

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

Councillors Akhtar, Ali, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Briggs, Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Dean, Fielding, Garry, Gloster, Goodwin, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hewitt, Hudson, A Hussain, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Jacques, Klonowski, J Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Turner, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth

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

The Mayor advised the meeting that the next item on the agenda in Open Council was Public Question Time. The questions had been received from members of the public and would be taken in the order in which they had been received. Council was advised that if a questioner was not present, then the question would appear on the screens in the Council Chamber.

The following questions had been submitted:

1.        Question received from Syed Maruf Ali via Facebook:

“Hi can you raise this at the full council meeting please. Who's responsible is it to maintain the Tudor Pitch in Coppice? The health and wellbeing of our community is never more important to get right. The levels of obesity are rising and we want to do something about it. Some of the residents have been at the heart of our community for a very long time and advocated providing facilities to local communities. The state of the Tudor Football Pitch is outdated and is need of repair. When it rains it causes health and safety hazard. We now need to address the outside areas and working with our Cllr's, Oldham Authority and St Thomas School to provide a 4G pitch. Our deserving community require first class facility in order to make a real difference. Coppice/Werneth has long been overlooked for such a facility and many people have to travel across the Ward in Hollins, Failsworth and other areas to access decent training venues or play matches because the pitch is not suitable. Tudor pitch is at the heart of the Coppice community. Werneth/Coppice has an extremely young age profile (30% aged 0-15), with a shrinking elderly population (down to 9% from 11.4% in 2001) Residents are passionate about providing facilities for all to use. For a long time now, the Coppice community have been overlooked in the provision of outdoor playing spaces, we are probably the only ward in

Oldham that does not have an artificial 4G pitch and we need help of our Cllr's, MP's, Local Authority and St Thomas Primary School to change that. As you can appreciate, the funds needed for such a project run into the hundreds of thousands and, at a time when school budgets are becoming ever increasingly tighter, it is never more important to find partnership funding. We need to raise this money to demonstrate the community's support for the project and to make it the success it deserves to be. We therefore require all the stakeholders to arrange a meeting to find fundings and work with local community. As you will have read above, this facility would be the only one of its kind in the community and, as such, its importance cannot be underestimated. Coppice is deserving of high quality sports facilities that are easily accessible by all and therefore needs your support to make it a reality.”

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing responded that St. Thomas School was responsible for the maintenance of the Tudor Street Pitch as it formed part of the school's playing fields. The majority of wards in Oldham did not have 4G pitches as these tended to serve the wider district. However, the Council recognised the importance of such facilities in communities and welcomed involvement on how the Council could advise the school and the community as to how it could take the project forward. Potential funding streams would be looked as well as the strategic fit to maximised opportunity. Officers would be asked to contact Mr. Ali.

2. Question asked by Joe Wheeler:

“After many years of debate and delay the new School is currently still on the drawing board. What action will you take to bring an urgent end to these disheartening delays and give the children of Saddleworth a new secondary school that is of the 21<sup>st</sup> century?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded how beneficial it was to hear from an ex-pupil and headboy about his experiences at the school. The current school was not fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and students should be in facilities fit for today. The issue had been ongoing for a long time. The majority of Saddleworth parents were for a new school and everything pointed to the Diggle Site as being the best site. Discussions had been ongoing with the Department for Education and the EFA to look at the outcome of the judicial review. Saddleworth needed a new school. A planning application was to be submitted in the near future and it was anticipated to go to Planning in early 2018. It was hoped to have some sort of resolution.

3. Question received from Andy Hunter-Rossall via email:

“Planning laws state that if a developer expects to make less than 20% profit on a development then they can ignore a council's regulations about the proportion of affordable homes. Since 2010, how many developments have complied with Oldham's affordable housing regulations, and how many have not? What proportion of the houses in the Bellway homes development at the Lancaster Club in Failsworth will be affordable? Are the council aware of policies in Islington, Greenwich, Lambeth and Bristol councils to force developers to publish viability assessments when developers claim they expect to make less than 20% profit? Would the council be in favour of a similar policy in Oldham?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that planning legislation did not prescribe that developers could ignore affordable housing provision if they made less than 20% profit of the development cost. A 20% profit was, in officers' opinion, the top end of profit a developer could expect to be made in Oldham. The Council's current affordable housing policy stated that 7.5% of total development sales value should go towards the delivery of affordable housing. This policy was likely to be changed in an amended Local Plan to ensure a percentage and types of affordable housing were provided to meet Oldham's housing need. In the short time available, it was not able to provide information as to how many developments had complied with Oldham's affordable housing regulations as this meant having to assess every housing application's total development sales since 2010. However, as had been reported in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report, since 2008/09, 897 affordable housing units had been delivered, out of 1,836 additional dwellings (2,870 built, 1,034 cleared) which was 48.85%. No affordable housing was provided in the Lancaster Club scheme because of viability issues in the development of the site. However, an overage clause had been included in the S106 agreement which ensured that, at the end of the development, a reconciliation would be carried out, based on actual values, and once the developer had recovered the original land purchase price, any profits over and above 20%, would be paid towards the requirement amount of affordable housing. Some Council's in 'hot' housing market areas had a policy which forced developers to publish viability assessments. The council was considering these as the new Local Plan was being developed whilst also being mindful of the commercial sensitivity issues that such an approach raised.

4. Question asked by Jackie Stanton:

“There are 7 derelict housing sites in Derker, they are never maintained, they are covered in weeds that are

over 6 feet tall and all add to the appearance of blight and neglect in the area. Residents understand that FCHO are about to submit a planning application to build 52 family homes on the derelict site on Acre Lane, this is to be welcomed. The downside is FCHO have not carried out meaningful consultation with residents in the area, this is not only wrong but a missed opportunity. Would the relevant Cabinet Member, please request or instruct FCHO to carry out a thorough consultation exercise in regard to the application to ensure we get the best possible development.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council was not in a position to instruct a developer to do consultation. Where appropriate, the Council encouraged full local consultation by applicants on significant development schemes and would, therefore, be happy to request First Choice Homes Oldham consider undertaking further consultation with Derker residents on this particular proposal.

5. Question received from Shaun McGrath via email:

“With regard to the lack of any tenant representative on the board of First Choice Homes Oldham, I would be interested in what board member, Cllr Barbara Brownridge has to say in response to the following: A former tenant board member has informed me that there was never any indication whatsoever that tenants would ever cease to remain on the board. In fact, from the discussions held during the transfer process, it was a mainstay that tenants, their rights and voice would always be heard and taken into account. Harry Burns, the ex-chair of the board, post and prior to the actual transfer, was explicit in his remarks that tenants would remain at the heart of FCHO and said as such publicly on numerous occasions and at a similar number of consultation events with tenants. I would like a written response to this question.”

Councillor Brownridge responded as follows:

“The stock transfer offer document committed First Choice Homes Oldham (FCHO) to have a main board of 5 tenants, 4 independents and 3 Councillors. This board was put in place in 2011 and remained in place for the 5 years duration of the offer document. The HCA which regulates housing associations recently introduced more stringent regulations and governance standards following the failure of Cosmopolitan Housing Association. The new standards set out the expectation for the skills and experience of boards to ensure they can manage the associations as thriving businesses. As a result, FCHO completed an independent review in consultation with existing known tenant groups as well as

the Council and other partners. Tenants were advised of the changes and invited to comment and these comments were considered. Tenants were also notified of the changes once they had been implemented. The FCHO Board currently has one customer member in line with the recommendations agreed in the review. Currently, the Customer Congress made up of selected customers is part of the formal governance structure which reports to the main board. Its Chair attends Board meetings as an observer. Customers remain at the centre of the business and there is day-to-day customer and community engagement, participation and consultation.”

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. Question received from Councillor Ball:

“Oldham is plagued with empty canisters of nitrous oxide, what are we doing to stop these being used illegally by teenagers?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that officers from Community Safety Services had been working with colleagues from Greater Manchester Police and the Licensing Team who had visited a number of retail premises in the locality of areas where empty nitrous oxide canisters and reminded retailers of their legal responsibilities and secure voluntary engagement in the adoption of a Challenge 25 type approach. The response from retailers who had been found to be selling the canisters had been very positive. This work would be continued across the borough. In addition, Community Safety Services would also seek a specific term within any new Public Spaces Protection Orders being pursued in respect of parks and open spaces. The term would prohibit the possession of such canisters or any other new psychoactive substance within the defined areas. Details of any premises believed to be selling these items to young people in an irresponsible manner were to be reported to Greater Manchester Police on 101.

2. Councillor Fielding asked the following question:

“Due to conservative government cuts to TfGM, Failsworth West has seen some subsidised bus services reduced or removed completely, severing vital, regular



links to hospitals and other important services for those without private transport.

At the GMCA meeting on Friday 30th June the combined authority voted to proceed with an investigation in how to use the powers afforded to it in the bus services bill to regulate bus services in Greater Manchester. Could I have reassurance from the relevant cabinet member that local ward members and residents will have the opportunity to influence any franchising arrangements if bus service regulation is ultimately pursued so that we can create a network that truly reflects the needs of local communities rather than just the needs of bus company shareholders?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the Bus Services Act 2017 granted the mayoral combined authority new options for the improvement to bus services for passengers and on 30<sup>th</sup> June, GMCA confirmed its intention to explore these options that included the option to franchise bus services which the new legislation afforded. No decision had yet been made and there was more work to be done on the development of the proposals. Any future changes to the way the bus market in Greater Manchester was managed would be subject to public consultation where passengers, residents, businesses and stakeholders would be asked to share their views on the proposals. When plans were at a stage suitable for consultation, TfGM would be encouraging all members to pass on the news of the consultation to encourage a good level of response which would inform future plans.

3. Councillor Dean asked the following question:

"Could the appropriate Cabinet member respond to an issue causing local residents concern in regard to the aborted development on Stephenson St /Ann Square Waterhead: the site has been left with a major evacuation, which includes drops of over 30 feet, this is a danger to local children as well as leaving an environment mess . This situation has been in place for over a year."

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that this was not a planning issue as there was no breach of planning control. The site had been secured and was not considered a danger to the public unless the site was broken into illegally.

4. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

"Just behind the former Waggon and Horses pub in High Crompton, Shaw on a Council owned car park is a vehicle taking up a much needed parking space that is neither taxed, insured and MoT tested – this is something

that you would have thought easy to solve - a vehicle that shouldn't be on the road. On the Council website it reads "vehicles which appear to have been abandoned are dealt with by Greater Manchester Police in the first instance", we have tried that and Police are unable to help and instead have directed Crompton ward members back to the Council who in turn direct members back to the Police. Would the Cabinet member for Environmental Services please provide assistance as we feel we are going round in circles?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that abandoned vehicles that were not on the public highway were dealt with by Environmental Health in the first instance. They carried out checks to try and trace the owner and, if needed, served legal notice.

5. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:

"With the closure of the Collective Spirit Free School in Chadderton South may I request an answer to the following:

- have all the Oldham based students now been allocated places at other academies?
- is there any update as to whether or not the land that the government forced us to hand over will be returned to local authority control?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that a lot of time had been spent on moving a large number of students. Of the 196 students, 165 were from Oldham and 156 had now been allocated a place at other schools. Discussions were ongoing with the remaining students. A lot of work had been undertaken over the summer which included the adaptation of the UTC building. With regard to the land, which rightfully should come back to the Council, discussions were ongoing with the Government on the future of the site. When there was an answer, members would be updated.

6. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

"Residents of Chadderton North are concerned with the inadequate lighting and CCTV at the subway at Broadway. The subway intersects at Eustace St leading to the park Gate Estate. There have been reports of anti social behaviour. Please can the relevant cabinet member provide an update on the lighting situation and if anything can be done to install/improve CCTV at the subway. "

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the subway lighting was being

upgraded by Highways England with the subway section completed and commissioned. Lighting on either side of the subway near the ramps and the steps was currently being installed by the Agency. CCTV cameras were located on each ramped access to the subway and the Council was exploring with Highways England available options to further improve the coverage.

7. Councillor Moores asked the following question:

“Foxdenton Park in Chadderton Central Ward is well used by the local community, at a recent meeting with residents the following issues were raised.

1. The level of water in the large pond is very low.
2. The water in the small pond appears to be contaminated.

Could the relevant Cabinet Member please tell us what steps are being taken to rectify the problems with the 2 ponds in the park?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that Environmental Services had noticed that the water levels were low in the main pond which was having a direct impact on the water quality in the lower pond. Officers were scheduled to meet with developers who had taken control of the land adjacent to the park to determine if there were any links to the development that may have caused the problem. Once discussions had taken place a response would be shared with members.

8. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

“My constituents in Austerlands and Springhead are greatly concerned at the proposal to develop 265 houses at Ashbrook and Thornley Brook valleys with a road potentially going through from Springhead Post Office to Lees New Road. The numbers of properties proposed in the new application has nearly doubled. This will devastate the environment and wildlife, and will mean the loss of a vital greenspace in the area. I would like to ask the Cabinet Member if this is going to be a sign of things to come with the increasing demand for land for housing at all costs overriding any concern for the loss of our precious green belt; just because this Council chooses to remain within the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that as with any application submitted to the Planning Committee it would be considered on normal planning grounds whereby benefits of the application would be set against the provision of a new link road and the potential environmental issues that had been outlined. The Committee would then come to a view on whether the



scheme was acceptable. All councils had a legislative duty to meet their assessed housing needs whether in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework or not. Failure to do so could result in planning by appeal which would be the worst of all worlds. It was possible that unpopular decisions would have to be made to ensure the Council met those needs with appropriate quality of development with mature consultation with residents going forward that would allow the formation of a revised Local Plan.

9. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

“At present, the gates at Failsworth Lower park are open between dawn and dusk. Could it be considered closing the gates earlier to avoid the needless acts of vandalism which are taking place at the moment.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that parks were open due to local demands and it would be difficult to justify closing a park earlier without provoking a negative reaction. Alternative ways were needed to be found for anti-social behaviour to be addressed. Officers from Environmental Services and Community Safety would work together to address the situation.

10. Councillor Phythian asked the following question:

“Yesterday the Council announced a £2m investment in Royton Town Hall to preserve this wonderful building and update Royton's library service. Would the relevant Cabinet member join me in encouraging Royton residents to give their feedback on the proposals and in welcoming this significant investment in Royton?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that there had been significant public and private investment in Royton over the past few years and the Council was keen to see this continue and the commitment to improve the Town Hall and Library buildings demonstrated this. It was hoped that this would attract further private investment across the wider District Centre. During the next stage of the process, members of the community who used the library and the Town Hall, as well as other building users, would be contacted for their needs to be captured and understand the priorities for a modern library and town hall space. A series of events and sessions would be held over the coming weeks and months. These would be advertised on social media and display boards. All residents were urged to be on the lookout for the consultation sessions and come along to have a say.

11. Councillor M. Bashforth asked the following question:

“We have some excellent parks in Royton South which have always been very well and regularly maintained. We understand that the government cuts are making this level of maintenance difficult now but are very keen to see they continue to be clean, tidy and safe. Can the cabinet member responsible assure us that regular and effective maintenance is taking place and that a schedule of that maintenance is issued to us so we can better deal with residents’ concerns as they arise?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives gave assurances that parks would continue to be maintained which were an important part of the borough. With the cuts, how maintenance happened may have to be changed. A greenspace strategy was being developed. Officers would be happy to answer any questions.

12. Councillor Sheldon asked a question related to the water levels in reservoirs. Councillor Sheldon expressed his appreciation to the excellent job done by teams who cleared the debris. There was not much that could be done about the weather but future flooding could be controlled. Dovestone Reservoir was completely full and there were three further reservoirs higher up. The overflow went into the River Tame and nearby brooks. Councillor Sheldon asked if discussions could take place with United Utilities to request that water levels be maintained at less than 100% to reduce the situation where flooding occurs after heavy rain.

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that he was pleased to hear about the hard work by the teams. He would look into the points raised and what action could be taken.

13. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“Residents of Foxdenton Lane have raised the issue of large road vehicles accessing the Foxdenton/Broadway Green development from Broadway, rather than using Broadgate. There is already a weight restriction in place on Foxdenton Lane between Broadway and the entrance to the site, could the relevant Cabinet Member please advise us what if any additional strategies could be put in place to prevent vehicles accessing the development site via the junction of Broadway and Foxdenton Lane?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that owing for the need to be able to maintain HGV access to the Foxdenton Lane area for legitimate deliveries, there were no other Traffic Regulations available for the Highway Authority to implement along this road. However, the appropriate HV routes to and from the development site would be made

clear to drivers with the introduction of Advanced Direction Signing on both the inbound and outbound routes.



**Oldham**  
Council

14. Councillor Mushtaq asked the following question:

“We have a large number of residential care homes in Alexandra Ward. What is happening to ensure that they all reach a good or outstanding rating?”

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding responded that a number of approaches were used to support care homes which improved their quality, although ultimately this was the responsibility of each care home and its legal responsibility as a regulated care provider. However, as a commissioner of services, with a responsibility of market oversight, the Council undertook a range of activities that included:

- Local quality standard ratings which grade providers against a quality assessment framework;
- ‘Levels of harm’ data: care homes return monthly logs of low level concerns that were dealt with by the provider. These were analysed to identify trends or common themes by provider and across the sector to inform monitoring activity
- Quality Monitoring Visits: These were undertaken to ensure that contractual requirements were being met and that the quality of care was to the expected standard. The monitoring visits identified any areas of concern and provided support to the provider to improve their delivery of care and support.
- Care Quality Commission meetings: bi-monthly meetings were undertaken between the Council, NHS Commissioners and the CQC to ensure effective communication between the sector regulators and commissioners.
- Provider Forum: the monthly forums acted as a way of communicating collectively across the care sector and provided an opportunity to share good practice, inform of upcoming developments and opportunities and provided and received feedback on all aspects of care delivery and commissioning.

Working was ongoing with the CCG for the development of a joint approach to the risk assessment quality assurance approach which is happening at a Greater Manchester level. It was important to note a lot of work was being done. Improvement in CQC ratings was also a major priority as well as a programme of work developed focused in the improvement of quality in the Oldham care home market.

15. Councillor S. Bashforth asked the following question:

“The new Royton Leisure centre has been a tremendous success and attracts people from all over the Borough. This has been a double edged sword especially at peak times when all available official parking spaces are taken causing frustration to visitors and residents alike. Adjacent the site there are currently pieces of land up for sale. Would the cabinet member responsible be willing to enter into discussion with OCLL with a view to allocating some of this land to help ease the current problems which will only get worse when the old Byron Street school site is developed?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that parking in support of the Royton Leisure Centre had been a long-standing issue and it was for this reason that, in developing the new Leisure Centre, the Council constructed a dedicated new car park which provided a total of 68 spaces. This had gone a long way to address the situation in the locality, although it was accepted that parking remained an issue, particularly at peak times. As a result, in agreeing to dispose of the former Byron Street School and former Police Station sites, the Council was keen to ensure that these potential much needed housing developments did not exacerbate the situation and it was for this reason that, as part of the marketing particulars advertising the opportunity, the Council had made it clear that any new dwellings would be expected to provide a minimum of two car parking spaces. In addition, there was a further requirement for any housing developer to surface the site of the former McQuillan Boilers on Cardigan Street which would remain in the ownership of the Council and would be left as a potential overspill parking for up to 20 cars if required. Of course, if OCLL had a specific requirement for this space, the Council would be happy to explore the option with them.

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 by noted.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ahmad, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ames, Azad, Blyth, Brock, Cosgrove, Dearden, Haque and Kirkham.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH JULY 2017 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be approved as a correct record.

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

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

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

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

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

Councillor Wrigglesworth declared a pecuniary interest at Item 12 by virtue of living adjacent to and renting land from RailTrack. She left the room during consideration of this item and did not take part in the vote thereon.



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**

It was moved by Councillor Stretton and seconded by Councillor Sykes, that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4C that the order of business be changed so that Item 6, Communications, be considered at Item 1.

On being put the vote, the motion was agreed Unanimously.

Council held a minute's silence in memory of all those affected by the recent tragic events around the world.

7

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

The Mayor advised that two petitions had been received for noting by Council.

##### Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Request for Road Markings, Speed Reduction Measures and Clearer Safer Crossing Point on Acorn Street, Lees, (Saddleworth West and Lees Ward) received on 6 July 2017 with 51 signatures (Ref: 2017-08)

Request for a Place to Remember, Limeside Memorial Garden and Benches (Hollinwood Ward) received on 18 July 2017 with 256 signatures (Ref: 2017-09)



**RESOLVED** that the petitions received since the last Council meeting 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 Jabbar **MOVED** and Councillor Ball **SECONDED**:  
“This Council notes that Universal Credit (UC) is a single monthly payment which replaces six working age benefits (known as legacy benefits). These are Housing Benefit (HB), Income Support (IS), Working Tax Credits (WTC), Child Tax Credit (CTC), Employment and Support Allowance (Income-related) and Job Seekers Allowance (Income-related). It supports residents on low incomes who are both in and out of work.

Oldham has been a pathfinder for Universal Credit since 2013. However, the numbers of residents moving onto Universal Credit from 2013 have been restricted to new claimants and straightforward cases. The roll out of the full service of Universal Credit which commenced in Oldham on 26 April 2017 is a new entirely online-based system and claimants must apply for and manage their claim online. It also brings in a wider range of claimants including more complex cases. It affects claimants when they make a claim for the first time or have a change in circumstances that means their existing claim for one of the legacy benefits has to be cancelled.

Oldham is one of the early boroughs subject to the rollout of Universal Credit full service. The delivery of the new service has been an area of particular concern across the country and was subject in the last parliament to an investigation by the Work and Pensions Select Committee.

As a result, and while the DWP and Job Centre Plus are the agency responsible for managing the change, the Council is committed to pro-active and continued work with key stakeholders and partners to ensure that as much support is provided to residents as possible to help achieve a smooth transition to the new service.

However, this Council has a number of concerns about Universal Credit

- The wait times between the date of application and date of assessment. There is a built in waiting period of 6 weeks before Universal Credit is awarded and this creates hardship for residents. Any delay in DWP processing times exacerbates this hardship still further.
- The level of deductions applied to monthly payments to clawback advance payments and sanctions can be high leaving residents with little money to cover basic income needs for their families for the weeks ahead.
- The high number of Universal Credit claimants that have been subject to sanctions in Oldham

- That the provision of housing costs support for short term temporary accommodation for Oldham's homeless population is not an appropriate fit for Universal Credit and should be returned to and covered by Housing Benefit at the earliest opportunity

This Council resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the following to register these issues and request that solutions are explored which would improve the design and delivery of Universal Credit which would mitigate impacts for low- income, working age residents in the borough;

1. The Rt. Hon David Gauke MP Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
2. Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, Jim McMahon MP for Oldham West and Royton and Angela Rayner MP for Ashton Under -Lyne, Droylsden and Failsworth
3. The Local Government Association (LGA).”

Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put the VOTE, 48 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 0 votes were cast AGAINST with 1 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the following to register these issues and request that solutions were explored which would improve the design and delivery of Universal Credit which would mitigate impacts for low-income, working age residents in the borough:

1. The Rt. Hon. David Gauke MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
2. Debbie Abrahams MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and MP for Oldham East and Saddleworth, Jim McMahon MP for Oldham West and Royton and Angela Rayner MP for Ashton-under-Lyne, Droylsden and Failsworth
3. The Local Government Association.

9

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There were no items submitted by the Youth Council.

10

## **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

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

Question 1:

“My first question relates to how this Council supports small businesses in this Borough. I am sure the Leader is aware that in April of this year the Leader of her party announced that a Labour Government would ‘declare war’ on late payment to small businesses. Speaking at an event organised by the Federation of Small Businesses, the Labour leader called it ‘a national scandal’ that big companies were withholding more than £26 billion from suppliers, forcing 50,000 of them out of business every year.

Local Labour MP Debbie Abrahams commented favourably on this. She has been championing a similar local campaign ‘Be Fair – Pay on Time’. She reported that over 400 businesses in Oldham East and Saddleworth have said they are struggling to pay staff because of late payments and 66 went bust.

All very commendable – I am sure we all want to see a thriving small business sector in our country and especially in our Borough – and cash flow difficulties caused by late payment kills businesses.

So why is it that Debbie doesn’t seem to have publically taken Oldham Council to task?

For the average length of time this Labour Council takes to pay an invoice was 24 days in 2015/2016, when it was only 15 when the Liberal Democrats ran the Council, I was Leader.

Mr. Corbyn also said that a Labour government would require any company bidding for a public sector contract to pay its own suppliers within 30 days and would look at introducing fines for persistent late payers.

This Council will have to be careful that the promised legislation doesn’t extend to penalising Councils who follow the same practice – for it is likely that Oldham would have to pay a hefty fine.

For in 2015/16, the number of invoices this Council paid after 30 days was 15,247, when it was only 8.051 under the Liberal Democrats. And the current system does not even allow us to identify which invoices are delayed because of disputes and which because of inefficiency.

This Administration makes a great play of its deal with Oxygen Finance whereby suppliers can be paid in five days instead of 30 in return to paying an ‘Early Repayment Fee’, but why should businesses pay us money to receive the money that they are owed by us more quickly?

In my day, the Liberal Democrat Administration simply placed more emphasis on paying our suppliers, especially our local suppliers promptly.

So can I ask the Leader tonight what she will now do to ensure that this Council will ‘Be Fair to our small businesses and Pay on Time’?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that she was behind the movement to pay small businesses on time and would ask for an immediate review on the number of businesses not paid within 30 days and for a report to come back to her.

Question 2:

“For my second question I would like to turn to the issue of bulky waste collections. I was glad to see that that the Council is looking to retender for the bulky waste collection service. I would like to reveal what appears to be a closely kept secret – that under the current contract delivered by Bulky Bobs some residents are still able to access a free bulky waste collection services. I say closely kept secret – because even I did not know it until recently and I am sure that many members in this Chamber will not know it either. For a little known fact is that when charging was first introduced by the new Labour Administration in 2012 there was, in part due to the pressure and concerns the Liberal Democrats had, an acknowledgement that certain low income groups must still be able to access a limited free bulky waste collection service. This was to ensure that they were not ‘disproportionately disadvantaged’ by the charge for this service, as defined by the 2010 Equalities Act. So any customers who are – I quote – ‘Any customers physically disabled, infirm due to old age, or pregnant, are entitled to one free collection a year.’

Interestingly, this proviso is not mentioned on the Council’s website or in any public papers for the recent Cabinet meeting at which it was agreed to retender the contract. Nor can the information be found on the website of Bulky Bob or on Bulky Bob’s Facebook page. So if you were one of these eligible ‘disadvantaged’ customers, or a carer for them, you would not know the concession existed or how to access it.

So my second question to the Leader tonight is. Can she confirm that this concession exists under the current contract and that it will be maintained under the new contract? And can she also say how this concession will be publicised to eligible customers in the future?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise confirmed that the concession existed and the current contract had that provision. The situation would be reviewed and the situation rectified whereby the information was not obvious on the website. The details of the future scheme were being work through. If there were such concessions, these would be made public.

Question from the Leader of the Conservative Group:

Councillor Hudson’s question related to the taxi rank in Uppermill. Councillor Hudson sought clarification on whether people could park in these much needed spaces in the middle of the village during the day.

Councillor Stretton responded that current signage would be looked at and, if possible, have a scheme where the taxi rank was time limited and appropriate signage be put into place.

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 asked the following question:

“The two year legislative programme for this Parliament set out in the Queens speech did not include the local government finance bill that was expected. Has the cabinet member for finance received any information that provides clarity on exactly what the government grant regime to Oldham council will look like come 2020?”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources responded that uncertainty remained on the issue regarding the Local Government Grant regime for 2020 and beyond and how this would affect Oldham and the wider Local Government community. Local authorities had only been provided with indicative funding allocations to 2019/20 in line with the end of the Government’s current spending review period. At this stage it was not anticipated that the funding allocations for 2020 and beyond would be provided until at least the 2019/20 settlement round. With regard to the absence of the Local Government Finance Bill, the Department for Communities and Local Government confirmed that such a Bill would not form part of the Parliamentary timetable for this session. Ministers remained committed to local government taking greater control of their income as outlined in the Manifesto. The Government had, for some time, wanted to move to a system of full rates retention for Local Authorities. The schemes piloting these arrangements across Greater Manchester and other regions of the country remained in place. The transfer of control to local authorities was not in statute and the Council would have to wait to see what details came out.

2. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet member for Education and Early Years update us on the Opportunity Area programme being managed by the Department for Education and tell us when we can expect the promised extra funding to come to Oldham?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that following a delay with the General Election a meeting had taken place with the Chair of the Opportunity Area Board and a representative from the Department for Education. It had been a positive meeting with an understanding of the challenges in Oldham and aspirations. It was anticipated that a partnership plan would be finalised and signed off by the end of September. When agreed, funding would be drawn down. The partnership plan would then be reviewed in 12 months.

3. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:



“Regeneration of the borough is one of this administration’s key priorities and the Old Town Hall Cinema and Parliament Square continue to be successful examples of the work we are doing. Can the Leader confirm the awards the Old Town Hall has received so far and join with me in congratulating all those involved?”



Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the list of awards that the Old Town Hall won was as follows: From the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS): RICS North West – Project of the Year, Regeneration Project of the Year and Design through Innovation Project of the Year. All category winners would go on to compete against other regional winners at the RICS Awards Grand Final to be held on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2017 for the chance to be crowned the overall UK winner in their respective category.

From the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA): RIBA Northwest Award and Conservation Award

From Local Authority Building Control: LABC North West – Best Change of Use of an Existing Building or Conversion

From the Building Design Partnership: BDP – George Grenfell Baines Award for building of the year

From Mix Interiors Magazine: Mixology North Awards – Hospitality Interior of the Year

The Old Town Hall had also won the Manchester Architects Award and the North West Construction Award for preservation and rejuvenation. The Council was currently shortlisted for the British Construction Industry Awards (BCIA) which culminated with the ‘Prime Minister’s Better Public Building Award’ and the Architects Journal Architecture Awards which was an impressive haul. This was a testament to the commitment of this administration to invest in the future of the borough and for the investment to be made now to clearly reap benefits for the local economy in the years and decades to come. This was clearly a huge success both in terms of awards and popularity with the public.

4. Councillor Gloster asked the following question:

“The recent announcement that the 4G Pitch at Chapel Road Hollinwood is to close is a blow, not only to the people in the community but its effects will be felt across the Borough and further afield as it is a well-used resource by the community and others from further afield. I must express my disappointment that this matter was not discussed at full council before a decision was taken to close the pitch. I have been contacted by one of my constituents who runs Hollinwood FC and Junior FC. He had received a letter telling him of the proposals and I was fortunately able, via the Chief Executive, to arrange a meeting with Council Officers for the group to discuss ideas for keeping this facility open. This group is

supported by some talented people, including a Manchester City Council finance director, who have put together short term proposals and are looking at medium and long term proposals. Can I ask the relevant cabinet member for reassurance that every assistance will be given to this group, and others who may express an interest, by the Council, to ensure it remains open and continues to be a valuable community asset to the Borough?"

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that disposal of any piece of land was not a matter that would routinely be brought to Full Council. There were some inaccuracies in the understanding of the situation that could have been clarified if the matter had been discussed with members and officers who were dealing with the matter. The Council had agreed with Oldham Community Leisure that they would no longer be responsible for the management of the Chapel Road pitch from 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017. The maintenance cost of the site was significantly greater than the income generated from usage. In addition, there was a supply of better quality local pitches with availability for clubs to use. OCL had written to all clubs that used the site and advised the clubs they may want to seek to book alternative pitch facilities from 1<sup>st</sup> October until any new arrangements were in place. When it had become clear that not all clubs could have found new accommodation by the deadline, including Hollinwood FC and Junior FC the matter was discussed with officers. It was agreed that some use of the facility on a Saturday would be kept on an interim basis to support local clubs to cover games. This specifically applied to Hollinwood FC whose situation had been the subject of a number of conversations. Options were currently being explored for the future of the site with the preferred intention to retain the site as a community facility. There could be a period of time from September where the facility would not be fully operational. There had been a number of informal enquiries about the facility. The Council would continue to progress this and any organisation that did take over the site must be prepared to accommodate community use, especially from former users and also the use by St. Margaret's school.

5. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:

"I have personal knowledge of an individual receiving a warning notice from TfGM for allegedly using the Metrolink service without paying the required fare, an action which no one can condone. However, the individual involved was not even in the country at the time of the offence levelled at them and the warning notice was received 48 hours after they returned home. The offender on this occasion was unable to provide a correct

date of birth, home post code of correct home telephone number. As you may gather the offender was able to provide a correct name and address, other than as I have said the post code, so he clearly knows the innocent party. Is the Cabinet Member responsible for transport able to advise just how the ticket inspectors ensure that those who behave in such a manner are not providing false information, thereby escaping without punishment, while leaving an innocent party having to provide proof they are not the guilty party, but if, as in this case, they are unable to do so, having to face the consequences for the actions of another?"

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that TfGM had confirmed that the new Metrolink operator had a rigorous process in place for enforcement against Metrolink fare evasion, which included obtaining information from the Electoral Register which should have prevented a fine being issued to an innocent party. TfGM wanted to investigate the case outlined in the question further to understand how this happened given the process in place. If the details could be provided a full investigation would be undertaken.

6. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

"Can the relevant cabinet member briefly provide an update on the performance of the GCSE and A Level results across Oldham. Are the results as expected? and what strategies are in place to improve the results further?"

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that there had been changes to the markings in GCSE in English and Maths and that others would follow in the next two to three years. As a result it was difficult for the marks to be predicted and unable to be compared with previous years. At this time provisional returns showed that 59% of Oldham students achieved a Grade 4 or above. The data available at the moment would not be validated until the end of November. Caution was urged on the use of the data but provisional returns suggested a 98.6% A\* - E pass rate which was impressive but masked more complex issues such as not pushing higher achieving students harder. A lot of work was ongoing to improve attainment. Further information would be provided to members when available.

7. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

"Increasingly I seem to have witnessed more and more hair raising antics from children riding bikes. For example, riding 4 abreast down the road while doing wheelies. Three people piled on one bike, one passenger on the handlebar obscuring the vision of the rider.

Performances like this belong in a circus, not on the roads. How long before we have a serious incident and injured children? When I was a child, if you wanted to ride to school on your bike you would have to have passed a cycling proficiency test in order to demonstrate that you had a basic understanding of the dangers of riding a bike on the road and the fundamentals of safe conduct whilst doing so.“

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that earlier this year the Council had been awarded £327,045 from the Department for Transport to deliver the national cycle training ‘Bikeability’ programme throughout Oldham until the end of March 2020. In addition to the core Bikeability levels 1 – 3, aimed at primary and high schools for the first time ever, the DfT had introduced Bikeability plus. This was a series of modules designed to ensure that children and families were given the opportunities and skills they needed to make cycling a part of their everyday life. One of these modules was called ‘Bikeability Balance’ which aimed to prepare Reception and Year 1 children with the balance and coordination skills they needed to learn to ride and participate in Bikeability level 1. Unity’s Road Safety Officers were working to help provide the training with the School’s Games Organisers to deliver the Bikeability Balance module on Oldham’s behalf. The courses had proved to be very popular and highly subscribed.

8. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

“I was really pleased to receive reassurances that the street lights I see lit during the day in parts of Oldham are not costing the tax payer money; the cost in electricity is actually being paid for by Eon as part of the street lighting renewal programme. I would like to ask the Cabinet member for Environmental Services how he plans to reduce the amount of faulty lit street lamps thus helping to reduce Oldham’s carbon foot print?”

Councillor F. Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the contractor under PFI had put in place a team dedicated to reduce street lamps which were lit during daylight hours. This had already demonstrated a positive impact and the contractor was committed to energy saving, which in turn, reduced their costs under the contract.

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

**RESOLVED** that the questions and responses provided be noted.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were submitted.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor McCann, Cabinet Minutes, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Item 9 – Phase Two Approval, Gateways to Oldham New Build Housing – Councillor McCann commented on the Primrose Bank Regeneration, the insistence of a good quality build and how the regeneration of the estate had continued through different administrations. Oldham stood out by putting politics aside for the good of the town and was a fine entry into Oldham.

Councillor Williams, Cabinet Minutes, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Item 9 – Oldham Town Centre Master Plan and Delivery Options – Councillor Williams commented on the statement of intent in the delivery of the plan and the risk taken because it was so important.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be noted.
3. The observations on the Cabinet minutes be noted.

12

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

The Chief Executive had been notified that Councillor Kirkham was unable to attend the meeting to second the Motion and notice had been given that Councillor Goodwin would second the motion in her absence which was AGREED.

Councillor Fielding MOVED and Councillor Goodwin SECONDED the following motion:

“Council notes:

- The announcement on 20/07/17 by Conservative Transport Secretary Chris Grayling MP that the electrification of the Sheffield-Kettering, Oxenholme-Windermere and Cardiff-Swansea railway lines will not take place.
- The Transport Secretary’s comments as part of this announcement that electrification of the Manchester-Leeds railway line may be too difficult.

Council further notes:



- The announcement on 24/07/17 of the approval of the £30 billion Crossrail 2 scheme in London.
- Northern Powerhouse rail, an investment programme, which included the now cancelled electrifications and the electrification of the Manchester-Leeds line, was pledged on page 24 of the Conservative Party manifesto for the 2017 General Election.
- Crossrail was not featured at all in the Conservative Party manifesto.

Council supports the electrification of the east-west transpennine railway between Manchester and Leeds. Council recognises the benefits that the electrification of this line, which passes through the Borough of Oldham, would deliver for local people.

Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling setting out our support for the full electrification of this line.
- Call on our three MPs to lobby the government to deliver the planned electrification as promised.”

Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ali spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Hewitt spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Roberts **MOVED** and Councillor Ali **SECONDED** that the motion be put to the vote.

Councillor Fielding exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the **MOTION**.

On being put the **VOTE**, the **MOTION** was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Transport Secretary Chris Grayling setting out the Council's support for the full electrification of this line.
2. The three MP's be called on to lobby the government to deliver the planned electrification as promised.

Motion 2

Councillor Ali **MOVED** and Councillor Mushtaq **SECONDED** the following motion:

“This Council notes:

1. The rise from 128 households in 2015/16, to 245 in 2016/17 and to 192 to August 2017 receiving a formal decision on homelessness from Oldham Council
2. The rise in the number of households placed in temporary accommodation, including in Bed and Breakfast

3. The reducing number of social housing lettings year by year

We recognise that the causes of homelessness can be complex and that one response is the new Homelessness Reduction Act which places new duties on Local Authorities to prevent homelessness, however additional steps and funding are needed to tackle the growing problem of homelessness in Oldham.

This Council believes that this latest increase in homelessness is directly linked to the government's austerity policy: the squeeze on the incomes of the working poor and welfare reform have combined to increase mortgage repossessions and evictions due to rent arrears while reducing benefit support for housing costs, particularly for younger people. The roll out of the Universal Credit Full Digital Service increases rent arrears and homelessness as Universal Credit is paid up to 10 weeks in arrears and landlords can start the eviction process once tenants are eight weeks in arrears.

This Council calls on government to take an integrated approach to homelessness and to rethink welfare policies which exclude younger people from housing support, make housing unaffordable for large families and lead to evictions due to built in delays in payments.

This Council resolves to

1. Work with partners in Oldham to implement the new Housing Reduction duties as effectively as possible
2. Continue to do all it can to mitigate the impact of government policy e.g by supporting Oldham Nightstop and Oldham Reconnect to help young people
3. Investigate ways of increasing housing supply e.g. by improving access to private sector tenancies
4. Campaign for: changes to Universal Credit to get payments started as soon as a successful claim has been made; to reinstate support for housing costs for 18-21 year olds and to ensure that Universal Credit meets the cost of temporary accommodation including for households in bed and breakfast
5. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the borough's three MPs outlining our concerns and asking them to do all they can to achieve changes outlined above"

Councillor Ali did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put the VOTE, the MOTION was therefore CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Council work with partners in Oldham to implement the new Housing Reduction duties as effectively as possible.

2. The Council would continue to do all it could to mitigate the impact of government policy, e.g. by supporting Oldham Nightstop and Oldham Reconnect to help young people.
3. The Council would investigate ways of increasing housing supply, e.g. by improving access to private sector tenancies.
4. The Council would campaign for changes to Universal Credit to get payments started as soon as a successful claim had been made, to reinstate support for housing costs for 18-21 year olds and ensure that Universal Credit met the cost of temporary accommodation including households in bed and breakfast.
5. The Chief Executive be instructed to write to the borough's three MPs outlining the Council's concerns and ask them to do all they could to achieve the changes outlined above.

### Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Roberts as Mover of the Motion and Councillor S. Bashforth as Seconder of the Motion requested the Council permit the following Motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

“This council notes that:

1. DEFRA published the policy paper 'Air Quality Plan for nitrogen dioxide' in July 2017 which sets out the Government's strategy to reduce nitrogen dioxide pollution and promises to make the UK a global leader in air quality
2. Evidence from the World Health Organisation, Public Health England and the Royal College of Physicians outlines the damaging impact of poor air quality on our health, disproportionately affecting children, older people, people with pre-existing heart conditions and people on lower incomes
3. Oldham has been designated as “urban with major conurbation”, which puts us in the top 23% most urban Local Authority Districts. DEFRA has also placed Oldham within the “above the legal limit but no feasibility study needs to be done” category for air pollution, showing that Oldham's urban nature affects the levels of pollution within the area.
4. Oldham's nitrogen dioxide level is above the legal limit
5. Oldham is making progress towards reaching the legal limit and is expected to achieve this by 2021, however more can be done

This council welcomes the Air Quality Plan as far as it goes, but believes that action needs to be taken at a local, Greater Manchester and national level to increase the rate of progress and keep levels to the legal limit in the future.

This council resolves

1. To ask the Health and Well Being Board's Air Quality Sub Group to move as quickly as possible to produce an Air Quality Improvement Scheme for Oldham which should include what we as individuals can do, as well as action by Oldham Council and by Greater Manchester bodies
2. To press Transport for Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Combined Authority to develop a more inclusive approach to improving air quality including
  - a. Improving orbital public transport links
  - b. Improving connectivity between city centres e.g. by revising the Low Carbon Strategy to include measures which will help Oldham
  - c. Investing in cycling lanes and facilities in the outer boroughs
3. To inform and support the Greater Manchester bid for the maximum possible funding from the Clean Air Fund to support local action
4. To support the wider use of low emission vehicles e.g. by encouraging the installation of charging points for electric cars"

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

13

## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### Motion 1

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Gloster SECONDED the following motion:

"Council notes that:

- Heart disease remains one of the biggest killers of adults in this borough and that it debilitates many more.
- The Oldham Locality Plan for Health & Social Care Transformation reports that "Our adult population is less physically active, smokes more, and carries more excess weight than the England average and we have higher than average alcohol-related admissions to hospital. These unhealthy behaviours mean we have significantly higher numbers of people with recorded diabetes, and deaths from smoking-related diseases, cardiovascular disease and cancer are significantly higher than the England average."
- There has recently been a review of congenital heart disease treatment services in this region.

Council is concerned that, under the current proposals resulting from this review:

- Some patients will be obliged to access services, and surgery outside the North West, at specialist centres in Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield.
- In the event of an emergency attendance at a local hospital, patients will be "stabilised and managed by doctors until fit for transfer to a specialist centre".

- The capacity of the Manchester Royal Infirmary to carry out specialist procedures has over past months been reduced as key medical staff have left the hospital as they had no guarantee their services would be required following the review.
- The proposed merger of the South and Central Trafford NHS Trusts has created further uncertainty of employment for specialist staff in our region as the two hospitals providing heart services - Manchester Royal Infirmary and Wythenshawe - will be brought under one trust.

Council believes that:

- It is unreasonable to expect patients with such conditions, and their carers and families, to make significant journeys to centres outside of Greater Manchester for the more specialist procedures or surgery.
- It is unacceptable that in a National Health Service patients in the North West are subject to a 'postcode lottery' as to where they are sent for treatment and cannot access their own specialist centre in their own region.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to make representations on this matter to:

- The Secretary of State for Health
- The Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which manages the Manchester Heart Centre
- The Greater Manchester Mayor

Requesting they maintain specialist provision in our region.

And also to the three local Members of Parliament seeking their support for the Council's position.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Harrison SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

"After 'Council notes that', delete bullets 1 and 2 and replace with:

- Adult Congenital Heart Disease [ACHD] patients, their families and carers living in Oldham have raised genuine concerns regarding the proposed changes to ACHD treatment in Greater Manchester.
- That the new national standards are intended ensure that patients receive a high quality, safe and timely service.

After 'Council is concerned that', delete 'under the current proposals resulting from this review', delete bullets 3 - 4 and insert a bullet point:

- There is uncertainty regarding the location of future services that will be provided to Oldham ACHD patients their families and carers.

After 'Council believes that', Remove 'Greater Manchester' from the sentences 'It is unreasonable to expect patients with such conditions and their carers and families, to make significant journeys outside of the Greater Manchester for the more



specialist procedures or surgery.’ And insert ‘North West’. The sentence will now read ‘It is unreasonable to expect patients with such conditions and their carers and families, to make significant journeys outside of the North West for the more specialist procedures or surgery.’

In the same section, delete bullet 2 insert:

- That patient safety is a number one priority.
- That NHS Trusts in the North West Region, should be actively working together to provide accessible, high quality, safe and effective ACHD services.

Amended motion to read as follows:

This Council notes that:

- Adult Congenital Heart Disease [ACHD] patients, their families and carers living in Oldham have raised genuine concerns regarding the proposed changes to ACHD treatment in Greater Manchester.
- There has recently been a review of congenital heart disease treatment services in this region.
- That the new national standards are intended ensure that patients receive a high quality, safe and timely service.

Council is concerned that:

- There is uncertainty regarding the location of future services that will be provided to Oldham ACHD patients, their families and carers.
- Some patients will be obliged to access services and surgery outside the North West at specialist centres in Leeds, Newcastle and Sheffield.
- In the event of an emergency attendance at a local hospital, a patient will be “stabilised and managed by doctors until fit for transfer to a specialist centre”.

Council believes that:

- It is unreasonable to expect patients with such conditions and their carers and families, to make significant journeys outside of the North West for the more specialist procedures or surgery.
- That patient safety is a number one priority.
- That NHS Trusts in the North West Region, should be actively working together to provide accessible, high quality, safe and effective ACHD services.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to make representation on this matter to:

- The Secretary of State for Health.
- The Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust.
- The Greater Manchester Mayor.
- Jim McMahon MP, Angela Rayner MP and Debbie Abrahams MP

Asking them to seek assurance that the needs of patients and families will be prioritised in making the changes to services.”

Councillor Harkness spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Hudson spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Gloster spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the amendment.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

Councillor Moores exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put the VOTE, 38 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and 11 votes were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore CARRIED.

A vote was then taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

On being put the VOTE, the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that representations be made by the Chief Executive on this matter to:

- The Secretary of State for Health
- The Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust
- The Greater Manchester Mayor
- Jim McMahon MP, Angela Rayner MP and Debbie Abrahams MP

And ask for assurances to be sought that the needs of patients and families would be prioritised in making changes to services.

## Motion 2

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor Williamson as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Murphy as Seconder of the Motion requested the Motion be put to the vote.

“This Council notes:

- The national scandal of homelessness, with official figures showing over 4,000 people sleeping rough on any one night, in England last year and over 250,000 people in some form of homelessness.
- That figures for sleeping rough have increased by nearly 50% in the last two years.
- That Greater Manchester has a particular homelessness problem, with Manchester having the fourth highest rates of rough sleeping in the country.
- The charities, Crisis, Centrepoin, Homeless Link, Shelter and St Mungo’s have launched the End Rough Sleeping Campaign to call upon politicians of all parties to make a commitment to end rough sleeping and homelessness.

Working with our social housing and voluntary sector partners, Council reaffirms its commitment to ending rough sleeping and homelessness.

Council resolves to:

- Adopt as policy the aspirations outlined in the End Rough Sleeping Campaign that in this borough:
  - no one is sleeping rough
  - no one is living in shelters, hostels or other emergency accommodation without a plan to move into suitable and settled housing within an agreed appropriate timescale

- no one is homeless as a result of leaving the care system, prison or other state institution
- everyone at immediate risk of homelessness gets the help they need to prevent it happening.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the charities involved with the End Rough Sleeping Campaign to give the campaign this Council's support and to ask the campaign to register the Council as a supporter.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to our three Members of Parliament, urging them to support action at a Government level, including:
  - Adequately funding local government and local health services enable them to properly undertake their duties to tackle homelessness and causes of homelessness
  - Ensuring that the benefits system is contributing to stopping homelessness, not causing it
  - Addressing issues in housing provision, including providing for longer and more stable private rental periods
- Support measures to tackle homelessness at a Greater Manchester level, including:
  - Supporting the Homelessness Action Network created by the Greater Manchester Mayor
  - Working together as ten boroughs, and using our devolved powers to collectively bring an end to homelessness as an urgent priority.
  - Ensuring that a revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, and the Oldham Local Plan, has appropriate and affordable housing as a core priority.
- Ensure that Oldham Council, and our social housing and voluntary sector partners, are doing everything we can to contribute to ending homelessness by asking the Leader to bring a report to Council outlining how our local services are working to end homelessness in the Borough.”

Councillor Williamson did not exercise her right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put the VOTE, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The aspirations as outlined in the End Rough Sleeping Campaign be adopted in this borough:
  - no one is sleeping rough;
  - no one is living in shelters, hostels or other emergency accommodation without a plan to move into suitable and settled housing within an agreed appropriate timescale
  - no one is homeless as a result of leaving the care system, prison or other state institution
  - everyone at immediate risk of homelessness gets the help they need to prevent it happening.

2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the charities involved with the End Rough Sleeping Campaign to give the campaign this Council's support and ask the campaign to register the Council as a supporter.
3. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the three Members of Parliament, urging them to support action at a Government level which included:
  - adequately funding local government and local health services to enable them to properly undertake their duties to tackle homelessness and causes of homelessness
  - ensuring that the benefits system was contributing to stopping homelessness, not causing it
  - addressing issues in housing provision, including providing for longer and more stable private rental periods
4. Measures to tackle homelessness at a Greater Manchester level be supported including:
  - supporting the Homelessness Action Network created by the Greater Manchester Mayor
  - working together as ten boroughs, and using our devolved power to collectively bring an end to homelessness as an urgent priority.
  - ensuring that a revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, and the Oldham Local Plan, has appropriate and affordable housing as a core priority.
5. Ensure that Oldham Council, social housing and voluntary sector partners were doing everything they could to contribute to ending homelessness and the Leader be asked to bring a report to Council which outlined how our local services were working to end homelessness in the Borough.

### Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired. Councillor Turner as Mover of the Motion and Councillor McCann as Secunder of the Motion requested the Motion be put to the vote.

“Council notes:

- the launch on International Women's Day (8 March 2017) of the Suffrage to Citizenship Project by the Women's Local Government Society, a voluntary, cross-party organisation seeking to recruit more women into local government. The Project intends to celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage by commemorating suffrage pioneers to inspire a new generation of activists. The Project will identify and celebrate the lives of 100 previously hidden women and supportive men who worked tirelessly in suffrage campaigns leading up to the Representation of the People Act 1918, and who used the

extended rights to citizenship in a positive way by serving as elected councillors, magistrates, on school and public health boards, or by otherwise taking a lead in their local community.

- with pride that at least two Oldham women – Annie Kenney and Lydia Becker - played leading roles in the struggle for women’s suffrage and therefore recognises the importance of this Council supporting this Project.
- that the Chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Gary Porter, has asked all Leaders and Chief Executives in local authorities to identify an elected member champion to lead on this work.

Council resolves to:

- Appoint an elected member champion as per Lord Porter’s request.

Ask that champion to bring a report back to a future meeting of Council in 2017 identifying how this local authority can best support the aims of this Project.”

Councillor Turner did not exercise her right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the MOTION.

On being put the VOTE, 48 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 0 votes were cast AGAINST with 1 ABSTENTION. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. An elected member champion be appointed as per Lord Porter’s request.
2. The elected member champion be asked to bring a report back to a future meeting of Council in 2017 which identified how this local authority could best support the aims of this Project.
  - a 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	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Transport for Greater Manchester	14 <sup>th</sup> July 2017
National Peak Park Authority	26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017
Greater Manchester Combined (AGM) Authority (GMCA)	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive 2017	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2017 28 <sup>th</sup> April
Association of Greater Manchester	28 <sup>th</sup> July 2017 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2017



Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Bates, GMCA, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Manchester Arena Attack – Councillor Bates asked about the review and why there was no report of the Chief Fire Officer retiring.

Councillor Stretton responded that this was a matter for the Chief Fire Officer to which when he would retire after 30 years' service.

Councillor McCann, GMCA, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, National Productivity Investment Fund – Councillor McCann asked for confirmation that the incorrect funding allocations and that Oldham would still be in line for the funding.

Councillor Stretton responded that she would seek clarification and respond to Councillor McCann in writing.

Councillor Murphy, GMCA, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Greater Manchester Strategy Refresh – Councillor Murphy asked if there would be consultation on the amended Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF).

Councillor Stretton responded that the Council would consultation in the Local Plan which the Authority must have. Consultation would take place locally on the GMSF as before. Oldham had done more consultation than any other district in Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Joint Authority meetings as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

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

The minutes of the Partnership meetings were submitted as follows:

Oldham Leadership Board

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

MioCare

13<sup>th</sup> July 2017

8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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

**UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which informed members of actions that had been

taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

Councillor Murphy spoke on the report.

**RESOLVED** that the Update on Actions from Council report be noted.

16

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2016/17**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the Treasury Management Review 2016/17 and demonstrated full compliance with the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFE Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2016/17 the minimum reporting requirements were that Council receive the following reports:

- An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year which was approved on 24 February 2016;
- A mid-year (minimum) treasury update report which was approved on 14 December 2016; and
- An annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy which was this report.

The regulatory environment placed responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. The presentation of the report demonstrated full compliance with the requirements as it provided the details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with Council policies. The report was considered and approved at the Cabinet meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017 who commended the report to Full Council and was noted at the Audit Committee held on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

The report summarised:

- The Council's capital expenditure and financing during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Council Financing Requirement);
- Overall treasury position which identified how the Council had borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- Detailed debt activity;
- Detailed investment activity; and
- Reported the required prudential and treasury indicators.

An amendment was requested to the Treasury Management Statement 2017/18 with regard to unspecified investment and this was detailed at Appendix 4.

In order that the Council complied with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Code of Practice, the Council had no option other than to consider and approve the contents of the report.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The actual 2016/17 prudential treasury indicators in the report be approved.
2. The Annual Treasury Management Report for 2016/17 be approved.
3. The amendment to the Treasury Management Strategy 2017/18 with regard to the unspecified investments as presented at Appendix 4 of the report be approved.

17

**2016/17 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the 2016/17 audited Statement of Accounts and the External Audit (Grant Thornton UK LLP) Audit Findings Report. The audited Statement of Accounts was approved by the Audit Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017, considered at Cabinet at the meeting held on 21st August 2017, whereby the accounts were noted and commended to Full Council.

The report highlighted:

- The excellent Audit Findings report with an unqualified opinion and not material misstatements.
- All audit judgements had a green rating and a very positive Value for Money (VfM) opinion.
- The overall outturn position for 2016.17, a surplus of £0.130m before the transfer to earmarked reserves to support the 2017/18 budget. This was a slight decrease in the forecast underspend presented in the last financial monitoring report approved by Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Following the transfer to the 2017/18 Budget Reserve, the net General Fund movement was a decrease of £3.803m, when the revenue budget to the outturn was compared.
- The capital outturn position with an expenditure of £42.873m compared to a forecast position of £47.093m.
- The speed of the preparation of the accounts.
- The performance of the Finance Team in closing the Council's accounts and its focus on the continued improvement of its processes.

The Council had received objections to the accounts from two local electors. The External Auditor had given an opinion on the accounts. However, a formal review of the objections must take place and as a consequence, the audit could not be closed until the findings of the review had been reported.

In moving the report, Councillor Jabbar expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Finance Department led by the Director of Finance and also the Chief Executive and Executive Management Team for their contribution.



**RESOLVED** that the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2016/17, the Audit Findings Report and the comments provided in the report be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.00 pm