

**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Heffernan (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Blyth, Briggs, Brock, Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, Dearden, Fielding, Garry, Gloster, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Hewitt, Hudson, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Klonowski, J Larkin, T Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Turner, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth (until Item 12)

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

The Mayor made reference to the recent death of Jo Cox MP and other acts of terrorism since the last Council meeting.

Council held a Minutes Silence.

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 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 questions had been submitted:

1.            Question received from Victoria Marshall via Twitter:

“Why were hangers recently placed on bins necessary? They provided no info – info leaflet post following day” #waste of money”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that hangers were placed so residents were aware of the changes coming along with other circulated information to maximise the impact with the long lead in time. This was a two pronged approach to ensure residents read all the information available.

2.            Question received from Paul Turner via Twitter:

“Oldham Council now OMBC want 3 week bin collections what are the unfortunate people who have clinical waste to dispose of to do?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council did not collect clinical waste. Assuming that it was medical then in that position

it was advised residents should get in touch with officers to receive specific advice in those circumstances.



**Oldham**  
Council

3. Question received from Shaun Garfin via Twitter:

“I work on Broadgate are there plans to improve access when there are more houses and industrial units in the Foxdenton area?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that measures had been developed with and agreed by Highways England including improvements at A663 Broadway signal controlled junction and link road into the site; A663 Broadway/Foxdenton Lane/Eaves Lane signal controlled junction; and the A663 Broadway/M60 junction 21. The existing pedestrian and cycling infrastructure surrounding the site would be enhanced by measures that would be incorporated into the junction improvements that form part of the mitigation measures at the Broadway junctions, the new link road junction, the new link road and along Foxdenton Lane. It was also intended that traffic calming measures were introduced along Foxdenton Lane to ensure that there was not a significant increase in traffic travelling to the development using it.

4. Question received from Ricky McLeary via Twitter:

“Oldham Council is our council tax being reduced as our bins are only being emptied once every three weeks?”

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance & HR, responded that the proposal to change the bin collection was not based on savings but to avoid future costs. Based on recycling rates, Oldham had the lowest in Greater Manchester, if the recycling rate did not increase an additional levy would be imposed for the next three years on top of other savings that would have to be met. There had been cuts in government grants and cost pressures with a net loss of £12.5m cuts in grants and it was estimated that efficiencies of £20m would need to be found. Council tax would be reviewed as part of the 2017/18 budget setting process on whether or not to reduce Council tax.

5. Question received from Hilary Smith via Twitter:

“Given likely future cuts from central government, what steps will Oldham Council take to ensure vulnerable don't suffer further?”

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding, responded that across the country there was a £600m shortfall in funds needed for adult social care. Oldham Council had faced year on year reductions for the last five years which required all areas of service to evaluate the effectiveness of services offered.

Adult Social Care (ASC) Departments across the country were finding it increasingly difficult to sustain current levels of service

within budget and there were increasing challenges to managing an increasingly fragile care market. This was the case in Oldham and a range of initiatives were in place which contributed towards the savings. Difficult decisions had to be made around where resources were prioritised and deployed. The current approach was unsustainable and in line with all GM ASC departments, the service model was being reviewed and redesigned to help address some of the decisions that would need to be made. The Council was confident in providing services to the most vulnerable and existing resources have been directed to ensure that Oldham was complying with its legal duties to vulnerable people. The development of innovative evolving work approaches which ensured vulnerable people could be supported to sustain their independence for as long as possible. As such ASC was transforming to rise to these challenges and key work streams were being developed around, for example, integration and prevention.

6. Question received from Craig Hughes via Twitter:

“Why has refuse collection reduced to 3 weeks whilst Council Tax rises and now we can’t recycle plastic containers only bottles?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, referred to earlier responses. The Council had gone to three weekly collection to increase recycling, 70% of what was currently put into the grey bin could go into recycling. The cost of putting waste in the grey bin continued to increase, whilst the Council’s budget continued to reduce through cuts from central government. Evidence from across Greater Manchester showed that the only way to achieve an increase in recycling rates was to reduce capacity. The Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority was responsible for the disposal arrangements for rubbish and recycling for all GM Authorities. The current arrangements had been in place since 2009 and were based on available markets for plastics. Plastics that could not be recycled in the brown bin were actually used to produce energy from waste when put in the grey bin.

7. Question received from Joanne Craddock via Facebook:

“The council supposedly impose fines for flytipping but some of the alleyways local to me seem to have massive problems time and time again. What are the council doing to combat this?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that we don’t supposedly impose fines, but actually did. Last year the Council served 867 fixed penalty notices for littering and dumping with a further 122 prosecutions. At the end of the day, it was the responsibility of every resident of the town to take responsibility for the disposal of waste. Enforcement was taken seriously and to support this, the Council were looking at the use of cameras which would enable the teams to gather the evidence needed. If refuse was

put in the right bin, the problem could be eradicated if everyone worked together.



**Oldham**  
Council

8. Question received from Patrick Diamond via Twitter:

“What is the Council doing about the reduction in service to the 184 Bus from Diggle and Dobcross to Oldham? I am particularly concerned about the reduction in service for the 184 bus, as my children, and many other, rely on the 07:32 184 to get to school and college in Oldham on time.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that First Manchester did engage with local Councillors prior to the change, but the Council was extremely limited when it came to being able to influence bus routes and frequencies as they are provided by commercial bus operators. All journeys on service 184 were provided commercially by First Manchester. Transport for Greater Manchester provided support for a network of socially necessary services, which would not otherwise be provided by operators on a commercial basis, but had a limited budget for this, which was getting smaller due to budget cuts.

TfGM could not justify subsidising the 184 service as usage was low and the hourly through service to Huddersfield, which operated direct along Huddersfield Road through Diggle Village, would continue to operate. Dobcross would continue to be served by services 353 and 354, which provided a combined hourly link to Uppermill where customers could transfer to service 184 towards Oldham and Manchester. While Sam Road and Station Road would no longer have a daytime bus service, the existing stops on Station Road were within 400 metres of stops on Huddersfield Road and the hourly Huddersfield service. The Saddleworth Local Link also operated in this area which provided door to door links from early morning to late evening seven days a week.

In the longer term, the bus franchising powers contained within the recently published Buses Bill would allow Greater Manchester to have more control over bus service routes, frequencies, fares and quality standards should the powers be taken up.

9. Question from Christine Hogan via Facebook:

“Could the Councillors explain how they intend to deal with any problems residents may encounter when the bins do not get emptied every 3 weeks from Autumn? The reason I ask is that it is hard enough to get the bins emptied now. Only 2 out of 4 bins emptied last week on my street. Despite contacting Moorhey Street and getting told they would be emptied, they are still standing outside, full up. So it is, in effect, a 3 weekly collection already! And the grey bins not emptied from 27 and 23.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that the Council collected over 250,000 bins each week and there were many factors which could result in missed bins. It was inevitable that some bins

would be missed but the when this occurred the services would continue to aim to return for such bins within two working days, and in such cases, residents were asked to leave their bins out for collection. If Mrs. Hogan would get in touch with her contact details she would ask the service to investigate and respond to the issues relating to Mrs. Hogan.

10. Joe Fitzpatrick asked the following question:

“Councillor Jim McMahon MP recently told my friend Councillor Warren Bates that Mono Pumps had paid back the grant monies they had received. Please give me a detailed breakdown, telling me how much money was given to Mono Pumps by Oldham Council, and by Regional funding Groups, and please tell me what grant money has been returned and what it was paid back.”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, responded that a £3 million grant was awarded for the refit of the Aerospace building, for this they were to secure the move of all jobs from the Tameside site into Chadderton and create an additional 200 jobs over a 5 year period up to 2020. The awarding body was the Greater Manchester Investment Fund. No funding had been given to Monopumps by Oldham Council although they were supported with officer time in applying for the GM Investment Fund Grant. The move to Chadderton coincided with the global crash in the oil markets which had a severe impact on the company and its parent company in North America. At that point Mono had drawn down £1.35 million of grant towards the construction costs, but realised that the job creation targets would not be met in the timeframe given. They approached the GM Investment Board to discuss the issues they faced in order to resolve the issue of the total grant. The outcome was as follows:

- The GM Investment board stated that given the current position and recent business update that they would not support the drawdown of the remaining £1.65m of the total £3m grant awarded.  
Despite this, it was recommended that Monopumps retain the £1.35m, continue to provide the regular quarterly update reports to the investment team and then meet up again in 6 months and then again at the end of next year in order to keep all parties up to speed on business developments.
- To date the drawdown of £1.35m represented 45% or approximately 90 jobs. The investment board advised that if the business was able to demonstrate some progress towards achieving this figure by 2019 that there was unlikely to be any repayment requested.

To date no funds had been paid back to GM.

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:

1. Councillor J. Larkin to Councillor Hussain:

“What plans are in place to improve High Street and Rochdale Lane in Royton North ahead of the opening of the new Lidl store later this year? The entire stretch of road is in poor condition and will only get worse with the expected increase in traffic?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that there were currently no plans to resurface High Street or Sandy Lane, Royton. Lidl were responsible for repairing damage to High Street, Middleton Road and Spring Garden Street caused as a result of their works and have improved the High Street/Middleton Road junction for pedestrians by the introduction of a traffic island/refuge.

2. Councillor Hewitt to Councillor Hussain:

“I have received an enquiry from a resident in the area of Shelderslow in Springhead about potholes and ownership of a lane which has been an issue for several years. The residents have managed to keep the path tidy, but the volume of people using this footpath has increased tremendously after planning permission has been given to build adjacent to the path, together with the Rome Mill site development, and development on Cooper Street. It is also the only vehicular access to the small hamlet of Shelderslow, with properties dating back to the seventeenth century. The lane is also used regularly by parents with children going to the Infant school. The path is now full of potholes and represents a problem for vehicular access, including the Refuse Collection and emergency services. There are issues for the safety of children and their parents travelling to school. Would the relevant portfolio holder please help with this issue?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that Shelderslow, Springhead was currently unadopted so there were currently no plans to carry out any resurfacing, however he would get this section inspected and ensure that any pot holes were made safe to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians.

3. Councillor Fielding to Councillor Stretton:

“Failsworth Town Hall was refurbished in 2010 and provides a fantastic space for functions and events in an excellent civic building. However the function room is underused with many potential users citing the cost of hiring it as prohibitively expensive.

Could the Council look again at the price structure and marketing of Failsworth Town Hall to see how we can get better use out of this spectacular building?"



Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council annually reviewed the pricing structure for the room hire of its available venues, which ensured that the public and community groups had access to affordable and suitable facilities. The room charges for Failsworth Town Hall were considered to be very competitive, when compared to other private sector providers (£41 per hour during week days, £240 for the first 3 hours out of normal working hours, and then £60 per/hr thereafter until [2:00 am](#)), based only on recovering the operational costs associated with the events.

The Council's Facilities Management Team recognised the function room was under-used and was looking at pro-active measures to raise the room's availability through a marketing exercise to encourage more use.

4. Councillor McCann to Councillor Chadderton

"I was very disappointed to hear of the delay in building a new two entry school to replace the 100 year old Shaw Street primary school in Greenfield, especially as the funding has been found. I would therefore be grateful for an update on the present position as most Saddleworth primary schools are full or will be shortly."

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that there was no secret in the need for school places. The situation was that all Saddleworth and Lees primary schools were assessed through the priority matrix and Greenfield was identified as the priority school in this collaborative for expansion. The next stage would be a Pre-Publication Consultation Stage which would start on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2016 for four weeks before a decision was taken to Cabinet regarding the issue of a formal public notice. If Cabinet decided to issue a public notice, formal representation would continue for another four weeks. A final decision would then be made by Cabinet. Councillor Chadderton gave assurance that the new Greenfield Primary and new Royton and Crompton School were a key priority and would do anything for this to be achieved.

5. Councillor Shuttleworth to Councillor Hussain:

"Hollinwood Ave, from its junction with Mough Lane to Oldham/Manchester Road is frequently in need of repair and is beginning to resemble a patchwork quilt. It is also beginning to suffer from heavy ponding in parts, and it is appreciated that in the absence of gulley's at some of these points on the highway there is not an easy solution.

May I ask the Cabinet Member responsible for highways to give consideration to including this road on any future plans for a complete resurface as one can only believe that it is becoming financially unviable to continue with the patching work required.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that there were currently no plans to resurface Junction of Mough Lane (Owler Lane)/Hollinwood avenue to Manchester Road. He would get the section of highway inspected and any actionable defects repaired.

6. Councillor Toor to Councillor Hussain

“There are plenty of overgrown tree branches and hedges which are covering road signs. This problem is widespread but I would like to draw your attention to the Ashton Road in Medlock Vale ward, where this problem exists on both sides, near the boundary with Tameside. Can the relevant Cabinet Member advise when action will be taken to deal with this problem?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that an inspection of the signs and vegetation on Ashton Road had been arranged to identify the extent of the issue. The outcome of the survey would determine what action was required and the timeline involved.

7. Councillor Garry to Councillor Brownridge

“Recently the bowling green at Failsworth Higher Park was repaired at a cost of £1200. It is therefore disappointing to see residents sunbathing, riding bikes, pushing prams and playing football on it. It is also disappointing and disrespectful to see dog owners exercising dogs in the tennis courts which are a designated children’s play area. The park is also a hot spot for ASB by youth. Please could I urge the Cabinet member responsible to urgently look into applying the new Public Space Protection Order to the park?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council was looking at Public Space Protection Orders for a number of sites including parks. Legislation was complex and may not fully address the problems. Steps would be taken to address these issues immediately and colleagues in Environmental Services and First Response would take appropriate action to minimise the effect of a minority of inconsiderate residents.

8. Councillor Murphy to Councillor Hussain

“On so many occasions when I go into Shaw town centre, the cages behind Tesco Express are just left at the back entrance – causing all sorts of problems. As you are no doubt aware we have an on-off problem with anti-social behaviour in the town centre and these cages are often targeted. The cages also obstruct traffic.



I know previously Tesco have been asked to do something about it, but can I request that the relevant cabinet member ask them to look for a more permanent solution, especially as the new car park will mean more care manoeuvring around on the old market ground? Failing that can I ask officers to issue notices for obstructing the highways which has been discussed previously but to no avail?"

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that he would like to reassure the Councillor that he would ask Council officers from Highways and Environmental Services to make contact with the management at Tesco Shaw Express Store in order to explore the options for a more permanent solution to the issue. He asked to be briefed on the outcome of the discussions and would that officers keep members informed on progress.

9. Councillor Iqbal to Councillor Brownridge

"Could the Cabinet member please give an update with the progress in getting Hartford Mill de-listed and getting it demolished?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that the Council was acutely aware of the negative impact that the local building had on the local area and a private owner had formally applied to Heritage England to have the mill de-listed, however this application had been unsuccessful. The Council was working with interested parties for the demolition of the mill. A comprehensive mixed use scheme was being developed which included the demolition of the mill and utilising adjacent land for new homes to be built. However, should this fail or the building deteriorated further, the Council retained the right to use its listed building or dangerous building powers to secure the safety of the area surrounding the building. The Council was working as best as could be done to get the site redeveloped.

10. Councillor Mushtaq to Councillor Brownridge

"An Alexandra resident has contacted us about fly tipping issues. In the email, he also mentioned that, on blue bin collection day, there were only three bins in the alley for collection, suggesting that only three households on the street were recycling. He appeared to be making a direct correlation between failure to recycle and the build up of waste and fly tipping. Can the relevant Cabinet member please help us to make the distinction, if indeed there is one, between fly tipping and the incorrect use of bins."

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that fly tipping was a crime, there was nothing to suggest that normal law abiding citizens turn to dumping their rubbish because they don't have the right recycling bins which were supplied free of charge by the Council. The Council was committed to increasing recycling and

would support any residents who needed further information on how to legally dispose of their waste and crack down on those who were fly tipping.



11. Councillor McLaren to Councillor Brownridge

“The Planning Committee have previously approved an application from UK Power Reserve for the development of a gas fired mini power station on a sit at the junction of Stock Lane, Stockfield Road and Dairy Street in Chadderton. However, contact with UK Power Reserve has proved to be impossible. Residents were promised a public meeting and visit to Styal to view a similar facility neither of which have taken place. The residents have asked if it is possible to confirm that the project is still intended to go ahead and, if so, whether it would be possible to ensure that UK Power Reserve honour their commitment to arrange the two events.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded there were no mechanisms through planning powers to require a public meeting and site visits. Officers had contacted UK Power Reserve to see what could be done. As a consequence of those negotiations the applicant has agreed a site visit to their Carrington Peel site on 26<sup>th</sup> July if that was convenient. In relation to the start date, the applicant had confirmed that groundworks were proposed to start on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at this site.

12. Councillor Ali to Councillor Brownridge

“Foxdenton Development – the Foxdenton housing development was very much the target some 12 months ago. We would all be in agreement about the need to build aspirational homes as well as affordable homes. What is the current position in related to this development and what is the council doing to drive this forward?”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the current position in relation to the Foxdenton Development was that full agreement had been reached with Highways England regarding the final designs for the main access into the site from Broadway. Due to the fact that it would not be prudent to be carrying out the bulk of these access works during the winter months, commencement was now due to take place in early Spring 2017. The Council continued to work closely with its private sector partners Seddon/Grasscroft to drive this major development forward and the FO Developments Board met on a bi-monthly basis in order to review progress.

13. Councillor Dearden to Councillor Harrison – this question was deferred to Cabinet Member questions.

14. Councillor G. Alexander to Councillor Hussain

“Could the relevant Cabinet member give me an update on the progress of the adoption of roads on the Northgate Estate Moorside as this has been an ongoing saga and seems to have become stagnant. All the residents are waiting for is an end to this long running saga.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that it was a legal requirement that any new highway proposed for adoption adjoins an existing adopted highway. The new estate roads on the Northgate Estate were currently separated from the existing adopted network (Ripponden Road) by an area of land under Persimmon Homes ownership and despite numerous site visits/conversation over the last few years with various representatives of Persimmon Homes to try and progress the matter, officers had so far been unsuccessful in persuading them to enter into an agreement for the remaining section of new highway. Work would continue to pursue this, however, the Council could not force such an agreement.

15. Councillor Blyth to Councillor Stretton

“Could the relevant Cabinet Member please tell me when the redundant stalls will be removed from the now defunct Shaw Market site as these are a blight on the town and a haven for anti-social behaviour as they act as a huge umbrella in wet weather?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the now that all relevant permissions, legal orders and licences were in place for the move of Shaw Market from the site on Westway to Market Street, a programme had been developed for the removal of the redundant market stalls and cabins from the former market ground. It was proposed that works would start on site to demolish the stalls and cabins during the week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and it was expected that this work would take no more than two weeks.

After the demolition works and subject to favourable weather conditions, the works for the creation of the extended car park on the former market ground and improvement of the existing car park would start on 8<sup>th</sup> August. These works would take approximately two weeks. Therefore, the car park would be unavailable for use during this two week period, but would be open for use during the week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016. The car park closure would be publicised via notices on site and a local leaflet drop.

16. Councillor Ball to Councillor Hussain

“We have had two major new developments of new homes in St. James, one on Derker and one on Sholver. The roads in those developments have not yet been completed and are in a poor and dangerous state. Can we ask when they will be completed?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the developer at Derker, Keepmoat Homes, was due to resurface a section of London Road between the junctions of Derker Street and Ramsey Street. They had already carried out footway works to all footways contained within Derker Street, Acre Lane, Afghan Street and Ramsey Street. As far as he was aware Keepmoat were currently appointing a contractor with work scheduled to begin in the next few weeks. At Sholver, the DSO had been commissioned to complete works on behalf of the developer, this included completion of new estate roads and also the footway fronting the new properties on Goldsmith Avenue and Coleridge Road. Any other works which were required would fall under highway maintenance.

17. Councillor Chadderton to Councillor Hussain

“Some months ago I asked what was being done or what could be done to improve parking around the Royal Oldham Hospital, as the parking of visitors and staff on the nearby residential streets is a major concern and causing much distress to local residents. I was told the parking provision around the hospital was being reviewed, can I ask if this review has been concluded and what the outcome was and can I also request a meeting with relevant officers to discuss these issues?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the Council was aware of the parking problems that were being experienced around the hospital, particularly in the Coldhurst and Royton areas. Council officers had recently met with the Head of Estates at the Pennine Acute Trust (PAT) to discuss the matter with a view to see if a joint solution could be found, particularly as the hospital had further expansion plans, which would only exacerbate the problem. It was acknowledged that there was no easy solution to the parking congestion that was occurring in the surrounding areas to Oldham Hospital. The Council had already provided some areas with resident parking schemes only, which had only resulted in moving the problem to an adjoining area. The Hospital had also opened a new 500 space car park for staff, which should have eased the problem, but even with this additional capacity, the Pennine Acute Trust accepted that some staff and visitors still chose to fly park to avoid paying parking charges.

The Council was going to continue with its discussions with Pennine Acute Trust, to see if an agreed joint strategy could be developed to address the reported parking problems, as clearly the problem emanated from the demand generated for Oldham Hospital services.

18. Councillor M. Bashforth to Councillor Hussain:

“I would like to ask a question of the relevant cabinet member on behalf of the residents of Holden Fold Lane in Royton.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June last year the building that housed the Sofa Company burnt down, leaving a derelict, unsightly and hazardous mess close to resident's homes.

Just after the fire, due to concerns about the methods being used to remove asbestos from the remains of the building, we contacted the Health and Safety Executive who went on site and spoke with the contractors involved.

A few weeks ago we spoke with residents who over a year later are still having to live with the derelict site and the dangers it presents. Children are gaining entry to the site and playing in there, and also others with more anti-social intent.

As local councillors we want to support residents with regard to this problem and ask that officers visit the site again to re assess the dangers and negative affect this is having on the area and people having to live next to it.

We ask for some efforts be taken, to enforce more efficient security measures be put in place and that a thorough clean-up of the site be undertaken.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that he had asked officers to revisit the site and to establish whether the Council could take any formal legal action against the owner of the building.

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 were received from Councillor Ames, Councillor Goodwin, Councillor Kirkham and Councillor McMahon.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 18TH MAY 2016 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that, subject to the following amendment, the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2016 be approved as a correct record:

Item 10 – Councillor Cath Ball, portfolio be amended to read Deputy Cabinet Member, Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives.

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

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, elected members declared the following interests:

Councillor Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Item 15b by virtue of his employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor McCann declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board, Unity Joint Venture Board and the MioCare Board.

Councillor Harrison declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.



Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Dean declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and Unity Joint Venture Board.

Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary at Item 15b by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Jean Stretton declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Oldham Leadership Board and Unity Partnership Board and at Item 15b by virtue of her appoint to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Police and Crime Panel and the Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive.

Councillor Jabbar declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor G. Alexander declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Sykes declared a personal interest at Item 15a by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate the Chief Executive, Dr. Carolyn Wilkins, on being awarded an OBE.

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:

Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Petition regarding Traffic Around Knowsley Primary School (received 9 May May 2016) (72 signatures) (Ref 2016-05)

**RESOLVED** that the petition received since the last meeting of the Council be noted.

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Mayor informed the meeting that there was one item of outstanding business from the previous meeting.

Motion 1

Councillor Dearden MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes with alarm, the recent statement from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirming that new guidelines are to be introduced which will

curb councils' powers to divest from or stop trading with organisations or countries they regard as unethical. Council further notes that the new guidelines, which will amend Pensions and Procurement law, follow on from the government's announcement made at the beginning of October 2015 that it was planning to introduce new rules to stop "politically motivated boycott and divestment campaigns" (Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government).

Oldham Council is proud of its commitment to human rights and to putting this into practice through such measures as an ethical approach to this relationship with business. Council believes that the proposed measures now being outlined by the DCLG will seriously undermine the Council's ability to implement its commitment to ethical procurement and pensions investments. Council also notes that the new guidelines represent a further, serious attack on local democracy and decision-making through a further restriction on councils' powers. This is directly contrary to the government's own stated commitment to the principle of localism, given a statutory basis by the Localism Act of 2011, which holds that local authorities are best able to do their job when they have genuine freedom to respond to what local people want, not what they are told to do by government. This Council resolves to:

- 1). Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express Council's unequivocal opposition to the proposed changes.
- 2). Write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Jim McMahon MP to ask them to use any parliamentary means available to oppose these proposals.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Blyth MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following amendment:

"Insert in the second paragraph, line 12, after business a new sentence:

'This Council is proud also to have played its part in encouraging the divestment from tobacco companies of the Greater Manchester Local Government Pension Scheme as a commitment to public health and of its decision to remove Saudi Arabia and Singapore from a list of countries approved for investment because of their appalling human rights records.'"

Amended motion to read:

"This Council notes with alarm, the recent statement from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) confirming that new guidelines are to be introduced which will curb councils' powers to divest from or stop trading with organisations or countries they regard as unethical. Council further notes that the new guidelines, which will amend Pensions and Procurement law, follow on from the government's

announcement made at the beginning of October 2015 that it was planning to introduce new rules to stop “politically motivated boycott and divestment campaigns” (Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government).

Oldham Council is proud of its commitment to human rights and to putting this into practice through such measures as an ethical approach to this relationship with business. This Council is proud also to have played its part in encouraging the divestment from tobacco companies of the Greater Manchester Local Government Pension Scheme as a commitment to public health and of its decision to remove Saudi Arabia and Singapore from a list of countries approved for investment because of their appalling human rights records. Council believes that the proposed measures now being outlined by the DCLG will seriously undermine the Council’s ability to implement its commitment to ethical procurement and pensions investments. Council also notes that the new guidelines represent a further, serious attack on local democracy and decision-making through a further restriction on councils’ powers. This is directly contrary to the government’s own stated commitment to the principle of localism, given a statutory basis by the Localism Act of 2011, which holds that local authorities are best able to do their job when they have genuine freedom to respond to what local people want, not what they are told to do by government.

This Council resolves to:

- 1). Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express Council’s unequivocal opposition to the proposed changes.
- 2). Write to Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Jim McMahon MP to ask them to use any parliamentary means available to oppose these proposals.

Councillor Dearden accepted the AMENDMENT.

Councillor Rehman spoke on the motion.

The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was MOVED to the VOTE.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION. On being put to the vote, FIFTY-FOUR VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with NO VOTES AGAINST and ONE ABSTENTION. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. the Chief Executive be instructed to write to Greg Clarke, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to express Council’s unequivocal opposition to the proposed changes.
2. the Chief Executive write to the Debbie Abrahams MP, Angela Rayner MP and Jim McMahon MP to ask them to use any parliamentary means available to oppose these proposals.

## EUROPEAN UNION REFERENDUM - IMPACT ON OLDHAM AND GREATER MANCHESTER



Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council which set out a summary of the implications of leaving the EU on Oldham's Economy and Greater Manchester, in the context of the recent independent economic review of the Northern Powerhouse.

The implications could not be precisely understood for some time due to the protracted period of political and economic uncertainty resulting from the UK "leave" vote. The report dealt principally with some of the known and predicted economic and business implications. Alongside these implications were wider social cohesion implications and risk caused by the negative focus on the campaign on immigration issues. These would continue to be monitored and managed in partnership with Greater Manchester Police and other local partners.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the Government had received the report of the Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review (NPIER) which had been commissioned by Transport for the North (TfN) on behalf of Leaders across the North. The report found that:

- The North's economic performance gap was persistent and entrenched and averaged 25% below the rest of England (10-15% when London was excluded);
- Productivity differences accounted for the majority of the performance gap; and
- The poor productivity was explained mainly in terms of workforce skills – although issues related to technology, investment and connectivity also had a bearing.

The NPIER identified distinctive sector capabilities in the North, which was highly productive and could compete on national and international stages. The sectors were outlined in the report and were closely aligned with the Council's new Strategic Investment Framework (SIF) and Work and Skills Strategy.

The uncertainty which surrounded the future economic performance of the UK as a consequence of the EU referendum provided a more challenging macroeconomic context for delivery of the NPIER's aspirations. Greater Manchester was working rapidly to seek safeguards for the national and international competitiveness of the city region against the backdrop of the referendum result and to help achieve the NPIER aspirations in Oldham and across Greater Manchester.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke on the report.  
 Councillor Jabbar spoke on the report.  
 Councillor Roberts spoke on the report.  
 Councillor Harkness spoke on the report.  
 Councillor Hudson spoke on the report.  
 Councillor Bates spoke on the report.  
 Councillor Sykes spoke on the report.

Councillor Sykes MOVED that a letter be written to the Prime Minister to guarantee or make claim to monies promised prior to the EU Referendum Vote to come to Greater Manchester and Oldham.

Councillor Sykes also MOVED under Council Procedure Rule 8.4 of the Council's Constitution that the Leader give consideration to creation of a Cabinet responsibility to an individual or a number of individuals within the Administration to consult with Group Leaders and report back to Councillors and full Council where appropriate on this issue. Councillor Blyth SECONDED the MOTION.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that she would be happy to write to the Prime Minister jointly signed with the Leader of the Main Opposition and also suggested that each of the Cabinet Members had some responsibility but would ask Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources to take lead responsibility as this area would have the most serious impact.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. contents of the European Union Referendum – Impact on Oldham and Greater Manchester report be noted.
2. a letter be sent to the Prime Minister jointly signed by the Leader of the Council and Leader of the Main Opposition on funding.
3. Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources to take lead responsibility to consult with Group Leaders and report back to Council.

10

**YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council, attended the meeting and addressed the Council on the following motion:

“In April 2016 Oldham Youth Council began a new 2 year term of office for 2016 – 2018. The following motion will set out our intentions within this term.

We have identified that we focus on 3 areas within this term. These were identified and agreed based on consultation with young people from across Oldham as part of the make your mark ballot in October 2015. We will have a priority theme, a priority issue and a priority campaign: this are outline below:  
Priority theme – improving health outcomes for young people in Oldham

We recognise that good health, both physical and mental, is vital to ensure individuals are able to lead happy, productive and successful lives.



Health has been a priority for the Youth Council and our fellow youth voice family members in the children in care council and the barrier breakers for a number of years and will continue to do so.

We will continue to work closely with a range of organisations and partners to help shape and influence the health agenda for children and young people.

We will continue to strengthen our working relationship with the CCG, Public Health and other health organisations to develop mechanisms and opportunities for young people to be central to decision making processes and to ensure the voice and views of young people are reflected in the health services we receive.

We are continuing with our Kerrching funding stream with a focus on health outcomes for children and young people. This includes providing small grants for health related projects and we have already allocated funding to 27 projects across Oldham for this year. We have continued to commission kooth.com the online mental health service for children and young people and this service continues to be a well-used and effective resource. We are looking forward to working with commissioners as health services develop further and hope to be further involved in the commissioning of services for Children and Young People.

We are particularly pleased to carry forward our I Love Me branded initiative for another term, this will focus on promoting positive health messages via a range of activities, events and consultations.

We are also working closely with public health on the making every contact count programme and developing MECC resources specifically for children and young people.

#### Priority issue – learning for life

We believe that our education will be greatly improved if it includes the teaching of life skills that are important for our growth and development. We believe that education should fully prepare us for adult life and this should include the teaching of citizenship and personal, social and health education as part of the core offer in every school and college. We want all young people to have the opportunity to learn about political education and democracy, sex and relationships, cultural awareness, community cohesion, financial literacy, sustainable living and active citizenship.

We want to be able to enhance fantastic English, Maths, Science, humanities and arts qualifications with the knowledge of how to manage money, how to vote, how to open a bank account, how to gain meaningful employment and prepare for an interview and so much more.

We will continue to work closely with the Oldham curriculum offer and help to shape this offer for Oldham young people.

We will consult with schools, pupils, head teachers and governors. And use this consultation to develop ideas and recommendations for how schools and colleges can best help young people learn for life.

#### Priority Campaign – discrimination

We would like to live in an Oldham where people are free from discrimination and we intend to launch a campaign to promote understanding and reduce discrimination. In consultation with young people we found that discrimination is still very much a

concern of young people. It was also voted as the national campaign in the United Kingdom Youth Parliament. In a recent Youth Council meeting we found that every member of the Youth Council had faced or directly witnessed discrimination in the past 12 months, and that's within our relatively short lives. This isn't acceptable. We want to grow up in a society free from this kind of hatred. We understand that there are a wide range of forms of discrimination and we intend to focus on those most prevalent for young people. We will undertake a large consultation with young people and organisations across Oldham to identify the most common experiences of discrimination. We will launch a campaign across social media addressing these and raising awareness and understanding.

We will be holding a young people's conference later this year to focus in and develop young people's ideas on how we can reduce discrimination. We will share these recommendations and share good practice that is already implemented in schools and other organisations widely across Oldham. We ask full Council to note our Key Priorities and to work with us and support the work we do in 2016 – 2018.

Councillor Chauhan commented on the motion and the amazing work being done by the Youth Council.

Councillor Shuttleworth commented on the motion and offered the Youth Council to attend events in Chadderton.

Councillor Williamson commented on the motion and congratulated the new members of the Youth Council.

Councillor Dearden commented on the motion and invited the Youth Council to speak at a future Health and Wellbeing Board.

**RESOLVED** that the Youth Council motion be noted.

11

## **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

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

Question 1: The Oldham Education Commission

“The end of the current school year is very nearly upon us. My first question to the Leader tonight concerns the Oldham Education Commission and the pathetically slow progress made so far in implementing its recommendations.

In fact, the story of the Commission seems to have unveiled at the pace of a lethargic tortoise from inception.

The Commission was established over two years ago by our former Leader at a launch in June 2014. An interim report in January 2015 failed to materialise. A second interim report promised in September 2015 failed to materialise. Then, when we on this side of the Chamber called for immediate publication, the December 2015 by-election was cited as reason to hold it up still further.

Finally in early 2016, the report saw the light of day. Given the delay, anyone would have thought we were trying to compete with the Chilcott Enquiry. You would have thought that, armed with its nineteen recommendations, our political and educational establishment would have been chomping on the bit to get going and make our schools great?

Like the mobile phone ad which urges us to be more dog, you would have thought that everyone involved would be saying we want to see the back of that lethargic tortoise and bring on the energetic hare. But no, the tortoise seemingly prevails.

Two years have passed. Two years in which the children of our Borough have been failed. Two years during which the Head of Ofsted reported that only a third of our children are able to study at 'good' or 'oustanding' schools, less than half the national average. Two years in which too many of our primary pupils have been taught in classes over 30. Two years in which one in five children have not got a place at their first choice of secondary school. And two years in which our level of educational achievement has languished below the national average.

Even last month I was disappointed when a report about Oldham's Education Provision Strategy 2016-2020 was withdrawn from the agenda of an Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting. A report that constituted over half the business; and the meatier half at that running to more than 100 pages, but as I said withdrawn!

Like the Chair of the Commission, Baroness Estelle Morris, I share the view that 'a good education is crucial to the future success of Oldham.'

My first question to the Leader tonight is therefore when is she going to set that hare running – when are things going to happen to make education in Oldham better and then hopefully great for all our children? After all they deserve nothing less!"

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that the hare was running. Implementation of the OESC was going well. Schools had worked together and appointed the Educational Partnership Lead, Mr. Calvert, and he would take up his post in September. The new body of the Educational Partnership was in the final stages of being formed and the schools were working together as collaboratives. We had moved because now 70% of children were in schools which were good or outstanding. Baroness Estelle Morris had been briefed with progress and she is pleased with what had been achieved since the publication of the report.

#### Question 2: College Merger May Jeopardise Student Prospects

"My second question tonight is also concerns education. And if I were still permitted three questions I would have made them all on 'education, education, education' – for it should be an issue at the forefront of the minds of all of us in the Chamber.

My question concerns the future prospects for the older students of our Borough, students looking to study at Oldham College on a vocational course. We are aware of the discussions that are ongoing between Oldham, Tameside and Stockport colleges to

create a new single entity covering East Manchester. Oldham College seeks to provide a range of technical and professional courses in our Borough to local students. And we are aspiring as a Borough to create a highly skilled workforce for the future. So surely having a local educational offer of vocational courses for our Borough's students must surely feature within our strategy? Is this merger more about the survival of these currently independent colleges in the on-going so called Area Review? Whose interest is it really in?

My fear is that the merger will lead to the courses that we need being taken away from our students who need them – and that many will find it difficult to access provision in Tameside and Stockport. A merger must surely then reduce our students' choices and erect un-necessary barriers to students continuing their education and training? And why Tameside and Stockport? Metrolink links us directly with Rochdale. So my second question to the Leader tonight is what reassurance can she give me that the Council is working at the highest level to ensure that the vocational offer available to students living, and wishing to study, in our Borough will be maintained in a local centre based in our Borough, come what may? Or will local provision go the way of the courts and tax office – I sincerely hope not!"

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that there had been concerns at GM level as the way the review had been implemented and had not involved all post-16 education and was right to have concerns about where this had ended up. She shared his concerns and has made it clear at GM. What was proposed was to put the three colleges together, one of which had severe financial challenges but the Council cannot allow Oldham young people to be impacted by this financial challenge. There had to be assurances that the financial challenges would be addressed which was not wholly allayed and that practices which had allowed these challenges in the first place not be allowed to continue. Rochdale had been in conversation with the other three colleges and it was still possible that Rochdale would be in the collective. There were also some issues around what might happen with the technical college. It was very clear if accepted we have to commit to every decision going forward so as not to undermine the outcome of the review.

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Hudson, asked the following question to the Leader of the Council:

He appreciated that local government had difficult decisions to make regarding cuts, but he asked if it would be possible to ask the Cabinet to think again about the decision of refuse collection going to three weeks. He added the fact about the pest control and rat motion on the Council agenda. Could it come back and tell Council what the money was being spent on to give convincing arguments to the resident of Oldham. How was the decision arrived at, people were very aggrieved and he requested some background to the decision.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council, responded that this was a decision that could not be reversed and it was not a decision taken lightly. Every local authority had done something about waste collection. This was not about saving money but avoiding future costs. Waste management was shared and if the Council did not do this, or introduce smaller bins, Oldham would take up the larger share of cost of rubbish going to landfill. There was nowhere to find the money and the Council could not raise council tax to cover that cost. The Leader stressed that food waste would be collected weekly and households with special circumstances were able to request additional bins and larger recycling bins could also be requested.

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

1. Councillor Fielding to Councillor Brownridge

"The number of notifications ward members have been receiving about incomplete refuse collection rounds, particularly green bin waste, seems to have been significantly higher so far this year than in previous years. Can the cabinet member responsible explain why this is and if the source of the problem has been identified, what will be done to address it?"

Councillor Brownridge responded that there had been a problem with bin sensors on the trucks but this had not been corrected. Green waste was a particular issue as the volume varied greatly throughout the year. Tonnages were significantly up on the same period last year which was positive in terms of recycling and the service reviewed the number of vehicles required on a daily basis. When problems arose, the impact was limited as much as it could be and corrected as soon as possible.

2. Councillor Shuttleworth to Councillor Hussain

"There can be no doubt that the metro link system has proven to be the success that many predicted and the 6 minute service that now runs from Shaw & Crompton is an even greater bonus. However, and this question has been asked before, when can we expect double carriages to become the norm as by the time that this service reaches Chadderton South, Hollinwood and Failsworth, it is invariably standing room only?"

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that TfGM currently deployed as many doubles as possible, catering to the highest levels of demand which were seen on the network. When TfGM launched the 6 minute service between Shaw and Crompton and the city centre, this increased capacity from Oldham into the city, which enabled Metrolink to carry more passengers. The vehicles were intended to carry many more passengers than the seated capacity and, in common with all other urban light rail services, standing for all or part of a journey during peak times to



maximise use of vehicle capacity was not unexpected. TfGM monitored all services to ascertain the level of crowding on each vehicle and used the available fleet in double formation where most necessary. TfGM would continue to monitor services on the Oldham Rochdale line for potential double operation in the future.



### 3. Councillor Brock to Councillor Moores

“I am astounded by the level of loneliness that I have encountered from individuals who contact me regarding issues in my ward and then end the conversation or email saying ' I am lonely, and I have not spoken to anyone for 2 weeks'. The Campaign to End Loneliness confirms that loneliness worse for us than lack of exercise or obesity. Can the relevant Cabinet Member comment on the council's policies which can help to tackle loneliness and what more can be done at District level to help lonely people?”

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, responded that the Council recognised the impact that loneliness could have on people's mental and physical health. There was a body of international research which had shown that social isolation and loneliness could cause, or make worse, a broad range of physical and psychological conditions. The Council commissioned a range of services which sought to reduce the level of social isolation and loneliness in Oldham. These included services provided by Age UK, such as lunch clubs and day care centres. Age UK also had a service call 'Men in Sheds' for men aged over fifty. The Council also supported the Ambition for Ageing programme in Oldham. This programme in Oldham was being led by Age UK Oldham and Action Together and aimed to create more age friendly places by connecting communities and people through the creation of relationships and the development of existing community assets. The emphasis of the work in Alexandra, Failsworth West and Crompton was to make small practical changes within the communities which would help lonely and isolated people participate in their local communities. The learning would be applied across Oldham in the next five years. It also highlighted that the best response to reduce social isolation was to support the development of thriving communities, where people were well connected and supported each other, and where there was a wide range of social activity for people to be involved in. This the main thrust of the Thriving Communities element of the Health and Social Care Locality Plan and highlighted the a pop up café, lunch clubs and a tea dance.

### 4. Councillor Harkness to Councillor Chadderton

“In the light of the news that certain residents intend to pursue a judicial review in relation to the proposal to develop a new Saddleworth School in Diggle, can the Cabinet member please tell me how long it is anticipated the review will take and how much longer the children of Saddleworth will have to wait before they are able to study at a state of the art modern facility instead

of a building that is crumbling by the day? An finally, by the way, can the Cabinet member tell how much the judicial review will cost the local authority and what impact this will have on education provision in our borough?"



Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years, responded that the Council had submitted its defence to the judicial review. The procedure now was that Save Diggle Action Group's application for permission to apply for judicial review would be determined within three weeks of the expiry of the time limit for filing the acknowledgement of service (i.e. by 18<sup>th</sup> July 2016). If permission was granted to appeal, the Judicial Review would then be heard on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016. As part of the Council's application to the High Court, the Council was seeking £7155 costs to pay for Counsel's fees for drafting the Council's defence. The cost of paying for this legal advice was paid for out of the Planning Department's legal advice budget. It has therefore not affected the Education budget of the Council.

#### 5. Councillor Ali to Councillor Moores

"Poor oral health is affecting Children in Oldham. It has been reported hospitals are spending £35M a year on Childrens 'rotting teeth'. There are fears that youngsters sugar addiction is spiraling out of control. What actions are we taking in Oldham to promote good Oral Health?"

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, responded that oral health had an important role in the general health and wellbeing of individuals. Poor oral health could affect the ability of children and young people sleep, eat, speak, play and socialise with other children. The oral health of children under the age of five had been identified as a priority by the Oldham Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board had set a challenging target to reduce the prevalence of dental decay in children aged five years from 48% to 38% by 2017/18. An oral health action plan was implemented with high level actions weighted towards tackling the underlying causes of dental disease which included:

- Increasing exposure to fluoride toothpaste,
- Embedding oral health improvement into early years services,
- Establishing a good oral health culture,
- Increasing dentist attendance where preventative treatment can take place,
- Reducing the frequency of consumption of foods and drinks with added sugar.

Public Health had commended the work being done in Oldham. But parents and carers must play their part by developing good habits from an early age. Breastfeeding and healthy eating both have a massive positive impact on oral health. Good oral health must start early.

#### 6. Councillor Toor to Councillor Stretton

“In light of the recent rise in hate crimes, what steps have been taken to protect our residents from this kind of unacceptable behaviour.

Can the leader give us assurance that, as a council, we are fully prepared and working with partners such as Racial Equality Partnership , Greater Manchester Police , Oldham Interfaith Forum to ensure safety and welfare of our residents?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that Oldham Council was working closely with Greater Manchester Police and other community safety and cohesion partners which included the Oldham Race Equality Partnership and the Interfaith Forum and all had well established processes for monitoring hate crimes, hate incidents and community tensions in the borough, which enabled us to respond together in a timely manner should the need arise. A senior police officer had attended a meeting and commented that Oldham was better equipped than most to get people around the table for a meeting if needed. While it appeared that there was a level of fear and anxiety within some sections of the community – particularly Eastern European people since the EU Referendum – there had been no evidence of a significant upsurge in hate crimes or incidents in Oldham. The Council would remain vigilant. It was not acceptable for people to live in fear.

#### 7. Councillor Murphy to Councillor Brownridge

“I am sure that elected members would, where possible, love to preserve the remaining mills in our borough when they have architectural merit as a reminder of our textile heritage. However, the reality is that some of these mills are in such a dilapidated condition that they cannot be saved. In this condition, listed status can make it impossible to carry out demolition to make the site safe, to remove an eyesore and to create space for redevelopment.

The Cabinet member will be aware that this was recently the case with Hartford Mill in Werneth, where demolition has been so protracted.

Could the Cabinet Member please tell me if there are any other mills in the Borough in a similar condition to the Hartford Mill which also cannot be easily demolished because of their listed status and what the Council is doing to ensure that they are demolished in the interests of public safety and in order to build much needed public housing as soon as possible?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that there were five listed mills at varying degrees of risk which included Hartford Mill and Baileys Mill. A lot of the mills were iconic buildings and were linked to Oldham’s historical heritage and would be reluctant to see them all flattened. Some were difficult to convert, but 67% of extant mills were in active use for either residential or commercial purposes. There were a small number at risk and which caused a problem. As part of the Greater Manchester Spatial

Framework (GMSF) the Council would be reviewing all mill buildings in terms of a development strategy for the town.

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 minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Blyth – Cabinet Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016, pages 21 and 22, Agenda Item 6 – Outcome of Brokerage Services (Encompassing Payroll) Tender – his question related to those brokers who had not met the criteria and would service users be forced to use those providers on the list. Residents were becoming distressed in having to use someone new whom they did not know. Could consideration be given to work with their broker and get on the list over the next 12 months?

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding, responded that the reason for doing this was for good providers to give the best outcomes. She would provide a full answer in the near future.

2. Councillor Harkness, Cabinet Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, page 15, Agenda Item 10 – Creation of Digital Enterprise Hub in Oldham Town Centre – he drew attention to recent comments at the LGA Conference where up to six additional jobs could be created on top of every digital job created and asked about the development of a specific e-commerce strategy resulting in high skilled jobs in the borough.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, responded that this was largely covered in the Strategic Investment Framework.

3. Councillor Rehman, Cabinet Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, page 14 – Agenda Item 8, Oldham Council Policy for Monitoring, Challenge, Support and Intervention in Schools – he asked about the implementation of the 19 recommendations.

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years, responded that the recommendations were in the process of being implemented and there had been an improvement in Ofsted ratings. When the Commission was set up two years ago, there would not be changed overnight but in 2020 children would be in fundamentally better education. This was not a quick process with a long term review of change.



Members made the following observations:

1. Councillor Turner – Cabinet Meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, Page 18, Item 14 – Business Improvement Grant Schemes for Shaw, Lees and A62 Corridor – Variation to Grant Amounts. She welcomed the enhancements in payments which had made necessary improvements to the shop fronts.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise, responded that she was glad she was pleased.

2. Councillor Williams – Cabinet minutes 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016, page 16, Item 12 – Capital Investment Programme 2015/16. Councillor Williams commented on the work of the capital investment programme and the supported the work of the Cabinet in bringing plans to fruition.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and HR responded that despite the cuts, the Council had a very healthy capital programme. All projects had been delivered on time and on budget and the Council had not borrowed any money to fund the programme.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016 and 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016 be noted.
2. The questions and responses on the Cabinet minutes be noted.
3. The observations and response on the Cabinet minutes be noted.

13

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor Shuttleworth MOVED and Councillor A. Alexander SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council wishes to repeat that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Racism, xenophobia and hate crimes have no place in the metropolitan borough of Oldham or elsewhere. We condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. Oldham MBC will continue to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent all forms of racism and xenophobia.



We wish to reassure all people living within the borough that they are valued members of our community.  
This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball giving them our unequivocal support in tackling such behaviour.”

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Gloster MOVED and Councillor Harkness  
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“At the end of the first sentence insert as a second sentence:  
“Council believes that everyone should be free to live their lives without fear of abuse or attack on the basis of who they are.”

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph is amended to read: “Racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia and disablism have no place in the metropolitan borough of Oldham or elsewhere. We condemn racism, xenophobia and hate crimes unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.”

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph to read: “Council believes that hate crimes are particularly corrosive as they strike at the heart of our communities – breaking them down by making people look at one another with suspicion and mistrust.”

Wording in the former second paragraph, now fourth paragraph, to be amended to read: “Oldham MBC will continue to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent all forms of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and disablism.”

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph to read:

“Council notes, with pride, that:

- in December 2014 it resolved to condemn disability hate crimes and to support the work of the Disability Hate Crime Network and the MENCAP Stand by Me campaign and
- in April 2015, Council resolved to support the We Stand Together campaign and to become the first UK local authority to sign the Pledge to Peace. “

After this insert a new paragraph. The wording in this new paragraph to read:

“Council recognises that its involvement with all of these initiatives helps to combat prejudice and discrimination and build a more cohesive and peaceful borough.”

The original third and fourth paragraphs (now the seventh and eighth) are then to follow; the wording remaining unchanged. However after “behaviour” insert the following additional wording:

“and requesting that they work with the Council and its local partners to:

1. Challenge prejudice, hate and negative stereotyping.
2. Run activities to celebrate diversity and to highlight the positive contribution that everyone makes in our society.

3. Support a new campaign to encourage the public to report hate crimes and to remind potential, and actual, perpetrators that hate crimes are still against the law and that they are treated very seriously.
4. Create an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion for asylum-seekers and refugees.”

Amended Motion would then read:

This Council wishes to repeat that we are proud to live in a diverse and tolerant society. Council believes that everyone should be free to live their lives without fear of abuse or attack on the basis of who they are.

Racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia and disablism have no place in the metropolitan borough of Oldham or elsewhere. We condemn these attitudes and the hate crimes that result from them unequivocally. We will not allow hate to become acceptable.

Council believes that hate crimes are particularly corrosive as they strike at the heart of our communities – breaking them down by making people look at one another with suspicion and mistrust.

Oldham MBC will continue to ensure local bodies and programmes have the support needed to fight and prevent all forms of racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, and disablism.

Council notes with pride, that:

- in December 2014 it resolved to condemn disability hate crimes and to support the work of the Disability Hate Crime Network and the MENCAP Stand by Me campaign and
- in April 2015, Council resolved to support the We Stand Together campaign and to become the first UK local authority to sign the Pledge to Peace.

Council recognises that its involvement with all of these initiatives helps to combat prejudice and discrimination and build a more cohesive and peaceful borough.

We wish to reassure all people living within the borough that they are valued members of our community.

This Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball giving them our unequivocal support in tackling such behaviour and requesting that they work with the Council and its local partners to:

1. Challenge prejudice, hate and negative stereotyping
2. Run activities to celebrate diversity and to highlight the positive contribution that everyone makes in our society
3. Support a new campaign to encourage the public to report hate crimes and to remind potential, and actual, perpetrators that hate crimes are still against the law and that they are treated very seriously.
4. Create an atmosphere of welcome and inclusion for asylum-seekers and refugees

Councillor Murphy spoke on the amendment.

The AMENDMENT was MOVED to the VOTE.

Councillor Shuttleworth did not exercise his right of reply.  
Councillor Gloster did not exercise 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-FIVE votes cast AGAINST and NO ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the motion.  
Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the motion.  
Councillor Ur-Rehman spoke in support of the motion.  
Councillor Bates spoke on the motion.

Councillor Shuttleworth exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Superintendent Caroline Ball given them our unequivocal support in tackling such behaviour.

#### Motion 2:

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor S. Bashforth as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Briggs, as Secunder of the Motion, MOVED the motion to the vote.

Councillor S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor Briggs SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes the potential for proliferation across the borough, of residential properties being used as houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). Existing dwelling houses (Planning Use Class C3) can be converted to a HMO (Planning Use Class C4), which provides shared accommodation for three to six unrelated individuals as their only or main residence without the need for planning permission leaving residents and local elected members with no powers to resist or influence them. Concerns have also been expressed by residents and elected members about the steady rise in the number of planning applications for larger scale HMOs which do require planning permission. Concerns expressed include excess noise, parking problems, forests of “To Let” boards and refuse problems. There are also serious and credible concerns regarding the effect on existing settled communities and the radical change to the character of an area together with the impact on local services and amenities HMOs can present. This Council notes

these concerns, as it does the loss of family accommodation through houses and business premises being used in this way. Council instructs officers to establish a robust evidence base outlining the impact of HMOs in order to:-

- Develop a planning policy using existing and possible new policies to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Explore the possibility of introducing a borough-wide Article 4 Direction removing permitted development rights for change of use from C3 dwelling houses to C4 HMOs.
- Develop and introduce additional licencing powers to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Review and strengthen as necessary existing standards of construction, maintenance and management of all types of HMOs.”

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that officers be instructed to establish a robust evidence base outlining the impact of HMOs in order to: -

- Develop a planning policy using existing and possible new policies to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Explore the possibility of introducing a borough-wide Article 4 Direction removing permitted development rights for change of use from C3 dwelling houses to C4 HMOs.
- Develop and introduce additional licensing powers to deal with all types of HMOs.
- Review and strengthen as necessary existing standards of construction, maintenance and management of all types of HMOs.

### Motion 3:

Councillor Moores as Mover of the Motion, and Councillor Price as Seconder of the Motion, requested that Council permit the following motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

“In Oldham, more than a third of adults are physically inactive (36.28%) and Oldham was ranked 141<sup>st</sup> out of 150 local authorities researched in terms of rates of physical activity in 2013. UKActives *Turning The Tide of Inactivity* report estimates that this lack of regular exercise by the Oldham population is estimated to cost the Oldham £53.5million a year.

Physical inactivity is known to be the fourth leading cause of global mortality, and many of the leading causes of ill health in today’s society, such as coronary heart disease, cancer and type 2 Diabetes, could be prevented if more inactive people were to become active.

The *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy* was published in June 2015 and provides the blueprint for

physical activity and sport's contribution to the overall Greater Manchester Strategy. The intended outcomes of the strategy are to:

- Increase levels of participation in physical activity and sport to reduce levels of inactivity
- Increase active travel leading to increased opportunities for walking, cycling and running
- Increase economic output of the sport and physical activity sector

Being physically active should be something we build into our everyday lifestyle from going out for a walk through to playing sport.

Council is therefore asked to;

- Give its support to the *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy*
- Instruct the relevant officers to develop an action plan to detail how the pledges will be developed and implemented in Oldham”

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be rolled over to the next Council meeting scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

14

## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### Motion 1

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Blyth SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes that:

- Other local authorities across the world, from Leeds in West Yorkshire to Ipswich in Australia, are looking to, or have introduced, a free mobile phone bin app to enable local residents to receive reminders informing them which of their refuse bins should be put out for collection on which date and to notify them of service disruptions and emergency events.
- A survey by Ipswich City Council in Queensland found that the use of such technology reduces the frustration of residents, reduces the amount of rubbish put out in error and not collected, and reduces the costs to the local authority in eliminating the need for an annual recycling calendar print run and mail out
- With the introduction of three-weekly bin collections across the borough such technology has the potential to assist residents to more efficiently self-manage their waste
- Council resolves to ask the relevant Cabinet Member to request that officers look at the merits and costs of introducing such a bin app for the Oldham borough, and to provide an update to elected members on this in due course.”

Councillor Brownridge spoke on the motion.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.





A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, FIFTY-TWO votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with ONE vote cast AGAINST and NO ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the relevant Cabinet Member be asked to request that officers look at the merits and costs of introducing such a bin app for the Oldham Borough, and an update be provided to elected members on this in due course.

### Motion 2

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Gloster SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes that:

- The British Pest Control Association (the BPCA) has said that rats are becoming immune to traditional pellets used by homeowners and that the poisons which can be purchased in supermarkets may actually be turning the rodents into ‘super rats’.
- The Chief Executive of BPCA has said, “The rodents have become resistant and, in some cases, immune to off-the-shelf poisons to the point where they’re actually feeding off the toxic pellets, which means their size and strength is increasing.”
- Genetic testing by Huddersfield University has revealed that the rodents have developed a mutation that allows them to survive conventional poisons. In counties such as Hampshire, Berkshire, Surrey, Wiltshire, a Suffolk, and Kent, all the rats tested were found to have immunity to poison.
- Rodents are difficult to kill with poisons because their feeding habits reflect their place as scavengers. Rats will eat a small amount of food and wait, and if they don't get sick, they then continue to eat.

Council further notes that.

- Stronger rodenticides can be more effective, but most are subject to strict legislation and must only be used by professional pest controllers.
- The BPCA is now predicting that rats are likely to seek to enter homes for warmth and food during the winter months
- Rats can squeeze themselves through gaps as small as three-quarters of an inch and are often found living under floorboards, in the walls or in the loft.
- In 2015, rats measuring 50-60 cm (2ft) have been captured in places as far apart as Cornwall, Kent and Liverpool.
- Rats can carry illnesses which can be passed to humans, including Weil’s disease, which has flu-like symptoms initially but can lead to jaundice and kidney failure.
- Rats chew on wood and electrical wires causing significant property damage and posing a fire hazard.

Council believes:

- That rats are a danger to the health and wellbeing of residents

- That the problem of an increasing rat population, which is immune to many standard poisons, must be addressed
- Inexpert use of poison can make the problem worse  
Council resolves to:
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to request officers publicise the risk posed by poison resistant rats and offer advice as to how residents can 'rat proof' their homes, by for example fitting strips to the bottoms of doors, filling small gaps in exterior walls, repairing roof damage and covering drains to prevent entry via pipes.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three local Members of Parliament asking them to lobby the Government for national action on the problem of super rats”

Councillor Brownridge spoke on the motion.

Councillor Bates spoke on the motion.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. the relevant Cabinet Member(s) be asked to request officers publicise the risk posed by poison resistant rats and offer advice as to how residents can 'rat proof' their homes, by for example fitting strips to the bottoms of stairs, filling small gaps in exterior walls, repairing roof damage and covering drains to prevent entry via pipes.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to our three local Members of Parliament asking them to lobby the Government for national action on the problem of super rats.

Motion 3

Councillor McCann MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes that:

- The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPE) published in June 2016 a report titled 'Night Blight: Mapping England's light pollution and dark skies'
- In the report, light pollution refers to artificial light shining where it is 'neither needed nor wanted'
- Light pollution impacts both upon the quality of life of residents and their ability to see the night sky
- Local Councils spend around £600 million on street lighting a year; yet, where misdirected, much light energy is lost as light pollution

- The report identifies that Oldham has very high levels of light pollution in many of its districts, particularly in the town centre areas.  
The report makes a number of recommendations to local Councils to:
  - Implement Government policy to control light pollution, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance
  - Develop policies to control light pollution in local plans, including ensuring that new developments do not increase light pollution
  - Identify highways with severe light pollution and target action to reduce it
  - Develop a Street Lighting Policy, including Environmental Lighting Zones to ensure that appropriate lighting is used in each area
  - Look to the guidance produced by the Institute of Light Professionals and the examples of best practice carried out by UK local authorities in installing LED lighting and dimming lights in rural areas in the early morning
  - Council, being mindful that the reduction of light pollution is a desirable objective, resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Planning Committee to look into the merits and practicalities of adopting these recommendations for the borough.”

Councillor McCann did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put to the vote, FIFTY-TWO votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 0 votes cast AGAINST and 2 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Planning Committee be asked to look into the merits and practicalities of adopting these recommendations for the borough.

- (a) To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

To note the minutes of the Partnership meeting and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members.

Minutes of the Partnerships were submitted as follows:

Unity Partnership Board	14 <sup>th</sup> January 2016 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
2016 MioCare	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2016
Health and Wellbeing Board	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2016
Oldham Leadership Board	20 <sup>th</sup> April 2016

There were no questions or observations.



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

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

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

The minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:

Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority February 2016	12 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> March
2016 Police and Crime Panel 2016	29 <sup>th</sup> January 29 <sup>th</sup> April
2016 Greater Manchester Combined Authority February 2016	26 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup> March
2016	29 <sup>th</sup> April
2016	27 <sup>th</sup> May
2016 Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive February 2016	26 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup> April
2016	27 <sup>th</sup> May
2016 National Park Authority 2016	5 <sup>th</sup> February 18 <sup>th</sup> March
2016 Transport for Greater Manchester 2016	15 <sup>th</sup> January 11 <sup>th</sup> March
2016 Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority February 2016	11 <sup>th</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> April
2016	

There were no questions or observations.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes as detailed in the report be noted.

**LIVING WAGE PROPOSALS FROM APRIL 2016**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Health and Wellbeing which recommended that Oldham

continued as a Living Wage Employer, as defined by the Living Wage Foundation. In order to achieve this, the Council's pay and grading structure required consideration and approval by full Council.



In 2014, the Council had committed to implement rises in the Living Wage annually starting in April 2015 subject to annual impact assessments which was provided in the report. The Living Wage Foundation announced an increase for 2016. Future assessments would be undertaken following announcements for the determination of impacts and potential costs for each 12 month period. The report took account of the current temporary changes to terms and conditions and the 2016/17 pay award which had now been settled for National Joint Council (NJC) employees.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1: Align Grade 1 to SCP 12 and begin Grade 2 at SCP 13.

Option 2: Create a local SCP of £8.25 per hour.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. the changes to the Council's pay and grading structure as outlined in preferred Option 1 (paragraph 3.2 of the report) be approved and pay parity to Agency and Casual Workers engaged by the Council be applied.
2. the report addressed a one year position only which applied from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 be noted.
3. the backdating for those positively affected to 1 April 2017 be noted and this incorporated and not in addition to the 2016 national pay award settlements at this level.
4. the work in progress of the multi-disciplinary task for the preparation of the submission required for phased accreditation by the Living Wage Foundation as outlined at Section 9 of the report be noted.

16

**DISTRICT PLANS AND SPENDING GUIDANCE**

The Council gave consideration to the report of the Executive Director of Health and Wellbeing which set out the action plans for each of Oldham's seven Districts for the coming 12 months. The actions plans were based on consultation, analysis of data and deliberation by the elected Councillors in each district. The actions plans had been approved by their respective District Executives. It was intended for the priorities to be set on a rolling two year basis, but for action plans to detailed how these priorities would be delivered for one year.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. the District Plans which had been agreed by each District Executive be formally approved.
2. the associated approach or spending Ward and Member budgets, ensuring this was in line with District Plans be agreed.



17

**UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to the 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.

**RESOLVED** that the update on actions report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.31 pm

