

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 10 July 2019**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 2 July 2019

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 10 July 2019 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22nd May be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 14)
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 15 - 16)

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 7 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

In the year up to March 2018, in a report by the Office for National Statistics' (ONS), analysis of knife crime figures showed that the number of fatal stabbings in England and Wales was at its highest level since 1946. With just less than 5,000 young people, aged 10 to 17, cautioned or convicted of a knife related crime and an 45% increase in the number of people, aged 16 to 24, that had been a victim of knife crime, it appears to be at epidemic levels.

It must be mentioned as well that this is not a London based problem as suggested by some media. Thankfully the report showed Oldham was not in the top ten when looking at numbers of homicides per 100,000 population, however, other North West areas were in the top 10 rankings of 'worst place for killings.

In our 2018 Make Your Mark consultation, 2,167 young people voted to 'Put an End to Knife Crime' as their number one issue that needs to be tackled in Oldham. This was the top issue, coming higher than ending homelessness and equal pay for equal work. Given this was voted for by our constituents we have made this a priority. As such Oldham Youth Council wanted to dig deeper into this issue so used 10-forward surveys, going out into our communities to consult with young people to find out why they feel knife crime is an issue and what can be done to reduce it.

Our surveys would suggest that most of Oldham's young people do not carry bladed weapons, but 14% of respondents did admit to having carried a knife. Half of these

suggested they carried a knife for legitimate reasons, such as for Duke of Edinburgh Award or for eating their lunches, but the other half felt they needed it for protection. If this result is suggestive of the numbers of young people carrying bladed weapons it would seem to be much higher than the number of young people cautioned or convicted, which represents less than 1% of the 10 to 17-year-old population. The survey responses also showed that nearly 40% of young people knew someone who had carried a knife. While this doesn't give an indication of levels of knife crime it may suggest that young people who do carry knives or bladed weapons are happy to share this fact to brag or intimidate, which, may lead to more fear in young people and a need for protection that they assume a knife brings.

Those who don't carry knives were concerned that they could be arrested and that they could be injured by carrying knives. This would appear to show that current awareness and education is working for young people but probably only for those who wouldn't pick up knives anyway. We as Oldham Youth Council have pledged to work with local schools and Oldham Council to help develop that training to keep getting the message across but also try and mitigate any fears coming from moral panics around knife crime.

We wanted to flip the questioning on its head by asking why most young people do not carry knives. The biggest response was that young people didn't need to because they felt safe. This leads us to conclude that it is a perception of places being unsafe rather than real lived experience that leads young people to carrying weapons. Therefore, we feel that work needs to be done, with young people, to challenge the misconception portrayed across the media that UK streets are dangerous. In working with young people to show that Oldham is a safe place to live, work and go to school we would hope to challenge the minority of young people that carry bladed weapons and prevent others from taking up knives.

Indeed, participants indicated that they felt that safety should come from adult support. Responses asked for a higher Police presence, not just to catch criminals but to engage the community. They suggested that organisations, such as the Police and Local Authority, should work with young people outside of the classroom to divert them from any potential negative behaviours, but also engage young people to help them feel safe and prevent the perceived need to carry knives. They asked for support from organisations, to provide places to go where they can receive help, advice and information as well as alternative positive activities to dissuade them from involvement in knife crime.

We as Oldham Youth Council recognise the benefits of young people engaging with adults, especially professionals whose role it is to work with and support young people. Recently the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Affairs reported that the loss of youth services has contributed to the rise in knife crime, plus, that youth work provides a safe environment and a qualified youth worker to build trust and de-escalate conflict. The Report highlighted that those authorities where cuts to youth services were the largest had the biggest increases in knife crime related incidents.

We want Oldham to be a safe place for all, we want Oldham to ensure that all our children and young people are given every opportunity to grow up in a town where they can thrive and where they can reach their full potential.

We recognise that young people need access to high quality youth opportunities. Opportunities that enhance life chances, provide learning and development and enable young people to become positive and active citizens.

We propose that Oldham Council recognises that Oldham is committed to providing quality support and opportunities for all its young people and we ask that Oldham Council carry out an overview and scrutiny of the current youth offer across Oldham to ensure there is a broad range of high quality activities available to all young people, that are accessible, regardless of where they live.

8 Question Time (Pages 17 - 142)

- a) Public Questions (15 minutes)
- b) Question to Leader and Cabinet (30 minutes)
- c) Question on Cabinet Minutes (15 mins)

Cabinet Meeting	25 th March 2019
Cabinet Meeting	15 th April 2019

- d) Questions on Joint Arrangements/Partnerships (15 minutes)

Greater Manchester Combined Authority	1 st March 2019 29 th March 2019 31 st May 2019
Greater Manchester Health and Care Board	8 th March 2019
Police and Crime Panel	31 st January 2019
National Park Authority	15 th March 2019 24 th May 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 th January 2019 26 th March 2019
MioCare Board	14 th January 2019
Oldham Leadership Board	17 th January 2019

9 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Leach to MOVE and Councillor Fielding to SECOND:

Abolition of Section 21 no fault evictions

This Council notes that:

- no fault evictions, introduced under Section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act, allow

landlords to evict tenants, without having to give a reason, once the term of the tenancy has expired;

- 80% of England's 11 million renters are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants under Section 21 without cause;
- research published by The Observer campaign group Generation Rent indicates that Section 21 evictions are now the single biggest cause of homelessness in England; and that
- in 2017, the Scottish Government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.

This Council believes Abolishing Section 21 no-fault evictions:

- would help to make renting more secure and communities more stable, improve standards and increase tenant confidence;
- would further help to tackle homelessness, which should be a priority for government at all levels; and,
- should happen as soon as practicably possible.

This Council therefore:

- welcomes the UK Government announcement in April of plans to consult on new legislation to abolish Section 21 no-fault evictions in England; and
- resolves to work with the Unfair Evictions Campaign led by Generation Rent, the New Economics Foundation and renters' unions, to bring about the swift abolition of Section 21 no-fault evictions.

Motion 2

Councillor Stretton to MOVE and Councillor Hulme to SECOND:

Calling on the Government to fund free TV licences for all over 75s

This Council notes that the government has withdrawn funding from the BBC which has hitherto covered the cost of free TV Licences for all pensioners over the age of 75. The government shifted the responsibility for deciding whether the free TV License should continue to be available to all pensioners and, if so, how it would be funded to the BBC in 2015. The BBC have announced that after the end of June next year the free TV licence will only be available to households where there is a pensioner over the age of 75 who is in receipt of Pension Credits.

This Council also notes the recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation report that says one in 6 pensioners are living in poverty and pensioner poverty is rising. Furthermore, in the most recent government statistics for take up of pension credits (2016 -2017) only 6 out of 10 pensioners who were entitled to the benefit claimed it and only 64 per cent of the total amount of Pension Credit that could have been claimed was claimed.

This Council believes it is clear that the cost of a TV Licence at £154.50 will be prohibitive for many and as a result many pensioners will be without the benefit of TV.

This Council calls upon the Government to reinstate the funding to the BBC to enable the retention of the free colour TV licence for all over 75's.

This Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Borough's three

MPs calling on them to demand that government reinstate the funding to the BBC to allow free TV licences for all over 75s.

10 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Sykes to MOVE and Councillor Al-Hamdani to SECOND:

Making a Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Council welcomes the UK Government's commitment to the delivery of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the world community at the United Nations in September 2015. The goals form part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which seeks to eradicate extreme poverty, address inequality and injustice, and promote sustainable development and peace.

The goals are to:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Wishing to replicate the UK Government's position on the goals, this Council resolves to make a similar commitment to their delivery, as far as is practicable and within its power and resources, and calls upon the Health and Overview and Scrutiny Boards to identify the work that is already being done by the Council and its partners and what

more can be done, and to present a report with its findings and recommendations to a future meeting of full Council.

Motion 2

Councillor Williamson to MOVE and Councillor Harkness to SECOND:

Restoring Government Funding for Brownfield Housing Development

Council notes that:

- The Conservative Government in its white paper 'Fixing our Broken Housing Market' stated that more homes should be built 'by maximising the contribution from brownfield sites'.
- Brownfield sites suffer from significant contamination, whether below-ground or in a building's construction, which is the result of previous industrial use as cotton mills; chemical and coal gas plants; coal mines; and dye works.
- Decontaminating such sites is very expensive at an average cost of £250,000 per acre and this cost often renders housing developments unaffordable.
- According to Department of Trade figures, approximately 1 million acres of brownfield sites are contaminated.
- Much of this land is in Northern towns, like Oldham, a legacy of their industrial past.
- In the Outline Housing Package agreed between the ten Greater Manchester authorities and the Conservative Government in 2017, a 'land fund' worth up to £50 million was pledged by central government to support the development of housing on brownfield sites by paying for the cost of remediation.
- The Conservative Government has recently reneged on this pledge.

Council condemns the decision by the Conservative Government to withdraw its offer of the Outline Housing Package, which will make the delivery of new homes on brownfield sites unaffordable and force more development onto the Green Belt, a direct contradiction of the Government's own stated policy.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Housing urging the minister to restore the Outline Housing Package to fund the remediation of brownfield sites in Greater Manchester
- Copy in our local MPs, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the leaders of the other Greater Manchester local authorities and the Chair of the Local Government Association asking them for their support for Oldham's position.

Motion 3

Councillor C Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Hamblett to SECOND:

Adopting the Fair Tax Declaration

Council notes that:

- The 6 – 14 July 2019 is Fair Tax Week 2019.
- Polling by the Institute for Business Ethics finds that corporate tax avoidance has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public in relation to business conduct.
- It has been conservatively estimated that losses through just one form of tax avoidance, multinational profit-shifting, could be costing the UK some £7bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.

- An estimated 15% of public contracts have been won by companies with links to tax havens.
- 6 in 10 members of the public believe that UK Government and Councils should examine the tax practices of such prospective contractors as part of the procurement process.
- The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for businesses to demonstrate good tax conduct. Council believes that, as a publicly-funded body and a major procurer of goods and services, it should demonstrate good tax conduct. Council therefore resolves to sign the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration, and furthermore to lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities, by:
 - Ensuring contractors implement IR35 robustly and pay any due employment taxes.
 - Shunning the use of offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
 - Undertaking due diligence to ensure that not-for-profit structures are not being used inappropriately as an artificial device to reduce the payment of tax and business rates.
 - Ensuring that there is clarity on the ultimate beneficial ownership of suppliers and their consolidated profit & loss position, given that a lack of clarity could be strong indicators of poor financial probity and weak financial standing.
 - Promoting Fair Tax Mark certification to local businesses, our contractors and in any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
 - Supporting local Fair Tax Week events and celebrating the tax contribution made by responsible businesses.
 - Supporting calls for urgent reform of EU and UK law to enable municipalities to revise their procurement policies and better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct.

11 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 143 - 176)

12 Revision to the Council's NJC grading structure following the 2019 NJC Green Book pay award (Pages 177 - 188)

13 Constitutional Amendments and Members Allowances

Report to follow

14 Housing Strategy (Pages 189 - 396)

15 Climate Change and Green Oldham (Pages 397 - 416)

16 AGMA Constitution

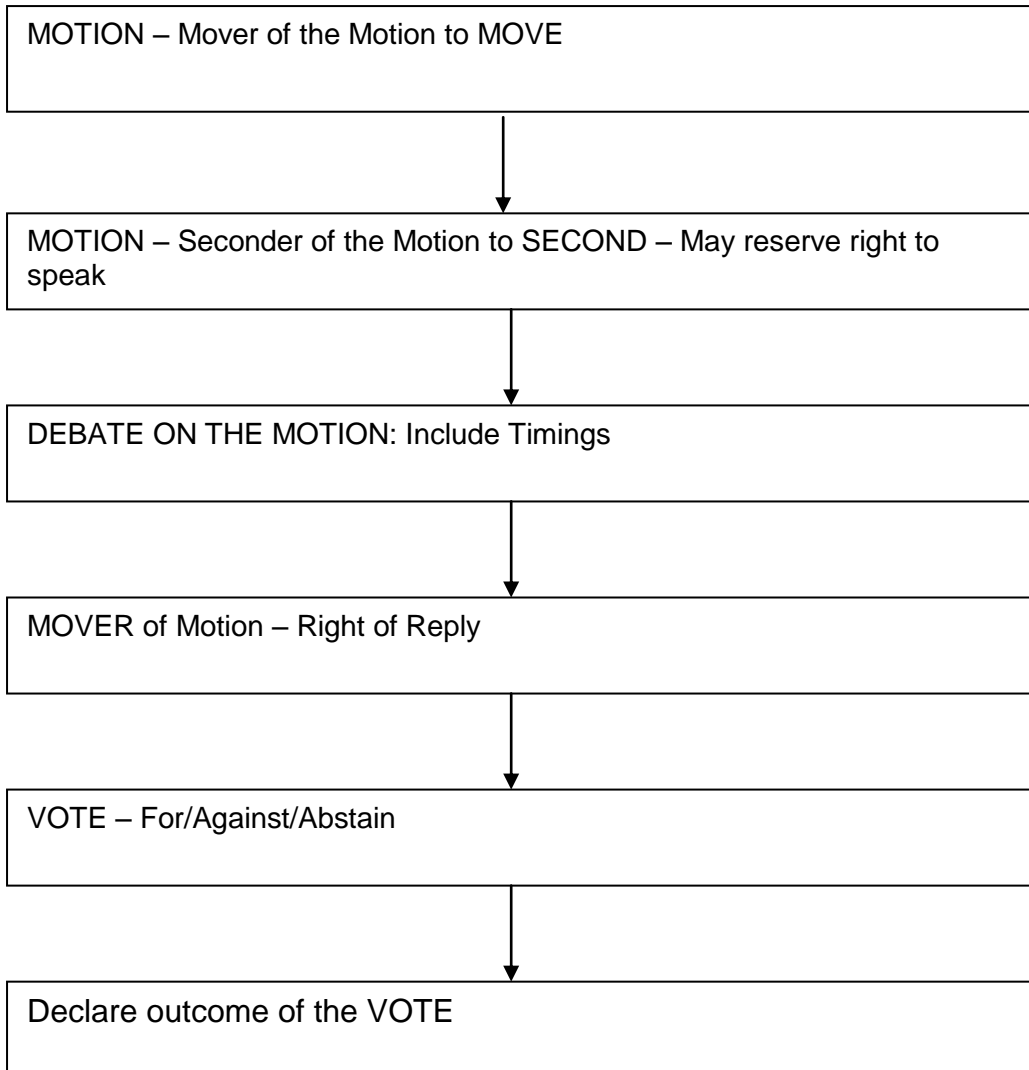
Report to follow

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



**Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT



RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT

