

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 4 November 2015**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,
CIVIC CENTRE, OLDHAM

Tuesday, 27 October 2015

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 4 November 2015 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

Open Council

- 1 Questions to Cabinet Members from the public and Councillors on ward or district issues

(15 minutes for public questions and 25 minutes for Councillor questions)

Formal Council

- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th September 2015 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 32)
- 4 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 5 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 6 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council and specifically to acknowledge the passing of Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP and Honorary Freeman of the Borough
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 33 - 34)
- 8 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 15 minutes).

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Fielding to SECOND:

This Council notes the passing of this Tory Government's Welfare Bill in the House of Commons.

The bill will cut away another £12 Billion from the welfare budget, hitting the most vulnerable in our society the hardest, the poor, the jobless, the sick to name a few.

This Tory Government seems to be hell bent on attacking towns like Oldham in its cuts to Local Government funding, and now it is taking aim at families who can't make ends meet.

This bill moves to cut tax credits and housing benefit, measures which we believe will lead to increases in child poverty, this is despite the Conservatives pledging the opposite in their manifesto – a promise not kept. Indeed, the House of Commons Library has put the average household loss at £1350 a year because of this regressive bill.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the appropriate government minister, expressing this council's concern over measures in the Welfare Bill and that an assessment be made of its impact on Oldham should it become law.
- To ask our three Members of Parliament to campaign against the bill during its passage through both Houses of Parliament and to reasonably amend or vote against the bill, encouraging other parliamentary colleagues to do the same.

9 Budget Proposals 2016/17 2017/18 Tranche 1

Please note due to the size of the budget Item, hard copies will be available at the Access Oldham and the Civic Entrance, West Oldham, OL1 1UL.

Members will receive the budget as a supplementary Item.

10 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

New Psychoactive Substance (NPS). Substances commonly known as Legal Highs are posing a significant risk in our communities. These drugs are designed to mimic the effects of other illegal drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and heroin. Although they are known as Legal Highs, this can be a misleading title. Many of these produced substances are already under the control of the misuse of drugs act but by naming them as Legal Highs, many young people believe that are safe to use and by being legal they are not as harmful as illegal substances. This is far from true.

The issue of Legal Highs has been previously raised in Full Council, back in December 2014, we know that many of you are already concerned about the problems they pose here in Oldham. It was resolved previously that further consultation work needed to be undertaken by Health and Wellbeing and it is encouraging to see that this is well underway.

NPS are more commonly manufactured in China and to a lesser extent, India. They are mainly imported into this country via mail and fast parcel services. The home office have found that they are then mainly distributed to users via friends, drug dealers, headshops and other retail outlets including garages, newsagents and takeaways. New substances appear rapidly on the market often replacing those substances that have been banned. Just a small change in the chemical ingredients can create a new substance that is not yet under control of the misuse of drugs act.

Legal Highs are easily accessible; you may have seen the evidence of them lying in the streets; the silver bullet type canisters that hold Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) or little packets such as these. Although there are many different 'brands' of NPS they mainly fall into 5 main groups:

- Stimulant type drugs - that mimic substances like amphetamines, cocaine and ecstasy
- Downers/Tranquillisers - that mimic various sedative drugs or opioid drugs
- Hallucinogenic - that mimic substances like LSD

- Dissociative drugs - these mimic substances like ketamine and PCP
- And finally Synthetic Cannaboids - that mimic the effects of cannabis

People take these substances for many of the same reasons people use other drugs because they enjoy the effects, they offer escapism, relaxation, shared social experiences and adventure and with NPS many people believe that they are legal which adds to the attraction.

There is little information available about the long term effects of NPS but short term use risks include:

- Overdose or seizures that can and have resulted in death
- Temporary psychotic states
- Unpredictable behaviour
- Sudden increase or decrease in heart rate, breathing rate and body temperature
- Hallucinations
- Vomiting
- Confusion and possible aggressive behaviour
- Feeling suicidal
- Physical and psychological dependency

I think we can all see that these are dangerous substances because of the health problems they create but we need to look at the wider implications too.

They can create social problems such as an increase in criminal activity, the breakdown of relationships, not engaging with school and education and social exclusion.

They create economic problems, as people develop personal debts, lose their jobs, have lower academic achievement and therefore affect future employment opportunities.

Legal Highs come at a great cost; a personal cost to individuals as well as a huge financial cost to services trying to deal with the associated problems they create.

We cannot afford to ignore this increasing issue.

Here in Oldham we know people are using NPS and let us be clear, it is not just young people. It is estimated that the average age of an NPS user is 40! This is an issue that potentially affects all residents in our borough. The latest statistic from Oasis, Oldham's young people's drug and alcohol services, reports that 27% of their clients are presenting with Legal High misuse. We believe this is set to increase unless we take action.

There is work already being undertaken in Oldham to address the issue of NPS. A task and finish group has been established with representation from a range of agencies and services to look at developing a co-ordinated and coherent approach in Oldham to the issue of NPS misuse.

We believe that the issue of NPS misuse needs to be a priority here in Oldham; we need to respond to the issue now before things get worse.

We believe there needs to be a shared strategy across Oldham from all agencies and services that includes a comprehensive campaign that raises awareness of what NPS are, prevents people from becoming users of NPS and has a programme that enables the support of people who do use them to become non users.

We need to be working in schools to educate young people, professionals and parents about NPS. We knew little about NPS until we undertook a workshop with Oasis Drug and Alcohol Service. Young people are being misled by the common name of Legal Highs, believing they are safe to use because they are legal and they are not fully understanding what they are consuming.

We need to be delivering work in communities to build awareness and resilience. This is not just a youth issue as more adults use Legal Highs, often using them as a replacement for drugs such as heroine, cannabis and cocaine.

We believe a better name for these substances is Lethal Highs; the ultimate price someone could pay is death! We have seen this price paid in other areas of the country; we don't want the number of lives claimed by NPS to be higher.

We propose that Oldham Council recognises that NPS is a priority issue to be addressed and that it commits to supporting the work of the multi-agency task and finish group in its work to address the Issue of NPS misuse in Oldham.

11 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

(time limit 30 minutes – maximum of 2 minutes per question and 2 minutes per response)

12 To note the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on the undermentioned dates, including the attached list of urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council, and to receive any questions or observations on any items within the Minutes from Members of the Council who are not Members of the Cabinet, and receive responses from Cabinet Members (Pages 35 - 46)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

- a) 24th August 2015
- b) 21st September 2015

13 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Roberts to SECOND:

This Council is aware that Market Street in Shaw has been hosting the weekly Shaw Market, on a trial basis since the 27th August 2015. During the period of the trial Council Officers have consulted with market traders, local businesses, market users and the wider public this information was then collated and a report prepared for a Licensing Panel scheduled for Monday 2nd November 2015.

This Council welcomes the success of the Shaw Market trial with its positive impact on both the market and surrounding area including the increased demand for stalls on the market, and an increase in footfall on Market Street.

The Council notes that TfGM, and OMBC Highways Department have reported that there has been no disruptive impact on traffic movements in the area.

This Council resolves to work with the businesses located on Market Street, the market traders and the local community in supporting and maintaining a market provision in Shaw that will benefit the local and wider community.

Motion 2

Councillor Chadderton to MOVE and Councillor S Bashforth to SECOND:

This Council notes with disappointment the passing of the Trade Union Bill at its second reading in parliament on 14 September 2015.

This Council believes that the Bill represents the most vicious attack on Trade Unions in over 30 years by introducing measures that will make it more difficult for employees to stand up for and defend their rights at work.

Amongst other things the passing of the Bill will introduce:

- The removal of the ability of public sector employees to have Trade Union subscriptions deducted from their salaries.
- A requirement for unions to notify police if they intend to discuss a strike on social media.
- A requirement for police to be notified 14 days in advance of a strike if striking workers intend to use placards or loudspeakers on a picket line.
- The appointment of a 'picket supervisor' for each picket who will be required to wear an armband and give their name and contact details to the police and their employer.
- A minimum turnout threshold of 50% in ballots for strike action.

This Council further notes that human rights groups Liberty, Amnesty International and the British Institute of Human Rights have all condemned the Bill as an attack on the basic right to protest.

The Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development has branded this law to be an 'outdated response that could have potentially counterproductive consequences'.

In Oldham we recognise the importance of Trade Unions and the work they do representing their members. We have a good track record in employee relations such as collective agreement of single status work. We recognise the importance of liaising with our Trade Unions colleagues and of early engagement.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Sajid Javid MP on behalf of the Council setting out our opposition to the Bill.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write on behalf of the Council to our local MPs setting out our opposition to the Bill and requesting that they use all means available during the Committee stage of the Bill to prevent it from being enacted in its current form.

Motion 3

Councillor Dearden to MOVE and Councillor Roberts to SECOND:

Oldham Council notes with concern the continuing conflicts in the Middle East and Africa which are driving the current refugee crisis, particularly people fleeing war and persecution from Syria, Afghanistan, Eritrea and Iraq. We welcome the Government's commitment to provide asylum for 4,000 people this year from the Syrian refugee camps but believe that as a country the United Kingdom can do more. Oldham has provided sanctuary and a new start for traumatised refugees in the past and calls on the Government to support Oldham and other councils to do more now.

Oldham's refugee community includes approximately 160 destitute asylum seekers currently supported by a network of community organisations, friends, family and volunteers. Their position will be made worse by proposed reductions in financial support, particularly for women and children.

The Council welcomes the work done by individuals, community groups and religious groups in supporting asylum seekers and asks the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to convene a meeting of those supporting refugees and Asylum Seekers in Oldham with the aim of developing an ongoing network and provide support to make the best use of all the work done already in the borough

The Council supports the efforts by AGMA to get a proper support system in place, including reviewing the role played by SERCO in administering asylum seeker support.

Oldham Council calls on the Government to put in place a properly funded and fair system including: fair allocation of refugees across the UK; long term funding for Councils; quick and accurate decision making about the status of refugees; better effort to support and integrate refugees (e.g. providing English as a Second Language teaching and investment in conversion of qualifications to UK standard); better administration of welfare benefits and investment in public services where needed.

Council also resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to:

1. Write to the Local Government Association to enlist their support in improving support for Asylum Seekers
2. Write to the borough MPs to inform them of the council's position and request that they use whatever parliamentary means available to raise this matter with government

14 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- 2nd – 6th November 2015 is National School Meals week
- 9,800 pupils in reception, year one and two classes in the Oldham borough became entitled to universal free school meals from September 2014
- Pilots conducted by the Departments of Education and Health in 2009 found that the provision of universal free school meals led to improvements in the concentration, academic performance and behaviour of pupils
- Four in every 10 children living in poverty do not currently qualify for free school meals; yet in many cases a free school meal may represent the only hot meal that a child receives in a day
- Extending universal free school meals to all seven to eleven year olds will benefit 13,100 children in the Oldham borough, 10,000 more than currently receive free school meals, and 1.9 million children in the UK
- This was a recommendation of the School Food Plan presented to government by John Vincent and Henry Dimbleby

This Council believes that:

- Government should extend the provision of universal free school meals to all seven to eleven year olds, starting in the most deprived areas, during the lifetime of this current Parliament
- This expansion should be funded by Government with adequate capital investment and ongoing revenue support

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt. Hon. Nicky Morgan MP, outlining this Council's position on this issue
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the three MPs for the borough asking them to also support this position
- Ask the Leader and the Leaders of the Main and Minority Opposition Groups to seek the support of this position from their respective political groups within the Local Government Association

Motion 2

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor McCann to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- The demand for affordable homes in the Oldham borough will continue to increase
- The availability of social housing is under further threat from a Conservative Government intent on extending the 'right to buy' to housing association tenants, on pressurizing social landlords to sell off their housing stock, and on imposing rent reductions
- With powers from the 2011 Localism Act and the 2000 Local Government Act, Councils can generate income and build affordable homes, whether for sale or for rent
- Some councils, such as Sutton, have established a wholly-owned housing development company to build homes for sale at affordable prices or to let at social or market rents

Council resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Strategic Housing Partnership Board to investigate the merits of:

- Setting up a Council wholly-owned housing development company
- Making use of reforms in the use of the Housing Revenue Account and prudential borrowing powers to finance house building by the new company
- Accessing finance via the new LG Develop scheme recently established by the Local Government Association
- Identifying, with partners (such as housing associations, the NHS, local developers and landowners), local land sites that have potential for housing development through the new company

Council also requests that these bodies bring back a report on these proposals to a future meeting of Council

Motion 3

Councillor Heffernan to MOVE and Councillor Turner to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- Today (4th November 2015) is the 69th anniversary of the founding of UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) whose mission statement is "building peace in the minds of men and women".
- In 1974, the member states of UNESCO recognised the necessity of peace education in order for students to acquire the values, knowledge, attitudes, skills, and behaviours to live in harmony with oneself and with others, and to help promote a culture of peace.
- Article 26 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that education shall be directed to "further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace".
- In signing the European Parliament's Pledge to Peace, Council has agreed to support the "dissemination and promotion of peace, employing resources and tools such as education".
- Many international bodies, including UNESCO and the United Nations Association, have produced excellent free educational resources that can be accessed on-line.

Council believes that Oldham should, as the first UK local authority to sign the Pledge to Peace:

- Seek to encourage local schools, academies and colleges to deliver peace education within their curriculum.
- Support Peace in the Classroom, a new Pledge to Peace initiative.

Council therefore resolves to request the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to explore this possibility with the Oldham Youth Council and appropriate local bodies representing the teaching profession and governors (such as the Oldham Schools Alliance etc.)

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 47 - 110)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority	25 th June 2015 3 rd September 2015
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	12 th June 2015
National Park Authority	3 rd July 2015
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	28 th August 2015
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	31 st July 2015
Transport for Greater Manchester	17 th July 2015

- 15 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 111 - 132)

(time limit 7 minutes)

Health and Wellbeing Board	16 th June 2015
Unity Partnership Board	23 rd June 2015
Oldham Leadership Board	2 nd September 2015
Oldham Care and Support	24 th July 2015

- 16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17 (Pages 133 - 152)

- 17 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 14/15 (Pages 153 - 160)

- 18 Calendar of Meetings 2016/17 (Pages 161 - 178)

- 19 Welfare Reform - Cost of the Cuts 2015 (Pages 179 - 200)

20 Changes to Committee Membership (Pages 201 - 202)

21 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 203 - 244)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Wilkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'C'.

**Carolyn Wilkins
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 question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

WITH AMENDMENT

