

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Briggs, Brownridge, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Fielding, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Haque, Harkness, Heffernan, Hudson, Jabbar, Jacques, Judd, Leach, Malik, McLaren, Murphy, Mushtaq, Price, Qumer, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Ur-Rehman and Williams

1

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

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

The following questions had been submitted:

1. Question received from Mr. Uddin via Facebook and email:

“Shortage of Secondary School place for Residents of Coppice & Primrose Bank. Recently the Council approved the expansion of North Chadderton School at a cost of £3.4m. North Chadderton School was chosen ahead of Hathershaw College citing additional refurbishment costs but this wasn’t detailed in the report nor was it scrutinised. In the Manchester evening news it was reported that the Council took 75 seconds to come to the decision to expand North Chadderton which clearly indicates that adequate scrutiny was not afforded to this decision. The PAN number at North Chadderton School is 240 compared to 210 for Hathershaw. Despite this, Hathershaw College was not prioritised for expansion. The parents of Coppice are frustrated that most of their children are excluded from attending Hathershaw College as priority is given to the feeder schools. Will the Council seriously look into the expansion of Hathershaw College in the immediate future given the acute shortage of secondary school places for the residents of Coppice?”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that forecasts showed that by September 2019 an additional 110 places would be needed in year 7 and subsequently across all other year groups. By 2022, there would be 150 places needed in

year 7 and subsequently across all other year groups. If the trend follows the primary school projections then the additional places would be needed in Chadderton and East and West Oldham. There were a number of schemes that had been discussed at the Education Provision Group (EPG) which sought to address the pressure and satisfy demand in the borough, ensuring the Council's statutory duty of providing sufficient school places was adhered to. The opportunity to expand existing secondary schools had been evaluated using the Secondary Schools Priority Matrix. The matrix took into account a number of criteria including percentage of first preference requests at year 7 allocation, Ofsted ratings, progress and attainment results, site conditions and capital cost per pupil place. Using this criteria, the priority school for expansion at this current time was North Chadderton School. The Radclyffe School and Hathershaw College were the next priorities according to the local authority expansion criteria. These options were looked at and analysed, the amount of places needed in West Oldham warranted more than could physically be put on Hathershaw's existing school site. There was a new free school opening in East Oldham in September 2020 – Oasis Academy Leesbrook. There was also the possibility of a new school in West Oldham in September 2022 which was currently being investigated and a site selection process undertaken.

2. Question received from Syed Maruf Ali via Facebook and email:

“The residents of Coppice, Primrose Bank and other areas of West Oldham desperately need a good/outstanding Secondary school in our area following the closure of St Augustine and Grange School! Schools census stats from January 2017 show minority ethnic pupils now make up 46.5% of primary school pupils in state-funded Oldham schools & 39.8% of pupils in state-funded Oldham secondary schools. According to Oldham Council's 2018 profile document just 22.5% of the Oldham population is BME. The majority of the BME population lives around town Centre. There is shortage of Secondary School places due to St Augustine School and Grange School been relocated in Royton/Shaw & Chadderton area. Also the number of foreign born children in Oldham schools increased from 318 pupils to 2,471 in just 4 years. The national insurance figures release for January to March 2018 show another 530 adult migrants arrived in Oldham with 77% settling in Oldham's central Ward. Is Oldham Council going to build a Secondary School around town centre base to address the shortage of Secondary School places? There has been expansion of secondary School in other area, however due to individuals School Admission criteria residents of Primrose Bank/Coppice does not have access to those School. Based on the statistic the priority

of OLDHAM COUNCIL should have been to build another secondary School in Town Centre base or expand the existing town centre base School. Why hasn't this been done? The cabinet member responsible for education needs to address the lack of choices for schools for children in Coppice/Primrose Bank area. It is an issue that is of serious concern for many parents."

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture referred to the previous response and had nothing further to add.

3. Question received from Peter Brown via email:

"What is the role of the Leader of the Opposition to that of his Councillors, and to the electorate? What should the electorate expect from his answer?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the role of the Opposition was to hold the Council and Executive to account and to provide leadership to his group as the Leader did to the Labour Group.

4. Question received from Stephen Kenyon via letter:

"I made a complaint about Councillor Gloster for breaching many of Oldham Council's codes of conduct. A Standards Assessment sub-committee decided on 22 March 2018 that 'no further investigation was required.' I then asked Paul Entwistle (Borough Solicitor) 'How could they come to this decision as many codes of conduct had been breached, could I please see Councillor Gloster's response? I was then sent an email stating that 'Councillor Gloster has declined to provide his response on this occasion.' I ask again? How did this committee come to find that breaching many of your codes of conduct doesn't need any investigation and may I please see Councillor Gloster's response?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the standards complaint had gone through the proper process of assessment. It was not appropriate for the Leader to become involved in a standards process nor was it appropriate for him to comment upon individual member decisions made as part of the process.

5. Question received from Barbara Caffery via email:

"Why do the Council not collect contaminated bins? I have been complaining for months and there are at least 10 in the alleyways behind Belgrave Road OL8"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded

that the Council did collect contaminated bins but only as a last resort as the Council would prefer to work with residents to ensure they fully understood what could and could not go into each bin before removing them. Officers had visited Belgrave Road many times in recent years and despite the Council's best efforts issues had continued. Officers had visited again last week and had identified a large number of contaminated bins that would be removed within the next 10 days.

6. Question received from Mr. Phil Howarth via email:

"Please can the Councillors of the Medlock Vale Ward investigate why the damaged play surface on the children playground next to St Martins School has been ripped up and replaced by sand? Is this sand going to be covered with a new play surface?" This will be dangerous if left as sand due to existing concrete bases being uncovered, dog fouling, broken glass, used needles being hidden in the sand. Are you ready for the lawsuits that will ensue? "

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that over a number of years the play items had been vandalised and the safety surface had been repaired numerous times but now needed to be removed as it was causing trip hazards and was unsafe. All the foundations of the play items had been removed before sand (which was a recognised safety surface) was installed to the depth of 300 mm. The sand will be raked once a week along with the other sand pits in Oldham. The site had gates to prevent dogs from accessing the site so the Council has asked residents to ensure that they do not allow their dogs into the site to maintain the safety.

7. Question received from George Kay via email:

"Why have the St Mary's Ward elected members not held a clinic/ surgery for face to face meetings with members of the public in their Ward during the past three years, nor do they advertise such in the limited editions of Oldham papers."

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that each member chose the method most appropriate for engaging the communities which they serve. In some cases the method meant holding ward surgeries, street stalls or something different. In St. Mary's members had found that surgeries were poorly attended and found more effective ways such as those described.

8. Deborah Barratt asked the following question:

"Sean Fielding does not agree with the north south divide how come Oldham is forgotten. Can the Council tell me

what constituents do about the ward councillors forgetting or ignoring parts of their ward?"



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise thanked Mrs. Barratt for acknowledgement of his work in the media and at GM to redress the imbalance in the conurbation. It was difficult to accept that any members were willing to ignore parts of their ward. Subject to any approach members would be willing to work with residents about investment in their area.

9. Question received from A. Coleman via letter:

"If Councillors are not fulfilling their roles they are voted into, what do we do about this?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that if members were not fulfilling their roles, then residents could make a judgement at each election and vote accordingly.

10. Question received from Mrs. Brenda Hatton via letter:

"Could the law be made so Councillors can only represent the wards they live in. This will surely make a marked improvement in caring about your area?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that as people may be aware it was not necessary for councillors to live in the borough if they owned a business or worked in the borough. There was no current councillor who did not live in the borough. With respect to a law being made so that members could only represent a ward in which they lived, this was not a decision for the council but a change in the law would need to be made at a national level.

11. Question received from Mark Birchall via letter:

"Hathershaw being one of the most deprived areas in the Country. We now have a crisis occurring right under your very eyes. Only one Councillor Rehman has come to our aid but as you can see from photographs parts of the area are slowly declining to slum level. This is one of the many social issues which need addressing in this area. This situation is totally out of unacceptable and we feel abandoned by our Council. Therefore residents would expect a response from the Leader Sean and MP Jim to discuss this at Cabinet level, will you please look into this matter and discuss as a matter of urgency."

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the

amount of waste being dumped in Hathershaw was not acceptable. During the election process, it was found that this problem was not unique and was one of the key revised priorities of the Administration was to recruit extra capacity into Street Scene and enforcement teams to get on top of the basic neighbourhood services the Council had. Decisions would be taken The Leader reaffirmed the administration's priority to recruit extra capacity into the enforcement teams. A decision would be taken at Cabinet level on the issue of cleanliness in the districts.

The meeting was adjourned at 18.25 and reconvened at 18.34.

Councillor Gloster addressed Full Council and provided a personal explanation related to adjournment.

Councillor Sykes added to the personal explanation.

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

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

1. Councillor Malik asked the following question:

"I have been approached by the residents of Neville Street and Prospect Road regarding the heavy articulated lorries using these narrow streets for deliveries to and out of Armacell. There has been lots of damage done to kerbs, bollards and to cars. There was an agreed scheme to open up Mars Street at the top with its junction with Osborne Street and Waddington Street, to enable the heavy lorries to drive through Quebec Street and on to Featherstall Road roundabout, to prevent heavy vehicles using these narrow streets. Can the relevant Cabinet Member tell us when this scheme will be done?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the option to open up the top end of Mars Street to provide improved access to Armacell was considered by the Council a number of years ago and a small indicative allocation at the time was set aside for a potential scheme. A detailed cost estimate of the proposed scheme was subsequently put together in 2013, but due to necessary identified utility works diversions and significant costly improvements required to the actual entrance to Armacell itself, the potential scheme was not able to proceed further at that stage. Since the scheme had been revisited, it was confirmed that in the absence of any visible alternatives, the scheme still represented the most appropriate traffic management solution to the

problem. Currently, there was no budget identified for the work in the current 3-year Highway Capital Programme or any indications of contributions being considered by Armacell for off-highway works to their private access and circulatory arrangements.

2. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

“Chadderton Hall Park is an exceptional park within the Chadderton North ward, which is well visited by people from all parts of the Borough. There is a proportion of the park that has been allocated to Adults with Learning Difficulties, which is a huge asset to our communities, and I couldn’t imagine a better use for it. However beside it, is a substantial area of hard standing which seems to be storage for machinery and vehicles from various parts of the Borough. In my view this is not a good use of space at such a prime location. I feel this space needs to be developed so that it directly benefits our residents and park users. I would like to ask the relevant Cabinet member if they would consider reviewing medium to longer term options for this space and see how it could be better utilised for our residents.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the hard standing area was used by Environmental Services for the storage of vehicles, equipment and materials. Discussions were ongoing within the Council to establish other locations where these could be accommodated.

3. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:

“As you are aware the land and buildings of the former South Chadderton School were taken out of ownership of Oldham Council by the Department of Education to allow the Collective Spirit School to open. Since the failure of Collective Spirit, Ward Councillors have insisted this land and buildings should be returned to Oldham Council. Can we be provided with any developments in this regard?”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture, responded that the Council had asked for the return of this site. The Department for Education had not to date confirmed their position but officers had been asked to contact them again in order to progress and clarify the position.

4. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

“The former Crompton Ambulance Station has been targeted by vandalism and anti-social behaviour. Would the Cabinet member responsible provide reassurances to ward members and local residents that this issue is being taken seriously and that the Council will do everything in

its power to resolve the matter and ensure that the premises remain secure?”



Oldham
Council

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety responded that the North West Ambulance Service had sold the former Crompton ambulance station to a private owner over a year ago. The owner had not provided any indication to the Council about intentions for the future development of the site. Since then the site had attracted intermittent anti-social behaviour and vandalism from local children. There was a spate of incidents in summer 2017 and then came back to the police's attention on 7 April and 23 June this year, with reports from a member of the public. The Council was working with the police to address the situation. This included:

- Intelligence about individuals who were potentially responsible was being followed up, so that appropriate action could be taken if this was substantiated;
- Key messages about anti-social behaviour and the impact on the local community was going out through local primary schools; and
- Environmental Enforcement had previously visited the site and placed a notice from the Council on the building about keeping it tidy and secure. The site had been revisited and found not to be fully secure. The owner had been issued with a fine and given until midday on 11th July to remedy this. A further visit was to take place and if the building was not secure, the Council would undertake the necessary work and recharge the costs to the owner.

5. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“The section of the Rochdale canal that runs through Chadderton Central Ward and the adjoining areas are very poorly maintained, ward Councillors and local residents have been in contact with the Canals and Rivers Trust with little success. In fact one of our residents was told that they do have a litter boat but it operates in the City Centre. Could the relevant Cabinet member ask Officers to work with Elected Members in engaging with the Canals and Rivers Trust to ensure that the canal is an amenity that residents can enjoy?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the Council already paid the Canals and Rivers Trust a considerable sum which enabled them to maintain the water body and tow paths. Officers would engage with the Trust to establish if they were able to undertake improvements to the landscaped areas immediately surrounding the canals. The officers would also ascertain

If the litter boat was able to operate within the canals in the Oldham area.



Oldham
Council

6. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:

“Malvern Mews in Royton North is a new development which has not been completed to the standard to allow Oldham Council to adopt the street which leaves residents with poor access and street scene. Could the Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods update us on progress in putting in place policies to ensure that developers meet their obligations to finish environmental works to the required standard?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that standard policies and procedures were already in place in accordance with Sections 278 and 38 of the Highways Act 1980. The Council was currently considering a number of changes which would make these procedures more robust and allow greater control over developers when new highways were being considered for adoption. Malvern Close was an existing un-adopted access road and had existed for so many years in its current condition. The developer was therefore not obligated to bring the highway up to an adoptable standard nor had the Council been approached by the developer to consider the un-adopted section of Malvern Close for adoption.

7. Councillor Akhtar asked the following question:

“A number of roads in Werneth ward are in an awful state of dis-repair in particular Werneth Hall Rd, Wellington Rd and Napier East/West. Local residents have stated that the roads are worse than those in developing countries. Could the cabinet member please assure the residents of Werneth that these roads will be included in the resurfacing Work programme?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that funds for this Council financial year 2018/19 had been approved and allocated against schemes solely based on detailed highways asset condition data. These programmes were set and approved and were currently being implemented across the Borough. The ongoing condition of all roads and other highways assets were continuously inspected, monitored and would become included on prioritised lists ready to form potential future programmes according to future available funding in future financial years. These roads were all inspected in late June, early July according to the ongoing planned highways inspection process and any matters which required immediate attention were identified with repairs likely to be carried out in late July/early August.



8. Councillor Heffernan asked the following question:

“Can we, on behalf of all residents, thank the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, the Oldham Mountain Rescue Team, the Army and all who helped control the many moor fires across Greater Manchester?

We are obviously particularly referring to Saddleworth. We have however aware of the excellent work done at Dovestones and into Tameside. Fires have also been fought on Crompton Moor, Denshaw and Winter Hill.

Unfortunately, many of the fires appear to have been started deliberately. Earlier this year, the Police took a firm stance on apprehending and prosecuting perpetrators including juveniles. We cannot try to understand these people. Security has been improved including the appointment of Marshals currently being funded via local Councillors, RSPB and United Utilities. The various services have gone beyond the call of duty and deserve our thanks. In addition, will the Cabinet Member look at long-term funding to secure the Marshal services?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources agreed that thanks be expressed to the Marshal Service. Funding for Marshalls at Dovestones reservoir would last for a period of 19 weeks up to and including September 9th, 2018. It was being funded by partner contributions from Oldham Council (Saddleworth and Lees District Executive), the RSPB, United Utilities and the Peak District National Park Authority. If favourable weather conditions continued for a prolonged period over the summer months, then further funding may be required from all the partners. This would be the subject of discussion and agreement. In the coming months, further discussions would be required for a solution to be agreed that would allow for the management of the Dovestones site on an annual basis. Building on the working arrangements that were currently in place, partners would be asked to contribute sufficient resources to continue the work that had proved so successful this year.

9. Councillor A. Alexander asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet Member for Education update us on the progress being made in building a new secondary school for Saddleworth? When can Saddleworth’s young people expect a school fit for the 21st Century to be open?”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the planning applications for the new Saddleworth School were currently being held up by discussions between the applicant and the Environment Agency on how best to ensure the flood risk was minimised by the development. The Council had been

informed that new flood risk information and modelling would be received from the applicant week beginning 16th July 2018. Should that information be acceptable to the Environment Agency, then after a further period of consultation, the applications would be determined by the Planning Committee.



10. Councillor Dean asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet Member for highways, inform me when the much need traffic calming measure will take place on Wellyhole Street? With significant new homes on this road, as well as access to parks and walking routes this is an urgent issue.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the introduction of traffic calming measures had been included in Year's One and Two of the current approved 3 year Highway Capital programme. It was hoped that measures would start to be introduced during January – March 2019 once the detailed design, consultation exercise and statutory advertising had been completed.

11. Councillor Davis asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet member responsible for road resurfacing let me know if Marlborough Drive and Turner Avenue in Failsworth West will be resurfaced? It is especially worn near the grass roots project at the top of Marlborough Drive, and will the dropped pavements be matched to the level of the road when it is resurfaced? Residents have expressed concerns regarding how difficult it is for wheelchair users and scooters and prams. If these works are to go ahead when will they start?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the works were currently out to tender for the resurfacing of both the roads mentioned in the question. Currently, the works were programme to start on site in early September 2018. However, this date was subject to some change following the appointment of a contractor which had followed the current tender process being completed. The works would take place within the current Council year 18/19 capital works programme.

12. Councillor Curley asked the following question:

“We are all aware of the ongoing situation with the horrendous fires on Saddleworth Moor. This has been a fear of the community for some time. The situation at Dovestone reservoir has been a constant source of worry and frustration with access problems and the potential for further fires and environmental damage a constant danger. Dovestone is frequently referred to by OMBC as

one of the centrepieces of the tourist attractions for the borough. Through the provision of the Dovestone Marshalls we have seen that Marshalls can alleviate much of this problem. The funding for this however is only temporary. Will the Council Leader and Cabinet member responsible provide guaranteed future funding for Marshalls and other measures as well as leading in seeking funding from other stakeholders such as United Utilities, The Peak Park Authority and Purico so we can help safeguard the homes, farms, water supplies and local environment. After all this area is of huge significance to the whole Borough and Gtr Manchester. It is only right that OMBC must lead on financing these measures.”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources referred to his previous responded. The funding would be in place until 9th September 2018 and if further funding was needed this would be the subject of discussion and agreement. Dovestone was a fantastic location.

13. Councillor S. Bashforth asked the following question:

“We have been experiencing what seems to be a sudden boom in the rat population in and around the Shaw Road End Park area of Royton South Ward. This is a very popular park with families and the number of sightings reported to us has never been higher i have requested baits to be put down and i know they have been, a number of times this year. I appreciate the weather may be a factor in this but can you reassure us that extra action is being taken to control the rat population here.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services confirmed that officers were taking extra action in the park in response to the increased sightings.

14. Councillor Briggs asked the following question:

“The Highways department has stated that the Ash bridge over the River Medlock in Daisy Nook is almost 50 years old and is a risk to health and safety of users. The bridge has been closed since January 2018 and apparently cannot be replaced due to the excessive cost. The bridge had barriers in place but these are frequently damaged and removed by parties unknown. How are the council going to balance closing a “public right of way” and keeping residents safe?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that tenders were currently being sought to demolish and remove the existing Ash Bridge to ensure public safety was maintained. The bridge was currently closed under a

temporary closure order of the particular public right of way and this would remain the situation as additional relevant funding was sought to contribute to a potential replacement structure.

15. Councillor Toor Asked the following question:

“Flytipping is a cause of major concern, with people dumping their rubbish irresponsibly. Despite numerous efforts by the council the situation is not getting any better. Certain parts of Medlock Ward, which includes Bardsley, Hathershaw and coppice have become an eysore.

Can the cabinet member outline what extra measures are proposed to tackle this important issue?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the Council was aware of the concerns being expressed related to flytipping incidents in some neighbourhoods in Oldham. Officers had been asked to look at the options available to provide extra resources and were waiting for costed options for consideration.

16. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

“The Footbridge between the “Woolpack field” and the Garden Centre in Dobcross has been closed for quite some time but residents would very much like to see it re-opened. I am aware that it is the responsibility of Newbank Garden Centre. The Garden Centre bought the land from the Council in 2001 at an auction sale. My understanding is that it was closed because the bridge decking is in a poor condition and had flood damage so the Garden Centre closed the path which is on their land. I know that the path is not a definitive right of way. However, there has been a path at this location for over 21 years. I understand that there can be objection to the closure under the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Section 53. Will the Cabinet Member please assist me in using this or any other means to help get this footpath back in use?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the existing path was currently the subject of an ongoing Definitive Map Modification Order (DMM) and was currently being considered by the Public Rights of Way team to allow the route to be added to the Definitive Rights of Way Map that could be viewed on the Council’s website. The process involved the collation of user evidence forms and a collection of historical evidence before a report could be submitted to the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Panel which met quarterly. The decision of the TRO Panel determined whether the application be accepted or rejected to modify this route to a definitive right of way with recognised status. A key

element in the current process had increased timescales was the circumstances of the unsafe bridge issue. The structure was located on the Newbank Garden Centre site and was privately owned and not a Council asset so the current responsibility of repair or reconstruction rested with the private landowner.

17. Councillor C. Gloster asked the following question:

“Currently, around Shaw and Crompton, there is a growing proliferation of land and buildings of the commercial variety that have fallen out of use and are standing derelict. I have no doubt that most of these buildings have been purchased by ‘land bankers’ - purchased in the hope that the value of the land and buildings will increase. Unfortunately these buildings are a target for damage, break-ins and anti-social behaviour. They are a blight on the lives of their neighbours. Examples of these sites are The Old Bulls Head pub at the top of Buckstones Road/Grains Bar, Eli Butterworth’s electrical shop on High Street, the old General Post Office and Legends Pub on Rochdale Road, and The Kings Arms at the Crompton Way roundabout. Can the Cabinet Member tell me if there is a plan in general to make these property owners take responsibility for their buildings and bring them back into use?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that Shaw and Crompton was not alone in having buildings like this in their wards. If the buildings were in private ownership, the Council had no legal interest in the property. However, should any property become a health and safety concern the Council’s Planning and Building Control departments could apply enforcement measures. The ambition was to make Oldham a more attractive place and for business to reopen and bring these buildings back into use naturally and not through intervention.

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

RESOLVED that the questions and the responses provided be noted.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Brock, Byrne, Chadderton, Harrison, Hewitt, Aftab Hussain, Fida Hussain, Larkin, Moores, Phythian, Turner and Williamson.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 23RD MAY 2018 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 23rd May 2018 be agreed as a correct record subject an

amendment at Item 7 of the minutes, insert after second paragraph, "Councillor Sykes and Councillor A. Alexander paid tribute to the work of Councillor Klonowski during his time served on the Council."

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:

Councillors Garry, C. Gloster and H. Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Items 12, Policing Motion, and 14a, Police and Crime Panel Minutes. Councillors Garry, C. Gloster and H. Gloster left the room during Item 12 and did not vote or take part in the discussion thereon.

Councillor M. Bashforth declared a personal interest at Item 14b, MioCare Board by virtue of her appointment to the Mio Care Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 14b, MioCare Board by virtue of his appointment to the Mio Care Board.

Councillor F. Hussain declared a personal interest at Item 14b, MioCare Board by virtue of his appointment to the Mio Care Board.

Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest at Item 14b by virtue of her appointment to the FCHO Board.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

The Mayor referred to the firefighters, the Army and Mountain Rescue who had been working in extremely difficult and challenging circumstances and were continuing to work hard to put out the multiple fires across Saddleworth Moor. Council recorded their thanks to all those involved.

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

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

People and Place

Petition related to Rear of Park Road/Brompton Street Road Surface (St. Mary's Ward) received on 12th June 2018 with 124 signatures (Ref: 2018-09)

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

OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The TUC

Councillor Fielding MOVED and Councillor Hewitt SECONDED the following motion:

“The Council notes that the 150th anniversary of the TUC is in June 2018. Council also notes that the history of the TUC is intertwined with that of Greater Manchester, with the first meeting of the TUC taking place in 1868 at the Mechanics Institute on Princess Street in the City Centre.

Council recognises the improvements to the quality of life of working people in Oldham and across the United Kingdom that have been delivered by Trade Union campaigning, particularly on pay, conditions and safety at work.

Council resolves to:

- Write to the General Secretary of the TUC, Frances O’Grady, reaffirming this Council’s Commitment to Trade Unionism.
- Offer a venue and support to the North West TUC who themselves are organising a programme of events across the region to ensure that the anniversary is marked in Oldham.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED the following Amendment:

“Insert an additional new paragraph 4:

‘This Council is proud to note that the Oldham Trades Council, a body comprising representatives from trades union branches within the Borough, was established in 1867, pre-dating the TUC by one year; that suffragette Annie Kenney was the first woman trades unionist elected to that body; that the early records for the Trades Council are now held at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford, and an early banner from the organisation by the People’s History Museum in Manchester.’

And that at the end of the resolution a full bullet point be added: ‘Work with the current Oldham Trades Union Council in organising this commemorative event.’

Amended Motion to read:

‘The Council notes that the 150th anniversary of the TUC is in June 2018.

Council also notes that the history of the TUC is intertwined with that of Greater Manchester, with the first meeting of the TUC taking place in 1868 at the Mechanics Institute on Princess Street in the city centre.

Council recognises the improvements to the quality of life of working people in Oldham and across the United Kingdom that have been delivered by Trade Union campaigning, particularly on pay, conditions and safety at work.

This Council is proud to note that the Oldham Trades Council, a body comprising representatives from trades union branches

within the Borough, was established in 1867, pre-dating the TUC by one year; that suffragette Annie Kenney was the first woman trades unionist elected to that body; that the early records for the Trades Council are now held at the Working Class Movement Library in Salford, and an early banner from the organisation by the People's History Museum in Manchester.



Council resolves to:

- Write to the General Secretary of the TUC, Frances O'Grady, reaffirming this Council's commitment to Trades Unionism.
- Offer a venue and support to the North West TUC who themselves are organising a programme of events across the region to ensure that the anniversary is marked in Oldham.
- Work with the current Oldham Trades Union Council in organising this commemorative event."

Councillor Fielding exercised his right of reply. Councillor Fielding ACCEPTED the AMENDMENT.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

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

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The General Secretary of the TUC, Frances O'Grady, be written to reaffirming this Council's commitment to Trades Unionism.
2. A venue and support be offered to the North West TUC who themselves were organising a programme of events across the region to ensure that the anniversary was marked in Oldham.
3. The Council work with the current Oldham Trades Union Council in organising this commemorative event.

9

YOUTH COUNCIL

There was no business from the Youth Council to consider.

10

LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

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

1. Question 1:

"The new Leader has talked about his plans to revise the Masterplan for the Oldham Town Centre. I am sure everyone in this chamber, myself included, will look forward to seeing the revised proposals. But first let me raise with the Leader tonight the issue of outstanding

developments on two other town centre sites – that of Prince’s Gate and of Hotel Future. The Council’s website still proclaims Prince’s Gate is ‘one of the most ambitious redevelopments for our town centre since the 1980’s’. Former Leader Jim McMahon called it a ‘game-changer for the new Oldham’. Version 1 of this Royally-named scheme was due to open in 2017, but it collapsed when the flagship retailer Marks and Spencer pulled out despite a £9 million plus sweetener to fit out their new store and a promise of rent free occupancy for six months. On then to Version 2, minus M&S or may be just an M&S Food Hall. And now another Labour Council Leader, Councillor Jean Stretton, who was supposed to announce a new development partner for the site in the summer of 2017. Some 12 months on, not a shout nor a sign – so perhaps we are onto Version 3, now we have yet another Labour Council Leader? Prince’s Gate was supposed to deliver 700 jobs and £21 million a year to the local economy. Instead, it has so far cost the Council Tax payers of Oldham many millions in undisclosed abortive costs spent on marketing, planning and regeneration professionals as well as the costs of site assembly and clearance. And what do we have to show for it – a very, very costly car park. Truly then a gateway fit more for a Pauper than a Prince. Let us next turn to another site – the ‘will, won’t it go ahead’ hotel and conference centre on our doorstep, the development adjoining the Queen Elizabeth Hall, formerly known as Hotel Future. Poor Hotel Future has become like an unwanted old mongrel when it was once a Crufts pedigree. It was first a bespoke hotel training establishment offering courses in the hospitality industry, then it became a standard hotel from a standard hotel chain, then the plan was abandoned when the site, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, was scheduled for demolition. And now the Leader is holding out the promise of refurbishing the QE Hall and perhaps putting the hotel back on site. In any case, the joke has clearly been again at the expense of Oldham Council Tax payers. It was revealed in a recent response to a Freedom of Information request that £418,670 has been spent on this project between 2011 and its abandonment in July 2017. Here then is my final question. Will the Leader please end the misery and tell us what development will be done, when it will be done and with whom it will be done on the Prince’s Gate and the Hotel Future sites?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that the regeneration of the town centre and various sites in the town centre was the key focus as a reason for becoming Leader. The two sites and the difficulties in bringing these sites into development illustrated why it was imperative to get the development right and be confident that it would be delivered and also that it delivered the outcomes wanted for the people of Oldham. Prince’s Gate was a key gateway from some of the most

affluent parts of the borough and anything less than the very best for that site would not be acceptable. Officers were working on schemes that could be built upon to get the type of gateway that Oldham deserved. With regard to Hotel Future, this was based on the nature of the market. There was demand for hotel provision in the town centre with Metrolink and the proximity to Saddleworth and the Etihad Stadium and it was important to provide for that demand. Hotel Future as first envisioned was highly unlikely. However, there would be hotel provision was part of the redevelopment plan because of that demand. The key to regeneration schemes so far have been Council led and have used funding to make things happen such as the cinema in the Old Town Hall. If it had been left to the market, nothing would have happened. Things had changed as a result of the Council intervention with the money put in. The same approach would be used for hotel provision and key gateway scheme that was deliverable at Prince's Gate.

2. Question 2:

“For my second question to the Leader tonight, I have to return to an issue I raised with his predecessor almost exactly one year ago today – namely the lack of availability of places for the children of our Borough in the schools of their choice. I am sorry to have to tell you colleagues that one year on, the situation is now worse not better. This year, in Oldham, 387 children missed out on a place at any of their preferred secondary schools. Ye that is right any of their preferred schools. That is one in nine Year 6 pupils or 10.9% to be exact. Of those who got a place at one of their preferred secondary schools, only 73% got their first preference. That compares badly with the national picture where 82% got a place at a first preference school. Overall we were bottom of the class – the worst performing local authority in Greater Manchester – when it came to offering school places. That’s almost 400 children (and their parents) failed by our system, not getting their first choice of secondary school, and not getting their second or third either. And I regret that this is even worse than last year when I could report to Council that 8.9% of pupils did not secure a place to start at any of their preferred schools in September 2017. That is 2% more than 12 months ago. As I said last year, and I make no apology for saying it again, this situation is scandalous – we can do better, much better and we must do better, for the sake of our children and their educational future. I look forward to the Council meeting when I can ask the Leader a positive question about education in our borough – I am sorry to say that with the current level of performance that I cannot see this as being at any point soon. I am pleased that the replacement Royton and Crompton School is now beginning to be built in my part of the world, and that we also have a promised expansion at Crompton House

School, albeit with the caveat that we in Shaw and Crompton are anxious to ensure that these places are first directed at local pupils. However for colleagues in Saddleworth and the families they represent, the replacement school at the Diggle site still appears far off and uncertain, years behind schedule. I would therefore like to ask the Leader what has been done to make more secondary school places available from this September; what is being done to get the Saddleworth School project back on track; and what can be done to ensure that the Crompton House expansion means first and foremost more places for local children?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council agreed and education was the gateway out of poverty and a key priority for this Administration with a pledge to provide additional places and increase the proportion attending a good or outstanding school. In terms of school readiness, Oldham was the most improved in Greater Manchester. The proportion of schools which were good or outstanding was improving and confident that this would improve further after the next round of inspections. The provision of school places was hampered by the rules of Government which did not allow the Council schools. The Council had to find a partner to deliver a free school or get an academy chain to pen in Oldham. A free school bidding round had opened and the Council was already in discussions in order to create the additional places needed here in Oldham, particularly where pressures were. There was good news with regard to free schools bidding to create places especially where there was pressure. With regard to Saddleworth School, the applicant was currently in discussions with the Environment Agency to overcome reasons for objections and would get that right and with regard to Crompton House the authority wanted to see Oldham children and do what could be done within the Council's power.

Councillor Hudson, Leader of the Conservative Group, asked about the use of the plastic cups in the meeting rooms and when they would be discontinued. Councillor Fielding, the Leader of the Council confirmed in September 2018 the use of plastic cups would be discontinued.

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 Shuttleworth asked the following question:

“Despite a critical report from the National Audit Office and a legal defeat for the government over the treatment of people with disabilities, Pensions secretary Esther McVey

has hailed Universal Credit as a “great British innovation,” that Universal Credit is “based on leading-edge technology and agile working practices,” and the UK is “leading the world in developing this kind of person-centred system. As Oldham was a pilot area for the introduction of Universal Credit, does Cllr Jabbar agree with these comments from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in so far as residents in our borough are concerned?”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources responded that Britain was a great nation, Universal Credit as a great innovation was a sad moment. There were massive delays on the initial payment, people had to go to the foodbank, children were going without food and some people had committed suicide because they were not able to meet their families’ needs. It could not be a great invention if it was putting people’s lives at risk. A great invention was the National Health Services which had saved millions of lives. The Secretary of State had apologised for her comments. There were thousands in receipt of Universal Credit in Oldham and experienced hardship. Residents should be referred Welfare Rights and Access to ensure that residents were claiming the right benefits and entitlements such as free school meals. Universal Credit has brought hardship and misery to many people.

2. Councillor Haque asked the following question:

“As we celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the NHS – created by Labour and opposed at every vote by the Tories in 1948 – could the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care comment on the implications for Oldham of the recent unfunded NHS budget increase announced by the Prime Minister and our plans for transforming services through health devolution in Greater Manchester?”

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care took the opportunity to speak about the 70th Anniversary of the National Health Service (NHS) and congratulated all the staff. The recent announcement by the Prime Minister was of a 3.4% increase per year for the next five years. Whilst the certainty of a five year financial settlement, there were a number of unknowns which was not good enough. There was no surprise when nurses had to go to a foodbank. It was subject to the NJS meeting a number of tests (savings plans, eliminating deficits in provider Trusts, reducing variation, improving demand management, improving utilisation of capital funds), this was a national announcement and only covered the ‘NHS Mandate’. The integrated care system approach in Oldham brought together a range of stakeholders, commissioners and providers known as

Oldham Cares. A whole system redesign was underway with the purpose of integrating health and social care services around five geographical clusters and with GP practices at the core. Oldham had significant challenges in health and social care and would hold ourselves accountable. A cross party advisory group would be set up to move forward.

3. Councillor Akhtar asked the following question:

“Parents from Werneth ward in particular from the Coppice Neighbourhood are at a disadvantage in gaining admission at a good secondary school due to admission policy changes to some schools and due to distance in other cases. There is speculation that a new secondary school will be developed in Oldham, could the cabinet member for Education and Culture reassure the residents of Coppice that they will not be at a disadvantage once again due to distance and the quality of education provided by the chosen sponsor.”

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the local authority had a policy of only supporting applications for new schools from good or outstanding providers and this was reflected in the Council’s Free Schools Policy. Any new provision would be expected to offer a fair and transparent admission policy which caters for local needs. The local authority would satisfy itself that any new Free Schools offers an admissions policy which did not disadvantage local residents in the schools catchment area.

4. Councillor H. Gloster asked the following question:

“In recent months, we have debated in this Council, people trafficking and modern slavery, yet in May of this year, the media reported that Oldham has the highest number of incidents of young people in our care going 'missing' of any council in the UK. According to media reports, our looked after children, where the Council acts as the responsible corporate parent, went missing an average of 13 times each in a year. Now in any family situation, it is not uncommon for children to be unaccounted for a few hours, but fortunately in almost every instance the missing loved-one reappears none the worse for their absence, but this is surely on the face of it a frightening statistic. In these instances, there is the need for greater concern and greater vigilance as children’s charities say youngsters in care are extremely vulnerable, because they are more at risk of being exploited by criminal gangs and adults who groom children. Can I ask the Cabinet Member to comment on these recent statistics from the Office of National Statistics, most specifically whether at this moment in time we can as a Council account for all of the children who have gone ‘missing’? And can the Cabinet Member

also please outline what this Council is doing to keep our looked-after children safe?”



Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded on behalf of Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services. Councillor Jacques shared the concern about looked after children who went missing and the additional risks they faced. As corporate parents the Council needed to ensure that it was doing everything it could to understand why young people went missing and to prevent it happening. The quoted figure of ‘13 times’ related to the average per looked after child who went missing and only related to 12% of Oldham’s looked after children i.e. 88% of looked after children did not go missing in the period. There was no cause for complacency since and since the time period in the published figures (2016/17). The Council had put in additional measures to address the issue and improve the response. Most recently the Council had designated a single point of responsibility – the Team Manager of the Phoenix Team for coordinating initial responses and ensuring cases were escalated where necessary. This approach also ensured a better link with the Council’s response to children missing education and other safeguarding concerns. Whenever a particular young person went missing, the Council worked closely with police colleagues to establish the likely whereabouts when known and ensure their safe return. Every child was offered an independent ‘return interview’ to establish the reason why they went missing and work with the young person to prevent a reoccurrence. The safety and wellbeing of looked after children was a prime priority for Councillor Chadderton in her Cabinet role and as Chair of the Corporate Parenting Panel and would hold Council officers to account on an ongoing basis to ensure the whole system worked to keep children safe wherever they were placed. This would include close monitoring of the number of young people who went missing and the frequency.

5. Councillor Ball asked the following question:

“Would the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods join me in congratulating everyone who helped Oldham Council achieve the Bronze award from the Sustainable Food Cities Network and highlight the achievements which this recognises?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services congratulated everyone involved in this, including the Council, partners and local residents. Oldham had been awarded the Sustainable Food Cities Bronze award, the second borough in Greater Manchester and one of a handful of places nationally. The Awarding Panel said Oldham’s work had shown what could be achieved when

creative and committed people work together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live. The award recognised the Council's co-operative approach 'from grassroots to boardroom' to promote healthy, sustainable and local food at all levels. This includes a wide range of food activity linked with health, education, enterprise and growing. Initiatives championed by the award included the Oldham Food Network, the Get Oldham Growing Programme and the Green Dividend Fund. The Council would continue working together to grow a vibrant local food economy, increase fair access to food for residents, improve education and create healthy communities.

6. Councillor Leach asked the following question:

“Could the relevant Cabinet Member update on progress being made on the Lees Park Eco Centre and the plans for its use?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that Lees Park Eco Centre was finished for the open day on 24th March 2018. As part of Oldham Council's Get Oldham Growing Programme, the redundant bowling green and cabin at Lees Park had been transformed into an Eco Centre. The Eco Centre would be used for growing organic fruit and vegetables and would facilitate a range of courses on topics such as healthy eating. The centre would also educate residents on all aspects of sustainable living, the environment, wildlife, energy efficiency, renewable energy and water management. The Council wanted residents and community groups to make use of the facilities on offer which included vegetable plots, a classroom, poly tunnels, wildlife pond and composting area. This was a social enterprise scheme managed by Alan Price who was not a council employee, further information could be obtained by contacting him at alan.price@live.co.uk.

7. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

“Thanks to new building developments in Failsworth West, the ward will now benefit from a considerable amount of Section 106 monies. Is it feasible that Councillors have more say on where, and what it is spent on?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that as many members would be aware, planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 were a mechanism which made development proposals acceptable in planning terms that would otherwise not be acceptable. The common uses of Section 106 were to: secure affordable housing and specify the type and timing of this housing;

and to secure financial contributions to provide infrastructure. It was also possible to use Section 106 to say what can or can't be developed on a specific piece of land or how it could be used, and it could require a sum or sums of money to be paid to the authority as a one-off or over a period of time. The legal tests for when a S106 agreement could be used were set out in the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010. Those tests were that the S106 request must be: necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to the development; and fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. Provided a Councillor's request met those tests, then it was reasonable that a Councillor could influence where and what a S106 contribution was spent on in consultation with the Council's Planning Officers and the developer in question. There was potential to pick up this idea in the neighbourhood review that the new administration had ordered in order to empower ward members in more area, a review which was being overseen by Councillor Shah.

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

RESOLVED that the questions and the responses provided be noted.

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

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 26th February 2018, 26th March 2018 and 23rd April 2018 were submitted.

There were no questions raised on the Cabinet minutes.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor Harkness, Cabinet Minutes, 26th February 2018, Item 7, Joint Local Area Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Inspection in Oldham 2 – 6 October 2017 – Councillor Harkness expressed disappointment with the inspection report and that transformation was needed and highlighted the challenge to raise standards in services, case log and budget overspend.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council must get the service absolutely right. Staff were passionate and the language used was emotive. The Administration understood the

obligations and investing the resources and had seen and hoped to see improvements in the future.



Oldham
Council

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 26th February 2018, 26th March 2018 and 23rd April 2018 be noted.
2. The observation and response be noted.

12

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Policing

Councillor S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor M. Bashforth SECONDED the following Motion:

“This Council notes that anti-social behaviour and crime in our suburbs is blighting our communities creating an unsettling atmosphere of fear and justified anger. This arises from the reduction in front line police services as a direct result of coalition and Tory Government cuts of £215m in the money which funds Greater Manchester Police.

2,000 Officers have been cut across GM since 2010 – over 1/3 of the total. The police are under increasing pressure to fight cyber crime/terrorism and because of the cuts neighbourhood policing is suffering.

It is essential that the public have confidence in the police and that the relationship between police and elected members is strong. The 101 service is the first point of contact for reporting crime and more needs to be done to ensure it is responsive and reliable and deals with the issues troubling residents appropriately. In the current situation of reducing public sector resources, it is also important that there is good communication between the police and elected members as residents will approach whoever they can contact to raise concerns about policing and anti-social behaviour.

Council notes that this Labour administration has appointed a cabinet member for Police and Community Safety to focus on these issues and resolves

1. to ask the Cabinet Member to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding between the council and police to ensure that elected members can be confident that their enquiries on behalf of residents will be dealt with and responded to in a timely manner.
2. to continue to press the Mayor for Greater Manchester to resolve the difficulties faced by the 101 service so that it provides an acceptable response to calls made by the public”

Councillor Ur-Rehman spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Sheldon spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Hudson spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Ali spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Rehman spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Iqbal spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor S. Bashforth exercised his/her right of reply.

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



RESOLVED that:

1. The Cabinet Member be asked to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding between the council and police to ensure that elected members can be confident that their enquiries on behalf of residents will be dealt with and responded to in a timely manner.
2. The Mayor of Greater Manchester to be pressed continually to resolve the difficulties faced by the 101 service to that it provided an acceptable response to calls made by the public.

Motion 2 – Rail

Councillor Leach MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED the following Motion:

“This Council notes with dismay the continuing shocking state of rail services in the Greater Manchester area. New timetables have reduced the number of trains at peak times and fragmented journeys across the conurbation of Greater Manchester. The ‘emergency’ timetable has only marginally improved the situation. People travelling from Oldham have suffered intolerably.

The underlying problem is of underinvestment in local rail service, lack of rolling stock, too few trains at peak times and unreliability of the service. Basically, this is the result of the fragmentation of rail services, the operation of the franchise system and the length of franchising. Delays in electrification and other infrastructural improvements have negatively affected rail users in the North.

This council supports the efforts of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and local MPs to get the Government, Network Rail and the operating companies to take responsibility for this crisis and to provide a long term solution which accords as much importance to local links in the system as to inter-city travel.

The Council welcomes work underway at Mills Hill to provide full platform access.

This Council believes that

1. The current franchising system is dysfunctional and should be overhauled. Current franchise holders unable to meet their obligations should have their contracts terminated and face financial penalties.
2. Transport for the North must have the same signatory authority over rail franchises as that now exercised by Transport for London.
3. As a minimum, timetable changes need at least to reinstate services cut from May 2018, better they should

- reflect earlier commitments for an upgrade programme, taking account of the views of passengers.
4. Full platform access is needed at Greenfield, with a firm commitment to funding and a time frame for completion.



The Council resolves to

1. Ask its representatives on Transport for Greater Manchester to take every opportunity to push for a revised timetable which provides stability and reliability, access improvements and increased investment in rail services.
2. Work with local groups to campaign for longer term improvements in rail services.
3. Pledge its support for campaigns, including that of the Manchester Evening News, for greater investment and increased powers for Transport for the North to provide a rail service for Oldham, and the North West, which meets local needs and is managed in the North.”

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired.

Councillor Leach did not exercise her right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The representatives on Transport for Greater Manchester be asked to take every opportunity to push for a revised timetable which provided stability and reliability, access improvements and increased investment for rail services.
2. The Council work with local groups to campaign for longer term improvements in rail services.
3. The Council pledged its support for campaigns, including that of the Manchester Evening News, for greater investment and increased powers for Transport for the North to provide a rail service for Oldham, and the North West, which met local needs and was managed in the North.

Motion 3 – Tyred Campaign

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Stretton as the Mover of the Motion and Councillor Haque as Second of the Motion requested the permit the following motion be roled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

“On Monday 10 September 2012 a coach bound for Liverpool carrying 53 people from the Bestival music festival on the Isle of Wight, left the road and crashed into a tree instantly killing Michael Molloy (18), Kerry Ogden (23) and the coach driver, Colin Daulby (63), and left others with life-changing injuries. The inquest into the crash found that the front nearside tyre which

was actually older than the coach itself, at 19 years, was responsible for the crash. In 2014, Liverpool City Council unanimously agreed on a motion in support of Michael's mother Frances calling for a change in the law requiring a ban on tyres older than six years on commercial vehicles. Despite the widespread public and political support for this campaign, no change in the law has been made, shamefully leaving others at risk from faulty and dangerous tyres.

Council notes that Frances Molloy has launched "Tyred" – the official campaign to pressure Government – to change the law to ban the use of tyres older than ten years on commercial vehicles.

Council wholeheartedly supports "Tyred" and asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition asking them to commit to cross-party support for a change in the law.

Council further resolves to support the "Tyred" campaign until such a change in the law is achieved and to draw the attention of the Local Government Association, especially its Environment and Transport Board, to this Council's view that the concerns should be fully addressed. Council requests that the Leader copies the Chair of the LGA's Environment and Transport Board into the letter to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition.

Finally, Council asks the Chief Executive to write to all schools in the Borough asking them to require coach and bus operators that they use for school trips etc to adhere to the provisions set out in the Tyred campaign. Council should also ask officers to look at our own procurement procedures with a view to inserting an appropriate clause in any contracts with commercial operators and to also ensure that this standard applies to our own vehicle fleet."

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting to be held on 12th September 2018.

13

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Addressing Mental Ill-Health in Schools

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor H. Gloster SECONDED the following motion:

"This Council notes that:

In March 2016 the Department of Education provided advice for school staff titled 'Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools'

- This guidance identified that:
 1. Approximately 10% of 5 – 16 year-olds have a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder.
 2. A further 15% of 5 – 16 year-olds have problems that put them at risk of developing mental health problems.

- Recent calls from government have called for more work to be done on supporting young people in schools with mental health difficulties and also possibly including this as an assessed component of future inspection regimes.

Council welcomes the:

- Recent plans adopted by Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Board to transform the borough's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) by employing additional staff to bring down waiting times to six weeks.
- Employment of a specialist mental health advisor.

Council believes that an aspiration to ensure positive mental health and well-being in the students and staff of all of our academies, colleges and schools should be a high priority, and that we should support them to each have:

- An appropriate strategy in place
- A designated Mental Health Lead to coordinate, and monitor, the delivery of that strategy
- Mental health First Aiders in each academic year to provide first-hand immediate support
- Mental health Peer Mentors where appropriate
- Access to mindfulness and similar programmes
- Access to professional Counsellors in the secondary and tertiary sectors

The strategy of every educational establishment should focus on:

- Promoting positive mental health in all students and staff
- Training staff and peer mentors so they are aware of common mental health conditions; the signs of, and risks factors for, mental ill-health; how they might support students in crisis or otherwise in need; and the support services available to these students and their families
- Promoting self-help strategies and on-line resources (such as those relating to personal resilience and mindfulness) to students and staff to enable them to better manage their own mental health

Council resolves to ask the Lead Cabinet Member(s) to work with the Health and Wellbeing Board to determine how these aspirations can be made a reality, and provide a report back to full Council on progress made within 12 months.

AMENDMENT

Councillor S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor Roberts SECONDED the following Amendment:

“To add a third bullet point after ‘Council welcomes the’

- The production of the toolkit ‘Supporting young minds through tough times – the whole school and college approach to emotional health and well being in Oldham’

At the end of paragraph beginning ‘Council believes’ delete the words

‘that we should support them to each have:’
and add

'acknowledges the progress being made towards implementing the toolkit including a comprehensive training programme for school and college staff and governors to deliver'

Following the sixth bullet point in the sentence in the same section in the sentence beginning 'The strategy of' delete the words strategy of and replace with 'toolkit enables' and later in the sentence delete 'should' and replace with 'to'

In the final paragraph after 'Council' insert welcomes the commitment of its staff, school and colleges in implementing the strategies and actions in 'Supporting young minds through tough times' to provide the best possible support to children, young people and staff across Oldham and

Delete 'to work with the Health and Well-being Board to determine how these aspirations can be made a reality,'

The amended motion would then read:

"This Council notes that:

In March 2016 the Department of Education produced advice for school staff titled 'Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools'

- This guidance identified that:
 1. Approximately 10% of 5-16 year-olds have a clinically diagnosed mental health disorder.
 2. A further 15% of 5-16 year-olds have problems that put them at risk of developing mental health problems.
- Recent calls from government have called for more work to be done on supporting young people in schools with mental health difficulties and also possibly including this as an assessed component of future inspection regimes.

Council welcomes the:

- Recent plan adopted by Oldham's Health and Wellbeing Board to transform the borough's Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) by employing additional staff to bring down waiting times to six weeks.
- Employment of a specialist mental health school advisor.
- The production of the toolkit 'Supporting young minds through tough times – the whole school and college approach to emotional health and well being in Oldham

Council believes that an aspiration to ensure positive mental health and well-being in the students and staff of all of our academies, colleges and schools should be a high priority, and acknowledges the progress being made towards implementing the toolkit including a comprehensive training programme for school and college staff and governors to deliver

- an appropriate strategy in place
- a designated Mental Health Lead to coordinate, and monitor, the delivery of that strategy
- Mental health First Aiders in each academic year group to provide first-hand immediate support
- Mental health Peer Mentors where appropriate
- Access to mindfulness and similar programmes



Oldham
Council



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Council

- Access to professional Counsellors in the secondary and tertiary sectors

The toolkit enables every educational establishment- to focus on:

- Promoting positive mental health in all students and staff
- Training staff and peer mentors so they are aware of common mental health conditions; the signs of, and risk factors for, mental ill-health; how they might support students in crisis or otherwise in need; and the support services available to these students and their families
- Promoting self-help strategies and online resources (such as those relating to personal resilience and mindfulness) to students and staff to enable them to better manage their own mental health

Council welcomes the commitment of its staff, school and colleges in implementing the strategies and actions in 'Supporting young minds through tough times' to provide the best possible support to children, young people and staff across Oldham and resolves to ask the Lead Cabinet Member(s) provide a report back to full Council on progress made within 12 months."

Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, the AMENDMENT was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY/.

Councillor Heffernan spoke on the SUBSTANTIVE Motion.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, the SUBSTANTIVE VOTE was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that the Lead Cabinet Members provide a report back to full Council on progress made within 12 months.

NOTE: Councillors Rehman and Stretton left the meeting during this item.

Motion 2 – Tackling 'Problem' and Underage Gambling

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Gloster SECONDED the following Motion:

"Council notes that:

- The UK has the largest regulated online gambling market in the world, generating approximately £4.7 billion in gross gambling yield per annum.
- The Gambling Commission is responsible for regulating this market.
- There are an estimated 7 million on-line gambling accounts, with almost one in five gamblers now playing on-line.

- This trend is moving upwards as more people possess smart phones and internet connectivity speeds continue to improve.
- The Gambling Commission estimates that on-line gambling will generate 50% of all gross gambling yield by the end of the decade, up from 34%.
- Most people who gamble do so for enjoyment and without developing a 'problem'; however, according to GambleAware, there are an estimated 430,000 'problem' gamblers. Typically 'problem' gamblers stake more money than they can afford and become addicted to the activity. Consequently they often suffer higher levels of physical and mental illness, debt problems, relationship and family breakdowns, substance misuse and criminality.
- It is estimated that the cost to the public purse of supporting 'problem' gamblers could be up to £1.2 billion per annum, yet, according to GambleAware, only 2% are receiving treatment.
- As on-line gambling is out of sight, carried out away from licensed premises where trained staff can intervene, it is anticipated that there will become more 'problem' gamblers and more young people gambling.
- Despite their public health duties, Councils are not classed as 'responsible authorities' for addressing 'problem' gambling under the Gambling Act of 2005.

Council believes that:

- With the rise of on-line gambling, further action needs to be taken by the Government, by the Gambling Commission and by the gambling industry to ensure that vulnerable persons, such as 'problem' gamblers and young people gambling, are provided with additional safeguards.
- Local health authorities should be provided with adequate additional funding by central government to provide treatment to 'problem' gamblers
- Local authorities should be regarded as 'responsible authorities' in supporting 'problem' gamblers and young people gambling, given their public health duties and adequate additional funding should be made available from central government for them to do so.
- Schools, colleges and youth centres can also play a big part in educating young people about gambling.

Council welcomes:

- The Government's recent decision to reduce the maximum stake per play at Fixed Odds Betting Terminals to £2 in response to public concerns and those raised by politicians from all parties.
- The Gambling Commission Review of March 2018 which recommends further safeguards for vulnerable customers gambling on-line (namely the age verification of customers, identifying customer gambling behaviour that is 'problematic')

and interacting with them to address this, and making the terms and conditions of gambling services more transparent) and identifies issues awaiting review (particularly whether gambling on credit should be prohibited).

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to:
 - The Gambling Commission to urge it to work as quickly as possible to implement the policy recommendations identified in Section 1.18 of the March 2018 Review, and to progress the areas of further work identified in Section 1.19 of the Review, particularly that relating to gambling on credit.
 - The Secretary of State for Local Government requesting the Minister recognise that local authorities should be regarded as ‘responsible authorities’ in addressing ‘problem’ or under-age gambling in their areas and provided with adequate additional government funding to enable them to do so.
 - The Secretary of State for Health requesting the Minister provide adequate additional funding to local health authorities to provide treatment to ‘problem’ gamblers.
 - The Secretary of State for Education requesting that education on the dangers of gambling be included within the national curriculum and that adequate government funding be provided to state schools to enable this to take place.
- Ask the Chief Executive to send copies of these letters to our three local Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester and to seek their support for the Council’s position.
- Ensure that information is displayed on the Council’s website to ‘signpost’ residents with a gambling ‘problem’ to the providers of relevant services, such as GambleAware and the National Gambling Helpline, to support them with their addiction.
 - Ensure that all schools, colleges and youth centres in the Borough are made aware of the Gambling Toolkit produced by GambleAware, which is available at <http://fastforward.org.uk/gamblingtoolkit/>
- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board and Licensing Committee to consult with GambleAware and other relevant parties to ensure that this Council and its partner agencies are following best practice in raising public awareness of, and effectively addressing, ‘problem’ and under-age gambling in this Borough.

- Ensure that the Council’s Gambling Policy reflects any recommendations that results from this work by the time of its renewal in January 2019.”



Councillor Fielding MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED that the motion be put to the vote.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be asked to write to:
 - The Gambling Commission to urge it to work as quickly as possible to implement the policy recommendations identified in Section 1.18 of the March 2018 Review, and to progress the areas of further work identified in Section 1.19 of the Review, particularly that relating to gambling on credit.
 - The Secretary of State for Local Government requesting the Minister recognise that local authorities should be regarded as ‘responsible authorities’ in addressing ‘problem’ or under-age gambling in their areas and provided with adequate additional government funding to enable them to do so.
 - The Secretary of State for Health requesting the Minister provide adequate additional funding to local health authorities to provide treatment to ‘problem’ gamblers.
 - The Secretary of State for Education requesting that education on the dangers of gambling be included within the national curriculum and that adequate government funding be provided to state schools to enable this to take place.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to send copies of these letters to our three local Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester and to seek their support for the Council’s position.
3. Information is displayed on the Council’s website to ‘signpost’ residents with a gambling ‘problem’ to the providers of relevant services, such as GambleAware and the National Gambling Helpline, to support them with their addiction.
4. Ensure that all schools, colleges and youth centres in the Borough were made aware of the Gambling Toolkit produced by GambleAware, which is available at <http://fastforward.org.uk/gamblingtoolkit/>

5. The Overview and Scrutiny Board and Licensing Committee be asked to consult with GambleAware and other relevant parties to ensure that this Council and its partner agencies are following best practice in raising public awareness of, and effectively addressing, 'problem' and under-age gambling in this Borough.
6. Ensure that the Council's Gambling Policy reflected any recommendations that result from this work by the time of its renewal in January 2019.

Motion 3 – Walk of Fame

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Chief Executive had received notice that Councillor Williamson would be unable to move the motion and nominated Councillor Heffernan to take her place.

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Heffernan SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council recognises that many persons of note in music, film, theatre and television have been born in the Oldham Borough or have adopted it as their home.

Council notes that in Hollywood, California celebrities from the entertainment industry and associated with that place are honoured in the Walk of Fame.

This Walk comprises more than 2,600 five-pointed terrazzo and brass stars embedded in the sidewalks (pavements) of Hollywood Boulevard and surrounding streets. The stars are permanent public monuments to achievement in the entertainment industry, bearing the names of actors, musicians, directors, producers, musical and theatrical groups, fictional characters, and others. The Walk is a popular tourist destination, attracting a reported 10 million visitors each year.

Council resolves to:

- Explore the practicalities of establishing an Oldham Walk of Fame in the town centre Entertainment Quarter to honour our own local stars
- Identify external sources of funding that would support its commissioning and completion.”

Councillor Chauhan spoke against the Motion.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 6 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 40 votes were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore LOST.

- 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 following Joint Authority meetings were

submitted as follows:

Greater Manchester Health and Social Care 2018 Partnership Board	16 th March
Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority 2018 (GMWDA)	15 th March
Transport for Greater Manchester 2018	16 th March
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) February 2018	23 rd
2018	29 th March
2018	27 th April
2018	25 th May
Police and Crime Panel February 2018	22 nd
National Park Authority 2018	16 th March



16th March
Oldham
Council

15th March

16th March

23rd

29th March

27th April

25th May

22nd

16th March

Members asked the following questions:

Councillor Heffernan: GMCA, 29th March 2018, Item 68/18 The Greater Manchester Congestion Deal – Councillor Heffernan asked about the suggestion of a congestion charge which had previously been voted down. Was the GMCA looking to bring a charge or was there an action plan on the table?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that had not been present at that meeting but since he had been appointed there had been no discussions about the introduction of a congestion charge in Greater Manchester.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor Sykes: GMCA, 29th March 2018, Item 64/18 Armed Forces Covenant and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Councillor Sykes asked what the implications were for Oldham?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that he had not been present at that meeting but the Armed Forces Covenant in Oldham was led by Councillor Ball and the Council was in a strong position. If the Greater Manchester scheme would strengthen it, it would be welcomed.

Councillor Sykes: GMCA, 25th May 2018, Item 113/18, Bus Reform Objectives Update - Councillor Sykes raised the problem with buses and getting a reasonable service, noted the intelligence gaps in the local bus network and asked how it would be delivered and if local members would be involved?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that there was

a disparity in fares between the north and south and the quality of bus services. The main corridor was not reliable. The Leader would be championing a mechanism for members to inform franchises and input local intelligence for services to be what was expected.



Councillor Sykes: GMCA, 25th May 2018, Item 112/18 Introduction of Zonal Fares Structure on the Metrolink Network – Councillor Sykes queried the zonal fares structure and the opportunity to right a wrong to make sure steps were in place so Oldham stops were all in the same zone as it would not be right that from Shaw and Crompton it would be cheaper to go to Rochdale than Oldham.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that he agreed and all stops in Oldham should be included in Zone 3 and the cost related to Shaw and would be happy to make the case.

Councillor H. Gloster: GMCA, 25th May 2018, Item 4, Greater Manchester Spatial Framework – Councillor Gloster raised that the GMSF would be available after the local elections but that this would not now be available until November or had it been ‘kicked into the long grass’. How confident as a Council there would be no further delays and asked how convinced that this was right for Oldham.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that GMSF had ‘not been kicked into the long grass’ but consultation had been delayed due to revised population estimates for Greater Manchester. The plan was for the next 30 years and would need to be based on correct figures.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Joint Authority meetings as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The question and response provided be noted.
3. The observations 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 rd March 2018
MioCare Board	26 th March 2018
Health and Wellbeing Board	23 rd January 2018
	27 th March 2018

There were no questions or observations on the minutes.

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

15 **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 Sheldon spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Update on Actions from Council be noted.
2. The response to Councillor Sheldon's question related to the speed limit on Manchester Road, Greenfield be reviewed again by Highways.

16 **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017/18. The report outlined the purpose of Overview and Scrutiny, the roles and responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Performance and Value For Money Select Committee and the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee. The report contained a summary of the work undertaken in 2017/18 and outline how individuals could get involved in Overview and Scrutiny.

Councillor Williams spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2017/18 be approved.

17 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS AND INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services regarding the appointment of Independent Persons on the Standards Committee / Independent Remuneration Panel. Following the advertisement of the positions, interviews were conducted. Two person were recommended to be appointed as Independent Persons for the Standards Committee to serve for four years. It was proposed to re-advertise the current vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

RESOLVED that:

1. Alex Feay and Martin Matthews be appointed as Independent Persons for the Standards Committee for a four year term.
2. The current vacancy on the Independent Remuneration Panel be re-advertised.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.19 pm

