

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, flowing style.

**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



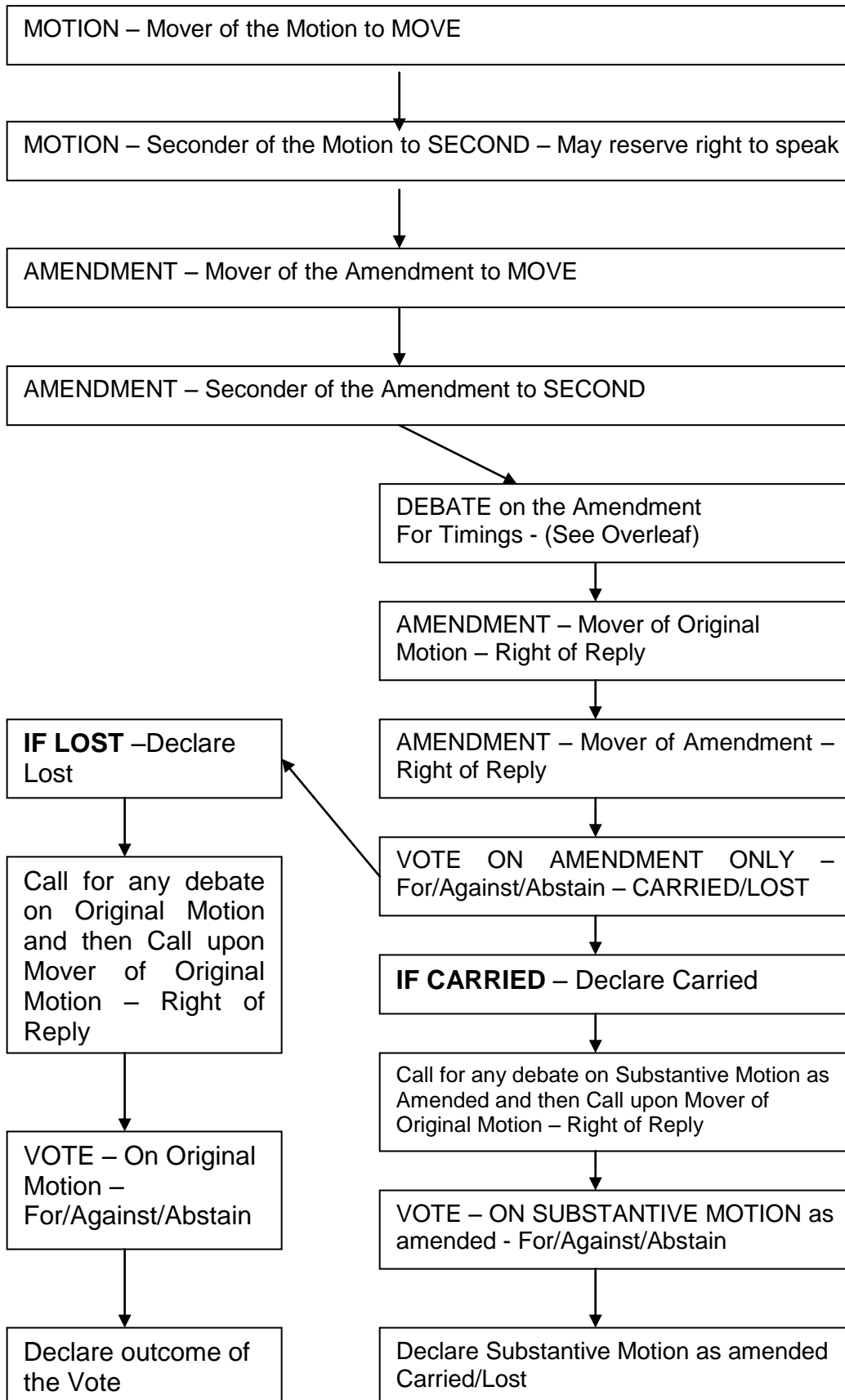
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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





COUNCIL
09/09/2015 at 6.05 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Ur-Rehman

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Ames, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Briggs, Brownridge, A Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dawson, Dean, Dearden, Fielding, Garry, Gloster, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hibbert, Hudson, Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Judge, Kirkham, Klonowski, Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, McMahan, Murphy, Mushtaq, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Sedgwick, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Turner, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth

1 **QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ON WARD OR DISTRICT ISSUES**

The Mayor advised the meeting that the first item on the agenda in Open Council was Public Question Time. The questions had been received from members of the public and would be taken in the order in which they had been received. Council was advised that if the questioner was not present, then the question would appear on the screen in the Council Chamber. The following public questions had been submitted: (15 mins)

1. Question from Wayne Ankers via Twitter:

“Could cllrs look at introducing traffic calming or one way system on chamber road in Shaw. Cars too fast and too many”.

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Highways responded that various possibilities had been investigated previously for Chamber Road, none of which were supported at this time. Officers would carry out a review, to identify if there had been any change to the use of the road since the previous investigations, to inform future decisions.

2. Question from Joanne Keight via Twitter:

“In light of current & continuous staff cuts -will there be a review of the number of councillors that represent each ward?”

Councillor Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Performance and Corporate Governance responded that the Council had considered a proposal to reduce the number of councillors at a recent budget meeting. The Council considered that, for a borough with our population, there would be a democratic deficit if a reduction was introduced. The Council was not aware of any similarly sized Greater Manchester metropolitan authorities who were proceeding with a proposed reduction. If the Council agreed to reduce the numbers, the matter was not solely in the Council’s control. A review would be required to be carried out by the Local Government Boundary Commission, who would

consider and identify the appropriate number of Councillors for each ward.

3. Question from sarahlawstudent via Twitter:

“I'd like to ask whether the council will be joining other LAs in calling on the PM to support additional refugees.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Co-operatives responded that the Leader of the Council would be making a statement on this issue later in the meeting as an item of urgent business.

The Borough had a proud history of supporting people seeking asylum from persecution, and continued to do so. There were almost 700 asylum seekers living in Oldham, some of whom were from Syria. The Council was committed to playing its part in enabling more asylum seekers to find refuge in Britain in response to the current humanitarian crisis, but it was essential that the government recognised help was needed make this happen by reforming the asylum system. Local services needed to be properly resourced to meet the costs of this and every part of the country needed to shoulder the responsibility for supporting people seeking asylum. The distribution was not equal across the country.

Local communities also had a part to play. In line with its co-operative values, the Council had put information on the Council's website to advise residents where donations could be made in support of the humanitarian effort, or how they could volunteer with organisations which supported asylum seekers and refugees in Oldham. In doing so, we were able to work together to make Oldham a borough of sanctuary for people in desperate need.

4. Question from Pauline Brown via Facebook:

“I would like to know why the residents on MEDWAY RD HOLLINWOOD, have not had a letter or any sort of communication about the DURBAN MILL, being demolished. When the trendsetter was being demolished, we went to Lyndhurst School, to view the plans, nothing has been said about the land on DURBAN MILL site. Also i had to recarpet my home because of the dirt, brick dust etc, i will NOT be doing this again out of my own pocket!!! AWAITING A REPLY”

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Highways responded that proposals for demolition were normally regarded as 'permitted development', subject to compliance with the conditions contained within the regulations. The regulations required only that the applicant displayed a site notice on or near the land for not less than 21 days (within the 28-day process) and this notice was erected on 7 July 2015. The application was submitted on 7 July 2015 and Prior Approval was granted on 4 August 2015.

The Local Planning Authority had assessed the information provided in respect of the method of demolition and restoration

of the site. Insofar as dust mitigation measures were concerned, the method statement explained that a fine water spray would be used to minimise airborne dust along with protective sheeting to help contain dust and light debris.

It was inevitable that there would be disruption caused by the demolition of the building causing short-term issues. However, the Local Planning Authority was satisfied that the method statement minimised the risk of any significant disruption, though it could not control the conduct of the contractors during the works.

Councillor Hibbert made a commitment to ask officers to liaise with the applicant and to inform them that issues have been raised by residents.

5. Question from Bob Hampson via email

“What are the chances of erecting traffic lights at the top of Burnley Lane where it meets the roundabout? It is so dangerous trying to enter the roundabout. I have asked this question previously but never had any response”.

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Highways responded that half this roundabout was currently signalised. The accident level at this specific section of the roundabout was low and the accidents which had been recorded were not caused by vehicles travelling on the roundabout. The arrangements on this roundabout were constantly being reviewed, and the road markings had been recently altered to improve the traffic movement. Any further changes to the signalisation of this roundabout would have involved liaison with Highways England, due to the potential impact on trunk road and motorway.

6. Question from Mr Fitzpatrick via email.

“I wish to ask the following question at the next Council Meeting; When will Cllr Jim McMahan come clean about his regeneration schemes. When will he tell Oldham residents that the arts council have refused to make a grant to the scheme to put the Oldham Coliseum Theatre in the old Library, when will he admit that he has no private sector funding for a hotel next to the QE hall. When will he accept that the scheme to build a multiplex cinema in the Old Town hall at a cost in excess of £36 million is a massive white elephant that will have to be paid for by future generations of Oldham Taxpayers. When will take down the propaganda billboards, promising schemes that he knows he can't deliver?”

Mr. Fitzpatrick asked his question.

Councillor McMahan, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that this was the same question that had been asked previously and the response had not changed. He did not accept the premise of the question in relation to these schemes, which were critical to both the regeneration of the Borough and to the people of Oldham.



7. Question from Janet Brown via Twitter

“How does somebody with no money in the bank 0 income, no money for gas & Electric no food, pay 20% council tax? Please answer”

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and HR, responded that Oldham Council had been forced to make difficult choices about how to pay for services because of the reductions the government had made in public spending. This meant that Oldham had to introduce a Local Council Tax Reduction scheme that was affordable but still enabled the Council to continue to support residents. As a result, from April 2015 the Council introduced a maximum award of 85% of a Band A charge. The Council strongly encouraged residents struggling to pay their Council Tax to contact the Council Tax team straight away to discuss their issues, as they could be able to offer an alternative payment arrangement. The Council was aware that many people in the Borough were experiencing financial difficulties and provided free benefits advice to residents through its Welfare Rights, Benefits and Personal budgeting support services. The service could be contacted on 0161 770 6633.

9. Question from dmonkey via email

“Please can Oldham Council ensure that FCHO have kept to their "Offer document" promises as many customer feel they have not for example: No customer involvement in many areas of Oldham, no walkabouts or interaction with housing officers. Disabled and elderly customers being forced to move away from their homes to get adaptations or manage with no adaptations. When are FCHO going to put the customer "in the heart of everything they do" as was promised at the transfer of council housing to FCHO.”

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Highways responded that he was surprised to hear how the resident felt about First Choice Homes Oldham. He knew that First Choice Homes had invested a great deal of time and resources in customer involvement and would ask them to contact the resident to discuss their specific issues. In terms of adaptations for older and disabled people, they had spent over £1M a year since the housing stock transfer in 2011. He reassured Members and residents that First Choice Homes had met and, in many cases, exceeded their Offer Document promises ahead of time.

Councillor Hibbert indicated that he had a more-detailed response and this would be forwarded to the questioner the day after the meeting.

10. Question from Andrea Greenwood via email:

“As there is a council meeting tomorrow evening (I was going to tweet my concerns with the council) please can you give me

answers and solutions to the following concerns I have. Whilst I am fully aware certain road improvements have to take place I have concerns with BULCOTE lane.

1. My young son attends St Joseph's in Shaw - this Closure has enforced a different route as a lower dingle resident which has added an extra 40 - 50 minutes travelling time if I am lucky to my day (I also work full time in Tameside) this together with the additional cost of fuel over a period of 16 weeks is a financial burden that is not my choice.
 2. My son has a number of debilitating illnesses and if I required the emergency services I am concerned they wouldnt arrive on time.
 3. Who on earth in your planning department approved a 16 week major link road closure just as schools return for the autumn term. Your decision makers are accountable and this is a ludicrous decision when you could have started the works at the end of July - this has nothing to do with budgets as your already part way through a financial year.
 4. Why do you not authorise access only for residents at commuting times?
 5. How do I claim my travel expenses back from you?
 6. The residents were of the understanding that this was a road widening scheme and it appears to be retaining wall work.
- I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest opportunity.”

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Highways responded that he was sorry to hear about the family’s difficulties. As with all Highway Improvement Schemes, the emergency services had access through the works at all times throughout the closure. For this scheme, it was always planned that it would be carried out across the six week holiday but the land acquisition to enable the road widening was not completed in time for this to happen. The Council had a duty of care to maintain a safe highway. Unfortunately, this would always result in road closures and disruption to all road users, but the Council would endeavour to ensure this was minimised wherever possible.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Council had previously agreed that, questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council. The following questions were submitted by Councillors on Ward or District Matters: (25 mins)

1. Councillor Toor to Councillor Hibbert

“Parking around Medlock Valley Primary School is a major issue and poses a potential hazard for pupils being dropped off & picked up by parents in their cars. Can the Executive Member look into making available the vacant land opposite the entrance to the school for the purpose of turning it into a car park.”

Councillor Hibbert responded he would like to thank Cllr Toor for bringing this to his attention. Members would appreciate parking around schools was a problem across the Borough and the Council was always looking at ways to reduce pressure at peak times with schools and parents. He would ask colleagues to look at the possibility and suitability of using the site for temporary parking and ensure a response was sent to Cllr Toor in the next week.

2. Councillor Roberts to Councillor Hibbert

“I would like to thank Cllr Brownridge for her response to my question at the July Council Meeting in regard to the condition of the footpaths in Royton Cemetery. However Cemetery Road, which I also enquired about, is a public highway. Please could the relevant Cabinet Member confirm when this road, used by residents and those using or visiting the cemetery, will be resurfaced?”

Councillor Hibbert responded that all capital funding for the 2015-16 financial year had been fully allocated and unfortunately Cemetery Road was not awarded funding at that time. It would remain on the Unclassified Network resurfacing list until relevant funding became available. In the meantime, an inspection had been arranged to ensure that any significant-sized defects were removed. Due to Cemetery Road being lined with mature trees, increased costs would be incurred due to the care required for construction around them. Local people would not want the trees removed.

3. Councillor Fielding to Councillor Hibbert

“There is a longstanding problem with pigeons roosting under the Hardman Lane Metrolink Bridge in Failsworth and fouling the pavement with their droppings. Prior to the rail lines' conversion to metrolink, a net spanned the entirety of the underside of the bridge preventing this problem; this was removed during the conversion works and has not been replaced. Could the council please use it's influence to make metrolink reinstate the net? So far, my enquiries and lobbying have fallen on deaf ears.”

Councillor Hibbert responded that he had raised this issue with the Metrolink Director at Transport for Greater Manchester, who had advised that, as part of the Metrolink works, some areas were fitted with deterrent spikes and further netting works were carried out by the contractor. He had confirmed that they would now carry out a further review to ascertain if any measures needed to be taken at this location. He would ensure that the review was carried out in the next 2 weeks and recommendations would be brought forward regarding any further measures to be taken.

4. Councillor Williamson to Councillor Brownridge

“The Leader will doubtless be aware that Shaw and Crompton Ward Councillors received, in early August, a briefing note relating to the Royton Leisure Centre opening.

The briefing note was emailed by our Marketing Department - it contained the bombshell that “Existing members of the Shaw gym will also be contacted and informed that the facility will close”.

This news completely contradicts the reassurances that ward councillors have consistently been given by the Administration that whilst the pool would close, the gym would remain open. Can the Leader tell me when the decision was first taken to close the gym in Shaw and – given the ill-feeling and controversy surrounding the decision by this Administration to relocate all of Shaw’s community leisure facilities to Royton - can he tell me why ward councillors were not offered the courtesy of a face-to-face meeting to discuss the rationale behind this decision, rather than merely an impersonal briefing note?”

Councillor Brownridge responded that the Council undertook an independent review of leisure services in Oldham during Winter 2010/11, which considered the current provision across all sectors and provided a clear evidence base, and supply and demand analysis, to support the Council’s need to reconfigure the leisure estate in Oldham, in order to both reduce the revenue burden on the Council and improve the leisure offer to the public. The review supported the view that an overall leisure estate of fewer, higher quality public sector facilities, well distributed across the Borough, with a Town Centre facility at its heart, together with the private and voluntary sector provision, would be a realistic way forward.

In March 2012, Cabinet approved a report entitled Leisure Estate - Approval of Outline Business Case. The report approved the provision of two new facilities within Oldham and Royton. In addition it approved the closure of a number of facilities including Crompton Pool and Fitness Centre. At that time the Council stated its ambition to retain the current Crompton pool and fitness facility until the new pool at Royton opened. It was unable to keep the pool open but had managed to keep the gym open. When the new Royton Leisure Centre opened later this month the gym will close, as set out in the original reports.

5. Councillor Garry to Councillor Brownridge

“At the last meeting of the Failsworth and Hollinwood District Executive, Failsworth West Ward decided to make an allocation of £6000 towards street tree planting. Labour Councillors featured this in their most recent local newsletter and have since been inundated with enquiries from residents who would like trees planted on their streets.

It is clear that the £6000 we have allocated will not be enough to meet the demands of residents for planting and so can Council

commit to match fund our allocation and increase the impact of this popular idea?"

Councillor Brownridge responded that the Council had introduced the 'Green Dividend' scheme, where a borough-wide budget of £100K for 2015/6 & 2016/17 had been made available. This would give the opportunity for community groups to apply for funding for additional trees to be planted within their community. Bids were being coordinated through Environmental Services and a residents/application pack would shortly be sent out to those who had expressed an interest. A Ward Councillor briefing pack would also be available to all Councillors.

6. Councillor Mushtaq to Councillor Hibbert

"I have had and continue to receive numerous questions regarding the selective licensing scheme which has been and is being implemented in parts of the borough including Alexandra. The queries include a lot of technical questions around payments for example. However the broader theme seems to be 'what practical protection will landlords and their properties receive from bad or 'rogue' tenants? Can the relevant Cabinet Member please provide some information?"

Councillor Hibbert responded that he was grateful for the opportunity to dispel some of the myths and address some of the concerns about the scheme. Landlords would receive training and information which would ensure that they were equipped to prevent bad or rogue tenants from taking a tenancy in their properties. This included:

- Knowing their rights and responsibilities;
- Direct contact numbers of officers for advice and information;
- Knowing how to obtain reputable references for prospective tenants;
- Knowledge on how they should be managing their tenants to ensure they can spot signs of a bad tenant;
- Taking of deposits etc;
- Clear processes for evicting tenants;
- Clear processes of being able to have housing benefit paid direct to the landlord if the tenant falls into rent arrears;
- Referrals for tenants who may have complex needs;
- Mediation offer between landlord and tenant where necessary.

The Council was determined to deal with the increased number of problems caused by a minority of landlords.

7. Councillor Qumer to Councillor Hibbert

"I welcome the highways improvements in St Marys and across Oldham could the relevant Cabinet Member please advise when the work will be complete."

Councillor Hibbert responded that there was currently increased activity in St Mary's due to integration of Metrolink and

significant development works around the Town Centre, including the Leisure Centre. Other significant highway improvement works included the Gateway Corridor programme to implement the 24 hour repair promise. However, the maintenance of the highway was an ongoing process and would continue beyond the development work, albeit on a reduced level.

8. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Hibbert

“I would like to thank Cllr Hibbert and the relevant officers for attending the recent meeting to consult the public about the traffic issues arising in Dobcross as a result of the new school. It was good that the meeting remained focused on the advertised purpose of the meeting - traffic - rather than straying into questions related to the site as some in the protest group wished. There are other opportunities and forums more appropriate for this.

I felt overall that this meeting was very positive and even-handed in that it gave residents the opportunity to raise any traffic questions or concerns and gave the officers and elected members an opportunity to respond professionally and courteously and to acknowledge genuine issues that must be addressed.

I feel that we have now together begun to identify the engineering and management solutions that are needed to make traffic to and from the school work within the wider community. This dialogue has to continue.

Can I therefore ask the Cabinet Member to reassure me that this dialogue will continue with ward members and with my constituents and that we shall receive regular updates as the project progresses?”

Councillor Hibbert thanked Councillor Harkness for his support and responded that he was always happy to work with the local people and their Councillors. There was no need to ask the question, as Councillor Harkness knew the answer was yes.

9. Councillor G Alexander to Councillor Hibbert

“Why are roads being closed for over a week and although signage has been put in place works have not commenced. This causes unnecessary disruption especially when the roads are being closed for 17 weeks.”

Councillor Hibbert responded that non-disruptive carriageway works were due to commence on Bullcote Lane as soon as the road was closed and the diversion route set up. Unfortunately, the contractor had not started these works as per the agreed programme. However, as soon as the Council were notified that works had not commenced, the road was reopened to minimise further disruption. The cost of the abortive Traffic Management would be borne by the contractor and the issue would be reflected in the Contractor’s Key Performance Indicators, affecting future work opportunities.

10. Councillor S Bashforth to Councillor Brownridge

“I am working with a Royton resident Mr Jeff Vernon, to open a Branch of the Royal British Legion in Royton. We have a venue and the Royton Councillors are fully behind the scheme and will help support Mr Vernon to get a new Royton branch up and running. We are looking to open the branch after this November’s remembrance ceremony in Royton and will be inviting Roytoners to join us for light refreshments and to ask questions about the RBL and hopefully sign up to join. Could I ask the relevant Cabinet Member to lend us advice and support in this project?”

Councillor Brownridge responded that the answer was yes.

11. Councillor M Bashforth to Councillor Hibbert

“After the welcome resurfacing works in Royton could the relevant Cabinet Member reassure our residents that all white lines and other road markings are fully reinstated, together with works to ensure manholes and grids are properly finished off before the works are accepted by Highways?”

Councillor Hibbert responded that approximately 10 to 14 days after the treatment had been laid, the surface would be swept to remove the excess chippings and the road markings applied. Small areas of the road marking element would take slightly longer. The replacement of the ironwork was a slower process and was carried out under a separate programme, which could take up to 3 months following the completion of the surfacing due to the sheer volume.

12. Councillor A Alexander to Councillor Brownridge

“Do we have any more information about the Gardening Hub that was supposed to be happening at Lees Park? An answer from the Cabinet Member may prevent the spread of more misinformation about the Park.”

Councillor Brownridge responded she apologised the work had taken so long. It should not have done and the lesson would be learned for the future. The growing hub at Lees Park was definitely still going ahead (subject to the usual formalities) and was currently subject to an advertisement for the change of use from a bowling green to a growing hub. The Council was unable to progress this any further until the above had been concluded.

13 Councillor Wrigglesworth to Councillor Hibbert

“With Autumn approaching bringing with it shorter days more people will be travelling to and from work in the dark. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what has been done and if any more can be done to improve the lighting on the path to the Metro Station near Coalshaw Green Park?”

Councillor Hibbert responded that he could confirm that additional lighting had been provided and a night inspection was

due to take place which would identify if any further improvement in lighting levels could be achieved.

14 Councillor Iqbal to Councillor Hibbert

“Please could I have an update on the progress of the bridge near the Sixth-Form College?”

Councillor Hibbert responded that he and the Leader had met with the engineers and looked at the various proposals. It had been hoped that work would start during the holidays, but this had not proved possible. The work was in hand and officers would meet with Ward Councillors and Medlock Vale Ward Councillors before work began.

15 Councillor Turner to Councillor Hibbert

“Sometime last year, my ward colleague, Councillor Murphy, brought to the attention of Highways officers issues relating to speeding traffic along Thornham Road, Royton (Crompton ward). After a traffic speed survey was carried out, which recorded speeds of over 79mph in a 30mph zone, a promise of police presence was made; however, there have not been any operations in this area to combat anti-social and dangerous behaviour. Ward Councillors funded out of their budgets speed camera signs which helped for a short while until people realised that it was an idle threat. So can the Council work with the police to arrange for action to be taken?”

Councillor Hibbert responded that he would give a short verbal answer and a full written response would be provided to all Councillors. He had interrogated the results of the traffic survey recently undertaken along Thornham Road. The recorded injury accident database had also been interrogated and had revealed that no injury accidents had occurred in the previous three years. The average speeds recorded, although higher than the 30 mph limit, were not considered excessive, however in view of the high speeds recorded, he felt it was necessary to apply to the Police for Thornham Road to be treated as a site of community concern.

16 Councillor McLaren to Councillor Hibbert

“Please could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the situation regarding disabled access at Mills Hill station?”

Councillor Hibbert responded that he had raised this several times with Transport for Greater Manchester. He was aware that this was something that was of great concern to many members of the public and it was something he would do his best to rectify as soon as possible.

17 Councillor Sedgwick to Councillor Hibbert

“Can the Cabinet Member confirm to the residents and myself when is West Street and Burton Street going to be resurfaced?”

They are a complete disgrace. We have two churches, St Thomas and St Edwards, in this area. Funeral processions have to go up and down these streets and it does not give a very good impression or provide a dignified ending for the deceased. We need action now. We have waited long enough."

Councillor Hibbert responded that the capital investment for highways improvements was currently being prioritised to improve the strategic route network and the secondary network roads. When these roads were to standard, funding would be allocated to the unclassified routes. These roads remained in the list of unclassified roads in the meantime and, given the specific issues caused by the condition of these roads, he would ask officers to see if there were any interim remedial works that could be carried out.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

RESOLVED that the questions and the responses provided be noted.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moores, Salamat and Blyth

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH JULY 2015 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 15th July 2015 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of the actual motion at Item 12, Motion 2, page 21.

4 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Councillor Wigglesworth declared a personal prejudicial interest in Item 8, Outstanding Business from the Previous Meeting, by virtue of being a Rail Track tenant.

Councillors McCann, Harrison, Chauhan and G Alexander declared a personal interest in Item 15b – Minutes of the Oldham Care and Support and Oldham Care and Support At Home Company, by virtue of their appointment to the Board. Councillors Ahmad and Dearden declared a pecuniary interest in Item 13 – Notice of Administration Business Motion 1, by virtue of being magistrates.

5 **TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor informed the meeting that no items of Urgent Business had been received.

6 **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor advised the meeting that he had received a letter from the Leader in relation to the humanitarian crisis in Syria and indicating the Leader would be convening a meeting of Group Leaders of the Council to discuss the detail of a collective response. The letter was circulated to all Members and the Mayor read the letter to the meeting.

7 **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PETITIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor advised that one petition had been received for noting by Council.

RESOLVED that the following petition received since the last meeting of the Council be noted:

Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives

Duchess Street Experimental TRO Order (received 15 July 2015) (78 Signatures) (Ref 2015-16)

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Mayor informed the meeting that there was one item of Outstanding Business from the last Council meeting.

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Hibbert SECONDED:

“This Council was dismayed to hear, that Transport Secretary Patrick McLoughlin had announced that electrification work on the Transpennine route between Leeds and Manchester was being "paused".

This Council is extremely concerned that any delay in progressing plans for electrification and the introduction of faster and more reliable trains linking Manchester and Leeds will hamper economic recovery. Transport connections and infrastructure are the foundation on which an economy is built; the north already loses out substantially in terms of investment, now it will see this vital project fall even further back in the queue. This decision is bad for regional growth and jobs. How can the government expect to build a northern powerhouse if it is unwilling fund vital transport links and infrastructure? This decision is another example of the inequality that exists when it comes to regional investment, it will have a negative impact on the residents of Oldham.

This Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to Patrick McLoughlin, Transport Secretary and Hon George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking them to remove the “pause” that was placed on the electrification of the TransPennine route between Manchester and Leeds.

Also to write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Michael Meacher MP to ask them to support the motion and to use any other parliamentary means available to remove any further delay to the electrification of the TransPennine route between Manchester and Leeds”.



AMENDMENT

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED:

“Insert after the word “paused” in paragraph one, the following wording and paragraphs:

‘Less than half of the British rail network is electrified. Since 1997 roughly 60 miles of existing track were electrified; 50 of them during the period of the 2010 – 15 Coalition Government. The Coalition Government supported the electrification of the Transpennine line as Government technical reports estimated that electrification would be “self-financing, paying for itself through lower train maintenance, leasing and operating costs. This means that this investment can take place without reducing already planned infrastructure enhancement work”.’

Original second paragraph becomes fourth paragraph.

Insert after “Oldham” in the fourth paragraph, the following wording and paragraphs:

‘In March 2015 the North of England Electrification Task Force published its final report. This identified the electrification of this line as bringing ‘Tier One’ economic benefits to the region (i.e. the highest possible).

‘In a 2009 Network Rail report, electrification was described as having a “significant role to play in reducing carbon emissions. Electric vehicles, on average, emit 20 to 30 percent less CO2 emissions than diesel counterparts and tend to be quieter in operation”.

Council therefore believes that the decision to “pause” the work by the new Conservative Government is illogical on:

- Finance
- Economic and
- Environmental grounds’

Original third paragraph becomes eighth paragraph.

Original fourth paragraph becomes ninth paragraph”

Councillor Briggs spoke on the motion.

Councillor McClaren did not exercise his right of reply.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT

On being put to the VOTE, NINE votes were cast IN FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT, with FORTY SEVEN votes cast AGAINST

and NO ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

AMENDMENT 2

Councillor Heffernan MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED:

“Insert a final paragraph:

‘Also to write to the Interim Mayor of the new Greater Manchester combined authority Mr Tony Lloyd asking him to support the efforts of local MPs and local authority leaders in overturning this decision’.”

Councillor McClaren did not exercise his right of reply.

Councillor Heffernan did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on AMENDMENT 2

On being put to the VOTE, NINE votes were cast IN FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT, with FORTY SEVEN votes cast AGAINST and NO ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

A vote was then taken on the ORIGINAL MOTION. On being put to the VOTE, the meeting UNANIMOUSLY voted IN FAVOUR of the MOTION, which was therefore CARRIED.

9

LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT

In delivering his Annual Statement the Leader of the Council, Councillor McMahon stated that staff had worked incredibly hard in the past year to make a difference to people's lives.

He reflected on the eventful year the Council had had and the many challenges that lay ahead at local, regional and national levels – whether that was cuts to Council funding, Greater Manchester devolution or the state of the economy and the new measures introduced in the recent Emergency Budget. The Council had undertaken a huge amount of work in the past twelve months to help ordinary residents deal with the issues that affected them.

A number of significant projects had been undertaken during the last year and the Leader highlighted the following:

- Oldham Foodbank, which had provided food for 3,716 adults and 1,620 children.
- Investment in the Welfare Rights Service ahead of the implementation of Welfare Reform.
- Get Oldham Working campaign had created 3,025 opportunities, including 1,672 jobs and 475 apprenticeships.

- Introduction of the Living Wage at Oldham Council, which had given five hundred and forty employees a new £7.86 minimum hourly rate from April 1.
- Signed up businesses to the Fair Employment Charter.
- Embedded 'Social Value' into all of the Council's activity.
- Launched Our House in June: the country's first-ever payment store run by a not-for-profit business.
- Introduced a licensing scheme for private landlords
- Warm Homes Oldham, had lifted more than 1,900 people out of fuel poverty in its first two years.
- Put plans in place for thousands of aspirational homes to be built here that would give real choice and variety to communities.
- Activated dormant trust funds in excess of £1 million, to let them be used for grassroots activities to improve neighbourhoods.
- Delivered the Oldham Youth Guarantee.

The Leader referred to the strategy for Oldham to 'invest to grow' and businesses were hugely important partners in all the plans.

Successful regeneration and a growing economy would mean that more businesses would be paying business rates and more residents in work would be paying Council Tax. This would help protect frontline and vital services that people depended on.

The Leader gave some examples of how the Council was helping local firms, which included:

- Warehouse to Wheels - more than 50 of the first trainees had graduated from this scheme.
- Independent Quarter - the scheme had been so successful that it was now being rolled out to help revive district town centres in Failsworth, Shaw and Lees.
- Oldham Enterprise Fund - had processed more than 90 applications and given a range of practical funding help and expert support to start-ups and existing businesses.

The Leader reflected that, last October, the Council had spun out its Adult Social Care operation into two services. Oldham Care and Support delivered adult care services bought by the Council on residents' behalf and Oldham Care and Support at Home was actively taking on and competing with private sector companies in the home care and personal assistance market.

This year 'Volunteering for All had been launched, a new project for residents who wanted to meet new friends or needed help with daily tasks. This included befriending, help with technology, shopping and everyday tasks, community clubs and travel companions. It was a vital voluntary contribution to improving lives for all who take part in it.

The Leader stated that there could be few better examples of co-operative working than the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance. The Council had teamed up with more than 30 organisations to create a scheme which had a target to sign up 500 people to agree to learn more about dementia in 45-minute training

sessions. After just three months it had created an astonishing 2,592 Dementia Friends in the borough prompting Simon Stevens, the Chief Executive of NHS England, to visit Oldham to see its pioneering work.



The Leader referred to the many unsung heroes in the borough. People here were industrious and selfless. For every one flytipper or rogue landlord or tenant Oldham had dozens of fantastic people who deserved better and would play their part in improving the place. That was why the Council was working so hard to help them – and why it would continue to leave no stone unturned in making 2015/6 another successful year for Oldham.

RESOLVED that the content of the Leader's Annual Statement be noted.

10

YOUTH COUNCIL

Youth Councillors TJay Turner, Saadiqah Begum and Marouf Ahmed spoke on the following Motion:

"Inhumane, discriminatory and ineffective... The 'Mosquito Device' is an alarm that emits a high-frequency sound that can only be heard by people under the age of 25. We believe that the mosquito device should not be used against young people and believe that its use should be prohibited.

Mosquito alarms are strategically placed outside of buildings where anti-social gatherings are known to take place. The purpose of its presence is to disperse groups of young people and to prevent loitering around buildings.

It has come to our attention that there is a mosquito device in operation in the Shaw and Crompton ward. Its presence has been highlighted to the Youth Council directly from young people and has been an issue that has been raised on social media.

We believe these devices are unjust as they specifically target young people regardless of their behaviour. It therefore threatens the fundamental human rights of young people and in our opinion, alongside that of the Council of Europe, we believe the use of the device also breaches the *UN Convention on the Rights of a Child 'Article 37' (Inhumane Treatment and Detention)*¹

The device is incapable of differentiating between those who are anti-social and those who are not, causing a breach of *'Article 15' of the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child (Freedom of Association)*². The right entitles children and young people to assemble freely and without restriction if doing so peacefully, which the mosquito alarm prohibits without inflicting *"torture"*³.

We understand that anti-social behaviour is an issue that should always be challenged; we also know that young people are not the only demographic who are involved in anti-social behaviour. Using these devices is not a proportionate response to loitering as groups causing a nuisance can simply move somewhere else. The use of the device doesn't effectively tackle the issue, it simply moves it elsewhere. There are other more effective interventions that can have a longer term impact.

We understand that Oldham Council already has a framework in place to control the use of these devices however we propose that this is reviewed and a policy agreed to reduce the risk of discrimination of young people.

Appendix:

1) Article 37:

States Parties shall ensure that:

(a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

(Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age)

(b) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

(c) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age.

In particular, every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

(d) Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any such action.

(Reference: Unicef - <http://www.unicef.org.uk>)

2) Article 15:

1. States Parties recognize the rights of the child to freedom of association and to freedom of peaceful assembly.

2. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of these rights other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

(Reference: Unicef - <http://www.unicef.org.uk>)

3) Torture:

Definition:

Noun. The action or practise of inflicting severe pain on someone as a punishment or in order to force them to do or say something.

(Reference: Oxford English Dictionary - "<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/derfinition/english/torture>")

Councillor Fielding spoke in support of the Motion.

It was MOVED by Councillor McMahon and SECONDED by Councillor Williamson that under the Council's Constitution - Part 4 - Rules of Procedure - Rule 8.4d this motion be referred to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to which representatives of the Youth Council would be invited to attend.



On being put to the VOTE this suggestion was AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that the Motion be referred to a future meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Board to which representatives of the Youth Council would be invited to attend.

11

LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Sykes, raised the following questions:

1. OFSTED Children's Services Report

"My first question to the Leader tonight concerns the recent report by OFSTED about the performance of our children's services department and the Safeguarding Board.

In 2012, when OFSTED last published a report on these services they were judged to be Good. In the August 2015 report they were deemed to be Requiring Improvement – a significantly worsened position.

Mercifully, in the report, OFSTED affirms positively that the four children's homes operated by the local authority "were judged to be good or outstanding in their most recent Ofsted inspection" and that "There are no widespread or serious failures that create or leave children being harmed or at risk of harm".

I am sure that this news will at least be a relief to all members in this chamber given recent tragedies involving vulnerable children and young people elsewhere; tragedies that I have previously raised in questions to the Leader.

But the report also states damningly that "The authority is not yet delivering good protection and help for children, young people and families" and that it is "not yet delivering good care" for looked after children and young people.

OFSTED also states that "Leadership, management and governance require improvement" and that "the characteristics of good leadership are not in place".

I am sure that like me the Leader will share the expectation of OFSTED that "all children and young people in Oldham receive the level of help, care and protection that will ensure their safety and help prepare them for adult life".

Certainly this was an expectation that we always worked to meet during my administration and this was why the Leader was able to inherit a Good rating in the last report.

So can he therefore now tell me what plan will be put in place to ensure that our Children's Services will be improved and our leadership, management and governance structures made fit for purpose, so that we may avoid another such damning verdict in future?"

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council, responded that this was an important question and it was right to flag up the issue. Whilst the Ofsted report was not what was wanted, it was not unexpected. The Council's budget had been cut in half, which affected the Council's ability to reward and retain qualified staff. Staff had to do more and their casework loads were significant, complex and stressful, with referrals being up by a third. This was a national crisis in social care, with 5000 vacancies across the country for qualified social workers and new social workers needed time to develop. It was accepted the Council would have to make difficult decisions in the future. The Ofsted report was fair, though the review could have been fuller on political leadership. The Council had a plan in place to rebuild and improve.

2. Elder Abuse

"My second question concerns another group of vulnerable people – this time elderly people subjected to abuse.

Although there is much media attention focused on the abuse of children there is comparatively little given to that meted out to our elders. And here I am referring to neglect and financial and emotional abuse, as well as physical abuse.

The UK charity Action on Elder Abuse estimates that 8.6% of older people living in our communities are subject to elder abuse – over 500,000 people. Yet this is hidden from sight from the majority of people.

Breaking the statistics down a little - 60% of victims are over 80 years of age, more than 15% are over 90 years old, and almost one in five – 19% - have dementia.

Although most people have heard reports of abuse in care homes or in hospitals, the majority of older victims of abuse live in their own homes, and the majority of abusers are relatives not professionals. Most shockingly a quarter of those abused actually live with their abusers.

My second question to the Leader tonight is to ask him what is being done to address elder abuse in this Borough?"

Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council, responded that the Council's responsibilities covered adults as well as children. The Council considered serious case reviews and reports, and there was not the same media interest in adult abuse as that in children. The Council had a good team in place that had picked up cases of abuse in care homes and private residences and, where there had been gaps, it had learned from them. It was really important that people in the community who had concerns reported them. The Council would look into the matter and, where a person was in danger, they would move that person to a place of safety.

Councillor Hudson, a Leader of a minority opposition group, raised the following question:

Councillor Hudson referred to Members sticking together as a co-operative Council and asked that they did not make overly-

political comments when they were all trying to work to give better services to the people of Oldham



Councillor McMahon responded that he did not agree that Councillors were gratuitously political. Members debated the issues that affected the people of Oldham and there were government decisions that affected Oldham. If the Council wanted a co-operative Oldham, the first thing to do was to put party politics aside in pursuit of what was best for Oldham. There would be times when party allegiances should be put aside to fight a government that was damaging Oldham. There was no way the extensive cuts could continue and the Council still provide quality services. Members could respect each other's political views but represented the people of Oldham and needed at times to stand up to the government and highlight what they were doing.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Council had previously agreed that, following the Leaders' allocated questions, further questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council.

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Fielding to Councillor Jabbar

"Will the appropriate Cabinet Member advise if the Chancellor's announcement of the misleadingly named 'national living wage' in the July budget will have any effect on the salaries of the staff of Oldham Council?"

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and HR, responded that the short the answer was that this would have no effect on the salaries of Oldham Council staff, as Oldham already responsibly paid beyond the national minimum wage rate.

When the Chancellor referred to the National Minimum Wage, this was currently £6.50 per hour and set to increase to £6.70 per hour from 1st October, and to £7.20 from 1 April 2016. By comparison, the National Living Wage recommended by the Living Wage Foundation was currently £7.85 for families to live decently in areas outside of Greater London. There was a substantial difference between what the Foundation considered a living wage and what the Chancellor was saying. The Council's scheme covered all employees and not just those over 25, as it was not fair to pay young people less.

As long ago as April 2012, Oldham Council introduced an Oldham Living Wage of £7.11 per hour. That had now been increased to £7.85 per hour for all directorate staff. This did not include school staff and schools were being encouraged to sign up to both the Living Wage and Fair Employment Charter. Currently 80.4% of schools were paying the Living Wage and the Council was working to raise this to 100%.

2. Councillor Judge to Councillor Brownridge

“We are only months away from the government’s compulsory micro-chipping of dogs. Can the relevant Cabinet Member please tell us what Oldham Council are doing to help the process go as smoothly as possible? Can they also tell us what flexibility there is in the legislation to help Oldham tackle the problems of things like dangerous dogs that attack children and other pets, marauding dogs that attack livestock, abandoned dogs, dog mess and stolen or lost dogs?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Co-Operatives, responded that the Council was be working with colleagues in Greater Manchester to raise awareness of the changes in the microchipping of dogs. The Council had already purchased a stock of microchips to assist dogs owners with micro-chipping and will be promoting this.

The main change in the legislation for the Council was the ability to issue a 14 days’ notice for non-compliance, when it was informed or became aware that a dog is not microchipped. The Council was still awaiting clarification on the process of enforcement which could involve either a fixed penalty notice or be addressed via the courts.

The majority of dog owners were responsible the Council had very few cases where dogs posed a risk to animals or children. The Council would continue to work with the Police where there was a dangerous dog. The Council’s animal warden service would continue to investigate any incidents where an injury has not occurred and would investigate any incident involving attacks on livestock, and would prosecute.

With regard to dog mess it was likely the Council would look to consolidate existing Orders to set out what precisely what was acceptable in public areas. This would be an improvement, but the problem lay with irresponsible dog owners and, where Councillors or members of the public could provide evidence, the Council would prosecute.

3. Councillor Mushtaq to Councillor Hibbert

“There’s a significant amount of road improvement taking place in the borough, for which I’m personally grateful as I’m sure are residents. However as I have raised previously there is a concern with the longevity of the improvements. Can the relevant cabinet member inform me if the condition of the re-laid surfaces is monitored especially over the winter months and if any steps are taken to ensure we get the best value for the money being spent?”

Councillor David Hibbert, Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Highways responded that the highway improvements that had taken place around the borough were made up of multiple solutions and treatments depending on the current condition of the carriageway.

In recent years Oldham Council had carried out a preventative treatment programme that applied a treatment to carriageways that were starting to show signs of deterioration and required an improvement in Macrotecture and skid resistance.

The treatment used was Ralumac Microasphalt which was a dual-layered thin surface system designed to extend the residual life of the carriageway by up to 12 years. The treatment was not without its flaws and the Council would endeavour to ensure that best quality finish was applied throughout the Borough.

Councillor Hibbert indicated a copy of his response would be sent to Councillor Mushtaq.

4. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Akhtar

“I welcome the establishment of a new project to offer employment opportunities for young people with special educational needs and / or disabilities.

Regrettably job seekers with learning disabilities are often discriminated against by employers and consequently they can encounter significant difficulties in finding work.

Can the Cabinet Member please provide me with an update on the progress that has so far been made on this project, particularly on the status of our arrangements with our partners New Bridge School, Remploy, Oldham Care and Support, Oldham College and Pure Innovation?

And can he also tell me what is being done to support older job seekers with learning disabilities through the Get Oldham Working programme?”

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills responded that there were several partnership arrangements in place that offered employment opportunities for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Pure Innovation and Oldham College offered a Supported Internship programme, which was an employment-based course that gave students with learning disabilities/difficulties the opportunity to develop employability skills in a real work place surrounded by other working people. The expected outcome of the programme was that employment was secured after the academic year. The programme would commence with 10 interns on the 14th September 2015, with 9 young people placed within different Council departments and 1 within the Pennine Care; each individual would experience a different placement each term so that they could explore roles and develop relevant skills.

Pure Innovation worked with the young people to offer the employment and progression support. The College delivered a ‘preparing for employment’ qualification alongside the work placements, together with English and maths which were

mandatory for all students who were undertaking a learning programme through a college.



Oldham
Council

New Bridge Horizons were exploring a partnership with Manchester College to deliver an additional Supported Internship programme locally where they would place 10 students on 10 week work placement over 3 rotations, with a view to securing a job on completion. To date, New Bridge had potentially identified 6 young people for the Get Oldham Working programme.

Remploy had agreed to offer employability support towards the end of the work placements as they had existing employer relations with large companies.

The Council was continuing to work with Oldham Care and Support. There was support available for older job seekers with learning disabilities through the Get Oldham Working programme. Get Oldham Working (GOW) was a direct referral agency to Remploy's Work Choice programme. This meant that any residents with a disability or learning difficulty could be directly referred to Work Choice by GOW without need for their Job Centre Plus advisor making that referral.

There would be an event on 29th September to discuss and agree the GM Vision for Employment for young people with additional needs and actions going forward for a GM strategy on employment/preparation for employment for disabled young people.

At this point in the meeting the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

RESOLVED that the questions asked and responses provided be noted.

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

The Cabinet Minutes for the meetings held on 22nd June 2015 and 20th July 2015 were submitted.

An observation was raised on the Cabinet Minutes:

Councillor McCann – Cabinet meeting - 15th July, Item 15, page 39, Acquisition and Disposal of Land at the Former Westhulme Hospital, Chadderton Way, Oldham – welcomed that the site was to be redeveloped after so many years and congratulated Councillor Hibbert, as the relevant Cabinet Member. The extra

parking was excellent news for hospital staff and users, and those who lived around the hospital, as it would alleviate parking problems.



Councillor Hibbert responded that he was sure Councillor McCann's congratulations extended to all the other Cabinet Members involved.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 22nd June 2015 and 20th July 2015 be noted.
2. The observation on the Cabinet Minutes be noted.

13

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Ball SECONDED:

"This Council notes with considerable concern that the Secretary of State for Justice has announced the closure of a number of courts in the country including Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates Court. The closures in a borough like Oldham will have a much more profound effect than other areas particularly when combined with other policies and 'tough decisions' taken by the government.

Access to justice is one of the fundamental freedoms we all enjoy but the impact of this decision will affect local residents in a number of ways including:

- Increased travel times and cost associated with accessing the courts and justice system.
- Residents potentially being denied justice given the out of touch guarantee that residents will be able to access a court in one hour, by car should their local court be closed.
- Potential relocation of law firms from Oldham due to the adverse impact on their business with the knock on effect on Oldham's provision and economy.

The list could go on but the underlying theme is an inaccessible justice system and an attack on the fundamental rights of everyone in the borough.

The Council resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Justice, to ask him to reconsider the decision to close the County Court and Magistrates Court in Oldham. To note the impact the cuts have already had on the regions ability to deliver justice for its residents and to refrain from targeting boroughs such as Oldham as an easy first option when making 'tough decisions'.

Also to write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Michael Meacher MP and Angela Rayner MP to ask them to support the motion and to use any other parliamentary means available to achieve the same outcomes."

Councillors Chauhan, Gloster, S Bashforth, Turner, Wrigglesworth, Fielding, Rehman, Brownridge and Judge all spoke in support of the motion.



Councillor Mushtaq exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the VOTE, the meeting UNANIMOUSLY voted IN FAVOUR of the MOTION, which was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Justice, to ask him to reconsider the decision to close the County Court and Magistrates Court in Oldham. The impact the cuts have already had on the regions ability to deliver justice for its residents should be noted and he should refrain from targeting boroughs such as Oldham as an easy first option when making 'tough decisions'.
2. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Michael Meacher MP and Angela Rayner MP to ask them to support the motion and to use any other parliamentary means available to achieve the same outcomes

Motion 2

Motion 2 was carried over to the next meeting.

14

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Sedgwick SECONDED:

"This Council notes that:

- Many people beyond the age of 50 are denied the opportunity to participate in employment on the grounds of age
- 10.2 million people in the UK are aged between 50 and the state pension age, yet 2.9 million (or 28%) are out of work
- People continue to lead full and productive lives well beyond state pension age, and this can include a desire to participate in paid employment
- Denying work on the grounds of age to people who wish to do so has a deleterious effect on their well-being and upon the economy
- Its responsibility, as a leading employer in the borough, to have a diverse workforce, including an age-diverse workforce, to reflect the community it serves

This Council further notes:

- The report 'A New Vision for Older Workers: Retain, Retrain and Recruit' published by Dr. Ros Altmann CBE, the Government's Business Champion for Older Workers, in

which recommendations of good practice are made to employers, including:

- Monitoring and promoting age diversity in the workforce
- Carrying out audits to identify skill shortages when older workers leave
- Ensuring training remains available to employees over 50
- Offering mid-life career reviews to employees over 50
- Retaining older employees as mentors, rather than forcing them to retire
- An alumni programme for retired staff
- Making flexible working arrangements available so that older employees who care for others or who have a health condition can continue to work
- Providing Gap Breaks and Family Crisis leave, especially for carers, to help retain older staff
- Establishing 'age-blind' recruitment processes
- Valuing the experience of job applicants as much as the possession of a degree whenever possible in the selection process
- Creating Mature Apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for applicants over 50

This Council also notes the welcome expansion of the Council's Traineeship scheme to applicants of all ages.

This Council:

- Requests the relevant Cabinet Member carry out an audit of the Council's current practices to ensure that these follow best practice as identified by Dr Altmann in her report, and bring a report back to Council on this issue.
- Requests the relevant Cabinet Member actively promotes the Traineeship scheme to applicants who are 50 or over
- Requests the relevant Cabinet Member give consideration to creating Mature Apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for older applicants within the Council as part of the 'Get Oldham Working' offer and that he urges other progressive employers within the borough to also do so".

Councillors Akhtar, Chadderton and Mushtaq spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor McCann exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the VOTE, the meeting UNANIMOUSLY voted IN FAVOUR of the MOTION, which was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The relevant Cabinet Member be requested to carry out an audit of the Council's current practices to ensure that these follow best practice as identified by Dr Altmann in her report, and bring a report back to Council on this issue.
2. The relevant Cabinet Member be requested to actively promote the Traineeship scheme to applicants who are 50 or over.

3. The relevant Cabinet Member be requested to give consideration to creating Mature Apprenticeships and work experience opportunities for older applicants within the Council as part of the 'Get Oldham Working' offer and that he urges other progressive employers within the borough to also do so

Motion 2

Councillor Heffernan MOVED and Councillor Sykes
SECONDED:

“Council notes that:

- Today (September 9th 2015) marks the date upon which Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second has become Britain's longest serving Monarch. Her Majesty has so far reigned for 23,226 days.
- A role model for her subjects and a steadfast rock for our country, our Queen has unfailingly honoured the promise she made at her Coronation to serve this Nation and the Commonwealth well, and, despite being 89 years of age, she still faithfully fulfils a very heavy diary of Royal commitments.
- Her Majesty's reign has been momentous in many ways – she has moved from being leader of an Empire to head of the Commonwealth; there have been tremendous advances in science and technology; our nation has become much more diverse and inclusive; and her reign has been increasingly illuminated by the media with her every move, every expression and every action flashed around the world in milliseconds.

This Council, wishing to mark this momentous occasion, requests that the Chief Executive write to Buckingham Palace offering our congratulations to Her Majesty and our best wishes that she may continue her long and remarkable reign for many years to come.”

Councillors Jabbar and McMahon spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Heffernan exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the VOTE, the meeting UNANIMOUSLY voted IN FAVOUR of the MOTION, which was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that: The Chief Executive be requested to write to Buckingham Palace offering our congratulations to Her Majesty and our best wishes that she may continue her long and remarkable reign for many years to come.

Motion 3

Councillor Williamson MOVED and Councillor Harkness
SECONDED:

“This Council notes that:

- Approximately 100,000 people a year die after having a sudden cardiac arrest
- The current survival rate for out of hospital cardiac arrest is less than 10%
- Research has shown that, while awaiting the arrival of paramedics, using a defibrillator in conjunction with CPR can increase the survival rate to over 70%

This Council, recognising its public health duties, acknowledges the value of installing more defibrillators in public buildings and large private-sector developments across the borough.

This Council resolves to:

- Work to increase the number of defibrillators in existing and new Council buildings, such as the Civic Centre and the two new leisure centres
- Ensure that the locations of all defibrillators in Council buildings are promptly registered with the North West Ambulance Service
- Ensure that defibrillators in Council buildings are properly maintained and that training in their use is provided to the appropriate staff
- Engage with the Council’s commercial partners to ensure that the new Princes Gate, Old Town Hall and Hotel Futures developments have sufficient functional defibrillators”

There were no speakers on the motion.

On being put to the VOTE, the meeting UNANIMOUSLY voted IN FAVOUR of the MOTION, which was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council would work to increase the number of defibrillators in existing and new Council buildings, such as the Civic Centre and the two new leisure centres.
2. The Council would ensure that the locations of all defibrillators in Council buildings are promptly registered with the North West Ambulance Service.
3. The Council would ensure that defibrillators in Council buildings are properly maintained and that training in their use is provided to the appropriate staff,
4. The Council would engage with the its commercial partners to ensure that the new Princes Gate, Old Town Hall and Hotel Futures developments have sufficient functional defibrillators.

15(a)

To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

Minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:



Transport for Greater Manchester	12 th June 2015 (AGM and Ordinary)
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Executive	26 th June 2015 (AGM)
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	26 th June 2015 (AGM) 26 th June 2015 31 st July 2015
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	26 th June (AGM)

There were no questions or observations.

RESOLVED that:

The minutes of the Joint Authorities as detailed in the report be noted.

15(b) Minutes of the Partnership Meetings were submitted as follows:

Oldham Care and Support Company	25 th March 2015
Oldham Leadership Board	25 th June 2015

There were no questions or observations.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnerships as detailed in the report be noted.

16 **2014/15 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources, which informed Members that the Council's accounts for 2014/15 had been audited, approved and published, on 19th May 2015. Cabinet had recommended that the Final Accounts 2014/15 and the external audit (Grant Thornton) reports for 2014/15 be recommended to Council for noting.

Councillor Jabbar MOVED the report, which was SECONDED by Councillor McCann.

Councillor McMahon made an observation on the report.

RESOLVED that the final accounts, the audit reports and the items referred to in the report be NOTED.

17 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2014/15**

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources which reviewed treasury management activities compared to the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2014/15.

Councillor Jabbar MOVED the report, which was SECONDED by Councillor Chadderton.

RESOLVED that:

1. The actual 2014/15 prudential and treasury indicators as detailed in the report be approved.
2. The annual treasury management report for 2014/15 be approved.

18 **INTERIM GREATER MANCHESTER MAYOR - VOTING RIGHTS AND MEMBERSHIP OF AGMA**

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor McMahon, Leader of the Council, which requested that the Council consider whether it agreed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) becoming a full Member of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA).

Councillor McMahon MOVED the report, which was SECONDED by Councillor Sykes.

RESOLVED that:

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority becoming a full member of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities, as per Clause 18 of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities Constitution, be approved.

19 **OLDHAM DISTRESS FUND FINAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15**

Consideration was given to a report of Councillor Stretton, the Deputy Leader of the Council. The annual report, which provided the finance statements that had been publicised on the Charity Commission website for the year ended 31st March 2015, was detailed for Members. The Oldham Distress Fund was a registered charity operated by Oldham Council, with the terms of reference to relieve poverty and hardship of people living in the Borough of Oldham. In 2012 it was used in response to the gas explosion that occurred in Shaw in June 2012.

Councillor Stretton MOVED the report, which was SECONDED by Councillor Sykes.

RESOLVED that: the Oldham Distress Fund Annual Report, including the Financial Statement, be noted.

20 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which informed members of actions that had been taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

Councillor McMahon MOVED the report, which was SECONDED by Councillor Sykes.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.05 pm and ended at 9.35 pm

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COUNCIL

Petitions

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Various

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Constitutional Services
Ext. 4705

4th November 2015

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the petitions received by Council in accordance with the Petitions Protocol.

Petitions Received

Economy and Skills

Save Shaw Market Petition (received 20 October 2015) (353 Signatures) (Ref 2015-22)

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council note the petition received.

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24/08/2015 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor McMahon (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Harrison, Hibbert, Jabbar, Shah
and Stretton

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Brownridge and Hibbert declared a personal interest in Items 11 and 14, Contract Award: Housing and Social Welfare Advice Services, by virtue of their Council appointment to the First Choice Homes Board.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON THE
20TH JULY 2015**

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 20th July 2015 be approved.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR 2015/16, QUARTER 1 - APRIL 2015
TO JUNE 2015**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Cabinet with an update on the Council's 2015/16 revenue budget position forecast to the year-end as at the period ending 31st August 2015. The current forecast position was a projected underspend of £385k after the planned use of reserves.

Members were requested to approve the use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1: Not to approve any of the proposed management actions included in the report

Option 2: Not to approve some of the actions included in the report.

Option 3: Approve all the actions included in the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast outturn for 2015/16 at the end of August 2015, being a £385k underspend after the planned use of reserves, be agreed.
2. The forecast positions for both the HRA and Collection Fund be agreed.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which advised the Cabinet of the financial position of the capital programme at the end of month three 2015/16 and sought approval to the proposed changes to the capital programme as outlined in section 3 and Appendix G of the report.

The report contained detail of the most up to date capital spending proposals for 2015/2020, including the current project managers forecast outturn position for 2015/16 of £97.080m expenditure, a movement of £19.081m, of which a net £18.893m was being requested to be re-phased/accelerated into/from future years. A further £0.183m required further review to establish if it was potentially available for an alternative use (as set out in Table 2).

It was reported that the actual expenditure to 30 June 2015 was £15.147m (15.6% of forecast outturn).

Members were advised that, at this early stage in the financial year, there was still some element of uncertainty about the forecast position and it was expected that this would continue to change. Additional re-profiling was likely to be required as the progress of schemes was developed. Revisions to planned expenditure profiles would also be examined within the annual review of the capital programme.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1: To approve all the changes included in the report.

Option 2: To approve some of the changes included in the report.

Option 3: Not to approve any of the changes included in the report

RESOLVED – That:

1. The projected capital outturn for 2015/16 at the end of month 3 was noted.
2. The amendments to the capital programme outlined in Appendix G were approved.

GENERATION OLDHAM BUSINESS CASE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Corporate and Commercial Services which sought agreement to the proposals and mechanism for installing around 1 megawatt (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) equipment on a first tranche of Council-owned assets, as a first stage of the Generation Oldham programme.

The Cabinet was informed that work was continuing with other Community Groups and organisations to source funding for feasibility work, which would enable their schemes to be taken forward as part of this first development phase.

The report detailed the options analysis and feasibility work undertaken to inform options for the Council using a first tranche of council-owned community buildings for solar PV energy production. There was a cost/benefit analysis of options, and identification of potential risks and issues.

- Options/Alternatives considered:
Option 1: Council-funded and delivered scheme
Option 2: Community Benefit Society funded and delivered scheme
Option 3: Do nothing

RESOLVED - That:

1. Subject to appropriate legal and financial safeguards being in place, and notwithstanding any assets which may subsequently be identified for disposal, the Cabinet agreed to the Generation Oldham Community Benefit Society (to be named 'Oldham Community Power') being able to utilise the buildings in Annex 2 for solar PV installation (subject to the Rules of Incorporation of the new Community Benefit Society being agreed which meet the Council's requirements as determined by the Directors of Finance and Legal Services).
2. The project be financed via a community share issue on the principle that no capital investment would be required from the Council in recognition of the opportunity to deliver additional social and co-operative benefits.
3. Further work be undertaken to develop the project to design stage, including securing planning and other permissions.
4. A further report be submitted for approval with final details of financial, legal and delivery arrangements prior to the scheme being implemented.
5. The progress to date in delivering the 'Generation Oldham' programme be noted.

9

REQUEST APPROVAL TO EXTEND A CONTRACT WITH ROSS AUTO ENGINEERING LIMITED (ROSS CARE) FOR THE PROVISION OF INTEGRATED COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director Health and Wellbeing that requested approval to extend the contract with Ross Auto Engineering Limited (Ross Care) for a further two years.

The contract was initially let by Tameside Council as a Framework agreement (which Oldham Council later joined) and provision to extend the contract up to a further two years was included in the original procurement.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- Option 1: Allow the contract to expire on 30th September 2015.
Option 2: Tender the service.
Option 3: Extend the Councils contract with Ross Auto Engineering Limited (Ross Care) for a further two years from 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2017.

RESOLVED - That the Council's contract with Ross Auto Engineering Limited (Ross Care) be extended for a further two years from 1st October 2015 to 30th September 2017.

10

REPORT ON - EASTERN GATEWAY AND PRINCE'S GATE AT OLDHAM MUMPS DEVELOPMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economic Development informing the Cabinet of the progress of the Prince's Gate retail development, which included updates on the latest proposals relating to:

- Replacement Park and Ride
- Design of Prince's Gate
- Planning application for Prince's Gate
- Delivery Strategy and programme for Prince's Gate

It was reported that the Prince's Gate development and the wider regeneration of sites was linked to the Council's Corporate Plan and was one of the priorities for Strategic Regeneration.

The Prince's Gate scheme was likely to make Oldham a place to invest through the implementation of a Joint Venture Partnership to develop retail space attracting new retailers into the town including M & S and a town centre residential offer, thereby supporting the wider regeneration of the town centre.

The scheme would also include further development sites throughout the borough to bring regeneration through the redevelopment of redundant land, creation of jobs and transformation of Oldham making Oldham a productive place, and helping businesses thrive.

The report proposed that the Council procured an investor/development partner to deliver the Prince's Gate retail scheme. There was also the opportunity for the procured development partner to enter into a wider relationship with the Council by way of a long term joint venture (JV) designed to deliver the Prince's Gate retail scheme and the redevelopment of other Council owned sites over the medium to long term.

The Council's partner in the JV would be required to have sufficient access to funding, the development resource/skills to deliver the Prince's Gate retail scheme and to fund or to procure the funding of other Oldham wide developments.

It was reported that there was the possibility that the JV could be structured to enable the transfer in, and redevelopment of, assets owned by other authorities, which would facilitate sharing with other Councils.

There was a further report on this matter at Item 13 of the agenda that outlined the full details of the project and contained additional recommendations.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1: To approve the recommendations outlined in the report.

Option 2: Not to approve the recommendations.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 13 of the agenda before reaching a decision.

11

CONTRACT AWARD: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE ADVICE SERVICES

Councillors Brownridge and Hibbert declared a personal interest in Items 11 and 14, Contract Award: Housing and Social Welfare Advice Services, by virtue of their Council appointment to the First Choice Homes Board.

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Policy and Governance that sought approval to award a contract for the provision of housing and social welfare advice services. Housing and Social Welfare Advice Services were delivered by two separate organisations and welfare benefits advice was provided by the Council's in-house Welfare Rights team. Scoping of these services had identified areas of overlap and, in order to meet demand and secure greater value for money, the Council had agreed to commission an integrated Housing and Social Welfare Advice service, with the potential to streamline systems. This would enable resources to be targeted at those residents with complex issues who require more specialist support.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1: Not to award the contract following the tender process

Option 2: To award the contract to the organisation ranked first in the tender evaluation process with effect from 1st December 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 14 of the agenda before reaching a decision.

12

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

13

REPORT ON - EASTERN GATEWAY AND PRINCE'S GATE AT OLDHAM MUMPS DEVELOPMENT

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 of the agenda

RESOLVED – That:

1. The commencement and exercise of an EU procurement process for the selection and appointment of an investment/development partner for the delivery of the Prince's Gate retail scheme, the wider Eastern Gateway and borough-wide, by way of a joint venture be approved.
2. The selection of a preferred bidder and the proposed basis of a contract award to that preferred bidder be considered at a future meeting.
3. The commercially sensitive recommendations contained in the report be agreed.

14

CONTRACT AWARD: HOUSING AND SOCIAL WELFARE ADVICE SERVICES

Councillors Brownridge and Hibbert declared a personal interest in Items 11 and 14, Contract Award: Housing and Social Welfare Advice Services, by virtue of their Council appointment to the First Choice Homes Board.

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 11 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the contract for the provision of housing and social welfare advice services be awarded to First Choice Homes Oldham, for the period 1st December 2015 to 30th November 2018, with the option of extending the contract up to a further four years.



The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm

Present: Councillor McMahon (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Harrison, Hibbert, Shah and
Stretton

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jabbar.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Brownridge and Hibbert declared a personal interest in Item 8, Changes to the Constitution of First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) Board, by virtue of their Council appointment to the First Choice Homes Board.

Councillor Brownridge declared a personal interest in Items 10 and 12, Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre, by virtue of her Council appointment to the Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre Shadow Board.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 24TH
AUGUST 2015**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 24th August be approved.

6 **COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2016-17**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval of the Council Tax Reduction scheme 2016/17 as detailed at Appendix 1 of the report.

It was reported that from the 1st April 2013 the Council introduced a localised Council Tax reduction scheme as required by the Local Government Finance Act 2012.

Each year a collection authority must formally consider revising its Council Tax reduction scheme and ensure there was consultation on a proposed scheme.

The Council had made a change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 which had increased the maximum reduction awardable from 80% of the Band A rate of Council Tax to 85%. That had meant an extra £53.43 per year for someone who was entitled to the maximum award and this was agreed by Full Council in December 2014.

A Council Tax Reduction working group had been formed to ensure a thorough review process and help to inform decision making around whether the Council should make Council Tax Reduction changes for 2016/17.

The Cabinet was informed that the current scheme had only been in place since 1st April 2015 and it was difficult to estimate

what the exact percentage collection rate might be at year end. An early indication was that the collection rate for the extra amount billed in 2015/16 would be higher than originally estimated at between 70% and 75%, however this could change in the remainder of the year.

The Cabinet was further informed that another consideration was estimating the financial impact of the new government proposals for welfare and tax reform on Oldham. Whilst insufficient detail was available at this early stage to quantify the impact of these changes on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as a means-tested benefit, it was highly likely that demand on the scheme would rise next year, as benefit freezes and reductions in tax credits would mean reducing incomes for sizeable numbers of Oldham residents.

As that the scheme had been changed for 2015/16 and, having considering the current financial position of the Council, it was not proposed to change the threshold level. If no change was made, the maximum amount of reduction available would remain at 85% of a Band A rate of Council Tax.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Leave the current Council Tax reduction scheme unchanged from 2016 onwards.

Option 2: Change the level of Council Tax Reduction.

RESOLVED – That the report be commended to the Council.

RECOMMENDED – That the Council makes no revision or replacement to the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

7

SOCIAL CARE PERSONAL BUDGETS POLICY AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Safeguarding which set out the statutory requirements for the Council to have a Personal Budget policy and Social Care Resource Allocation System for Children and Young People with Disabilities and their Families, as a result of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms contained in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The Cabinet were informed that the Children and Families Act 2014 required local authorities to offer families Personal Budgets where an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan was in place for children and young people with disabilities. A Personal Budget was an amount of money identified by the local authority to deliver the provision set out in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan where the parent or young person needed help above that provided by universal or targeted services.

The Council had piloted and tested a model for personal budgets in children's social care for children with additional and complex needs. Plans were in place to extend this across social care for children with additional and complex needs with the implementation of the Personal Budgets policy.

It was reported that the proposed policy as set out at Appendix 1 outlined what a Personal Budget/direct payment could be used for.

Further consultation to potentially enable the freeing up of more resources to be taken as 'cashable' element of a personal budget was planned for November 2015.

The Cabinet was informed that the development of the resource allocation system and policy had been carried out with significant input from the finance team to ensure that the financial model was sustainable, affordable and provided value for money.

The proposed model allocated a 'pound per point' value to the outcome of the RAS assessment, which was linked to the child's age, and a combination of the two produced an 'indicative' Personal Budget amount. The pound per point value had been derived by assessing the needs of a sample of Oldham's current cohort of children and from this sample equating the financial costs of that need.

This approach had been taken to ensure equality, consistency and transparency for all service users, with a clearly defined set of backup tables as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: To adopt the recommended policy and Resource Allocation System to enable implementation of Social Care Personal Budgets for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their Families.

Option 2: Decide not to approve the policy and Resource Allocation System; this would put the Council in breach of statutory requirements.

RESOLVED - That:

1. The policy as set out at Appendix 1, to enable the implementation of Personal Budgets for Children and Young People with Disabilities and their Families, be approved.
2. The recommended Resource Allocation System and funding matrix as set out at Appendix 2 be agreed.

8

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION OF FIRST CHOICE HOMES OLDHAM (FCHO) BOARD

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director for Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods which sought agreement to changes proposed by First Choice Homes Oldham Ltd (FCHO) to its constitution.

It was reported that a Housing Stock Transfer Agreement was agreed between the Council and FCHO in February 2011. The Agreement set out the Council's requirements of FCHO as a Registered Provider of social housing and included a commitment for FCHO to deliver against an 'Offer Document' supported through a ballot of tenants.

Since 2011, FCHO had completed the £149 Million investment programme and commitments within the Housing Stock Transfer Agreement ahead of schedule, including the 'Offer Document' promises to tenants.

The Cabinet was informed that the Homes and Communities Agency, which regulated housing providers, in 2015 updated its rules for housing associations. FCHO wished to make some changes to their governance arrangements in line with the new

regulatory model. The FCHO Board had reviewed its governance arrangements and drafted a simplified shareholder structure which would amend the current voting arrangement shared by tenants, the Council and independent members. It was reported that the revised arrangements would affect the Council's voting share on the Board. Currently the Council had the right to nominate 3 members of the board and those nominations had seen the Council nominate 3 elected members. Under the proposed changes, the Council would have no shareholding and have a right to nominate one member to the Board. The nominated Board Member would be a shareholder in FCHO but the Council itself will not be a shareholder.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Approve the recommendations for the constitutional changes to FCHO Board as agreed by the members of FCHO board on 8th July 2015.

Option 2: Do not approve the constitutional changes to FCHO board as agreed by the members of FCHO board on 8th July 2015.

RESOLVED - That:

1. The contents of this report be noted.
2. The excellent performance achieved by First Choice Homes since the Housing Stock Transfer Agreement of February 2011 where commitments have been met and in some case exceeded be noted.
3. The constitutional amendments proposed by First Choice Homes be supported, subject to the inclusion of a further amendment stating that one board member will be a Council nominee.
4. The Council's amended representation on First Choice Homes Oldham's Board from 3 elected members with voting rights to 1 elected member with voting rights be endorsed.

9

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT JUNE 2015

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Policy and Governance which provided Members with a review of the Council's performance for June 2015 to acknowledged the highlights and scrutinise any areas of underperformance as appropriate.

It was reported that there were 57 rated measures within the period and of these 56% met the target. In addition there were 31 Corporate Plan Actions this quarter and 87% were on track or completed.

Options/Alternatives considered

None

RESOLVED - That the Corporate Performance report for June 2015 be noted.

10

OLDHAM COLISEUM THEATRE AND HERITAGE CENTRE

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director Economy and Skills that:

- Updated Cabinet on the development of the project to date
- Widened the scope of the project to include buildings that would be vacated following completion of the Heritage Centre element, as well as other vacant and ‘at risk’ buildings on Union Street.
- Sought approval for the phased delivery schedule of the expanded project.
- Sought approval for the submission of re-profiled funding applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Arts Council England (ACE).
- Sought approval to delegate subsequent decisions relating to the acceptance of, and approval of any conditions attached to, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Arts Council England (ACE) funding, should this external funding be secured.
- Sought approval to the expenditure of funds needed to progress the delivery of the project up to Investment Decision (Phases A and C) and feasibility studies (Phases B and D) within the relevant budget constraints and in accordance with the appropriate officer scheme of delegation.
- Endorsed the appointment of Gilbert Ash as the preferred contractor and delegated any subsequent decisions relating to the appointment of Gilbert Ash and any preconstruction services and enabling works contracts that may be necessary.
- Updated the Cabinet on the latest governance model.

The Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre (OCTHC) Project involved the relocation of the Coliseum Theatre, museum, archives, local studies and stores to the currently vacant former Library and Art Gallery building on Union Street and the rationalisation of off-site storage in to a new single storage facility.

The former Library building was to be refurbished and redeveloped to accommodate new activities and visitor facilities, along with access to the new theatre to be constructed on the adjoining Southgate Street car park.

The Council had reflected on the history of the Old Town Hall and other buildings of heritage importance such as the Old Gallery and Lyceum, which were vacated without a clear plan in place to secure their future. It was keen to ensure that, when services were relocated from the Old Post Office and the former Museum, there was a clear plan in place for their reuse.

Beyond the immediate site the Council was also working to secure the long term future of the Lyceum building, half of which was vacant and requiring investment.

The Council also sought to ensure comprehensive plans were in place to secure the future of heritage buildings in private ownership that had fallen into disrepair. These included the Principality Building and the former Masonic Hall. The expanded scope would include buildings recently acquired by the Council with heritage value in the area, including the former Conservative Club and the Old Bank at Mumps.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: To proceed with Phase A and Phase C by approving the recommendations – this would ensure the project remained on programme and this would allow development of the former Library Building by the end of 2018, and would provide the Coliseum Theatre with new facilities.

Option 2: Not to approve the recommendations – if the recommendations were not approved, the alternative option would be to cease the project. This would mean that the aims, objectives and critical successful factors would not be achieved.

RESOLVED - That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 12 of the agenda before reaching a decision.

11 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

12 **OLDHAM COLISEUM THEATRE AND HERITAGE CENTRE**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 of the agenda - Oldham Coliseum Theatre and Heritage Centre, which provided details of further necessary actions, delegations, negotiations and financial information in relation to the project.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.30 pm

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY (AGM)

HELD ON 25th JUNE 2015

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Lynda Byrne, Stephen Coen, Basil Curley, Jim Dawson, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, Barrie Holland, Bernard Judge, Iain Lindley, Afia Kamal, Alan Matthews, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Brian Rigby, Michael Smith, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams, Michael Whetton and John Wright

Also in Attendance: Peter O'Reilly (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Paul Argyle (Director of Emergency Response), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Resources, Wigan Council), Alyson Hall (Director of People and Organisation Development), Ged Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Services), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Wayne Shields (Area Manager - Head of Prevention) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN 2015/16

The Clerk invited nominations for the appointment of Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor David Acton having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor David Acton be appointed Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

Councillor David Acton thereupon took the Chair.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN 2015/16

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Vice-Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor Tommy Judge having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor Tommy Judge be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

3. APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN 2015/16

The Chairman invited nominations for the appointment of Deputy Chairman of the Authority for the municipal year 2015/16.

Councillor John Bell having been so nominated, it was:

Resolved: That Councillor John Bell be appointed Deputy Chairman of the Authority for 2015/16.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sharon Briggs, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood and June Hitchen.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd April 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest submitted.

7. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

8. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman welcomed Councillors Stephen Coen and John Wright to their first meeting of the Authority.
2. The Chairman welcomed Peter O'Reilly to his first meeting of the Authority in his capacity of County Fire Officer and Chief Executive for GMFRS.
3. The Chairman advised that the European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) Recognised for Excellence (R4E) assessment process would be commencing on Monday 29th June till Friday 3rd July 2015. The outcomes from the assessment would be submitted to a future meeting of the Authority.
4. The Chairman advised that on Thursday 9th July 2015, the 30,000th Last Post would sound under the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium. To commemorate this unique event, GoneWest, the cultural WWI memorial programme of the Province of West Flanders, had organised an 'Ode to Ode'. Traditionally, the buglers of the Last Post were recruited from the local fire station and that was why they wear the fire brigade uniform. GoneWest, would like to pay tribute to the worldwide solidarity among firefighters with this 'Ode to Ode'. The goal was to gather as many people as possible at local fire stations and other places all over the world to follow the 30 000th Last Post live at 8.00pm on Thursday 9th July 2015. Further information would be available nearer the time.

5. The Chairman invited all Members along with their friend and families to attend the annual Emergency Services Open Day that was being held on Thursday 6th August 2015 at 11.00am at the Trafford Centre outside the Orient. Further information would be available nearer the time.
6. The Chairman informed Members that a Member Training and Development Session on 'Social Media and Corporate Communications' would be taking place at the rise of the next Authority meeting on Thursday 3rd September 2015. The Session would be hosted by the Director of Corporate Communications and all Members were encouraged to attend.
7. The Chairman advised Members that a 'Member Training Day at Leigh Technical Services Centre' would be taking place on Thursday 10th September commencing at 9.30am till approx. 1.00pm. A minibus would be available from FSHQ at 9.00am to take Members to Leigh if they so wished. Please could Members confirm their attendance to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.
8. The Chairman provided an update on the progress towards the recruitment of 24 Wholetime Firefighters within GMFRS. Expressions of interest were being sought from individuals who currently work for GMFRS or who had been engaged with GMFRS in the past three years. This included Volunteers, Community Risk Intervention Teams, Traineeships, Apprenticeships, Retained Firefighters, Emergency Fire Crews, the Boxing Club, Youth Engagement programmes and staff from support departments within the Service to ensure that the potential candidates reflected the communities within Great Manchester. A further update on the recruitment process would be available in due course.
9. The Chairman reminded Members to complete their Declaration of Interest Forms and return them to Donna Parker, Democratic Services Manager.

9. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Item 'E.1 – Former Rochdale Fire Station, Maclure Road, Rochdale' in consultation with the Chairman of the Authority was withdrawn prior to the meeting.

The Chairman advised that a meeting had taken place on 8th June 2015 with himself, County Fire Officer and Chief Executive (P.O'R), Director of Finance and Technical Services, representatives from Rochdale Council and Museum

Trustees. At this meeting the Museum Trust shared a copy of their regional Heritage Lottery Fund Bid that had been submitted on 15th May 2015 and was due for consideration and feedback by the Heritage Lottery Fund by September 2015. Once a response had been received from the Heritage Lottery regarding the outcome of the bid the Authority would be advised accordingly on the next steps.

Resolved: That the update from the Chairman, be noted.

11. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES 2015/16

Consideration was given to a report of the Clerk which sought approval of the Terms of Reference and Delegation of Powers to Committees which had been amended in respect of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee's appointment of Sub Committees. The Authority was also requested to appoint Members to the Authority's Committees/Panel for the 2015/16 Municipal Year and note the updated Scheme of Members' Allowances from 25th June 2015.

Resolved: That:

1. The revised Terms of Reference/Delegations to Committees and Panels for the 2015/16 municipal year, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.
2. The Timetable of Meetings for the 2015/16 municipal year, as detailed at Appendix 3 of the report, be noted.
3. The Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2015/16 as detailed at Appendix 4 of the report, be noted.
4. The Authority's Committees be constituted for the 2015/16 municipal year as detailed below:-

Committee	Membership 2015/16
Service Delivery Committee (15 Members)	Councillor John O'Brien (Chairman), Lynda Byrne (Vice-Chairman), Councillors David Acton, John Bell, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Derek Heffernan, Bernard Judge, Afia Kamal, Iain Lindley, Amna Mir, Shaun O'Neill, , Fred Walker, Steve Williams and John Wright
Policy, Resources and Performance Committee (15 Members)	Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors John Bell, Walter Brett, Sharon Briggs, Lynda Byrne, Stephen Coen, Basil Curley, Barrie Holland,

	Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen , John O'Brien, Fred Walker, Michael Whetton and Paul Wild
Collaboration and Integration Panel (10 Members plus Chairman of the Authority)	Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Barrie Holland (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Mohammed Ayub, John Bell, Jim Dawson, Daniel Hawthorne, Bernard Judge, Tommy Judge, Alan Matthews, Shaun O'Neill and Brian Rigby
Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee (Standing Order 27 Suspended) (9 Members)	Councillor Brian Rigby (Chairman) Derek Heffernan (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Walter Brett, Jim Dawson, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Alan Matthews, Michael Smith and Paul Wild; Lisa Hindle and Francis Walsh (Independent Members)

12. AUTHORITY MEMBERSHIP 2015/16

The Authority noted a report of the Clerk giving details of notifications of changes of membership which had been received from district councils for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved: That all changes having taken effect by 28th May 2015 the Authority's Membership for the 2015/16 municipal year was now as follows:-.

BOLTON	Councillor Mohammed Ayub Councillor Linda Byrne Councillor Paul Wild	Labour Labour Conservative
BURY	Councillor Alan Matthews Councillor Sharon Briggs	Labour Labour
MANCHESTER	Councillor Basil Curley Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood Councillor June Hitchen Councillor Tommy Judge Councillor Afia Kamal	Labour Labour Labour Labour Labour
OLDHAM	Councillor Derek Heffernan Councillor Bernard Judge Councillor Steve Williams	Liberal Democrat Labour Labour
ROCHDALE	Councillor Amna Mir Councillor Shaun O'Neill	Labour Labour
SALFORD	Councillor Stephen Coen Councillor James Dawson Councillor Iain Lindley	Labour Labour Conservative

STOCKPORT	Councillor Walter Brett Councillor Daniel Hawthorne Councillor John Wright	Labour Liberal Democrat Conservative
TAMESIDE	Councillor John Bell Councillor Barrie Holland Councillor Michael Smith	Conservative Labour Labour
TRAFFORD	Councillor David Acton Councillor Brian Rigby Councillor Michael Whetton	Labour Conservative Conservative
WIGAN	Councillor James Ellis Councillor John O'Brien Councillor Fred Walker	Independent Labour Labour

13. GMFRA APPOINTMENTS 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to nominate Members to serve on the GMFRS Scrutiny Board (Partnership and Innovations Management Board), Trustee of Greater Manchester Fire Service Museum Trust and Pension Board – Firefighters' Pension Scheme for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved: That Members be nominated to serve for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:

Appointment	Membership 2015/16
GMFRS Scrutiny Board (Partnership and Innovations Management Board)	Councillor John O'Brien (Chair) Councillor Derek Heffernan Councillor Michael Whetton
Trustee of the Greater Fire Service Museum Trust	Councillor Shaun O'Neill Councillor Amna Mir (Substitute)
Pension Board – Firefighters' Pension Scheme	Chairman of the Authority

14. NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO ANSWER QUESTIONS 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to consider, pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985, the appointment of a Member of each constituent council to answer on behalf of the Authority questions raised during the course of meetings of their councils in relation to the discharge of the functions of the Authority.

Resolved: That Members be nominated for the purpose of Section 41 of the Local Government Act 1985 for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:-

Bolton	Councillor Mohammed Ayub
Bury	Councillor Alan Matthews
Manchester	Councillor Tommy Judge
Oldham	Councillor Steve Williams
Rochdale	Councillor Shaun O'Neill
Salford	Councillor James Dawson
Stockport	Councillor Walter Brett
Tameside	Councillor Michael Smith
Trafford	Councillor David Acton
Wigan	Councillor Fred Walker

15. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report requesting the Authority to determine its representation on outside bodies for the 2015/16 municipal year.

Resolved: That Members be appointed to represent the Authority on outside bodies for the 2015/16 municipal year as follows:-

Outside Body	Representation 2015/16
LGA Fire Commission	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
LGA Annual Assembly	Fire Commission representatives (Chairman authorised to cast the Authority's vote)
North West Fire Forum <i>(formally known as North West Fire and Rescue Partnership Board)</i>	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority Leader of the Opposition
Directors of the North West Fire Control Limited	Chairman of the Authority Councillor Fred Walker (Councillor Jim Dawson - Substitute)
North West Employers	Councillor Fred Walker
AGMA Executive Board	Chairman of the Authority (or Deputy)
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMAC)	Chairman of the Authority (or Deputy)

Association of Metropolitan Fire and Rescue Authorities (AMFRA)	Chairman of the Authority Vice-Chairman of the Authority (Councillor Councillor Basil Curley - Substitute)
Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO)	Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood

16. MEMBER CHAMPION APPOINTMENTS 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report which requested the Authority to nominate Members to serve as Member Champions for the 2015/16 municipal year.

The Member Champion subject areas had been established in line with GMFRS's main priorities including a new Community Risk Intervention Teams (CRIT) subject area. The Chairman requested Members to provide expressions of interest to fill these positions on a cross-party basis.

Resolved: That:

1. The following Members be appointed to serve as Member Champions to the following subject areas for the 2015/16 municipal year:

Member Champion for Absence Management: Councillor Barrie Holland
Member Champion for Children and Young People: Councillors June Hitchen and Steve Williams

Member Champion for Efficiency Savings and Sustainability: Councillor June Hitchen

Member Champion for Inclusivity: Councillor Amna Mir

Member Champion for North West Fire Control: Councillors Steve Williams and Fred Walker

Member Champions for Member Development: Councillors John Bell and Lynda Byrne

Member Champion for Sprinklers: Councillor Jim Dawson

Member Champion for Health and Safety: Councillor Alan Matthews

Member Champion for Road Safety: Councillor Bernard Judge

Member Champion for Community Relations: Councillor Grace Fletcher-Hackwood

Member Champion for Volunteering: Councillor Steve Williams

Member Champion for Community Risk Intervention Teams (CRIT): Councillor Jim Dawson

2. The revised Member Champion Terms of Reference as set out in the report, be noted.

17. COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS: TO NOTE MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF COMMITTEES (APPROVED BY POLICY STANDING SUB-COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS ON 21 MAY 2015) AS FOLLOWS: MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 21st May 2015 (approved by Policy Standing Sub-Committee under delegated powers on 21st May 2015) were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 21st May 2015, be noted.

18. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2015 OF AUDIT, SCRUTINY AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards Committee held on 18th June 2015 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Audit, Scrutiny and Standards held on 18th June 2015, be approved.

19. TREASURY MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT - 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report of the Treasurer which presented the Treasury Management Annual Report 2014/15. The report outlined the Authority's Treasury Management Practices and provided actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2014/15 and showed that the interest on investments had exceeded the targets by £59k. The report met the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management and CIPFA Prudential Code.

Resolved: That the Treasury Management Annual Report for 2014/15 be accepted.

20. CHIEF OFFICER'S ACTIVITY REPORT - QUARTER 4 (1ST JANUARY TO 31ST MARCH 2015)

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2014/15 – 1st January to 31st March 2015, for Members' information and comments.

The report provided information on the wide ranging activities which had taken place across the Boroughs during this period. The report also provided an update on the following subject matters:-

- Operational Incidents;
- Service Delivery;
- Prevention and Protection;

- Corporate Communications;
- General News.

The Chairman advised that the Deputy County Fire Officer, Jim Owen, had been given the Queen's Fire Service Medal in this year's New Year's Honours List and was handed his Medal by Prince Charles at Buckingham Palace on 13th June 2015. Jim Owen had been recognised for his role in helping to lead Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service through a period of huge transformation and his work to develop fire protection and fire investigation services across the North West.

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive provided an update on the fire at Wharfside flats in Wigan on 15th June 2015. The nature of the wooden-framed building meant the flames quickly spread and people living in 120 flats in the block were evacuated. At the height of the incident more than 100 firefighters, including crew from neighbouring Lancashire and Cheshire Fire and Rescue Services, were mobilised to fight the fire. Incident commanders at the scene withdrew firefighters from the building as the damage was so severe it was deemed unsafe and in danger of total collapse. Residents were told that some of them may not be able to enter their homes ever again and a group of the worst affected were taken to a nearby hotel for the night where they received assistance from the British Red Cross. GMFRS had been supported at the incident and post-incident by the Urban Search and Rescue Team, Salvation Army and Wigan Council. At the request of the Authority the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive explained a compartment fire and how firefighters were trained to tackle this type of incident. He suggested that a Member Training and Development Session on 'Operational Intelligence' would be useful for Members and would be arranged accordingly.

The Chairman on behalf of the Authority took the opportunity to thank all Firefighters, Officers and Joint Services who had worked on this incident and the number of other large incidents at Littleborough, Moss Side, Prestwich and Royton that had taken place on the same day.

In addition, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that bosses and workers at The Oasis Lounge on Great Jackson Street in Hulme had been convicted in one of the biggest fire safety prosecutions undertaken in the UK. A jury at Manchester Crown Court found the six defendants guilty of numerous fire safety offences, three of whom had received immediate prison sentences.

Resolved: That:

1. The 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 4 2014/15 – 1st January to 31st March 2015, including the comments raised, be noted.
2. A Member Training and Development Session on 'Operational Intelligence' be arranged at the rise of a future meeting of the Authority.

21. QUARTER FOUR PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2014-15

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented and sought approval of the Service's Quarter Four Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2014/17 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan.

Members were advised that GMFRS had maintained strong performance into the fourth quarter of 2014/15 with fires down 12% and injuries (resulting from fires) down by 6% year on year. This reflected the Service's effective risk based targeting of prevention and protection work in homes and businesses across the city region. Progress against the Service's major development goals was summarised in Appendix A of the report. It was reported that these were broadly on track with some slippages on action encountered as a result of 40 instances of strike and 17 instances short of strike since April 2014. Due to this a number of activities had been extended into the 2015/16 Directorate Plans. The impact upon service delivery was being closely monitored through directorate meetings and programme boards to ensure high levels of public service were maintained. However, this might result in a delay to some of the Service's key development projects and arrangements were in place to resolve issues as they arose and reduce slippage as far as possible.

In addition, Appendix B of the report provided an overview of quarter four performance against the Service's key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets approved by the Fire Authority on 24th April 2014 (Minute 101 refers). A general summary of progress against each measure was provided in the report

Members welcomed the informative report and raised a number of comments and questions relating to the reduction in all false alarms, the slight increase in sickness absence levels for non-uniform staff and the hours donated by volunteers and how this should be changed to a more realistic target in 2015/16. Officers answered the questions submitted accordingly.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The Quarter Four Performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2014/17 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan, be approved.

22. GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE YOUTH FORUM

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought support and detailed the benefits of establishing a 'Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Youth Forum'.

Members were advised that the intention of the 'Youth Forum' was to introduce a committee of young people, who would be given the opportunity to

input into the design of Youth Engagement and Community programmes and would be a consultation panel for matters on which the Authority would like to hear their views. The 'Youth Forum' would give GMFRS direct discourse with an important section of the Greater Manchester community and would help to shape delivery of initiatives, ensuring it was relevant and met local need. Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Youth Forum (GMFRYF) members would act as ambassadors for GMFRS creating greater access to a wider audience including those deemed hard to reach. The GMFRYF would assist in meeting the Youth Engagement aims of increasing employability, attainment levels and life chances and encouraging active participation in the communities in which they live.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and the comments raised, be noted.
2. The Authority support the establishment of a Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Youth Forum (GMFRSYF).

23. FORMER ROCHDALE FIRE STATION, MACLURE ROAD, ROCHDALE

In consultation with the Chairman of the Authority the Item was withdrawn prior to the meeting (Minute 10 refers).

CHAIRMAN

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY**

HELD ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2015

Present:

Councillor David Acton (Chairman), Councillor Tommy Judge (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Mohammed Ayub, Walter Brett, Sharon Briggs, Lynda Byrne, Basil Curley, Jim Dawson, Jim Ellis, Grace Fletcher-Hackwood, Daniel Hawthorne, Derek Heffernan, June Hitchen, Barrie Holland, Bernard Judge, Iain Lindley, Afia Kamal, Amna Mir, John O'Brien, Shaun O'Neill, Michael Smith, Fred Walker, Paul Wild, Steve Williams, Michael Whetton and John Wright

Also in Attendance: Peter O'Reilly (County Fire Officer and Chief Executive), Jim Owen (Deputy County Fire Officer), Ged Murphy (Director of Finance and Technical Services), Andrew Taylor (Assistant Director of Resources, Wigan Council), Gwynne Williams (Deputy Clerk and Authority Solicitor), Billy Myers (Area Manager - Head of Protection), Shelley Wright (Director of Corporate Communications) and Donna Parker (Democratic Services Manager)

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Bell (Deputy Chairman), Stephen Coen, Alan Matthews and Brian Rigby MBE.

25. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Authority (AGM) held on 25th June 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

In response to 'Minute 8 – Chairman's Announcements', Councillor Michael Whetton advised that he had attended the 30,000th Last Post sounded under the Menin Gate in Ypres in Belgium on Thursday 9th July 2015. He advised that he thought that it would be a fitting gesture for the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive to attend a future ceremony on behalf of GMFRS to lay a wreath and pay tribute to the worldwide solidarity among firefighters. In response, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive agreed to attend in the future.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Iain Lindley declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in 'Minute 37 – Chief's Activity Report 2015/16 – Quarter 1 (1st April to 30th June 2015)' by virtue of being employed by Rochdale Borough Housing. However, a dispensation had been granted under Section 33(2)(e) of the Localism Act 2011 for Councillor Iain Lindley to speak on informative reports relating to prevention work with registered social landlords at meetings of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority and its Committees.

27. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business submitted.

28. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Chairman advised that this was the first 'live streamed' meeting of the Fire Authority and would be available to the public via YouTube to watch either live or retrospectively.
2. The Chairman advised that a Member Training and Development Session on 'Social Media and Corporate Communications' would be taking place at the rise of the meeting and would be hosted by the Director of Corporate Communications and all Members were encouraged to attend.
3. The Chairman advised that a 'Member Awareness Session at Leigh Technical Service Centre' was due to take place on Thursday 10th September 2015 commencing at 9.30am till approx. 1.00pm and all Members were encouraged to attend.
4. The Chairman advised that he would be hosting a 'Live Question and Answer Session' on Friday 18th September 2015. The session would work in the same way as the 'Ask Peter' and 'Ask Paul' sessions with staff having the opportunity to ask questions directly to the Chairman of the Authority that would be 'live streamed' across the organisation via the intranet.
5. The Chairman advised that the Manchester Pride Parade took place on 29th August 2015 in Manchester City Centre the event was a great success with an amazing turn-out from GMFRS staff including Watches, young people from the Princes Trust Programme and Officers from the Corporate Leadership Team. The parade also included the events pump, children's fire engine, the firefighter puppet and cracker.
6. The Chairman advised that following the final stages of the Firefighter Assessment Centre, 24 new recruits had now been appointed and would shortly be joining the Operational teams. The successful individuals had come from across the organisation from Prince's Trust, Volunteers, Support staff, Community Risk Intervention Teams and Retained and would commence their training on 25th September 2015.
7. The Chairman advised that GMFRS were getting involved in the 'European Restart a Heart Day' on 16th October 2015. The campaign was to assist the British Heart Foundation get into every secondary school in Greater Manchester to teach pupils CPR. A short form had been created to enable information from personal contacts in schools to be collated and copies of the form had been circulated at the

meeting, for Members' information. In response, Councillor June Hitchen suggested that CPR training should be arranged for all Authority Members to undertake. The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive confirmed that this training would be arranged in due course.

8. The Chairman advised that this would be Deputy County Fire Officer Jim Owen's last meeting as he was due to retire from the GMFRS on 15th September 2015. The Chairman took the opportunity to thank Jim for all the hard work and commitment he had given to both GMFRS and the Fire and Rescue Service nationally over his 30 years' service and wished him all the best on his retirement.

Councillor Michael Whetton, on behalf of the Leader of the Conservative Party, Councillor Derek Heffernan, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Party and the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive also took the opportunity to speak on this item.

Jim Owen thanked Members and Officers for their kind words and took the opportunity to speak on his time within the Service.

9. The Chairman advised that Paul Argyle, Assistant County Fire Officer and Director of Emergency Response, had been appointed as the new Deputy County Fire Officer. The appointment had been made by the Appointments Sub-Committee on 9th July 2015.
10. The Chairman advised that the Appointments Sub-Committee would be meeting in the afternoon to make the final appointment for the replacement Assistant County Fire Officer and Director of Emergency Response.
11. The Chairman advised that on Tuesday 8th September 2015 the official Memorandum of Understanding would be signed between GMFRS, North West Ambulance Service, UNISON and the Fire Brigades Union that would enable all firefighters to attend cardiac arrest incidents from Tuesday 15th September 2015. This would mean that many more people across Greater Manchester would have the best possible chance of surviving a cardiac arrest that would result in lives being saved as a result of partnership working. The Chairman on behalf of the Authority took the opportunity to thank everyone involved for their hard work and commitment to make this happen and stated how proud he was that GMFRS firefighters were going to be supporting the community in this way.

29. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) UNDER STANDING ORDER 7

There were no questions submitted.

30. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 25th June 2015 were submitted (Appendix 1).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 25th June 2015, be approved.

31. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2015 OF POLICY, RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 30th July 2015 were submitted (Appendix 2).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Policy, Resources and Performance Committee held on 30th July 2015, be approved.

32. MINUTES OF MEETING THURSDAY, 23 JULY 2015 OF SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 23rd July 2015 were submitted (Appendix 3).

Resolved: That the proceedings of the Service Delivery Committee held on 23rd July 2015, be approved.

33. NEW MEMBER CHAMPION APPOINTMENT - EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION DEVELOPMENT 2015/16

The Clerk submitted a report which requested the Authority to nominate a Member to serve as a Member Champion for the new subject area 'Employee Engagement and Organisation Development' for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year. The role of the new subject area would include attending forums for engagement with the workforce, involvement in change and transformation activity and the overall improvement and development of the organisation as a whole.

Resolved: That:

1. Councillor Fred Walker be appointed as the new Member Champion for the subject area 'Employee Engagement and Organisation Development' for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year.
2. The updated Member Champion – Terms of Reference to reflect the new subject area, as detailed at Appendix A of the report, be noted.

34. FIREFIGHTERS' PENSION SCHEMES PENSION BOARD - APPOINTMENT OF A REPLACEMENT SCHEME MANAGER

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which sought to appoint a new Scheme Manager to the Firefighter's Pension Schemes Pension Board to replace the Director of People and Organisation Development. It was proposed that the delegated responsibility for fulfilling the role of Scheme Manager was given to the Director of Finance and Technical Services on an interim basis pending the review of the Senior Management Team, and the People and Organisation Development and Finance and Technical Services Departments.

Resolved: That the delegated responsibility for fulfilling the role of Scheme Manager be given to the Director of Finance and Technical Services on an interim basis.

35. CHINESE 'SKY' LANTERNS

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided an update in relation to the action taken on 'Sky Lanterns'.

It was reported that at the 'Chairs and Corporate Leadership Team' Meeting on 28th May 2015 it was agreed that the Authority would become more involved and support GMFRS in lobbying the Local Authorities with regard to banning the use of sky lanterns on public land. In support of this, the Chairman of the Authority had written to each of the 10 AGMA Council Leaders, Chief Executives, Combined Authority, Chief Executive of Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), the Chairman of the Local Government Association and the Greater Manchester Interim Mayor to gain support going forward.

Responses to date had been received from Rochdale Council who advised that they would not be banning the use of sky lanterns however they would be seeking to manage the risk through licensing arrangements. Salford Council was one of the first to ban their use on public land and responded to reiterate their continued support. Responses from the other eight Local Authorities were awaited and Members were encouraged to proactively engage and lobby their home authorities to influence the banning of the launching of sky lantern from public land. Councillor Bernard Judge confirmed that a motion was unanimously passed at Oldham's Council Meeting on 1st April 2015 banning the sale and use of sky lanterns on any of its property or premises.

GMFRS would continue to proactively reduce risk and would continue to educate the communities of Greater Manchester in the risk associated with sky lanterns, work nationally with the Chief Fire Officers Association to lobby for a change in national legislation and work with Trading Standards to control and limit the sale of sky lanterns and work nationally where possible to legislate against them.

Going forward Members requested that additional information was provided at their Quarterly Borough Management Meetings on the number of Sky Lantern incidents which had occurred in each Borough. Members advised that this information would be shared at their home authorities to assist in influencing their Leaders and Chief Executives to implement a ban on launching sky lanterns from public land across Greater Manchester.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. Authority Members continue to proactively engage with their respective home authorities to influence the banning of launching sky lanterns from public land.
3. Each Group Manager at their Member Quarterly Borough Management Meetings provide an update on the number of Sky Lanterns incidents which have occurred per quarter in each Borough.

36. LGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION 2015 - FEEDBACK

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which provided feedback from the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2015 which took place from 30th June to 2nd July 2015 at Harrogate.

As part of the conference the Chairman of the Authority, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive, David Lloyd - Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Councillor Jeremy Hilton, Chairman of the LGA Fire Services Management Committee, hosted a fringe session titled 'There's more than one way to rescue someone: the role of the fire and rescue service in public health'.

The next Conference was due to take place on 5th July to 7th July 2016 in Bournemouth.

Resolved: That the content of the report, be noted.

37. CHIEF'S ACTIVITY REPORT 2015/16 - QUARTER 1 (1ST APRIL-30TH JUNE 2015)

The County Fire Officer and Chief Executive presented the new look 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 1 2015/16 – 1st April to 30th June 2015, for Members' information and comments. The report provided information on the wide ranging activities which had taken place across the Boroughs during this period. The report also provided an update on the following subject matters:-

- General News;
- Operational Incidents;
- Service Delivery on the 10 Boroughs;

- Prevention and Protection;
- Corporate Communications.

The Authority took the opportunity to congratulate Salvation Army Major Tansley on being made a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday honours this year for dedicating his life to helping firefighters across the UK.

In addition, the Authority welcomed the saving of £13m which the Community Risk Intervention Teams (CRIT) pilot had achieved in its first six months. The teams were based in Wigan, Salford and Manchester and had been carrying out prevention work to reduce the risk of fires, falls in the home and opportunities for crime. The teams had also been responding to calls on behalf of the North West Ambulance Service, including cardiac arrests, low priority incidents and dealing with concern for welfare incidents on behalf of Greater Manchester Police. In response, the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive advised that more accurate figures on savings would be available in due course and work was taking place to extend the pilot to a further 10 Fire Stations which would be identified and circulated to Members in due course.

The Chairman advised that he and the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive would be attending the Fire Health Summit on 10th September 2015 in London to submit the 'Consensus Statement' and 'Design Principles' on extending GMFRS work to become involved in winter pressures, ensuring that homes are warm and tackling loneliness for the elderly.

An updated version of pages 25 (Service Delivery Statistics – Rochdale) and 41 (Service Delivery Statistics – Wigan) was circulated at the meeting.

Resolved: That the 'Chief Officer's Activity Report' for Quarter 1 2015/16 – 1st April to 30th June 2015, including the comments raised, be noted.

38. COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which advised on the Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) pilot completed by Corporate Planning and Intelligence on the behalf of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive (P. O'Reilly) that was initiated whilst he was in his former role of Director of Prevention and Protection. The pilot involved operational crews making an assessment of lives and property saved by GMFRS when responding to primary building fires. Data had been collected within the Incident Recording System (IRS) during 2014/15. The outcomes of the pilot were based upon the first full year of data.

The main outcome from the pilot identified that for every £1 the service costs to respond to incidents there was an £18 saving in terms of life and property. This was a powerful way of expressing the value of GMFRS to the public in Greater Manchester. The pilot concentrated on responding to fires and did not involve other areas of work such as responding to Road Traffic Collisions or other types of rescues.

A summary leaflet including info-graphic and case studies had been produced and was available on the GMFRS website. A press release had also been produced and information regarding the CBA had been posted to social media. A copy of the leaflet was circulated at the meeting for Members' information. In addition, a report on the 'Cost Benefit Analysis' was submitted to the Service Delivery Committee on 23rd July 2015, for noting (Service Delivery Committee - Minute 9 refers).

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The annual production of a 'Cost Benefit Analysis' in accordance with paragraph 19 of the report, be approved.

39. QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2015/16 AND ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Consideration was given to a report of the County Fire Officer and Chief Executive which presented the Service's Quarter 1 performance against the development and delivery goals contained within the 2015-18 Integrated Risk Management / Corporate Plan. The report also included the Service's 2014/15 Annual Report which provided an overview of the Service's achievements and performance against its plan for the preceding year and was detailed at Appendix C of the report.

Members were advised that GMFRS had started the new fiscal year with an increase in all fires which saw a 12% increase in Quarter 1 when compared with the same period in 2014/15. This was due largely to a higher volume being seen specifically during the month of April. Despite this the strong performance with regard to injuries (resulting from fires) continued with volumes being 18% lower than the number seen during Quarter 1 last year. A summary of progress against Quarter 1 scheduled activities from directorate plans was detailed at Appendix A with the exceptions being detailed at Appendix B of the report. An overview of Quarter 1 performance against the Service's key performance indicators (KPIs) and targets approved by the Fire Authority on 23rd April 2015 (Integrated Risk Management and Corporate Plan 2015-18 – Minute 101 refers) was detailed at Appendix D of the report.

In response to a previous request by the Authority approval was sought to increase the number of volunteering hours target from 28,000 to 40,000 per annum. At present the Service had 239 active volunteers who had donated a total of 9554 hours during Quarter 1 that was a 6.72% increase on the hours donated during the same period last year. Whilst there had been a gradual reduction on an annual basis regarding the number of volunteering hours it was recognised that the hours were well above target, therefore, an increase to a more challenging target was required.

Members raised a series of questions and comments relating to the increase in deliberate fires and non-domestic fires and the reduction in accidental dwelling fires resulting from the increase in the number of Home Safety Checks which had taken place across Greater Manchester and were answered by Officers accordingly.

Resolved: That:

1. The content of the report and comments raised, be noted.
2. The performance against corporate delivery goals and key performance indicators for Quarter 1 2015/16 of the Integrated Risk Management Corporate Plan 2015/18, be noted.
3. The Annual Report 2014/15, as detailed at Appendix C of the report, be approved and its publication on GMFRS website, be supported.
4. Future Cost Benefit Analysis – Value of Property and Life Saved from Fire, calculated as detailed at paragraph 22 of the report, be noted
5. The Number of Volunteering Hours Target increase from 28,000 to 40,000 hours per annum, as detailed at paragraph 40 of the report, be approved.

CHAIRMAN

Present:	Councillor	Piddington (in the Chair)
	Councillors	Alexander, Cornes, Emmott, Fitzpatrick, Gordon, Hunt, Jones, Merrett, C Murphy, N Murphy, Peel, Price, Quinn, Sherrington, Skillen, Young and Zaman
	Officers	Clerk to the Authority, Treasurer & Deputy Clerk, Director of Contract Services, Director of Resources & Strategy, Solicitor to the Authority and Head of Governance, Procurement & Transparency
Apologies:	Councillors	Shilton Godwin
	Officers	Deputy Treasurer and Senior Accountant

M1 Appointment of Chair

The Clerk to the Authority opened the meeting and welcomed new and returning Members to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Authority and first Authority meeting of the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

The Clerk to the Authority asked for nominations for the appointment of Chair, Councillor Nigel Murphy proposed Councillor Catherine Piddington and Councillor James Hunt seconded the proposal. The proposal was put to the vote it was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Catherine Piddington be appointed Chair of the Authority for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

Councillor Piddington took the role of Chair for the meeting and introductions took place to around the table.

The Treasurer & Deputy Clerk was requested to write to Members no longer on the Authority to thank them for their valuable contribution whilst serving on the Authority.

M2 Urgent Business, if any, introduced by the Chair

There was no urgent business introduced by the Chair.

M3 To receive Declarations of Interest in any contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting

There were no declarations of interest received at the meeting.

M4 Constitution 2015/16

The Authority considered the report of the Head of Governance, Procurement & Transparency (GPT), that asked Members to approve the revised Constitution for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

It was reported that there were a number of changes to the Constitution this year to reflect the move from a five to a three main Committee structure and changes to the Contract Procedure Rules to incorporate both the newly issued Procurement Regulations, and also the wider Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) social value procurement frameworks.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) approves the revised Constitution for the 2015/16 Municipal Year (Section four of the report) and delegates any minor changes (such as typographical amendments and completion of appointment details) to the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Authority; and
- b) approves the Members' training package and schedule (Section 5 of the report).

M5 Authority Membership for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

The Membership of the Authority for the 2015/16 was reported as follows:

Bolton	Kevan Jones Elaine Sherrington	Labour Labour
Bury	Rachel Skillen Alan Quinn	Labour Labour
Manchester	Nigel Murphy Kevin Peel Mandie Shilton Godwin	Labour Labour Labour
Oldham	Adrian Alexander Vita Price	Labour Labour
Rochdale	Susan Emmott Mohammed Zaman	Labour Labour
Salford	James Hunt Gena Merrett	Labour Labour
Stockport	Chris Gordon Christopher Murphy	Liberal Democrat Labour
Tameside	Philip Fitzpatrick Catherine Piddington	Labour Labour
Trafford	Michael Cornes Michael Young	Conservative Conservative
Wigan	None appointed (non-voting in waste disposal matters)	

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes its Membership for 2015/16.

M6 Local Government Act 1985 - Section 41 Appointment of Members to Answer Questions

The report of the Clerk to the Authority sought the appointment of Members to answer, on behalf of the Authority, questions raised by Members of constituent District Councils.

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 41 of the Local Government 1985 Act, the under-mentioned Members be appointed to answer, on behalf of the Authority, questions raised by Members of the constituent District Councils pertaining to Authority matters:

Bolton	Councillor Elaine Sherrington
Bury	Councillor Alan Quinn
Manchester	Councillor Nigel Murphy
Oldham	Councillor Vita Price
Rochdale	Councillor Mohammed Zaman
Salford	Councillor Gena Merrett
Stockport	Councillor Chris Gordon
Tameside	Councillor Catherine Piddington
Trafford	Councillor Michael Young

M7 Appointment of the Leadership Team for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

Consideration was given to the report of the Clerk to the Authority, which sought the appointment to the Leadership Team for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That, in line with the governance structure of the Authority for 2015/16, the following Members be appointed to the Leadership Team of the Authority:

- 1) Councillor Nigel Murphy (Labour)
Vice-Chair of the Authority and Chair of the Waste Management Committee;
- 2) Councillor Elaine Sherrington (Labour)
Vice Chair of the Authority and Chair of the Resources Committee;
- 3) Councillor Michael Young (Conservative)
Deputy Chair of the Waste Management Committee;
- 4) Councillor Kevin Peel (Labour)
Deputy Chair of the Resources Committee; and
- 5) Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick (Labour)
Deputy Chair of the Audit & Standards Committee

M8 Appointments to the Authority's Governance Arrangements for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

Members considered the report of the Clerk to the Authority which sought the appointment of Members to serve on the Authority's governance arrangements for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) agrees not to appoint a Special Purposes Committee for the 2015/16 Municipal Year;

- b) in line with proportionality rules (Section 17 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) (except in relation to the Resources Committee, where it was unanimously agreed by Members to waive the political balance rules) appointed the following representatives to the Authority's Committees/Sub-Groups and other bodies for the 2015/16 Municipal Year:

Waste Management Committee

(Seven Members: Six Labour, One Conservative)

- Councillor Nigel Murphy (Labour) (Chair)
(Substitute: Councillor Shilton Godwin)
- Councillor Michael Young (Conservative) (Deputy Chair)
(Substitute: Councillor Michael Cornes)
- Councillor James Hunt (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Gena Merrett)
- Councillor Kevan Jones (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Elaine Sherrington)
- Councillor Christopher Murphy (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Catherine Piddington (Labour))
- Councillor Vita Price (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Adrian Alexander)
- Councillor Mohammed Zaman (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Susan Emmott)

Resources Committee

(Six Members: Five Labour, One Liberal Democrat)

In relation to the Resources Committee, it was unanimously agreed by Members to waive the political balance rules.

- Councillor Elaine Sherrington (Labour) (Chair)
(Substitute: Councillor Kevan Jones)
- Councillor Kevin Peel (Labour) (Deputy Chair)
(Substitute: Councillor Nigel Murphy)
- Councillor Susan Emmott (Labour)
(Substitute Councillor Mohammed Zaman)
- Councillor Chris Gordon (Liberal Democrat)
(Substitute Councillor Michael Cornes (Conservative))
- Councillor Gena Merrett (Labour)
(Substitute James Hunt)
- Councillor Rachel Skillen (Labour)
(Substitute Councillor Alan Quinn)

Audit & Standards Committee

(Five Members: Four Labour, One Conservative)

- Councillor Philip Fitzpatrick (Labour) (Deputy Chair)
(Substitute Mohammed Zaman)
- Councillor Adrian Alexander (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Vita Price)
- Councillor Michael Cornes (Conservative)
(Substitute: Councillor Michael Young)
- Councillor Mandie Shilton Godwin (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Kevin Peel)
- Councillor Alan Quinn (Labour)
(Substitute: Councillor Rachel Skillen)

Petitions Sub-Group
(Three Members: Three Labour)

- Councillor Nigel Murphy (Labour)
 - Councillor Kevin Peel (Labour)
 - Councillor Catherine Piddington (Labour)
 - (no substitutes appointed);
- c) appoints the following Members to the Strategic Partnership Board:
- Councillor Nigel Murphy (Labour)
 - Councillor Catherine Piddington (Labour)
 - Councillor Michael Young (Conservative);
- d) appoints Councillor Catherine Piddington as spokesperson for the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Councillor Nigel Murphy as substitute; and
- e) appointed Councillor Elaine Sherrington as a Member to the Low Carbon Hub Board.

M9 Timetable of Meetings 2015/16

Members considered the report of the Clerk to the Authority, which set out the proposed timetable of meetings of the Authority and its Committees for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

It was suggested and Members agreed, that future dates and times of Committee meetings would be agreed at the first meeting of each Committee.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) approves the dates of all the Authority meetings along with the first meeting date of each Committee; and
- b) that at each Committee's first meeting the dates and times for the rest of the Municipal Year are set and approved.

M10 Authority and Committee Work Programmes for the 2015/16 Municipal Year

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of GPT that presented the Work Programme for the Authority and its Committees for the 2015/16 Municipal Year for approval. The Work Programme that was attached to the report at Appendix A, took account of the new streamlined Committee structure.

A Member requested and Officers agreed that agenda items (as agreed at the Performance, Policy & Resources (PPR) Committee on 1st April 2015) in terms of the Living Wage and Ethical Investment Policy be added to the relevant Committee Work Programme.

The Chair of the Resources Committee asked for an explanation about the remit of the new Committees and asked if Deputy Chairs would be involved. In response, it was advised that this would be discussed with the Leadership Team, which included Deputy Chairs at their next meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Authority approves the Work Programmes for the 2015/16 Municipal Year, which were attached to the report at Appendix A, subject to the 'Living Wage' and 'Ethnical Investment Policy' agenda items being added to the relevant Committee Work Programme.

M11 Public & Member Question Time

There were no questions received at the meeting.

M12 To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 20th March 2015

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting dated 20th March 2015 are approved as a correct record.

M13 Annual Treasury Management Review 2014/15

Members considered the report of the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk, which explained that the Authority was required by Regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2014/15. It was advised that the report met the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

Members were asked to note, that the Authority had departed from the requirements of the Code as the report has not been given prior scrutiny by the Audit Committee, due to timings of meetings. Therefore, the Audit Committee would scrutinise the report at the 8th July 2015 meeting and any comments would be fed back to the Authority.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) approves the actual 2014/15 prudential and treasury indicators in this report; and
- b) notes the annual treasury management report for 2014/15.

M14 Open Minutes & Reports for Consideration/Noting

Members considered the open minutes and reports for noting contained within the agenda (Part 3). As there were no questions raised by Members, the Authority noted the information presented within the agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Authority notes the information presented within the agenda (Part 3).

M15 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: That, in accordance with Section 100(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting at this juncture for the following business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in the respectively indicated paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

It would not be, on balance, in the public interest to disclose the information to the public and press for the reasons indicated within the report.

M16 Recycling & Waste Management Contract Update

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Treasurer & Deputy Clerk and the Director of Contract Services that provided Members with an update on key aspects of the Recycling & Waste Management Contract (the Contract). The report included verified performance during 2014/15, an update on spare capacity and insurance, an overview of plans to increase landfill diversion in 2015/16, proposals to further extend the date of the Direct Agreement to 31st March 2018 (to allow monitoring of the effectiveness of optimisation works) and an update on the buyout of the Citrus Pension Scheme.

A discussion took place about options for covering the risk of cost of additional deductibles and it was agreed that that this would be raised at the SPB scheduled to take place on 31st July 2015.

Further discussions also took place regarding recent environmental problems caused by waste operators generally and the issues Districts had to face following the incidents. Although the Authority worked to high standards of safety and created positive environmental benefits, Members suggested that unfortunately some operators failed to operate within the regulations, creating unacceptable risk to local people and the environment. Members unanimously supported the view that more control in this area was required.

RESOLVED: That the Authority:

- a) notes the 2014/15 performance and financial outturn position and the conclusion of the Section 101 Agreement with Blackburn with Darwen Council;
- b) delegates final agreement for implementation of additional fire suppression systems to the Director of Contract Services in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair (Chair of the Waste Management Committee);
- c) agrees to cap VLG's Business Interruption (BI) liability at 38 months in the event of complete destruction of the Bolton Thermal Recovery Facility (TRF);
- d) agrees to a four month timeframe for VLG to produce, and the Authority to agree, a reinstatement plan that will confirm whether a replacement Energy from Waste (EfW) plant would be required or an alternative option be progressed;
- e) approves that the Direct Agreement and Deed of Variation (3) 'optimisation' date to be extended to 31st March 2018;
- f) notes the remediation actions in progress on facilities;
- g) confirms the continued use of the Retail Price Index (RPI) for the buyout of the Citrus Pension Scheme; and
- h) notes action taken at the Solar Farm, Salford Road, Over Hulton to improve security.

The meeting opened at 11.00 am and closed at 11.56 am.

GMWDA

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MINUTES

Meeting:	National Park Authority
Date:	Friday 3 July 2015 at 10.00 am
Venue:	The Board Room, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell
Chair:	Cllr Mrs L C Roberts
Present:	Mr P Ancell, Mrs F Beatty, Cllr D Birkinshaw, Cllr P Brady, Cllr C Carr, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr A R Favell, Cllr C Furness, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr Mrs N Hawkins, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr Mrs C Howe, Cllr H Laws, Cllr S Marshall-Clarke, Cllr A McCloy, Ms S McGuire, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr Mrs N Turner, Cllr Mrs J A Twigg, Cllr F J Walton, Cllr G Weatherall and Cllr D Williams
Apologies for absence:	Mrs P Anderson, Cllr D Greenhalgh, Ms S Leckie, Cllr J Macrae and Mrs E Sayer

91/15 ELECTION OF AUTHORITY CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR (A.111/JS)

Cllr D Chapman, the Deputy Chair of the Authority, presided for the appointment of the Chair of the Authority for 2015/16.

Two Members, Cllr C Furness and Cllr Mrs L Roberts, had expressed an interest in the role of Chair of the Authority and provided a written statement, circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting. The two nominations were moved seconded and, in accordance with Standing Order 1.12(4), the voting was carried out in the form of ballot.

Following the ballot Cllr Mrs L Roberts was appointed as Chair of the Authority for 2015/16, she thanked Members for electing her and then presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Two Members Cllr D Chapman and Cllr Mrs J Twigg had expressed an interest in the role of Deputy Chair of the Authority and provided a written statement, circulated to all Members in advance of the meeting. The two nominations were moved seconded and, in accordance with Standing Order 1.12(4), the voting was carried out in the form of ballot.

Following the ballot Cllr D Chapman was appointed as Deputy Chair of the Authority for 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

1. To appoint Cllr Mrs L Roberts as Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual Meeting in July 2016.

2. **To appoint Cllr D Chapman as Deputy Chair of the Authority for a term expiring at the Annual Meeting in July 2016.**

92/15 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 6 JUNE 2015

The minutes of the Authority held on 5 June 2015 were approved as a correct record subject to recording apologies for absence from Cllr C McLaren.

93/15 MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

94/15 EX-OFFICIO APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

At the meeting of the Authority held on 5 June 2015 Cllr P Brady moved a motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Twigg, proposing amendments to the Standing Orders relating to the key appointments and Ex-Officio Committee Membership. At that meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders, consideration of the motion was adjourned to this meeting because, if approved, it would require an amendment to Part 1 of the Authority's Standing Orders. As submitted the motion was split into Part A which addressed issues relating to Ex-Officio appointments and Part B which included proposals to replace the existing appointment principles with "democratic principles"

As the proposals relating to Ex-Officio Membership of Committee would have an impact on the Committee appointments to be made later in the meeting the Chair had agreed to consider Part A of the motion in advance of the appointments. Before discussing the motion the Members were reminded that, although a formal decision had not yet made, the Authority had indicated previously that there was support for this part of the motion.

The Democratic Services Manager introduced this item by providing officer feedback on the proposals and confirming that part A of the motion on the table at the start of the debate was as follows:-

1. That a new Standing Order 1.3A be introduced to read as follows:
 - a) The Authority shall approve and thereafter keep under review a statement, to be known as "the Democratic Principles", the purpose of which shall include advice to guide Members on factors to be taken into consideration when electing or appointing Members to an office or position.
 - b) Before the Authority elects or appoints a Member to a position of responsibility, the Chief Executive shall draw to the attention of members the Democratic Principles or the relevant section thereof.
2. That Standing Orders 1.4(2) and 1.39(2) be omitted.
3. That Standing Order 1.40 (Appointment of Standing Committees) be amended by the deletion of:
 - a) Para 3(i) (The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority to be ex-officio)
 - b) Para 3(iii) (The Chair of the other Standing Committees to be ex-officio)
 - c) Para 4 (The Vice-Chair to attend ex-officio if the Chair is absent)

4. That there be substituted for Standing Order 1.45 (Ex-officio Membership of National Park Authority Meeting – Part A Committees and Sub-committees) the following:
 - 1) On the basis set out in Paras (2) and (4) below, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority or the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees may attend meetings of Standing Committees other than those to which they have been appointed subject to the normal rules governing debate and participation in meetings, and may take part in the discussion (but may not vote nor propose a motion or amendment) unless:
 - (i) it would be unlawful or contrary to any of the Authority's procedures, codes or other protocols to do so; or
 - (ii) the Authority or, in the case of the appointment of a Sub-committee, the Committee in a particular case determines otherwise.
 - (2) The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority and a Chair of a Committee may attend a meeting of a Standing Committee;
 - (3) The Chair of a Committee may attend a meeting of a Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee on the same basis as in Para (1) above;
 - (4) Under Paras (2) and (3), the Chair of a Committee may appoint the Vice-Chair to attend in his/her place.

Following the introduction Cllr P Brady spoke to his motion and the suggested amendments included in the Officer response. A proposal to amend the motion to reflect the changes proposed in paragraph 5 of the Officer's report and a second proposal to allocate the local authority member places on Planning Committee was moved, seconded put to the vote and carried.

The substantive motion was then put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That Standing Orders 1.4(2) and 1.39(2) be omitted.
2. That Standing Order 1.40 (Appointment of Standing Committees) be amended by the deletion of:
 - a) Para 3(i) (The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority to be ex-officio)
 - b) Para 3(iii) (The Chair of the other Standing Committees to be ex-officio)
 - c) Para 4 (The Vice-Chair to attend ex-officio if the Chair is absent)
3. That there be substituted for Standing Order 1.45 (Ex-officio Membership of National Park Authority Meeting – Part A Committees and Sub-committees) the following:
 - 1) On the basis set out in Paras (2) and (4) below, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority or the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Standing Committees may

attend meetings of Standing Committees other than those to which they have been appointed subject to the normal rules governing debate and participation in meetings, and may take part in the discussion (but may not vote nor propose a motion or amendment) unless:

- (i) it would be unlawful or contrary to any of the Authority's procedures, codes or other protocols to do so; or
- (ii) the Authority or, in the case of the appointment of a Sub-Committee, the Committee in a particular case determines otherwise.

- (2) The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority and a Chair of a Committee may attend a meeting of a Standing Committee;
- (3) The Chair of a Committee may attend a meeting of a Sub-Committee appointed by the Committee on the same basis as in Para (1) above;
- (4) Under Paras (2) and (3), the Chair of a Committee may appoint the Vice-Chair to attend in his/her place.

4. To delete the heading before Standing Order 1.45 "EX-OFFICIO ATTENDANCE AT COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES" and place the revised Standing Order 1.45 under the heading "MEMBERS RIGHTS TO ATTEND AND SPEAK AT COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES"

5. To review the impact of the changes at the 2016 Annual Meeting.

6. To allocate Local Authority Member places on Planning Committee as follows:

Derbyshire County Council	1
Derbyshire Dales District Council	1
High Peak Borough Council	1
Cheshire East Borough Council	1
Staffordshire CC/Staffordshire Moorlands DC	1
Metropolitan District Councils/ N E Derbyshire DC	3
Total	8

95/15 REPORT OF THE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS PROCESS PANEL - APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS, ANNUAL APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, PANELS, ADVISORY GROUPS, MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE ROLES AND OUTSIDE BODIES (A.111/JS)

The meeting considered the report of the Member Appointments Process Panel and considered each of the appointments in the order set out recommendations 1 to 11 in the report. In most cases the appointments were moved, seconded and approved in accordance with the expressions of interest in the report. Any changes to the report are identified below:

Planning Committee

Members were advised that, under the previously agreed principles for allocating places on Planning Committee to Members appointed by a Local Authority, Members appointed by Derbyshire County Council had been allocated one place. As Cllr Mrs J A Twigg and

Cllr D Williams had both expressed an interest, the Authority voted on the appointment and Cllr Mrs J A Twigg was appointed to the Planning Committee.

It was agreed that as 6 Secretary of State Members has expressed an interest in being appointed to Planning Committee there would be 1 Secretary of State vacancy on the Committee.

Audit Resources and Performance Committee

In light of the earlier appointment of Cllr Mrs J A Twigg to Planning Committee, Cllr D Williams was appointed to Audit, Resources and Performance Committee. To accommodate the expressions of interest from Secretary of State Members it was agreed that there would be 16 places on the Committee with 8 allocated to Local Authority Members and 8 allocated to Secretary of State Members.

Local Joint Committee

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs C Howe be appointed to fill the Local Authority Member vacancy on the Committee.

Appeals Panel

It was agreed that Cllr J Walton be appointed to fill the Local Authority Member vacancy on the Panel.

Strategic Advisory Group

Cllr Mrs J A Twigg was appointed to fill the Local Authority Member vacancy on the Advisory Group. It was noted that all Members were welcome to attend meetings of the Group and, subject to agreement from the Chair, to speak on items under discussion.

Appointment to Member Representative Roles

The Authority agreed to continue the arrangement with Cllr P Brady and Mr Z Hamid sharing the People and Communities role but agreed that this principle should not apply to the Biodiversity Role. Mr R Helliwell therefore withdrew his expression of interest and as there were no further nominations Mrs P Anderson was appointed.

Mrs F Beatty withdrew her expression of interest in the Economy role and as there were no further nominations Cllr C Furness was appointed.

The nominations for Cllr A Favell and Cllr C Furness to the Asset Management role were moved and seconded, voted on, and Cllr A Favell was appointed.

It was agreed that the Member Learning and Development role would remain vacant pending a review on the Member Representative roles to reflect the new Corporate Strategy.

RESOLVED:

- 1. To appoint the following Members to the offices of Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committees until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:**

Planning Committee

**Chair: Mr P Ancell
Vice Chair: Cllr D Birkinshaw**

Audit Resources & Performance Committee **Chair:** **Cllr A McCloy**
Vice- Chair **Cllr C Furness**

2. **To appoint Members to the Planning Committee, and the Audit Resources and Performance Committee as set out below until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:**

Planning

Chair: Mr P Ancell
Vice Chair: Cllr D Birkinshaw

Cllr R P H Brady
Cllr C Carr
Cllr D Chapman
Cllr Mrs N Hawkins
Mr R Helliwell
Cllr Mrs C Howe
Cllr H Laws
Cllr J Macrae
Ms S McGuire
Cllr Mrs K Potter
Cllr Mrs J Twigg
Cllr G Weatherall
Vacancy (SoS Member)

Audit Resources & Performance

Chair: Cllr A McCloy
Vice Chair: Cllr C Furness

Mrs P Anderson
Mrs F Beatty
Cllr A Favell
Cllr D Greenhalgh
Mr Z Hamid
Cllr Mrs C G Heath
Ms S Leckie
Cllr S Marshall-Clarke
Cllr C McClaren
Cllr Mrs L Roberts
Mrs E Sayer
Cllr Mrs N Turner
Cllr J Walton
Cllr D Williams

3. **To appoint the following Members to the Urgent Business Items Sub-Committee until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:**

Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority

Cllr Mrs L Roberts
Cllr D Chapman

Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee

Mr P Ancell
Cllr D Birkinshaw

Chair and Vice Chair of Audit Resources and Performance Committee

Cllr A McCloy
Cllr C Furness

4. **To appoint the following Members to the Local Joint Committee until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:**

Cllr D Birkinshaw
Cllr D Chapman
Cllr C Furness
Cllr Mrs C Howe
Cllr Mrs J Twigg

Cllr C Carr
Cllr A Favell
Mr Z Hamid
Cllr Mrs K Potter

5. **To appoint the following Members to the Appeals Panel until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:**

Cllr D Chapman
Cllr Mrs N Turner
Cllr Mrs J Twigg

Mr P Ancell
Cllr R P H Brady
Cllr A Favell

-
- | Cllr J Walton | Cllr A McCloy |
|----------------------|----------------------|
|----------------------|----------------------|
6. To appoint the following Members to the Strategic Advisory Group until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:
- | | |
|---|--|
| Chair and Deputy Chair of the Authority | Cllr Mrs L Roberts
Cllr D Chapman |
| Chair and Vice Chair of Planning Committee | Mr P Ancell
Cllr D Birkinshaw |
| Chair and Vice Chair of Audit Resources and Performance Committee | Cllr A McCloy
Cllr C Furness |
| Councillor Secretary of State Parish | Cllr Mrs J A Twigg
Mrs F Beatty
Cllr R P H Brady |
7. To appoint the following Members to the Budget Monitoring Group until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:
- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Chair and Vice Chair of Audit Resources and Performance Committee | Cllr A McCloy
Cllr C Furness |
| Chair of the Authority | Cllr Mrs L Roberts |
| One other member | Mrs F Beatty |
8. To appoint the following Members to Member Representative roles until the Annual Meeting in July 2016:
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Asset Management | Cllr A Favell |
| Biodiversity | Mrs P Anderson |
| Climate Change | Cllr A McCloy |
| Cultural Heritage | Ms S McGuire |
| Economy | Cllr C Furness |
| Landscape | Mr R Helliwell |
| Member Learning & Development | Vacant |
| People & Communities | Cllr R P H Brady & Mr Z Hamid |
| Planning Enforcement | Cllr D Chapman |
| Promoting Understanding | Ms S Leckie |
| Recreation | Mrs E Sayer |
| Tourism | Cllr Mrs J Twigg |
9. To appoint Members and Deputy Members to the Outside Bodies as set out in Appendix 1 attached to the Minutes. The appointments to expire at the Annual Meeting in July 2016.
10. To confirm that all the above appointments are approved duties for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.
11. To ask Members appointed to member representative roles and outside bodies to produce a short annual report on activities, as appropriate, to be circulated in June 2016 as part of preparations for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

96/15 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE ANNUAL RETURN (A.111/JS)

The meeting considered the annual return of Member's attendance at Authority and Committee meetings and Training and Development events for 2014/15.

RESOLVED:

To note the annual return of members' attendance for 2014/15.

97/15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2016 (A.111/RC)

The meeting considered a report setting out proposals for a schedule of meetings from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016.

RESOLVED:

To approve the calendar of meetings for 2016 as set out in appendix 2 of these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned from 11.30am to 11.40am following consideration of this item.

98/15 NOTICE OF MOTION - CLLR P BRADY

At the meeting of the Authority held on 5 June 2015 Cllr P Brady moved a motion, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Twigg, proposing amendments to the Standing Orders relating to the key Member appointments and Ex-Officio Committee Membership. At that meeting, in accordance with Standing Orders, consideration of the motion was adjourned to this meeting because if approved it would require an amendment to Part 1 of the Authority's Standing Orders. As submitted the motion was split into Part A which addressed issues relating to Ex-Officio appointments and Part B which included proposals to replace the existing appointment principles with "democratic principles". Consideration of most of Part A of the motion took place earlier in the meeting as the proposals relating to Ex-Officio Membership of Committee would have an impact on the Committee appointments to be made later in the meeting (Minute 94/15 refers).

The Democratic Services Manager introduced this item by providing officer feedback on the proposals and confirming that the motion on the table at the start of the debate was as follows:-

Part A (Deferred from earlier discussions)

1. That a new Standing Order 1.3A be introduced to read as follows:
 - a) The Authority shall approve and thereafter keep under review a statement, to be known as "the Democratic Principles", the purpose of which shall include advice to guide Members on factors to be taken into consideration when electing or appointing Members to an office or position.
 - b) Before the Authority elects or appoints a Member to a position of responsibility, the Chief Executive shall draw to the attention of members the Democratic Principles or the relevant section thereof.

Part B

That there be substituted for the Appointment Principles, the Democratic Principles as set out in the appendix. (A copy is attached as appendix 3 of these minutes.)

In speaking to his motion Cllr P Brady provided the background to the preparation of the motion and the reasons for proposing the "Democratic Principles". Following his introduction Cllr Brady proposed that consideration of this part of the motion be deferred until the October meeting to provide an opportunity for Members and Officers to meet and develop proposals to address the issues highlighted during the discussions and the comments in the officer response.

RESOLVED

1. To defer consideration of the remaining elements of the motion set out above until the October meeting of the Authority.

2. To appoint the following Members to a working group to meet with officers to consider a response to the issues raised:

Cllr P Brady
Mr Z Hamid

Cllr C Furness
Cllr Mrs N Hawkins

3. To confirm that attendance at meetings of the working group are an approved duty for the payment of travel and subsistence allowances.

99/15 UPDATE ON NATIONAL PARKS UK AND NATIONAL PARKS ENGLAND MEETINGS 8-9 JUNE 2015 IN NEW FOREST NATIONAL PARK (CLLR LESLEY ROBERTS)

The Chair introduced a report providing an update on National Parks UK and National Parks England meetings held on 8-9 June 2015 highlighting the following issues:

- Public engagement
- Brand development
- National Parks Partnerships Ltd
- National Parks England
- The National Parks England Board

Members congratulated the Chair on her recent appointment as Deputy Chair of the National Parks England Board.

While introducing the report the Chair provided details of a recent publication "So much more than the view" setting out the wide range of benefits that England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks provided to society.

The Chair also provided an update on equality and diversity discussions with Defra in preparation, for filling future Secretary of State vacancies and news that the Government was not progressing plans for directly elected Members.

RESOLVED: To note the report.

100/15 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100 (A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

To exclude the public be from the meeting during consideration of Agenda Item No 14 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A)(4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Paragraph 4: "Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority".

The Committee determined the following items and full details are contained in the exempt minutes:

101/14 Fit for Purpose Organisational Design (SLF)

The meeting ended at 12:40pm

APPENDIX 1

APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2015/16

Campaign for National Parks

Member: Councillor Lesley Roberts
Deputy: Mr Paul Ancell
Deputy: Mr Zahid Hamid

Culture Derbyshire

Member: Councillor Chris Carr

Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership Rural Forum

Member: Councillor Judith Twigg
Deputy: Councillor Chris Carr

Derbyshire Archeological Advisory Committee

Member: Councillor Chris Furness

Derbyshire Environment Trust

Member: Mr Robert Helliwell
Deputy: Vacant

Derbyshire Health and Wellbeing Stakeholder Engagement Forum

Member: Councillor Judith Twigg

Derbyshire Partnership Forum

Member: Councillor David Chapman
Deputy: Councillor Judith Twigg

Derbyshire Sport

Member: Councillor Dave Williams
Deputy: Mrs Emma Sayer

Derwent Valley Community Rail Partnership

Member: Councillor Chris Furness

East Midland Councils

Member: Councillor Judith Twigg
Deputy: Councillor David Chapman

Europarc

Member: Councillor Lesley Roberts

Hope Valley and High Peak Community Rail Partnership

Member: Mr Robert Helliwell

Land Managers Forum

Chair: Councillor Lesley Roberts
Deputy Chair: Councillor David Chapman
Member: Mrs Frances Beatty
Member: Mr Robert Helliwell

Moors for the Future Partnership Group

Chair: Councillor David Chapman

Deputy Chair: Mrs Penny Anderson
Reserve: Mr Robert Helliwell

National Parks England

Deputy Chair: Councillor Lesley Roberts

National Parks UK

Member: Councillor Lesley Roberts

National Parks Management Plan Advisory Group

Member: Councillor David Chapman

Oldham and National Park Partnership

Member: Councillor Colin McLaren

Peak District and Derbyshire Destination Management Partnership Board

Member: Councillor Judith Twigg

Deputy: Councillor Steve Marshall-Clarke

Peak District Interpretation Partnership

Member: Ms Suzanne Leckie

Peak District Local Access Forum

Member: Councillor John Walton

Peak District Local Nature Partnership

Member: Mrs Penny Anderson

Deputy: Mr Robert Helliwell

Peak District National Park Youth Forum Group

Member: Mr Zahid Hamid

Peak District Parishes' Forum Annual Liaison Meeting

Member: Councillor Lesley Roberts

Deputy: Vacant

Peak District Partnership

Member: Councillor Judith Twigg

Deputy: Councillor Patrick Brady

Pedal Peak District Member Reference Group

Member: Councillor Chris Furness

Rural Action Derbyshire

Member: Councillor Andrew McCloy

Sheffield City Region Forum

Member: Councillor Lesley Roberts

Deputy: Mr Zahid Hamid

Staffordshire Destination Management Partnership

Member: Mrs Frances Beatty

Stannage Forum Steering Group

Member: Ms Stella McGuire

APPENDIX 2

Appendix 2
Bank Holidays
2016 - 1 Jan, 25 & 28 March, 2 & 30 May, 29 Aug
26 & 27 Dec

Programme of Meetings 2016



All Meetings/Events start at 10am except where shown

	2016											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Authority		5	18		27		1 AGM			7		2
Audit Resources & Performance	22		4		20		22		16		4	
Local Joint						10						2 1.30pm
Planning	15	12	11	15	13	17	15	12	9	14	11	9
Site Visits	14	11	10	14	12	16	14	11	8	13	10	8
Strategic Advisory Group		5			20		22				4	
Member Workshop									23	21	18	
Other events	22 Budget Meeting				20 Budget Meeting	24 Annual Meeting	22 Budget Meeting				18 Budget Meeting	
Essential Training						10 New Member Induction			30 Budget Meeting (1)	28 Budget Meeting (2)		

APPENDIX 3

PART B OF NOTICE OF MOTION FROM CLLR P BRADY

DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

Part B

That there be substituted for the Democratic Principles, the following:

Purpose

1. The history of the National Park Authority suggests that it is best served when all Members of the Authority have a stake in its governance. With this in mind, these Principles include issues that Members are asked to consider when electing or appointing people to, or standing for, Office or position.

2. Their purpose is to foster confidence, unity and trust within the Authority and the general public

Voting

3. It is essential to these Principles that nothing they contain is intended to in any way detract from the duty or ability of a Member to cast his or her vote in accordance with his/her best judgement.

Definition

4. "Group" means the Group of Members falling into one of these three categories:
- Members appointed by Local Authorities other than Parish Councils;
- Parish Members;
- Members appointed by the Secretary of State other than Parish Members

Election and Appointment - Chair and Deputy Chair

5. In electing a Chair and appointing a Deputy Chair, Members should consider the desirability of ensuring:
- that each office holder comes from a different Group;
- that at least one of the office holders is a person living in or representing an area that lies within the National Park.

Other appointments

6. In appointing the Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees, Members should consider the desirability of ensuring that, taking into account the Groups from which the election of the Chairman and Deputy Chairman were made there should be a spread of office holders from:
- across the Groups; and
- from amongst those living in or representing an area that lies within the National Park.

7. Taking into account the expertise, interest and potential of candidates, Members should also consider the desirability of achieving a spread of between the Groups when appointing Member Representatives and to outside bodies.

Standing for Office

8. All Members are assumed to be equally committed to the objectives of the National Park and to have a contribution to make across the full range of the Authority's work.

9. All Members have the right to stand for all elections and appointments but need to recognise that these Principles will be drawn to the attention of Members before a decision is made.

10. Newly appointed Members will not normally be considered for the position of Chair or Deputy/Vice Chair.

11. Members who have held a position or appointment for a continuous period of four years will not normally be considered for re-election or re-appointment.

12. It is the responsibility of a Member standing for election or appointment to demonstrate to those making the decision that:

- his/her expertise, interest and potential;
- he/she understands what will be required of them.

In office

13 Anyone holding office should be seen to act in the interests of the Authority as a whole and of the National Park, and not of any particular Group or interest.

Group Meetings etc

14 Whilst members sharing a common concern or interest may occasionally meet to exchange views, the holding of regular meetings of Groups or of members sharing a common interest may be seen as acting against these Principles.

Patrick Brady
23 May 2015

**MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 28 AUGUST 2015 AT THE
AJ BELL STADIUM, ECCLES, SALFORD**

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Cliff Morris
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Mike Connolly
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jim McMahon
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Peter Williams
SALFORD CC	Ian Stewart
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Sue Derbyshire
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Michael Young
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRS	Councillor John Bell
GMFRS	Councillor David Acton

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Paul Najsarekl	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Jim Taylor	Salford CC
Eamonn Boylan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Theresa Grant	Trafford Council
Donna Hall	Wigan Council
Peter Fahy	GMP
Simon Nokes	New Economy
Clare Regan	GM Interim Mayor's Office

Jon Lamonte

TfGM

Rebecca Heron
Sylvia Welsh
Paul Harris

) Greater Manchester
) Integrated Support Team
)

112/15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sean Anstee (Trafford) and Richard Farnell (Rochdale). It was noted that Councillors Michael Young (Trafford) and Peter Williams (Rochdale) were attending as their substitutes.

113/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest made in respect of any item on the agenda.

114/15 URGENT BUSINESS

Public Right of Appeal – GM Housing Investment Fund

The Chair explained that, in accordance to procedure rule 23 of the GMCA constitution, an appeal had been received from a member of the press appealing the decision to consider Item 9, Greater Manchester Housing Investment Fund – Investment Approval Recommendation in the absence of the press and public.

The Monitoring Officer advised both Members and the appellant on the process involved in considering the appeal and that its consideration was to be conducted in the absence of the press and public.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED/-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

A discussion took place during which the commercial sensitivity of this information contained in the report was explained. A Member suggested that where reports were to be presented in Part B of the agenda in future meetings, it would be helpful if a report for information was also presented in Part A, to ensure that the transparency of the decision making process is maintained.

Members of the press and public were invited to return to the meeting and the Chair explained the outcome of the appeal process.

RESOLVED/-

1. To thank the appellant for bringing this appeal.
2. To agree that in light of the commercially sensitive nature of the of the content of the report, the appeal be dismissed and for this reason, the consideration of the GM Housing Investment Fund item be conducted in the absence of the press and public.
3. To agree that where reports were to be presented in the absence of the press and public at future meetings of the GMCA, an accompanying report was also to be presented in the open section of the agenda where there was information that could be considered in the public domain.

115/15 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2015

The minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2015 were submitted for consideration.

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 31 July 2015 as a correct record.

116/15 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS OF GMCA

Consideration was given to a report of Julie Connor, Head of the Greater Manchester Integrated Support Team which set out a forward plan of those strategic decisions to be considered by GMCA over the next four months.

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan of Strategic Decisions as set out in the report.

117/15 GREATER MANCHESTER ROAD ACTIVITY PERMIT SCHEME (GMRAPS) LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Jon Lamonte, Chief Executive, Transport for Greater Manchester, presented a report which updated the GMCA on the changes required to the Greater Manchester Road Activity Permit Scheme (GMRAPS) in order to accommodate the amendments to the national permit regulations and increased responsibilities regarding the Key Route Network (KRN).

It was noted that the amended version of the Permit Scheme Regulations came into force on 30 June 2015. The regulations stated that all existing permit schemes, including GMRAPS, are required to be compliant with the Amendment Regulations by 1 October 2015. A summary of the main amendments to the regulations that apply to GMRAPS were explained as :-

- The ability of Highways Authorities or Strategic highway companies to vary or revoke existing schemes without the requirement to ask the Secretary of State;
- The requirement that all schemes must adopt standard wording and numbering for permit conditions as set out in the Statutory Guidance.
- The requirement to evaluate a scheme after each of the first three years and then three-yearly after that. In carrying out the evaluation, an evaluation shall include consideration of costs and benefits, permit fees and KPIs.
- The requirement of an additional permit category that offers a discount for works taking place outside of traffic sensitive times on the main category 0-2 highways.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the legal changes necessary to amend the GMRAPS documentation, a Deed of Variation and the introduction of the Order as required.
2. To authorise the proposals to increase the Local Authority and TIGM reimbursement rate for additional tasks to be carried out on the KRN.

118/15 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING FUND – RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC, presented a report seeking approval to the recruitment and appointment of 1 additional post within the GMCA's Core Investment Team and the increase in the approved salary of previously approved new posts required to support operation of the £300m GM Housing Fund.

RESOLVED/-

1. To approve the recruitment to the GMCA's Core Investment Team of the 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Transaction Manager post in line with the proposals detailed in this report.
2. To approve a salary range of previously approved Transaction Manager posts of £55,000 to £60,000.
3. To approve the delegation to the Lead Chief Executive for Investment, in consultation with the GMCA Portfolio Holders for Investment and Housing, and in conjunction with the Chief Investment Officer and with the support of the GM Integrated Support Team, to confirm appointments following the conduct of an appropriate recruitment process for the Transaction Manager post.
4. To note that the additional costs of these proposals in 2015/16 will be accommodated within the existing Core Investment Team budget for the year and income generated on investments made by the Fund. From 2016/17

onwards it is intended that all costs will be re-charged to Manchester City Council to be funded from income generated on investments made by the Fund

119/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraph 3, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART B

120/15 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT FUND - INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATION

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, Stockport MBC, presented a report seeking endorsement of five loans to be made by the Greater Manchester Housing Fund.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree that approval be given to the five loans as detailed in the report.
2. To agree to delegate authority to Richard Paver, GMCA Treasurer and Liz Treacy, GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the transaction, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loans at 1) above.
3. To agree to recommend to Manchester City Council that it prepares and effects the necessary legal agreements in accordance within its approved internal processes.

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 31 JULY
2015 AT ROCHDALE COUNCIL OFFICES**

GM INTERIM MAYOR	Tony Lloyd (in the Chair)
BOLTON COUNCIL	Councillor Ebrahim Adia
BURY COUNCIL	Councillor Mike Connolly
MANCHESTER CC	Councillor Richard Leese
OLDHAM COUNCIL	Councillor Jim McMahon
ROCHDALE MBC	Councillor Richard Farnell
SALFORD CC	Ian Stewart
STOCKPORT MBC	Councillor Sue Derbyshire
TAMESIDE MBC	Councillor Kieran Quinn
TRAFFORD COUNCIL	Councillor Sean Anstee
WIGAN COUNCIL	Councillor Peter Smith

JOINT BOARDS AND OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

GMFRS	Councillor David Acton
GMFRS	Councillor John Bell
TfGMC	Councillor Guy Harkin

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Treacy	GMCA Monitoring Officer
Richard Paver	GMCA Treasurer
Margaret Asquith	Bolton Council
Mike Owen	Bury Council
Geoff Little	Manchester CC
Carolyn Wilkins	Oldham Council
Steve Rumbelow	Rochdale MBC
Ben Dolan	Salford CC
Laureen Donnan	Stockport MBC
Steven Pleasant	Tameside MBC
Theresa Grant	Trafford Council
Paul McKeivitt	Wigan Council
Bill Enevoldson	GMCA Chief Investment Officer
Peter O'Reilly	GMFRS
Peter Fahy	GMP
Mark Hughes	Manchester Growth Company

Simon Nokes
John Holden
Adam Allen
Clare Regan
Steve Warrener
Amanda White
Julie Connor
Sylvia Welsh
Kerry Bond

New Economy
New Economy
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
TfGM
TfGM
) Greater Manchester
) Integrated Support Team
)

88/15 APOLOGIES

Councillor Cliff Morris, Sir Howard Bernstein, Paul Najsarek, Jim Taylor, Eamonn Boylan and Donna Hall.

89/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None received.

90/15 MINUTES OF THE JOINT GMCA AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the Joint GMCA and AGMA Executive Board meeting held on 26 June 2015 as a correct record, with the addition of Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive, Rochdale MBC on the list of attendees.

91/15 MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2015

RESOLVED/-

To approve the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board Annual meeting held on 26 June 2015 as a correct record, with the addition of Steve Rumbelow, Chief Executive, Rochdale MBC on the list of attendees.

92/15 FORWARD PLAN OF STRATEGIC DECISIONS OF THE JOINT GMCA AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED/-

To note the Forward Plan.

93/15 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AND AGMA AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 JULY 2015

This item was withdrawn from the agenda.

94/15 MINUTES OF THE JOINT GMCA AND AGMA SCRUTINY POOL HELD ON 10 JULY 2015

RESOLVED/-

To note the minutes of the Joint GMCA and AGMA Scrutiny Pool meeting held on 10 July 2015.

95/15 GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS 2015/16

Julie Connor, Head of Greater Manchester Integrated Support Team, presented a report requesting members to consider the outstanding appointments and nominations that were not determined at the Annual meeting held on 26 June 2015.

The Chair requested that Labour members advise him following the meeting if they wished to be considered for the vacant position on the Standards Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree that Labour members be requested to contact the Chair if they or their substitute member wished to take the vacant position on the Standards Committee.
2. To agree to appoint Councillor Patrick Myers, Trafford Council and Councillor Peter Williams, Rochdale MBC to the Joint GMCA and AGMA Audit Committee.
3. To agree to appoint Councillor Kate Chappell, Manchester CC to the North West Flood and Coastal Committee.
4. To appoint Councillor Mike Connolly, Bury Council to the Halle Board.

96/15 RE-APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE GMCA & AGMA AUDIT COMMITTEE

Members were requested to re-appoint Stephen Downs as an Independent Member of the GMCA & AGMA Audit Committee for a further three year term of office, on the same terms as previously agreed by the GMCA at its meeting held on 25 May 2012.

RESOLVED/-

To agree to re-appoint Stephen Downs as an Independent Member of the GMCA & AGMA Audit Committee for a further three year term of office.

97/15 AGMA REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE 2015/16

Richard Paver, GMCA Treasurer, presented a report informing members of the 2015/16 forecast revenue outturn position as at end June 2015.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the report and the current revenue outturn forecast for 2015/16 which is projecting an underspend of £64,000.
2. To note and approve the revisions to the revenue budget plan 2015/16 as identified in the report, as described in paragraph 2.1 to 2.9 of the report.
3. To note the position on reserves as highlighted in paragraph 3.

**98/15 GREATER MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN DEBT ADMINISTRATION
FUND TREASURY MANAGEMENT ACTIVITY AND FINAL ACCOUNTS
2014/15**

Steven Pleasant, Chief Executive, Tameside MBC, presented a report summarising the Fund's Treasury Management Activities and presenting the Final Accounts for the Financial Year 2014/15.

RESOLVED/-

To note the 2014/15 activity and final accounts.

Chair.

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER COMMITTEE, HELD ON 17 JULY 2015 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL

PRESENT

Councillor David Chadwick	Bolton
Councillor Guy Harkin	Bolton
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton
Councillor Noel Bayley	Bury
Councillor Joan Grimshaw	Bury
Councillor Andrew Fender	Manchester (in the Chair)
Councillor Chris Paul	Manchester
Councillor Dzidra Noor	Manchester
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham
Councillor David Hibbert	Oldham
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham
Councillor Shakil Ahmed	Rochdale
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale
Councillor Ian Duckworth	Rochdale
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford
Councillor Geoff Abell	Stockport
Councillor Dean Fitzpatrick	Stockport
Councillor Syd Lloyd	Stockport
Councillor Iain Roberts	Stockport
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside
Councillor Peter Robinson	Tameside
Councillor Rob Chilton	Trafford
Councillor Michael Cordingley	Trafford
Councillor June Reilly	Trafford
Councillor Mark Aldred	Wigan
Councillor James Grundy	Wigan
Councillor Lynne Holland	Wigan
Councillor Eunice Smethurst	Wigan

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Jon Lamonte	Chief Executive, TfGM
Bob Morris	Chief Operations Officer, TfGM

Dave Newton
Nicola Kane
Julie Connor
Rodney Lund
Paul Harris

Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
TfGM
Head of GMIST
Monitoring Officer
GMIST

TfGMC15/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Councillor Naeem Hassan, Josie Teubler (both Manchester) and Jim McMahon (GMCA).

TFGMC15/24 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) TfGMC Appointments

Members welcomed Councillor Dzidra Noor to her first meeting of the Committee. It was noted that Councillor Noor is a Manchester representative and will be replacing Councillor Tracey Rawlins on the Committee and the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee.

Resolved/-

- 1) To note the appointment of Councillor Dzidra Noor as a Member of TfGMC.
- 2) To confirm Councillor Dzidra Noor as a Member of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee and as a substitute Member of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee.
- 3) To place on record the thanks of Members for the significant contribution Councillor Tracey Rawlins has made to the work of the Committee, particularly with regard to the Metrolink works in Wythenshawe and in her role as Public Arts Champion.

b) Capital Projects and Policy 4 March 2016

Members considered a proposal that the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee on Friday 4 March 2016 be moved to start at the later time of 2.00 pm.

Resolved/-

To agree that the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee on Friday 4 March 2016 would now commence at 2.00 pm.

c) Handbooks

Members noted that the TfGMC Member's Handbook was now available.

TfGMC15/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Phil Burke declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 5a, Committee Reports – Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee 3 July 2015.

TfGMC15/26 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual and Ordinary TfGMC meetings, held on 12 June 2015 were submitted.

Resolved/-

- 1) To receive the Minutes of the Annual meeting of the Committee held on 12 June 2015.
- 2) To approve the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 12 June 2015, as a correct record.

TfGMC15/27 MINUTES FROM SUB COMMITTEES

[Note: Councillor Phil Burke declared an interest in this item and left the room whilst the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee minutes were considered.]

a) Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee – 3 July 2015

The Minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting held on 3 July 2015 were submitted.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers undertook to provide information regarding how the collaboration between Metrolink Customer Services Representatives and Greater Manchester Police deterred anti-social behaviour and fare evasion on the Metrolink network.

Resolved/-

- 1) To receive the minutes of the Metrolink and Rail Networks Sub Committee meeting held on 3 July 2015.
- 2) To request officers to provide a report regarding the impact of Metrolink Customer Services Representative and Greater Manchester Police collaboration in delivering joint initiatives and operations to deter anti-social behaviour on the Metrolink network, to a future meeting of the Committee.

b) Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee – 3 July 2015

The Minutes of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting, held on 3 July 2015 were submitted.

With regard to Minute Ref CPP15/08, Metrolink: The Carriage of Non Essential Dogs a Member suggested that consideration of this matter should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

A motion was moved and seconded requesting that a report regarding the carriage of non-assistance dogs on the Metrolink network be presented to the 11 September 2015 meeting of this Committee, rather than the November meeting of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee, as set out in Resolution 2 of the minutes. In response to the motion, a Member noted that the purpose of the Sub Committee's decision to defer consideration of this matter to the November 2015 Sub Committee meeting, was to allow officers sufficient time to compile a report and present recommendations in relation to a number of possible options including muzzling, times of travel, the use of seats and charging.

The motion was put to the vote and declared lost.

Resolved/-

- 1) To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting held on 3 July 2015.
- 2) To confirm that a report regarding the Carriage of Non-assistance dogs on the Metrolink Network will be presented to the November meeting of the Capital Projects and Policy Sub Committee meeting.

c) Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee – 10 July 2015

The Minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee, held on 10 July 2015, were submitted.

Resolved/-

To receive the Minutes of the Bus Network and TfGM Services Sub Committee, meeting held on 10 July 2015.

TfGMC15/28 FORWARD LOOK

Members considered a report which presented them with a forward look of key work streams requiring decisions from the Transport for Greater Manchester Committee over the next four months. The report also set out those significant elements of the Committee's work programme, where further updates on progress and activity were anticipated over a longer time period.

A Member enquired as to whether the bus lanes on the Leigh – Salford – Manchester busway were operational, and highlighted that there was a lack of indicative signage for motorists. In response, officers noted that the bus lanes would come in to effect once works on the lengths of the busway had been completed. In addition, officers undertook to seek a response on this matter from the TfGM project team and feed back to the Member directly.

Resolved/-

To note the Forward Look.

Section 2

TfGMC Recommendations for Further Approval by GMCA

TfGMC15/29 2015-16 POLICY PRIORITIES

A report was presented which set out the proposed key transport policy priorities that the Committee will recommend to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to adopt for the forthcoming year. Members noted that subject to the approval by GMCA, these policy priorities would also help to inform the Committee's 2015-16 political engagement programme. A summary of the progress of the 2014-15 policy priorities over the past year was also presented.

Resolved/-

- 1) To agree that the 2015-16 transport policy priorities, as set out at Section 3 to the report be approved.
- 2) To agree that the 2015-16 transport policy priorities, as set out at Section 3 to the report, be submitted to the GM Combined Authority Meeting on 31 July 2015 for consideration for approval.

Section 3

Item for Resolution by TfGMC

There are no items for resolution by TfGMC.

TfGMC15/30 POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT 2015-16

Members considered a report which set out a proposed approach and programme to advance Greater Manchester's transport priorities.

Members noted that in light of the GM Agreement, the emerging 2040 Vision and the developing Northern Powerhouse / Transport for the North agenda, it is proposed that the Committee focus on the following themes, which draws on previous work as well as the Committee's Policy Priorities in advancing Greater Manchester's transport objectives of:

- Supporting the processes that will bring about fulfilment of devolution of additional transport powers and functions to Greater Manchester to enable us to deliver a fully integrated transport network for GM;
- Present Greater Manchester as one of UK's leading city regions, at the heart of the North, best able to deliver sustainable economic growth and contribute to national priorities; and

- Make the case for long term, predictable investment in Greater Manchester transport that can enable the wider city region to develop a transport investment programme.

Resolved/-

- 1) To note the approach to political engagement as set out in the report.
- 2) To delegate responsibility to TfGMC Leading Members to finalise the detailed political engagement programme.
- 3) To agree that the attendance of invited Members at such political engagement events should rank as an approved duty for Members' travelling and subsistence allowances purposes.

**Section 4
Items for Information**

TfGMC15/31 TRAVEL CHOICES AND ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

A report was presented which provided an update on the progress made to date on the Travel Choices and Active Travel initiatives that are currently funded through two Department for Transport grant awards, namely the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) which includes both revenue and capital schemes and the Cycle City Ambition Grant (CCAG) which includes capital schemes only.

In response to an enquiry from a Member officers confirmed that as part of the Cycle City programme links with eleven partner schools had been established of which, at least one was located in Oldham. Members noted that the partnerships would provide a legacy for the schools to continue with this work in the future.

Following an enquiry from a Member, officers undertook to provide further information in relation to the take up of the Travel Choices for Business initiative by Greater Manchester businesses and also undertook to provide details regarding the installation of the innovative tiger crossings at Heaton Park and Prestwich Metrolink stops.

A Member commented that in addition to Job Centre Plus, it would be helpful for individual local work clubs, to be able to access Travel Choices for Jobseekers information. In response, officers undertook to speak to the Member directly.

In welcoming the report, a Member suggested that the health benefits of cycling and active travel could be used to make the case for the use of Health funding to make cycle infrastructure improvements.

Resolved/-

- 1) To note the progress made in respect of the work undertaken across the Travel Choices and Active Travel programme since 2013.
- 2) To note the work to deliver new cycle infrastructure; including progress being undertaken as part of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and Cycle City Ambition Grant programmes.
- 3) To note the launch of the Physical Activity and Sport Blueprint on the 7th July 2015, as set out in the report.
- 4) To note process underway regarding with the First Greater Manchester Bicycle Account, that will be published later this year, as set out in the report.

TfGMC15/32 GM 2040 TRANSPORT VISION AND STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report informed Members on the development of the 2040 Transport Strategy for Greater Manchester and specifically, the 2040 Vision. A presentation was also provided.

Members made the following comments and suggestions:-

- a) The Strategy should contain orbital routes to improve connectivity to outlying towns in addition to the regional centre.
- b) In welcoming the Vision document, a Member commented that Strategy needed to provide information to cater for commuters using private motor vehicles.
- c) Thought was needed to develop a list of future key transport infrastructure projects and create a set business case criterion. Members noted the provisions of the GM Transport Fund and the GM Spatial Strategy to this regard.
- d) The Transport Strategy was about developing travel choices and with fewer young people buying cars, the wider introduction of more flexible options, such as car clubs and multi-modal options was required.
- e) Improvements to trans-Pennine highway and motorway routes were required.
- f) The aspirations for all districts that wish to see the introduction of Metrolink lines in their areas should be included in the Strategy.
- g) Improvements in capacity for the transportation of freight by rail would in turn increase highway capacity.
- h) Improvements to highway infrastructure and transport links in the north of the conurbation would help to develop employment opportunities.
- i) Consideration was required to develop transport provision for a 24 hour economy. Currently, shift workers are unable to use a totally integrated

transport network in the evenings and at weekends. A fully integrated ticketing system was also required.

- j) Work was needed to encourage motorists out of their cars during school runs and in towns and cities.

Resolved/-

To note the report and presentation on the GM 2040 Transport Strategy and Vision.



HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD
16/06/2015 at 2.00 pm

Present: Dr. Ahmed (Vice-Chair, in the Chair)
Councillors Ahmad, Blyth and Harrison

Independent Members: Jill Beaumont, Gary Flanagan, Denis Gizzi, Sandra Good, Cath Green, Alan Higgins, Majid Hussain, Judy Robinson and Liz Windsor-Welsh

Also in Attendance:

Karishma Chandaria	Principal Policy Officer (Special Projects)
Oliver Collins	Principal Policy Officer (Health and Wellbeing)
Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services
Sian Walter-Browne	Principal Constitutional Services Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Stretton, Councillor Chauhan, Councillor Wrigglesworth, Dr. Jeffery, Dr. Wilkinson, Chief Superintendent Ball, Raj Patel and Caroline Drysdale.

2 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business received.

At this point in the meeting the Chair acknowledged Councillor Dearden, former Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and thanked her for previous contribution to the Board.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Riaz Ahmed declared a personal interest by virtue of his role as Chair of the Audit Committee with the Pennine Acute Trust.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions received.

5 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 17th March 2015 be approved as a correct record with the amendment that Jill Beaumont, Director of Neighbourhoods, had been in attendance at the meeting.

6 RESOLUTION & ACTION LOG

RESOLVED that the Resolution and Action Log be noted.

7 MEETING OVERVIEW

RESOLVED that the Meeting Overview be noted.

8 JSNA WEBSITE

The Board gave consideration to a report and a presentation on the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website.



Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and local authorities were required to produce an assessment of the health and wellbeing of their local community. Previously, this information had been produced in a document at a snapshot in time. In the future, all content would be available on the website which allowed information to be updated, accommodated changes such as updates to priorities and links to other relevant publications.

The main section of the website addressed the three main life courses which were: Better Start in Life; Living Learning and Working Well; and Ageing Well and Later Life. A local voice section was highlighted which was for engagement activity with local residents. It was highlighted that the term JSNA would not be relevant to residents and if there was a possibility of a local term.

The Board requested that a press release be prepared regarding the JSNA information being available on the website. Stakeholder organisations were asked to make their organisations aware of the information.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report regarding the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website and information provided at the meeting be noted.
2. a press release be prepared when the website goes live.

9

MENTAL HEALTH DEVELOPMENT SESSION – FOLLOW UP

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the outputs of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Development Session on Mental Health and the key themes which had emerged from the three discussion groups.

The three discussion groups had been asked to focus on the following issues: parity of esteem and how this could be achieved; mental health within BME communities and how services worked with those communities to address cultural need.

A number of themes emerged from the discussions which included:

- Training for residents / staff in Oldham - Mental Health First Aid;
- Promotion and Communication of Services – better promotion of mental health services;
- Early Help Offer and an Asset Based Community Development

- BME Communities which included how best to engage with the BME community
- Development of an “Oldham Hub” which could be accessed by all organisations and residents;
- CAMHS officer based in A&E for emotional support; and
- Interlink between physical and mental health to be recognised in clinical diagnosis.

Work being done across the partnership was highlighted which included the development of a Strategic Mental Health Partnership, the development of a mental health strategy for Oldham similar to the Dementia Board. A workshop had been held on 5th June which had identified issues on engagement with the BME communities which would include work with the Council, GP practices and a targeted approach for areas of high deprivation and BME communities.

The Board had been impressed with young people who were an asset and who had engaged and expressed disappointment that this was not reflected in the report. The National Youth Parliament had mental health as one of their key issues for this year.

It was also asked how members of the community would be involved. Members also commented that an advertising campaign would be helpful with issues addressed in newsletters and action taken for residents to access services early.

The Board were informed the mental health was a large part of the health budget and two issues were the abuse of alcohol and soft drugs. The Health Protection Sub-Committee would address the legal highs issues and report back to the Board.

There was a strong relationship between physical and mental health. It was recognised that a lot of work was in development and a clear plan with activities would need to be implemented.

RESOLVED that:

1. the outputs from the Development Session be noted.
2. the work of the Mental Health Partnership be noted.
3. Work with Young People be included as a theme.
4. a report from the Health Protection Sub-Committee be brought back to the Health and Wellbeing Board regarding legal highs.

10

ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY PERFORMANCE

The Board gave consideration to a report and presentation on the Accident and Emergency (A&E) Unit Quarter 4 Performance.

The NHS had continued to experience significant issues regarding pressure on A&E Departments. Pennine Acute Hospitals were one of the busiest in the country. Quarter 4 Performance had again failed to meet the four hour standard

target. The Trust had identified as part of its Annual Plan Submission for 2015/16 that the standard was likely to be achieved across the four sites by Quarter 3.

The target was 95% to be treated within four hours, the latest figures reflected 91.3%. Attendance figures had increased. The Trust was developing a Reluctant Leavers Policy which would need to be explored carefully and had participated in the new national initiative “Perfect Week”. The “Perfect Week” focused on a particular hospital for a week and included a focus on A&E performance, testing of ideas, aimed to create a sense of urgency, created headroom to manage crucial flow and created a learning environment which tackled blockages and barriers.

The findings of other organisations was outlined and included senior medical review, discharge dates, escalation of beds closed or reduced, increased number of discharges, improved partnership working and improved staff engagement. Key successes included an improved quality of service, positive patient experience and reenergised staff. As a result of the “Perfect Week” implementation the latest performance figures as 99.3%. Sustained effort had made a difference and information would be analysed.

The following points were highlighted:

- Winter pressure – a workshop to be organised;
- Increased admissions was a complicated picture;
- Public to be educated on alternatives to A&E;
- Investment in prevention;
- Potential changes to the Healthier Together programme and the impact on the flow of patients and the impact and work with colleagues in the Pennine Acute Trust;

RESOLVED that:

1. The current position on Accident and Emergency Performance at the Royal Oldham Hospital be noted.
2. The current position related to the Trust’s other sites and that of Greater Manchester as a whole be noted.
3. The action the Trust had taken with regard to address the ongoing situation and, in particular, the Perfect Week initiative be noted.
4. A workshop be organised to address Winter Pressure and other spikes in performance at the Accident and Emergency Unit.

11

DEVOLUTION MANCHESTER

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update to the board on the Devolution Manchester and addressed what was being asked of Oldham, the challenges over the next six months and how the Health and Wellbeing Board and other organisations could contribute and the benefits from the Devolution Agreement.

Devolution would bring in a wide range of powers on health and social care with the goal to improve health and wellbeing. Four workstreams had been agreed at Greater Manchester level which included:

- Strategic Plan;
- Leadership, Governance and Accountability;
- Devolving Responsibilities and Resource; and
- Early Implementation Priorities.

The Strategic Plan would be built from the 10 Locality Place Based Plans which incorporated those objectives along with GM level activities. The framework for the development plans had been received. Board members questioned the methodology with the other nine authorities. Past experience of a Greater Manchester Wide plan was enormous and a significant challenge. The scope of the local plan was a place-based ambition and the framework included Strategic Direction; Locality Transformation Proposals; and Financial Plan and Enablers. The approach would build upon what was in place and also the FCHO Health and Wellbeing Offer, Cooperative Oldham and Triple Aim, community development and engagement and social prescribing. The timelines for the development of the Locality Plan were outlined in the report with the first draft of the GM Strategic Plan to be handed to the Treasury by the end of August 2015.

Board Members highlighted concerns about Housing and the effects on health. Board Members also reflected that relationships had been built around the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Oldham Leadership Board.

RESOLVED that:

1. Alan Higgins be appointed as the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the Oldham Locality Plan and Dennis Gizzi and Maggie Kufeldt as sponsors.
2. approval of the June Submission of the Locality Plan be delegated to the Chair, Vice Chair, Clinical Commissioning Group Chief Executive Officer, Executive Director – Health and Wellbeing and the Senior Responsible Officer.
3. The report and presentation which provided an update be noted which included the first draft of the Locality Plan was to be produced by the end of June and the second draft to be completed by the end of July to aid the GM submission to Treasury in August.
4. organisational support to the Oldham SRO for the development of the Locality Plan as and when requested be endorsed.
5. the Locality Plan to be finalised at the Development Session on 21st July be endorsed.

The Board gave consideration to a report which requested identification of relevant persons to be tasked with actions as outlined in a motion of Opposition Business regarding Sudden Cardiac Request in Young People and First Aid.

The motion had been referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board, who in turn, referred the matter to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The motion stated that over 600 young people died every year from sudden cardiac arrest and that 270 of these deaths occurred in schools. The work carried out by Heartstart Oldham had been commended, it was noted that guidance published by the Department for Education encouraged schools to buy Automated External Defibrillators and that school children should be taught First Aid as part of the national curriculum.

RESOLVED that:

1. Councillor Stretton and Councillor Akhtar be asked to address the actions within the motion.
2. an update be brought back to the Board meeting in September.

13 **INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the Integrated Commissioning Partnership (ICP).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

14 **BEST START IN LIFE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

The Board gave consideration to a report which provided an update on the Best Start in Life Partnership.

RESOLVED that the report on the Best Start in Life Partnership be noted.

15 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that:

1. the date and time of the Development Session to be held on 21st July 2015 at 2.00 p.m. be noted.
2. the date and time of the Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on 15th September 2015 at 2.00 p.m. be noted.

The meeting started at 2.00 pm and ended at 4.05 pm



Minutes

UNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

23 June 2015

Members' Meeting Room - Civic Centre, Oldham, OL1 1NL

5.30 pm

Present: Councillors Dean, Jabbar and Sykes

Emma Alexander	Unity Partnership
Helen Gerling	Interim Director Commercial & Transformational Services
Janet Horton	Mouchel
Simon Miller	Unity Partnership
John Sillitoe	Mouchel
Caroline Walmsley	Constitutional Services
Alan Winstanley	Unity Partnership

1 Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Chadderton, Councillor McCann, Councillor Stretton, Carolyn Wilkins and Craig Apsey.

The Chair welcomed Alan Winstanley, Interim Partnership Development Director, to the meeting.

2 Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the Unity Partnership Board meeting held on 23rd March 2015 were agreed as a correct record subject to an amendment to Item 4, Project Diamond Progress Update, to include that the £4.2M target saving become contractual and be formalised by a Change of Control Notice at the next meeting of the Partnership board.

3 Kier Acquisition

The Local Public Services Director gave a verbal update on the Kier acquisition which was completed at the beginning of June and was about adding capability for customers. There was currently a light touch approach with integration taking place over the next few months. Rebranding activity was underway with Mouchel as part of the Kier Group.

The Board:

1. Noted the update.
2. Requested a report on the acquisition and its implications be submitted to the next meeting.

4 Managing Director's Report and KPI Report (Standing Item)

The Board considered a report of the Managing Director, Unity Partnership which provided a review of the services across the Partnership. The following points were highlighted:

Property

The 2015-16 Workplan was not confirmed pending a review of council budgets and the changes in structure. Working together, the council and Unity had confirmed an interim position for Quarter 1 to maintain service while this process was completed.

Benefits

Performance was on track and work was now out of backlog. Further to Council colleague's invitation, a document laying out the requirements of the team in order for them to continue to support the CST programme roll out and deliver business as usual had been submitted and a meeting arranged to discuss the way forward.

It was reported that KPI EB1 had now moved into a compliant position. A more detailed report on this was included further on the agenda.

HR Advisory & HR Transactional/Payroll

The migration of the schools payroll moved from the councils system to the Mouchel platform in March. Unity recognised that a number of key issues had arisen through this and were currently working with council colleagues and putting actions in place to resolve these issues. Whilst the payroll was accurate, following some adjustments required in the first payroll run, there remained some outstanding issues, namely schools financial reporting and self-service online portal. Work was ongoing with regards to the financial reporting and, due to a number of issues; the self-service online portal had not yet gone live. The self-service module was likely to be available in October.

It was reported that there was currently a separate issue with some Head teachers' pay, with a fifth being affected by incorrect tax coding by HMRC. Concerns were raised regarding the position; however Unity had liaised with each individual affected and reassurance was given that work was currently underway to resolve the issue with HMRC.

ICT

During the transition to a solely Unity delivery model, the Service was maintained throughout with no adverse impact on users. As a result the Council and Unity had agreed to formally close the transition programme.

An update was given on progress of a number of initiatives and the report also outlined issues and key activities planned for the next period.

Supporting Transformation

Unity was now bringing forward proposals for a number of “End to End” reviews to address the services it provided. These reviews were expected to identify wide ranging opportunities for improvement with resulting financial benefit. The reviews would also help service areas to address the Council’s vision for the provision of cooperative customer services. The first of these reviews, the end to end review of the Highways Service, commenced in early May.

KPI Performance Mid-March to end of May

The Board were informed that performance against the 2014/15 annual KPIs was good, with 61% being achieved at the stretching Aspirational Target levels and the remaining KPIs at a Pass level. However, there had been two instances where the targets were not met for the quarterly KPIs outlined in the report.

Of the 19 KPIs which had been monitored so far in 2015/16, 13 achieved their Aspirational Targets. Two quarterly KPIs had not meet the monthly Pass targets, but the results could not yet be confirmed as this was only a forecast position for the quarter. All monthly KPIs reported so far this quarter had achieved their Aspirational or Pass targets.

The proactive working between the Benefits Service and the Council and jointly agreed actions to improve the situation had proven to be highly effective in increasing performance in regards time taken to process housing/Council Tax benefit. This resulted in the Service achieving its Pass target by the end of the Financial Year in March.

It was highlighted that the ‘My Account’ system needed to be fully integrated and it was anticipated that all functionality would be released by September.

Business Development

An update was given on Programme Pelican, along with external opportunities.

The Board noted the report and the information provided.

5 EB1

The Board considered a report which provided information on the Revenues and Benefits services and, in particular the Key Performance Indicator EB1. The report outlined the information as to how the backlog developed and what actions took place to redress the position along with initiatives to normalise the workload and prevent a re-occurrence.

The Board noted the report.

6 Unity Change Programme (Standing Item)

The Board considered a report which provided a summary of the current position on the progress made refreshing the partnership agreement through the revisions, as a part of the commissioned Diamond Change Programme, which included Efficient



Services; Accelerated Transformation; Get Oldham Working; and Realignment of the Commercial Terms for the Partnership. The delivery of savings through the Diamond Change Programme was outlined in the report. Programme performance and additional Diamond initiatives were also appended to the report. ICT commitments were highlighted, specifically the Deed of Variation which detailed five key service areas to be improved and set out the deferred Output Specification deliverables to be delivered by 31st December 2015.

The Board noted the report.

7 AOB

The Council use of cheques for matters such as issuing refunds was queried as it was felt that this should now be done electronically.

The Board requested that this be clarified.

8 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The date and time of the next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 2nd September 2015 at 5.30 pm was noted.

The meeting started at 5.35 pm and ended at 6.43 pm

Minutes

Oldham Leadership Board

Themed meeting: Economy and Skills.

2nd September 2015, 09:30am until 11:30am
Lee's Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham

Present:

Cllr Jim McMahon	Leader, Oldham Council (Chair)
Carolyn Wilkins	Chief Executive, Oldham Council
Jeremy Broadbent	Oldham Business Leaders Group
Stuart Lockwood	Oldham Community Leisure
Barbara Nicholson	DWP / JCP
Liz Windsor-Welsh	Voluntary Action Oldham
Jonathan Yates	Citizens Advice Bureau
Richard Spearing	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
Nadine Armitage	Pennine Acute Trust
Nigel Elliott	National Probation Service
Cath Green	First Choice Homes Oldham
CS Caroline Ball	Greater Manchester Police
Debra Woodruff	Oldham College
Cllr Barbara Brownridge	Oldham Council
Helen Lockwood	Oldham Council
Emma Alexander	Oldham Council
Maggie Kuddefelt	Oldham Council
Liz Wade	Oldham Council
Louise Slater	Oldham Council
Jon Bloor	Oldham Council
Cllr John McCann	Oldham Council
Saskia Edwards	Oldham Youth Council

Apologies:

Cllr Jean Stretton	Oldham Council
Denis Gizzi	Oldham CCG
Ian Wilkinson	Oldham CCG
Mark Reynolds	Oldham Council
Elaine McLean	Oldham Council
Cllr Howard Sykes	Oldham Council
Alan Higgins	Oldham Council
Caroline Drysdale	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
Michael McCourt	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
John Schofield	Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust
Dave Benstead	Oldham Business Leaders Group
Jayne Clarke	Oldham Sixth Form College

1	Minutes and matters arising from meeting on 25 June 2015
	<p>The minutes of the meeting of 25 June 2015 were agreed as a correct record of proceedings.</p> <p>Carolyn Wilkins provided an update on the further devolution announcements including additional powers in children's services and the establishment of a land commission. Carolyn also updated the Board on her role as Greater Manchester lead for mental health and New Society.</p>
	<p>AGREED/ACTION For the next meeting of the Board on 3rd December 2015 to be focussed on devolution and health and social care devolution in-particular.</p>
2	The Oldham Economy and the Local Economic Assessment
	<p>Liz Wade, Interim Director for Economy and Skills, Oldham Council led an interactive session on the Oldham Economy, bringing out the main points of the Local Economic Assessment. This included key facts and figures on skills, education, housing, transport and connectivity. The evidence in the Local Economic Assessment will inform the goals and actions of the Oldham Work and Skills Plan which will be owned by the Economy and Skills Commissioning Cluster.</p>
	<p>AGREED / ACTION For the full Oldham Local Economic Assessment to be circulated to the Board.</p>
3	The Oldham Education and Skills Commission: Interim Findings
	<p>Cllr Jim McMahon, Leader of the Council and Chair, presented the interim findings of the Oldham Education and Skills Commission.</p> <p>This included a brief outline of some of the recommendations including the proposals around a school-led system.</p> <p>Jim also stressed the role of the partnership in helping to develop a school-led system and the need to publicly launch the recommendations and collectively campaign on the issues the commission presents.</p>
	<p>AGREED/ACTION That the interim recommendations from the Oldham Education and Skills Commission be circulated to Board members for further comment.</p>
4	Oldham Ambition: Views of the Youth Mayor and Youth Council
	<p>Saskia Edwards, Oldham Youth Mayor provided an overview of what the education system and world of work looks like from the perspective of young people in Oldham.</p> <p>Saskia commented that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school system in Oldham remained a postcode lottery with very different experiences for young people depending on where they live. • Young people in Oldham desperately needed experience of work in order to develop skills. This included a plea to improve work experience and quality volunteering opportunities for young people and more entry level positions so

	<p>young people can get on the ladder of work and progress within it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspiration remained a key barrier for many young people and that it was the role of education and partners to help raise that aspiration. • That the shrinking youth offer is damaging to young people because it means there are less opportunities to gain valuable experiences out of school. • That the housing offer and connectivity to places like Manchester was essential for ensuring that young people stayed in Oldham. <p>Board members commented on the challenges for the Partnership to develop more entry level positions and in work progression across organisations.</p>
5	Development of a Work and Skills Plan
	<p>Board members took part in a workshop to further develop the detail of an Oldham Work and Skills Plan based on the evidence and context provided by the Local Economic Assessment, the Oldham Education and Skills Commission and the views of the Youth Mayor and Youth Council.</p> <p>The workshop comprised of three zones as follows: Business – how do we grow more business and help them to survive People – how do we ensure that Oldham people have the right qualifications and skills to get good jobs and Place – how do we ensure that Oldham as a place does well.</p> <p>All Board members contributed towards each zone and developed ideas and practical recommendations to be included in the Work and Skills Plan.</p> <p>The tables attached in Appendix A provide the full analysis of the outcomes and recommendations from the workshop.</p>
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the recommendations put forward by the Board be included in the Work and Skills Plan. 2. That the final Work and Skills Plan be presented back to the Oldham Leadership Board for sign off at the meeting on the 18 February 2016.
6	Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods Commissioning Cluster
	<p>Cath Green, Chief Executive of First Choice Homes and Chair of the Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods Commissioning Cluster provided a brief progress update on the work of the cluster including its approach to devolution and the progress made in reviewing district and neighbourhood level structures across the Partnership.</p> <p>Cath also commented on the need for the Partnership Commissioning Clusters to review how they are working and whether they have the tools to do the job.</p>
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <p>That Cath Green presents a more detailed progress update on the work of the Co-operatives and Neighbourhoods Commissioning Cluster at the next Board meeting on 3rd December 2015.</p>
7	Partnership Consultation
	<p>Vicky Sugars, Strategy, Partnerships and Policy Manager, Oldham Council informed Board members of the planned Partnership Consultation.</p>

	The aim of the consultation is to evaluate the value of partnership working to individual partner organisations and services, establish a renewed commitment and agreement to priorities for the next 12 months and review and improve the operation of the Board and Commissioning Clusters.
	<p>AGREED/ACTION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To circulate the Partnership Consultation to all Board members via e-mail and for Board members to complete by the end of September 2015. 2. For the findings of the consultation to be fed back to the Board and the Commissioning Clusters to inform the work of the Partnership going forward.
	Date of next meeting
	3 December 2015, 10am until 12 noon, venue tbc. Theme: Devolution: Health and Social Care and the Locality Plan.

Appendix A: Work and Skills Plan Workshop (see below)



Zone 1: Business: Goal – to increase the number of businesses in Oldham

Goals	What we do already	What we could do to step-up, join-up, scale up
Attract more high value investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth Company support • MIDAS • Enterprise Trust Fund • Manufacturing Advisory Service • Invest in Oldham • Oldham on the Map • Hack Oldham • Account Management • UKTI export programmes • BGH Digital Support • Marketing Manchester • Oldham Business Awards • GM Investment Fund + Access to Finance from BGH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion/campaign of the support that is available to increase uptake. • Increase and develop our business engagement and spend time developing relationships - support and ideas from the bottom up. E.g Business Ambassadors Scheme and one point of contact for business for all support. • Celebrate and support existing enterprise zones. • Place Marketing required – Wide Oldham offer 'Oldham on the Map' - and promotion to business. Includes capitalising on recent regeneration as well as infrastructure, skills, leisure, housing, schools, health and premises offer. As well as next phase an pipeline regeneration. Wider promotion than MIDAS. Sustained Communications programme. • Co-ordinated Partnership Plan for growing long term investment required including for example, sector investment e.g health. Look at supply chain and emerging sectors.
Support existing business to survive and innovate and Foster enterprise and business start ups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •New Enterprise Allowance scheme •Enterprise Hubs •Enterprise Trust Fund •Independent Quarter support •Give it a Go scheme •Council Reduced Rent •BSUS programme (until Sept 2015). •BGH high growth start-up support •Failsworth, Lees and Shaw district grants •Broadband vouchers •Textile Grants •BGH mentoring/angels scheme •Start-up Engines Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premises: Different working practices need developing. For example, joint work spaces and office pools. Need more suitable premises to attract business. Need to map premises requirements-current and pipeline. • Rate incentives need promoting – lack of awareness • Make use of existing employment land • Remove barriers to re-location. For example, premise size.

Zone 2 – People: Goal – Strengthen local partnerships between business, education and the community to better equip people to succeed in work.



Goals	What we already do	What we could do to step-up, join-up, scale up
<p>Support education attainment and routes to progress to higher levels</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Campus Oldham providing Level 4 and above qualifications. • Get Oldham Working • Work Programme • Work Choice • Nu Traxx • Mainstream programmes – e.g. Traineeships and Apprenticeships • Oldham Education and Skills Commission • BGreen: BReady • Limehurst • Early-help • Youth Guarantee • School enterprise hubs. • Volunteering offer - VAO 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In work progression pathways for the Council and other public sector bodies. • Consistent and open Council work experience policy and placements. • Co-ordinated and clearer offer for business to link up with education. • Further promotion of self-employment and enterprise within education (via the hubs?) • Development of the ‘Oldham Teacher’ principle with career champions and expertise within all schools who have knowledge and links to business. • Focus on lone parent family ‘squeezed’ cohort and scale of neighbourhood initiatives like BGreen:BReady • Career guidelines for pupils which clarify expectations, skills and knowledge required for professions. • Develop clearer links between VCS and education (VAO) to increase pathways for young people to work.
<p>Support those who need the most help in education, training and employment and prevent worklessness</p>		
<p>Utilise business networks and maximise GM economy contribution</p>		
<p>Better align skills to labour market to meet current and future business needs</p>		

Zone 3 – Place: Goal – Contribute to Oldham becoming a productive place with healthy, aspirational and sustainable communities.



Goals	What we do already	What we could do to step-up, join-up, scale up
<p>Maximise social value and local £ benefit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Value Charter • Fair Employment Charter • Access to Employment research by Districts is underway • Travel Champions via TfGM and JCP • Oldham Council Cycle to Work scheme • Local sustainable transport fund. • Oldham Shared Transport • Invest in Oldham will create new opportunities. • Increased transport infrastructure e.g. Tram network • Limehurst and BGreen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aspirational ambition for Oldham and people needs Partnership promotion/campaign – connected to OESC and adult skills. Not just for education but for all partners. (Grow Oldham?) • Developing resilience and informed lifestyle choices are key to Oldham ambition – informed by a positive environment. • Utilise Fair Employment Charter network to develop business links. • Partnership led campaigns ‘connect with Oldham’ and the place. Get behind initiatives like Get Oldham Working/Growing • Review the procurement system supporting business to enable local competitiveness and within GM system. • Look at NE GM partnership with neighbouring authorities and linkages across for business and place – e.g transport. • Maximise the GM transport offer for Oldham ensuring fair access and pricing. • Consider pooling offers. For example, leisure offers across GM.
<p>Provide access to local market info, advice and inform better life choices</p>		
<p>Facilitate access for all to sport, community learning and culture</p>		
<p>Promote success and good employment to inspire growth ambitions; ensuring work pays and the social costs reduced</p>		

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Oldham Trading Services Group
[Oldham Care Services Ltd: Oldham Care and Support Ltd: Oldham Care and Support at Home Ltd]
Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting
24 July 2015

Present:

<p>Board members</p> <p>Cllr Zahid Chauhan (Chair)[ZC] Cllr Jenny Harrison [JH] Cllr John F McCann [JMc] Cllr Barbara Brownridge (BB) Karl Dean – Managing Director [KD]</p>	<p>In attendance</p> <p>Maggie Kufeldt – OMBC Exec Director acting as shareholders advisor to the Board [MK] Danielle Procter- (DP) June Rainford- AD OPS and COoH (JR) Diane Taylor – AD LD &MH (DT) Paul Wilkinson- Finance Manager (PW)</p>
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Apologies: Paul Whitehead - Finance Director
 Cllr Ginny Alexander

No	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p>Welcome, Introduction, attendees and apologies Danielle Procter and Barbara Brownridge in attendance.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, Introductions were made and apologies recorded for Ginny Alexander and Paul Whitehead.</p>	
2	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>JMc is a member of the Unity Partnership Board.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last Board meeting, held on 25th March 2015 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>The approval to circulate the public minutes of the same meeting to full Council was also secured.</p>	

4	<p>Matters arising not on the agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed actions from Action Log since the last meeting- • There were a number of open actions that were noted that were being progressed. <p>ZC asked the management team to look into setting up the company's website and producing a company newsletter.</p> <p>KD confirmed to the board, he will be progressing the recruitment for two Board Member Non- Exec Director positions.</p>	KD
5	<p>Performance and Workforce Committee Minutes April 2015</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting dated 14th April 2015 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>Members discussed the possibility to having annual achievement awards for the staff.</p> <p>Cllr. JMc sought points of clarification on issues surrounding long –term and short- term sickness.</p>	
6	<p>Changes to Board membership and the senior team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair welcomed KD as the new Managing Director. • The Chair and the Board thanked outgoing Managing Director Danielle Proctor for her contribution in setting up the company and developing it over the past two years. <p>It was noted that KD has been registered a Director of the company and DP removed.</p> <p>DP informed the Board that KD needs to be added at the Companies House and in line with the CQC arrangements, and equally lined with the Information Commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair and the Board also thanked Cllr. Barbara Brownridge for her contribution in her role to the company and confirmed Cllr. Alexander has been nominated and appointed to the Board. • It was noted that Cllr. Brownridge has been removed as a Director of the company and Cllr. Alexander has been appointed as a Director of the company. 	

7	<p>Arrangements for Future Board Meetings</p> <p>The Board discussed the times and dates for the future Board Meetings. ZD reminded members of their responsibilities and asked members to email RI with their preferred days and times going forward. In the absence of Cllr. Ginny Alexander it was noted that Mondays were preferred due to her work commitments. RI will then distribute the remaining dates until April 2016.</p> <p>KD confirmed that the next two schedule meetings were September and November. ZC requested that at the beginning of future Board meetings members received a presentation from management about one of the services that OCS delivers.</p>	RI
8	<p>Half Year Strategic Plan Review</p> <p>DP, DT and JR presented a mid-year performance which was well received by members.</p>	
9	<p>Proposed Redevelopment of Boston House and future use of ENA Hughes Resource Centre</p> <p>KD and MK talked members through the salient points of the paper and explained that relocating existing OCS LD services into a redeveloped Boston House which would realise significant savings and provide a high quality Extra Care scheme. The proposal requires the operational staff currently based at Ena Hughes to be relocated at into Boston House and a new HQ needs to be secured for the senior and central teams.</p> <p>After a full discussion the Chair asked the Board to vote on this matter.</p> <p>Decision: The Board agreed in principle to vacate Ena Hughes in the coming future on the following basis:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A suitable HQ is secured for Oldham Trading Company with the same or similar facilities that are currently provided at Ena Hughes i.e. suitable offices, board room, meeting and trainer spaces. • If there isn't a suitable location within the council's estate a venue may be sourced on the open market. • The venue would allow OCS to promote its brand and independence. • The cost of any new offices should be within the current cost envelope and any move costs would be within the costs of the project. 	
10	<p>Management Accounts Period 6</p> <p>Board were presented with Management Accounts for both OCS and OCSH for the period 6 of Financial Year 2015 by PW. It was noted that whilst overall performance was ahead of budget, the Home Care service in OCS was £20k</p>	

	<p>negative variance to budget and improving this position was proving difficult. The savings target for the rest of the year also presented the management team with a significant challenge.</p> <p>ZC requested that a presentation on Home Care was made at the start of the next Board Meeting.</p>	KD
11	<p>Risk Register</p> <p>KD gave an overview of the current risks that were on the risk register and members were invited to comment of specific risks. KD offered that he felt that some risks scores were high and advised that focus and attention will be made to reduce the scores.</p>	
13	<p>AOB and close</p> <p>Chair and the Board confirmed all points being covered, thanked everyone for their attendance and concluded until the next Board Meeting.</p> <p>KD offered that recruitment would shortly be commencing for the Business Administration Manager and the Associate Director Quality, Performance and Compliance.</p> <p>KD stated that he had been requested to produce a paper for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Value for Money Select Committee in August 2015 and was required to attend in person.</p>	
13	<p>Date and Time of next meeting : TBC</p>	

Report to COUNCIL

Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Finance and Human Resources

Report of the Director of Finance, Anne Ryans

Officer Contact: Bola Odunsi
Ext. 4905

4th November 2015

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to seek approval of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17.

Executive Summary

From the 1st April 2013, the Council introduced a localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme to replace Council Tax Benefit for those of working age. The scheme was revised from 1st April 2014 to increase the level of support provided. The requirement for the Council to develop a local scheme was set out in the Local Government Finance Act 2012. The legislation as detailed in this Act places a requirement that each year a Collection Authority must formally consider revising its Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme.

The Council made a change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015/16 increasing the maximum reduction awardable from 80% of the Band A rate of Council Tax to 85%. That meant an extra £53.43 per year for someone who is entitled to the maximum award and this was agreed by Full Council in December 2014.

A CTR working group was formed to ensure a thorough review process and help to inform decision making around whether the Council should make CTR changes for 2016/17. The group was made up of representatives from across Finance, Policy, Business Intelligence, Legal, Communications and Exchequer Services.

The current scheme has only been in place since 1st April 2015 and it is difficult to estimate what the exact percentage collection rate might be at year end. However, an early indication is that the collection rate for the extra amount billed in 2015/16 will be higher than originally estimated at between 70% and 75%. Equally this may change in the remainder of the year.

As a consequence, there are two options which the Council may consider:

- Option 1: Leave the current Council Tax Reduction scheme unchanged for 2016 onwards.
- Option 2: Change the level of Council Tax Reduction.

Another issue which has to be considered is estimating the financial impact of the new government proposals for welfare and tax reform on Oldham. Whilst insufficient detail is available at this early stage to quantify the impact of these changes on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme as a means-tested benefit, it is highly likely that demand on the scheme will rise next year, as benefit freezes and reductions in tax credits will mean reducing incomes for sizeable numbers of Oldham residents.

Given that the scheme was changed for 2015/16 and considering the current financial position of the Council, it is not proposed to change the threshold level. If no change is made, the maximum amount of reduction available would remain at 85% of a Band A rate of Council Tax. As previously, the scheme would remain subject to any changes resulting from prescribed requirements issued by the Secretary of State under paragraph 2(8) of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any changes from time to time to the figures prescribed by central government for welfare benefits purposes.

These proposals for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17 were considered by Cabinet on 21 September 2015. Cabinet commended that Council, when considering whether to revise or replace the current Council Tax Reduction Scheme, does not make any revision or replacement to the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme

Recommendation

That Council agrees to continue with the existing Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17, with no revision or changes to the existing scheme.

1 Background

- 1.1 From the 1st April 2013, the Council introduced a Council Tax Reduction Scheme to replace the national Council Tax Benefit scheme for those of working age. The requirement for the Council to do this was set out in the Local Government Finance Act 2012. Financial responsibility for this support was transferred from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The DCLG would pay those bodies affected by the change a direct grant as part of its overall financial settlement with a reduction of 10% on the overall estimated cost. This was as part of the overall savings on welfare expenditure. Any reduction in actual benefit could only be passed on to claimants of working age.
- 1.2 In devising the 2013/14 scheme it was assumed by the Council that 50% of the extra Council Tax levied under the scheme would be collected in year. On this basis the maximum amount of reduction available to working age claimants was 75% of the Band A rate of Council Tax. However, the expected collection rate was exceeded which led to revision of the scheme for 2014/15 and again for 2015/16. The current year's scheme offers a higher level of support with the maximum amount awarded being 85% of the Band A rate of Council Tax. This is based on an anticipated collection rate of 70%.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 Early indications are that collection rates on the debt due from the 2015/16 scheme may be higher than the estimated 70%. It was also recognised that the number of recipients of working age has reduced from 16,206 when the scheme was agreed by Council in December 2013 to 15,454 as at October 2015. Based on these factors, the Council is in a position to maintain ongoing financial support through the current scheme.
- 2.2 As at the 8th October 2015 from the 15,454 taxpayers receiving Council Tax Reduction, the projected collection rate remains higher than original estimates and may reach 70% to 75%. An additional 5% collection could result in an extra £200,000 in Council Tax receipts for 2015/16. However attention is drawn to potential financial implications highlighted at Appendix 1. Given the uncertain and volatile nature of the Council's finances and the major budget reductions required in future years and in considering further welfare reforms to be implemented during 2016-17, the Council could choose to leave the scheme unaltered until there is greater certainty about the future financial position.
- 2.3 Given the extent of changes to the scheme last financial year increasing the maximum award from 80% to 85%, and the current financial position of the council, it is currently considered that there will be no change to the threshold level.

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- 2.4 The only other development in recent months amongst revenues & benefits practitioners is the debate on whether CTR schemes should include specific reference to the recoverability of any CTR awards which were awarded erroneously (either due to an error by the local authority or because the taxpayer failed to provide the relevant information required in a timely manner).
- 2.5 Having consulted other Councils within Greater Manchester on their practice as well as the CIPFA Revenues & Benefits consortium, it has been concluded that this is not a matter that needs to be addressed within the scheme. Existing powers to recover and write off debts are considered to be adequate.
- 2.6 A CTR scheme working group which comprises of Council officers (from Legal Services, Finance, Policy, Business Intelligence, Communications, Revenues & Benefits Client unit) as well as staff from the Unity Partnership has been formed and this has been able to review all relevant issues. This review has influenced the recommendation in this report that there is no other compelling reasons or issues that necessitate any amendment to the existing scheme.
- 2.7 The current scheme is drafted in such a way that changes resulting from prescribed requirements issued by the Secretary of State under paragraph 2(8) of Schedule 1A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and any changes from time to time to the figures prescribed by central government for welfare benefits purposes are automatically imported into the scheme. It is considered prudent that this remains the case.
- 2.8 The legislation requires consultation prior to the making of a change to a reduction scheme but there is no such requirement when no change is being made.

3. Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 There are two options to be considered and taking into account the financial information detailed in Section 6 of this report, the options are as follows:
- **Option 1** - Leave the current Council Tax Reduction scheme unchanged for 2016/17 onwards.
 - **Option 2** – Change the level of Council Tax Reduction.
- 3.2 Option 2 would require financial modelling against potential impacts from the welfare reforms being introduced in 2016/17, to be able to offer alternative options. The details from the introduction of further welfare reforms is an assumed position as the details have yet to be disclosed by DWP.

4. Preferred Option/Recommendation

- 4.1 Cabinet commended that Council, when considering whether to the revise or replace the current Council Tax Reduction scheme, does not make any revision or replacement.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 The legislation requires consultation prior to the making of a change to a reduction scheme but there is no such requirement when no change is being made. Accordingly, there is no plan to undertake public consultation in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17, given that no changes are being proposed to the existing scheme (2015/16).

6 Financial Comments

- 6.1 The direct grant paid by the Department of Communities and Local Government for Council Tax Reduction Support has now been subsumed within the Council's Revenue Support Grant figure (RSG). In 2013/14, the last time the Local Government Finance Settlement identified this grant independently; the Council's allocation was £17.418m including support for parishes but excluding the major preceptors (the GM Fire and Rescue Authority and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Greater Manchester). The 2014/15 Local Government Finance Settlement prescribed that the level of council tax reduction support would remain unchanged and this has again been assumed in 2015/16; however the overall level of RSG has continued to reduce over recent financial years. The DCLG's intentions for 2016/17 are unclear, although national announcements indicate that the 2016/17 Local Government Finance Settlement will result in a reduction in RSG.
- 6.2 As at the 8th October 2015, 78% of claimants had made some payments towards their 2015/16 Council Tax bills, suggesting a collection rate above that of the estimated 70%. As outlined above, data is not available to assess how many of these claimants making payments will fall into arrears during the remainder of the year, however, it is envisaged that proactive collection methods implemented by the Unity Partnership will enable the Council to collect an amount of between 70% and 75% of the amount due in 2015/16. Weekly monitoring of the collection rate is being maintained to manage the risk of non-collection. One perceived risk at this stage is that the present collection rate will reduce throughout the remainder of the financial year and beyond as the Government's welfare change programme is phased in. The amount of disposable income that many of the scheme claimants will have available to meet Council Tax and other financial commitments is likely to reduce. This will have the impact of increasing the risk of arrears from those who are currently paying their Council Tax.
- 6.3 Using the same assumptions upon which the 2015/16 scheme was based, the Council estimates it needs to generate additional Council Tax income of £1.976m (70% of £2.822m as highlighted in the table below) to offset the reduction in the level of Government grant support. This would therefore mean that the scheme would be self-financing by there being no call on resources outside those intended to support the scheme, namely:
- a) The Government grant to recompense the Council for Council Tax Benefit.
 - b) Council Tax income from the technical reform of the Council Tax system which has increased the Councils ability to charge when properties are empty.

c) Council Tax received from recipients of awards under the Council Tax Reduction scheme.

6.4 The table below summarises the impact of potential revised schemes in comparison to the current 2015/16 scheme based on a 70% collection rate.

	Collection Rate	Reduction in support to make the scheme self-financing	Average impact on individuals	
	%	£m	Annual	Weekly
Scheme options	65	3.040	£182.51	£3.51
	70	2.822	£168.47	£3.24
	75	2.635	£157.24	£3.02

Assuming the scheme is designed around the current assumed collection rate of 70% and that this can again be achieved, the income generated would be equivalent to the requirement of £1.976m (70% of £2.822m). On average this would reduce the claimant support by £3.24 per week when compared to the base Council Tax Benefit position in 2012/13, prior to the start of the localisation initiative.

6.5 Taking into account the above information the Council has the option to amend the maximum amount of reduction available from its current rate of 85% of a Band A rate of Council Tax. However, it should be noted that there is still a significant level of risk associated with basing proposals for an amended scheme on historic collection rates. There could be a fall in collection rates over the remainder of the current financial year; in addition the scheme assumes the trend in the first part of 2015/16 will be mirrored in the whole of the financial year 2016/17. The Council will however be working with colleagues in the Unity Partnership to ensure collection rates are maintained by using existing recovery options and devising alternative recovery methods to support vulnerable Council Tax payers.

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1. The legislation confers an obligation on the Council to consider whether to revise or replace its scheme on an annual basis. When this matter reaches full council, full council may, having given such consideration, decide to leave the scheme unchanged. However, if, having given such consideration, full council does not at that point decide to leave the current scheme unchanged, a further report will be needed before any changes can be made. Such further report must follow a prescribed consultation process, which must inform recommendations. Any changes would need to be made by full council before 31 January 2016. There is no obligation to consult if no changes are made. Attention must be given to the advice below on paying due regard to equality implications. (Bill Balmer).

8 **Human Resources Comments**

8.1 There are no human resource comments.

9 **Risk Assessments**

9.1 There are a number of risks to be managed in this process:

- Ensuring the 2016/17 scheme is not subject to a legal challenge on the basis of equality legislation.
- Ensuring the scheme remains both fair and affordable to the Council for 2016/17 particularly as it will only be based upon limited collection rates information early in the financial year and assumptions on grant funding previously made.
- Retaining links in Council Tax Collection Processes to the Council's Corporate Fair Debt Policy. (Mark Stenson)

10 **IT Implications**

10.1 There are no IT implications.

11 **Property Implications**

11.1 There are no property implications.

12 **Procurement Implications**

12.1 There are no procurement implications.

13 **Environmental and Health and Safety Implications**

13.1 There are no Environmental and Health and Safety implications.

14 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

14.1 In taking financial decisions the Council must demonstrate that it has given "due regard" to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between different groups.

14.2 Demonstrating that "due regard" has been given involves:

- Assessing the potential equality impacts of proposed decisions at an appropriate stage in the decision making process - so that it informs the development of policy and is considered before a decision is taken;
- Ensuring that decision makers are aware of the equality duties and any potential equality issues when making decisions.

NB – having due regard does not mean the Council cannot make decisions which have the potential to impact disproportionately, it means that we must be

clear where this is the case, and must be able to demonstrate that we have consulted, understood and mitigated the impact.

- 14.3 To ensure that the process of impact assessment is robust, it needs to:
- Be specific to each individual proposal;
 - Be clear about the purpose of the proposal;
 - Consider available evidence;
 - Include consultation and involvement with those affected by the decision, where appropriate;
 - Consider proposals for mitigating any negative impact on particular groups;
 - Set out arrangements for monitoring the actual impact of the proposal.
- 14.4 An initial screening for the Equality Impact Assessments being undertaken to consider any potential disproportionate adverse impacts on equality groups arising from the proposed scheme. (Dominic Coleman)

15 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed**

- 15.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and can be found at Appendix 2

16 **Key Decision**

- 16.1 Yes, any revisions to the localised Council Tax Reduction scheme can only be agreed by full Council.

17 **Forward Plan Reference**

- 17.1 CFHR-20-15.

18 **Background Papers**

- 18.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Background papers are contained in the Appendices

19 **Appendices**

- 19.1 Appendix 1 Oldham Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment



Oldham Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016/17

As this document is 126 pages it is not usually printed. The hyperlink to the 2015/16 CTR Scheme is below, and this will essentially be the same as the CTR Scheme for 2016/17 other than specific changes to Applicable Amounts and Non – Dependant Thresholds which will be announced by the Department of Works & Pensions in January/February 2016.

http://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/2632/council_tax_reduction_scheme_2014



Equality Impact Assessment

Stage 1: Initial screening

Lead Officer:	Bola Odunsi
People involved in completing EIA:	Bola Odunsi, Amanda Cawdron & Yvette Maguire
Is this the first time that this project, policy or proposal has had an EIA carried out on it? If no, please state date of original and append to this document for information.	No An EIA on the 2013/14 scheme accompanied the scheme for approval to Council on 12 December 2013. An EIA was also completed for the review of the scheme for 2014/15 and 2015/16. This EIA is for the scheme for 2016/17 onwards.

General Information

1a	Which service does this project, policy, or proposal relate to?	This proposal relates primarily to the revenue and benefits section of the Customer Service Team (which works with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme). There are also close links into the finance team on this project.
1b	What is the project, policy or proposal?	<p>The proposal is the approval of Oldham's Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17 onwards.</p> <p>From 2013/14, all local authorities were put under a duty to agree a localised Council Tax Support Scheme at full Council to replace Council Tax Benefit by 31st January. Previous to this, the Council Tax Benefit Scheme was administered nationally.</p> <p>There was additional complexity in developing a scheme given that the resource envelope, in which we had to deliver any scheme, was 10% smaller than the funding we had received to cover CTB the previous year. The Councils desire was to ensure the scheme was self-financing to ensure no additional burden to the authorities' financial position.</p> <p>There is an obligation within the legislation on the council to consider whether to review this scheme on an annual basis and if the Council wants to revise the scheme, any revised scheme for 2016/17 needs to be approved by full Council on a date before 31st January 2016.</p>



		<p>The council made a change to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in 2015/16 increasing the maximum reduction awardable from 80% of the Band A rate of Council Tax to 85%. That meant an extra £53.43 per year for someone who is entitled to the maximum award. This was agreed by Full Council in December 2014.</p> <p>Given the changes to the scheme last financial year increasing the maximum award from 80% to 85%, and the current financial position of the council, there is currently no intention to amend the scheme.</p>
1c	What are the main aims of the project, policy or proposal?	<p>1. To continue to use a scheme that is affordable As in 2015/16, Oldham is once again aiming to put in place a scheme that is affordable. In 2014/15, the council tax reduction scheme was calculated to offset budget pressures of approximately £1.975 million. The 2015/16 council tax reduction assumed a collection rate of 70%. We estimate that the budget pressure is likely to be the same in 2016/17.</p> <p>Against the backdrop of needing to find £30 million of savings in order to balance the budget over the next financial year and already having taken over £170m out over the last 6 years, Oldham Council still cannot afford to fund any further shortfalls. We are therefore once again looking to maintain a local scheme that is affordable and balance the impact against the cost of providing a local council tax support scheme.</p> <p>2. To continue to use a scheme that limits the financial impact across all Council Tax benefit recipients We will maintain our protection of pensioners in line with the current scheme, and maintain our consideration of protecting vulnerable groups and providing incentives to work.</p> <p>Whilst not providing a specific definition for vulnerable groups, the Government did advise that authorities should consider their duties under specific legislation when designing a scheme, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Equality Act 2010• Child Poverty Act 2010• The Housing Act 1996 <p>Whilst we have no legal duty to protect people on low incomes (this was revoked in December 2010), as a</p>



borough with a number of deprived areas, Oldham still chooses to continue considering the impact of any decisions on this group.

We are now even more informed about the scale of the impact of welfare reforms on Oldham and its people than we were last year and produce quarterly topical welfare reform impact reports and which are available publicly once they have been to cabinet .

A report in January 2015 on the impact of welfare highlighted the following groups as particularly vulnerable: single people, in particular young single people in rented accommodation, younger people in general and older people with disabilities.

We are now looking at the new government proposals for welfare and tax reform and the emerging picture is that those not in work, especially those with children as well as lone parents overall and families with only one earner will be the most heavily affected by the latest changes.

The findings of this need to consider when identifying those who are most vulnerable under the scheme.

3. To continue to maintain a scheme that will enable the Council to collect as much Council Tax as possible, whilst supporting residents to meet their payments

To date, Oldham's collection rate in relation to CTR is relatively high and it is hoped that the Council will continue to achieve collection rates of between 70% and 75%. The good collection rate was due in no small part to a number of the actions we have continued to put in place through last year's EIA to reduce the impact of the scheme. Flexible funding options, partnerships with the Credit Union, co-operative campaigns such as the Energy Switch and launch of Our House have helped a number of families to be able to make their payments.

Once again, through this process we will endeavour to do things differently, to do things co-operatively, which will help the residents of Oldham and in doing so, enable the Council to collect the funds it needs to continue to provide services. We are acutely aware that shortfalls in Council Tax mean creating a budget pressure that has the potential to require further savings to be made from within council services.



1d	Who, potentially, could this project, policy or proposal have a detrimental effect on, or benefit, and how?	The proposal for the 2016/17 scheme is to maintain the current levels of support provided through the CTR scheme. Under this proposal there will not be any revision or replacement to the scheme and there will be no disproportionate impact on equality groups.
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1e. Does the project, policy or proposal have the potential to <u>disproportionately</u> impact on any of the following groups? If so, is the impact positive or negative?				
	None	Positive	Negative	Not sure
Disabled people	x		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Particular ethnic groups	x		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Men or women (include impacts due to pregnancy / maternity)	x		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People of particular sexual orientation/s	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in a Marriage or Civil Partnership	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process or part of a process of gender reassignment	x	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People on low incomes	x		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in particular age groups	x		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Groups with particular faiths and beliefs	x		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are there any other groups that you think may be affected negatively or positively by this project, policy or proposal?				
<i>E.g. vulnerable residents, homeless people, individuals at risk of loneliness, carers or serving and ex-serving members of the armed forces</i>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

If the answer is “negative” or “not sure” consider doing a full EIA

1f. What do you think that the overall NEGATIVE impact on groups and communities will be? <u>Please note that an example of none / minimal impact would be where there is no negative impact identified, or there will be no change to the service for any groups. Wherever a negative impact has been identified you should consider completing the rest of the form.</u>	None / Minimal	Significant
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1g	Using the screening and information in questions 1e and	
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	1f, should a full assessment be carried out on the project, policy or proposal?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
1h	How have you come to this decision?	For the 2016/17 CTR scheme, it is proposal to maintain the current levels of support provided through the scheme. There will be no disproportionate impact on particular equality groups from maintaining these levels of support as the proposal is to not make any revision or replacement to the scheme.

Stage 5: Signature		
Lead Officer:	Amanda Cawdron	Date: 19.10.15
Approver signature:	Bola Odunsi	Date: 19.10.15
EIA review date: October 2016		

Appendix (i) to EIA

A number of actions identified in developing the 2014/15 scheme were intended to mitigate the impact of CTR and the wider welfare reform, below are the actions with an update under each.

Activity	Update
Continue to promote existing flexible payments method	Through a range of difference communication channels External:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social media (Facebook and Twitter) • Website and web banner • Council Tax booklet • Media release • Promotion on revs and bens letters • Call waiting message • Residents Magazine Internal communications:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Articles in Team Brief • Cllr and staff briefing •
Review effectiveness and take up of current payment methods and introduce new payment options where appropriate	As at 9th October 2015 the number of CTR recipients paying by Direct Debit are 3,939 which equates to 25.52% of the CTR caseload. 870 are paying by fortnightly Direct Debit which was introduced as a new payment method in 2013



<p>Continue to deliver energy switching campaigns and auctions</p> <p>Identify and establish referral arrangements to a wider range of support services</p>	<p>The energy auctions have all been completed now and there are no plans for anymore, however the Warm Homes Oldham programme is still available which offers energy switching advice to residents in their homes. They can also help residents who are in fuel debt and get prepayment meters removed, as well as completing benefits checks where needed.</p> <p>We are exploring the process of referrals to Step Change national debt charity to refer vulnerable residents to them.</p> <p>We have also used the Personal Budgeting Support team (PBS) to support residents with money management and debt advice.</p>
<p>Further develop the Welfare Rights Service to support residents to maximise their income</p>	<p>The Welfare Rights Service was initially set up with two Officers; the team was expanded to 4 officers in April 2013 using funding from LWP for the two additional officers. The two temporary posts were made permanent and a commitment was given to maintain the service going forward to ensure that we maximise the benefits claimed by residents.</p> <p>The team currently operates with 3 FTE Welfare Rights Officers and 1 FTE Welfare Rights Support Officer.</p> <p>The Welfare Rights Service provides language support to those residents where English is not their first language and can communicate in Urdu, Punjabi, Hindko, and Bengali.</p> <p>The service has recently recruited an apprentice to support the development of the service and provide additional support to residents from eastern European background.</p> <p>The team has continued to be extremely successful and has again this year exceeded its target of £1million income generation, and has generated additional income for the residents of Oldham of over £2.3 million</p>
<p>Work with partner organisations to provide targeted support to residents</p>	<p>Dedicated welfare reform and financial inclusion working groups are in place, delivering coordinated action in partnership with the Council, DWP and the voluntary sector:</p>
<p>Continue to monitor the collection rates on a weekly basis</p>	<p>This allows swift action to be taken if collection slows.</p> <p>Oldham has introduced SMS texting to remind people at an early opportunity to pay on time. It is anticipated that this will improve collection.</p> <p>A take up campaign has been planned for 2015 to improve numbers</p>



<p>Monitor the collection rates in relation to those in receipt of a disability premium</p>	<p>There has been no significant change in the collection rate since last year. On 30th March 2015 Oldham was added to areas that if people report a change of circumstances to DLA they will have to claim PIP and if their DLA award is ending they will also have to claim PIP</p> <p>As at July 2015, DWP data for Oldham shows 2034 PIP claimants.</p>
<p>Continue to monitor the wider impact of welfare reform ensuring effective partnership working continues to support those affected Identify and support those affected by the future changes to welfare reform, particularly the benefit cap and Universal Credit</p>	<p>Universal Support Delivered Locally (USDL) is the new name for the Local Support Services Framework (LSSF) and it will promote new models of partnership working to support UC claimants A series of Greater Manchester pilots and links with Public Service Reform to 'make work pay' and support the most vulnerable (e.g. Troubled Families) are currently being considered</p> <p>The USDL trial has been extended to end of November 2015. Early indications are that the trial is successful in providing a positive outcome for residents who engage. The trial has now developed to include All Ages Early Help and is an integrated intervention that should see greater numbers accessing the provision.</p>
<p>Review approach to debt collection by the Council and seek to develop single view of the debts an individual owes to the Council</p>	<p>The Corporate debt policy has been reviewed. The Fair debt Policy is to be reviewed in 2015 to ensure it remains fair and ethical.</p>
<p>Link to Get Oldham working initiatives</p>	<p>Key achievements for Get Oldham Working between May 2013 and 30th September 2015 have included:</p> <p>3,123 work related opportunities created. 1,755 job opportunities created and 1,229 filled. 477 apprenticeships created and 286 filled. 199 traineeships created and 169 filled. 692 work experience placements created and 616 filled</p>
<p>Undertake an annual review of the Council Tax Reduction scheme</p>	<p>The scheme will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis</p>
<p>Identify how the breadth and quality of the data collected can be improved</p>	<p>We are currently looking at Destin solutions which is a software programme designed to further analyse the data and to identify vulnerability to enable a more proactive approach This is planned to be implemented by April 2016</p>



Appendix (ii) to EIA

No	Action	Required outcomes	By who?	By when?	Review date
1	Continue to promote existing flexible payments method	Increase collection rates Increased take up of 12 monthly and fortnightly payment	Keith Daintry	September 2015	April 2016
2	Review effectiveness and take up of current payment methods and introduce new payment options where appropriate	Increase collection rates More flexible options available	Adam Parsey	April 2016	July 2016
3	The energy auctions have all been completed now and there are no plans for anymore, however the Warm Homes Oldham programme is still available which offers energy switching advice to residents in their homes. They can also help residents who are in fuel debt and get prepayment meters removed, as well as completing benefits checks where needed.	All residents are encouraged to sign up to the scheme, to meet our aim of 1200 people out of fuel poverty.	Angela Broadhurst	March 2016	Jan 2017
4	Identify and establish referral arrangements to a wider range of support services	Maximise access to support for residents	Amanda Cawdron	April 2016	July 2016
5	Further develop the Welfare Rights Service to support residents to maximise their income	Ensure the Council can provide help and assistance to those who experience difficulties linking support to outcomes from the Public Health	Amanda Cawdron	April 2016	August 2016

		<p>Transformation Agenda.</p> <p>Allow us to undertake benefit checks and referring residents for budgeting support and debt advice.</p>			
6	Work with partner organisations to provide targeted support to residents	Early identification of residents affected by Welfare Reform changes allows support to be put in place at the earliest point	Amanda Cawdron	April 2016	August 2016
7	Continue to monitor the collection rates on a weekly basis	Increase collection rates and take swift action if collection slows	Bola Odunsi	April 2016	August 2016
8	Monitor the collection rates in relation to those in receipt of a disability premium	Early identification of a worsening in the collection rate for this group. A drop in the collection rate may indicate that this group are being affected by welfare changes to DLA still to be rolled out amongst existing claimants. This will enable us to identify any interventions that might be appropriate for this group.	Bola Odunsi	April 2016	Jan 2016
9	Continue to monitor the wider impact of welfare reform ensuring effective partnership working continues to support those affected	<p>Early identification of residents affected by Welfare Reform changes allows support to be put in place at the earliest point.</p> <p>Following the budget announcement a report has been developed highlighting potential impact to residents from 2016 onwards.</p>	Amanda Cawdron	April 2016	August 2016

		We will continue to monitor the implications			
10	Identify and support those affected by the future changes to welfare reform, particularly Universal Credit	Early identification of residents affected by Welfare Reform changes allows support to be put in place at the earliest point	Amanda Cawdron	April 2016	August 2016
11	Review approach to debt collection by the Council and seek to develop single view of the debts an individual owes to the Council	Increase collection rate across all debts Agree more affordable payment arrangements with residents	Adam Parsey	September 2016	December 2016
12	Link to Get Oldham working initiatives	Reduced number of unemployed	Jon Bloor	June 2016	September 2016
13	Undertake an annual review of the Council Tax Reduction scheme	The scheme is reviewed in light of information gathered from the performance indicators and recommendations for changes are put to Council. Report to Council recommending any changes to the scheme.	Bola Odunsi	June 2016	December 2016
14	Identify how the breadth and quality of the data collected can be improved	A stronger, more robust and comprehensive data base.	Bola Odunsi	April 2016	January 2017

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Report to Council

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 14/15

Report of: Councillor Colin McLaren, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny

Officer Contact: Mark Reynolds, Director of Policy & Governance

Report Author: Matthew Drogan
Ext. 4711

4th November 2015

Reason for Decision

To provide Council with an overview of the contribution made by Overview and Scrutiny during 14/15 as required in line with the Council's Constitution.

Executive Summary

The report outlines the purpose of overview and scrutiny, the roles and responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Performance and Value for Money Select Committee, a summary of the work undertaken by overview and scrutiny during 2014/15 and an outline of how individuals can get involved in overview and scrutiny in Oldham.

Recommendations

That the report be approved.

1. **What is Overview and Scrutiny?**

- 1.1 All local authorities with an executive model have an Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) function, which was introduced by the Local Government Act 2000.
- 1.2 Overview and Scrutiny bodies are made up of Elected Members (Councillors) who are not members of the Cabinet but who hold those decision makers who are members of the Cabinet to account. The Overview and Scrutiny process is not political – it is driven by the interests of the residents of Oldham.
- 1.3 O&S bodies cannot make decisions, but instead examine policies, decisions, areas of work and make recommendations to the Cabinet. It acts as a “critical friend” to the Council and its partners around the decision-making process and uses informed debate and evidence to make its recommendations.
- 1.4 Scrutiny works to drive forward improvements to the Council’s policies, procedures and delivery.

2 **Policy Development**

- 2.1 The key focus of overview and scrutiny work is to influence and develop policy. O&S can do this through the following ways:
- 2.2 Decision-Making Scrutiny - Holding the Executive to account is a key part of the O&S role. This is done through receiving reports at Committee, Call-in and questioning of Cabinet Members at scrutiny meetings.
- 2.3 Pre-Decision Input - Input on draft policies and strategies before they have been agreed by Cabinet or Council helps to ensure they are more robust and that a check and balance process is in place. It also provides an opportunity for cross party consensus to be development on issues such as the Corporate Plan, Education Strategy and Council Tax Reduction. O&S can act as a consultee in respect of such policies and potential new legislation.
- 2.4 Monitor and Track Implementation of Recommendations - Ensuring that the views and contributions of Overview and Scrutiny have been considered when work is undertaken to improve services – an essential part of the scrutiny process.

3 **Roles and Responsibilities**

3.1 **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**

3.1.2 Membership

- Councillor McLaren (Chair)
- Councillor Ball
- Councillor Cosgrove
- Councillor Dean
- Councillor Klonowski
- Councillor Toor
- Councillor Williams
- Councillor Williamson

3.1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board leads the development of the Overview and Scrutiny process in Oldham. The Board chooses issues and topics to look at during the year, be it reviewing a proposed policy in advance of decision or considering the impact of a key decision made by the Council.

3.1.4 The Board is also responsible for:

- Publicly holding the Executive to account for delivering the Council's priorities and for the decision they make.
- Examining any matters of wider public interest (not just Council services) which affect the wellbeing of the Borough and its people.
- Having a statutory role scrutinising substantial developments or changes to National Health Services and Crime and Disorder issues.

3.1.5 During the last year, the Chair also continued to meet with the senior managers in each of the Council's Directorates. At these meetings, the Chair and officers considered issues Overview and Scrutiny could potentially add value to regarding the development of Council services, policies and the decision making process.

3.2 Performance and Value for Money Select Committee

3.2.1 Membership

- Councillor Wigglesworth (Chair)
- Councillor McCann
- Councillor Ahmad
- Councillor M Bashforth
- Councillor Houle
- Councillor Judge
- Councillor Roberts
- Councillor Harkness
- Councillor Sheldon

3.2.2 The Performance and Value for Money Select Committee considers how the Council and its partners are performing and whether value for money is being provided for the people of Oldham. It also monitors the implementation of recommendations which Overview and Scrutiny has had accepted by the Council's Cabinet.

3.2.3 One of the most important aspects of the Select Committees role is to examine the Council's budget proposals each year. This involves considering various stages of both the administration's budget and any alternative budget proposals put forward by the opposition.

3.2.4 The Select Committee also examines the Council's corporate performance report on a quarterly basis and considers the performance and value for money of the Council's work undertaken with partners.

4 Where has O&S contributed in 2014/15?

4.1 O&S Management Board: Key Plans and Strategies

4.1.1 Corporate Plan - The Board considered the process for and the development of the Council's Corporate Plan, the Oldham Plan. Board Members contributed ideas about how the plan could be made relevant to communities and took part in a wider member workshop that helped shape the devised plan, which was ultimately approved at Council in July 2014.

-
- 4.1.2 Education Strategy - The Board considered the launch of the Oldham Education and Skills Commission. The role of the local authority and the role of school collaborative arrangements, which incorporate Teaching School Alliances, were explained to the Board. The Board expressed a desire to see the Commission address a number of issues including around the number of school places and those new arrivals not ready for school. The Board recommended that a School Governor should be on the Commission and suggested that a one-off workshop should take place to identify issues which may need to be addressed following self-evaluation.
- 4.1.3 Affordable Warmth Strategy - The Board were informed of levels of funding available to residents, of which Oldham had the highest uptake in the Northwest. Significant achievements had been made in affordable warmth schemes which included energy efficiency measures in homes, winter health events, assistance to the most vulnerable groups and a grant for boiler replacements. The development of a Warm Homes Oldham Scheme with a joint investment scheme through the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Oldham Housing Investment Partnership (OHIP) was praised as a key initiative. The Board was informed of the progress against targets sets within the strategy which included the significant improvements and investment in affordable warmth schemes and efficiency measures installed in Oldham homes. As well as energy efficiency the Board recognised that the schemes were tackling fuel poverty and improving the health and wellbeing in some of the most vulnerable groups. Work in this area was celebrated by the Board.
- 4.1.4 Housing Strategies - The Board examined progress on the existing Housing Strategy and the emerging themes for the 2015-18 Strategy which included Residential Growth, Health Homes, Improving Neighbourhoods and Building Stronger Communities. The Board asked for there to be consideration of issues around the quality of housing and the lack of housing available for older tenants. The Board also reviewed the Tenancy Strategy in more specific detail, looking at how housing was let and how long tenancies would be granted. The Board was satisfied that the strategy enabled the Council and housing associations to manage social housing efficiently and help those in greatest need. The Board was also updated on the approach to dealing with homelessness in the Borough. Prevention of homelessness was the overwhelming objective supported by the Board and a multi-agency approach had been developed to support those households at risk.
- 4.1.5 Climate Change Strategy - The Board were provided information on how the Council aimed to tackle Climate Change which built upon the Oldham Climate Change Strategy and Community Energy Strategies. A detailed action plan, which had been prepared for submission to the Local Government Association, was shared with the Board. Feasibility studies were underway to look at solar power on schools, council owned buildings and green field sites. The Board endorsed the approach outlined in the strategy and action plan.
- 4.1.6 Council Tax Reduction - The proposed consultation process for the 2015/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme was outlined for the Board. The Council had exceeded its target collected during 2013/14. Concerns were raised about those residents who paid and were subsidising those who did not. Arrangements were in place for recovery options. A workshop was requested and it was recommended that future report contained information on benchmarked information from other Greater Manchester authorities.
- 4.1.7 CSE Preventative Measures and Strategic Approach - The Board were informed of preventative measures operational within Oldham and future proposed strategies. The partnership approach to CSE had been in place for a number of years. The Board were informed about the work of the Local Safeguarding Board, the training provided, records maintenance and awareness training for members. Annual reports of both the Adults and

Children's Local Safeguarding Boards were also received and given constructive criticism, which was taken into consideration.

4.2 O&S Management Board: internal and external consultations

- 4.2.1 Selective Licensing - The Board were provided information on the consultation ongoing in selected neighbourhoods and project timescales in the selective licensing scheme. Sixteen areas had been identified and addressed low housing demand under the criteria of the Housing Act. The process of the fee was highlighted. The Board expressed disappointment that the Decent Homes Standards had not been included in the legislation.
- 4.2.2 Review of Licensing Act Policy - The Board was consulted on the statutory review of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy. Members questioned if the policy could tackle long term problems and commented positively on the public safety element, before endorsing the overall policy.
- 4.2.3 Anti-Social Behaviour Management - Information was received on the introduction and commencement of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act (2014), the implications for the Council and the wider Community Safety Partnership. The new legislation provided six new powers which included Criminal Behaviour Orders, Community Protection Notices, Closure Powers, Dispersal Powers, Community Remedy, Public Space Protection Orders and ASB Case Reviews.
- 4.2.4 Individual Electoral Registration - Information was provided on the introduction of the individual electoral registration system which included a data matching exercise. There were three key elements of the IER which included household enquiry forms, confirmation letters and invitations register. A detailed communication plan had been prepared with key messages to be shared across the authority and with public and voluntary sector partners.

4.3 O&S Management Board: Services monitored

- 4.3.1 Adoption and Fostering - Information was provided on the performance of the Adoption Service and on the Government's adoption agenda. The service had made good progress on the scorecard. The challenges facing the service were outlined. Members asked for clarification on the ability to attract local adopters and praised the work being undertaken in adoption and fostering services.
- 4.3.2 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub - The Board received information on the unit whose aim was to promote effective and timely information sharing and strengthen the partnership approach for decision making which was enabled at the point of referral. The unit was established with the colocation of a range of professional services. The Board raised the number of referrals through the emergency services and were impressed with the effectiveness of the service.
- 4.3.3 Youth Services - The Board received information on the future delivery of the Wider Youth Offer for Oldham. The savings required from the service was explained. The Board expressed concern on the impact of poorer areas being disadvantaged.
- 4.3.4 Borough Wide Review of Zebra Crossings - The Board were informed of the methodology of the review and the information included in the assessments, e.g. reported accidents, assessment of traffic speed, pedestrian desire lines, assessment of street lighting and local factors. Oldham did very well with road safety and was the best performing authority in Greater Manchester related to child accidents which had been addressed through targeted projects and education.

4.3.5 Get Oldham Working -_The Board received a report which outlined the Get Oldham Working Programme achievements, the opportunities created for residents and the priorities for 2014/15. The Board raised concerns about the focus on young people and recommended that people over 50 required assistance and support into work.

4.4 **PVFM Select Committee: Finance Scrutiny**

4.4.1 Scrutiny of Budget Proposals – The Council’s overall budget proposals were considered by the Committee at various stages during the 2014/15 Municipal Year. Initial outline proposals were presented to the Committee during July 14 and they continued to be considered at various intervals up until approval at full Council at the start of 2015.

4.4.2 Public Health Budget – The Committee were informed of how Public Health had transferred to the Council. In terms of the budget, the Committee learnt of a ring fenced public health budget which would support the carrying out of public health functions and improvement of health and wellbeing for residents of the borough. The Committee were made aware that since receiving the public health budget the Council had initiated a major review of all contracts under the budget. The Committee resolved to scrutinise the review of contracts in the future.

4.4.3 Community Care Budget – The Committee were concerned with the overspend in Adult Social Care, whilst acknowledging it was common in a number of local authorities due to the increasing demand in adult social care. The Committee was informed of actions within the recovery plan which aimed to reduce expenditure on care during the financial year, including electronic call monitoring, review of care packages and review of supported accommodation. The Committee resolved to challenge performance against targets at the end of the financial year.

4.5 **PVFM Select Committee: Performance Scrutiny**

4.5.1 Quarterly Council Performance Report and Challenge – Reports were presented to the Committee in terms of how the Council was performing against its key local and statutory priorities. The Committee undertook more detailed scrutiny of a number of topics through examining the performance report. These included what the Council is doing in respect of childhood obesity, early year’s performance and educational attainment. It also celebrated successes, such as the performance of our adoption service against its statutory measures.

4.5.2 Unity Partnership – The Committee examined the performance of the Unity Partnership against the contract and its key performance indicators and had an overview of the contract refresh work being undertaken, which the Committee endorsed.

4.5.3 First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) – FCHO provided an update on 2013/14 year end progress, community investment into Oldham, the approach to community engagement and advised of the plans to carry out a social impact report on the first 5 years following transfer of housing stock to FCHO from the Council. It was recommended that better communication links with Ward Councillors should be a priority. As a result, FCHO arranged for walkabouts with Councillors and tenants and for this to take place on a regular basis.

4.5.4 Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) – Reports were provided which outlined the operational and contractual performance of Oldham Community Leisure for the financial year. Activities offered in the individual leisure centres, Council and Community Partnership events, environmental update were listed. The Committee commended the

quality of the report in terms of providing Members with an opportunity to openly performance.

4.6 Health Scrutiny Sub Committee

4.6.1 The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met six times since April 2014. The Committee has received a number of reports from across the Health and Care Sector in Oldham, but has shown a particular interest in the work being conducted by the Integrated Commissioning Partnership, particularly the re-shaping of carer services, how the hospital discharge process is being improved and how the development of the two new leisure centres in Oldham and Royton will improve the health and wellbeing of Oldham's residents.

4.6.2 The focus of the Sub-Committee in the near future will be on the impact of plans for the devolution of health and social care responsibilities to Greater Manchester. Additionally, the implementation of the Healthier Together reforms of the provision of acute services across Greater Manchester which will impact on the service offer available at the Royal Oldham Hospital and across North-East of Greater Manchester, for Oldham residents.

5 Ways to get involved with O&S?

5.1 Overview and Scrutiny has a rolling work programme. The current version, for 2015/6, can be found on the Council's website at:

<http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/documents/s60664/OVERVIEW%20AND%20SCRUTINY%20BOARD%20Work%20Programme%202015%2016%20V4.pdf>

5.2 If you are interested in attending a meeting of either the Board or Select Committee, meeting dates can be found on the website at:

<http://decisionrecording.oldham.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?Categories=-13236&bcr=1>

5.3 Contact and speak to your local Councillor about issues you feel have an impact on your local community in Oldham. Overview and Scrutiny will consider issues raised by Councillors.

5.4 You can contact Lori Hughes on 0161 770 4716 to ask Overview and Scrutiny to consider an issue that has an impact on Oldham and local people – this could be a problem, Council service or an issue you think the Council should consider take in a lead in improving.

6 Legal Services Comments

6.1 n/a

7. Co-operative Agenda

7.1 The Annual report contains examples of work aligned to the Council's co-operative approach in relation to issues that have an impact of local communities.

8 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

8.1 None

9 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

9.1 None

10 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

10.1 No

11 **Key Decision**

11.1 No

12 **Key Decision Reference**

12.1 N/A

13 **Background Papers**

13.1 None

14 **Appendices**

14.1 None



COUNCIL

Council Calendar 2016/2017

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Liz Drogan
Ext. 4705

4th November 2015

Reason for Decision

This report sets out the draft calendar of meetings for the 2016/17 municipal year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The current version of the Council's calendar of meetings for 2016/17 be approved, as set out at Appendix 1.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

Council Calendar 2016/17

1 Background

1.1 This report sets out the draft Calendar for the 2016/17 Municipal Year.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 The Council is entitled to amend any of the dates in the calendar, but should note it is required to approve a version of the calendar at its annual meeting.

3 Preferred Option

3.1 To approve the calendar as set out in Appendix 1.

4 Consultation

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and councillors.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 n/a

6 Legal Services Comments

6.1 There are no legal comments (Paul Entwistle).

7 Human Resources Comments

7.1 There are no human resources issues.

8 Risk Assessments

8.1 A risk assessment is not required.

9 IT Implications

9.1 There are no IT implications.

10 Property Implications

10.1 There are no property implications.

11 Procurement Implications

11.1 There are no procurement implications.

12 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

12.1 There are no environmental or health and safety implications.

13 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

13.1 There are no community cohesion implications.

14 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

14.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 n/a

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Council's calendar of meetings 2016/17

Liz Drogan tel: 0161 770 4705

Level 4 Civic Centre

Oldham

OL1 1 IL

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 – Council Calendar 2016/17

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

1 MAY 2016 – 31 MAY 2017

DRAFT ONE

NOTES:

- 1. AWAITING CONFIRMATION OF DATES FOR ALL PARTY CONFERENCES IN 2016***

MAY, 2016				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Bank Holiday	3	4	5 Elections	6
9	10	11	12	13
16 3.30 pm Leadership 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Group Meeting 6.00 pm Labour Group Meeting	17	18 12:00 noon Annual Council	19	20
23	24	25	26	27 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA
30 Bank Holiday (Half Term Starts)	31			

JUNE, 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2	3 (Half Term Ends)
6 6.00 pm Royton DE	7 9.30 am Licensing Committee 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board (Ramadan Begins)	8 6.00 pm Oldham DE 6.00 pm Chadderton DE	9 9.30 am Appeals (Provisional) 7.00 pm Failsworth and Hollinwood DE	10
13 3.30 pm Leadership	14 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00 pm Shaw and Crompton Community Forum 7.00 pm Shaw and Crompton DE	15 6.00 pm Planning Committee	16 7.00 Saddleworth and Lees DE	17
20 5.00 pm TRO Panel	21 9.30 am Licensing Panel 2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board 4.00 pm Standards Committee	22	23	24 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA
27 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	28 2.00 pm NJC 5.30 pm Unity Partnership Board	29	30 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Committee	

JULY, 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5 LGA Conference 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00 pm Health Scrutiny	6 LGA Conference	7 LGA Conference 9.30 am Appeals (Provisional) (Eid Al Fitr)	8
11 3.30 pm Leadership 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Group Meeting 6.00 pm Labour Group Meeting	12 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board	13 6.00 pm Council	14 6.00 pm Audit Committee	15 (Summer-term starts)
18 6.00 pm Royton DE	19 9.30 am Licensing Panel 2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board (Development Session)	20 6.00 pm Planning	21 7.00 pm Failsworth and Hollinwood DE 7.00 Saddleworth and Lees DE	22
25 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	26 6.00 pm Shaw and Crompton Community Forum 7.00 pm Shaw and Crompton DE	27 6.00 Oldham DE 6.45 Chadderton DE	28 5.00 pm TRO Panel	29 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA

AUGUST, 2016				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Recess Begins	2	3	4	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19 Recess Ends
22 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	23	24 6.00 pm Planning Committee	25 6.00 pm O&S Performance and Value For Money Committee	26 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA
29 Bank Holiday	30	31		

SEPTEMBER, 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 9.30 am Appeals (Provisional)	2 (Summer-Term Ends)
5 3.30 pm Leadership 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Meeting 6.00 pm Labour Group Meeting	6 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 4.00 pm Standards Committee 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board	7 6.00 pm Council	8 6.00 pm Audit Committee	9
12 5.00 pm TRO Panel 5.30 pm Unity Partnership Board	13 (Eid Al Adha)	14	15	16
19 Liberal Democrat Party Conference 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	20 Liberal Democrat Party Conference 9.30 am Licensing Panel 2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00 pm Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	21 Liberal Democrat Party Conference 6.00 pm Planning Committee	22 Party Conference Season 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Sub-Committee (Administration Budget - Tranche 1)	23 Party Conference Season
26 Party Conference Season	27 Party Conference Season	28 Party Conference Season	29 Party Conference Season	30 Party Conference Season 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA

OCTOBER, 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Party Conference Season 3.30 pm Leadership	4 Party Conference Season 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00 pm O&S Performance and Value for Money Committee (Opposition Budget - Tranche 1)	5 Party Conference Season	6 Party Conference Season	7 Party Conference Season
10 6.00 pm Royton DE	11 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board	12 6.00 pm Oldham DE 6.45 pm Chadderton DE	13 7.00 pm Failsworth and Hollinwood DE 7.00 pm Saddleworth and Lees DE	14
17 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	18 2.00 pm NJC 7.00 pm Shaw and Crompton DE	19 6.00 pm Planning Committee	20 6.00 pm O&S Performance and Value For Money Committee	21
24 Half-Term Starts	25	26	27	28 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA Half-Term Ends
31				

NOVEMBER, 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board	2	3	4
7 3.30 pm Leadership 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Group Meeting 6.00 pm Labour Group Meeting	8 9.30 am Licensing Panel 6.00 pm Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	9 6.00 pm Council	10 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee (Administration Budget – Tranche 2)	11
14 5.00 pm TRO Panel	15 9.30 am Licensing Committee	16 6.00 pm Planning Committee	17	18
21 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	22 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee (Opposition Budget – Tranche 2)	23	24	25 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA
28 6.00 pm Royton DE	29 4.00 pm Standards Committee 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board	30 6.45 pm Chadderton DE		

DECEMBER, 2016

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 7.00 pm Failsworth and Hollinwood DE 7.00 pm Saddleworth and Lees DE	2
5 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet (Budget)	6 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 7.00 pm Shaw and Crompton DE	7 6.00 pm Oldham DE	8 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value For Money Select Committee	9
12 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Group Meeting 6.00 pm Labour Group Meeting	13 9.30 am Licensing Panel 2.00 Health and Wellbeing Board (Development Session) 5.30 pm Unity Partnership Board	14 6.00 pm Council	15 6.00 Audit Committee	16
19 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet Half-Term Starts	20	21 6.00 pm Planning	22	23 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA
26	27	28	29	30

JANUARY, 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Bank Holiday	3 Half-Term Ends	4	5	6
9 3.30 pm Leadership	10 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00 pm Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee	11	12	13
16 6.00 pm Royton DE	17 9.30 am Licensing Panel 4.00 pm Standards Committee 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board	18 6.00 pm Planning	19 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value For Money Select Committee (Administration Budget – Tranche 3)	20
23 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet	24 2.00 pm NJC 7.00 pm Shaw and Crompton DE	25 6.00 pm Oldham DE 6.45 pm Chadderton DE	26 7.00 pm Failsworth and Hollinwood DE 7.00 pm Saddleworth and Lees DE	27 10.30 am GMCA/AGMA
30 5.00 pm TRO Panel	31 2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee (Opposition Budget Tranche 3)			

FEBRUARY, 2017				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee	3
6 3.30 pm Leadership 6.00 pm Cabinet (Budget)	7 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel	8 6.00 pm Planning Committee	9	10
13 Half-Term Starts	14	15	16	17 Half-Term Ends
20 3.30 pm Leadership 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Group Meeting 6.00 pm Cabinet 6.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	21 9.30 am Licensing Panel 6.00 pm Health Scrutiny	22 6.00 pm Council (Budget)	23	24 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA
27	28			

MARCH, 2017

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2 6.00 pm Audit Committee	3
6 3.30 pm Leadership 5.00 pm TRO Panel	7 9.30 am Licensing Committee 4.00 pm Standards Committee 7.00 Shaw and Crompton DE	8 6.00 Planning Committee	9 6.00 pm O&S Performance and Value for Money Committee	10
13 6.00 pm Royton DE	14 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00 pm Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00 pm Overview and Scrutiny Board	15 6.00 pm Oldham DE 6.45 Chadderton DE	16 7.00 p.m. Failsworth and Hollinwood DE 7.00 pm Saddleworth and Lees DE	17
20 3.30 pm Leadership 5.30 pm Liberal Democrat Group Meeting 6.00 pm Cabinet 6.30 pm Labour Group Meeting	21 9.30 am Licensing Panel 5.30 pm Unity Partnership Board	22 6.00 pm Council	23	24
27	28 2.00 pm NJC 6.00 pm Health Scrutiny	29	30	31 10.30 am AGMA/GMCA

APRIL, 2017				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 3.30 pm Leadership Half-Term Starts	4 9.30 am Licensing Driver Panel	5	6	7
10	11 9.30 am Licensing Panel	12	13	14 Bank Holiday (Good Friday)
17 Bank Holiday (Easter Monday) Half-Term Ends	18	19 6.00 pm Planning Committee	20	21
24 6.00 pm Cabinet	25	26	27	28 11.00 am AGMA/GMCA

MAY, 2017				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Bank Holiday	2	3	4 GM Mayoral Election (subject to statutory confirmation)	5
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17 12:00 noon Council (Annual)	18	19
22	23	24	25	26 11.00 am AGMA/GMCA
29 Bank Holiday	30	31		



Report to COUNCIL

Welfare Reform – Cost of the Cuts 2015

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and HR

Officer Contact: Mark Reynolds, Director of Policy and Governance

Report Author: Martin Burroughs
Ext. 1694

4th November 2015

Reason for Decision

This briefing (appendix 1) is part of a quarterly series of topical updates and dashboards (appendix 2), demonstrating the impact of welfare reform in Oldham.

Executive Summary

In this year's Queen's Speech and subsequent 'summer' budget, the government announced significant proposed changes to tax and welfare policy and legislation.

This report identifies the key proposals, and estimates, where possible, the likely impacts on Oldham, both in terms of the financial impacts on the borough, and on the numbers impacted.

Five main types of impact have been identified in this briefing note:

- Benefit freezes
- Tax credit changes
- Tax and benefit threshold changes
- Housing changes
- Other changes (e.g. youth allowance, free childcare)

Drawing upon the latest available national and local research, data and information, the report shows an estimated **cumulative loss to Oldham** through the changes **over the next 4 years** of over **£58m**.

The **worst affected 2000 families in Oldham** stand to **lose, on average**, more than **£3,800 per year** as a result of the reforms, once fully implemented.

Many people will be impacted by more than one change. It is therefore not possible to produce one single figure for the number of Oldham residents likely to be impacted. Indications are that:

- Over 10,000 residents are likely to be impacted by JSA (Jobseeker’s Allowance), Universal Credit (UC) and ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) freezes.
- More than 31,000 households to be impacted by child benefit freezes
- Approximately 23,000 households to be impacted by tax credit changes.
- Approx. 93,000 residents to be affected by changes to income tax and national insurance.
- Over 2,800 residents to be affected by changes to the minimum wage.
- Approx. 8,700 residents to be affected by changes to housing benefit.

It also extrapolates from national research the type of families impacted in Oldham, showing that lone parents are likely to suffer the biggest cumulative losses. They are the family group most heavily adversely affected by these changes.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Consider and discuss the impact on residents and the services provided by the Council to support those affected by welfare reform, for example:
 - The Local Welfare Provision scheme;
 - The work of the Welfare Rights team;
 - The Council Tax Reduction scheme;
 - Government funding for Discretionary Housing Payments;
 - Get Oldham Working.
- Approve the following indicative future timetable for quarterly topical welfare reform reports:

Welfare reform research timetable	When (to Cabinet)
Updated ‘cost of the cuts’ analysis	December 2015
Benefit sanctions	March 2016
Updated ‘cost of the cuts’ analysis, incorporating the March 16 budget	June 2016
Topic to be determined	September 2016

Welfare Reform – Cost of the Cuts 2015**1 Background**

- 1.1 In September 2014, Council requested quarterly updates on the impact of welfare reform in Oldham, including quarterly welfare reform dashboards (appendix 2). This report (appendix 1) is the fourth briefing in this series and estimates the effects on Oldham residents of the government's latest proposed changes to welfare and tax policy and legislation.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The report recommends taking its findings into account when planning and delivering Council and co-operative services to support residents affected by welfare reform and for Members to take appropriate action.

It also recommends that further research on the impact of the current government plans be undertaken, given that many of the proposals are in their early stages and may yet change and become clearer through the legislative process.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 No alternative options provided – given the nature of the report as a research briefing.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 See 3.1.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 No external consultation was undertaken to inform this briefing

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There is insufficient detail available at this early stage to quantify the impact of these changes on individual benefit claimants to a level of granularity that can allow for meaningful discussions about policies, potential interventions or support mechanisms that can be put in place to mitigate the impact of these proposals on Oldham residents, whilst having a full understanding of the financial cost of such measures.
- 6.2 Such discussions and decisions will have to be considered next year, with a view to having any measures in place for 2017/18, when most of the proposals are due to fully come into effect. There will be decisions to be made in respect of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme about whether to mirror some of the changes being made to Housing Benefit in our local CTR scheme.
- 6.3 In addition, the Council should expect and prepare for an increase in the number of residents who would be eligible for the CTR scheme in 2016/17 and for future years, because as a means-tested benefit, CTRS take-up will rise, as the benefit freeze and reductions in tax credits proposed by central government begin to result in the consequential reduction in income for sizeable numbers of Oldham residents.

Bola Odunsi, Interim Head of Revenues

7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 None

8. **Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 Welfare reform activity is directly relevant to the achievement of corporate and co-operative objectives, for example through:

- Reducing dependency on public services – ‘confident communities where everyone does their bit’.
- Tackling worklessness – ‘a productive place to invest where business and enterprise thrive’.
- Local welfare provision – ‘a co-operative council creating responsive and high quality services’.

9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 People Services comments are twofold:

- Long term and concerted measures from a cross cutting, multi-disciplinary and multi-agency taskforce are required if the council has any real opportunity of mitigating the position as presented and projected by this analysis. People Services call for such strategic approach to be mobilised and for the development of a prioritised programme of work particularly focusing on long term measures.
- Regarding the benefit changes referred to in this report, Development Academy staff are sighted, training content is already aligned and includes the revised and planned benefits backdrop. Moreover, this important area of work will feature, amongst many others, as part of the Learning Needs Analysis for 2016. Service Managers will be asked about particular training content requirements and to consider existing as well as new target groups who will benefit from benefits impact input/interventions and at what levels this will be required.

Cathy Butterworth, Assistant Director of People

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 No comments received

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None

-
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None as part of this report – a specific report on the impact of welfare reform on vulnerable people was presented to Cabinet on 23 February 2015.
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 None
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1: Welfare Reform - Cost of the Cuts 2015 (main report)
Appendix 2: Welfare Reform Dashboard August 2015

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Welfare Reform: Cost of the Cuts 2015

Business Intelligence Service

August 2015

1. Introduction

Following the 2015 general election, the government has announced a significant list of new legislation and policy, much of which will have sizeable local impacts. These announcements came primarily via an 'emergency' summer budget and via the Queen's Speech.

This report identifies the key proposals, and estimates the likely impacts on Oldham, both in terms of the financial impacts on the borough, and on the numbers impacted.

While most of the impacts will be connected with welfare reform, some will be on taxation, housing or other areas. All impacts thought likely to have local financial repercussions of any scale have been included, even if in some cases they cannot be estimated at this stage.

We have also listed some of the key secondary (indirect) effects. It will not be possible to quantify these at this stage, but a later report in this series we may be able to give more detail on these.

This briefing note is based on the position as we understand it at present. Proposals are currently going through the legislative process, so further information is expected to become available, which may change the detail and financial impact on residents.

The figures and estimates provided in this report are based on the best information currently available to us. They primarily draw upon information and data from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), HMRC (Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs), ONS (Office of National Statistics), Oldham Council, Unity Partnership and national research published by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). Approximations of impacts on residents, where necessary, use predictive modelling tools.

2. Summary of impacts

Five main types of impact from the proposed government changes to the tax and benefits regime have been identified through this briefing note:

- **Benefit freezes:** most working age benefits have been frozen for four years.
- **Tax credit changes:** significant restrictions have been put in place across tax credits. Many of these apply to new claimants.
- **Threshold changes:** significant changes to the benefit cap, to minimum wage, and to tax thresholds.
- **Housing changes:** a number of changes to housing benefits and social housing payments.
- **Other changes:** a small number of other proposals, including a new youth allowance and the extension of free childcare from 15 to 30 hours for working parents.

OVERVIEW: losses to Oldham of proposed 2015 welfare and tax changes (£m)

Item	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	Total 4 year loss
Benefit freezes	£4.20	£9.80	£16.10	£22.70	£ 52.80
Tax credit changes	20.10	22.10	23.90	25.90	92.00
Threshold changes	-£7.50	-£16.70	-£25.90	-£35.10	-85.20
Housing changes	0.15	0.29	0.43	0.59	1.46
Other changes	3.50	-2.05	-2.05	-2.05	-2.65
Total	£20.45	£13.44	£12.48	£12.04	£58.41

The table above shows an estimated **cumulative loss to Oldham** from the new proposed changes **over the next 4 years of over £58m**.

The **worst affected 2000 families in Oldham** stand to **lose, on average, more than £3,800 per year** as a result of the reforms, once fully implemented.

Many people will be impacted by more than one benefit or tax change. It is therefore not possible to produce one single figure for the number of Oldham residents affected.

Indications are that:

- Over 10,000 residents will be impacted by JSA (Jobseeker's allowance), Universal Credit and ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) freezes.
- More than 31,000 households impacted by child benefit freezes.
- Approximately 23,000 households impacted by tax credit changes.
- Approx. 93,000 residents affected by changes to income tax and national insurance.
- Over 2,800 residents affected by changes to the minimum wage.
- Approx 8,700 residents affected by changes to housing benefit.

National research undertaken by the Institute of Fiscal Studies (see ch. 8) moreover allows us to extrapolate that, in Oldham, lone parents are the family group most heavily adversely affected by these changes.

The following sections will look at each of these themes in more depth.

3. Benefit Freezes

The proposal

Most working-age benefits will be frozen in cash terms until April 2020.

Exempt benefits

The following are exempt from the freeze: Maternity Allowance; Statutory Sick Pay; Statutory Maternity Pay; Statutory Paternity Pay; Statutory Shared Parental Pay; and Statutory Adoption Pay; disability, carers' and pensioners' premia in the frozen benefits; the ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) Support Group (disability) component; and other disability, carer and pensioner benefits, which will continue to be uprated in relation to prices or earnings as applicable.

The Impact

According to the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), this represents a 4.8% real terms cut by 2019-20, given Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecasts. Our own estimates show the real impact on those receiving benefits to be higher, as inflation over the period appears to be a cumulative 7.2%. A freeze therefore will equate to a 6.7% loss. This is partially due to CPI rising substantially over the period of the freeze.

Benefit	Peak numbers affected	Peak annual loss to the economy of Oldham
JSA (Jobseeker's Allowance)	2380 individuals ¹	£0.6m
ESA (Employment and Support Allowance)	6310 individuals ¹	£2.0m
Income Support	3870 individuals ¹	£1.1m
Child Benefit	31320 households ²	£4.0m
Tax Credits	23000 households ³	£12.5m
Universal Credit*	2908 individuals ⁴	£0.6m
LHA (Local Housing Allowance)	7850 households ⁵	£1.9m

*Figures for Universal Credit are based on a number of assumptions, as detailed financial data is not available.

Clearly, many people will be impacted by more than one benefit freeze. As such, it is not possible to produce one headline figure for overall numbers impacted at this point until further detail becomes available as part of future planned reports (see ch.10).

Benefit freezes - loss per year

Item	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Cumulative inflation	1.0%	3.2%	5.2%	7.2%
All benefits freeze loss	£4.2m	£9.8m	£16.1m	£22.7m

¹ DWP 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/default.asp>

² HMRC 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/child-benefit-geographical-statistics>

³ HMRC 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-tax-credits-statistics>

⁴ DWP 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from <https://stat-xplore.dwp.gov.uk/>

⁵ Oldham Council 2015, data provided by Unity Partnership

4. Tax Credit Cuts

The proposal

A combination of **restrictions on tax credits**, all from April 2017 except working families' tax credits. Implemented from April 2016:

- **Abolition of the family element in child tax credit (CTC)** (and equivalent in **Universal Credit - UC**) **from April 2017**. This applies to extra money currently received for the first child and will affect new claimants only.
- **Removing tax credit / Universal Credit (UC) entitlement for third and subsequent children from April 2017**. For new claimants only. This reduction will impact on larger families, both in and out of work.
- **Working families tax credits**. Implemented from **April 2016**. Sizeable reduction in how much families can earn before tax credits/universal credit start to be withdrawn. Tax credits start to be withdrawn once family earnings above £3,850 rather than £6,420.

Change	Peak numbers affected	Peak annual loss to the economy of Oldham
Family element of CTC abolished	20,600* households ⁶	£11.2m*
Remove entitlement past 2 nd child	4,470* ⁶	£16.4m*
Reduction in earnings thresholds for withdrawal of tax credits/UC from April 16	15,900 families ⁶	£18.3m (2016)

*Once all claimants are affected. New claimants only measure, so will phase in over up to 18 years. 1180 families are estimated to be impacted each year by the family element, based on births, but this does not take account of labour market churn so will be an underestimate. 3rd and subsequent child entitlement will also phase in over a long period, but a greater proportion will happen sooner.

Tax Credit cuts - loss per year

Item	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	Future
Family element abolished	£0.6m	£1.3m	£1.9m	£2.6m	£11.2m
Remove entitlement past 2 nd child	£1.2m	£2.5m	£3.7m	£5.0m	£16.4m
Earnings threshold reduced	£18.3m	£18.3m	£18.3m	£18.3m	£18.3m

⁶ HMRC 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/personal-tax-credits-statistics>

5. Threshold Changes

The proposal

There are several strands affecting income thresholds:

- Lower the **benefit cap** so that the total amount of benefits a non-working family can receive in a year would be £20,000 (outside London). Households are exempt where someone is entitled to Working Tax Credit or is in receipt of benefits relating to additional costs of disability, or war widow's and widower's pension.
- **The National Minimum Wage** will be 'rebranded' as the National Living Wage and will be increased to £7.20 per hour for those 25 or over from April 2016 (from £6.70 in October 2015). It will reach £9.00 per hour by 2020.
- **Increases to the income tax personal allowance** to reflect the national minimum wage (no one working 30 hours a weeks on the minimum wage pays income tax). In 2016-17, the personal allowance will increase to £11,000, expected to rise to £12,500 by the end of this parliament.
- Setting a **ceiling for the rates of Income Tax, VAT and National Insurance** - cannot be raised above their current levels over the next five years.

Change	Peak numbers affected	Peak annual loss to the economy of Oldham
Benefit cap	803 ⁷	£2.13m
Minimum wage	2829 ⁸	(£10.2m)
Income tax	93015 ⁹	(£35.3m)

Minimum wage increase estimates are subject to a number of assumptions. We have assumed a relatively even annual increase of 50p per year in 2017, 2018 and 2019. We have also made assumptions about the age profile of those on minimum wage, and that only those on minimum wage are affected: in actuality there will be a cohort just above minimum wage also affected.

Threshold changes - loss per year

Item	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	Peak
Benefit cap	£2.1m	£2.1m	£2.1m	£2.1m	£2.1m
Minimum wage	(£2.2m)	(£4.4m)	(£6.6m)	(£8.8m)	(10.2m)
Income tax	(£7.4m)	(£14.4m)	(£21.4m)	(£28.4m)	(£35.3m)

⁷ Oldham Council 2015, data provided by Unity Partnership

⁸ DWP 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/342381/NMW_jobs_UK_2013.pdf

⁹ Oldham Council 2015, data provided by Unity Partnership

6. Housing-Related Changes

The proposal

A range of varied changes are proposed:

- **Remove automatic entitlement to housing benefit** for most childless 18-21 year olds (new claimants), from April 2017.
- **Housing Benefit family premium abolished.** Awarded once to all families with dependent children. From April 2016 for new claimants.
- **Rents for social housing** will be reduced by 1% a year for 4 years.
- £800 million of funding is designated for **Discretionary Housing Payments** over the next 5 years (appears to be equivalent to previous years). However, it is highly likely that there will be an increase in demand for DHP within Oldham, as more households will be eligible due to impact of other welfare and tax credit changes.
- Social housing tenants with household incomes of £30,000 and above will be required to pay a **market rent**.
- Extend **Right to Buy** discounts to Housing Association tenants.

In many cases, these housing changes will have three broad impacts:

- Financial impacts on tenants
- Financial impacts on housing associations
- Impacts on the housing market in Oldham

Only those items with financial impacts on tenants are listed below. A future report could examine the wider impacts on the housing sector.

Change	Peak numbers affected	Peak annual loss to the economy of Oldham
Remove HB entitlement for 18-21's	129 households ¹⁰	£0.58m
Abolish family premium	8742 claimants ¹⁰	£0.15m
Reduce social housing rents	Not calculable at present- subject to future analysis	
Market rent requirement		
DHP funding	0	0

Housing changes - loss per year

Item	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	Long term
Remove HB entitlement for 18-21's	£0m	£0.14m*	£0.28m*	£0.44m	£0.58m
Abolish family premium	£0.15m	£0.15m	£0.15m	£0.15m	£0.15m
DHP	-	-	-	-	-

*We have assumed only demographic replacement, so this will be an underestimate. Full effect will be in 2020-21.

¹⁰ Oldham Council 2015, data provided by Unity Partnership

7. Other Changes

The proposal

Three other measures are proposed:

- **New Youth Allowance for 18-21 year olds:** conditional on an apprenticeship, training or community work placement after 6 months.
- Increase **free childcare** to 3&4yo to 30 hrs (from 15) for working parents from 17/18 (with trials from 16/17 – Oldham is considering a bid to be part of a trial).
- Abolishing **work-related activity group (WRAG)** premium in ESA (Employment and Support Allowance) for new claimants.

There appears to be little information at present about the new **Youth Allowance**, and we would therefore assume this is a rebranding of Universal Credit, but with conditionality. The ethics of such “workfare” initiatives have been widely debated, but there would appear to be no direct financial impact for those that take up such placements. We would expect that the additional complexities of this conditionality will increase the sanctions rate for this age group, but this cannot be estimated at this stage.

For **free childcare**, we have assumed the current 98% take-up rate of ‘free’ childcare and applied this to a 30 hour entitlement for working parents (single and couples) from 17/18. There will be a non-financial benefit of more hours of childcare received.

Benefit	Peak numbers affected	Peak annual loss to the economy of Oldham
Youth Allowance	430 individuals ¹¹	Zero change estimated
Free childcare	3830 children ¹²	(£5.55m)
Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) WRAG (work-related activity group)	2340 individuals ¹¹	£3.5m

Other changes - loss per year

Item	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
Youth Allowance	-	-	-	-
Free childcare	0	(£5.55m)	(£5.55m)	(£5.55m)
ESA WRAG (work-related activity group)	£3.5m	£3.5m	£3.5m	£3.5m

¹¹ DWP 2015 [Online] [Accessed August 2015] available from <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/default.asp>

¹² ONS (Office for National Statistics) Mid Year Population Estimates 2013

8. Who is impacted?

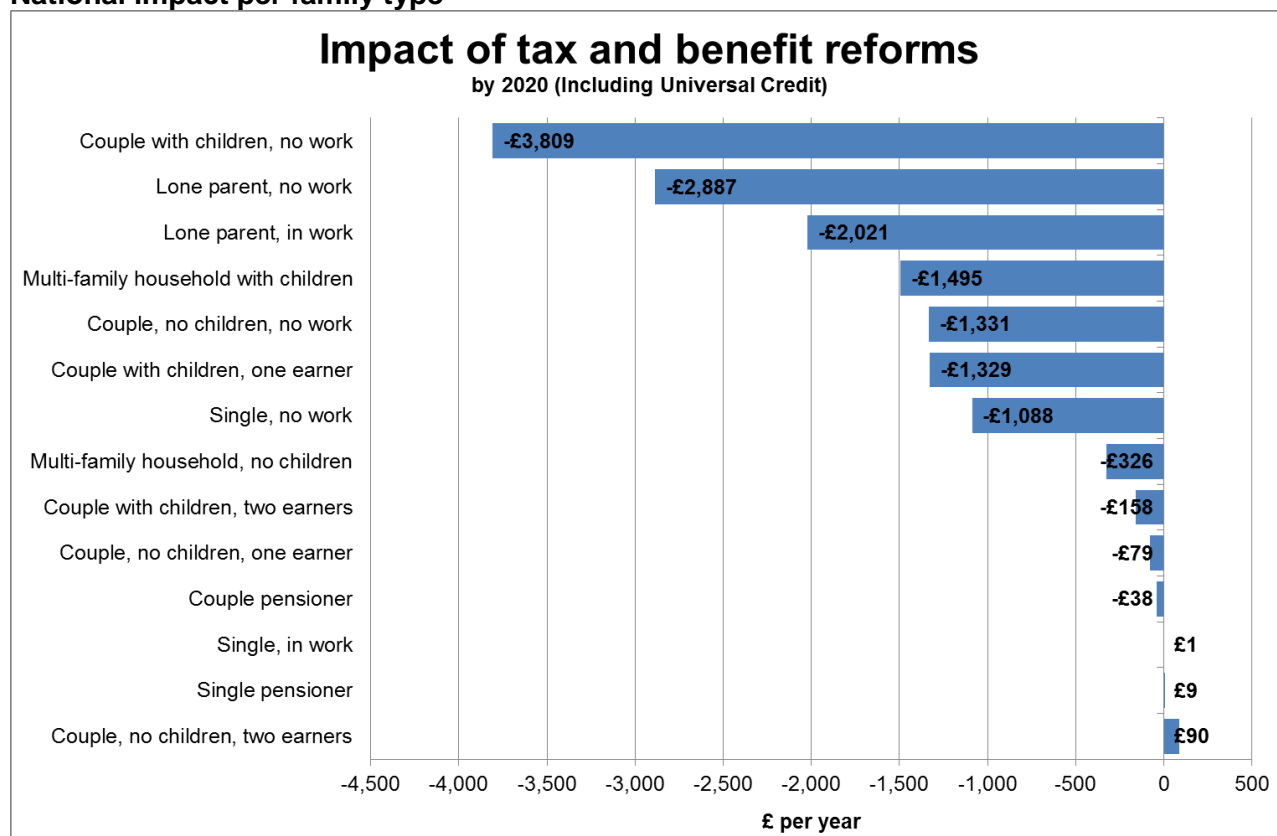
National research demonstrates what the planned tax and benefits changes mean for specific types of families.

The chart below, which was produced by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), details the average net change in income per family type, as a result of the tax and benefit reforms (nationally). The following are likely to see the biggest losses in annual income nationally:

- Couples with children – no work: average annual loss of £3,809 per family by 2020
- Lone parents no work – annual loss of £2,887
- Lone parent in work – annual loss of £2,021

Lone parents, typically some of the most vulnerable family group in society, are amongst the most heavily impacted, and only 3 family types will see an increase in annual income.

National impact per family type¹³



¹³ Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2015

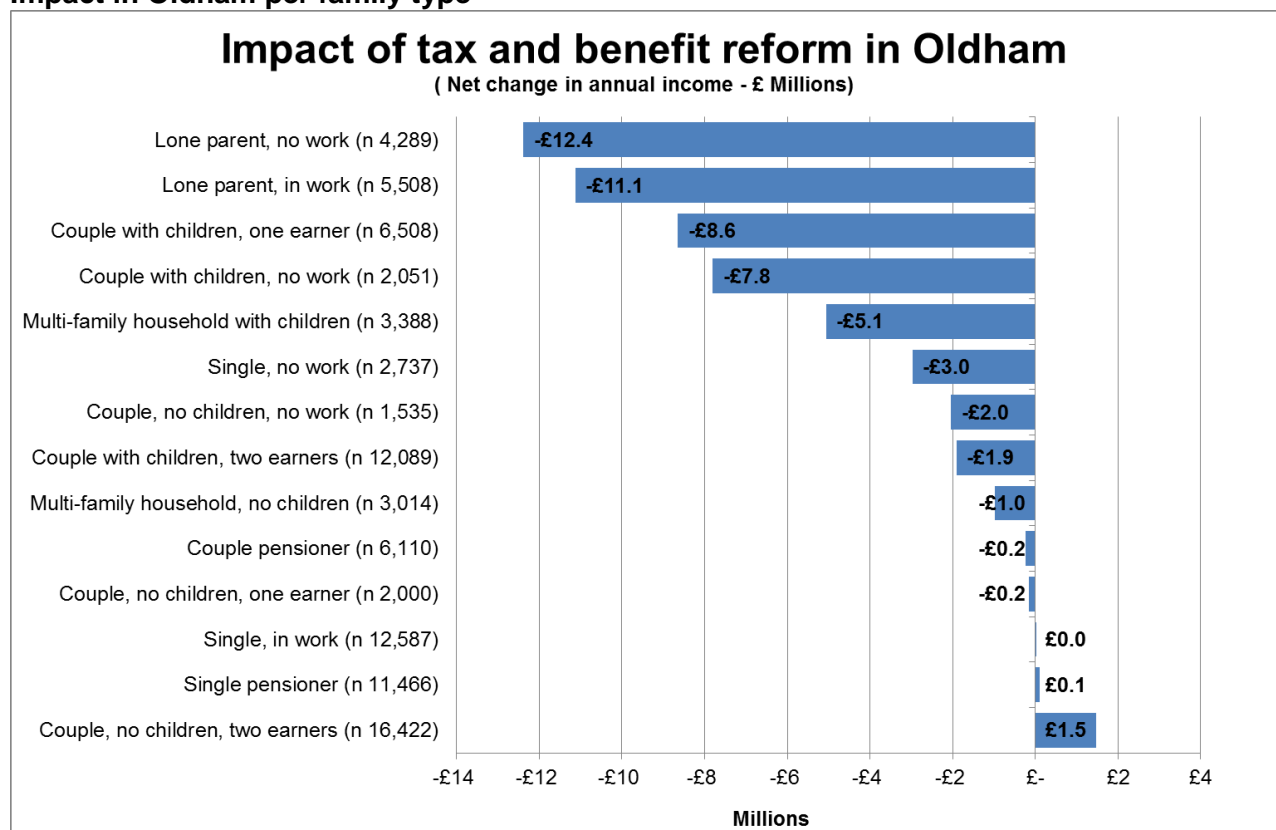
The chart below uses national research to extrapolate the specific impact within Oldham by 2020.

The chart shows that:

- Lone parents (both in and out of work) suffer the biggest cumulative losses.
 - Lone parent families out of work lose £12.4m per year
 - Lone parents in work lose £11.1m
- Couples with children – one earner families lose £8.6m
- Couples with children – no work families lose £7.8m

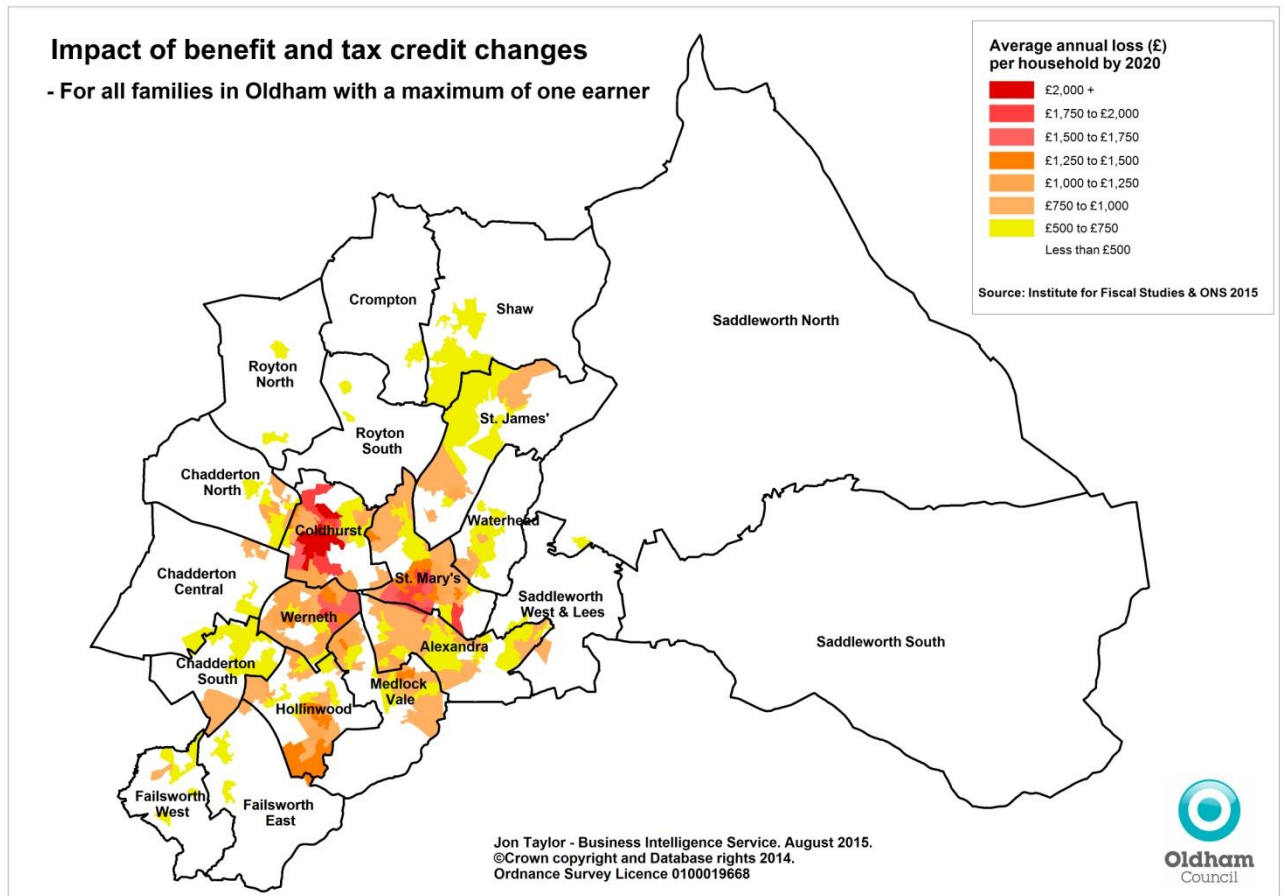
This equates to approximately 45% of the total loss within Oldham affecting lone parent families.

Impact in Oldham per family type¹⁴



¹⁴ Source: Institute for Fiscal Studies, 2015 and ONS Census 2011.

The map below shows those areas of Oldham, where those families with a maximum of one earner are likely to feel the biggest adverse financial impact.



9. Secondary impacts

At this stage, it is difficult to gauge the primary impacts of the proposals, and virtually impossible to quantify the secondary impacts. The types of impact that may potentially be seen include:

Poverty & vulnerability

- Greater in-work poverty.
- Increase in families with financial issues.
- Increases in use of high-interest rate providers (payday loans, loan sharks etc...).
- Increases in use of food banks or associated food provision.
- Removal of automatic entitlement to Housing Benefit for 18-21 year olds is likely to affect a vulnerable cohort, such as Looked After Children living independently.

Council

- Added demand on Council services providing support to people affected by welfare reform, including:
 - The Local Welfare Provision scheme;
 - The Welfare Rights team;
 - Increasing numbers seeking support from The Council Tax Reduction scheme;
 - Increasing demand for government-funded Discretionary Housing Payments.
- Increasing pressures on revenue from Council tax collections.

Housing

- Some registered social landlord (RSL) stock may become unaffordable, and together with income falls due to the 1% rent reduction, this may cause issues for registered providers.
- Less affordable housing stock in more desirable, higher demand 'right to buy' areas.

Education & Employment

- Improvements in school readiness for those children attending more hours of 'free' early years provision.
- Higher demand for early years places leading to jobs being created by providers.
- More parents being encouraged to look for employment as additional 'free' provision becomes available to working parents.
- Increasing pressure to move families out of benefits and into work – supported by Get Oldham Working.

Demographic change

- Migration out of London and the wider South-East, potentially leading to housing pressures elsewhere.

10. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Consider the impact on residents and the services provided by the Council to support those affected by welfare reform, for example:
 - The Local Welfare Provision scheme;
 - The work of the Welfare Rights team;
 - The Council Tax Reduction scheme;
 - Government funding for Discretionary Housing Payments;
 - Get Oldham Working.
- Discuss and agree appropriate action.
- Approve the following indicative future timetable for quarterly topical reports on welfare reform:

Welfare reform research timetable	When (to EMT)
Updated 'cost of the cuts' analysis	November 15
Benefit sanctions	February 16
Updated 'cost of the cuts' analysis, incorporating the March 16 budget	May 2016
To be determined	August 16

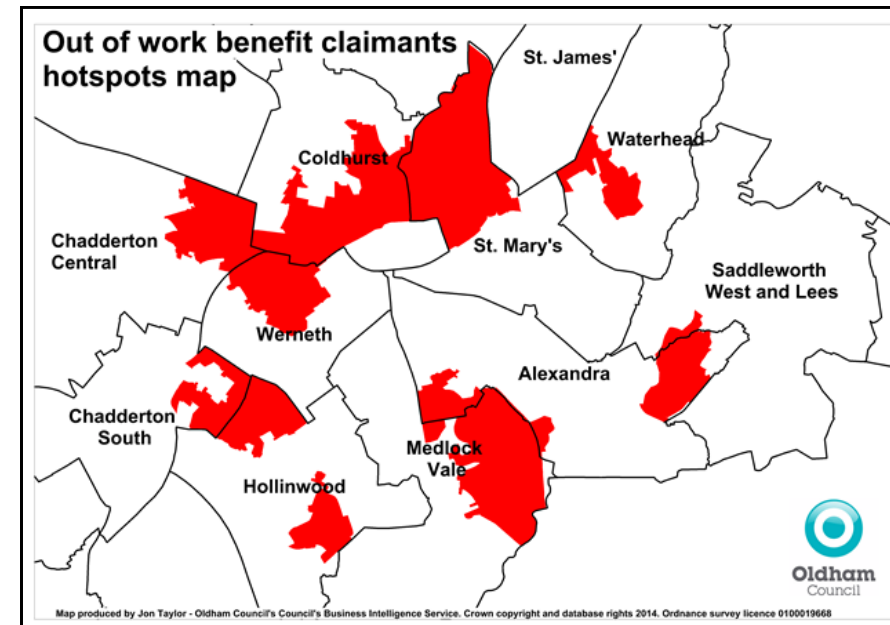
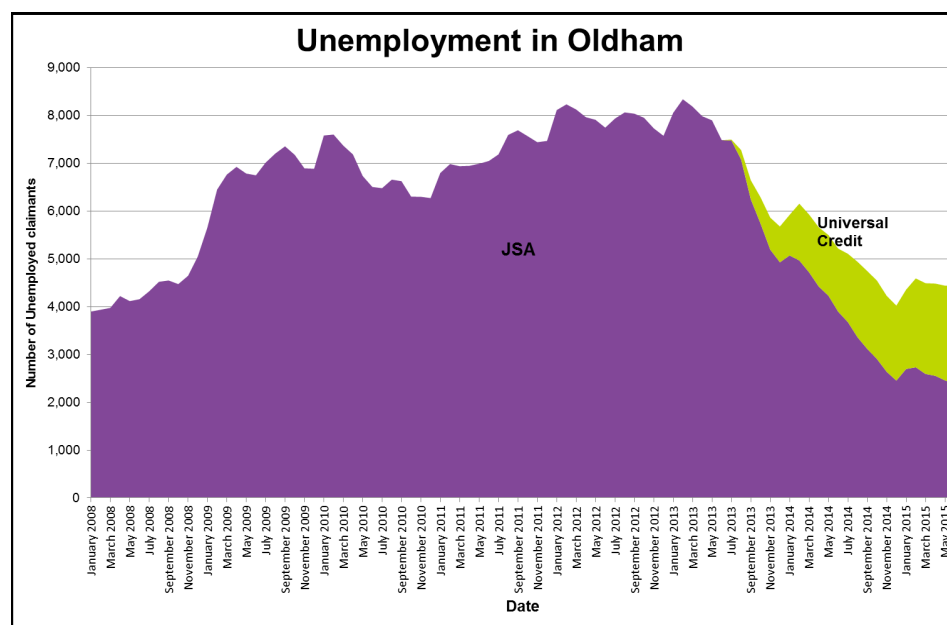
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Oldham's Welfare Reform Dashboard – August 2015

Benefits

Benefit claimants (aged 16-64) - Source: DWP 2015

	Number of claimants	%	Trend	Date
JSA	2,382	1.7	↓	Jun-15
ESA	11,870	8.4	↑	Nov-14
ESA claimants found fit for work	1,490	22%	↑	Mar-14
Universal Credit (unemployed claimants)	2,061	1.5	↑	Jun-15
Number of families impacted by Benefit Cap	86	n/a	↓	Feb-15
Employment Rate	91,000	62.4	↓	Mar-15

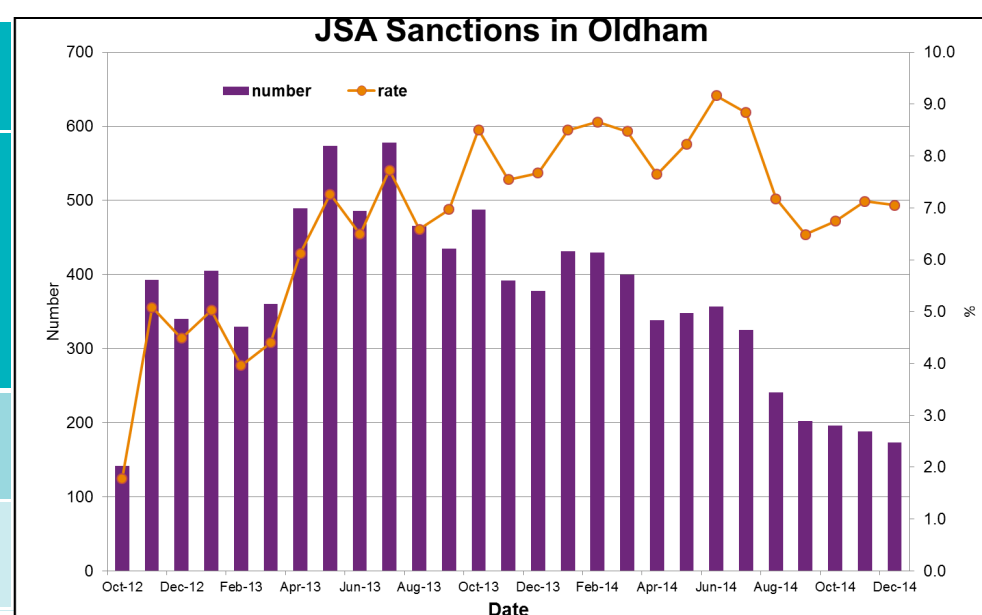


Having fallen since early 2013, unemployment in Oldham has now stabilised– the coming months will show whether this represents a plateau or the start of an upward trend. Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) figures are now rising after a previous sustained fall. Oldham has currently 86 families impacted by the benefit cap, most of those capped having large families with 4, 5 or more children.

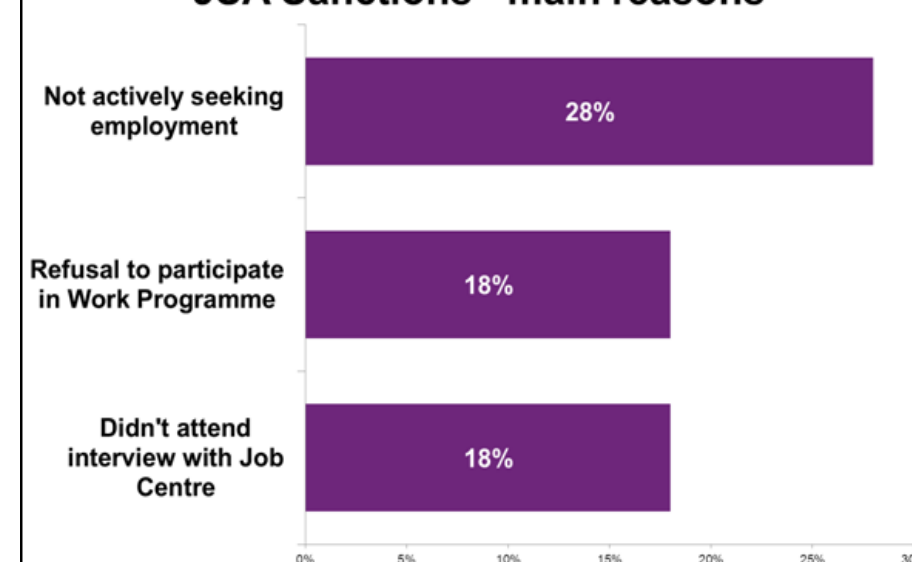
Sanctions

Out of Work Benefit Sanctions - Source: DWP 2014

	Number of adverse sanctions imposed (Dec 2014)	% of claimants	Number of adverse sanctions imposed (October 2012- Dec 2014)
JSA claimants	225	7%	11,529
ESA claimants	47	0.4%	627

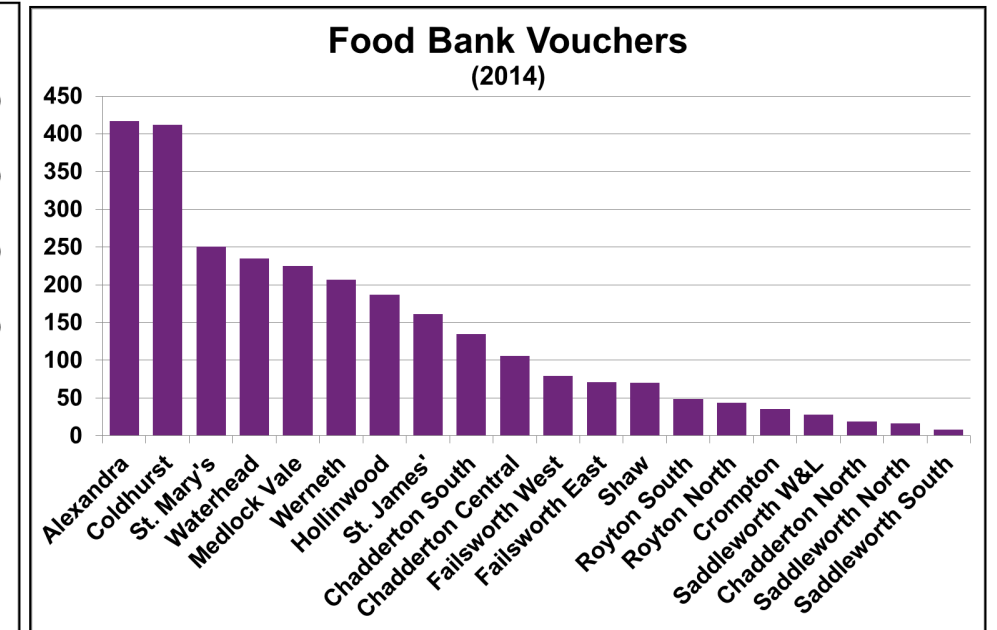
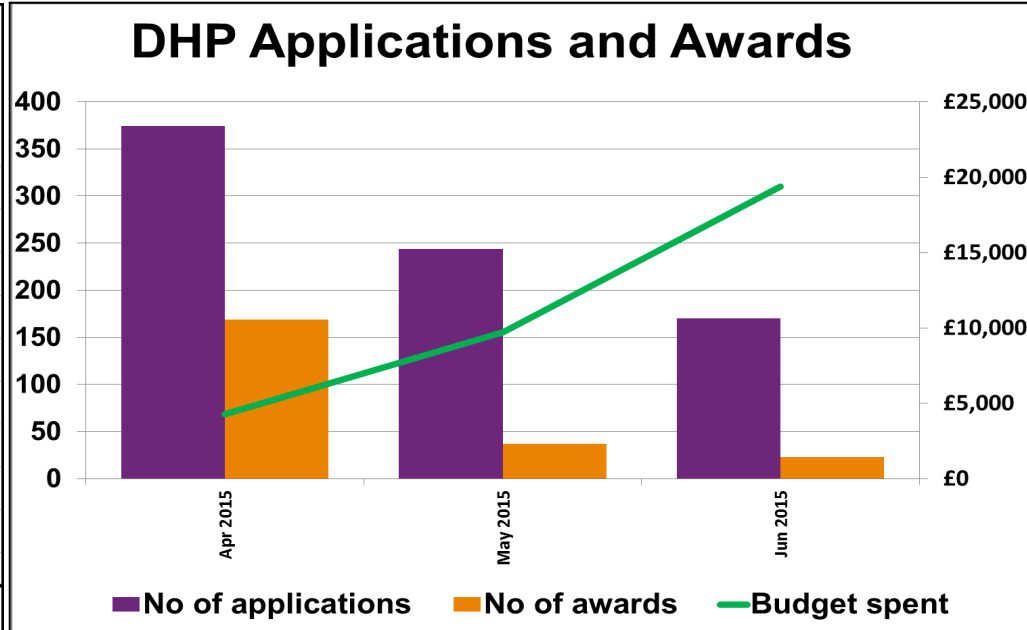
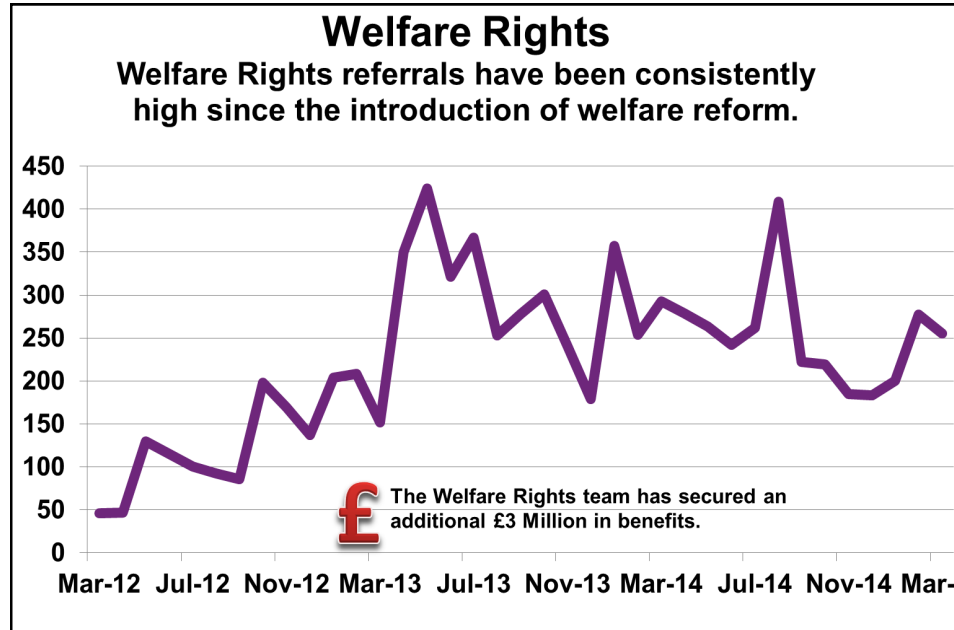


JSA Sanctions - main reasons



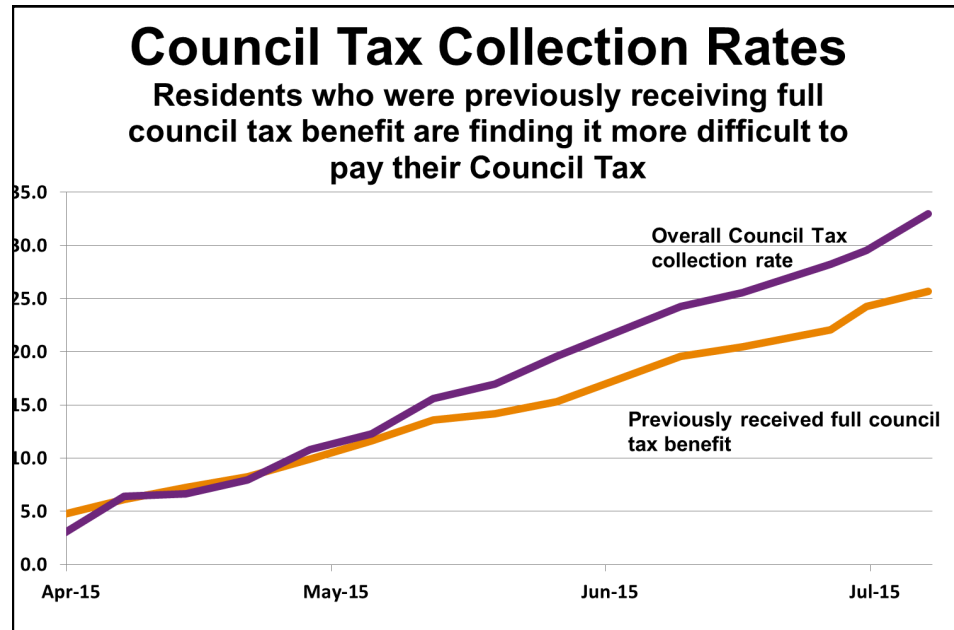
Since the introduction of tougher conditions and rules for the main social security benefits, claimants have been more readily sanctioned. JSA sanctions are currently falling, but still constitute 7% of claimants per month. ESA sanctions, while low, have been rising substantially. The main reasons for sanctions include refusal of claimants to participate in the DWP Work Programme, or that claimants have not been actively seeking employment (according to DWP guidelines).

Access to advice and support



Since the introduction of Welfare Reform, the number of Oldham residents accessing advice or requiring financial support from the Council has increased. The welfare rights team has supported many residents to maximise their income. So far this year, £23,654 (annual budget £377,386) has been allocated for DHP applications, with the majority being allocated to subsidise households impacted by the 'size criteria' ('bedroom tax'). £28,204 (annual budget £300,000) was also allocated for LWP with 233 items being awarded. Use of food banks varies greatly by ward. The wards that have higher levels of deprivation, particularly those that surround the Oldham Town Centre, have been allocated a higher number of vouchers.

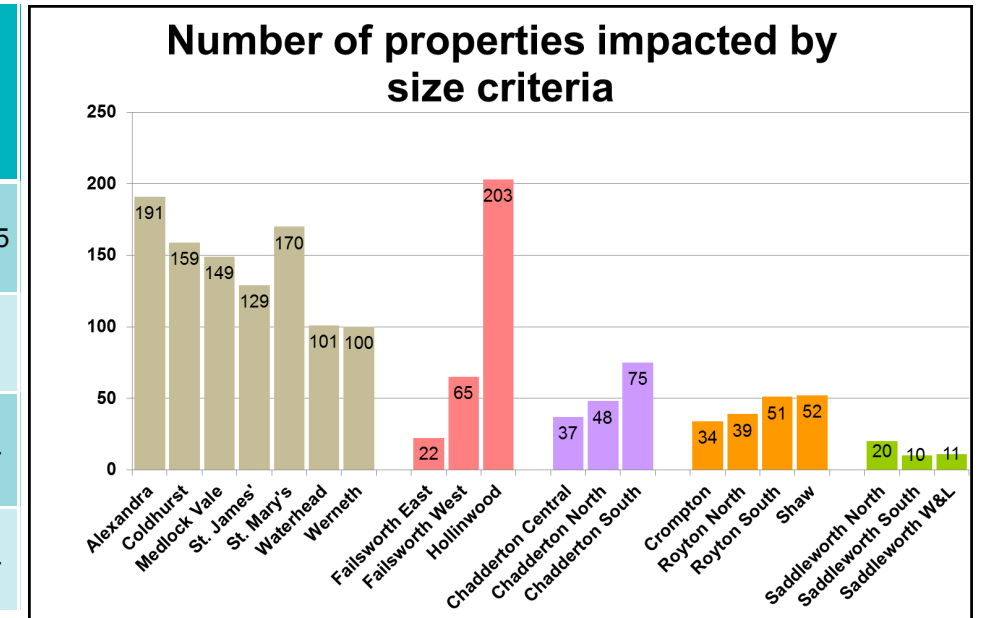
Financial Impact for Council



Residents who were previously receiving full Council Tax benefit are finding it more difficult to pay their Council Tax. The collection rate for these residents is however higher than originally predicted.

Housing

Housing Indicators	Number of households affected	Trend	Date
Size Criteria (Bedroom Tax)	1,666	↓	Jun-15
Families rehoused as result of size criteria	Awaiting data		
Number of terminations	656		Mar-14
Number of families in rent arrears	1,774	↓	Feb-14



The number of properties impacted by 'size criteria' ('bedroom tax') has reduced from 2,334 in May 2013 to 1,666 in June 2015. There are currently 1,398 properties under occupying by one room and 268 by two or more. The number of families in rent arrears is reducing.



COUNCIL

Changes to Committee Membership

Officer Contact: Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of the Constitutional Services
Ext. 4705

4th November 2015

Reason for Decision

Following approval of Committee Membership at Annual Council on 20th May 2015, the following change has been requested. The Health and Wellbeing Board, at its meeting on 15th September 2015, commended to Council that the Chief Executive (or nominated representative) of Oldham Community Leisure become a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board and be given voting rights as a member of the Board.

Recommendation

That Council agree to increase the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board to include the Chief Executive (or nominated representative) of Oldham Community Leisure and agree that the Chief Executive Oldham Community Leisure (or nominated representative) be given voting rights.

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COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Executive Director, Corporate and Commercial Services

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of the Constitutional Services
Ext. 4705

4th November 2015

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from previous Council meetings.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 9th September 2015.
2. This report also provides feedback on other issues raised at that meeting and previous meetings.

Recommendations

Council are asked to note the actions and correspondence received regarding motions agreed at previous Council meetings.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 The report sets out the actions officers have taken on motions of outstanding business and notice of motions approved at the Council meeting on 9th September 2015.

2 Current Position

2.1 The current position from actions as a result of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One. Letters are attached at Appendix Two in response to the actions approved at Council.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 N/A

4 Preferred Option

4.1 N/A

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 N/A

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 N/A

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

-
- 11.1 N/A
- 12 **Property Implications**
- 12.1 N/A
- 13 **Procurement Implications**
- 13.1 N/A
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:
- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held on the 9th September 2015 are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 9th September 2015
- 20.2 Appendix 2 – Letters received in response to actions approved at previous Council meetings.

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Actions from Council 9 September 2015

ACTION	RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
<p>Public Question from dmonkey123 related to First Choice Homes – response from Councillor Hibbert to be emailed</p>	<p>I was surprised to hear how the resident feels about First Choice Homes Oldham. I know that First Choice Homes has invested a great deal of time and resources in customer involvement and will ask them to contact the resident to discuss their specific issues. In terms of adaptations for older and disabled people, they have spent over £1M a year since the housing stock transfer in 2011.</p> <p>I can reassure members and residents that First Choice Homes have met and, in many cases, exceeded their Offer Document promises ahead of time. The Offer Document included a wide range of commitments relating to issues such as tenant involvement and investment in services.</p> <p>Since 2011, FCHO has invested £149 million to improve homes and neighbourhoods. This includes providing 5,662 new bathrooms and 6,244 new kitchens as well</p>	<p>Constitutional Services</p>	<p>10th September 2015</p>

	<p>as over 4,000 homes benefiting from new heating and hot water improvements and over 6,000 homes receiving electrical improvements.</p> <p>In addition to the Offer Document promises, FCHO have delivered a range of additional achievements in the last few years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BGreen initiative which has improved heating and insulation in 1,400 homes. • Major investment in apprentices and support for the local labour market • Development of a new £7 million headquarters on Union Street”. 		
Public Question from Michael Malone related to Carer Payments – response from Councillor Harrison to be emailed	“We have recently moved to a new improved system and have experienced some teething problems. There have been some individual glitches, amounting to a handful of carers receiving late payments or inaccuracies. I understand we have apologised in all cases and explained the reasons behind the glitch. We wrote to carers explaining the proposed changes and provided	Constitutional Services	10 th September 2015

	contact details to all those who needed advice or resolution”.		
Ward Member Question from Julia Turner related to Thornham Road	<p>Constitutional Services emailed Highways for an update.</p> <p>The update was:</p> <p>“A traffic survey was undertaken during 2014 which showed the 85th percentile speed to be 36-38mhp. Unity officers contacted the police at the time and they confirmed that they would carry out some enforcement on this section of road. The police have carried out enforcement, in July they confirmed at that time no offenders had been detected.</p> <p>Officers from Unity will contact the police again for further updates and will share them when available”.</p>	Constitutional Services	Email sent 16 th September 2015
Communications related to the Business of Council - a letter from the Leader in relation to the humanitarian crisis in Syria	Meeting held with the Group Leaders and collective response was discussed.	Group Leaders	21 st October 2015
Outstanding Administration Business - Electrification of Transpennine Route Between Leeds and Manchester	Letter to be sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Transport to asked for the removal of the pause	Chief Executive	Letter sent 14 th September 2015

	<p>placed on electrification</p> <p>Letters to be sent to Oldham MPs to support the motion</p> <p>Letter from M Meacher MP dated 18 Sep 2015 received 30 Sep 15 covering correspondence from the Secretary of State for Transport</p> <p>Letter from D Abrahams MP dated 7 Oct 2015 received 13 Oct 15 covering correspondence from the Secretary of State for Transport</p>		Letters sent 14 th September 2015
Youth Council Motion – “Mosquito Device”	Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board	Overview and Scrutiny	The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny met with the Youth Council on 12 Oct 2015. A meeting is to be arranged with the Shaw and Crompton Ward Councillors.
Cabinet Member Question from Councillor Haque related to Highway Improvements – response from Councillor Hibbert to be emailed	<p>“The Highway improvements taking place around the borough are made up of multiple solutions and treatments depending on the current condition of the carriageway.</p> <p>In recent years Oldham Council has carried out a preventative treatment programme that applies a treatment to carriageways that are starting to show signs of</p>	Constitutional Services	10 th September 2015

	<p>deterioration and require an improvement in Macrottexture and skid resistance.</p> <p>The treatment used is Ralumac Microasphalt which is a dual layered thin surface system designed to extend the residual life of the carriageway by up to 12 years.</p> <p>Microasphalting is not a cheap alternative to standard resurfacing but a specifically designed intervention treatment to delay the requirement of full resurfacing which comes at a much greater cost.</p> <p>The product improves through trafficking which unfortunately means it doesn't look aesthetically pleasing when first opened to the public. The more the treatment is trafficked the more even the surface becomes and will provide a smoother ride quality over time.</p> <p>The treatment is not without its flaws and we will endeavour to ensure that best quality finish is applied throughout. A 2.5% retention is withheld over the two year guarantee period and money</p>		
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	is not released until the Clerks of Works agrees with the contractor that the treatment is defect free”.		
Administration Business 1 – Closure of the Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates Court	<p>Letter to be sent to the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice to reconsider the decision</p> <p>Letters to be sent to Oldham MPs to support the motion</p> <p>Letter from A Rayner MP received 30 Sep 2015</p> <p>Letter from M Meacher MP dated 18 Sep 2015 received 30 Sep 15 covering correspondence to and from the Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Email from HM Courts and Tribunals Service received 27 Oct 2015</p>	Chief Executive	<p>Letters sent 14th September 2015</p> <p>Letters sent 14th September 2015</p>
Administration Business 2 – Welfare Bill	To be rolled to the next Full Council meeting to be held on 4 November 2015	Constitutional Services	4 November 2015
Opposition Business 1 – Supporting Older Workers	Referred to Corporate & Commercial Services and Economy & Skills on 10 September 2015	Councillor Jabbar and Councillor Akhtar	Audit of the Council’s current practices :People Services has already commissioned an Equalities analysis which, amongst other things, will be mapped with Dr

			<p>Altmann's findings and will report back in March 2016.</p> <p>Promote the Traineeship scheme to applicants who are 50 or over. This formed a key strand of our New Year, New Start campaign in January 2015</p> <p>Mature Apprenticeships: This is promoted as part of our core programme with positive case studies in the media.</p>
Opposition Business 2 – Congratulating Her Majesty the Queen	<p>Letter of congratulations to be sent to Her Majesty the Queen</p> <p>Letter received from the Chief Clerk to the Queen dated 25 Sep 2015 received on 12 Oct 2015</p>	Chief Executive	Letter sent 14 th September 2015
Opposition Business 3 – Defibrillators in Public Buildings	Referred to Economy and Skills – email sent to relevant officers on 10 September 2015	Economy and Skills	See information below.
2014/15 Statement of Accounts	Council noted the final accounts, auditor's reports and the comments in the report.	Council	The report was noted on 9 th September 2015.
Treasury Management Review	Council approved the actual 2014/15 prudential and treasury indicators in this report and	Council	The report was approved on 9 th September 2015.

	approved the annual treasury management report for 2014/15.		
Interim Greater Manchester Mayor – Voting Rights and Membership of AGMA	Council approved the Greater Manchester Combined Authority becoming a full member of AGMA per Clause 18 of the AGMA Constitution. Notification sent to Greater Manchester Integrated Support Unit	Council Constitutional Services	The report was approved on 9 th September 2015. 11 th September 2015
Oldham Distress Fund Final Accounts 2014/15	Council noted the Oldham Distress Fund Annual Report including the Financial Statement.	Council	The report was noted on 9 th September 2015.
Update on Actions from Council	Council noted the actions and correspondence received regarding motions agreed at previous Council meetings.	Council	The report was noted on 9 th September 2015.

Previous to 15 July 2015 Council:

<p>Opposition Business 1 – 20 MPH on Residential Roads (5 Feb 2014)</p>	<p>Refer to Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>The Board endorsed the delivery of a Road Safety Strategy for the improvement of road safety and the achievement of lower speeds in Coldhurst and the surrounding area.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 2 – Dog Fouling (22 Oct 2014)</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board Referred to Neighbourhoods by Constitutional Services on 27th October 2014</p>	<p>Neighbourhoods</p>	<p>The Board recommended a report to Cabinet for the implementation of a Boroughwide Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and the introduction of a pilot order to specific issues in a chosen locality.</p>
<p>Leader and Cabinet Question Time – Councillor Sykes to Councillor McMahon – Supporting Candidates and Councillors with Disabilities (17 Dec 2014)</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny to suggest where improvements could be made</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny</p>	<p>Further updates will be reported to O&S Board on the development. Members to be consulted at the design stage for any refurbishment of the Council Chamber in the future. Elected Members induction to include discussion of the needs of any disabled members.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 1 – First Aid (4 February 2015)</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>The motion was referred to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Scrutiny.</p>

			See further information below.
Opposition Business 2 – Supporting those with Dyslexia (4 February 2015)	Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board	Overview and Scrutiny Board	See information below.
Leader & Cabinet Question Time – Cllr Sykes to Cllr McMahon – Community Shop (4 February 2015)	Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board	Overview and Scrutiny Board	<p><u>Community Shop</u> – a report was presented to O&S Board in July 2015. A workshop was organised for elected members on 28 September 2015. A visit also took place to the Community Shop in Barnsley and Fare Share in Ashton.</p> <p>The Board endorsed that a risk assessment and cost benefit analysis be carried out on a “combined model” which brought together the opportunity for the delivery of both the Community Shop and Fare Share models for the redistribution of surplus food, opportunities for joint investment from partners and other sources be explored; and findings be reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Board in January 2016.</p> <p><u>Community Bank</u> – a report was presented to O&S Board on 14th July 2015. The Board requested that other AGMA</p>

			<p>authorities be contacted to ascertain if there was any interest in the Community Bank and a further report be brought back to O&S Board which outlined what was on offer and business solutions from seven local organisations. This will be reported to O&S Board in November 2015.</p>
<p>Opposition Business 1 – Loyalty Card Scheme (1 April 2015)</p>	<p>Referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine.</p>	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Board</p>	<p>A report was presented to Overview and Scrutiny Board. The Board endorsed an “Oldham Offers” scheme be delivered as outlined to the Board instead of a loyalty card scheme which had been agreed by the Town Centre Business Partnership. The Delivery of the “Oldham Offers” scheme would use funding from the Town Centre Management Budget.</p>

Opposition Business 3 – Defibrillators in Public Buildings

New defibrillators are at the following locations:

Royton Town Hall – a key safe for manual operation has also been provided in the event of power failure;
Civic Centre (Level 7 Lobby);
Civic Centre (Civic Entrance near Committee Rooms);
Oldham & Bardsley Taxi Rank (located inside the taxi office but available 24 hours a day);
Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre (External – a key safe for manual operation had also been installed)

All contractors used were from the Framework which helps guarantee the work was carried out to a high standard and, where applicable, complied with current regulations. The two units in the Civic Centre have been registered as accessible during working hours, with the unit on Level 7 as requiring a staff pass, while the unit at the Civic Centre is accessible to the public. The unit in the Oldham and Bardsley Taxi Rank has been registered as being available 24/7 due to the taxi rank being manned at all hours. The Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre have had a new external defibrillator installed and registration has been arranged. An installation is planned at Lido House in Grotton.

The defibrillators are now a facilities management asset and will be maintained by Unity Partnership and registered on their weblog system.

The Council is working with the North West Ambulance on the provision of training on the defibrillator units. A number of staff have been trained and training will continue to be provided.

Defibrillators are in all Oldham Community Leisure managed leisure centres and always have staff trained in their use during opening hours.

Discussions were ongoing with Council's commercial partners for location of defibrillators on developments.

Opposition Business 2 – Supporting those with Dyslexia (4 February 2015)

A further update was received by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 8 September 2015. Upon approval as part of the Get Oldham Working budget, a range of activities would be undertaken which included training for front line staff which would help services recognise the impact of dyslexia. Work would be commissioned to carry out assessments in a pilot programme, additional funding would need to be allocated following the conclusion of the pilot. People Services were reviewing the online application process which could lead to easier application processes being enabled. People Services were also looking at recruitment training for staff which included raising awareness about disabilities and providing alternative recruitment methods. As requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Board, a meeting had been held with

the Job Centre Manager to discuss key issues. The key points included how residents make a claim and how they were given the opportunity to declare they were dyslexic. The initial claim did include initial skills screening which allowed the job centre to make specialist referrals to training providers and other support services. This often led to a referral to the work choice contract which provided support for residents with disabilities to progress into work. The resident could also be seen by a disability support worker and could also use funding associated with Work Choice to spot purchase alternative provision.

Opposition Business 1 – First Aid (4 February 2015)

There was support for the introduction of First Aid teaching in every school in Oldham but there were substantial barriers to delivering it. First Aid was not currently part of the National Curriculum so there was no imperative for schools to include it in their curriculum offer. Schools had a great deal of autonomy and it was not within the local authority's power to instruct schools to deliver an item that was not part of the national curriculum. It was possible that if some teaching resources were made available to schools, and if they were underpinned by some training, it could be possible to encourage schools to make use of them as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum (although this did not have statutory status.) This would require an initial dialogue with the Oldham Schools Alliance (Primary Schools) and the Oldham Association of Secondary Heads and Principals (OASHP).

With regard to the funding of the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators, the Director of Public Health has provided the following information.

1. Background Information

- A defibrillator is a medical device used to deliver an electric shock to the heart of someone having a cardiac arrest, the delivery of electrical energy to the heart helps restore natural rhythm. Defibrillation used within the community is referred to as an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
- Over recent years AEDs placed within communities provide early defibrillation in order to help resuscitate lives of those having sudden cardiac arrest.
- There is evidence to suggest that AED have been used successfully in many cases, with the ability to save lives (Resuscitation Council UK, 2013).
- However, most out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) occur at home (NHS, 2013), where the community placed AED would be of no benefit. There has been some benefit to placements of AED in places where large numbers of people gather, such as football grounds and airports.
- The evidence suggests the effectiveness of public access defibrillators to increase sudden cardiac arrest survival in some settings, however, fewer cardiac arrests occur in public places than at home.

- Alternatively, basic skills in relation to Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) has proven to be effective in all settings, and investment in a wider programme of skills building amongst all community members regarding resuscitation skills is likely to benefit many more individuals at substantially less cost.

2. Position in Oldham

- There are a number of defibrillators already in place across Oldham, a location map can be found at: <http://www.nwas-responders.info/map.php>
- The number of defibrillators will increase over the next few months following joint work with districts and the North West Ambulance Services (Nwas) based on areas where there are large foot falls, and more remote locations.
- There are also provisions of defibrillators from a range of private organisations (ASDA) as well as via TfGM.
- Housing 21 has made a commitment to place defibrillators within its schemes.
- Additionally, HeartStart (National) and HeartStart Oldham have placed devices within Oldham schools.
- Alongside the defibrillators there are numerous programmes to upskill members of the public who deliver first aid and CPR training, including amongst others HeartStart who provide training within the community and schools, Lifelong Learning who deliver a programme of courses, Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) and local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) dragons den funding which sought to develop the skill related to First Aid and CPR.

3. Conclusion

- As detailed above, a substantial number of machines are already in place across Oldham. This is supported by investment in CPR and first aid training.
- Given the evidence of effectiveness about community AEDs, Oldham is reaching saturation in terms of cost benefit.
- Faced with the financial pressures there is a need to further prioritise areas of investment to those where there is stronger evidence of effectiveness. Hence, Oldham Council and its partners will continue to assess need and review a range of approaches to tackle the causes of premature mortality.

4. Going Forward

- Continue to ensure premature mortality is addressed within public health plans.
- Together with partners, continue to commission a range of services that help prevent cardiovascular disease.

With regard to marking World First Aid Day on second Saturday in September – Oldham Health Partners were made aware of the date and all agreed to promote the day through their own websites and social media channels with relevant links and information.

The following reference material was used in support of the response:

British Heart Foundation (2014), Defibrillators saves lives.

Available at: <http://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/life-saving-skills/defibrillators-save-lives.aspx>

Delgado H, Toquero j, Mitroi C, Castro V and Lozano IF (2013). Principal of External defibrillators. Available at:

http://www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk/www/media/files/InTech-Principles_of_external_defibrillators.pdf

Liddle R, Davies CS, Colquhon M and Handley AJ (2003). The automated external defibrillator. British Medical Journal 327(7425): (1216-1218). Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC274065/>

Limmer et al 2009, Emergency Care: cardiac emergency. (11th Ed). Pearson Education. Available at:

https://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/Forms_Center/Departments/Fire_and_Rescue/Forms/training/Powerpoints/CHAPTER%2017%20-%20CARDIAC%20EMERGENCIES/CHAPTER%2017%20-%20CARDIAC%20EMERGENCIES.swf

National Health Service (2013). Our Ambition to reduce Premature Mortality: A resource to support commissioners in setting a level of ambition. Available at: <http://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/mortality-rep1.pdf>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (2014). Implantable cardioverter defibrillators and cardiac resynchronisation therapy for arrhythmias and heart failure (review of TA95 and TA120). Available at: <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/TA314/chapter/2-Clinical-need-and-practice>

National Heart, Lungs and Blood Institute (2011). What is an Arrhythmia? Available at: <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/health/health-topics/topics/arr/>

Resuscitation Council UK (2013), A guide to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). Available at:

http://www.resus.org.uk/pages/AED_Guide.pdf

Wrinkle RA (2010) The effectiveness and cost effectiveness of public-access defibrillator. Clinical Cardiology, 33(7), 396-399. Available at: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20641115>

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:
Oldham Office
11 Church Lane
Oldham OL1 3AN
Tel-0161 626 5779

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01150549

18 September 2015

Dear Carolyn

Re: Oldham Council Resolution – Electrification Work on Transpennine Route

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the above resolution passed at Full Council on the 9 September. You can be assured I am in full support of the motion and will continue to pursue why a delay is necessary.

I raised the decision to 'pause' the financing to the upgrade and electrification of the Transpennine route with the Secretary of State Patrick McLoughlin on the 30 June. I asked how this was justified when prior to the election the talk was all about a "revolution in the way we govern England." The Tory election manifesto promised to electrify the main northern routes as part of a £13 billion master plan to modernise the region's transport, which now appears to me to have been nothing more than a gimmick.

I received the attached response from the Secretary of State on the 28 July. The reply attempts to justify the need for a 'pause' but I think it is unreasonable to make an announcement of a delay 7 weeks after the election, particularly after boasting of the biggest investment in the railways since Victorian times. It really does beggar belief.

You can be assured I will continue to pursue this and will pass on any further responses I receive.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



Department
for Transport

The Rt. Hon. Michael Meacher MP
Oldham Office
11 Church Lane
Oldham
OL1 3AN

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Patrick McLoughlin

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: patrick.mcloughlin@dft.gsi.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/138341
Your Ref: SB/SCUL01001/01150397

28 JUL 2015

Dear Mr Meacher,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June about Northern Rail electrification.

Whilst I appreciate your concerns regarding the pausing of Northern Rail routes electrification, we are investing in the North of England Infrastructure Programme, which includes the Northern Hub and a continuous programme of electrification – which is already delivering – in the North West. This suite of enhancements includes investment right across the North and will provide: more capacity for passengers now and in the future; faster and more frequent inter-regional services, with direct links between the cities of the North; better commuter services, and more space for freight.

We have already electrified 45 miles of railway since 2010, bringing the benefits of faster, greener electric trains to passengers in the North West. We have increased the size of Northern's fleet by 10% in the last 12 months, relieving overcrowding on some of the North's busiest routes. And we are almost finished with completely refurbishing Manchester Victoria, turning it into a station that the North can be proud of and which will improve connections right across the North, from Newcastle to Liverpool.

The new Northern and TransPennine Express franchises, which start in April 2016, will bring the enhanced passenger services that will take advantage of this new infrastructure. Our specifications for these franchises will require at least 200 new train services to operate every weekday and 300 every Sunday. The Department for Transport is currently evaluating the bids it has received and will announce a winning bidder later this year. While it will ultimately be up to bidders to decide how best to take advantage of the new infrastructure, the Department has specified a raft of improvements, which the new franchisee must put in place.

Crucially, this will include:

- A transformational increase in capacity into the major Northern cities, enabling more passengers to travel in greater comfort – by 2019, capacity on routes into key Northern cities will be increased by at least 36%.
- A step change in the quality of the Northern train fleet. We are requiring the successful Northern bidder to completely replace Pacers, which are well overdue being withdrawn. We are also requiring a major overhaul of other existing fleets so that, by 2019, all trains on the franchise will have been refurbished to “as new” condition.
- A greatly improved off-peak service on many lines, including earlier first trains and later last trains and an increase in frequency on many routes on Sundays.
- Services operating on new routes, creating new journey opportunities.

We are also challenging bidders for the new franchises to exceed our specifications, for example by proposing further frequency enhancements, even more capacity, new direct links and shorter journey times based on the committed North West electrification schemes, additional track and platform capacity and the various line speed improvements that will be delivered by the Northern Hub across multiple routes.

The opening of the Ordsall Chord, along with the revitalisation of Manchester Victoria, will see rail services substantially improved. The work we are undertaking at Farnworth, using a tunnel boring machine bigger than that on Crossrail and built in Oldham, will allow us to speed up and electrify this important route between Manchester and Preston. Longer, faster and greener electric trains will tackle the overcrowding on peak trains through Bolton. We have already introduced electric trains between Manchester Airport and Liverpool and Manchester Airport and Scotland, bringing faster, quieter journeys and allowing us to use the diesel trains to increase services elsewhere, including on TransPennine Express.

By 2017, additional trains will be running on routes all around Manchester, with a doubling of off-peak frequency between Manchester and Macclesfield and on the mid-Cheshire line between Manchester and Northwich. New Northern services will operate between Manchester and Chester via Warrington. Our specification also provides opportunities to enhance journey times, for example between Manchester and Buxton.

And by 2019 more new services will be operating, with more services between Bradford and Manchester, and a new direct link between Manchester Airport and Bradford via Halifax and the Calder Valley, thanks to the significant investment in track, line speed and platform infrastructure and additional depot and stabling facilities. There will also be better cross-Manchester connectivity, with at least two trains per hour between Bolton and Stockport for the first time. And there will be more carriages on peak services into Manchester – additional capacity for nearly 20,000 more passengers in each morning peak.

All of these improvements will be delivered independently from electrification of the North TransPennine route. The over £1 billion investment in the Northern Hub and Northwest Electrification unlocks these significant capacity and connectivity improvements and enables a step change in services.

The next franchise for the TransPennine route between Leeds and Manchester will bring modern trains and additional capacity. Current work on electrification will be paused, because we need to be much more ambitious for this route, building a powerhouse for the north with a fast, high capacity TransPennine electric route. We are working with businesses and cities in the north to make that happen.

Further announcements on a revised timetable for electrification on this route will be made in due course. Please note that the timing of TransPennine electrification does not affect the provision of future capacity on the TransPennine route.

Whilst much of Network Rail's work has been excellent (the repair work at Dawlish and the new station at Reading, for example), much of it has not. As I said on 25 June, I do not pretend everything is perfect, because it isn't.

Since joining Network Rail in 2014 the Chief Executive Mark Carne has reviewed the organisation's structure, performance and accountability. Unfortunately important aspects of Network Rail's investment programme are costing more and taking longer.

Therefore, I have announced that none of Network Rail's Executive Directors will receive a bonus for the past year and that the current Chairman, Mr Richard Parry-Jones, is stepping down, and being replaced by the former Transport Commissioner in London Sir Peter Hendy. I have called on the new chair to review the company's programme of rail investment and report back to me in the autumn.

As I said to the House, passengers want a railway that is better, faster and more reliable than today, that is powered by a huge increase in investment and ambition right across the country.

And that is what they will get.

PP. Approved by the
Secretary of State and signed
in his absence.

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
OLDHAM
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: KHM/PARK02002/02152338

07 October 2015

Dear Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your recent letters, received 17th September, regarding resolutions passed at Oldham Council on 9th September regarding the proposed closure of Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates Court and electrification work on the Transpennine rail route.

I share the Council's concern about the Government's proposals to close Oldham's Magistrates' and County Court and the impact this will have on local people's ability to access justice.

I have previously voiced my concerns about the Government's cuts to legal aid and these court closure proposals will lead to justice deserts in many areas, especially more outlying communities like Saddleworth and Shaw, who will face even longer journeys to access justice.

If they go ahead, the closures would mean it will be more difficult for victims, witnesses, claimants and defendants to attend courts and engage with the justice system. I have written to Ministers to make them aware of my objections, which are shared by local solicitors who have contacted me as well as the Council.

You may be aware that last month Labour announced that Lord Willy Bach will lead a review into legal aid and the impact cuts have had on access to justice.

With regard to electrification work on the Transpennine route, you will be aware that on 30th September the Transport Secretary asked Network Rail to "un-pause" the electrification plans and I enclose a copy of the letter he sent, for your information.

I am pleased that Ministers have been forced to change course after an outcry from passengers across the North and pressure from MPs, Councils and other key stakeholders. I am concerned that as my colleague Lilian Greenwood, the Shadow Transport Secretary says, "these delays have led to a damaging hiatus, which had seen construction job losses and resources shifted to other projects".

Debbie Abrahams MP is proud to represent the people of
Alexandra, Lees, Saddleworth, Shaw & Crompton, St Mary's, St James' and Waterhead

Website: www.debbieabrahams.org.uk Twitter: @debbie_abrahams

The delays have also severely undermined the Government's "Northern Powerhouse" mantra, letting down local rail users. Please be assured that I will continue to press the Government on both their court closure proposals and to tackle the inequality in regional investment in transport.

Yours sincerely



DEBBIE ABRAHAMS MP
Oldham East and Saddleworth

Debbie Abrahams MP is proud to represent the people of
Alexandra, Lees, Saddleworth, Shaw & Crompton, St Mary's, St James' and Waterhead

Website: www.debbieabrahams.org.uk Twitter: @debbie_abrahams



Department
for Transport

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon Patrick McLoughlin

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

30 September 2015

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to confirm that work to electrify TransPennine and Midland Mainline railways will resume under plans announced today as part of Sir Peter Hendy's work to reset Network Rail's upgrade programme.

Sir Peter Hendy, the Chair of Network Rail, has outlined to me how work could continue. I have replied to him asking Network Rail to un-pause this work.

Network Rail will work with the Department for Transport (DFT) and Rail North to develop a new plan for electrification of the TransPennine line between Stalybridge and Leeds and on to York and Selby to focus on delivering key passenger benefits as quickly as possible. This is an improvement on the previous plan which only changed the power supply of the trains.

The new plan will deliver faster journey times and significantly more capacity between Manchester, Leeds and York. The upgrade is expected to provide capacity for six fast or semi-fast trains per hour, take up to 15 minutes off today's journey time between Manchester and York and be complete by 2022. When the work is finished, the whole route from Liverpool to Newcastle (via Manchester, Leeds and York) will be fully electrified and journey times will be significantly reduced compared to today's railway.

Network Rail will also recommence work to electrify Midland Mainline, the vital long-distance corridor which serves the UK's industrial heartland. Sir Peter Hendy is proposing that line speed and capacity improvement works already in hand are added to, with electrification of the line north of Bedford to Kettering and Corby by 2019 and the line North of Kettering to Leicester, Derby/Nottingham and Sheffield by 2023.

New Northern and TransPennine rail franchise awards will be announced before the end of the year. The new franchises will deliver new train carriages and remove out-dated Pacer trains; introduce free WiFi on trains; and offer a one-third increase in capacity with 200 additional services on weekdays and Saturdays and 300 more train services on Sundays.

Connecting up the great cities of the North is at the heart of our plan to build a Northern Powerhouse. The total programme of rail electrification and upgrades will completely transform the railways for passengers in the North and Midlands and help ensure that every part of Britain benefits from a growing economy.

Attach addendum – Northern Powerhouse transport current delivery.

y-
Patrick

THE RT. HON. PATRICK McLOUGHLIN

Northern Powerhouse – transport - current delivery

Rail investment and projects being delivered in the North of England

- Capacity increased in 2014 on Trans Pennine Express services between Leeds and Manchester from four to five trains per hour.
- Electrified track between Liverpool and Manchester, replacing two-coach diesel trains with four-coach electric trains since March 2015.
- Electrified track between Liverpool and Wigan, introducing electric trains in April 2015 with almost all trains operating with four carriages from October.
- Redeveloped, upgraded and restored Manchester Victoria Station which will be formally opened in October 2015.
- Increasing the Northern Rail train fleet in the year from December 2014 with 87 additional carriages provided in the North West.
- Introduced longer trains on the Cumbrian Coast in May 2015, offering more seats on trains between Carlisle, Sellafield and Barrow-in-Furness.
- Opened the new Doncaster Chord in 2015 creating capacity for additional services by removing a bottleneck in South Yorkshire
- Installing new real-time customer information screens at 140 stations in 2015.
- Completing the rebuilding of Allerton Depot to provide capacity for electric trains will be formally opened in October 2015.
- Investing in a new southern entrance to Leeds Station to help regenerate the southern quarter of the city centre
- Opening brand new stations at Kirkstall Forge and Apperley Bridge
- Currently undertaking work to widen Farnworth tunnel between Manchester and Bolton, to enable electric trains to operate in the future.
- Running brand new Hitachi Intercity Express trains on the East Coast Main Line from 2018, built in Britain as part of a £5.7bn total investment. The trains will deliver more seats, more services, reduced journey times and improved reliability.
- New franchises for Northern and TPE, in place from 2016, which will deliver by 2020:
 - 120 new-build carriages for use on non-electrified lines on the Northern network;
 - the removal of all Pacer trains
 - full modernisation of existing diesel and electric Northern trains to make them 'as new'
 - over one-third increase in capacity into the major cities of the North
 - around 200 more train services on weekdays and Saturdays, both at peak and off-peak times, providing increased frequencies on many routes.
 - around 300 more train services on Sundays, providing earlier train services and increased frequencies on many routes
 - a £30 million Stations Investment Fund for the Northern franchise
 - free Wi-Fi on trains
- Working to enable operators in the future to offer faster rail journeys and better services between Sheffield and London.

Roads investment being delivered in the North of England

- Investing in over 40 major road schemes in Yorkshire, the North-East and the North West in the period to 2020/21, schemes ultimately worth £4.8bn.
- Upgrading the last sections of the A1 in Yorkshire to motorway. The Leeming to Barton section will open by 2017, completing a motorway standard route, via the M1 and A1(M), from London to Newcastle for the first time. The government will look into the case for renaming the A1(M) north of Leeds as the M1.
- Dualling the A1 north of Newcastle as far as Ellingham, and improving access to the Port of Immingham with upgrades to the A160/A180.
- Delivering the first increase in Trans Pennine motorway capacity since 1971 by upgrading the M62 to smart motorway
- Upgrading the A628 which runs between Manchester and South Yorkshire
- Dualling the A61 in Yorkshire
- Upgrading the A19 from Yorkshire to Newcastle to Expressway

Devolving powers to the North of England

- Devolving far reaching powers over transport to the North's Mayor-led city regions to deliver fully integrated public transport systems.
- Through Rail North, working in partnership with authorities in the North to manage and develop the new TPE and Northern rail franchises
- Publishing an update on the Northern Transport Strategy by Budget 2016 -working with TfN to advance the introduction of Oyster-style smart and integrated ticketing across bus, tram, metro and rail services throughout the region.
- On 8 July in his Budget, the Chancellor announced the Government's intention to put TfN on a statutory footing with statutory duties, appoint a Chair by the end of 2015 and a CEO by Autumn and additional funding of £30m to ensure TfN has a clear direction and permanency and is equipped to deliver.
- Working with TfN to push forward plans to transform east-west rail and road connections via Trans North and options for a new Trans Pennine Tunnel, with a prioritised list of scheme options to be produced by Budget 2016, and an interim report in time for the Spending Review later in 2015.

All correspondence to:
Angela Rayner MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Tel: 02072198782
www.angelarayner.com
angela.rayner.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter informing me that Oldham Council has passed the motion against the Ministry of Justice Proposals to close both the County and Magistrates court in Oldham.

Jim spoke to me in relation to this, together with colleagues from across my constituency I have taken a number of actions.

As I know you are aware this also effects the Tameside part of my Constituency.

As the motion outlines, under the government's plans, a number of County and magistrates Courts would be shut down with the public forced to travel into Manchester for justice.

I believe it is totally unacceptable that both Oldham magistrate's court and the town's county court would be shut down, with the public forced to travel to Tameside, Manchester or Salford to have their cases heard.

All Labour MP's have pledged support to Oldham and Tameside Council.

If these closures go ahead, thousands of local people will be denied proper access to justice.

It will mean longer journeys for the public, including victims of crime, witnesses and police; increased costs for magistrates and staff; job losses and the loss of vital business rates income to the councils.

British justice is under threat - first we had massive cuts to legal aid, now courts are being closed down.

Those that remain will be overstretched with people forced to queue for justice.

These local courts are a vital part of the life of our communities. These closures will leave our already hard-pressed criminal justice system creaking at the knees and bring the concept of British justice into disrepute."

Finally I have set up an online petition against the closure plans at
[http://www.angelarayner.com/petition against court closures](http://www.angelarayner.com/petition%20against%20court%20closures)

Yours Sincerely

Angela Rayner MP



@angelarayner



/angelarayner



www.angelarayner.com

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:
Oldham Office
11 Church Lane
Oldham OL1 3AN
Tel-0161 626 5779

Dr Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Our Ref: SB/OMBC01002/01150550

18 September 2015

Dear Carolyn

Re: Oldham Council Resolution – Closure of County and Magistrates Courts

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the above resolution that was passed by Full Council on the 9 September. Please be assured that I have already raised this issue with the Justice Minister in July and have attached my letter and the response I received in reply.

I fully support the resolution and assure you I will continue to pursue this issue on behalf of my constituents on the grounds I have already raised.

Yours sincerely

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton
Including Chadderton & Hollinwood

Encl.



Ministry
of Justice

Shailesh Vara MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of
State for Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

T 020 3334 3555
F 020 3334 3669
E general.queries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/moj

Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
11 Church Lane
Oldham
OL1 3AN

Your reference: SB/MINI01001/01150465
MoJ ref: 24997

7th August 2015

HM COURTS & TRIBUNALS SERVICE ESTATE REFORM

Thank you for your letter of 24 July regarding HM Courts & Tribunals estate reform consultation and the proposed closure of Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates Court.

I would like to emphasise that this is a genuine consultation and no final decisions will be made until all consultation responses have been carefully considered.

As a first priority, the consultation aims to address surplus capacity within the HM Courts & Tribunals Service estate. It puts forward proposals that aim to reduce this surplus capacity by closing those courts and tribunals that are unused or underused. In the case of Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates Court, court room utilisation was recorded as 12% and 28% respectively for the 2014/2015 financial year and accordingly have been identified as being underused.

You raise the important matter of ensuring access to justice, in the context of travel time and cost. In an increasingly digital age, users will not always need to attend hearings in person in order to access the justice system and whilst we have already established alternative ways users can interact with our services, we are looking to expand these provisions to provide more choice than is currently available. For example through making better use of technology, including video conferencing, and exploring whether we can appropriately make use of civic buildings for certain types of hearing.

I am grateful for your views and the concerns you have raised on behalf of your constituents which will be fully considered as part of the consultation process.

Yours

SHAILESH VARA



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

All replies:
Oldham Office
11 Church Lane
Oldham OL1 3AN
Tel-0161 626 5779

Shailesh Vara
Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Justice
102 Petty France
London
SW1H 9AJ

Our Ref: SB/MINI01001/01150465

24 July 2015

Dear Shailesh

Re: HM Courts & Tribunals Service Estate Reform

Thank you for your letter of the 16 July regarding the above.

I am extremely concerned to learn that the current consultation proposes to close Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates' Court which are both situated within my constituency.

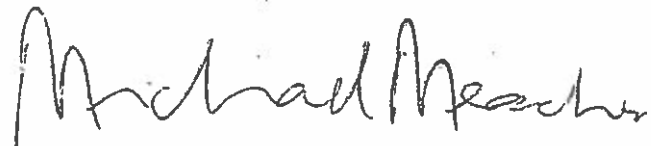
I made representations to the previous Minister when this was first aired on the grounds that moving work to Manchester will put jobs at risk for people employed in the court service and will cause hardship for local people due to the extended travelling required. Oldham has some of the most deprived wards in the country and travelling to and from Manchester will be financially difficult for a large number of people. Furthermore whilst the Magistrates' Court is quite a few years old it cannot be described as ageing and the county court is a relatively new building.

The closure of these smaller courts will have an extremely negative impact on both employees and those constituents who will be forced to travel long distances to access justice and I would therefore ask that you do everything possible to retain the courts on the following grounds –

- Oldham is a relatively poor area, with higher than average levels of unemployment and is considered a low wage economy.
- Travel costs to and from Manchester will be out of reach for many people
- Local solicitors and other legal representatives would have to travel further if Oldham courts are closed and this would incur extra costs that would almost certainly be passed on to local people
- The closure of services in Tameside will only make the situation worse

I cannot comment on other premises within the town being available for relocation, particularly considering that the County Court building is not very old. I would therefore stress that the courts need to remain open.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Meacher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

The Rt Hon Michael Meacher MP
Oldham West & Royton

Encl.

From: HMCTS Customer Service (Correspondence) [<mailto:ComplaintsCorres<@hmcts.gsi.gov.uk>]
Sent: 27 October 2015 12:46
To: Carolyn Wilkins
Subject: Treat Official response

Dear Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your letter of 11 September to Michael Gove as Secretary of State for Justice about the proposals relating to Oldham County Court and Oldham Magistrates' Court. I have been asked to reply.

I appreciate you and your fellow members of the council are concerned about the possible closure of the courts in Oldham. You have raised the important matter of ensuring access to justice, and the impact this would have on court users in Oldham. As you are aware we are making changes to our service which will mean fewer people needing to physically go to a court. Using modern technology means we can meet the needs of everyone who uses our services now and in the future.

I have passed a copy of your letter to colleagues working on the consultation so that the points you have raised are recorded and can be considered as part of this formal process. I would like to emphasise this is a genuine consultation and no final decisions will be made until all consultation responses have been carefully considered.

The consultation closed on 8 October. HM Courts & Tribunals Service is currently in the process of assessing all responses to the consultation and expects to announce the outcome in early 2016.

I hope my reply is helpful.

Lauren Hood | HM Courts & Tribunals Service | Customer Service Team

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

25th September, 2015.

Dear Dr. Wilkins,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your kind message sent on behalf of Oldham Council on the occasion of Her Majesty becoming the longest-reigning Monarch of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth Realms.

The Queen was pleased to be informed that the Members of Oldham Council passed a resolution of congratulations at their meeting on 9th September and Her Majesty has asked me to send her best wishes to you and all concerned.

Yours sincerely,
Christopher Sandamas

Christopher Sandamas
The Chief Clerk to The Queen

Dr. Carolyn Wilkins.

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