

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council



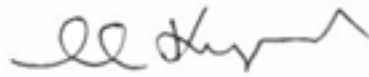
**Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 September 2026**

OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,
JR CLYNES BUILDING, GREAVES STREET, OLDHAM, OL1 1AL
Tuesday, 8 September 2026**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 16 September 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, JR Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL, for the following purposes:

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



**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



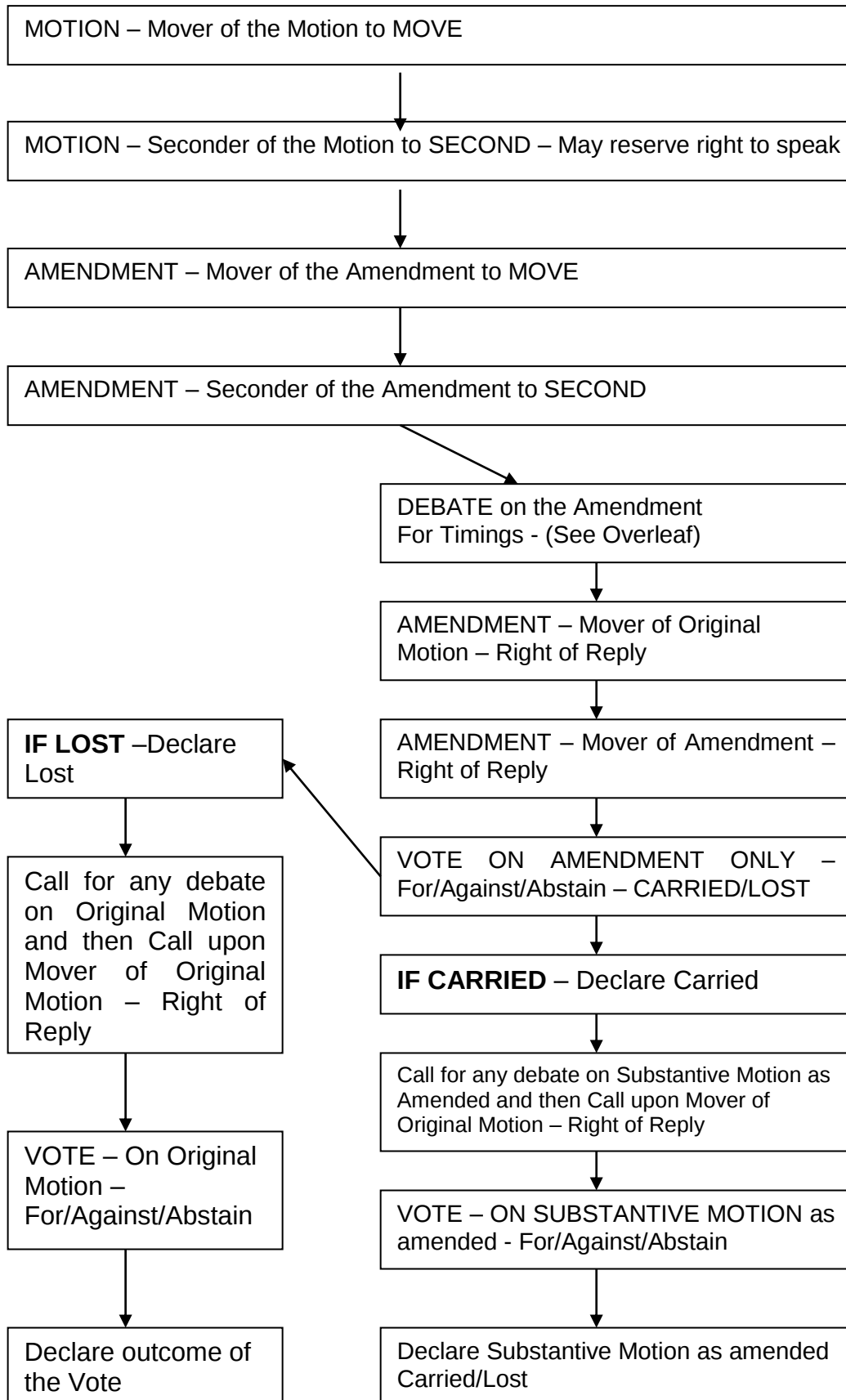
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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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Report to COUNCIL

Changes to the Constitution

Officer Contact: Director of Legal (Monitoring Officer)

Report Author: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

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16 September 2026

Reasons for Decision

To ensure that the Council's Constitution remains compliant with recent national planning reforms introduced through the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026.

To provide constitutional clarity regarding the exercise of executive functions during periods where the Council does not have a Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Members in office.

Recommendation

Council is recommended to:

1. Approve the required constitutional amendments set out in Appendix 2 to give effect to the Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 and related guidance.
2. Approve the amendments to the constitution set out in Appendix 2 regarding the exercise of executive functions in circumstances where there is no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Members in office, whereby in such circumstances, the Chief Executive may exercise executive functions under a specific constitutional delegation.

1 Background

This report sets out proposed changes to the Constitution relating to planning decisions and executive decision making.

1.1 Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026

- 1.1.1 Local planning authorities can currently set their own schemes of delegation, directing the way a planning application is determined – either by officers under delegated authority or by Councillors sitting as the Planning Committee.
- 1.1.2 As part of its wider programme of planning reform, the Government is introducing a new National Scheme of Delegation for planning functions, alongside rules on the size of planning committees. Draft regulations were laid in Parliament in June, and the changes will come into force on 31 October 2026. Any decisions made on or after that date must be in line with the new regulations. Statutory Guidance has also been published to support implementation of these changes.
- 1.1.3 The Government's aim in introducing the reforms is to provide greater clarity and consistency regarding the role of planning committees in decision-making, ensuring that the committee's focus is on applications of strategic importance, while routine and technical decisions are determined by officers.
- 1.1.4 The National Scheme of Delegation identifies specific planning application types and groups them into two schedules:
 - Those in Schedule 1 must be determined by officers under delegated powers and cannot go to Planning Committee.
 - Those in Schedule 2 should also be determined under delegated powers unless the Nominated Member and Nominated Officer consider that it needs to go to Planning Committee.
- 1.1.5 The National Scheme of Delegation also sets out how to deal with 'Own-Interest Applications'. These are applications made by officers, councillors (members) or on behalf of the Council itself.
- 1.1.6 The Regulations make provision for the Council to identify a Nominated Member and a Nominated Officer, as well as substitutes, to discharge the relevant parts of the Regulations.
- 1.1.7 The statutory guidance states that the Nominated Member "should be the Chair of the Planning Committee" and that the Nominated Officer "should be the Chief Planning Officer or equivalent officer who has extensive professional planning experience" (for the Council this is the Assistant Director for Planning and Development). The proposed approach conforms with statutory guidance.

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- 1.1.8 The statutory guidance confirms that “Where a planning function is not listed in either Schedule 1 or 2, it is for the Local Planning Authority to decide whether it should be delegated to an officer or referred to a committee or sub-committee for a decision (as part of its local constitution)”. Details of Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 can be found in the link to the legislation referred to in the background papers section of this report.
- 1.1.9 The “overriding presumption” should be that applications are determined by officers and determined by committee as an exception. This is in line with the approach under the current local scheme of delegation.
- 1.1.10 In making that decision the Nominated Member and Nominated Officer must apply the criteria in Regulation 5, known as the Gateway Test. It is for individual local planning authorities to decide whether the application passes the test and be determined by their Planning Committee or not.
- 1.1.11 The Gateway Test is whether the application raises:
- (a) one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
 - (b) one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations.
- 1.1.12 The guidance also states that “As a minimum, the local planning authority should keep a record of the cases the Nominated Officer and Nominated Member have considered for referral to committee, the outcome of their consideration and the reasons for their decision. They should report this to the planning committee on a regular basis and make it available on their website.”

1.2 Executive decision making

- 1.2.1 The Council remains under a statutory duty to operate executive arrangements. All the executive functions of the Council are, by virtue of section 9E(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, vested in the Executive Leader who determines the allocation and discharge of executive functions in accordance with the Constitution. Oldham has been operating under the delegations of executive functions since the vacancy in the position of Leader arose in May 2026.
- 1.2.2 The Local Government Act 2000 states where the office of the Leader is vacant, the Deputy Leader can act in their place, and if the Deputy Leader is unable to act, the Executive (called the Cabinet in Oldham) or a member of the Executive can act in the Leader’s place. The absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet means the Council cannot operate in the manner envisaged by the Act.
- 1.2.3 The absence of an Executive Leader does not prevent officers from exercising powers that have been lawfully delegated to them under the Constitution, nor does it prevent statutory officers from carrying out their respective duties. Delegations have been exercised having regard to external legal advice and have enabled the Council to continue to discharge its statutory functions and responsibilities without interruption.

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- 1.2.4 The current position was not envisaged as a long-term governance arrangement. Whilst existing delegations have enabled business continuity and lawful decision-making, there is merit in providing greater constitutional certainty should the situation continue for an extended period.
- 1.2.5 The Constitution authorises the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions (in consultation with the Leader or, in the absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader) which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet Meeting. In the interim, the Chief Executive has consulted all political group leaders, through a fortnightly cross-party consultative group of all group leaders and deputy leaders. The focus during the absence of a Leader has been to ensure continuity of essential services, with only the necessary decisions being taken to:
- Maintain service delivery;
 - Protect vulnerable residents;
 - Meet statutory obligations;
 - Ensure financial stability;
 - Maintain regulatory compliance; and
 - Fulfil legal or contractual obligations.
- 1.2.6 There has been statutory officer oversight of all key and principal decisions, which have been subject to enhanced legal and finance review by the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer or their deputies, and an emergency powers governance framework was established requiring all officers to set out the reasons why decisions could not be delayed, pending the election of a Leader. A separate report to Council details those decisions taken in consultation with political group leaders.

2. Changes to the Constitution

2.1 Planning

- 2.1.1 The proposed changes to the Council's Constitution are detailed in Appendix 1 of this report as tracked changes, with a clean copy of the applied changes in Appendix 2.
- 2.1.2 These changes reflect the fact that Schedule 1 applications will in future always be delegated to officers for a decision unless they are an "Own-Interest" application. Schedule 1 applications are essentially minor and householder planning applications. In comparison to the current Constitution, the primary difference for such Schedule 1 applications is that they cannot now be referred to Planning Committee for a decision if a ward councillor requests it, and the proposed changes to the Constitution therefore remove this procedure from Part 8 of the Constitution.
- 2.1.3 Examples of the types of Schedule 1 application that have been referred to Planning Committee in recent times under this procedure would include the change of use of a property to a HMO and minor applications that may have generated significant local interest and objection. These would have to remain as delegated officer decisions under the new 2026 Regulations.

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- 2.1.4 In considering Schedule 2 applications and which may be referred to Planning Committee for a decision, the guidance accompanying the new 2026 Regulations allows authorities to introduce a triage system into this process given it recognises that some larger and urban authorities would still receive a large number of Schedule 2 applications. The proposed changes to the Constitution include such a triage system for Oldham, reflecting the types of applications that under the current Constitution would normally be delegated to officers.
- 2.1.5 Such Schedule 2 applications that would have been delegated to officers under the current Constitution are therefore retained as delegated officer decisions under the proposed changes to the Constitution and would not be considered for referral to Planning Committee. This would include, for example, developments of 10-19 dwellings, which are classed as a “major” planning application, but which we do not take to Planning Committee for a decision under the current Constitution.
- 2.1.6 Under the proposed changes to the Constitution, the remaining Schedule 2 applications will be determined by officers in line with the legislation, unless both the Nominated Officer and Nominated Member agree that:
- 1) The proposal raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the Development Plan and any other material considerations;
 - 2) The proposal raises one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
 - 3) The application has been made by the Council itself or an officer or member of the Council or if, in the view of the Nominated Member and the Nominated Officer, the Council or any of its members or officers otherwise has an interest in the application.
- 2.1.7 The above “Gateway Test” therefore would capture all applications that would be decided by Planning Committee under the current Constitution but would first require the Nominated Officer and Nominated Member to consider whether those applications meet the above criteria before referring them to Planning Committee for a decision. This ensures that Planning Committee only consider applications that are truly significant in their potential impact on the borough.
- 2.1.8 A record will be kept of the cases the Nominated Officer and Nominated Member have considered for referral to the Planning Committee, the outcome of their consideration and the reasons for their decision. This will be reported to the Planning Committee on a regular basis and made available on the Council’s website.
- 2.1.9 Should the Nominated Officer and Nominated Member not agree whether the application passes the Gateway Test, the Government’s statutory guidance states that “Nominated Officers and Nominated Members should make every effort to reach agreement on which cases should be referred to committee. However, where agreement is not possible, the case must be determined by officers in accordance with regulation 5(2) or regulation 6(2)”.

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- 2.1.10 It is therefore critical to have a Chair of Planning Committee in place for this new referral process. Without one, there is no Nominated Member for the Nominated Officer to consult, and so all planning applications would need to remain as a delegated officer decision. Nominations for the roles of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees are subject to a separate report on the agenda for Council.
- 2.1.11 In making the changes required by the new legislation, the report also seeks to update the Constitution re-affirming the requirement for annual training for members of the Planning Committee before they can sit on the committee, and the need for members of committee to make themselves available for the training on the date provided in the municipal calendar.

2.2 Executive decisions

- 2.2.1 The Council's current governance arrangements have highlighted that the Constitution does not expressly address the circumstance in which there is simultaneously no Leader, Deputy Leader or appointed Cabinet Members. Whilst the Local Government Act 2000 provides for the Deputy Leader, the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member to act in place of the Leader where required, the legislation does not expressly provide for the position that has arisen in Oldham where all executive offices are vacant.
- 2.2.2 The proposed amendments are therefore intended to clarify, rather than fundamentally alter, the Council's existing governance arrangements. They expressly set out who may exercise executive functions in the exceptional circumstance that there is no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Members. This provides transparency for Members, officers, partners, regulators and the public regarding the Council's decision-making arrangements.
- 2.2.3 The proposed new Executive Procedure Rule 3.6 set out in Appendix 1 with tracked changes provides that, where there is no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Members, executive functions shall be exercised by the Chief Executive on an interim basis. This reflects the practical approach that has been adopted to date to ensure the continued discharge of executive functions and the effective operation of the Council.
- 2.2.4 In addition, the amendments to the Chief Executive's delegated powers are intended to remove ambiguity between executive and non-executive emergency powers. The revised wording confirms the Chief Executive's authority to take emergency decisions in relation to both non-executive and executive functions where decisions cannot reasonably await the next meeting of the relevant decision-making body. These provisions support organisational resilience and ensure that the Council can continue to respond effectively to urgent issues, emergencies and statutory requirements regardless of the status of executive appointments.

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- 2.2.5 Importantly, the amendments do not remove the Council's obligation to appoint a Leader at the earliest opportunity, nor do they seek to establish a permanent alternative to the Leader and Cabinet model. Rather, they provide a clear constitutional framework to govern the interim period, ensure continuity of lawful decision-making, and reflect the arrangements that have operated successfully under legal advice since May 2026. The Chief Executive will continue to operate the current arrangements whereby there is structured and ongoing engagement with Group Leaders to consult them before decisions are made.
- 2.2.6 The amendments are therefore proposed in the interests of good governance, transparency and business continuity, ensuring that the Constitution accurately reflects the Council's decision-making arrangements in circumstances which were not expressly contemplated when the current provisions were drafted.
- 3 Options/Alternatives**
- 3.1 Alternative ways of applying the National Scheme of Delegation are possible and have been considered by officers but were not recommended given that they did not align as closely with the well-established processes in Oldham.
- 3.2 In relation to executive decisions, the alternative option would be to make no constitutional changes and continue to rely upon the existing delegations and external legal advice obtained following the vacancy in the office of Leader, but this is not recommended.
- 4 Preferred Option**
- 4.1 To agree the changes to the Constitution which are proposed in this report in Appendix 2.
- 5 Consultation**
- 5.1 The planning regulations are nationally prescribed and have been subject to consultation by central government.
- 6 Financial Implications**
- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
- 7 Legal Implications**
- 7.1 The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 require local planning authorities to implement the prescribed arrangements by 31 October 2026. The recommendations in this report are intended to support compliance with those Regulations, including the necessary amendments to the Constitution and associated governance processes. (A Evans)

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- 7.2 The Council remains under a statutory duty to operate executive arrangements under Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000. The current circumstance whereby there is no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet is not expressly contemplated by either the Act or the Council's Constitution. The proposed constitutional amendments do not alter the Council's executive model but provide greater clarity regarding the exercise of executive functions during an interim period where executive offices are vacant.
8. **Procurement Implications**
- 8.1 N/A
- 9 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**
- 9.1 No
- 10 **Key Decision**
- 10.1 No
- 11 **Key Decision Reference**
- 11.1 N/A
- 12 **Background Papers**
- 12.1 [The Town and Country Planning \(Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions\) \(England\) Regulations 2026 - which includes Schedules 1 and 2 referred to in the report](#)
- [Planning Committees and the National Scheme of Delegation of Planning Functions: Guidance for local planning authorities in England](#)
- [Planning committee reform: statutory consultation on draft regulations and guidance – government response](#)
- [Oldham Council Constitution](#)
- 13 **Appendices**
- 13.1 Appendix 1 - Tracked changes to extracts of the Constitution
Appendix 2 - Clean copy of the Constitution with changes applied

Appendix 1: Tracked changes of the Constitution

Extract of the Council Constitution Part 3 Responsibility for Functions

4.2. Planning Committee

- 4.2.1 The Planning Committee will undertake Council (or 'non-executive') functions as defined in Part A of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) ~~in respect of planning applications and related matters as follows:~~ where planning applications are referred to the committee in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 ("the 2026 Regulations").
- 4.2.2 For the purposes of fulfilling the 2026 Regulations, the nominated officer will be the Assistant Director for Planning and Development or, in their absence, the Director of Growth. The nominated member will be the Chair of Planning Committee or, in their absence, the Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 4.2.3 In accordance with the 2026 Regulations, all planning applications would initially be delegated to officers for a decision.
- 4.2.4 As per Regulation 6, "own-interest" applications may be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision where the nominated officer and nominated member agree. An "own-interest" application is one where:
- a) the application is made (whether or not jointly with any other person) by or on behalf of:
 - i. the authority,
 - ii. a member of the authority, or
 - iii. an officer of the authority, or
 - b) in the view of the nominated member and the nominated officer, the authority or any of its members or officers otherwise has an interest in the application.
- 4.2.5 In line with Regulation 5, applications that fall within Schedule 2 may also be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision, but only where the nominated officer and nominated member both agree that:
- 1) the proposal raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations;
 - 2) the proposal raises one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
 - 3) the application has been made by the authority itself or an officer or member of the authority or an entity owned or controlled (whether wholly or partly) by that authority or any of its members or officers.
- 4.2.6 Where agreement cannot be reached by the nominated member and nominated officer, the application is to be determined by officers.

- 4.2.7 In accordance with Regulation 4, all applications that fall within Schedule 1 of the Regulations must be determined by an officer of the authority unless they are referred as an “own-interest” application under Regulation 6,
- 4.2.8 A record will be kept of the cases the nominated officer and nominated member have considered for referral to the Planning Committee, the outcome of their consideration and the reasons for their decision. This will be reported to the Planning Committee on a regular basis and made available on the council's website.
- 4.2.9 Given the number of applications in the Oldham borough that fall within Schedule 2 and the number of officers employed by the council whose role has no connection to the local planning authority functions, the type of applications to be considered for referral will only include:
- a) Applications for minerals or waste development ~~that fall within Schedule 2~~;
 - b) Applications involving the provision of:
 - i. 20 or more dwellings; or
 - ii. Residential development on a site area of 1 hectare or more;
 - c) Applications for the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1000 square metres or more;
 - d) Applications for retail, commercial, industrial or other development on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more;
 - e) Applications which require an environmental statement;
 - f) Applications ~~that fall within Schedule 2~~ which are notifiable departures from the Council's Development Plan ~~other than applications which the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) is minded to refuse~~;
 - ~~g) Applications to be considered under the referral procedure or referred at the discretion of the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery;~~
 - h) Applications involving the Council either as applicant or landowner;

- i) Applications (within Schedules 1 and 2) submitted by a Councillor, senior Council Officer (Officers on senior manager pay grade and above) or a member of staff employed within the Planning and Development ~~Management~~ service area, or by an immediate family member or partner of these persons ~~which would otherwise be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place);~~
- j) Applications (that fall under Schedule 2) to remove or vary conditions where the relevant planning condition was agreed by the Planning Committee in addition to those recommended in the Officer's report; and
- k) Applications for Listed Building Consent where a connected planning application for the development concerned falls under categories (a) to (h) above.

On related matters, the following may also be considered by the Planning Committee:

- l) Consultations from adjoining local authorities, including the Peak District National Park Authority, which fall into the categories (a) to (f) ~~1-(a-d)~~ above, where officers recommend that the council should raise an objection ~~is raised~~ to the proposed development; and
- m) The nomination of a Member of the Planning Committee to represent the Council at any subsequent hearing or inquiry where the decision of the Committee was made contrary to Officer advice.

~~Major applications involving the Council either as applicant or land owner; or~~

- ~~m) Minor applications involving the Council either as applicant or land owner where that application does not accord with the adopted Development Plan or there has been objection received to the application.~~

Extract of the Council Constitution Part 8 – Planning Committee Participation Protocols

Protocol for Planning Committee meetings

1. Referral procedure for planning applications ~~by Ward Councillors~~ to Planning Committee

- 1.1 In accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026, all planning applications would initially be delegated to officers for a decision. The same regulations allow some applications to be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision by agreement of a nominated officer and a nominated member in certain circumstances. Part 3, section 4.2 of the Council's Constitution establishes that the nominated officer will be the Assistant Director for Planning and Development or, in their absence, the Director of Growth. The nominated member will be the Chair of the Planning Committee or, in their absence, the Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 1.2 As planning applications are validated by the local planning authority, they appear on a weekly list which is distributed to all members and various other organisations and interested parties. Within the weekly list, applications that fall within the list (a) – (i) set out at Part 3, section 4.2 of the Constitution will be highlighted, and the nominated officer will contact the nominated member, making their recommendation as to whether the applications should be referred to the Planning Committee or not. The nominated officer and nominated member will discuss the merits of those highlighted applications and agree whether to refer the applications to the Planning Committee or not.
- 1.3 In accordance with the regulations, the referral of an application to committee must meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1) the proposal raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations;
 - 2) the proposal raises one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
 - 3) the application has been made by the authority itself or an officer or member of the authority or an entity owned or controlled (whether wholly or partly) by that authority or any of its members or officers.
- 1.4 A record will be kept of the cases the nominated officer and nominated member have considered for referral to the Planning Committee, the outcome of their consideration and the reasons for their decision. This will be reported to the Planning Committee on a regular basis and made available on the council's website.

- 1.5 Under the 2026 Regulations, there is no longer an opportunity for ward councillors to request that a specific planning application be referred to Planning Committee. However, ward councillors may request to speak on an application that is referred to Planning Committee. They may only do so where the application is within their ward and should contact Constitutional Services once the application is on a published agenda for Planning Committee.

2. Procedure for considering planning applications at Planning Committee

- 2.1 The Committee agenda will include a report on each application which sets out all material considerations and the Officer's recommendation. Members of the Committee are, therefore, already aware of the relevant issues for any application at a Committee meeting.
- 2.2 The Planning Officer will introduce the report and a Supplementary Late Information List will report any matters that have arisen since the publication of the report, for example, the receipt of further letters or proposed new / amended conditions.
- 2.3 The Chair will invite the objector or a representative of the objectors (if any) to speak. Members may ask questions of the objector or representative of the objectors to clarify any points that have been made.
- 2.4 The Chair will invite the applicant or a representative of the applicant to speak in support of the application and on issues raised by objectors. Members may ask the applicant or a representative of the applicant to clarify the proposals or their response to the objections.
- 2.5 Ward Councillors not on the Committee may speak on applications affecting their Ward at a meeting of the Planning Committee. Members may ask questions of the Ward Councillors to clarify any comments they have made.
- 2.6 The Planning or other Officers (as appropriate) will be invited to comment on issues raised by the speakers.
- 2.7 The Committee will then debate the issues and may ask questions of the Planning and other Officers and make a decision on the application (see below).
- 2.8 On occasions, an application may be deferred by Committee without debate of the issues, for example because further information is awaited. In such cases, speakers will not be permitted to address the Committee until the application is debated at a future meeting. Speakers will be notified of the date of the meeting which will determine the application. If the Committee defers an application after hearing from a speaker or speakers, for example to carry out a site visit, no speaker, apart from Ward Members, will be allowed to address the Committee at a subsequent meeting considering the application unless the application has been materially altered. Speakers will be notified in writing of the determination of the application.

- 2.9 Members of the public are not allowed to take part in the debate and may not question Members, Officers or applicants whilst the Committee is determining the application. No documents, photos or other material may be circulated by the applicant, objector or Ward Member (as appropriate) at the Committee meeting.
- 2.10 Anyone registered to speak on an application arriving after the application has been dealt with will not be allowed to speak on that application.

3. Decisions by Planning Committee

3.1 Having regard to the fact that decisions on planning applications are made in the public arena, Members of Planning Committee should conduct their business in a fair and sensitive manner. The debate on a planning application should be confined to the planning merits, or otherwise, of a development proposal.

3.2 The following principles should be observed when planning applications are determined.

- i) a party whip should not be applied on a planning application ;
- ii) it is for Members as individuals to balance the proper planning considerations in order to reach their own judgement on a planning proposal on the basis of information before them;
- iii) it is wrong for a Member to vote on a planning application without coming to a properly balanced judgement on the basis of proper planning considerations.

3.3 The Council has a duty to process applications without undue delay. Applications should not be deferred as a delaying tactic or to put off making a decision because of the number of objectors at a meeting or because of uncertainty in the face of opposing parties being present at the meeting.

3.4 Decisions taken by Committee should be open and transparent in the sense that any fact or document which Committee takes into account in coming to a decision should be a matter of public record.

4. Consultation with Chair, Vice-Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of Planning Committee

4.1 There will be occasions when the Planning Committee has considered an application but is not able to issue a final decision because all statutory obligations have not been fulfilled. It is anticipated that referrals of this kind will be used infrequently.

4.2 In these cases, and at the Committee's discretion, the decision may be delegated to the Assistant Director for Planning, Transport & Housing Delivery in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and main opposition spokesperson.

5. Planning Committee decision contrary to officer recommendation

- 5.1 In determining planning applications, Planning Committee is entitled to decide the weight to be attached to the various planning considerations relevant to the application. This could lead to a decision being taken contrary to the recommendation of the officers. In these circumstances, it is essential that the reasons for the decision are clear in the minds of the Committee members, and that they are valid and reasonable planning reasons.
- 5.2 Where the Committee is considering a motion to make a decision contrary to officer's recommendation (whether for approval or refusal), the reasons for the recommendation shall be made clear at the meeting prior to the Committee voting on the motion and a detailed minute will be made. The officer shall also be given the opportunity to explain any implications of the contrary decision before the vote is taken.
- 5.3 As part of any motion for refusal of a planning application against officer recommendation, a member of the Committee must be put forward to represent the Council at any subsequent appeal of the decision should the motion be carried and planning permission refused.

6. Public Question Time and Public Participation at Planning Committee

- 6.1 This paragraph explains how the public may ask questions of the Planning Committee and how applicants for planning permission and other persons who may be affected by a proposed development may speak to the Committee.
- 6.2 The agenda for each meeting is open for public inspection at the Civic Centre Entrance (Rochdale Road) and at Access Oldham (Cheapside Entrance) (when accessible) and on the Council's website from five working days preceding the meeting.

Public question time

- a) The Committee will consider questions relating to general planning issues and procedures but NOT about individual planning applications or enforcement matters.
- b) Questions must be submitted in writing to Constitutional Services no later than 12.00 noon, two days preceding the meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays).
- c) The Chair, or some other person at the request of the Chair, shall read out the question.
- d) A Member of the Committee may speak to any question, then the Chair of the Committee will give a verbal response to the question(s) at the meeting. The Chair's response will be confirmed in writing within five working days of the meeting.
- e) Questions regarding individual matters should be addressed to the Council's Planning Officers in the first instance.

Consideration of planning applications by the Planning Committee – public participation

6.3 The definitive lists of applications for consideration by the Committee will be completed five working days before the meeting. Please contact Constitutional Services to find out if your applications is on the list of applications to be considered. If it is listed, please advise the Constitutional Services Officer if you wish to speak stating whether you support or object to the proposal. Requests to speak must be received no later than 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting.

6.4 Procedure Notes to all Speakers:

- a) The number of speakers will be limited to two, namely an objector or a representative of the objectors, and the applicant or a representative of the applicant. A Ward Councillor may also speak on an application in their ward.
- b) It is important to inform Constitutional Services as soon as possible if you wish to speak to the Committee since only the first person to do so will normally be invited to speak.
- c) Speakers will be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes to state their case. This time period will be strictly enforced. Speakers should make comments only, and not ask questions of officers or Committee Members.
- d) Where there are a number of objectors, a representative should be nominated to speak, failing which the first person to have informed Constitutional Services of a wish to speak, will be invited to speak to the Committee.
- e) The public speaking procedure does not allow electronic video presentations or distribution of letters/statements/photographs, etc.to Members of the Planning Committee immediately before or during the meeting.
- f) Ward Members will be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes and should make comments only and not ask questions of officers or Committee Members.

7. Training for Planning Committee Members

7.1 All Members of the Planning Committee shall undertake training on the following matters, **on an annual basis**, before serving on the Committee:

- An Overview of the English Planning system
- The Determination of Planning Applications
- The role of Planning Committee and its members in determining planning applications
- Matters of Predisposition and Predetermination
- Planning Committee procedures

7.2 That annual training will be provided via an in-person training session following the agreement of the membership of Planning Committee at a council meeting and in advance of the first Planning Committee of the municipal year. The date of the training will be provided in the municipal calendar at the annual council meeting and members must ensure they are available to attend that mandatory training before they are proposed as a member of the committee.

7.3 Other voluntary training sessions may from time to time be arranged by Officers to ensure Members are fully briefed and trained on any changes to legislation or procedures, or on particular planning-related matters that officers consider would be beneficial for Committee members.

8. Lobbying, Predetermination and Bias

8.1 It is important that Members deciding planning applications should not put themselves in a position where they could be seen to have made their minds up on a particular planning issue before the Committee (predetermination). Lobbying is a normal and perfectly proper part of the political process, but how members of the Planning Committee respond to such lobbying in relation to a development proposal that is, or is likely to be, subject to a planning application must be considered carefully to avoid predetermination.

8.2 Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 states that prior indications of a view of a matter does not amount to predetermination in the following situations: “(2) A decision-maker is not to be taken to have had, or to have appeared to have had, a closed mind when making the decision just because- (a) the decision-maker had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision-maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter and (b) the matter was relevant to the decision.” This is the present position in law, so whilst Members are entitled to express a view in relation to an application, they should indicate they still have an open mind in relation to an application until they have had the opportunity to consider a Planning Committee report and heard all of the views on an application at Planning Committee, and that the final decision in relation to the application can only be made by Planning Committee.

8.3 Lobbying of Members for their support in relation to development applications is likely to come from applicants or their agents, or other interested third parties (e.g. landowners) looking for support for a proposed development and / or local residents or other third parties objecting to a proposed development

8.4 To avoid the appearance of bias and predetermination the following is recommended for Planning Committee members:

- a) Members should avoid expressing an opinion which may be taken as indicating that they have already made up their minds on an issue before they have the benefit of all the evidence and arguments. This may include comments made during debates in any other Council meetings or committees where future projects are being discussed.

- b) Members should never indicate the likely decision on an application by Committee or otherwise committing the Council .
 - c) Members should restrict themselves to giving procedural advice, including the Council's public consultation arrangements and how representations can be made.
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 - e) Where a Member receives written representations, documents or other information directly in relation to a planning application under consideration, or a prospective application, a copy of the correspondence, documents or information should be passed to the Planning Service in order that they can be included in the Committee Report. When this is not possible due to timescales, the Member should present the representations, documents and information at the Committee meeting.
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 - g) Members of the Planning Committee or other decision-making Committee should not organise support for, or opposition to, a planning application, adoption of a policy or any other planning related issue, or seek to lobby other Members or act as advocate.
- 8.5 Members should report instances of significant or persistent or inappropriate lobbying, particularly from an applicant or their agent, to the Monitoring Officer.
- 8.6 No Member of Council should state, or give the impression, that he/she is able to secure a particular outcome on a planning application.
- 8.7 A Member sitting on the Planning Committee who represents a ward affected by a planning proposal may be in a difficult position, particularly if it is a controversial application. If a Ward Member responds to lobbying by going public in support of a particular outcome it will be difficult for that Member to argue convincingly when Committee makes a decision that he/she has carefully weighed up all the evidence and arguments presented.
- 8.8 Whilst not amounting to an interest, that Member would have prejudiced their position in the decision-making process on that application.

- 8.9 Any Member of the Planning Committee who responds to lobbying by going public in support of a particular outcome on a planning application prior to a Committee meeting should make an open declaration at the meeting at which the application is considered and not vote on the issue. The Member may seek to address the meeting on the same basis as a non-committee member.
- 8.10 This could be seen as a restriction on the Councillor's wish, and duty, to represent the views of the electorate. The situation therefore underlines the advice earlier in this section, that Members should await the presentation of all the evidence at a Committee meeting before making a final decision.

9. Discussions/meetings between applicants, the Council and local communities

- 9.1 Discussions and meetings between potential applicants or their agents and the Council prior to the submission of an application, are encouraged and can be of considerable benefit to both parties. Typically, this is done through the pre- application advice service which the Council's Planning Service offers. Unless the applicant waives their right to confidentiality, these pre-application discussions with officers are held in confidence. This is because part of the purpose of such a service is to enable a prospective purchaser or developer to air ideas and possible proposals in a "safe space", before they settle on a preferred development option to include in a planning application. Keeping such discussions in confidence can be helpful, for example, where a developer has an option on acquiring land, or is in competition to acquire it and disclosure of proposals could prejudice a negotiating position. The role of the Planning Service in these discussions is, without prejudice to any decision of the Council, to explain and interpret the relevant policies which will apply to a proposal.
- 9.2 Through the pre-application advice process, officers may give an indication of the recommendation which is likely to be made on any subsequent application if the proposals are taken forward, particularly in the light of the provisions of the adopted Development Plan. It will always be made clear to the applicant that this does not bind the Council to making a particular decision, whether the decision on any subsequent planning application is to be made by Planning Committee or will be a delegated officer decision.
- 9.3 In many cases, and particularly major or complex proposals, developers will seek to share their proposals with the public and the Council before making a planning application. This allows developers to inform the public at the earliest opportunity and undertake meaningful community engagement and to inform and shape development to meet community aspirations and address policy requirements.
- 9.4 Early discussions with officers and, in appropriate circumstances, with relevant Members about significant future development proposals are therefore encouraged, provided that they do not become, or are seen to be part of the lobbying process. Guidance on these issues has been published by central government and the Local Government Association.

9.5 In order to avoid such problems, any meetings and discussions with potential applicants, or their agents, should take place within the guidelines set out below:

- a) It should always be made clear at the outset that the discussions will not bind the Council to making a particular decision and that any opinions expressed are provisions and are not those of the Council. Officers and Members should clearly explain at the outset their role.
- b) By the very nature of such discussions, not all relevant information will be to hand, and in the case of pre-application discussions, no formal consultations with interested parties will have taken place.
- c) Any advice made by officers should be impartial and based upon the Development Plan and material planning considerations.
- d) A written note should be made of any discussion/meeting and placed on the appropriate file. Where a developer prepares a note of the meeting, this should be checked for accuracy and retained on file, and the developer informed in writing of any material inaccuracies.
- e) A follow up note or letter should be sent following any potentially contentious meeting or a meeting involving a number of issues or where documentary material has been left with the Council.
- f) Care should be taken to ensure that advice is impartial, and seen to be, otherwise a subsequent report could appear to be promoting a particular view. No indication should be given at the pre application stage as to what recommendation will be made when the application is submitted.
- g) Under no circumstances should Members arrange to meet applicants/agents or third parties for the purposes of a site inspection.

9.6 Where councillors are involved in meetings with developers the following additional requirements will apply:

- a) Community engagement about a specific development proposal is often best undertaken by the prospective developer at the pre-application stage. This will generally be considered when a developer is certain of making an application and wishes to inform the community and canvass opinion about the proposals, so these may be taken into account in the submitted scheme. It is not normally the role of the Council or any councillor to organise this engagement. However, if a councillor did decide to organise such a pre application meeting, the developer should be invited as well as the public and the purpose should be clear that it is to obtain information and views from both sides. In certain cases, it would also be advisable to invite relevant consultees.

- b) Members who wish to engage in such preliminary discussions should notify the Planning Service in writing so that their involvement can be recorded on the relevant planning file.
- c) It is however important as community representatives, that Members should be able to participate and meaningfully contribute at this stage of the process, when developments are being formulated. Care will however need to be taken so that a participating councillor is not seen to have prejudged the proposal if they are intending to sit on the Planning Committee when the resulting application is submitted for determination. Any consultation process should be transparent and maintain the probity of the process. The role of a councillor who wishes to take part in any future Committee debate on the application is different from that of a community leader, in that it must be more passive and independent, due to the constraints of the planning process, and the need to maintain probity. This role is one of facilitation, of bringing the two sides together to exchange information and views. The councillor could even articulate the views of the community, without being prejudiced, providing it was made clear they did not necessarily hold those views and would only make a judgement as and when the application presented to Committee for consideration, along with all the accompanying Officer advice and information. If, however, the councillor takes a more active role in promoting or opposing a development, an interest must be declared.
- d) When councillors take an active role in preliminary discussions/community engagement exercises, it is recommended they provide a written note of this to the Planning Service, in order this is retained on the planning file. This should also be reported to Committee.
- e) Where a councillor sitting on the Planning Committee, which would determine any proposal once it is submitted, decides to participate in a community engagement exercise, and has expressed a particular viewpoint, which could be seen as prejudicial or having formed a view on the application, the councillor must declare the interest and leave the room whilst the application is determined, unless they decide to make representations to the Committee under the normal public speaking arrangements. This involvement should also be minuted.

9.7 The same rules apply to meetings and discussions once a planning application has been made.

Extract of the Executive Procedure Rules (Part 4 D) of the Constitution, Paragraph 3.5

3.5 If, for any reason:

- a) the Leader is unable to act or the office of Leader is vacant; and
- b) the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office of Deputy Leader is vacant, the Cabinet must act in the place of the Leader or arrange for a Cabinet Member to act in his/her place. For clarification, in the event that the office of Leader becomes vacant, a Leader will be appointed at a Council meeting as soon as possible.

3.6 In the event of there being no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet members, executive functions shall in the interim be carried out by the Chief Executive, subject to the Access to Information Rules.

Extract of Section 9C - Delegations to Specific Officers

Chief Executive

- 4. The Chief Executive is authorised to take any emergency decisions in respect of Council functions (in consultation, where appropriate, with the Mayor or the Chair of the relevant Committee) which cannot be delayed until the next meeting of the Council or the relevant Committee, as the case may be.
- 5. The Chief Executive is authorised to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions ~~(in consultation with the Leader of the Council or, in absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader of the Council)~~ which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet Meeting.

Appendix 1: Proposed changes applied

Extract of the Council Constitution Part 3 Responsibility for Functions

4.2. Planning Committee

- 4.2.1 The Planning Committee will undertake Council (or 'non-executive') functions as defined in Part A of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) where planning applications are referred to the committee in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026 ("the 2026 Regulations").
- 4.2.2 For the purposes of fulfilling the 2026 Regulations, the nominated officer will be the Assistant Director for Planning and Development or, in their absence, the Director of Growth. The nominated member will be the Chair of Planning Committee or, in their absence, the Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 4.2.3 In accordance with the 2026 Regulations, all planning applications would initially be delegated to officers for a decision.
- 4.2.4 As per Regulation 6, "own-interest" applications may be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision where the nominated officer and nominated member agree. An "own-interest" application is one where:
- a) the application is made (whether or not jointly with any other person) by or on behalf of:
 - i. the authority,
 - ii. a member of the authority, or
 - iii. an officer of the authority, or
 - b) in the view of the nominated member and the nominated officer, the authority or any of its members or officers otherwise has an interest in the application.
- 4.2.5 In line with Regulation 5, applications that fall within Schedule 2 may also be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision, but only where the nominated officer and nominated member both agree that:
- 1) the proposal raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations;
 - 2) the proposal raises one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
 - 3) the application has been made by the authority itself or an officer or member of the authority or an entity owned or controlled (whether wholly or partly) by that authority or any of its members or officers.
- 4.2.6 Where agreement cannot be reached by the nominated member and nominated officer, the application is to be determined by officers.

- 4.2.7 In accordance with Regulation 4, all applications that fall within Schedule 1 of the Regulations must be determined by an officer of the authority unless they are referred as an “own-interest” application under Regulation 6,
- 4.2.8 A record will be kept of the cases the nominated officer and nominated member have considered for referral to the Planning Committee, the outcome of their consideration and the reasons for their decision. This will be reported to the Planning Committee on a regular basis and made available on the council’s website.
- 4.2.9 Given the number of applications in the Oldham borough that fall within Schedule 2 and the number of officers employed by the council whose role has no connection to the local planning authority functions, the type of applications to be considered for referral will only include:
- a) Applications for minerals or waste development that fall within Schedule 2;
 - b) Applications involving the provision of:
 - i. 20 or more dwellings; or
 - ii. Residential development on a site area of 1 hectare or more;
 - c) Applications for the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1000 square metres or more;
 - d) Applications for retail, commercial, industrial or other development on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more;
 - e) Applications which require an environmental statement;
 - f) Applications that fall within Schedule 2 which are notifiable departures from the Council’s Development Plan;
 - g) Applications involving the Council either as applicant or land owner;
 - h) Applications (within Schedules 1 and 2) submitted by a Councillor, senior Council Officer (Officers on senior manager pay grade and above) or a member of staff employed within the Planning and Development service area, or by an immediate family member or partner of these persons;
 - i) Applications (that fall under Schedule 2) to remove or vary conditions where the relevant planning condition was agreed by the Planning Committee in addition to those recommended in the Officer’s report; and
 - j) Applications for Listed Building Consent where a connected planning application for the development concerned falls under categories (a) to (h) above.

On related matters, the following may also be considered by the Planning Committee:

- k) Consultations from adjoining local authorities, including the Peak District National Park Authority, which fall into the categories (a) to (f) above, where officers recommend that the Council should raise an objection is raised to the proposed development; and
- l) The nomination of a Member of the Planning Committee to represent the Council at any subsequent hearing or inquiry where the decision of the Committee was made contrary to Officer advice.

Extract of the Council Constitution Part 8 – Planning Committee Participation Protocols

Protocol for Planning Committee meetings

1. Referral procedure for planning applications to Planning Committee

- 1.1 In accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Discharge of Local Planning Authority Functions) (England) Regulations 2026, all planning applications would initially be delegated to officers for a decision. The same regulations allow some applications to be referred to the Planning Committee for a decision by agreement of a nominated officer and a nominated member in certain circumstances. Part 3, section 4.2 of the Council's Constitution establishes that the nominated officer will be the Assistant Director for Planning and Development or, in their absence, the Director of Growth. The nominated member will be the Chair of the Planning Committee or, in their absence, the Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 1.2 As planning applications are validated by the local planning authority, they appear on a weekly list which is distributed to all members and various other organisations and interested parties. Within the weekly list, applications that fall within the list (a) – (i) set out at Part 3, section 4.2 of the Constitution will be highlighted, and the nominated officer will contact the nominated member, making their recommendation as to whether the applications should be referred to the Planning Committee or not. The nominated officer and nominated member will discuss the merits of those highlighted applications and agree whether to refer the applications to the Planning Committee or not.
- 1.3 In accordance with the regulations, the referral of an application to committee must meet one of the following criteria:
 - 1) the proposal raises one or more significant planning matters having regard to the development plan and any other material considerations;
 - 2) the proposal raises one or more issues of economic, social or environmental significance to the local area; or
 - 3) the application has been made by the authority itself or an officer or member of the authority or an entity owned or controlled (whether wholly or partly) by that authority or any of its members or officers.
- 1.4 A record will be kept of the cases the nominated officer and nominated member have considered for referral to the Planning Committee, the outcome of their consideration and the reasons for their decision. This will be reported to the Planning Committee on a regular basis and made available on the council's website.

- 1.5 Under the 2026 Regulations, there is no longer an opportunity for Ward Councillors to request that a specific planning application be referred to Planning Committee. However, Ward Councillors may request to speak on an application that is referred to Planning Committee. They may only do so where the application is within their ward and should contact Constitutional Services once the application is on a published agenda for Planning Committee.

2. Procedure for considering planning applications at Planning Committee

- 2.1 The Committee agenda will include a report on each application which sets out all material considerations and the Officer's recommendation. Members of the Committee are, therefore, already aware of the relevant issues for any application at a Committee meeting.
- 2.2 The Planning Officer will introduce the report and a Supplementary Late Information List will report any matters that have arisen since the publication of the report, for example, the receipt of further letters or proposed new / amended conditions.
- 2.3 The Chair will invite the objector or a representative of the objectors (if any) to speak. Members may ask questions of the objector or representative of the objectors to clarify any points that have been made.
- 2.4 The Chair will invite the applicant or a representative of the applicant to speak in support of the application and on issues raised by objectors. Members may ask the applicant or a representative of the applicant to clarify the proposals or their response to the objections.
- 2.5 Ward Councillors not on the Committee may speak on applications affecting their Ward at a meeting of the Planning Committee. Members may ask questions of the Ward Councillors to clarify any comments they have made.
- 2.6 The Planning or other Officers (as appropriate) will be invited to comment on issues raised by the speakers.
- 2.7 The Committee will then debate the issues and may ask questions of the Planning and other Officers and make a decision on the application (see below).
- 2.8 On occasions, an application may be deferred by Committee without debate of the issues, for example because further information is awaited. In such cases, speakers will not be permitted to address the Committee until the application is debated at a future meeting. Speakers will be notified of the date of the meeting which will determine the application. If the Committee defers an application after hearing from a speaker or speakers, for example to carry out a site visit, no speaker, apart from Ward Members, will be allowed to address the Committee at a subsequent meeting considering the application unless the application has been materially altered. Speakers will be notified in writing of the determination of the application.

- 2.9 Members of the public are not allowed to take part in the debate and may not question Members, Officers or applicants whilst the Committee is determining the application. No documents, photos or other material may be circulated by the applicant, objector or Ward Member (as appropriate) at the Committee meeting.
- 2.10 Anyone registered to speak on an application arriving after the application has been dealt with will not be allowed to speak on that application.

3. Decisions by Planning Committee

3.1 Having regard to the fact that decisions on planning applications are made in the public arena, Members of Planning Committee should conduct their business in a fair and sensitive manner. The debate on a planning application should be confined to the planning merits, or otherwise, of a development proposal.

3.2 The following principles should be observed when planning applications are determined.

- i) a party whip should not be applied on a planning application ;
- ii) it is for Members as individuals to balance the proper planning considerations in order to reach their own judgement on a planning proposal on the basis of information before them;
- iii) it is wrong for a Member to vote on a planning application without coming to a properly balanced judgement on the basis of proper planning considerations.

3.3 The Council has a duty to process applications without undue delay. Applications should not be deferred as a delaying tactic or to put off making a decision because of the number of objectors at a meeting or because of uncertainty in the face of opposing parties being present at the meeting.

3.4 Decisions taken by Committee should be open and transparent in the sense that any fact or document which Committee takes into account in coming to a decision should be a matter of public record.

4. Consultation with Chair, Vice-Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of Planning Committee

4.1 There will be occasions when the Planning Committee has considered an application but is not able to issue a final decision because all statutory obligations have not been fulfilled. It is anticipated that referrals of this kind will be used infrequently.

4.2 In these cases, and at the Committee's discretion, the decision may be delegated to the Assistant Director for Planning, Transport & Housing Delivery in consultation with the Planning Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and main opposition spokesperson.

5. Planning Committee decision contrary to officer recommendation

- 5.1 In determining planning applications, Planning Committee is entitled to decide the weight to be attached to the various planning considerations relevant to the application. This could lead to a decision being taken contrary to the recommendation of the officers. In these circumstances, it is essential that the reasons for the decision are clear in the minds of the Committee members, and that they are valid and reasonable planning reasons.
- 5.2 Where the Committee is considering a motion to make a decision contrary to officer's recommendation (whether for approval or refusal), the reasons for the recommendation shall be made clear at the meeting prior to the Committee voting on the motion and a detailed minute will be made. The officer shall also be given the opportunity to explain any implications of the contrary decision before the vote is taken.
- 5.3 As part of any motion for refusal of a planning application against officer recommendation, a member of the Committee must be put forward to represent the Council at any subsequent appeal of the decision should the motion be carried and planning permission refused.

6. Public Question Time and Public Participation at Planning Committee

- 6.1 This paragraph explains how the public may ask questions of the Planning Committee and how applicants for planning permission and other persons who may be affected by a proposed development may speak to the Committee.
- 6.2 The agenda for each meeting is open for public inspection at the Civic Centre Entrance (Rochdale Road) and at Access Oldham (Cheapside Entrance) (when accessible) and on the Council's website from five working days preceding the meeting.

Public question time

- a) The Committee will consider questions relating to general planning issues and procedures but NOT about individual planning applications or enforcement matters.
- b) Questions must be submitted in writing to Constitutional Services no later than 12.00 noon, two days preceding the meeting (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays).
- c) The Chair, or some other person at the request of the Chair, shall read out the question.
- d) A Member of the Committee may speak to any question, then the Chair of the Committee will give a verbal response to the question(s) at the meeting. The Chair's response will be confirmed in writing within five working days of the meeting.
- e) Questions regarding individual matters should be addressed to the Council's Planning Officers in the first instance.

Consideration of planning applications by the Planning Committee – public participation

6.3 The definitive lists of applications for consideration by the Committee will be completed five working days before the meeting. Please contact Constitutional Services to find out if your applications is on the list of applications to be considered. If it is listed, please advise the Constitutional Services Officer if you wish to speak stating whether you support or object to the proposal. Requests to speak must be received no later than 12:00 noon on the day of the meeting.

6.4 Procedure Notes to all Speakers:

- a) The number of speakers will be limited to two, namely an objector or a representative of the objectors, and the applicant or a representative of the applicant. A Ward Councillor may also speak on an application in their ward.
- b) It is important to inform Constitutional Services as soon as possible if you wish to speak to the Committee since only the first person to do so will normally be invited to speak.
- c) Speakers will be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes to state their case. This time period will be strictly enforced. Speakers should make comments only, and not ask questions of officers or Committee Members.
- d) Where there are a number of objectors, a representative should be nominated to speak, failing which the first person to have informed Constitutional Services of a wish to speak, will be invited to speak to the Committee.
- e) The public speaking procedure does not allow electronic video presentations or distribution of letters/statements/photographs, etc.to Members of the Planning Committee immediately before or during the meeting.
- f) Ward Members will be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes and should make comments only and not ask questions of officers or Committee Members.

7. Training for Planning Committee Members

7.1 All Members of the Planning Committee shall undertake training on the following matters, on an annual basis before serving on the Committee:

- An Overview of the English Planning system
- The Determination of Planning Applications
- The role of Planning Committee and its members in determining planning applications
- Matters of Predisposition and Predetermination
- Planning Committee procedures

- 7.2 That annual training will be provided via an in-person training session following the agreement of the membership of Planning Committee at a council meeting and in advance of the first Planning Committee of the municipal year. The date of the training will be provided in the municipal calendar at the annual council meeting and members must ensure they are available to attend that mandatory training before they are proposed as a member of the committee.
- 7.3 Other voluntary training sessions may from time to time be arranged by Officers to ensure Members are fully briefed and trained on any changes to legislation or procedures, or on particular planning-related matters that officers consider would be beneficial for Committee members.

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- 8.1 It is important that Members deciding planning applications should not put themselves in a position where they could be seen to have made their minds up on a particular planning issue before the Committee (predetermination). Lobbying is a normal and perfectly proper part of the political process, but how members of the Planning Committee respond to such lobbying in relation to a development proposal that is, or is likely to be, subject to a planning application must be considered carefully to avoid predetermination.
- 8.2 Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 states that prior indications of a view of a matter does not amount to predetermination in the following situations: “(2) A decision-maker is not to be taken to have had, or to have appeared to have had, a closed mind when making the decision just because- (a) the decision-maker had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view the decision-maker took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter and (b) the matter was relevant to the decision.” This is the present position in law, so whilst Members are entitled to express a view in relation to an application, they should indicate they still have an open mind in relation to an application until they have had the opportunity to consider a Planning Committee report and heard all of the views on an application at Planning Committee, and that the final decision in relation to the application can only be made by Planning Committee.
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9.2 Through the pre-application advice process, officers may give an indication of the recommendation which is likely to be made on any subsequent application if the proposals are taken forward, particularly in the light of the provisions of the adopted Development Plan. It will always be made clear to the applicant that this does not bind the Council to making a particular decision, whether the decision on any subsequent planning application is to be made by Planning Committee or will be a delegated officer decision.

9.3 In many cases, and particularly major or complex proposals, developers will seek to share their proposals with the public and the Council before making a planning application. This allows developers to inform the public at the earliest opportunity and undertake meaningful community engagement and to inform and shape development to meet community aspirations and address policy requirements.

9.4 Early discussions with officers and, in appropriate circumstances, with relevant Members about significant future development proposals are therefore encouraged, provided that they do not become, or are seen to be part of the lobbying process. Guidance on these issues has been published by central government and the Local Government Association.

9.5 In order to avoid such problems, any meetings and discussions with potential applicants, or their agents, should take place within the guidelines set out below:

- a) It should always be made clear at the outset that the discussions will not bind the Council to making a particular decision and that any opinions expressed are provisions and are not those of the Council. Officers and Members should clearly explain at the outset their role.
- b) By the very nature of such discussions, not all relevant information will be to hand, and in the case of pre-application discussions, no formal consultations with interested parties will have taken place.
- c) Any advice made by officers should be impartial and based upon the Development Plan and material planning considerations.
- d) A written note should be made of any discussion/meeting and placed on the appropriate file. Where a developer prepares a note of the meeting, this should be checked for accuracy and retained on file, and the developer informed in writing of any material inaccuracies.
- e) A follow up note or letter should be sent following any potentially contentious meeting or a meeting involving a number of issues or where documentary material has been left with the Council.
- f) Care should be taken to ensure that advice is impartial, and seen to be, otherwise a subsequent report could appear to be promoting a particular view. No indication should be given at the pre application stage as to what recommendation will be made when the application is submitted.
- g) Under no circumstances should Members arrange to meet applicants/agents or third parties for the purposes of a site inspection.

9.6 Where councillors are involved in meetings with developers the following additional requirements will apply:

- a) Community engagement about a specific development proposal is often best undertaken by the prospective developer at the pre-application stage. This will generally be considered when a developer is certain of making an application and wishes to inform the community and canvass opinion about the proposals, so these may be taken into account in the submitted scheme. It is not normally the role of the Council or any councillor to organise this engagement. However, if a councillor did decide to organise such a pre application meeting, the developer should be invited as well as the public and the purpose should be clear that it is to obtain information and views from both sides. In certain cases, it would also be advisable to invite relevant consultees.

- b) Members who wish to engage in such preliminary discussions should notify the Planning Service in writing so that their involvement can be recorded on the relevant planning file.
- c) It is however important as community representatives, that Members should be able to participate and meaningfully contribute at this stage of the process, when developments are being formulated. Care will however need to be taken so that a participating councillor is not seen to have prejudged the proposal if they are intending to sit on the Planning Committee when the resulting application is submitted for determination. Any consultation process should be transparent and maintain the probity of the process. The role of a councillor who wishes to take part in any future Committee debate on the application is different from that of a community leader, in that it must be more passive and independent, due to the constraints of the planning process, and the need to maintain probity. This role is one of facilitation, of bringing the two sides together to exchange information and views. The councillor could even articulate the views of the community, without being prejudiced, providing it was made clear they did not necessarily hold those views and would only make a judgement as and when the application presented to Committee for consideration, along with all the accompanying Officer advice and information. If, however, the councillor takes a more active role in promoting or opposing a development, an interest must be declared.
- d) When councillors take an active role in preliminary discussions/community engagement exercises, it is recommended they provide a written note of this to the Planning Service, in order this is retained on the planning file. This should also be reported to Committee.
- e) Where a councillor sitting on the Planning Committee, which would determine any proposal once it is submitted, decides to participate in a community engagement exercise, and has expressed a particular viewpoint, which could be seen as prejudicial or having formed a view on the application, the councillor must declare the interest and leave the room whilst the application is determined, unless they decide to make representations to the Committee under the normal public speaking arrangements. This involvement should also be minuted.

9.7 The same rules apply to meetings and discussions once a planning application has been made.

Extract of the Executive Procedure Rules (Part 4 D) of the Constitution, Paragraph 3.5

3.5 If, for any reason:

- a) the Leader is unable to act or the office of Leader is vacant; and
- b) the Deputy Leader is unable to act or the office of Deputy Leader is vacant, the Cabinet must act in the place of the Leader or arrange for a Cabinet Member to act in his/her place. For clarification, in the event that the office of Leader becomes vacant, a Leader will be appointed at a Council meeting as soon as possible.

3.6 In the event of there being no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet members, executive functions shall in the interim be carried out by the Chief Executive, subject to the Access to Information Rules.

Extract of Section 9C - Delegations to Specific Officers

Chief Executive

- 4. The Chief Executive is authorised to take any emergency decisions in respect of Council functions (in consultation, where appropriate, with the Mayor or the Chair of the relevant Committee) which cannot be delayed until the next meeting of the Council or the relevant Committee, as the case may be.
- 5. The Chief Executive is authorised to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet Meeting.



Report to Council

Interim Governance Mitigations

Officer Contact: Chief Executive

Report Author: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Email: heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk

16 September 2026

Reason for Decision

The interim governance mitigations will support the effective running of council services and decision making. They will, as far as reasonably practicable, aim to align with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000.

Recommendations

That the Council:

1. Continues its efforts to secure the appointment of a Leader, and notes that this will be a standing item on council agendas until a Leader is elected.
2. Endorses the temporary governance mitigations that were put in place following the annual meeting of the Council.
3. Approves the temporary proposals in the report which shall remain in force until the election of a Leader and appointment of a Cabinet, or until otherwise determined by Council.
4. Endorses the approach to managing the known risks to date arising from the absence of a Leader and the formation of a Cabinet, and that the Audit Committee be requested to consider the risk register.
5. Approves the interim governance mitigation framework set out in this report in relation to executive decision making, which aim to align as far as reasonably practicable with the requirements set out in the Local Government Act 2000.
6. Approves the arrangements for establishing Chairs of Committees during this interim period, as set out in the report, and delegates the appointments to the Chief Executive in consultation with the relevant Group Leader.

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7. Notes that all political group leaders will serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board, alongside the appointed chair, so that the Board can meet and fulfil its duties.
 8. Approves the creation of the interim Lead Member and Deputy Lead Member roles from political groups to provide visible political leadership for each of the Directorates working to the role descriptions set out in Appendix B.
 9. Endorses the proposed approach for appointing the four Interim Lead Members and Deputy Lead Members. Appointments will be offered in order of political group size, beginning with the Leader of the largest political group and progressing to the Leader of the smallest group. If any positions remain unfilled, the opportunity will then pass to Deputy Group Leaders in the same order until all roles have been allocated.
 10. Notes that the interim Lead Member roles are advisory and representative only, and do not constitute an Executive, nor can they exercise executive functions or direct officers. All executive decisions are being discharged through officers, in the best alignment with the constitution available in the absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet.

Directorate	Lead Member	Deputy Lead Member
Resources	Liberal Democrat	Liberal Democrat
Place	Labour	Labour
Children and Young People	Reform UK	Reform UK
Health and Adult Care	Oldham Group	Oldham Group

11. Approves that the interim Lead Member for Children and Young People assumes the statutory role as far as practicable for children's services, noting that the appointment will not fulfil the entire statutory requirements set out in the Children Act 2004 and related statutory guidance, as the role has no executive decision making powers.
12. Endorses that, subject to the approval of the constitutional changes detailed in the separate report to the Council, the Chief Executive will assume temporary responsibility for executive decision making regarding children and young people to mitigate as far as possible the statutory requirements in Section 19 of the Children Act 2004.
13. Approves the interim arrangements for dealing with petitions in the absence of District Leads, to include liaison with relevant Ward Councillors, or where the matter does not relate to a Ward, liaison with the political group leaders.

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14. Notes the decisions taken by the Chief Executive to date under the provisions of the emergency powers, which have been made following consultation with political group leaders, as set out in Appendix A.
 15. Approves the interim arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny, including the pre-decision scrutiny role of the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board.
 16. Approves the appointments to outside bodies as set out in Appendix C. Where there are more nominations for the positions available, the Council will use the Voting on Appointments Procedure in the Constitution to agree the representation.
 17. Delegates authority to the Chief Executive, following consultation with Political Group Leaders, to make any consequential amendments to or appointments to outside bodies that may be required after the Council meeting and for the remainder of the municipal year.
 18. Approves the revised municipal calendar attached at Appendix D and delegates subsequent additions or revisions to the Chief Executive in consultation with the political group leaders for the remainder of the municipal year.
 19. Notes the communications between the Council and the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government following the extraordinary Council meeting on 20 August, as set out in Appendix E.

Interim Governance Mitigations

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council remains under a statutory duty to operate executive arrangements. All the executive functions of the Council are, by virtue of section 9E(2) of the Local Government Act 2000, should be vested in the Executive Leader who determines the allocation and discharge of executive functions. All executive decisions are currently being discharged through officers, in the best alignment with the constitution available in the absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet.
- 1.2 The Local Government Act 2000 states where the office of the Leader is vacant, the Deputy Leader can act in their place, and if the Deputy Leader is unable to act, the Executive (called the Cabinet in Oldham) or a member of the Executive can act in the Leader's place. The absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet means the Council cannot operate in the manner envisaged by the Act.
- 1.3 Although the Council is continuing to perform its functions and duties without a Leader and Cabinet, there is an operational risk that without executive arrangements being in place, the day-to-day functions of the Council will begin to be compromised, resulting in a potential breach of substantive duties in service provision.
- 1.4 The absence of an Executive Leader does not prevent officers from exercising powers that have been lawfully delegated to them under the Constitution, nor does it prevent statutory officers from carrying out their respective duties. Delegations have been exercised having regard to external legal advice and have enabled the Council to continue to discharge its statutory functions and responsibilities without interruption.
- 1.5 This reports sets out a series of mitigation measures proposed by officers, following external legal advice and discussions with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

2 Current Position

2.1 Governance Mitigations Already in Place

- 2.1.1 The Council has three levels of executive decision making:
 - **Key decisions** are those where expenditure or savings are above £250,000 or significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in two or more wards in Oldham. These would generally be taken by the Cabinet as a whole.
 - **Principal decisions** are those where expenditure or savings are over £100,000, or in the opinion of the Director of such significance that a record of the decision would ensure transparency and accountability. These are generally taken by a Cabinet Member in consultation with an Executive Director/Director.

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- **Administrative decisions** which incur expenditure up to £100,000 and must be within an approved budget and not in conflict with the Council's Budget and Policy Framework or other approved policies and must not raise new issues of policy. These are generally taken by officers in line with Directorate Schemes of Delegation which set out the levels of officers and who can take administrative decisions.

2.1.2 The constitution authorises the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions (which generally fall into either the key decisions or principal decisions criteria) in consultation with the Leader of the Council or, in absence of the Leader, the Deputy Leader of the Council, which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet Meeting. In the absence of a Council Leader, Deputy and Cabinet these powers have been exercised to ensure the effective and continued running of council services, which would otherwise have stopped, resulting in the potential detrimental impact on residents and on the Council.

2.1.3 Executive decisions have been taken following consultation through a fortnightly cross-party consultative group of all political group leaders and deputy leaders. The focus during the absence of a Leader has been to ensure continuity of essential services, with only the necessary decisions being taken to:

- Maintain service delivery;
- Protect vulnerable residents;
- Meet statutory obligations;
- Ensure financial stability;
- Maintain regulatory compliance; and
- Fulfil legal or contractual obligations.

2.1.4 A list of decisions that have been taken following consultation with political group leaders is set out in Appendix A.

2.1.5 There has been statutory officer oversight of all key and principal decisions, which have been subject to enhanced legal and finance review by the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer, or their deputies, and an emergency powers governance framework was established requiring all officers to set out the reasons why decisions could not be delayed, pending the election of a Leader.

2.1.6 A separate report is presented to the Council to propose updates to the Constitution, to provide clarity on the Chief Executive's delegated powers related to executive and non-executive emergency powers.

2.2 Risk Register

2.2.1 A dedicated risk register has been developed, which sets out the known risks to date arising from the absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet, which will be reported to the Audit Committee for their oversight. This describes the risks and mitigations which have been put in place to ensure that service delivery and decision making has continued pending the election of a Leader.

2.3 Executive Decision making

- 2.3.1 Until a Leader is appointed, it is proposed to continue the temporary fortnightly cross-party consultative meetings involving all political group leaders and deputy leaders prior to principal or key decisions being taken by the Chief Executive. However, such consultation shall not fetter the Chief Executive's ability to act urgently where necessary, and leaders will be updated as soon as possible on any action taken.

To support both consultation and engagement, the fortnightly sessions will alternate between:

- **Decision-focused meetings**, at which group leaders will be consulted on proposed principal and key decisions before they are taken; and
- **Briefing meetings**, at which group leaders will receive updates on emerging risks, organisational performance, budget briefings, strategic matters and other issues affecting the Council and the borough. These meetings will also be used as the Constitutional Working Group, as largely the membership is the same. Proposed amendments to the Constitution will thereafter be submitted to the full Council.

- 2.3.2 This approach will provide regular opportunities for both pre-decision consultation and wider discussion of issues affecting the authority and its communities.
- 2.3.3 Should any key or principal decision being considered at the Group Leaders' consultative meeting not have majority member support, based on the proportion of seats held by each Group on the Council, then the decision may be referred to the full Council for consideration prior to the Chief Executive making any final executive decision.
- 2.3.4 It is proposed to change the reporting structure to include a general summary of views from political leaders within the report to provide an overview of the political engagement prior to any decision being made.
- 2.3.5 After executive decisions have been taken, these will continue to be published on the Council's website. A regular communication will be issued to all Councillors informing them of the decisions that have been made, and relevant call-in provisions can be exercised where appropriate.
- 2.3.6 The Council is often required to respond to statutory and other consultations, and these would generally have Portfolio Holder oversight. In the interim, it is proposed that officer responses be prepared and that these be submitted to the Leaders' consultative sessions for information and oversight.
- 2.3.7 In relation to Cabinet Sub-Committees and other executive bodies, there are three established boards which meet on an adhoc basis, namely Community Asset Transfer Cabinet Sub-Committee, Shareholder Committee and the Integrated Care Partnership Committee. In the absence of a Leader and Cabinet, it is proposed that executive decisions would be taken by the Chief Executive following consultation through the Group Leaders' consultative meetings.
- 2.3.8 It is further proposed to utilise the Leaders' consultative meetings to consider the following matters prior to the Chief Executive making any decision under executive provisions. These are functions which would have been delegated to individual Cabinet Members in consultation with senior officers.

- Virements and specifically those associated with a significant change in the level of service from that set out in the relevant service plan; those in an approved budget head by a transfer from another approved budget head in excess of £100,000; the transfer of resources within a service budget on any one activity in excess of 5% or £50,000, whichever is the smaller; and an increase in an approved Department budget by a transfer from another approved Department budget where both budget heads are cash limited and the variation exceeds £25,000.
- Insurance cover, following advisement from the Director of Finance.
- Write-off of individual debts deemed irrecoverable prior to the draft annual accounts being submitted to the Audit Committee

2.4 Committees

- 2.4.1 It is proposed that chairs of Committees be allocated on a proportional basis as detailed below:

Chair roles available	Labour	Reform UK	Oldham Group	Liberal Democrats	Conservatives	Royton Independents
15	4.80	4.26	2.66	1.60	1.06	0.53
Rounded:	5	4	3	1	1	1

The proposed allocations reflect, as closely as practicable, the political composition of the Council whilst ensuring the effective operation of regulatory and scrutiny functions.

- 2.4.2 It is particularly important for the Council to have a Chair of the Planning Committee in light of new planning legislation coming into force on 31 October 2026, as subject to approval of the separate report presented to Council at this meeting, the nominated planning officer will consult with the Chair of the Planning Committee regarding certain applications to be referred to the committee.
- 2.4.3 The proposal below provides for the two largest groups to each chair a regulatory committee and two scrutiny boards.

Committee / Board	Allowance payable	Proposal for chair / vice chair
Licensing Committee	Yes	Reform UK
Planning Committee	Yes	Labour
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	Yes	Reform UK
Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	Yes	Labour
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	Yes	Reform UK

Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	Yes	Conservative
Health and Wellbeing Board	Yes	Oldham Group
Standards Committee	Yes	Liberal Democrat
Highway Regulation Committee	No	Labour
Commons Registration Panel	No	Royton Independents
Charitable Trust Committee	No	Oldham Group
Corporate Parenting Panel	No	Labour
Appeals Committee	No	Labour
Appointments Committee	No	Reform UK
Employment Committee / Local Negotiating Joint Consultative Committee	No	Oldham Group

2.4.4 The Licensing Committee is responsible for appointing members to its sub-committees, including the appointment of the Chair of the Licensing Driver Panel. As the Committee does not meet again until 20 October, it is proposed that, until that date, the Chair of the Licensing Driver Panel is selected at each meeting from among the seven members appointed to serve on the Panel. The three-member Licensing Panels will continue to be appointed in the usual way for each meeting.

2.4.5 For councils operating executive arrangements, the Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires the Council Leader to either serve on the Health and Wellbeing Board or nominate one or more members of the executive to do so. In the absence of a Council Leader who is able to make such nominations, it is proposed, as an interim measure, that all Political Group Leaders are appointed to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will ensure that the Board remains quorate, can continue to meet, and is able to discharge its statutory functions pending the election of a Leader or the making of future nominations.

2.5 Interim Lead Member Roles

2.5.1 To provide democratic accountability and visible political leadership, it is proposed that Group Leaders of the four largest groups be aligned to each of the four directorates as an interim mitigation to ensure political oversight of council services, and for practical reasons, such as presenting reports at the full Council meeting. These appointments would not exercise executive decision-making powers, but would seek as far as possible to align with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2000 and Children Act 2004. Executive powers would remain vested in the Chief Executive through the interim arrangements in the absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader and the Cabinet.

2.5.2 It is proposed that the Leader of the largest group selects their role and so on, for the following directorates:

Directorate	Lead Member and Deputy
Resources	Liberal Democrats
Place	Labour
Children and Young People	Reform UK
Health and Adult Care	Oldham Group

2.5.3 The interim Lead Member roles are only mitigations for the absence of an Executive. They do not constitute an Executive, do not exercise executive functions and may not direct officers. All executive decisions are being discharged through officers, in the best alignment with the constitution available in the absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader or Executive.

2.5.4 The Lead Member role would provide:

- Presentation of reports to Council.
- Political advocacy.
- Service oversight.
- Visibility and statutory duties during inspections.

Role descriptions are set out in Appendix B.

2.5.5 It is proposed that Deputy Group Leaders serve as Deputy Lead Members for their respective Group Leaders' directorate during this interim period, purely from a practical and logistical perspective.

2.5.6 Lead Members and deputies would be briefed on key issues within the relevant directorate, and these briefings would be open to other political leaders and deputies

to attend, with reports back on key issues to the leaders' consultative meetings for wider political oversight.

2.6 District Leads

- 2.6.1 The Council has five District Leads as detailed in Article 11 in the Constitution. When petitions are received (excluding statutory petitions such as planning), the Council's Petitions Protocol requires a District Lead to convene a meeting within 21 calendar days of receipt, inviting the ward members and officers. Since May, in the absence of District Leads, Ward Members have been consulted on petitions within their Wards.

The following petitions have been received since the annual meeting in May 2026. A separate report to Council details those petitions that have reached over 50 valid signatures, and of those detailed below with the exception of 2006-08, the threshold has not been met.

The following petitions have been received since the annual meeting in May 2026:

Petition Ref. No.	Petition Title	Date Received
2026-06	Request to Review and Amend the St Luke's Primary School Experimental Traffic Order	16/07/26
2026-07	Petition for Resident Parking and Traffic Calming Measures - Hadfield Street	08/07/26
2026-08	Petition - Hollow Meadow Close - Royton	22/07/26
2026-09	Toilets in Tandle Hill Park	30/07/26
2026-10	Parking Permit for Residents - Beaufont Drive	16/08/26

- 2.6.2 All relevant petitions will remain subject to a report to the full Council in line with the Constitution. However, during this interim period, it is proposed that Council does not appoint to District Leads, and that petitions continue to be discussed with the relevant ward members, or where a matter does not fall within a ward, then the petition will be reported to the Leaders' consultative session.

2.7 Full Council meetings

- 2.7.1 The Council Procedure Rules in the Constitution specify three roles for the Leader and Cabinet Members during the full Council meeting. These include answering public questions, submitting a report on the work in their portfolio and receiving and answering questions from non-executive members.

- 2.7.2 In relation to public questions, it is proposed that the Mayor will continue the current practice of reading out the question in full. At the start of public questions, the Mayor will make a statement to explain that questions will be read out in the available time at the meeting, but in the absence of a Leader and Cabinet, written responses from

officers will be provided, and these will be published on the Council's website. This will ensure that members have oversight of the topics of interest to residents.

2.7.3 In relation to questions from elected members to the Leader and Cabinet, in the absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet, it is proposed that during this interim period, this item of business will not routinely be included on the council agenda but this arrangement will immediately revert on the election of a Leader.

2.7.4 In relation to Notices of Motions, the Constitution provides for 30 minutes for administration motions and 30 minutes for opposition motions. In the absence of an administration and opposition, an interim measure is to combine the timings to include a single agenda item for one hour to consider Notices of Motion. These will be dealt with in the order of the largest group first, to the smallest group. It is proposed that each political group or independent member can submit one motion per council meeting where applicable. Timings will generally be apportioned equally, based on the number of motions received. However, timings may be varied if there is agreement from the majority of group leaders in the pre-council briefing.

2.8 Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements

2.8.1 Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 states that executive arrangements must include provision for the appointment of one or more overview and scrutiny committees. It further requires those committees to have powers to scrutinise executive decisions, review policy, and make recommendations to the executive and the council.

2.8.2 A further governance mitigation is to establish pre-decision scrutiny for principal and key decisions, through the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board. The Board's recommendations will be submitted to the Leaders' consultative session so that the Chief Executive can give due consideration to these prior to decisions being made. However, such scrutiny shall not fetter the Chief Executive's ability to act urgently where necessary, and scrutiny will be updated as soon as possible on any action taken. The Scrutiny Board will meet monthly and will hold the following responsibilities:

- Review reports before consideration at the Leaders' consultative sessions.
- Examine and make recommendations related to principal decisions.
- Examine and make recommendations related to key decisions.
- Review governance matters.
- Review financial matters.
- Consider valid call-in requests and make recommendations to the Chief Executive who will consult political group leaders prior to any decision.
- Scrutinise corporate performance of the Council and for the Resources Directorate.

2.8.3 The other Scrutiny Boards, namely Place, Children and Young People and Health and Adult Social Care will continue to consider the following to provide an additional layer of assurance and challenge.

- Service performance.
- Improvement plans.
- Inspection preparation.
- Directorate business, with each scrutiny board prioritising their topics and determining whether these need to be Task and Finish Groups, or Board business.

2.8.4 In the event that any recommendation of an Overview and Scrutiny Board is not supported by the Leaders at the consultative meeting, the matter may be referred to the full Council for consideration. The decision would be made by the Chief Executive following consultation with the full Council in the absence of the Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet.

2.8.5 It is proposed that Lead Members and their deputies are excluded from the membership of Overview and Scrutiny.

2.9 Outside Body Appointments

2.9.1 The Council appoints to a number of outside bodies. Whilst some of these have been filled (highlighted in red in Appendix C), it is important that the Council fills the remaining vacancies, as set out in Appendix C.

2.9.2 It is proposed that the appointments to the vacant roles on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) are filled on a proportional basis as detailed below and that substitutes are from the respective substantive representatives. ***As agreed in the meeting, I have included some suggestions, and negotiations can be made amongst Leaders in line with the political proportionality calculations.***

Number of GMCA positions available	Labour (L)	Reform UK (RUK)	Oldham Group (OG)	Liberal Democrats (LD)	Conservatives (C)	Royton Independents (RI)
16	4.8	4.3	2.7	1.6	1.1	0.53
Rounded	5	4	3	2	1	1

Body	Requirement	Allowance payable	Proposal
GMCA	X1 X1 substitute (ideally gender balance)	Yes	Labour

Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Joint Committee	X1 X1 substitute Should be the GMCA representatives as this meets at the rise of GMCA	No	Labour
Bee Network Committee (Joint Committee)	X1 X1 substitute cannot be on GMCA Scrutiny	Yes	Reform UK
Overview and Scrutiny GMCA specified a Labour nomination is required for GM political balance	X1 member X1 substitute Cannot be on GMCA or Bee Network	Yes	Labour
Waste GMCA specified a Labour nomination is required for GM political balance	X1 members X1 substitutes	No	Labour
Police Crime and Fire Panel (Joint committee) including Police and Crime Steering Group	X1 X1 substitute	No	Reform UK
Integrated Care Partnership Board (Joint Committee)	X1 X1 substitute Ideally GMCA member and their sub	No	Labour
Joint Health Scrutiny (Joint Committee)	X1 X1 substitute	No	Oldham Group
Air Quality Administration Committee (Joint committee)	X1 X1 substitute Cannot be on Air Quality Scrutiny	No	Reform UK

Air Quality Scrutiny Committee (Joint Committee)	X1 X1 substitute Cannot be on Air quality committee	No	Royton Independents
Housing First, Planning & Infrastructure	X1	No	Liberal Democrats
Culture	X1 X1 substitute	No	Oldham Group
Green City Region	X1	No	Oldham Group
GM Pension Fund Management Panel	X1	Yes	Reform UK
Children's Board	X1	No	Liberal Democrats
Statutory Functions Committee	X1 X1 substitute Ideally culture member	No	Conservatives

2.9.4 Where there are more nominations for the positions available, the Council Procedure Rule on Voting on Appointments will be utilised.

2.9.5 Any vacancy or change arising between Council meetings may be filled by the Chief Executive following consultation with Group Leaders.

2.10 **Members' Allowances**

2.10.1 A separate report of the Independent Remuneration Panel is presented to Council for consideration.

3. **Civic Leadership**

3.1 In the event of a significant emergency, major incident or civil contingency, there may be a need for a senior elected member to act as the public and civic face of the Council, providing reassurance and representation to residents. Under normal circumstances, this role would ordinarily be undertaken by the Leader, Deputy Leader or an appropriate Cabinet Member.

3.2 Where no Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet Member is in office or available to fulfil this function, it is proposed that the Mayor, as the Council's First Citizen and principal civic representative, undertake this ambassadorial and community leadership role. It is proposed that the Chief Executive would fulfil the role of

engaging with the media and partners and representing the Council at public events associated with the incident.

- 3.3 The Chief Executive would retain responsibility for the operational management of the Council's response, coordination with emergency services and partner organisations, and the exercise of any powers required to manage the incident, and would consult/inform political group leaders. This arrangement would provide clear civic leadership and public reassurance whilst maintaining the distinction between the Mayor's representative role and the Chief Executive's responsibility for directing the Council's operational response.

4 Municipal meetings calendar – council dates

- 4.1 A new calendar for the remaining municipal year is attached at Appendix D. This includes monthly meetings of the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board and revised dates for quarterly scrutiny boards.

5 Alternatives

- 6.1 The Council has obtained and considered legal advice in relation to the governance arrangements operating during the vacancy in the office of Leader. The proposed arrangements are considered an appropriate mitigation to reduce governance, operational and statutory compliance risks pending restoration of normal executive arrangements.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 Political Group Leaders have been consulted on the interim governance mitigations.
- 6.2 Regular discussions will continue to take place with the Government in respect of the mitigating governance arrangements.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 The proposals seek to maintain continuity of governance and decision making and do not of themselves create significant additional financial commitments. Any costs associated with Lead Member allowances will be considered separately through the Independent Remuneration Panel report.

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Council remains under a statutory duty to operate executive arrangements under the Local Government Act 2000. The absence of a Leader, Deputy Leader and Cabinet represents an unprecedented constitutional position. The arrangements proposed in this report are intended to support continuity of governance, maintain lawful decision making through existing officer delegations and provide enhanced democratic oversight pending the election of a Leader and formation of an Executive. The proposals do not create an Executive or transfer executive functions to members. Alex Bougatef –Director of Legal Services.

9 **Procurement Implications**

9.1 None.

10 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

10.1 No.

11 **Key Decision**

11.1 No.

12 **Key Decision Reference**

12.1 N/A

13 **Background Papers**

13.1 Oldham Council Constitution.

14 **Appendices**

14.1 Appendix A: Decisions taken under emergency powers following consultation with political group leaders.

Appendix B: Lead Member role descriptions.

Appendix C: Appointments to outside bodies.

Appendix D: Municipal Calendar

Appendix E: Letter to the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

Appendix A: List of Key and Principal Decisions taken under the Chief Executive's Emergency Powers following consultation with Political Group Leaders

Date	Report Title	Decision Type
22/06/2026	Care at Home - Contract Extension	Key
22/06/2026	Transport Capital Programme 2026/27	Key
22/06/2026	Carriageway Road Markings Framework	Key
22/06/2026	Carriageway Resurfacing Framework	Key
22/06/2026	Carriageway Preventative Maintenance Framework	Key
22/06/2026	Appointment of Contractor for the Heating System Replacement at Beever Primary School	Key
22/06/2026	Revenues and Benefits MRI Contract	Key
22/06/2026	Hybrid Mail Contract	Key
13/07/2026	A Bed Every Night Phase 6 and Rough Sleeping Outreach and Navigator Procurement	Key
13/07/2026	Oldham Coliseum	Key
13/07/2026	Approval of Grant Funding Agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority	Key
13/07/2026	Afghan Resettlement Programmes	Key
13/07/2026	Oldham Live Well Implementation	Key
13/07/2026	Proposal for the use of Section 31 grant funding to support stop smoking services	Key
13/07/2026	Digital Switchover - Upgrade of Council Funded PSTN Lines	Key
13/07/2026	Emergency Accommodation Reduction Programme (EARP)	Key
13/07/2026	Northern Roots Capital Grant	Principal
13/07/2026	Capital Funding for Accessible Boardwalk and Waymarked Walking Routes	Principal
31/07/2026	Breastfeeding Service Contract Modification	Principal
31/07/2026	ICEs Contract Award	Key
31/07/2026	SEND Reform Fund and Programme	Key
31/07/2026	King Street Bridges Funding	Key
31/07/2026	Acceptance of additional grant funding from DESNZ / GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator and further modification of Buro Happold contract	Principal
31/07/2026	Oldham Total Care Fees	Key
31/07/2026	Contract Novation Elizabeth House	Principal
31/07/2026	MEGA Hubs Digital Skills Project	Key
24/08/2026	Emergency Out of Hours (Housing Options) Contract - Procurement	Key
24/08/2026	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2026/27 Quarter 1 – June 2026	Key

24/08/2026	Approval to utilise a joint contract with Bury Council for the Supply & Delivery of Cleaning Chemicals and Materials	Key
24/08/2026	Contract award for Winter gritters	Key
24/08/2026	Parenting Support Evidence-Based Interventions to Support Best Start in Life	Principal
24/08/2026	Foster Carer Skills and Allowances - Annual uplift	Key
24/08/2026	Extension of Family Hubs Community Outreach services – HomeStart	Principal
07/09/2026	Establishment of Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation	Key
07/09/2026	Annual Review of Treasury Management activity during the year compared to the Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26.	Key
07/09/2026	Appropriation of Land at Southlink	Key
07/09/2026	High Needs Provision in Mainstream Settings - Halcyon Way School	Key
07/09/2026	High Needs Provision in Mainstream Settings - Medlock Valley Primary School	Key
07/09/2026	Saddleworth Community Hub	Principal
07/09/2026	Acceptance of Adult Skills Funding Allocations 2026-2027 for Oldham Lifelong Learning Service and Get Oldham Working	Key
07/09/2026	Council Website Web templates refresh	Principal

Appendix B: Lead Member Role Descriptions

The Lead Member roles are representative only. They do not constitute an Executive, do not exercise executive functions and may not direct officers.

Lead Member for Resources

Purpose

To provide political oversight and advocacy for the Resources Directorate.

Areas of Focus

- Finance
- Treasury Management
- Revenues and Benefits
- Procurement
- ICT and Digital
- Workforce
- Governance
- Audit and Risk

Statutory Oversight

- Statement of Accounts
- Treasury management arrangements
- Corporate governance framework

Role

The Lead Member will:

- Participate in inspection activity.
 - Receive regular performance briefings.
 - Present reports relating to the directorate at Council meetings.
 - Act as political advocate for the directorate.
-

Lead Member for Place

Purpose

To provide political oversight and advocacy for the Place Directorate.

Areas of Focus

- Regeneration
- Housing
- Planning
- Environment
- Transport
- Highways
- Economic Development

Statutory Oversight

- Planning policy
- Highway authority functions
- Housing strategy
- Climate and environmental responsibilities

Role

The Lead Member will:

- Participate in inspection activity.
- Receive regular performance briefings.
- Present reports relating to the directorate at Council meetings.
- Act as political advocate for the directorate.

Lead Member for Children and Young People

Purpose

To provide political accountability for Children's Services.

Areas of Focus

- Education
- Children's Social Care
- Safeguarding
- Early Help
- SEND

Statutory Responsibilities Associated

This role will fulfil the function of:

Lead Member for Children's Services

under the Children Act framework and related statutory guidance.

Role

The Lead Member will:

- Participate in inspection activity.
 - Act as political champion for children and young people.
 - Receive regular performance briefings.
 - Present reports relating to the directorate at Council meetings.
 - Act as political advocate for the directorate.
-

Lead Member for Health and Adult Care

Purpose

To provide political accountability for Adult Social Care and Health.

Areas of Focus

- Adult Social Care
- Integrated Care
- Public Health
- Community Health

Statutory Oversight

This role will fulfil the function of:

- Lead Member for Adult Social Care
- Public Health political lead

where required by regulatory frameworks such as the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

Role

The Lead Member will:

- Participate in inspection activity.
- Act as political champion for adults with care and support needs.
- Receive regular performance briefings.
- Present reports relating to the directorate at Council meetings.
- Act as political advocate for the directorate.

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Oldham Council

Calendar of Meetings

2026/2027

SEPTEMBER 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	2 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	3 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	4
7	8 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	9 6.00pm Standards Committee	10 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11
14	15	16 6.00pm Council	17 10.00am Appeals Committee	18
21 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	22 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	23 6.00pm Planning Committee	24 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	25
28	29 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	30 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel		

OCTOBER 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Decisions)	6 10.00am Licensing Panel	7	8	9
12	13 2.00pm Local NJC Committee	14 6.00pm Audit Committee	15	16
19 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	20 10.00am Licensing Committee 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	21 6.00pm Planning Committee	22 10.00am Appeals Committee 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	23
26	27 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	28	29	30
School Holidays				

NOVEMBER 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Decisions)	3 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	4	5 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	6
9 4.00pm AV Davies	10 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11 6.00pm Planning Committee	12	13
16 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	17 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	18 6.00pm Council	19 10.00am Appeals Committee 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	20
23	24 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	25 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	26 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	27
30 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Decisions)				

DECEMBER 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	2	3 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (Development Session)	4
7	8 10.00am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee	9 6.00pm Planning Committee	10 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Standards Committee	11
14 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	15	16 6.00pm Council	17 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance	18
21	22 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	23	24	25 Bank Holiday
School Holidays				
28 Bank Holiday	29	30	31	
School Holidays				

JANUARY 2027				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Bank Holiday
				School Holidays
4 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	5	6	7 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	8
11 4.00pm AV Davies	12 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	13 6.00pm Planning Committee	14 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	15
18 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Decisions)	19 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	20 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	21 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	22
25	26 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board (Budget)	27 6.00pm Audit Committee	28 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	29

FEBRUARY 2027				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	2	3	4 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	5
8	9 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	10 6.00pm Planning Committee	11	12
15 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Decisions)	16 10.00am Licensing Panel	17	18 10.00am Appeals Committee	19
School Holidays				
22	23 10.00am Licensing Committee	24	25 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance	26

MARCH 2027				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	2 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	3 6.00pm Council (Budget)	4 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	5
8 6.00pm Standards Committee	9	10 6.00pm Planning Committee	11 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	12
15 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative (Decisions)	16 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	17 6.00pm Council	18 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	19
22	23 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	24 6.00pm Audit Committee	25 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources' Scrutiny Board	26 Bank Holiday
29 Bank Holiday	30 Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	31 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel		
School Holidays				

APRIL 2027				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 6:00pm Pre-Decision Scrutiny Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board School Holidays	2
5	6 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	7	8	9
School Holidays				
12 4.00pm AV Davies 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Decisions)	13 10.00am Licensing Panel	14 6.00pm Planning Committee	15 10.00am Appeals Committee	16
19	20	21	22	23
26 4.00pm Leaders' Consultative Meeting (Briefings)	27	28	29	30

MAY, 2027				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Bank Holiday	4	5	6 Elections	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	20	21

Rt Hon. Angela Rayner MP
Secretary of State for Housing,
Communities and Local Government
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Legal Services
Oldham Council Offices,
Spindles Shopping Centre
George Street, Oldham, OL1 1LF
Tel: 0161 770 4825

Dear Secretary of State,

Re: Governance Failure at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and Inability to Appoint a Council Leader

In consultation with my Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer here at Oldham Council, I am writing to formally update you on the governance situation here following the issuance of the statutory report under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

As set out in the report considered by Council last night (Thursday 20 August 2026), the authority has been unable to appoint a Leader of the Council following meetings held on 20 May 2026, 15 June 2026, 1 July 2026 and 15 July 2026 and 20 August. Despite repeated opportunities, political groups have been unable to secure sufficient support for the appointment of a Leader and the formation of an administration.

Oldham operates a Leader and Cabinet executive model. The continuing absence of a Leader means that the authority remains unable to establish normal executive governance arrangements, appoint Cabinet Members, allocate portfolios, designate a Lead Member for Children's Services and provide clear strategic political leadership.

Whilst officers continue to discharge their professional responsibilities, I am utilising emergency delegations afforded to me within the Council's Constitution enabling essential executive decisions to be taken. It is recognised that these arrangements were intended only as a temporary measure and are not a sustainable substitute for democratic executive governance.

The prolonged omission by Council to appoint a Leader has now reached a point where it raises significant concerns regarding constitutional compliance, governance effectiveness, accountability and public confidence. I have also identified governance, operational, legal and reputational risks together with the potential for statutory intervention should the position remain unresolved.

I am therefore formally notifying you that, notwithstanding extensive efforts by political groups, senior officers and support offered through the Local Government Association, Oldham Council remains unable to appoint a Leader and establish a functioning administration.

The Council will continue to take all reasonable steps to resolve this matter locally. However, given the ongoing governance impasse, I considered it appropriate to bring the current position to your attention in accordance with the recommendations contained within my statutory report.

Should the Department require any further information, copies of relevant reports or details of steps taken by the authority to address the situation, I would be pleased to provide them.

Yours faithfully,



Shelley Kipling
Chief Executive
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Email: shelley.kipling@oldham.gov.uk

Lee Walsh
S151 and Director of Finance
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Alex Bougatef
Monitoring Officer and Director of Legal Services
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council