqbal

Motion 3: Fair and Affordable School Uniforms for Oldham Families

Amendment:

To be Moved by Councillor Rustidge and Seconded by Councillor Nasheen

NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 3 hours and 30 minutes after the commencement of the meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Kipling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**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



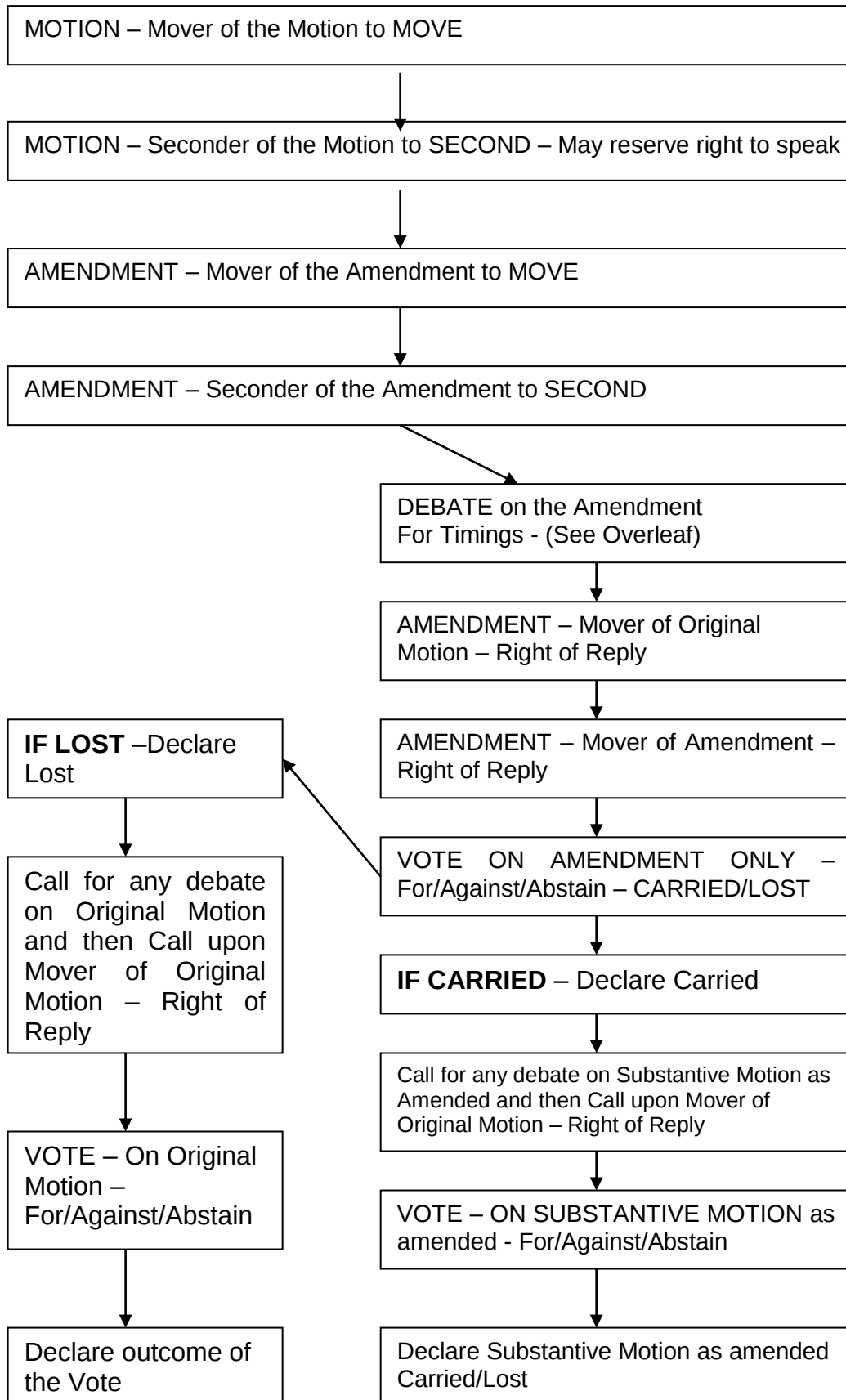
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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



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To appoint the Deputy Mayor for 2026/27

Proposed Councillor Sandra Ball
Seconded Councillor Mark Ruthven

That Councillor Mark Wilkinson will be appointed Vice Chairman and Deputy Mayor of Oldham Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

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Item 4 – Appointment of Deputy Mayor for 2026/2027

Mover: Cllr Zahid Chauhan

Seconded: Cllr Abdul Jabbar

Proposal:

That Councillor Ken Rustidge be appointed Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

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11. Leader of the Council (Pages 15 - 18)

To appoint a Leader of the Council, in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

Proposed Councillor Lewis Quigg
Seconded Councillor Sandra Ball

That the Reform UK Group will duly form a minority administration and elect Councillor Lewis Quigg to be Leader of the Council.

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Labour Group Amendment

Mover: Councillor Arooj Shah

Seconded: Councillor Elaine Taylor

Following two annual council meetings and the failed attempt to elect a leader, the Labour Group proposes Cllr Arooj Shah as Leader of the Council to form a minority administration.

Oldham Labour Group stood aside to allow other Groups the opportunity to step up and lead the borough, but they have failed to garner the support of the chamber.

Oldham Labour Group believes that forming an administration is in the best interests of residents and the delivery of services that the most vulnerable in our communities rely on.

Oldham Labour Group recognises the balance of political parties and independents, and the proposed amendment is made on the basis that:

1. The minority administration will implement the previously agreed Medium Term Financial Strategy.
2. There will be no new revenue borrowing to fund Council services.
3. The minority administration will not initiate any new major projects.
4. The minority administration offers the posts of Scrutiny Committee Chairs to opposition groups to allow open scrutiny of Council decision making.

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Amendment to Item 10 – Leader of the Council

Moved by - Councillor Kamran Ghafoor

Seconded by - Councillor Aisha Kouser

To elect Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani as Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

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Amendment to Item 10 – Leader of the Council

Moved by- Councillor Kamran Ghafoor

Seconded by- Councillor Aisha Kouser

To elect Councillor Mark Kenyon as Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

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Amendment to Item 10 – Leader of the Council

Moved by- Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani
Seconded by- Councillor Max Woodvine

To elect Councillor Kamran Ghafoor as Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

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13. Main Opposition Nominations to the Shadow Cabinet 2026/27

Proposed Councillor Lewis Quigg
Seconded Councillor Paul Robinson

That the Reform UK Group will duly form the Official Opposition and elect Councillor Lewis Quigg to be Leader of the Official Opposition.

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Liberal Democrat Amendment

Amendment to be Moved by: Cllr Al-Hamdani

Amendment to be Seconded by: Cllr Kenyon

Motion 1: A new Start for Oldham Borough

The amendment calls for the removal of the word 'July' and its replacement by 'September'.

Revised resolution to read:

This Council resolves:

The administration will commit to presenting an emergency mini budget, to Council before the end of September 2026, in line with 12.6 of the Council Procedure rules of the Constitution, outlining how funding will be rebalanced to address the priorities set out in this motion, specifically getting the basics right, tackling environmental crime and delivering fair district funding.

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Labour Group Amendment

Amendment to be Moved by: Cllr Brownridge

Amendment to be Seconded by: Cllr Iqbal

Delete

Add

Motion 2: Managing HMO Proliferation and Prioritising Oldham Residents

To be Moved by Councillor Ford

To be Seconded by Councillor Jackson

This Council notes with serious concern that:

1. Many Oldham residents increasingly feel unsafe, unheard, and overlooked in their own communities as a result of ~~national policies which have intensified pressures through asylum/migrant dispersal and associated housing demand~~ the legacy asylum dispersal system inherited by the current government, together with wider housing pressures, continue to place significant strain on communities. Residents—particularly women and girls—have expressed growing concern about safety and community cohesion.
2. The Victoria Hotel in Chadderton continues to operate as asylum/migrant accommodation. Residents remain deeply concerned about the scale and nature of its use, coupled with a persistent lack of transparency from the ~~Home Office Serco~~ regarding occupants, management arrangements, and associated impacts on the local area.
3. Oldham is experiencing a sharp and accelerating rise in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), driven by low property values which attract speculative investment. These properties are increasingly used to house high-density occupancies, including migrant dispersal populations, placing unsustainable pressure on infrastructure, waste services, parking, and neighbourhood stability.
4. Oldham is already one of the most deprived boroughs in England, with approximately 37% of neighbourhoods falling within the top 10% most deprived nationally. This significantly limits the borough's capacity to absorb additional pressures without consequences for existing residents and services.
5. ~~The national Asylum Dispersal Scheme continues to allocate placements to areas like Oldham without sufficient regard for deprivation levels, infrastructure capacity, or the cumulative effect on local communities, and against a backdrop of continued high levels of small boat arrivals.~~ While the government is pursuing reforms to the asylum system, Oldham continues to carry a disproportionate share of dispersal responsibility due in large part to historically lower housing costs. Greater regard should be given to deprivation levels, infrastructure capacity, and cumulative local impacts.

This Council believes that:

1. ~~It is wholly unacceptable for central Government to treat towns such as Oldham as convenient default locations for asylum accommodation and associated housing pressures, without proper regard for local impact or consent.~~ Current arrangements have not adequately reflected local impact, deprivation levels, infrastructure capacity, or the cumulative pressures experienced by communities such as Oldham. Oldham's disproportionate share of dispersal responsibility, driven largely by lower housing costs rather than local decision-making, should be recognised and addressed through a fairer national distribution system.
2. Government action should be firm and fair, tackling illegal immigration, dangerous small boat crossings, visa abuse and overstaying, whilst maintaining an asylum system that commands public confidence.
3. The unchecked growth of HMOs, combined with the pressures of dispersal accommodation, is undermining community cohesion and placing intolerable strain on already stretched services.
4. This is exacerbated by poor management of HMOs by some managing companies and landlords.
3. ~~The dispersal of predominantly fighting age men from high-risk countries, without proper checks or security, fuels legitimate public concern and erodes confidence.~~
5. The failure of successive governments between 2010-2024 to address irregular migration into the United Kingdom was exacerbated by the withdrawal from the European Union in 2020, removing return agreements that the UK had with EU nations
5. Oldham residents did not consent to bearing the frontline consequences of national border failures, and their interests must be prioritised in all local and national decision-making.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. **Write to the Prime Minister to ensure that** ~~and Home Secretary to:~~
 - a. Local housing, planning and public service decisions properly reflect pressures on existing communities and the need to maintain access to affordable housing for local residents.
 - b. Asylum dispersal arrangements are managed fairly and equitably across the country and not focused on towns like Oldham
 - c. Ensure that asylum backlogs are cleared with only the people who meet the strict criteria of seeking asylum are successful and those that are not are removed
 - d. The government creates safe routes for asylum seekers and ensures that no one entering the country illegally is able to remain in the UK.
 - e. ~~Demand an end to asylum dispersal arrangements;~~
 - f. ~~Call for the end to any further placements into the borough;~~
 - g. ~~Demand that those who come to this country illegally should be immediately deported.~~

2. **Call for full and immediate transparency from the Home Office** regarding all migrant/asylum accommodation within Oldham, including clear data on occupancy, status, and management arrangements.
3. **Press Join Jim McMahon MP in pressing for the closure of the Victoria Hotel** as an asylum/migrant hotel, with a clear and time-limited exit strategy and ensuring that the closure does not simply increase pressure on family homes leased by SERCO or reduce the supply of affordable rental properties in the borough.
4. **Make HMO proliferation a central planning priority by:**
 - Referring, wherever permissible within relevant planning law, all HMO conversion and creation applications to the Planning Committee for rigorous scrutiny;
 - ~~Applying a strong presumption against approval in areas where developments would exacerbate overconcentration, damage residential amenity, or undermine community cohesion;~~
 - Develop a robust evidence base on HMO concentrations across the borough and ensuring that this information forms part of any report into a HMO application in the borough of Oldham
 - ~~Undertaking an urgent review of planning policies, including consideration of tighter controls, to prevent excessive clustering of HMOs.~~
5. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking for more powers for Local Planning Authorities to introduce a presumption against approval of HMOs where there is an evidenced concentration of HMOs, unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate the proposal would not exacerbate cumulative impacts on residential amenity, housing mix, neighbourhood character, infrastructure or community cohesion.
6. Further to this, request that the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government issues guidance on HMO management, ensuring that fit and proper persons and companies are managing HMOs.
7. **Undertake a full review of all council policies, partnerships, and commitments** relating to asylum/migrant and sanctuary-style initiatives ~~in order to withdraw Oldham from any sanctuary schemes in an efficient and legal manner, with the focus shifting to the needs and expectations of Oldham residents first.~~ so that we can be sure that everything the council does puts the needs of all residents at the top of our priorities.

That the government changes the law to make sure that local residents and veterans come first in housing allocation, planning decisions, and the deployment of local services. We support the comments from the Home Secretary where she said that ~~That~~ no new build housing should go to those who have just arrived on these shores.

Amended Motion to read as follows

This Council notes with serious concern that:

1. Many Oldham residents increasingly feel unsafe, unheard, and overlooked in their own communities as a result of the legacy asylum dispersal system inherited by the current government, together with wider housing pressures, continue to place significant strain on communities. Residents—particularly women and girls—have expressed growing concern about safety and community cohesion.
2. The Victoria Hotel in Chadderton continues to operate as asylum/migrant accommodation. Residents remain deeply concerned about the scale and nature of its use, coupled with a persistent lack of transparency from the Home Office regarding occupants, management arrangements, and associated impacts on the local area.
3. Oldham is experiencing a sharp and accelerating rise in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), driven by low property values which attract speculative investment. These properties are increasingly used to house high-density occupancies, including migrant dispersal populations, placing unsustainable pressure on infrastructure, waste services, parking, and neighbourhood stability.
4. Oldham is already one of the most deprived boroughs in England, with approximately 37% of neighbourhoods falling within the top 10% most deprived nationally. This significantly limits the borough's capacity to absorb additional pressures without consequences for existing residents and services.
5. While the government is pursuing reforms to the asylum system, Oldham continues to carry a disproportionate share of dispersal responsibility due in large part to historically lower housing costs. Greater regard should be given to deprivation levels, infrastructure capacity, and cumulative local impacts.

This Council believes that:

6. Current arrangements have not adequately reflected local impact, deprivation levels, infrastructure capacity, or the cumulative pressures experienced by communities such as Oldham. Oldham's disproportionate share of dispersal responsibility, driven largely by lower housing costs rather than local decision-making, should be recognised and addressed through a fairer national distribution system.
7. Government action should be firm and fair, tackling illegal immigration, dangerous small boat crossings, visa abuse and overstaying, whilst maintaining an asylum system that commands public confidence.
8. The unchecked growth of HMOs, combined with the pressures of dispersal accommodation, is undermining community cohesion and placing intolerable strain on already stretched services.
9. The failure of successive governments between 2010-2024 to address irregular migration into the United Kingdom was exacerbated by the withdrawal from the European Union in 2020, removing return agreements that the UK had with EU nations

5. Oldham residents did not consent to bearing the frontline consequences of national border failures, and their interests must be prioritised in all local and national decision-making.

This Council therefore resolves to:

8. Write to the Prime Minister to ensure that

- a. Local housing, planning and public service decisions properly reflect pressures on existing communities and the need to maintain access to affordable housing for local residents.
- b. Asylum dispersal arrangements are managed fairly and equitably across the country and not focused on towns like Oldham
- c. Ensure that asylum backlogs are cleared with only the people who meet the strict criteria of seeking asylum are successful and those that are not are removed
- d. The government creates safe routes for asylum seekers and ensures that no one entering the country illegally is able to remain in the UK.

9. Call for full and immediate transparency from the Home Office regarding all migrant/asylum accommodation within Oldham, including clear data on occupancy, status, and management arrangements.

10. Join Jim McMahon MP in pressing for the closure of the Victoria Hotel as an asylum/migrant hotel, with a clear and time-limited exit strategy and ensuring that the closure does not simply increase pressure on family homes leased by SERCO or reduce the supply of affordable rental properties in the borough.

11. Make HMO proliferation a central planning priority by:

- Referring, wherever permissible within relevant planning law, all HMO conversion and creation applications to the Planning Committee for rigorous scrutiny;
- Develop a robust evidence base on HMO concentrations across the borough and ensuring that this information forms part of any report into a HMO application in the borough of Oldham

12. Write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking for more powers for Local Planning Authorities to introduce a presumption against approval of HMOs where there is an evidenced concentration of HMOS, unless the applicant can clearly demonstrate the proposal would not exacerbate cumulative impacts on residential amenity, housing mix, neighbourhood character, infrastructure or community cohesion.

13. Undertake a full review of all council policies, partnerships, and commitments relating to asylum/migrant and sanctuary-style initiatives so that we can be sure that everything the council does puts the needs of all residents at the top of our priorities.

That the government changes the law to make sure that local residents and veterans come first in housing allocation, planning decisions, and the deployment of local services. We support the comments from the Home Secretary where she

said that no new build housing should go to those who have just arrived on these shores.

Labour group amendment

Amendment to be Moved by: Cllr Rustidge
Amendment to be Seconded by: Cllr Nasheen

Delete

Add

Motion 3: Fair and Affordable School Uniforms for Oldham Families

To be Moved by Councillor Zaheer Ali

To be Seconded by Councillor Shabir Hussain

This Council notes that:

- Families across Oldham continue to face significant financial pressures due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, with many parents and carers struggling to meet the rising costs of everyday essentials.
- The cost of school uniforms places an additional and unnecessary burden on households—particularly where schools require numerous branded items available only from a single supplier or a limited number of retailers.
- The Department for Education’s statutory guidance requires schools to keep uniform costs to a minimum, prioritise value for money, and avoid limiting competition between suppliers.
- ~~The Government intends to make further requirements statutory from September 2026, including limiting the number of compulsory branded items schools can require.~~ The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, which received Royal Assent on 29th April 2026, has now placed these requirements on a statutory footing.
- The Act amends the Education Act 1996 to cap the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit that schools may require to three, or four for secondary schools where a tie is included, with the limit taking effect from 1st September 2026.
- The Act defines a branded item broadly, covering any item that, because of its colour, design, fabric or other distinctive characteristic, is only available from particular suppliers.
- This closes a loophole whereby schools could restrict parental choice of retailer without formally branding an item.
- Exclusive supply arrangements can create local monopolies, restrict competition, reduce choice for parents, and drive-up prices—often with no clear evidence of better quality or durability.
- Seventy per cent of schools in Oldham are academies, including all secondary schools.
- While the Council does not have direct control over all uniform policies, it has a vital leadership and campaigning role on behalf of residents.

- Pre-loved and recycled uniform schemes can significantly reduce costs, support family budgets, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

This Council believes that:

- No child should be disadvantaged or stigmatised because their family cannot afford an expensive school uniform.
- Parents and carers should have the widest possible choice of retailers, including high-street and online options.
- Where branded items ~~are essential~~ remain compulsory, schools should ensure these are available through multiple retailers wherever possible, avoiding exclusive contracts that inflate costs.
- Affordable, accessible, and durable school uniform provision is a key part of tackling child poverty and supporting family resilience in Oldham.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to all schools, governing bodies, and multi-academy trusts operating in Oldham, urging them to:
 - ~~Minimise the number of compulsory branded items;~~ Comply fully with the statutory cap on compulsory branded items ahead of its commencement in September 2026, and go further than the statutory minimum wherever possible;
 - Avoid exclusive single-supplier arrangements;
 - Permit multiple retailers to stock ~~branded uniform items;~~ any branded items that remain compulsory;
 - Ensure uniforms are affordable, durable, and widely accessible; including generic items not covered by the statutory cap;
 - Expand and actively promote pre-loved and recycled uniform schemes.
2. Request that all schools and academy trusts provide a written response to the Council within six months of the Act's commencement in September 2026, detailing:
 - ~~The number of compulsory branded items they require;~~ Confirmation of their compliance with the statutory cap on compulsory branded items under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026;
 - Whether they have an exclusive supplier arrangement for any remaining branded or generic items, and the reasons for it;
 - The steps taken to ensure value for money and quality for parents on items outside the statutory cap;
 - The measures in place to support low-income families and promote uniform reuse.

3. Instruct appropriate Council officers to engage with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester People Inclusion Standards to develop a region-wide approach to affordable uniforms and greater supplier competition.
4. Establish an Oldham School Uniform Charter, inviting schools and trusts to voluntarily commit to: going beyond the statutory minimum set out in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 by:
 - ~~Keeping costs and the number of branded items to a minimum;~~
 - Promoting fair competition between suppliers;
 - Maximising choice and quality for parents and carers;
 - Supporting uniform recycling, reuse, and swap shop initiatives.
5. Request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a formal review of school uniform affordability in Oldham within 12 months, gathering evidence on exclusive supplier arrangements and their impact on families and reporting back with recommendations.
6. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, ~~calling for stronger national action to prevent monopolistic uniform supply arrangements and to ensure all families can access affordable uniforms from a range of retailers.~~ welcoming the statutory cap on branded uniform items introduced by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, while calling for further national guidance to prevent monopolistic supply arrangements for uniform items that fall outside the cap.

This Council further resolves to stand with Oldham families and campaign unapologetically for a fair, competitive, and affordable school uniform system that puts the interests of children and parents before commercial monopolies.

Amended motion to read as follows

This Council notes that:

- Families across Oldham continue to face significant financial pressures due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, with many parents and carers struggling to meet the rising costs of everyday essentials.
- The cost of school uniforms places an additional and unnecessary burden on households-particularly where schools require numerous branded items available only from a single supplier or a limited number of retailers.
- The Department for Education's statutory guidance requires schools to keep uniform costs to a minimum, prioritise value for money, and avoid limiting competition between suppliers.

- The Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, which received Royal Assent on 29th April 2026, has now placed these requirements on a statutory footing.
- The Act amends the Education Act 1996 to cap the number of compulsory branded items of uniform and PE kit that schools may require to three, or four for secondary schools where a tie is included, with the limit taking effect from 1st September 2026.
- The Act defines a branded item broadly, covering any item that, because of its colour, design, fabric or other distinctive characteristic, is only available from particular suppliers.
- This closes a loophole whereby schools could restrict parental choice of retailer without formally branding an item.
- Exclusive supply arrangements can create local monopolies, restrict competition, reduce choice for parents, and drive-up prices—often with no clear evidence of better quality or durability.
- Seventy per cent of schools in Oldham are academies, including all secondary schools.
- While the Council does not have direct control over all uniform policies, it has a vital leadership and campaigning role on behalf of residents.
- Pre-loved and recycled uniform schemes can significantly reduce costs, support family budgets, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

This Council believes that:

- No child should be disadvantaged or stigmatised because their family cannot afford an expensive school uniform.
- Parents and carers should have the widest possible choice of retailers, including high-street and online options.
- Where branded items remain compulsory, schools should ensure these are available through multiple retailers wherever possible, avoiding exclusive contracts that inflate costs.
- Affordable, accessible, and durable school uniform provision is a key part of tackling child poverty and supporting family resilience in Oldham.

This Council therefore resolves to:

7. Write to all schools, governing bodies, and multi-academy trusts operating in Oldham, urging them to:
 - Comply fully with the statutory cap on compulsory branded items ahead of its commencement in September 2026, and go further than the statutory minimum wherever possible;
 - Avoid exclusive single-supplier arrangements;
 - Permit multiple retailers to stock any branded items that remain compulsory;

- Ensure uniforms are affordable, durable, and widely accessible; including generic items not covered by the statutory cap;
 - Expand and actively promote pre-loved and recycled uniform schemes.
8. Request that all schools and academy trusts provide a written response to the Council within six months, of the Act's commencement in September 2026, detailing:
 - Confirmation of their compliance with the statutory cap on compulsory branded items under the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026;
 - Whether they have an exclusive supplier arrangement for any remaining branded or generic items, and the reasons for it;
 - The steps taken to ensure value for money and quality for parents on items outside the statutory cap;
 - The measures in place to support low-income families and promote uniform reuse.
 9. Instruct appropriate Council officers to engage with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester People Inclusion Standards to develop a region-wide approach to affordable uniforms and greater supplier competition.
 10. Establish an Oldham School Uniform Charter, inviting schools and trusts to voluntarily commit to: going beyond the statutory minimum set out in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 by:
 - Promoting fair competition between suppliers;
 - Maximising choice and quality for parents and carers;
 - Supporting uniform recycling, reuse, and swap shop initiatives.
 11. Request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a formal review of school uniform affordability in Oldham within 12 months, gathering evidence on exclusive supplier arrangements and their impact on families and reporting back with recommendations.
 12. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, welcoming the statutory cap on branded uniform items introduced by the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026, while calling for further national guidance to prevent monopolistic supply arrangements for uniform items that fall outside the cap.

This Council further resolves to stand with Oldham families and campaign unapologetically for a fair, competitive, and affordable school uniform system that puts the interests of children and parents before commercial monopolies.

