

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 13 December 2017

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 5 December 2017

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 13 December 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

Open Council

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

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

Formal Council

- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 8th November 2017 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 44)
- 4 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 5 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 6 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There are no petitions to note.

- 8 Outstanding Business from the previous meeting

(time limit 15 minutes).

Councillor Ali to MOVE and Councillor Jacques to SECOND:

This Council notes with great concern that Greater Manchester Police's budget has been reduced by £180m since 2010, reducing nearly a quarter of its front-line officers and 1,000 support staff as government austerity budgets sought to reduce the cost of Britain's public services.

With 6,200 officers, reduced from 8,000 a decade ago, GMP is so stretched that officers from specialist divisions are being drafted in to help with community policing. Officers are being directed away from the Serious Crime Unit, which usually deals with robbery, kidnapping and drug dealers.

In Oldham, 4,839 more crimes were reported per annum in 2017 than in 2011, an increase of 27%. This reflects the regional picture, with crime up across Greater Manchester by 13% in the same period. Oldham performs worse in 11 of the 17 categories identified by official police and crime statistics which include huge rises in violence (131%), shoplifting (75%) and public order offences (244%).

The Government has not protected police budgets as promised. Home Office Figures in England and Wales between September 2010 and September 2016 record that the number of police officers fell by 18,991, or 13%. The problem is compounded by sickness absence rates. Nearly 2,500 officers – about 2% of the total workforce – were classified as being on long term sick leave, an 11.5% increase on 2015. Overall police budgets, excluding counter-terrorism grants, fell by 20% between 2010 and 2015 which is completely unsustainable.

This Council condemns these cuts in policing in the strongest possible terms threatening as they do the excellent policing we have in Oldham and putting at risk the safety and security of our local diverse community.

This Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to convey this Motion and the Council's strong concerns about these matters to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Home Secretary.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary asking her to increase Police numbers in order to safeguard our residents and communities.

9 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

10 Leader and Cabinet Question Time

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

11 To note the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on the undermentioned dates, including the attached list of urgent key decisions taken since the last meeting of the Council, and to receive any questions or observations on any items within the Minutes from Members of the Council who are not Members of the Cabinet, and receive responses from Cabinet Members (Pages 45 - 52)

(time limit 20 minutes):-

a) 23rd October 2017

12 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Akhtar to MOVE and Councillor Jacques to SECOND:
Council notes that:

- Research conducted in 2015 by New Economy found that labour productivity as in Gross Value Added (GVA) per employment in Greater Manchester was lower than the national average in 14 of our 15 market sectors.
- National productivity has only grown by an average of 0.2% per annum, far below the ONS prediction of 1.6% per annum.
- It is estimated that the downgrading of national forecasts will cost the Treasury around £18 billion by 2021.
- The United Kingdom spends 0.5% of GDP on labour market programmes compared to Denmark and Ireland who spend over 3% and whose productivity levels have risen over the last 5 years.

Council further notes that:

- The Oldham Strategic Investment Framework, Local Economic Assessment and Work and Skills Strategy all demonstrate the need to develop a skilled, educated and dynamic workforce. The Skills deficit for citizens at Level 3 and/or 4 is 10 percentage points between Oldham and England Average
- Consequently, Oldham residents earn £5k a year less than the England average (£23k vs £28k)
- The GM economy will see double digit growth in Professional and Technical occupations with 50% of future jobs growth being office based.
- Re-skilling the workforce is vital if Oldham is to close the productivity gap which currently demonstrates a gap of nearly £10k between Oldham and Greater Manchester and £15k per head between Oldham and the England average.
- According to the Strategic Investment Framework, a 1% reduction in income inequality within Oldham could result in additional GVA growth in Greater Manchester up to £100m by 2035.
- Reskilling the workforce is a vital step to tackling these skills shortages across the city region.

Council is concerned that:

- The latest Government report into the impact of Further Education Reforms shows that there are 6.6% fewer learners entering further education per year since 2010, with nearly 9% reduction in the over 25s
- Since the introduction of Advanced Learning Loans, overall learner volumes in the years that loans were introduced, between 2012/13 and 2013/14, fell by - 7.7%. Further, the fall in the number of learners aged 25 or older was steeper at -10.4%
- 58% of Further Education loans funding, amounting to almost £1billion, has not been spent since 2013.
- That the advanced learner loan system, without improved marketing and wraparound support, is not fit for purpose.
- That without changes to the system the UK and Oldham's productivity levels will suffer.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Rt. Hon. Anne Milton, Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, outlining the Council's request to reshape how Advanced Learner Loans operate, informing the Minister of our Careers Advancement Service as an example as to how citizens need support to access skills funding, with a more flexible approach to the loan fund account management. Oldham Council also believes that employers should be able to take the lead in designing new mechanisms for employees to widen the choice to include non-apprenticeship pathways, and flexible part time qualifications to suit employer and sector needs.

Motion 2

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Hewitt to SECOND:

At present the performance at the Royal Oldham Hospital is deemed to be failing by the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership on the basis that the local economy is not consistently meeting the four-hour target at the front door of A& E.

In terms of delayed discharges from Hospital, Oldham is one of the best performing localities in GM and this is largely as consequence of the benefits of an integrated team combined with a robust service offer and significant financial investment. In September 2017, Oldham had the second lowest number of delayed days both in terms of overall numbers and delays attributable to social care and the lowest delayed days attributable to the NHS.

At present the patient flow across the hospital is measured in several ways. All are interconnected and poor performance in one area will impact on another. The Royal Oldham has a comparatively high number of presentations to A & E. Royal Oldham hospital on average exceeds 300 presentations per day and on many days in the last three months has exceeded 350 people per day.

The Royal Oldham hospital currently has 166 beds, plus 27 beds on the discharge lounge which is referred to as G1. This is a total of 193 beds in the medicine division. Whilst the aim across GM is to reduce the number of acute beds in favour of supporting people as close to home as possible, the number of base beds at the Royal Oldham hospital is lower per head of population than other hospitals.

There is a great deal of pressure on the health and social care system, this is a direct result of high demand combined with a lack of adequate resources due to inadequate Central Government funding and the Government's cap on public sector pay.

In Oldham, the Council, the CCG and its partners are working with the GM Health and Social Care Partnership to address these issues and the recent £21.3 million Transformation Fund investment into Oldham is welcome.

But the transformation funding will not fully address issues such as recruitment and retention, particularly in specialist areas such as Paediatrics and Emergency Care. The Budget also failed to address the underlying problems such as poverty, poor housing and unemployment that impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. The Chancellor did have an opportunity to address some of these issues in his recent budget, but sadly failed to do so.

This Council notes:

1. The £21.3 million GM Transformation Funding investment in Oldham's health economy.
2. The fact that Oldham is one of the best performing localities with regards to delayed discharges from hospital.
3. The concern around waiting times at A&E.
4. Its disappointment that in his Budget announcement the Chancellor failed to meaningfully address the issue of public sector pay
5. That the Budget fails to address issues such as poverty, poor housing and unemployment.
6. This Council thanks all those involved in the health and social care sector for their commitment and hard work.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health, asking them to ensure that there is an urgent review of

pay for NHS staff so that NHS organisations can recruit and retain staff with the right levels of skill to ensure that patients receive a safe, high quality and efficient service.

Motion 3

Councillor Roberts to MOVE and Councillor Chadderton to SECOND:

This Council notes that Oldham, together with thousands more, will celebrate International Women's day on the 8th March 2018. Oldham Council has already agreed to mark the centenary of the Women's Suffrage Act by supporting the Suffrage to Citizenship Campaign throughout 2018 and this will include marking the actual anniversary in November. Working with the Youth Council and local organisations, activities will focus on ways of encouraging young women (and men) to be more actively involved in the local community, an aim that fits well with our ethos as a Co-operative Council.

Oldham Council has previously affirmed its commitment to women's equality; acknowledged the unequal impact of austerity on women and supported the aims of the WASPI campaign for fair access to pensions.

Oldham Council further notes that the Government continues to put forward proposals which threaten vital services for women, this time the funding of refuges for women escaping domestic violence. The Government consultation paper 'Funding Supported Housing' includes proposals to remove the payment of Housing Benefit to women living in refuges, which provides over 50% of their funding, and replace this with a ring fenced grant to local authorities which will also have to pay for short-term supported housing for older people, homeless people, people with mental illnesses and drug addicts.

This council is extremely concerned that this threatens the sustainability of refuges, which by their nature often provide a service to women out of the borough, and which are already unable to meet demand.

This council resolves

1. to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Local Government and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Family Support, Housing and Child Maintenance to express our concern and to ask for continuation of the existing system of paying Housing Benefit to women living in refuges
2. to ask the Borough's three MPs to press for the continuation of the current system and to seek more secure funding for refuges
3. to ask our representatives at the LGA to urge for the LGA to lobby against this proposed change

13 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor McCann to Move and Councillor Sykes to SECOND:

Council notes that planning officers do not notify Ward Members when the conditions attached to planning approvals are satisfactorily discharged by the applicant.

In order to establish greater transparency in the planning process and to keep Ward Members better informed and engaged, Council resolves that best practice be created by requiring planning officers to give such notification and that opportunities be provided for Ward Members to engage with members of the public on planning matters in the spirit of co-operation.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive as Head of Paid Service to liaise with the Head of Planning and Infrastructure to ensure that planning officers are made aware of these requirements and ensure that they happen.

Motion 2

Councillor Turner to MOVE Councillor Gloster to SECOND:

This Council notes that:

- An amendment (New Clause 30) to the EU Withdrawal Bill, proposed by Caroline Lucas MP, was recently defeated by the Government in Parliament. This amendment sought to transfer the EU Protocol on animal sentience set out in [Article 13 of Title II of the Lisbon Treaty](#) into UK law, so that animals continue to be recognised as sentient beings under domestic law.
- Widespread concern has been expressed by animal welfare groups, members of parliament and the public that the defeat of this clause will lead to a weakening of the laws protecting animals.
- Gudrun Ravetz, Senior Vice-President of British Veterinary Association, the professional body for practicing veterinarians in the UK, stated: “Enshrining animal sentience in UK law would have acknowledged that we consider animals as being capable of feelings such as pain and contentment and, so, deserving of consideration and respect. It is a founding principle of animal welfare science, and for the way that we should treat all animals. There is now an urgent need for clarity from Government on how the provisions in Article 13 will be enshrined in UK law to ensure we do not fall short of the high standards we expect as a nation of animal lovers.”
- In recognition of this concern, the Environment Secretary Michael Gove said in a ministerial statement that: “This Government is committed to the very highest standards of animal welfare. As the Prime Minister has set out, we will make the United Kingdom a world leader in the care and protection of animals.” In his statement, the Minister promises to increase the jail sentence for humans who abuse animals to five years, improve CCTV monitoring in slaughterhouses, and strengthen the ban on the ivory trade and ban microbeads in products.

This Council:

- Recognises that animals are sentient beings and deserving of the highest standards of legal protection.
- Shares the widespread public concern that the defeat of New Clause 30 may represent a threat to the legal protection of animals.
- Wishes to see this Government live up to its promise to “make the United Kingdom a world leader in the care and protection of animals” by enacting the measures promised by the Environment Secretary as quickly as possible.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:

- The Environment Secretary to express our concern at the defeat of New Clause 30 and to seek reassurance and clarification from the Minister as to when and how the Government intends to honour its promise to be a “world leader” in this field by enacting the alternative and enhancing animal welfare legislation outlined in his Ministerial Statement.
- Our three local Members of Parliament to seek their support for the Council’s position.

Motion 3

Councillor Williamson to MOVE and Councillor McCann to SECOND:

This Council notes:

- There are an estimated 7.5 million street lights in the UK
- In 2014, the Green Investment Bank reported that only 10% of these are LED
- It is estimated that switching all street lights to LED would:
 - save Councils over £200 million per year, paying for half a million children to have free school meals each year or for an extra 12 million hours of social care
 - prevent over 600,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide from being emitted into the atmosphere every year, the equivalent of taking 400,000 cars off the road
 - take 0.5 GW off peak electricity demand, the equivalent of a coal fired power station
 - reduce light pollution as they are more directional and can employ sensors which determine when they are most needed and when they are not
- Further cost reductions can be provided through the use of LED lighting within Council buildings
- Affordable financing is available to Councils to make the change to LED street lights through the Public Works Loan Board, the Salix Energy Efficiency Loans Scheme and the Green Investment Group amongst others
- That the change is possible even in a situation where the street lighting service is provided via a Private Finance Initiative model
- That the 10:10 climate change climate group is asking Council to sign up to the Lighten Up pledge and make a commitment to going fully LED within 5 years

As a local authority committed to reducing its carbon footprint and providing residents with value-for-money services, Council recognises that a change to LED has merit, is worth investigating, and that a proposal to so was approved by the Performance and Value for Money sub-committee when it was presented as part of the alternate budget proposed by the Liberal Democrat Group in 2017.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Performance and Value for Money sub-committee to examine:

- The practicality and affordability of replacing street lights and lighting in Council buildings with LEDs in whole or in part
- The possibility of the Council making a commitment to replace all street lights with LEDs within five years and to making the Pledge as a signatory to the Lighten Up campaign.

- 14 To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant a spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 53 - 108)

(time limit 8 minutes):-

Transport for Greater Manchester	10 th November 2017
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	27 th October 2017
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities	27 th October 2017
National Peak Park Authority	6 th October 2017
Police and Crime Panel	31 st October 2017
Greater Manchester Health and Social	28 th July 2017

Care Partnership Board	
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- 14 To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant
b spokespersons to respond to questions from Members (Pages 109 - 120)

(time limit 7 minutes)

MioCare Group	18 th September 2017
Oldham Leadership Board	2 nd November 2017

- 15 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 121 - 148)
- 16 Civic Appreciation Nomination (Pages 149 - 150)
- 17 Consideration of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Levy Allocation Methodology and Approval of a Revised Levy Allocation Model Agreement (Pages 151 - 186)
- 18 Treasury Management Strategy Half Year Review 2017/18 (Pages 187 - 206)
- 19 2018/19 Council Tax Reduction Scheme (Pages 207 - 234)
- 20 Brexit Update
Report to follow.
- 21 Amendment to Financial Procedure Rules - Write off Authorisation Limits (Pages 235 - 240)
- 22 Independent Members on the Independent Remuneration Panel and Independent Persons on the Standards Committee (Pages 241 - 242)
- 23 Municipal Calendar 2018/19 (Pages 243 - 260)

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



**Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



MOTION – Secunder of the Motion to SECOND – May reserve right to speak



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

(a) No Member shall speak longer than four minutes on any **Motion or Amendment**, or by way of question, observation or reply, unless by consent of the Members of the Council present, he/she is allowed an extension, in which case only one extension of 30 seconds shall be allowed.

(b) A Member replying to more than question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

WITH AMENDMENT

