

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 4 November 2020

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday 27th October 2020

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 6.00 pm, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th September 2020 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 38)
- 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 39 - 40)

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 7 Leader's Annual Statement

- 8 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There was no Youth Council business received.

- 9 Questions Time

- a Public Questions

(time limit 15 Minutes)

- b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

(time limit 30 minutes)

- c Questions on Cabinet Minutes (Pages 41 - 62)

(time limit 15 minutes)

24th August 2020 (reconvened 28th August 2020)

28th September 2020
Urgent Key Decisions

- d Questions on Joint Arrangements (Pages 63 - 118)
(time limit 15 minutes)

Greater Manchester Transport Committee	14 August 2020
Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee	22 July 2020
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	2 September 2020 25 September 2020
AGMA Executive Board	31 July 2020 9 September 2020
Police, Fire and Crime Panel	20 July 2020
Commissioning Partnership Board	23 July 2020 24 September 2020
MioCare Board	23 July 2020

- 10 Progress Update on the Oldham Review of Safeguarding Practice (Pages 119 - 130)
- 11 COVID-19 Update (Pages 131 - 140)
- 12 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Shah to MOVE and Councillor Surjan to SECOND:
Recover, Retrain, Rebuild

The Council notes that the Chancellor has announced a patchwork of schemes to provide support to jobs and companies which have been affected by coronavirus restrictions and has rushed out changes to previous measures as it has become apparent that infection rates continue to rise and more and more areas will be enter Tiers 2 and 3 .

The Council believes that while the Job Retention Scheme was a historic investment of taxpayers' money to avert widespread job losses, this massive, unprecedented investment will, essentially, go to waste as millions of people, including thousands in the Borough of Oldham, who have suffered throughout the Covid-19 crisis, now face the very real prospect of unemployment as their jobs are not viable to return to at this moment in time under Covid-19.

While this Council acknowledges that support to Tier 2 jobs and businesses has been backdated to areas including Oldham which have been under restrictions since July 2020, it regrets that support will have come too late to save some otherwise viable jobs and businesses.

This Council believes we need a strategy that focuses on recovering jobs, retraining workers and rebuilding our country. This strategy must involve:

- 1) A job Recovery Scheme that allows staff to work reduced hours, with the Government subsidising a proportion of wages for the rest of the week. The scheme should be designed to reward companies who bring back more workers part-time, rather than bringing some back full-time and letting others go.
- 2) A nationwide Retraining Strategy for the unemployed and those facing unemployment. This strategy must help those whose hours have been cut to increase their skills to retrain and enable people who have lost jobs to transition into new work.
- 3) A business Rebuilding Scheme which must give businesses, who have taken advantage of Government loan schemes, the payments for which start in March, the confidence and security that they will be able to continue operating past March 2021, or else a whole new set of businesses and workers may well be pushed back underneath them.

The Council therefore resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to revisit their scheme, work with business and trade unions and create one that will help our towns, borough and country recover, retrain and rebuild.

Motion 2

Councillor Ball to MOVE and Councillor Hulme to SECOND:
Remembrance Sunday will be the 8th November 2020.

The Royal British Legion, supported by the Council, traditionally organises commemoration events at the Oldham War memorial and at 6 other locations across the borough. It is with great regret that this Council notes that it will not be possible in 2020 to hold the public services which have been well attended for many years.

The Council has worked with the Royal British Legion, the police and faith groups to decide how to pay our respects on Remembrance Sunday.

Arrangements have been made to stream a pre-recorded Covid secure wreath laying ceremony from each of these locations on the Council website and an invitation only service from the Oldham Parish Church will also be live streamed on Remembrance Sunday (this may change if further restrictions are imposed).

Organisations and individuals will be able to lay their own wreaths privately between the 8th and 11th November and are asked to ensure that Covid guidelines are followed.

This Council resolves

1. To ask residents to show their respects at home by following the streaming on the Council's website and to encourage residents to stand on their doorstep on Sunday 8 November and Armistice Day at 11am in remembrance and to place poppy posters in windows similar to NHS thank you.
2. To ask those who can, to make a donation to the Royal British Legion as it is likely their income from poppy and wreath sales will be much reduced this year

13 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Sykes to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

20's Plenty in 2020

This Council notes that:

- speed limits on Britain's residential roads are 60% higher than in Europe.
- more than half of all road accident casualties occur on roads with 30mph limits.
- that a pedestrian is 7 times more likely to die if they are hit by a vehicle travelling at 30 miles per hour than they are at 20 mph and 10 times more likely if aged 60 or older.
- reducing speed limits on residential roads has been found to reduce the incidence of accidents, the numbers of fatalities and serious injuries that result, and air pollution.
- over 20 million citizens live in local authorities in the UK, including five authorities in Greater Manchester, which have adopted or are adopting a default speed limit of 20mph on residential roads.
- the default speed limit of 20mph has been adopted by other local authorities without the implementation of physical calming measures.
- in February 2020, road safety experts from 130 countries adopted the 'Stockholm Declaration' recommending 20mph / 30kph as the preferred default speed limit on residential roads and, in August 2020, the UN General Assembly endorsed this recommendation.

This Council recognises that:

- If we are to 'build back better' after Covid-19, one of our key concerns must be to address all aspects of public health.
- This should include lowering the default speed of motor vehicles driven on our residential roads to reduce the danger to residents.
- Such a measure should be boroughwide and comprehensive.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Seek in principle to implement a borough-wide 20 mph speed limit on residential roads.
- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to look again at the practicalities and timescale of introducing such a scheme, in consultation with the 20's Plenty Campaign, for consideration by full Council at the earliest possible opportunity.

Motion 2

Councillor Al-Hamdani to MOVE and Councillor Hazel Gloster to SECOND:

Let's make street harassment a crime

This Council is committed to making our Borough a safer place for everyone.

Council notes:

- Public sexual harassment is the most common form of violence against women and girls, restricting their freedom of movement and expression;

- That in surveys two-thirds of women and girls report they have faced street harassment in the UK;
- That street harassment in the UK is not covered by any specific offence, unlike in Portugal, Belgium and France;
- That stopping street harassment would be a powerful step in tackling inequality and keeping women safe;
- The incredible work of Our Streets Now, and their petition which has attracted over 200,000 signatures to make street harassment a specific crime;
- That according to a report by Our Streets Now, only 14 per cent of pupils have been taught about public sexual harassment at school, and that 47 per cent of them would not report an incident of public sexual harassment to their school because they were afraid or feared they would not be taken seriously by staff.

Council recognises

- That we must create an environment where street harassment is seen and policed as a crime, and where girls feel safer on our streets;
- That we need to work together with our schools to ensure that anyone who is harassed will feel confident that their report will be treated with the respect, care and seriousness that is required;
- That changing the law, and education for our young people, are key planks in combating street harassment, establishing safer streets, and delivering equality.

Council resolves to:

- Promote the Our Streets Now campaign to make street harassment a crime, and encourage all elected members, and residents to sign the petition;
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary to ask her to make street harassment a specific crime;
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the three MPs who cover the Borough, and the Mayor of Greater Manchester / Police and Crime Commissioner, to ask them to show their support for this campaign by signing the petition and by lobbying ministers to make street harassment a specific crime;
- Ask schools, academies and colleges in the Borough to each develop a clear policy on tackling harassment, separate to their bullying policy;
- Ask local schools to include education around public sexual harassment as part of their PSHE education;
- Ensure that the recommendations of the Our Schools Now report are communicated to schools with a view to integrating their recommendations into their PSHE teaching

Motion 3

Councillor Harkness to MOVE and Councillor Hamblett to SECOND:

Time to tackle child food poverty

This Council:

- Believes that, in one of the world's most advanced economies, it is shameful that two decades into the twenty-first century, children still go hungry in the UK.
- Is committed to ensuring that reducing child food poverty in our Borough remains one of our top priorities and commends organisations in this Borough which are working to do so.

- Also commends the initiative of Manchester United footballer Marcus Rashford who has successfully campaigned on school holiday hunger and has recently formed a taskforce with some of the UK's leading food retailers and charities to help reduce child food poverty.
- Notes that this taskforce has called upon the government to fund three policy recommendations from the National Food Strategy, an independent review of UK food policy, as soon as possible:
 - The expansion of free school meals to every child from a household on Universal Credit or equivalent, reaching an additional 1.5m children aged seven to 16
 - The expansion of holiday food and activities to support all children on free school meals, reaching an additional 1.1m children
 - Increasing the value of the Healthy Start vouchers from £3.10 to £4.25 per week and expanding it to all those on Universal Credit or equivalent, reaching an additional 290,000 children under the age of four and pregnant women
- Notes that the taskforce has said that implementing these three recommendations would mark a 'unifying step to identifying a long-term solution to child poverty in the UK'.

Council concurs with the conclusion of the taskforce in calling upon the government to immediately fund these recommendations.

Council feels that if the Prime Minister wishes to be believed when he talks of 'building (Britain) back better' then he must address child food poverty as a top priority; for how can Britain be better when our nation's children continue to go hungry?

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to:

- Mr Marcus Rashford commending him for his initiative and offering this Council's support for his work and that of the taskforce.
- Mr Henry Dimbleby, who led the National Food Strategy, commending the work of the review panel and offering this Council's support for their recommendations.
- The Chancellor of the Exchequer calling upon him to fund these three top recommendations as a matter of great urgency.
- Our three local MPs asking them to also make urgent representations to the Chancellor on this issue.

Motion 4

Councillor Hobin to MOVE and Councillor Hudson to SECOND:

Independent Public Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Historical & Present) within Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC), including the actions and knowledge of Council Members and Officers.

Council notes that:

Over the past 12 months or more, allegations have been levelled at OMBC and its officers, calling into question whether the protection of children has been compromised.

Allegations that officers/members were aware of child grooming gangs operating in the OMBC administered area, seeking to prevent this from the public.

Trust and accountability are important measurements when dealing with issues such as these. We are therefore disappointed when it was claimed that "allegations and claims made online are bare faced lies designed purely to stoke fears and score

political points.” In matters such as these we believe that we all have a duty to answer the concerns of members of the public who are deeply, deeply concerned about this issue. It is an issue which transcends party politics.

The ‘review’ currently in place and its Terms of Reference are insufficient as we are aware from regrettable developments and consequential investigations in Rotherham and Rochdale, alleged CSE offending– including matters of trafficking, abduction, grooming and inciting sexual activity with children - does not begin and end with compartmentalised and readily definable time periods. Whilst we concede that in order to be manageable any review must have frames of reference, we submit that a lack of flexibility in the same creates an artificial line-in-the-sand that may ignore evidence pre-dating the frames of reference. They are not suitably independent due to the oversight of the offices of the Greater Manchester Mayor, and Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council officers sitting within the steering group.

That placing the burden of reporting matters outside the frames of reference upon potential historic victims of CSE in Oldham, is ignoring the fact that complainants in such matters of this nature are often reluctant to come forward. Of concern are claims that interviews have not been robust and that testimony does not accurately reflect the discussions held, investigators have failed to attend pre-arranged interviews, whilst others, including victims with relevant information, are still waiting to be contacted. Therefore we believe that the current review lacks the flexibility needed in order to take account for the fact that any review of evidence (direct testimony on oath, statement accompanied by a statement of truth or documentary records) is an organic process and may result in potentially new information coming to light. Indeed, victims can be reluctant to come forward especially if their first point of contact was the same institution that may have failed them in the first instance. It clearly falls short of what the public expect and what victims deserve.

This issue is above any party-political leanings. Is not an indictment on the work carried out by Council Children’s Services team, rather the governance of this administration.

The ultimate basis is the welfare and protection of children in the borough.

The council regularly claims to be open and transparent in its workings. Now is the time to demonstrate this and reassure constituents, and the wider public by standing together against the discovery of paedophilia and any forms of Child Sexual Exploitation. Now is the time for us, as a

united Council to show we will not shy away from identifying any perpetrator, ensuring justice, regardless of their standing.

Council resolves that;

The Chief Executive contact the Home Secretary and the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government, requesting they instigate a fully independent enquiry.

The Chief Executive request that said enquiry be totally outside the scope of the present OMBC administration, with full legal standing and complete access to all relevant documentation and departments within the council.

The Chief Executive write to the Greater Manchester Mayor to demand that ALL documentation obtained to date, be handed over to the Central Government led enquiry.

The Council to nominate a member to work with the enquiry, acting as an independent conduit between all parties. This nominee would be responsible for reporting progress

and any relevant findings back to Council at regular intervals. In order to reassure constituents, they should share updates with the wider public also. All information shared would be subject to legal processes and confidentiality measures.

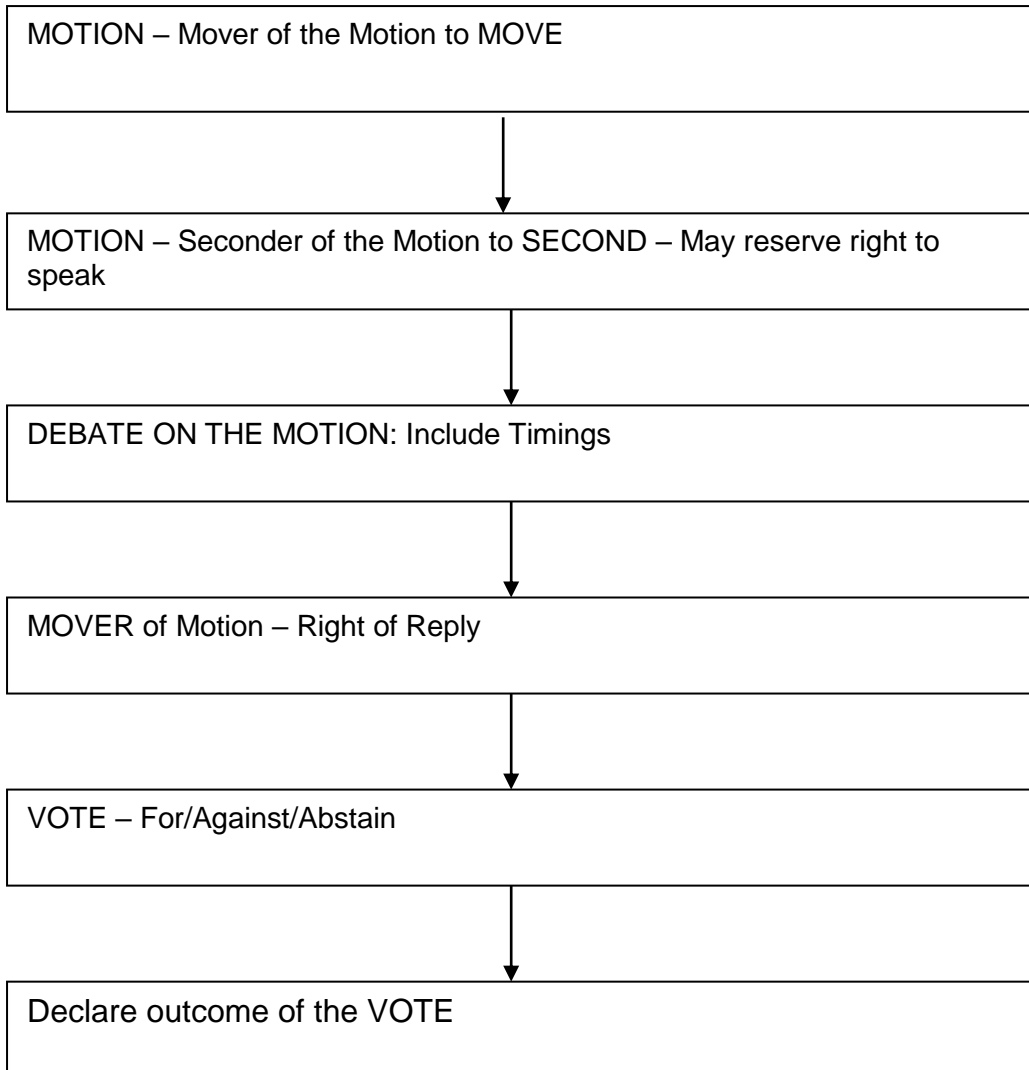
- 14 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 141 - 164)
- 15 Council Size Submission - Electoral Review of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (Pages 165 - 214)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Wilkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**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 one question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

WITH AMENDMENT

