

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Thursday 20 August 2026**

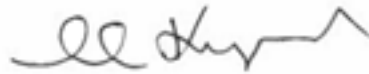
OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Supplementary Agenda

4. Leader of the Council (Pages 1 - 16)

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

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**

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



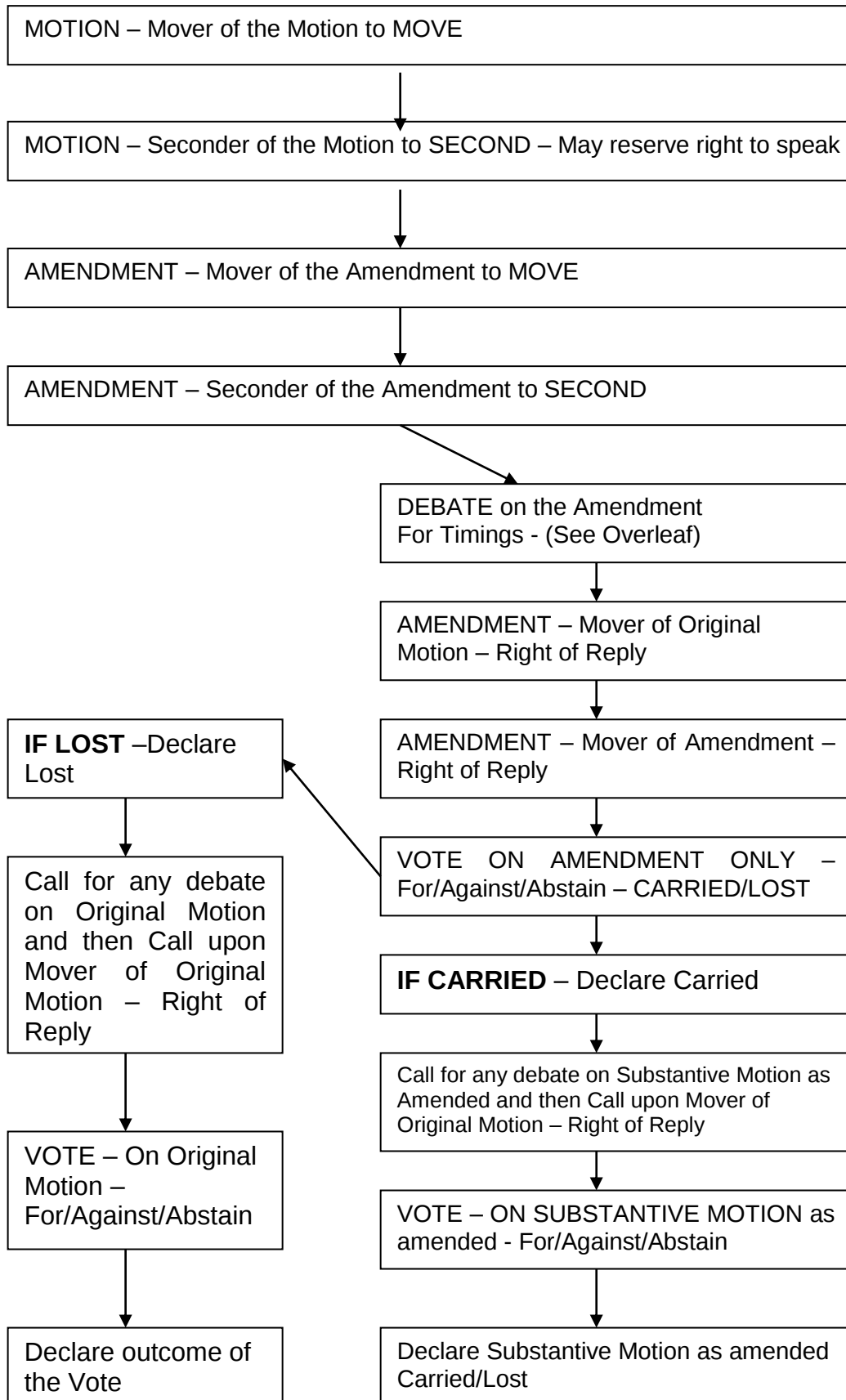
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

That Councillor Arooj Shah be appointed as Leader of the Council and the Labour Group to form a minority administration.

Oldham Labour Group has the experience, leadership capability and established relationships at local, regional and national level to provide stable and effective governance, champion Oldham's interests, and secure the best possible outcomes for residents and businesses.

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 will offer the posts of Scrutiny Committee Chairs to opposition groups to allow open scrutiny of Council decision making.
5. The Leaders' Council will be retained as a formal mechanism for cross-party engagement, ensuring transparency, fostering collaboration, and supporting joint decision making on matters of strategic importance to the Borough.

Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Arooj Shah

Date: 17 August 2026

Councillor Seconding: Elaine Taylor

Time: 19:19

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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules



The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Appointment for Leader of the Council 2026/27

That Councillor Lewis Quigg is appointed Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council for the Municipal year 2026/27

Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Lewis Quigg

Date: 17/08/2026

Councillor Seconding: Paul Robinson

Time: 21:07

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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules



The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Restoring Stable Governance to Oldham Council (ONE)

Council notes that:

Following the recent Local Elections, Oldham Council remains in a position of No Overall Control. Despite repeated attempts by political groups to establish a stable administration, no enduring administration has been formed.

This continuing political deadlock risks delaying important decisions, creating uncertainty for residents, council staff and partner organisations, and undermining the effective governance of the Borough.

Council believes that:

The people of Oldham should be given the opportunity to resolve the current political impasse through the democratic process.

A renewed mandate from the electorate represents the fairest, most transparent and democratic means of securing a stable administration capable of providing effective leadership for the Borough.

Holding elections for all 60 seats across all twenty wards in May 2027 would provide voters with a clear opportunity to determine the future political composition of the Council and help establish a stable administration with a renewed democratic mandate.

Council therefore resolves to:

Call upon His Majesty's Government to bring forward the necessary legislative changes to enable elections to be held in all twenty council wards on 6 May 2027 for all 60 seats.

State that such elections would provide the electorate with the opportunity to determine the future political composition of Oldham Council and deliver the clearest possible democratic mandate for the formation of a stable and effective administration.

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, together with the leaders of all political groups represented on Oldham Council, informing them of this resolution and requesting their support for the proposal.

Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Robert Barnes Councillor Seconding: Gary Tarbuck	Date: 17/08/2026 Time: 21:07

Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules



The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Motion: Restoring Stable Governance to Oldham Council (TWO)

Council notes that:

Following the recent Local Elections, Oldham Council remains in a position of No Overall Control.

Despite repeated attempts by political groups to establish a stable administration, no enduring administration has been formed.

This continuing political deadlock risks delaying important decisions, creating uncertainty for residents, council staff and partner organisations, and undermining the effective governance of the Borough.

Council believes that:

The people of Oldham should be given the opportunity to resolve the current political impasse through the democratic process.

A renewed mandate from the electorate represents the fairest, most transparent and democratic means of securing a stable administration capable of providing effective leadership for the Borough.

Holding elections for all 60 seats across all twenty wards in May 2027 would provide voters with a clear opportunity to determine the future political composition of the Council and help establish a stable administration with a renewed democratic mandate.

Council therefore resolves to:

Exercise its powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to undertake the required public consultation on changing the electoral system in Oldham to move to whole-Council (All Out) elections starting in 2027 and every four years thereafter.

Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Robert Jackson

Date: 17/08/2026

Councillor Seconding: Mark Ruthven

Time: 21:07

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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Amendment: Operate an Oldham Borough Concord Council Governance Framework

This Council notes:

- **1. No Overall Control:** The 2026 local elections have resulted in a Council where no single political group holds a majority of seats and where the political groups represented on the Council, together with independent councillors, have been unable to form a conventional majority administration.
- **2. Balanced Representation:** Councillors are organized into political groupings of balanced proportion. In order to form an administration under traditional arrangements, political groups would be required to form coalitions or rely on abstentions, which many councillors reasonably consider may not best serve their wards or the wider borough.
- **3. Public Mandate:** Every councillor has been elected to represent all residents, businesses, and communities within their wards, and all elected members share a collective duty to provide stable, effective, transparent, and accountable local government.
- **4. Statutory Governance Model:** The Council is required by Section 9B of the Local Government Act 2000 and its Constitution to operate a 'Leader and Cabinet' executive model. The Council cannot lawfully replace that executive model with a committee system without statutory constitutional change procedures.
- **5. Statutory Executive Discretion:** Under Section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000, executive power is vested in the Leader and Cabinet. Executive office holders cannot lawfully divest, surrender, or delegate their statutory responsibilities to advisory bodies or non-executive members. However, the Leader and Cabinet may lawfully establish advisory framework committees to consult, seek advice, and receive non-binding policy recommendations prior to exercising executive functions.
- **6. Avoiding Government Intervention:** The appointment of Government Commissioners would impose substantial costs on Oldham taxpayers, divert key financial and administrative resources, and adversely affect democratic accountability and service delivery across Adult Social Care, Children's Services, and local infrastructure.

Purpose of this Amendment

The purpose of this amendment is to establish a temporary, collaborative cross-party governance framework ('Concord Council') which:

- **a) Statutory Alignment:** Enables the Council to function effectively within the lawful Leader and Cabinet governance model mandated by the Local Government Act 2000.
- **b) Consensus-Based Governance:** Facilitates broad political involvement without forcing parties into formal coalition agreements.
- **c) Leader Appointment Delegation:** Enables the Leader to exercise statutory power under Section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000 by appointing Cabinet Members nominated through a representative cross-party mechanism.
- **d) Comprehensive Pre-Decision Consultation:** Establishes politically balanced Concord Advisory Committees to provide detailed examination, policy guidance, and recommendations to the Leader and Cabinet before executive decisions are formally taken.
- **e) Allowance Integrity & Independent Review:** Refers any proposed adjustments to the Members' Allowances Scheme to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, ensuring allowances lawfully align with documented special responsibilities.
- **f) Scrutiny & Opposition Integrity:** Preserves the full independence, statutory oversight powers, and call-in functions of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000.

- **Principle 1 (Consultative Discretion & Fiduciary Duty):** Executive office holders commit to giving maximum weight and due regard to the advice and recommendations of the Concord Advisory Committees. In accordance with public law, executive office holders retain their statutory executive responsibilities and discretion, ensuring decisions remain legally valid, accountable, and subject to statutory duty.
- **Principle 2 (Political Independence):** Nothing in this amendment shall affect the political identity, independence, or policy positions of any political group or councillor. All members remain free to express independent views and vote according to their conscience.
- **Principle 3 (Civic Responsibility):** All elected members are requested to support this framework in good faith to maintain democratic governance and stability for the residents of the Borough of Oldham.

This Council resolves:

- **1. Appointment of Leader:** Councillor Diane Williamson be appointed as Leader of the Council for the remainder of the 2026/27 municipal year.
- **2. Leader's Advisory Committee:** To establish a Leader's Advisory Committee comprising the Leader and Deputy Leader of each political group represented on the Council to consult on major strategic decisions and borough-wide policy prior to executive determination.
- **3. Executive Appointments:** The Leader be requested to exercise statutory appointment powers under Section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000 to appoint Cabinet Members nominated through the cross-party representative mechanism detailed in Appendix 1.
- **4. Cabinet Member Advisory Sub-Committees:** To establish Cabinet Member Advisory Sub-Committees across key portfolio service areas to examine policy proposals and formulate advice for Cabinet consideration.
- **5. Overview & Scrutiny Independence:** Reaffirms that the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committees retain all statutory oversight powers under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000. Members appointed to executive advisory roles shall not sit on Overview & Scrutiny committees reviewing decisions within those same portfolio areas.
- **6. Referral to Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP):** To request the Monitoring Officer to immediately refer the proposed Concord Members' Allowances Framework (Appendix 1, Item 15) to the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) for formal review in compliance with Regulation 19 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, with recommendations reported back to Full Council for approval prior to implementation.
- **7. Constitutional Amendments:** To instruct the Monitoring Officer to draft necessary constitutional amendments, including revised terms of reference and scheme of delegation, to reflect this advisory framework and bring them to the next Full Council meeting for formal adoption.

Appendix: Framework Details & Operational Procedures

- **1. Executive Nomination & Appointment Mechanism:** Political groups may nominate eligible councillors up to 50% of their group membership (rounded up) to the Cabinet candidate pool. To comply with Section 9E of the Local Government Act 2000, the Leader formally appoints Cabinet Members from this representative pool, ensuring no single political group holds an absolute majority on the Cabinet.
- **2. Terms of Reference for Concord Advisory Committees:** Concord Advisory Committees shall: (i) Review draft executive proposals and provide advisory recommendations to the relevant Cabinet Member or Leader; (ii) Conduct meetings in public in compliance with access to information rules; (iii) Utilise a weighted advisory voting system reflecting group political balance to provide clear guidance to decision-makers.
- **3. Protocol on Executive Discretion:** Where an executive decision is required urgently or under a statutory deadline, and a Concord Advisory Committee has not reached a recommendation, the decision-maker may exercise statutory authority after consulting the Leader and Chief Executive.
- **4. Members' Allowances Review:** The allocation of Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) must reflect designated special responsibilities. The proposed schedule will be submitted to the IRP to ensure full statutory compliance with the 2003 Regulations.
- **5. Declaration of Executive Intent:** Upon appointment, Executive Office Holders shall make the following declaration: "I, [Name], accepting appointment as [Leader/Cabinet Member], declare that I will exercise my statutory executive functions in open consultation with all members of the Council. I commit to seeking, receiving, and giving full and due weight to the recommendations of the Concord Advisory Committees before exercising my statutory executive discretion."

Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026	
Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)	
Councillor Proposing: Mark Kenyon Councillor Seconding: Sam Al-Hamdani	Date: 18/08/2026 Time: 09:43

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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules



The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Council resolves that:

1. The Leader of the Council shall be elected by Full Council on a rotational basis for the remainder of the municipal year. The duration of each Leader's term shall be agreed in advance and allocated proportionately, reflecting the political balance.
2. The order of rotation for the office of Leader shall commence with the smallest political group and proceed to the largest, as follows:
 - Councillor Max Woodvine (Conservative);
 - Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani (Liberal Democrat);
 - Councillor Kamran Ghafoor (Oldham Group);
 - Councillor Lewis Quigg (Reform UK); and
 - Councillor Arooj Shah (Labour).
3. The office of Deputy Leader shall also rotate throughout the duration of the arrangement in the following order:
 - Liberal Democrat;
 - Oldham Group;
 - Reform UK;
 - Labour; and
 - Conservative.
4. Council expects the Leader to appoint a politically balanced Cabinet for the remainder of the municipal year to comprise:
 - 3 Labour Members;
 - 3 Reform UK Members;
 - 2 Oldham Group Members;
 - 1 Liberal Democrat Member; and
 - 1 Conservative Member.

5. Council expects that each Leader shall agree to a constitutional convention to resign from office at the conclusion of their agreed period of office to enable Full Council to elect the next Leader in accordance with the agreed rotation set out above.
6. Council further expects that, upon taking office, each Leader shall delegate all appropriate executive powers to the Cabinet collectively, insofar as is permitted by law and the Council's Constitution. This shall include the delegation of authority for principal executive decisions to the Cabinet as a whole, in place of existing arrangements whereby such decisions may be taken by an individual Cabinet Member in consultation with the relevant Executive Director, except where statute or the Constitution requires otherwise.
7. Where the Leader has offered representation on the Cabinet to a Political Group in proportion to arrangements approved by Council for a cross-party administration, and that Political Group declines such representation, their seats would be allocated proportionally to those groups who have accepted Cabinet positions, or the size of the Cabinet can be reduced accordingly.
8. That an addendum be produced to the Constitution to reflect the constitutional convention in place for this municipal year.
9. Council expects all political groups to work collaboratively in good faith to deliver stable, inclusive and effective governance for the Borough throughout the duration of this arrangement.

Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Kamran Ghafoor
Councillor Seconding: Sam Al-Hamdani

Date: 18/08/2026
Time: 12:15

Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules



The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-	
Proposal for the formation of an administration with clear leadership and cabinet that also allows a robust and challenging opposition	
Date of Council meeting:- 20 August 2026	
Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)	
Councillor Proposing: Brian Hobin Councillor Seconding: Lisa Navesey	Date: 19/08/2026 Time: 10:33

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