

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 then.

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.

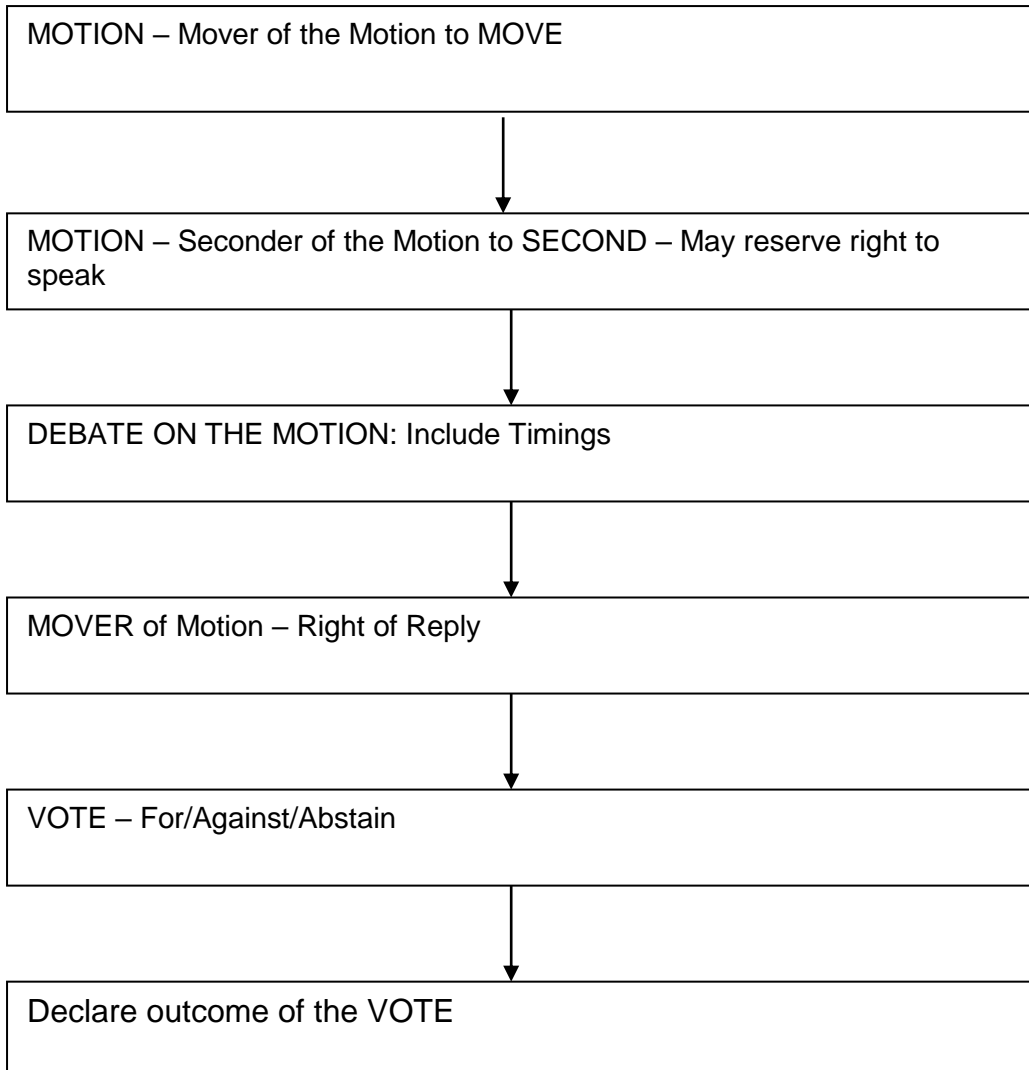
- 14 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 141 - 164)
- 15 Council Size Submission - Electoral Review of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (Pages 165 - 214)

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

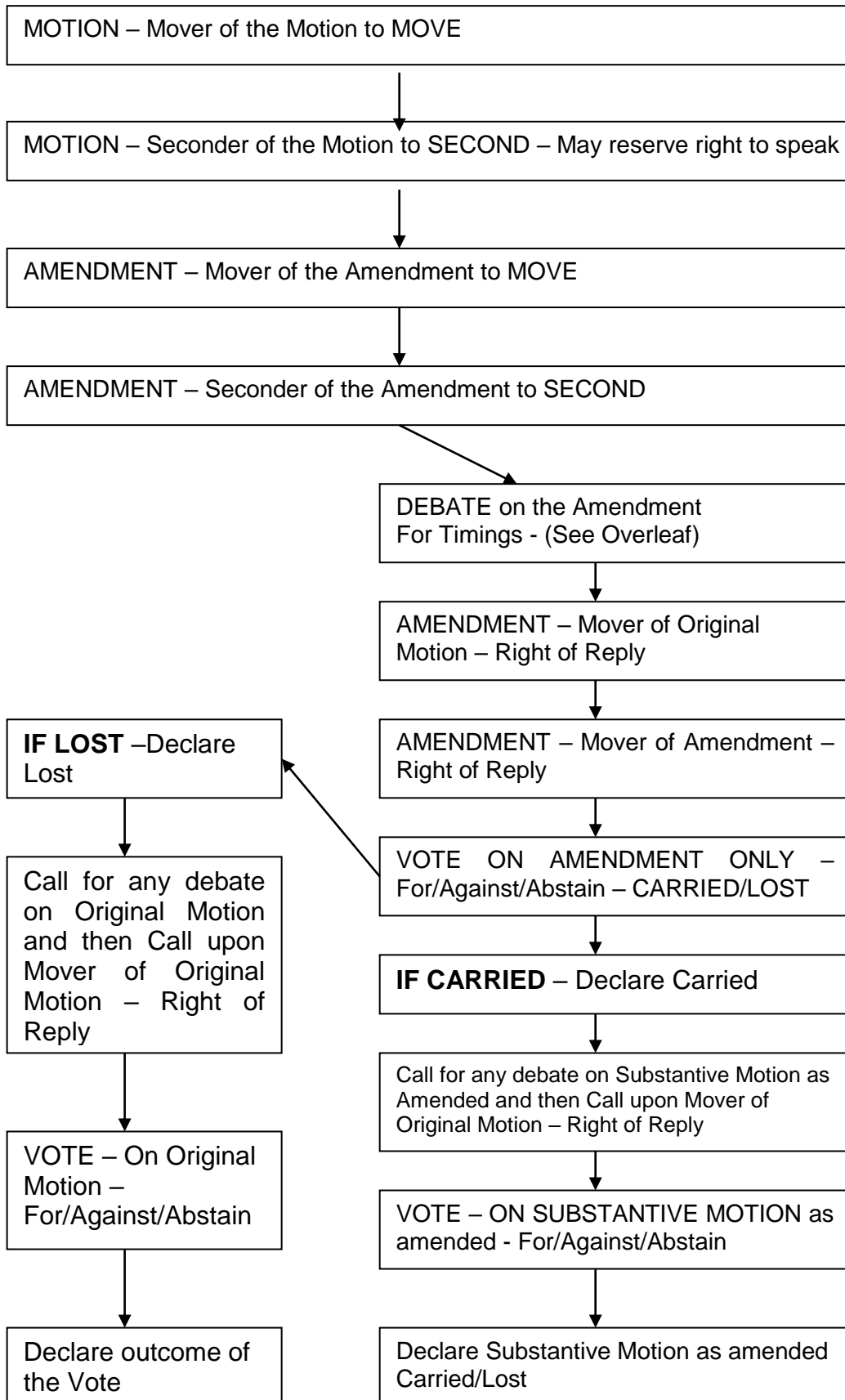


RULE ON TIMINGS

(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





COUNCIL
09/09/2020 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor G. Alexander (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Alyas, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Briggs, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Fielding, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Hewitt, Hobin, Hudson, Hulme, A Hussain, F Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Jabbar, Jacques, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Ur-Rehman, Williamson and Williams

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Consultation had been undertaken with Group Leaders to vary the order of the agenda due to the changes to the regulations. Councillor Fielding **MOVED** and Councillor Sykes **SECONDED** an amendment to Council Procedure 15.5 and proposed that timings would include the extensions, therefore, any Members wishing to speak would be granted 4 minutes and 30 seconds and those Members with a right of reply 6 minutes and 30 seconds. On being put to the vote, this was **AGREED**.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Leach.

2 ATTENDANCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Due to the current pandemic and the virtual meeting, a roll call of elected members was taken, and at the same time, in accordance with the Code of Conduct, elected members declared the following interests:

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 9d by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary interest at Item 11 by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a personal interest at Item 9d by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Hazel Gloster declared a personal interest at Item 9d by virtue of her husband's receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Pension Fund.

Councillor Hamblett declared a personal interest at Item 9d by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

3 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH JULY 2020 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 15th July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

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

Councillor Hobin asked to make a statement. The Mayor responded that she had not been notified in advance of this meeting of any items of urgent business. Councillor Hobin was advised that if he wanted to raise a question, he could do so at the relevant Joint Authority minute.

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

There were no communications items.

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

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

People and Place

Reference 2020-06: Petition regarding a Dangerous Dog (Failsworth East Ward) received on 9 July 2020 with 56 signatures

Commissioning

Reference 2020-05: E-Petition to Provide a Non-Refundable six Month Council Tax Discount for Every Household in Oldham received on 30 July 2020 with 282 signatures

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

7 **ELECTRONIC VOTING AT COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services regarding Electronic Voting at Council.

Meetings of the Council and Committees had been able to be held by remote attendance by reason of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020. For the purposes of efficiency it was recommended that Rule 16A of the Council Procedure Rules was amended to permit the use of electronic voting at meetings.

RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 16A be amended to permit the use of electronic voting.

8 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There were no items submitted by the Youth Council.

9 **QUESTIONS TIME**

a Public Questions

The Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was Public

Question Time. 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 the questions would be read out by the Mayor.



The following questions were submitted:

1. Question received from Syed Maruf Ali via Twitter:

“Can you please raise this question at the next full council meeting. What percentage of pupils from OL8 1 post code area have received their 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice secondary school places? How many pupils from OL8 1 post code have been allocated a School places at: Hathershaw School OASIS Academy OASIS Leesbrook Oldham Academy North Royton and Crompton Newman RC College Using the proposed admission criteria of Blue Coat School 2, what percentage and number of pupils from OL8 1 Postcode area will be offer a place? Education is passport out of poverty and every young people should have access to good/outstanding attainment School and should not be discriminated using unfair admission criteria such as using religion or distance.”

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education responded that the from the OL8 1 post code secondary schools places were offered as follow: 57% of pupils had been offered their first preference, 15% offered second preference and 10% offered third preference. All data was from on time applications. The number of places allocated to pupils from the OL8 1 postal code for Hathershaw College was 82, Oasis Academy Oldham was 60, Oasis Academy Leesbrook was 20, Oldham Academy North was 29; EAC-T Royton and Crompton Academy was 6; and Newman RC College was 5. Due to the nature of the proposed admissions policy for 'Blue Coat 2', the number of pupils to be allocated with certain areas or postcodes could not be predicted. The current proposed admissions policy makes use of mile bands. Cases based on distance could be predicted but not areas or postcodes. There would be use of random allocation within the policy, but no postcode within those bands would be disadvantaged over another. Also, it could not be predicted what the levels of demand for a new school from any particular post code or area.

2. Question received from Robert Barnes via email:

“Transparency, Openness and Accountability should be the watchwords of local government. With that in mind, could the Council Leader please explain why public questions now have a time limit of 15 minutes? Could he also answer why he thinks it acceptable to change the constitution to ban criticism of elected members who are public servants and accountable to the electorate?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded that prior to the changes at



the beginning of the 2019 Municipal Year, the Council meeting previously had items whose time limits added up to more than the three-and-a-half hours permitted by the guillotine. The agenda was changed so that items could be debated without timing out. Given that the full allowance for public questions was sometimes not used and that questions could be answered via other means such as contacting a local councillor directly, using the Council's website or calling the contact centre, it was thought that reducing the public question item was one of the several items on the agenda that could be shortened slightly. It was assured that criticism of elected members had not been banned if this referred to the change in the rules which meant that complaints about Council members' conduct were to go via the Council's Standards Committee which had always been the appropriate place for the complaints to go and where a resolution could be achieved. The Leader referred to times in the past where members of the public had raised issues of perceived misconduct by members at the Council meeting in a question and answer forum. If there was a complaint to be made about a member's conduct, details could be found on the Council's website.

3. Question received from Naz Islam via email:

"Given the mess created by the government around the results of A-level and GCSEs can the cabinet member say what impact this has had on the young people of Oldham?"

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education responded that recent months had been challenging for children and young people in Oldham because of the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on their families and their education. Throughout the period, all schools and colleges had supported both learning on site and learning from home. The A-level and GCSE examination assessment processes enabled Oldham schools and colleges to acknowledge the work that the young people had put in during their course so far and this had fed into the final results that children and young people received. Changes to A-Level results had impacted on some Oldham students. Oldham's schools and colleges had worked with pupils to support them into their next steps. Universities had also updated offers which took account of the final results. Changes to GCSE results were made before they were issued. Oldham's schools and colleges were experienced in supporting young people to access the next stage of their education and had done so again this year. Councillor Mushtaq comments the work of schools and colleges in taking a person-centred approach and expressed his thanks to everyone involved.

4. Question received from Nicholas Georgiou via email:

"Could you please update on the Council's Green agenda. In terms of air quality, Bicycle lanes, Car use, regenerating the local economy to allow for increased economic activity brought about by home working. Hope I've made sense. Thank you for

your time.”



Oldham
Council

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Green responded that Oldham Council had adopted the UK’s first Green New Deal Strategy in March this year, which set stretching carbon neutrality targets for Council Buildings and Street Lighting by 2025 and for the borough as a whole by 2030. The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy contained pledges to improve air quality, make it easier for residents to take sustainable travel choices and to support Oldham’s economy to ‘go green’. Oldham will be part of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan, which was considering a range of measures which included a Clean Air Zone, vehicle finance offers and electric vehicle infrastructure for taxis. An eight-week consultation would open in early October and Oldham residents were strongly encouraged to make their views known. Oldham Council had started to deliver Bee Network cycling and walking schemes, beginning with the refurbishment of the King Street roundabout bridged and other schemes were being designed which had been approved in the Greater Manchester Mayor’s schemes. As part of the Council’s Covid-19 response, it was being looked to bring forward some of the longer-term schemes more quickly to support people to make sustainable travel choices. The Council was looking to help home-owners on low incomes cut their energy bills, carbon emissions and make their homes more comfortable for working from home by securing Government Green Homes Grant funding to pay for improvements such as solid wall insulation and new, efficient and green electrical heating systems. The Council was also looking to enable Oldham residents to shop online with local suppliers by supporting the development of a new e-commerce website for Tommyfield Market and the borough, so that residents could receive fast delivery of top quality products made in Oldham, whilst supporting great local businesses at the same time.

5. Question received from Glyn Williams via email:

“Compliance with track and trace in pubs where I go out in Uppermill is mixed. Can the Council support hospitality businesses to overcome any difficulties they may have in operating a track and trace system in their businesses?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for the Covid-19 Response responded that any business that provided on-site services should collect details of staff, customers and visitors on their premises to support the NHS Test and Trace, however, this was currently not a legal requirement. It was proposed that this may become mandatory in the next few days. The information businesses were advised to collect was the individual’s name, date and time of their visit and a contact number. This could be done in a variety of ways such as using a book to record the details or via other booking technology. The information would then be retained for 21 days to support any contact tracing work that may be required.

Environmental Health Officers had carried out 622 Covid compliance checks between 10th August 2020 and 6th September 2020 and during the checks, businesses who provided on-site services had been encourage by officers to collect information to support test and trace.



6. Question received from Helen Norton via email:

“I have noticed that Crime Lane in Daisy Nook has been blocked off in an attempt to stop fly tipping. I am glad that the Council have finally taken action on this as it has been a problem for years. Can the Council advise if it can take this approach at other locations where flytipping is also a problem? Namely the bottom half of Rose Hey Lane in Failsworth.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture expressed appreciation for the work that had been done to close a flytipping hotspot at Crime Lane and that noticeable improvements had already been seen. In all locations where flytipping was experienced such as Rose Hay Lane Failsworth, the Council was considering options that it was able to take. As a public highway, there were steps that had to be taken in order that the public were consulted prior to any action be taking which included the closure of a road. Once consultation had been undertaken, the Council could then take the appropriate steps to close the road if this was possible. In some cases, this was not possible due to the residential or business properties located at some point along the road. The Council was already in the process of preparing documentation and sourcing the finance required for the closure of Rose Hay Lane to hopefully bring to an end the detrimental effect on the local area as well as the significant cost to the public purse for the repeated removal of fly tipping. A number of other sites were also being restricted within the use of vehicle height control barriers such as the entry to Crompton Moor where it was hoped high sided vehicles that were usually responsible were restricted. The Council would not become complacent, fly tippers would find alternative locations and it was up to all residents to keep their eyes open and report any unauthorised activity and hold the culprits to account and drive them out of town.

7. Question received from Mark Rooney via email:

“I have seen online a number of local libraries have now reopened. Can the council confirm when Royton library is likely to follow?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture, responded that following the opening of Oldham Library on 6th July 2020, the Council extended the library offer by opening Chadderton, Failsworth and Delph on Tuesday, 25th August and planned to open Crompton and Lees from Monday, 14th September. The Council had implemented a phased

approach to the re-opening of libraries to ensure that libraries could be opened safely and securely, adhering to national and local health and safety guidelines and addressed staffing capacity challenges. A significant number of library staff were currently redeployed supporting the wider council priorities in response to the pandemic including work at the PPE hub, Registrars, test and trace community conversations and council helpline. Once staffing capacity was increased, the opening of Royton and other libraries would be considered. In the meantime, residents could continue to access a range of services online or contact the library services if a home library service was required.



8. Question received from Robert Barnes via email:

“With Oldham experiencing a rise in the number of Covid19 cases and having to introduce measures to combat this, would Cllr Fielding please answer the following questions? On Tuesday 28 July 2020, the council website stated that ‘In addition a large number of our recent cases was in our Bangladeshi and Pakistani communities.(just over 65% in the last 7 days).’ However, on Wednesday 29 July 2020 the wording had been changed to ‘a significant proportion are from Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities’. Can the Leader please explain why, in the course of less than 24 hours, the wording was changed? Would the Council Leader please release the empirical data showing the breakdown for the number of cases for each individual ward? This matter is about Transparency, Openness and Accountability.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded that the information related to coronavirus could and did change rapidly from time to time. On the 28th of July Oldham was at risk from being put into a local lockdown. This meant that information that needed to be relayed to residents changed, at times, on an hourly basis. Between 12.05 am on July 28 and 4.16 pm July 29 the main coronavirus page on the council webpage was updated and rewritten 25 times as new information became available and needed to be disseminated to the residents of Oldham. The Council published weekly figures which showed case numbers in each ward since 5 August 2020 on the coronavirus statistics page.

RESOLVED that questions and responses provided be noted.

b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

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

Question 1: Local is the New Normal

“My first question concerns the future of our district centres in the post-Covid world. This Administration has expended countless

officer hours, commissioned many specialist reports, and expended many millions of pounds on its regeneration plans for Oldham town centre over the years. Whilst some welcome progress has been made, much of the effort and expenditure has frankly come to nothing. Now Covid-19 has slain the latest plans. The prospects for the 'Creating a Better Place' master plan, first adopted by this Administration in July 2019 and involving an investment of £306 million, has just been reviewed by Cabinet and a third or £100 million axed off that budget. Covid has massively increased our costs, decimated our revenue, and now as a Council we quite simply do not now have the cash. The original plan envisaged a mixture of housing, retail, leisure and office developments. We need many thousands of new homes and I would rather they be built in Oldham Town Centre and on brownfield sites than developed at the expense of our Green Belt and green spaces. Now we will be restructuring existing retail, leisure and office spaces, rather than bringing new space into use. If you walk through the Town Square and Spindles Shopping Centres you can see the empty spaces. For over a decade now, footfall along Britain's high streets has been declining. Covid-19 has simply accelerated the trend. Office workers are not coming back to our Town Centre, including the Council's. Home-working is here to stay, and for many of us it will continue to be the only way to work or the only way we can work. For all the talk of investing in Oldham Town Centre to 'Create a Better Place', there has been no talk about, and no focus on, the other district centres in our Borough, except for Royton – which is still talk only. The Administration may have adopted a new mantra 'We are Oldham' but Oldham is not just the Town Centre, it is a Borough of Town and District Centres, each with a proud history and its own distinctive character. For local is the new normal. The Council's ambition of 'Creating a Better Place', there has been no mention of investing in these localities to make the local better. So, I would like to ask the Leader tonight whether he and his Cabinet colleagues will consider reallocating some of the investment intended for Oldham Town Centre to create 'Better Places' to live for those of us who live, shop, socialise or work in Lees, Royton, Chadderton, Failsworth, Shaw and the Saddleworth villages?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded that it was unfair to say that the investment and regeneration strategy in and around Oldham Town Centre had come for nothing as that had overlooked the significant investment that had taken place in the Old Town Hall which had been converted into a cinema and restaurant complex which would very soon be full. The Leader referred to the well-publicised ambitions the Council had to make the Egyptian Room into a food market in the style of Altrincham Market and Produce Hall. The Leader added the residents of Oldham expected that under current circumstances when the Council was struggling in unprecedented financial pressures due to both coronavirus and ten years of cuts that looked set to continue, that the Council would review the 'Creating a Better Place' investment proposals and this had been done. The Leader added that there would be

no dialling down of ambition and would respond dynamically to the changes in the economy as a result of Covid-19. The Leader said that Councillor Sykes was right to acknowledge that more people would be working remotely but that this also provided an opportunity to move some Council staff who were currently based outside the Oldham Town Centre campus back into the Town Centre and support businesses within the Town Centre. The Leader also highlighted the ambition for the number of homes in Oldham Town Centre which had increased to 2,500 compared to 2,000 in the original version. This would protect areas of green belt and reduce the amount that would have to be allocated under the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) and so the benefits would ripple out to all constituent parts of the towns and village of the borough as the Council would be able to withdraw sites from the GMSF being offset by the increased housing allocation in town. The Leader said that Oldham Labour were committed to all the Borough's towns. It was recognised that Oldham borough was a collection of very different unique places. There had been investment in Failsworth with the refurbishment of the Town Hall, investment in the retail offer in Failsworth District Centre and similar things were happening both organically and with support from the Council in places like Uppermill, Lees and Royton. The Leader added that most successful regeneration was where local people invested their own money in supporting the places they loved and cared about. The Leader was pleased with the growth in the night-time economy and the quality of the offer in Royton which had been, in the most part, driven by local people who had invested their own cash. The Leader added that it was often when communities put their hands in their pocket and support their local economy that the best results were seen. The Leader guaranteed that Oldham Council under the current administration, was behind people who wished to invest. Business grant schemes had been adjusted and the Business Support Team had been adapted to support this kind of activity. The Leader added that if Councillor Sykes had any examples from constituents in Shaw that wished to access the support the Council offered to improve the local economy and night-time offer, he was advised to contact the team.

Question 2: Full Pay for Anyone Forced to Self-isolate

"I agree with Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham who recently called for the Government to pay for anyone forced to self-isolate their full wages, where there is no employer to do so. The current situation is a nonsense and it discourages people from participating fully and faithfully in Track and Trace and from choosing to self-isolate. I will use two examples.

Person A: a low-paid employee working in the 'gig' economy, not knowing how many hours or how many days a week or a month they will work and forced to claim Universal Credit to make ends meet and battling between pay days with financial insecurity and the complexities and frustrations of the benefits system. Person



A isn't entitled to full pay when they do not work; their employer only offers Statutory Sick Pay.

Person B: A self-employed tradesperson with a start-up business carrying out jobs for private customers in domestic dwellings.

Person B goes out to work from a makeshift office under the stairs, and, as a self-employed person, if they don't work, they don't earn; they have no employer-based sick pay scheme. If our Persons A and B go for a well-earned pint in the pub at the end of the day – separately of course because under Oldham's rules they cannot meet in the same pub as members of two separate households – they are meant to record their personal details with the establishment in case there is a Covid infection there and they need to be traced. But why does Person A or Person B have any incentive to diligently fill in their details when, if they were subsequently contacted and forced to self-isolate, they will lose at least 10 days and possibly two weeks work, with little or no sick pay as a result? That is why you see Track and Trace records in pubs and elsewhere noting the presence of Batman and Bart and Lisa Simpson amongst their recent customers. Now the Government has now grudgingly agreed to pay the recipients of Universal Credit or Work Credits a paltry sum of £13 a day for any time that they are required to self-isolate. Oldham is one of the first pilot areas where this will apply. Would the Leader agree that this derisory sum will in no way recompense Person A and Person B from Oldham for their loss during self-isolation? And will he agree to join with me to introduce a meaningful compensation scheme? Then A and B can faithfully record their Track and Trace details and participate in self-isolation, and not have to disguise their movements using the names of fictitious superheroes or cartoon characters. Then we can fight and tackle the blight Covid-19 is causing to our Borough and the communities that live and work within it.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded that the examples illustrated the important point that people faced to their earnings if they were told to self-isolate. During conversations with the Government when the Council was successfully avoiding a local lockdown, the case was made around the loss of earnings, particularly for self-employed people. The loss of earnings was too great and people chose not to self-isolate which in-turn lead to a greater spread of coronavirus. The Leader was pleased that Councillor Sykes had raised the issue to Council and responded that he personally was a signatory to the petition on the 'Time Out to Help Out' Campaign which had been launched jointly with the Trade Unions and by the Mayors of both Greater Manchester and Liverpool City Regions and demanded a no loss of earnings which meant that no-one should be out of pocket and people should be able to claim for any lost wages whilst self-isolating, that quarantine was a civic duty, and not expected to lose out in the same way that people were not expected to lose out when on jury service. A simple claim system so that people continued to be paid as normal whether it was an employer or a self-employed person, in order to claim earnings back from the Government relatively easily and which would, in turn, deliver an effective

track and trace system so that people did give genuine names and did not feel it would be punitive to have to self-isolate. The Leader encouraged all members of all groups to sign the 'Time Out to Help Out' petition as it was true the paltry sum offered was not going to dissuade or act as enough of an incentive for people to self-isolate when they really needed to in order to protect the rest of the Borough.

Councillor Sheldon, on behalf of the Conservative Group ask the following question:

“The Council Leader will be aware of the letter that we, the Conservative Group, sent to him last week about Child Sexual Exploitation. It is an issue which rises above party politics and is an issue which demands a full and transparent investigation. With the growing allegations, will the Council Leader join us in writing to the Home Secretary asking for a full independent investigation into the current allegations and crimes yet to be discovered?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded:

“Councillor Sheldon has said that this is an issue that should rise above party politics but then uses it to make a political point. I have written back to the Conservative Group and I can read excerpts from the letter that I sent, which I am still waiting a response to. The Conservative Group, and indeed Councillor Sheldon in this meeting tonight, has made another assertion that there are criminal acts that have taken place. If there is evidence of criminal acts that have taken place then Councillor Sheldon, his colleagues, or anyone who has evidence of them need to submit them to the appropriate people for investigation. But what I would say is that keeping vulnerable children safe is the council's number one priority. Our children's safeguarding teams work tirelessly to make sure children are in the safest environments possible, that families are supported to keep children safe and that those who are victims of abuse are supported and cared for. The work that our children's services teams do saves lives. They have my full admiration and support and I know that many others in this chamber will support those sentiments. But that doesn't mean we can't improve what we do. Unfortunately, child abuse in all its forms, is far too common, and we have to continually improve our practice. In order to be reassured that we, as a council, are doing and have done everything we can to keep victims safe I asked the Greater Manchester Mayor to commission an independent review to look into the allegations that are circulating online. He appointed Malcolm Newsam and Gary Ridgway to oversee a review around these historic CSE allegations. Both Gary and Malcolm have extensive experience in social care and policing, taking on appointments by several government ministers in the past and carrying out reviews in other areas including Northamptonshire and, more recently, Manchester. The independent review is now underway and, when it is completed we will welcome its findings and acknowledge and learn from any areas they identify where

we could do better. Rather than proposing a new review, I would again implore those making allegations to work with the review team. Neither this review, or any other that people call for, whether it's commissioned by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority or by the Home Secretary, can look into allegations made on social media without any evidence – anyone who has any should come forward. People who experience child abuse have to be able to trust public authorities. I hope that the review will help build that trust, by pinpointing any failures in the past and showing people that our services are learning and improving. Allegations about child abuse or the credibility of the review team that do not have evidence to support them damage that trust, particularly when made by elected representatives. The recent approach taken by some members taken in this chamber including the Conservatives disappointingly undermines the trust and confidence that our residents have in children's social care. If people don't have confidence in social care they may be less willing to report concerns and, put simply that could place children in danger, and cost children's lives. I can only finish this contribution by again appealing to Councillor Sheldon and any other members in this chamber or anybody out there listening who has evidence of crimes or child abuse to submit it to the appropriate authorities, whether than be the police or the review team. Of course, I also need to say that when we originally asked the Combined Authority to commission a review, the group leaders of all political groups on the council were briefed on this, including Councillor Hudson, and so the Conservative Group should be well aware of the Terms of Reference, which are publicly available, and the work programme of the review."

The Mayor reminded the meeting that the 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 McLaren asked the following question:

"I have been contacted by a local resident who only recently left the house. She has now been on the bus three times, each time she goes on the bus, she wears a mask as instructed, but on all three occasions someone, sometimes two people have been allowed to board the bus with no mask on. This is a cause of great concern for the resident. So could I ask the relevant Cabinet Member what can be done about this?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture responded that there were a number of exemptions for the requirement to wear a mask so it could be possible that some of those people who weren't wearing masks were doing it for legitimate reasons. Handwashing and social distancing were the two most important ways of combatting the virus but the short answer to the question was that at the moment it was not possible for the Council to make people wear masks if

they chose not to, but the Cabinet Member stressed that choosing not to wear a mask was a selfish act and urged everybody to follow the rules that had been set down.

2 Councillor Surjan asked the following question:

“We know that traffic accidents on the road are very high and in the month of May alone during lockdown, Fire Rescue were call out 72 times for Road Traffic Collisions. With the message being sent out people should avoid public transport we know many will turn to cars to get to places thus increasing risks. This statistic mentioned is only those that are recorded, I’m sure there are dozens more which haven’t been reported to GMP and even more near misses. For a few months now residents have raised concerns of speeding and dangerous driving on Mars Street in Coldhurst with many children being put at risk and their cars being damaged (i.e. wing mirrors knocked off) by reckless young drivers and lorry drivers. They were informed nothing could be done as there were not official data recorded. Just two weeks ago I sent a photo of a car that had smashed into the bollards on Mars St, thankfully no one was hurt. The cost of fixing those bollards will no doubt come from tax payers money. Will the relevant Cabinet Member reassure residents of the area that this matter will be looked into? And look to put plans in place to reduce reckless driving across the wider borough by young drivers and lorry drivers?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture responded that the Council took road safety very seriously. Unfortunately, what was being experienced in Oldham and elsewhere in the country was a general increase in motorists travelling at higher speeds than normal. This could be elated to there being lower traffic volumes and absence of Police presence and in rural settings the attraction of the challenging nature of the routes. Speed limits were set in accordance with DfT guidelines and in consultation with the police and were designed to reflect the nature and characteristics of the road and the environment it was in. However, reckless driving and those who wished to ignore the Highway Code or the posted limited could not be legislated which is why the police were relied upon to enforce limits as currently local authorities could not penalise speeding drivers as such activity was deemed a Moving Traffic Offence and out of the Council’s jurisdiction. That said, Traffic and Road Safety officers would be pleased to work with the elected member and investigate what could be done to mitigate the current unsocial activity and enhance the existing traffic management facilities. With regard to the actual damage referred to in the question, the area had been inspected and two damaged concrete bollards identified. A work order had been issued for the footway to be made safe

and the bollards replaced.

3. Councillor Haque asked the following question:

“I note that the Government has extended the ban on courts hearing landlord’s applications for possession until the 20th September and is now requiring that tenants are given 6-months notice rather than 3 until at least the end of March 2021. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell us what is known about the likely impact of Covid 19 on tenants in Oldham and whether she thinks the measures so far announced are enough to prevent large numbers of evictions and people losing their homes?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Planning responded that the majority of registered social landlords in Oldham had signed up to the National Federation of Housing Association pledges which were:

1. Keeping people secure at home: No one would be evicted from a housing association home as a result of financial hardship caused by coronavirus, where they were working (or engaging) with their housing association to get their payments back on track.
2. Helping people to get the support they need: Housing Associations were helping residents to access benefits and other support to alleviate financial hardship, which included supporting people to get work where possible.
3. Acting compassionately and quickly where people were struggling: Housing associations would work with any resident who was struggling to find arrangements to pay rent that was manageable for them in the long term. Legal action would only be taken in serious circumstances – as a last resort where a resident would not agree a plan with their landlord to help them pay their rent, or where it was needed urgently in cases of domestic abuse or of anti-social behaviour that was putting other residents or communities at risk. The pledges would help residents who resided in socially rented homes. The Housing Advice Team was also working with private landlords to understand issues that they were facing as a result of Covid 19. What would also help was if discretionary housing payments (DHP) could be increased and ‘rules’ around its use relaxed, for example, at the moment only people eligible for support with housing costs could access DHP. This excluded any households on a higher income who might have been affected by Covid and unable to afford their rent, in turn, this affected private landlords who could not get their rent and so they could also face financial hardship. The extension of the eviction ban was welcomed though more generally there was an urgent need to reform how costs were covered by housing benefit or the housing element of Universal

Credit. The local housing allowance needed to permanently meet local market rents. The bedroom tax and benefit cap be abolished. The combine impact of these measures could mean that residents receiving housing support significantly below their rent found it difficult to pay their rent and also meet their other household costs.

4. Councillor Williamson asked the following question:

“The Government recently gave the Council £215,000 to use in ‘reopening town centres’. What has this money been spent on?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded that the key focus for the funding was to support the reopening of the town centres and high streets in district centres shopping districts and community shopping locations, especially in vulnerable communities. Oldham Council had and continued to put a huge amount of effort to offer sound and evidenced-based information to businesses and residents during the Covid-19 emergency. This project and additional funding was helping to target activities in alignment with the CV19 Management Plan, and had allowed the Council to build and add value to initial works and activities underway. Specific activities included:

- Supported the development of an action plan for how to continue to safely reopen the high street and local economy;
- Communications and public information were managed to ensure the reopening of high streets across the borough were done successfully and safely;
- Business engagement and awareness raising activities to ensure that reopening was and could be managed successfully and safely; and
- Temporary public realm changes to ensure that reopening could be managed successfully and safely.

5. Councillor Hulme asked the following question:

“Over the past 6 months schools, colleges and community facilities were all shut down leaving many of Oldham’s young people at a loose end for large parts of the day, potentially resulting in them engaging in behaviour that could be dangerous or considered anti-social. Could the cabinet member responsible for youth services please tell us what was put in place to interact with young people and to divert them away from these types of activity?”

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded within information related to what had been delivered by the Youth Services and partners. The Youth Service had been active in

supporting young people throughout the lockdown. There had been some limitations in what could be delivered face-to-face. From the start of lockdown in March, the Youth Service had delivered an extensive 7 day-a-week programme of online sessions, one-to-one support to vulnerable young people and community-based engagement. The face-to-face work had steadily increased in line with the end of lock down and the changes in Government restrictions but was fully risk assessed and adhered to social distancing and Covid safe procedures. The Youth Service had delivered a comprehensive summer programme of activities with an average of 40 sessions per week delivered online and face to face along side a range of wider summer activities offered from a range of organisations across Oldham. Oldham Youth Service had worked closed with Police and Community Safety colleagues so they were able to respond to any potential anti-social behaviour or other youth related issues. They were also involved in supporting the GM Safe4Summer campaign. The Youth Service continued with the youth work offer and were supporting the community engagement programme currently taking place across Oldham to support the fight against Covid and were supporting the return to school, developing youth engagement sessions across localities in Oldham and offering targeted programmes to schools, colleges and communities to support young people. As well as the Council's own Youth Service, organisations within the community and voluntary sector delivered an offer to young people and continued to increase that offer as the restrictions and guidelines to youth sector organisations changed. The Cabinet Member expressed this thanks to the teams for the support provided during this period.

6. Councillor Phythian asked the following question:

“Many Oldham residents are struggling financially at the present time, they are having to make decisions about paying their rent and utility bills or buying food. Oldham Food Bank, is a volunteer led organisation that provides outstanding support for residents who have found themselves in this position. What support have Oldham Council given to the Food Bank during this very difficult period?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for the Covid-19 Response responded that the Council had and continued to support the Food Bank in a number of ways which included to continue to charge a peppercorn-only rent for premises; purchased refrigeration equipment for the Food Bank at the start of the pandemic; provided staff support, up to 10 staff, as a minimum, on a regular basis over 7 days a week; provided officer support related to the setting up of a bulk

purchasing arrangement with suppliers, established supply links to FareShareGM and linked the Food Bank into other sources of food donations which had come in from across Greater Manchester. In addition, Environmental Services had provided the foodbank with veg boxes from produced grown through the summer. In terms of funding, £20K had been set aside from the Growing Oldham Feeding Ambition (GOFA) to provide financial support. Funding had been approved in principle from the DEFRA Local Authority Emergency Assistance Scheme to support the longer-term sustainability of the Food Bank. It was important that the support offered across Team Oldham be recognised and the excellent partnership that had formed in particular between the Council, Action Together and the Foodbank to support the borough's most vulnerable communities during this difficult time. The partnership working continued to ensure that people could continue to access food as the economic impact of Covid 19 was felt.

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

RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

c Questions on Cabinet Minutes

Council were requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the undermentioned dates and to receive any questions on any items within the minutes from members of the Council who were not members of the Cabinet and receive responses from Cabinet members. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 22nd June 2020, 7th July 2020 and 20th July 2020 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Murphy asked the following question related to Cabinet, 20th July 2020, Item 6 – GM Clean Air Update:

“Private motor vehicles are subject to an annual emissions test when they have an MOT test, which is carried out by inserting a tube into the exhaust and measuring it using a calibrated emissions tester. However, when taxis are checked through the taxi test, the emissions are only visually checked. Can the relevant Cabinet Member explain why there is this discrepancy between the emissions testing of private cars and taxis? There are hundreds of taxis on our roads today. They are driven more miles per year than an average motor vehicle, they are on the road for longer and their engines are idled for longer periods of time so a taxi could cause a lot more air pollution. When we are trying to make sure we have clean air, why should taxis not have the same checks as our cars? And can the Cabinet Member say exactly how many taxis are licensed to operate in our borough today?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and

Culture responded that she could not explain the difference in emission checks but that the work on clear air was about doing away with current commercial vehicles, taxis, private hires, delivery vehicles, lorries and buses and the reduction of pollution by making all the vehicles in Greater Manchester that drove around Greater Manchester, particularly the ones that spent a lot of time idling, not giving out the NO² particles. The Clean Air Strategy that Greater Manchester was developing was what the Cabinet Minute was about and the consultation exercise that was due to start on 8 October and addressed modification of vehicles going forward which involved support to those people who had those vehicles getting cleaner vehicles. In terms of the number of taxis and private hires operating in Oldham, Councillor Brownridge did not know but would find out and provide that information to Councillor Murphy.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 22nd June 2020, 7th July 2020 and 20th July 2020 be noted.
2. The question and response provided be noted.

d Questions on Joint Arrangements

To note the minutes of the following Joint Authority and Partnership meetings and the relevant spokesperson to respond to questions from Members.

The minutes of the following Joint Authorities and Partnership meetings were submitted as follows:

AGMA Executive Board	26 June 2020
Greater Manchester Transport Committee	10 July 2020
GM Waste and Recycling Committee	12 March 2020
Health and Wellbeing Board 2019	12 November
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	26 June 2020
	31 July 2020
MioCare Board	23 April 2020
Peak Park District Authority	3 July 2020
	24 July 2020
Police and Crime Panel	30 June 2020

Members asked the following questions:

1. Councillor Williamson asked the following question on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority minutes, 31 July 2020, Item GMCA 122/20 – Brownfield Land Fund and Getting Building Fund:
“The minute records that of the Government’s £400m Brownfield Land Fund, £81.1m has been allocated for Greater Manchester over the next five years, and that Greater Manchester has also been allocated £54m as part of the ‘Getting Building Fund’ to support post Covid-19 building recovery, to be spent by 31 March 2022. Can the relevant Cabinet Member tell me how much of this money will be

coming to Oldham and how this Council intends to spend it?"



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills responded that none of the funding pot had yet been allocated so it was unclear at the moment how much would be allocated to Oldham. The funding was to be used to bring forward sites for residential development on brownfield land that could evidence market failure. GMCA were co-ordinating bids to the fund and submissions had been put forward in Oldham which sought a total of £17.942 million grant. Future updates could be provided.

2. Councillor Al-Hamdani asked the following question on the Greater Manchester Transport Committee minutes, 10 July 2020, Minute GMTC 50/20 Mayoral Update and on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority minutes, 31 July 2020, Minute GMCA 125/20, the Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (MCF) and Emergency Active Travel Funding, Tranche 1

–
“As people are being urged to return to school and to work, the Government allocation £250-million for an ‘Emergency Active Travel Fund’ to encourage everyone to walk or cycle where possible instead of taking public transport or returning to their cars. Greater Manchester received £15,872,000. The Transport Secretary also issued new Statutory Guidance on 9 May to all Highways Authorities, requiring them to deliver ‘transformative change’ within an urgent timeframe. The Guidance included recommendations to consider ‘pop-up’ cycle facilities, widening footways, ‘school streets’ schemes, and reducing speed limits. Can the relevant Cabinet Member tell me how much money from the Greater Manchester ‘pot’ Oldham has received and what this Council has or proposes to do with it to meet the requirements and aspirations of the Statutory Guidance? And can the Cabinet Member also currently tell me what mechanism exists to consult with cyclists in this borough on our proposed cycle schemes?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture responded that whilst the Government had indicated that Greater Manchester could receive up to £15.9 million from its Emergency Active Travel Fund, the Council still had to go through a competitive bidding process to access the Fund. Government had split the fund into two bidding tranches and required single bids from Combined Authority areas. Greater Manchester submitted a bid to Tranche 1 and had an initial allocation of £3.1m approved for the regions Tranche 1 schemes which in Oldham included pedestrian improvements in Oldham Town Centre. No GM local authority had received any direct funding but would be able to recover the cost of delivering their agreed Tranche 1 schemes from the GM Allocation. The government's decision on the region's Tranche 2 bid to secure the remaining indicative GM allocation was still awaited. In addition to this Government funding, the GM Mayor had made £0.5m of emergency funding available to each GM local authority to support the Safe Streets Save Live campaign

and the Council was busy making changes across the borough to support social distancing and active travel, including installation of new road markings, signing and footway widening.



3. Councillor Harkness asked the following question on the Peak District National Park Authority Minutes, 24 July 2020, Minute 54/20 – National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2019/20 – “The killing of Birds of Prey in the Peak District National Park includes parts of Saddleworth Moor. In a recent report by the investigation team of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, it is reported that the Peak District National Park is one of the worse parts of the UK for the illegal killing of rare birds of prey. Locally, in May, a buzzard was found with fatal injuries on land used for game bird shooting in Diggle and two years ago a red kite was seen being shot, and two owls were found shot dead on Saddleworth Moor. There have also been shooting incidents, suspicions of poisoning and raids by egg robbers on nests in other parts of the Park. All birds of prey are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. To intentionally kill or injure one is a criminal offence, punishable by an unlimited fine or up to six months in jail. But the deaths of every one of these beautiful and majestic creatures are not only deplorable crimes; they represent an irreplaceable loss to our natural environment and to humanity. The Peak District Annual Monitoring Report refers to moorland birds, and specifically birds of prey on Page 7, but the detail is quite vague. I would like to ask the Council’s representative to the Peak District National Park Board whether this issue has been discussed at recent Board meetings and what the outcome was? I would be especially interested to hear what action is being taken by the Board to work with the Police. RSPB, local wildlife charities and land owners like United Utilities and Yorkshire Water to end this menace and to bring offenders to book. If the issue has not been discussed, please can I ask him to raise it with the Chair and Board at the earliest opportunity?”

Councillor McLaren, Oldham Council's representative on the Peak District National Park Authority confirmed that the Annual Monitoring Report had been discussed at the meeting but with no specific reference made to birds of prey. Councillor McLaren would seek further advice and information and report back to all members of Council.

4. Councillor H. Gloster asked the following question on the Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee Minutes, 12 March 2020, Minute WRC 20/21 Waste Management Contract Update – “At the start of 2020, vehicle number plate recognition and restrictions on the number of visits to municipal tips were introduced in this borough. Can the Cabinet Member tell me if this has had an adverse impact on fly-tipping incidents? How many reports of fly tipping have there been in the current year compared to the comparable period last year? And how much are we currently spending per annum cleaning



up after fly-tippers? And can the Cabinet member tell me if there is any clear indication of a change in behaviour on fly-tipping due to the closure of recycling centres under coronavirus, and can the Council provide an estimated breakdown of what proportion of any increases are related to that, rather than to the change in restrictions on visits, by comparing the data pre-lockdown, under lockdown and post-lockdown?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Culture responded that the information requested was currently being investigated. It was to be appreciated that the information would take some extensive investigation to enable the information to be pulled together. The Cabinet Member would endeavour to get the requested information at the earliest opportunity and forward it via email.

5. Councillor Hobin asked the following question related to Police and Crime Panel Minutes, 30 June 2020, Minute PCP/20/20 – Police and Crime Team Update –
- Councillor Hobin referred to the question asked earlier.
- “Over the last few days and weeks, some things had come to light that casts a shadow over the Council, a shadow which casts and calls into question the integrity of the Council, and as a result of this, the integrity into every member here tonight. I am very proud to represent my constituency, unfortunately at times I feel no pride in being part of this Council. Of course it’s to talk of the Child Sexual Exploitation allegations and the Council’s response. It’s clear to me and many others that the review in place is not fit for purpose. The scope is too narrow, the governance nowhere near independent enough regardless of what Councillor Fielding says, I am sure the public, when they see pictures of him and his good friend the GM Mayor, will call into question how independent this is. It’s too big an issue to be dealt with in what is pretty much a self-managed review. I believe it is now time to request a fully independent investigation and a public inquiry into all possible aspects of possible child sexual exploitation in our borough and this investigation should be with full legal standing. This is not a party political issue. This is more important than that. Every day children’s future dreams are being turned into nightmares. It’s our duty above all else to protect our children and not to decide because of which party you are in how you’re going to represent them. You should be representing your constituents, the ones that have trusted you personally by electing you in. If I quote from Edmund Burke ‘all that is required for evil to triumph is good men to do nothing’. I refuse to do nothing on this. The revelations of the Administration, apparently keeping secrets regarding council members criminal charges and convictions recently has diminished any trust or belief in this Council. I understand why Councillor Fielding said the number one priority is child protection and that’s what it should be. He also questioned people coming forward to the Council, but when the Leader of the Council has called allegations barefaced lies in the past on 2 occasions, when he’s gone

public saying people are scaremongering on the internet, how do you expect people to come to trust in the Council? I think it is time now for this Council to all come together and demand an independent public inquiry into what is going on. I would like to see and I propose a full recorded vote tonight by members here and now to press this Administration on referring to the Home Office and the Local Government Minister a request for a full independent inquiry into child sexual exploitation in this borough and any other activity. Anything short of this, I believe, is a dereliction of duty, anything other than this points to an Administration that is scared of any truth being discovered but it certainly doesn't show this Council as the transparent Council they want it to be. I would ask members to join with me in forcing this issue. We need to vote, we need to push this Administration into a proper independent inquiry into what is going on in this borough. Until we do that there are children at harm every single night. We cannot sort this out until we know what's gone on in the past. I ask the Council for a full recorded vote of all members so we know who is on line with use and who isn't. Who are protecting people they shouldn't be and who are not looking after the interests of their constituents."

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Skills reiterated some things that had already been said and some things that Councillor Hobin had alluded to but which had not been said in the meeting but had been said publicly in the past. Councillor Hobin had been advised to provide evidence which supported his assertion that there had been crimes committed or that there were flaws with the independent review which had already been commissioned. Councillor Hobin so far had failed to provide anything. If the Council were to request a new review from a Central Government department, the likelihood was that they would commission Malcolm Newsam and Gary Ridgway to do the work, as they were the people used in the past. Any new review would only slow down the answers Councillor Hobin claimed he wanted. Councillor Hobin and his associates online seemed mainly interested in spreading doubt in public services which was in itself placing young people in danger. There had been seen those who knew what the rules for council meetings were and for things like Freedom of Information requests, doing the wrong thing, seemingly on purpose, so a cover up could be claimed when they didn't get the answers. The Council had committed that when the independent review reported its findings, Group Leaders would be brought together too consider any next steps to be taken and if the review unearthed any criminality that would be dealt with by the police. The Leader asked once again that Councillor Hobin and others to bring forward any evidence that they had rather than spreading baseless accusations that undermined the fantastic work that Children's Services teams did and placed children at risk by potentially dissuading those with information about abuse coming forward.

The Mayor advised that a vote could not be taken on a

statement. If Councillor Hobin wished to submit a motion to the next meeting of Council, which has been seconded by another member under Opposition Business, this would be debated and voted upon.

RESOLVED that:

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

10

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion: Planning for the Future

The Mayor had received notice that Councillor Roberts wished to alter the Motion. The altered Motion had been circulated to Members. The motion could be altered with the consent of the Secunder and agreement of Full Council. Full Council agreed to the Motion being altered.

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Dean SECONDED the following ALTERED MOTION:

“This council notes the Government’s extension of permitted development rights and the recent publication of a white paper on planning reform, ‘Planning for the Future’.

The proposals in the white paper are to replace the established planning system with a new system whereby land is classified into ‘growth’, ‘renewal’ or ‘protection’ zones, with outline permission granted automatically where a development meets the criteria for the relevant zone. This will fundamentally undermine democratic local control.

This council notes the significant concerns raised by key bodies to the proposals. The Royal Institute of British Architects have suggested that the plans are ‘shameful’ and would do ‘almost nothing to guarantee the deliver of affordable, well-designed and sustainable homes’. Homelessness charity Shelter have argued that social housing ‘could face extinction’ if the proposals go ahead. The Town and Country Planning Association have noted the success of the current system for volume house builders, the huge number of permissions granted that remain undelivered, and the threat the proposals make to local democracy. This council agrees that such a fundamental attack on democratic rights in the planning system demands cross party support and undertakes to consult all elected Members in formulating a response.

This council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to respond to the Planning for the Future consultation, to include the following:

- Oldham Council’s rejection of the proposals in the strongest form
- The range of sites in Oldham that have planning permission but are not currently being taken forward by developers, and which are not included in the Government’s assessment of whether Oldham Council is delivering enough development.

- The additional barriers to development arising from the cost of Brownfield land remediation and the need for sustainable subsidy to make sites viable
- The importance of a robust, transparent planning process, with democratic control at its heart, to safeguard local communities and promote local priorities
- The need for quality, affordable homes in Oldham, and the risk that the new proposals will fail to deliver. Replacing section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy contributions, which the National Housing Federation notes are the single biggest contributor to new affordable homes in the country, with a much smaller Infrastructure Levy, will massively reduce the targets for contributions, rather than trying to find ways to reach the current targets, which are so badly needed.
- That affordability varies across the country and that the proposals in the White paper offer nothing for those needing housing at a social rent.
- The outcomes through the cross-party consultation.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor H. Gloster spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Sheldon spoke against the Motion.

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Curley spoke against the Motion.

Councillor Roberts exercised her right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 49 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the ALTERED MOTION and 3 votes were cast AGAINST with 1 ABSTENTION. The ALTERED MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be asked to respond to the Planning for the Future consultation and that the following be included:

1. Oldham Council's rejection of the proposals in the strongest form.
2. The range of sites in Oldham that have planning permission but were not currently being taken forward by developers, and which were not included in the Government's assessment of whether Oldham Council was delivering enough development.
3. The additional barriers to development arising from the cost of Brownfield land remediation and the need for sustainable subsidy to make sites viable.
4. The importance of a robust, transparent planning process, with democratic control at its heart to safeguard local communities and promote local priorities.
5. The need for quality, affordable homes in Oldham, and the risk that the new proposals would fail to deliver. Replacing section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy contributions, which the National Housing Federation noted were the single biggest contributor to new affordable homes in the country with a much smaller

- Infrastructure Levy, would massively reduce the targets for contributions, rather than trying to find ways to reach the current targets, which were so badly needed.
6. That affordability varied across the country and that the proposals in the White paper offered nothing for those needing housing at a social rent.
 7. The outcomes agreed through the cross-party consultation.

NOTE: Councillor S. Bashforth joined the meeting during this Item.

11

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Not Every Disability is Visible

Councillor Hamblett MOVED and Councillor H. Gloster SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council notes that:

- The charity Crohn’s and Colitis UK is encouraging venues providing accessible public toilets to install new signage. This is to help stop stigma and discrimination towards people with ‘invisible illnesses’ such as Crohn’s Disease or ulcerative colitis.
- There have been instances nationally where such individual using an accessible toilet have been accused by staff members of being ineligible to use them.
- These signs have two standing figures and a wheelchair user with the words Accessible Toilet and the logo ‘Not every disability is visible’.
- The Government has decided recently that large accessible toilets for severely disabled people – known as Changing Places – will be made compulsory for large new buildings, such as shopping centres, supermarkets, sports and arts venues, in England from 2021.

Council resolves to:

- Ensure that accessible toilets on Council premises bear these signs.
- Ask town and district centre retailers and leisure outlets to do likewise with their accessible public toilets.
- Seek advice from the charity Crohn’s and Colitis UK on the information and training we should provide to Council staff members. This is so they understand these illnesses and to prevent potential embarrassment for those who suffer with them.
- Ensure that any Changing Places toilets in our buildings are property signposted for visitors.
- Ensure that the requirement to provide new Changing Place toilets is included within the Council’s future plans for new public buildings in the borough.”

Councillor Hobin spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED that under Council Procedure Rule 14.9h) the Motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny.



Councillor Hamblett exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, that the motion be REFERRED to Overview and Scrutiny was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that under Council Procedure Rule 14.9h), the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny.

Motion 2: Let's All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter

Councillor Williamson MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the following MOTION:

“Council is committed to tackling litter in our Borough and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities.

Council notes that:

- The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign offers local authorities the opportunity to become a member of a Network, which provides access to specialist advice and support.
- Keep Britain Tidy is hosting the Great British September Clean-Up from 11 – 27 September.
- The campaign is also promoting a Love Parks campaign and a Charity Bin sponsorship scheme whereby the monies raised from recycling cans deposited in designated local authority bins is contributed to local charities.
- Several national supermarket chains are now operating trials of reverse vending machines, where customers are rewarded for returning used cans and bottles for recycling.
- The Government department DEFRA has also previously published a voluntary code for local businesses and local business partnerships to sign up to and reduce the litter that results from fast food businesses.

Council recognises that:

- Whilst we are committed to tackling litter in our Borough, and to working for cleaner streets and public places across our communities, we cannot do this alone.
- In the battle for cleaner streets and public spaces, we must involve the public and our business partners in a co-operative effort.
- There are community champions and organisations commendably ‘doing their bit’.
- The Keep Britain Tidy and DEFRA initiatives provide extra opportunities and an extra incentive for members of the public and business partners to become actively engaged and empowered in tackling the litter which blights our streets.
- In doing their bit, residents and business will help the Council to make the streets, district centres, parks and



public amenities of our Borough cleaner and more inviting to residents and visitors.

Council resolves to:

- Promote participation in the Great British September Clean-up to members of the public, community, faith and youth groups, and businesses through our usual social media, website and existing email-outs to partners.
- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, and identify which of the campaign's initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins, could be introduced in the Borough.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to national supermarket chains with stores in this borough asking them to consider Oldham as the location for a future trial of a reverse vending machine.
- Promote take up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst our fast food businesses and local business partnerships and seek their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for public education programmes.”

AMENDMENT

The Chief Executive had been notified that Councillor Leach was unable to attend the meeting and unable to Move the Amendment and notice had been given that Councillor Hulme would Move the Amendment in her absence which was AGREED.

Councillor Hulme MOVED and Councillor Mushtaq SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“At end of bullet point 2 under Council recognises add:
'While recognising the limitations in community and group activity imposed by the current Coronavirus restrictions.'
Delete bullet point 1 under Council resolves.”

Revised motion to read:

“Council is committed to tackling litter in our Borough and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities.

Council notes that:

- The Keep Britain Tidy Campaign offers local authorities the opportunity to become a member of a Network, which provides access to specialist advice and support.
- Keep Britain Tidy is hosting the Great British September Clean-Up from 11 – 27 September.
- The campaign is also promoting a Love Parks campaign and a Charity Bin sponsorship scheme whereby the monies raised from recycling cans deposited in designated local authority bins is contributed to local charities.
- Several national supermarket chains are now operating trials of reverse vending machines, where customers are

rewarded for returning used cans and bottles for recycling.

- The Government department DEFRA has also previously published a voluntary code for local businesses and local business partnerships to sign up to and reduce the litter that results from fast food businesses.

Council recognises that:

- Whilst we are committed to tackling litter in our Borough, and to working for cleaner streets and public spaces across our communities, we cannot do this alone.
- In the battle for cleaner streets and public spaces, we must involve the public and our business partners in a co-operative effort while recognising the limitations in community and group activity imposed by the current Coronavirus restrictions.
- There are community champions and organisations commendably 'doing their bit'.
- The Keep Britain Tidy and DEFRA initiatives provide extra opportunities and an extra incentive for members of the public and business partners to become actively engaged and empowered in tackling the litter which blights our streets.
- In doing their bit, residents and business will help the Council to make the streets, district centres, parks and public amenities of our Borough cleaner and more inviting to residents and visitors.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, and identify which of the campaign's initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins could be introduced in the Borough.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to national supermarket chains with stores in this borough asking them to consider Oldham as the location for a future trial of a reverse vending machine.
- Promote take up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst our fast food businesses and local business partnerships and seek their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for public education programmes."

Councillor Sheldon spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillor Williamson exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Hulme did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, 45 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and 0 votes were cast AGAINST with 9 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore CARRIED.

Councillor Williamson did not exercise her right of reply.

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



RESOLVED that:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Board be asked to examine the merits of becoming a local authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network, and identify which of the campaign's initiatives, including Love Parks and Charity Bins could be introduced in the Borough.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to national supermarket chains with stores in this borough asking them to consider Oldham as the location of a reverse vending machine.
3. The take up of the DEFRA voluntary code amongst the borough's fast food businesses and local business partnerships be promoted and their sponsorship for the introduction of a Charity Bin scheme and for public education programmes be sought.

Motion 3: Roads Policing 'Not Optional'

Councillor C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following MOTION:

"Council notes that:

- In the last ten years, there has been no significant decline in the number of people killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads, after decades of reducing casualties.
- According to Department of Transport figures, there are still on average 5 fatalities and 68 serious injuries in England and Wales every day.
- In early July, the Department of Transport published a public consultation document supporting a Roads Policing Review. The closing date for submissions is October 5th.
- In the preamble to that document, the Under Secretary of State for Transport said the review sought to 'build the fairest and most operationally effective enforcement capability in police and other agencies to deliver the best outcome for the safety of all road users'.
- In the same month, the HM Inspectorate of Constabulary published a damning report which predicted an increase in road deaths because:
 - According to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, there has been a 34% cut in funding in real terms for road policing between 2012/3 and 2019/20 leading to a reduction of police officers available for these duties.
 - These officers receive insufficient training and operational support.
 - Road policing is 'seen as less of a priority than it should be' in most local plans and there is an 'unclear national strategy'.



- The HM Inspectorate called for urgent action as ‘roads policing is not optional’.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Transport, making clear this Council’s position that funding in real terms for road policing should be restored; that the HM Inspectorate’s recommendation be implemented in full as a priority; and that a new national strategy for road policing and safety should be developed.
- Ask the Chief Executive to send copies of this letter to the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and Crime Panel and our three local Members of Parliament to seek their support for the Council’s position
- Ask the Council’s representative on the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Panel to request the Panel revisit the local policing plan to ensure that roads policing is sufficiently prioritised.
- Ask the Chief Executive, in conjunction with the appropriate Council officers and the relevant Cabinet Member, to make a submission to the Roads Policing Review consultation on behalf of the Council taking this resolution in to account.”

Councillor C. Gloster did not exercise his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Transport, making clear this Council’s position that funding in real terms for road policing should be restored; that the HM Inspectorate’s recommendation be implemented in full as a priority; and that a new national strategy for road policing and safety should be developed.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to send copies of this letter to the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner, the Police and Crime Panel and our three local Members of Parliament to seek their support for the Council’s position.
3. The Chief Executive, in conjunction with the appropriate Council officers and the relevant Cabinet Member, be asked to make a submission to the Roads Policing Review consultation on behalf of the Council taking this resolution in to account.

12

COVID-19 UPDATE

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Fielding SECONDED a report which h provide an update on how the Council continued to monitor and manage the spread of the coronavirus pandemic locally.

COVID-19 was still circulating across the UK and new cases were still being seen across Oldham every day. The Council had a clear plan in case of an outbreak locally. The report summarised the local restrictions that had been introduced, identified associated activity and highlighted the approach taken by the Council to tackle the increase in numbers.



Oldham had joined forces with Greater Manchester and national agencies such as Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care to escalate messaging to the public. In line with the agreed plan, Oldham had increased the number of testing sites in the borough. Testing was taking place at a higher rate than the national average with positivity falling. Locally supported contact tracing had been in place since 13th August 2020 and 80% of cases passed to the local team had been successfully completed.

Question received from Councillor Sykes:

“The Cabinet Member will be aware of the shambles that occurred with the local mobile testing centre in Shaw, and elsewhere in Oldham. In Shaw on the first day that the centre was supposed to operate, it failed to show and on the second day, it arrived several hours late. It also failed to turn with all the kit on another date and left early on its last day. Shaw and Crompton residents who had booked a test online arrive to find there was not centre at which to take a test. I understand that this shambles also occurred at other sites elsewhere in Oldham. This situation has undermined the credibility of these facilities and has caused a great deal of inconvenience and concern to my constituents. I know that these facilities are operated by a private sector company appointed by the government, so the Council is not at fault, but could the Cabinet Member please tell me what this Council is doing to ensure that these testing centres arrive on time and are present at their assigned locations and at their assigned days of operation in future?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response responded that Oldham Council staff and members had escalated concerns about the reliability of the mobile testing unit service to NHS Test and Trace as soon as the problems in Shaw emerged. In recent weeks reliability of the service had improved significantly, with three mobile testing units operating in the borough each day. Additional officer capacity had been identified to ensure that there was a single point of contact in place to rapidly address any problems with future deployments should they occur. Thanks were also given to the Chief Executive in her role at a national level.

Question received from Councillor Williamson:

“Oldham Council employs staff who come from across our communities and who speak a wide variety of community languages. Trace and trace will finally now become a service delivered locally; a change for the good which is long overdue, and there will now be an expectation that contact tracers will

begin to knock on doors to speak with members of the public, rather than attempting phone contact. Can the Cabinet Member please tell me whether this Council will be asking staff who live or work in the relevant communities where infection rates are higher and who also speak the relevant community languages to come forward to be seconded to carry out this work? And if not, can I ask her to do so? I feel that this will be contact tracing far more effective and will further demonstrate that this Council is a key front-line service provider that is fully committed to tackling coronavirus head-on and keeping all communities safe.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response responded that the arrangements for the transfer of contact tracing functions from national to local, and the resources to do this, had not yet been confirmed. The ability for contact tracers to speak relevant community languages was important and was something the Council would aim to build into any local approach to contact tracing when more detail about the functions being transferred and the resources available was received.

Question received from Councillor H. Gloster:

“There have been a significant number of outbreaks of Coronavirus in food factories in Wales, Scotland, the Midlands and North Yorkshire. Oldham has several such factories, but I shall not name them. Can the Cabinet Member please tell me what is being done in these factories in Oldham to prevent outbreaks and to test staff to keep them safe?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response responded that Oldham had one large scale production site which officers from Environmental Health were liaising with as part of the Covid business response work. The Health and Safety Executive had also been involved in advisory visits in the borough to other smaller scale premises factories for which they were responsible. Environmental Health had been dealing with all other business premises, carrying out proactive compliance checks and responding to any reports of cases or staff concerns as the Council were made aware of them. This had involved discussions around the siting of mobile testing stations near the premises as well as advising on process changes to improve compliance.

Question received from Councillor Hamblett:

“On 11 August, Public Health England admitted that almost 10% of the coronavirus deaths is reported were not related to Covid-19. The number of deaths attributed to Covid-19 was then dramatically dropped by 5,377. The error had occurred because former coronavirus patients were being included in mortality figures even if they had recovered and then died of something else. Can the Cabinet Member please tell me what impact this adjustment has had on the figure for deaths from Covid-19 within the borough of Oldham?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response responded that the national adjustment had not had any impact on the overall figure for Covid-19 deaths within Oldham.

Question received from Councillor Al-Hamdani:

“On 13 August, Imperial College published a survey claiming that six percent of the UK population or 3.4 million people had antibodies indicating that they have been exposed to Covid-19. The Office for National Statistics has also published similar figures suggesting that 6.5 per cent of the population has been infected. Can the Cabinet Member tell me if as part of the testing programme whether the presence of antibodies in each patient is recorded? And if that is so, what that percentage has been in patients so far tested in this borough?”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response responded that the tests undertaken at local testing sites and via home testing kits were antigen tests, rather than antibody tests. Antibody testing required a blood sample and the nose and throat swabs used at testing sites could not be used to measure antibodies. Antibody testing was not currently widely available and was only being offered to NHS and care staff and to some hospital patients. The Council did not have local data on the number of residents who had received antibody testing.

Question received from Councillor Shuttleworth:

“Would the relevant Cabinet Member kindly confirm:

- The number of allegations of breaches of the Covid guidelines have been received;
- How many allegations required investigation by officers;
- How many warnings were issued to those who failed to follow the guidelines;
- How many repeat offenders there have been; and
- Finally, how many fines have been incurred by businesses and individuals.”

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Response confirmed that the Council had received 460 complaints of potential breaches whilst Greater Manchester Police (GMP) had received 2,461 calls from the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 and all of these were investigated event though some turned out to be unfounded. The Police had developed a policy in line with the National Police Chiefs Council and used the model of 4 E's (Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce) using enforcement as a last resort. From a Council perspective, members were informed that one business had been closed due to non-compliance and another had been served with a Health and Safety Improvement Notice related to inadequate Covid controls.

Councillor Goodwin referred to his question at a previous Council meeting regarding the impact of Covid on Council finances and asked if there was any update on the financial situation since then?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Green responded that the Council's Revenue Account had currently a £17.1m deficit in-year related to incurred expenditure. A response had not been received to the motion as agreed at the previous Council meeting which requested the Government to fully fund the Council on any expenditure. Despite the great work which had been done, no additional support had been received. It would be useful if the Government could give the money as promised to support the residents and businesses in Oldham.

Councillor Alyas asked about the applications for the various business grants schemes which closed on Friday, 28th August. Councillor Alyas asked if the Cabinet Member for Finance could advise if the funding allocation from the Government had all been spent and, if not, what would happen to the underspend?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Green responded that in April 2020, the Council received £54.783m from Central Government to support the payment of Small Business and Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grants. In May, the Government introduced the Discretionary Grant scheme which allowed the Council to spend £2.501m on Discretionary Business Grants from within the initial £54.873m grant allocation. Whilst no more grant applications could now be received, payments could continue to be made until 30 September for claims received just before the deadline and to allow outstanding payment queries to be resolved. Currently, Small Business and Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Grants totalling £47.450m had been paid, together with the full £2.501m on Discretionary Grants. A small number of final payments would be made before 30 September. This left no more than around £4.8m which at this time would need to be repaid to Central Government as this was unspent. A letter had been sent to the Business Secretary to allow flexibility to allow those businesses who had not been able to apply previously, however, no response had yet been received. There had been many issues with businesses being affected. Oldham had more than its share of Covid-19 which was likely to continue in terms of poverty and housing.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

RESOLVED that:

1. The update on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

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

taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on issues raised at those meetings.

Councillor Sheldon referred to the Council Action Update related to the Tackling Speeding motion and asked the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to ask if High Street, Uppermill could be taken into consideration in future years programme. The Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board agreed to investigate the issue.

RESOLVED that the actions regarding motions and issues from previous Council meeting be agreed and the correspondence and updates provided be noted.

14

COUNCIL MOTION: MAKING A COMMITMENT TO THE UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Akhtar SECONDED a report which provided feedback on the Council motion entitled 'Making a Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals'. The Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee had been asked to identify the work that was being done by the Council and its partners and what more could be done with its' findings and recommendations.

Councillor Hamblett MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED the following AMENDMENT to the report:

"Add at the top of Page 16, a new section 17.2 to read:

'17.2 Oldham is the first borough in the UK to have embraced the Pledge to Peace, an initiative launched at the European Parliament in November 2011 to promote a 'culture of peace across Europe'.

This has attracted significant positive coverage for Oldham, with the borough increasingly seen as a place of peace and an exemplar to others.

- Oldham Council and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council are currently the only two local authorities in the UK to have become signatories of the Pledge.
- Oldham Council was the first organisation to appoint a Pledge to Peace Mayor, former Councillor Derek Heffernan.
- The Oldham Pledge to Peace now has 52 affiliated signatory organisations, making the Forum the biggest organisation of its kind representing the Pledge to Peace. These affiliates include Oldham Council, Shaw and Crompton Council, twenty-six of our borough's schools and colleges and the Oldham Youth Council.
- Delegates from the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum have represented Oldham – at their own expense – at high-level events in the UK, Italy, Germany and Australia, as well as visiting the European Parliament.
- This has included making presentations at Oldham's work in the UK and Europe to four conferences and at meetings with Ambassadors, Mayors, Members of the

European Parliament and the Ambassador to the Pledge to Peace, Mr Prem Rawat.

- For five consecutive year, until 2019, the Forum also hosted, with the support of Council officers, a celebratory event at Gallery Oldham / Oldham Library to mark the UN International Day of Peace (21 September).
- Oldham Council is also an affiliate of the international Mayor for Peace initiative, which campaigns for a nuclear weapon free world.
- Consequently, Oldham was one of only three locations in the UK visited by two delegations from Hiroshima – one from the National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims, which met with the Oldham Youth Council, and one of Hibakusha (Japanese A-bomb survivors), who at Alexandra Park planted seeds received as a gift from the Mayor of Hiroshima.
- These seeds were sourced from city-centre trees which survived the atomic bombing. Later this year, they will be planted in several parks and at Pledge to Peace schools.
- Oldham is also the only municipality to have hosted a delegation from Neve Shalom – Wahat al-Salam (the Oasis of Peace), a village founded in Israel on the basis of equality and co-operation between its Jewish and Arab inhabitants, to sign an exclusive international agreement to work for peace with this village.
- The Forum is now working to develop links for peace with Australian partners, including Toowoomba, which is working towards UNESCO recognition as an international City of Peace and Harmony, and Saddleworth, which was named by its founder after his former West Yorkshire home town.'

On being put to the vote, that the AMENDMENT be REFERRED back to Overview and Scrutiny was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor McLaren exercised his right of reply.

RESOLVED that:

1. The report commended to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee on the work by Oldham which contributed to the ambitions of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals be approved.
2. The amendment as submitted related to 'Pledge to Peace' be referred to Overview and Scrutiny.

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STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Consideration was given to a report which outlined the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2020.

The SCI set out how Oldham Council would involve the community in the preparation and the revision of planning policy such as the Local Plan, together with consideration of planning applications.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be adopted and made available to view alongside the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).



Oldham
Council

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TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2019/20

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the Treasury Management Review for 2019/20.

The Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2019/20. This report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2019/20 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 27 February 2019);
- A mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (approved 8 January 2020); and
- An annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).

The regulatory environment placed responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. The report was therefore important in that respect, as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

The Council confirmed that it had complied with the requirements under the Code to give prior scrutiny to the treasury strategy and the mid-year update. The Audit Committee was charged with the scrutiny of treasury management activities in Oldham and reviewed the content of this annual report at its meeting on 21st July 2020 and commended the report to Cabinet. The report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 24th August 2020 and commended the report to Council. Approval of the report by Council would ensure full compliance with the Code for 2019/20.

During 2019/20, the Council had complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators with detailed the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year with comparators was outlined in the report. The actual capital expenditure was less than the revised budget estimate for 2019/20 presented within the 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy report considered at the Council meeting held on 26 February 2020. The outturn position was significantly less than the £84.332m original capital budget for 2019/20 as approved at Budget Council on 27 February 2019.

The Capital Programme had seen substantial rephasing. A number of major schemes including a number of schools' schemes in the Children's Service Directorate were rephased. The Asset Management (Education) Essential Condition Works provision was realigned into future years to align with other works being undertaken at schools. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) schemes were rephased into 2020/21 to align with the latest HRA Strategy. In addition, the 'Creating a Better Place' Strategy required a number of existing regeneration projects to be reviewed and rephased to align to the long-term vision of the strategy. Also, during the year, the Information Technology (IT) Capital Strategy, the Strategic Roadmap was reviewed. The outcome was a rephasing of resources to ensure that the Council's future IT offer took account of new innovations in IT and created efficiencies that would complement future ways of working.

Borrowing of £20m was undertaken during the year. Member training on treasury management issues was undertaken on 1 October 2019 in order to support Members and senior members of staff in their scrutiny role.

Other prudential and treasury indicators were to found in the main body of the report.

The Director of Finance confirmed that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached. The financial year 2019/20 continued the investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

RESOLVED that:

1. The actual 2019/20 Prudential and Treasury Indicators presented in the report be approved.
2. The Annual Treasury Management Report for 2019/20 be approved.

17

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20. 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 Committee. The report contained a summary of the work undertaken in 2019/20.

In moving the report, Councillor McLaren thanked members and officers for their support during the previous Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20 be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.24 pm.



COUNCIL

Petitions

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Various

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Democratic Services
Ext. 4705

4th November 2020

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the petitions received by Council in accordance with the Petitions Protocol.

Petitions Received

People and Place

Reference 2020-10: Request for 3.5 Tonne Access Weight Limit to be Imposed on Cooper Street (Saddleworth West & Lees and Saddleworth North Wards) received on 1 September 2020 with 50 signatures

Reference 2020-11: Petition for a Request for Improvement to Alleyways (St. Mary's Ward) received on 3 September with 80 signatures

Recommendations

It is recommended that Council note the petitions received.

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Present: Councillor Fielding (Chiar)
Councillors Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Jabbar, Moores,
Mushtaq, Roberts and Shah

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 20TH
JULY 2020**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held 20th
July 2020 be approved.

6 **FINANCIAL UPDATE – BUDGET 2020/21 AND 2021/22**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided an update on the deployment of additional capital and revenue grants received in 2020/21 since the report to Cabinet of 23 April 2020 and to advise of the estimated financial challenge for the Council arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

It was reported that the COVID-19 outbreak continued to place further unprecedented pressure on services provided by both the Council and the NHS.

The Government had in response allocated a number of significant grants to provide support in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A report was considered by Cabinet on 23 April 2020 which presented a range of grant support received towards the end of 2019/20 and early 2020/21. This report outlined the additional grant funding that has been received since the Cabinet meeting. The report provided details of the financial information that the Council provided to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on a monthly basis which informed the Government of costs being incurred/income lost by the Council as a result of the pandemic. The information included in the returns highlighted the financial challenge that the Council was facing in 2020/21 although additional Government grant funding was expected. Members were also advised of the on-going impact of COVID-19 on the financial position of the Council in future years, with the provisional budget reduction requirement for 2021/22 increasing to £30m.

It was further noted that the Financial Monitoring reports presented to Cabinet during 2020/21 (the report for month 3 is included elsewhere on this agenda) would provide information about the impact of COVID-19 on the financial position of the Council as it developed throughout the year and the reports would also provide details of the use of the grants, both COVID and non-COVID related.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Cabinet approves the adjustments to the budget of the Council to reflect the additional grant funding received during 2020/21 as outlined in this report, confirms its support for actions being taken to address the financial challenge and notes the updated financial forecasts.

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Option 2 - Cabinet does not approve the adjustments to the budget of the Council to reflect the additional grant funding received during 2020/21 as outlined in this report, suggests alternative action to address the financial challenge and does not agree to note the updated financial forecasts.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The adjustments to the budget of the Council to reflect the additional unringfenced and ringfenced revenue grant funding received since Cabinet considered its last financial update report at its 23 April 2020 meeting be approved.
2. The additional capital grant funding that the Council has received be noted.
3. The estimated extent of the financial challenge that the Council is facing in 2020/21 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic be noted.
4. Support for the measures that have been introduced to reduce the call on Council resources in year be confirmed.
5. The challenges faced in relation to financial planning for 2021/22 and future years due to the uncertainty about the impact of the pandemic and the level of Government funding that would be received be noted.
6. The provisional budget reduction requirement for 2021/22 had increased to £30m be agreed.

7

REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2020/21 QUARTER 1 – JUNE 2020

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Cabinet with an update on the Council's 2020/21 forecast revenue budget position at Annex 1 of the report and the financial position of the capital programme as at 30 June 2020 (Quarter 1) together with the revised capital programme 2020/25, as outlined in section two of the report at Annex 2.

Revenue Position

The current forecast outturn position for 2020/21 was a projected deficit variance of £21.299m after allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from reserves.

The position also included additional costs and pressures that have been identified by the Authority in this financial year as a

direct result of the Governments lockdown arrangements to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 commencing on 23 March 2020. The additional pressures included forecasts of both income shortfalls and additional expenditure that have impacted on the Authority's budgets as a result of the pandemic. The pandemic had affected nearly all aspects of Council service delivery; however, the most significant areas of concern were the People and Place, Children's Services and Community Health & Adult Social Care Portfolios. Action was being taken and would continue for the remainder of the financial year to address variances and take mitigating action as detailed in the report.

The overall corporate position was partly being offset by the application of the £16.638m unringfenced Government COVID related grant funding received to date. In Appendix 1 to the report, the full Government grant was presented as a single sum so that it highlighted the level of variation across all Council budgets, given that there was insufficient resource to offset the adverse variance. However, this summary report presented the position after applying the Government grant across Portfolio areas. As further General Fund grant was expected in respect of lost income for sales, fees and charges, both the overall financial position and the application of Government grant would therefore change during the course of the financial year.

Capital Position

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2020/25 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2020/21 was £143.711m at the close of Quarter 1, a net decrease of £3.921m from the original budget of £147.632m. Actual expenditure to 30 June 2020 was £18.214m (12.67% of the forecast outturn).

It was probable that the forecast position will continue to change before the year end with additional re-profiling into future years.

Option/alternatives

Option 1 - to approve the forecast revenue and capital positions presented in the report including proposed changes

Option 2 - to approve some of the forecasts and changes included in the report

Option 3 - not to approve any of the forecasts and changes included in the report

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast revenue outturn for 2020/21 at Quarter 1 being a £21.299m adverse variance having regard to the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.
2. The forecast positions for both the Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be approved.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 to the report be approved.
4. The revised capital programme for 2020/2024 as at Quarter 1 be approved.

The Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2019/20. This report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2019/20 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 27 February 2019)
- a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (approved 8 January 2020)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

The Council confirmed that it had complied with the requirements under the Code to give prior scrutiny to the treasury strategy and the mid-year update. The Audit Committee was charged with the scrutiny of treasury management activities in Oldham and reviewed the content of this annual report at its meeting of 21 July 2020 prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet (to ensure full compliance with the Code for 2019/20).

Options/alternatives

In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Council has no option other than to consider and approve the contents of the report. Therefore, no options/alternatives have been presented.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The actual 2019/20 prudential and treasury indicators presented in this report be approved.
2. The annual treasury management report for 2019/20 be approved.
3. The report be commended to Council.

9

CREATING A BETTER PLACE

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought to update the Cabinet on 'Creating a Better Place' further to the report considered by Cabinet on 21st January 2020.

'Creating a Better Place' set out a comprehensive vision and strategic framework for the borough, which included the Oldham Town Centre Vision, the Housing Strategy, and utilisation of the Council's corporate estate (land and property) to support development and open space requirements across the borough. In light of the pandemic, the Council has had to respond with the provision of significant funding support to ensure the safety and welfare of Oldham's local communities. In addition, the national

policy landscape changed significantly in March 2020 with the publication of a HM Treasury consultation setting out proposals for revising PWLB lending terms. Therefore, it was appropriate that the programme was reviewed to ensure that priorities were correct and that the projects supported economic recovery (post-covid).

This report provided an overview of the review process and the findings, together with an update for the town centre vision following feedback from the local community, members and town centre businesses.

The results and findings were outlined in the report with some projects needing to cease / stop / be cancelled (red), others needing to be reviewed / deferred / paused (amber), and others which were confirmed for acceleration (green) to support recovery plans. Some of the amber projects business cases were appended to this report for separate decisions about progression.

Importantly, the review findings had confirmed that with a reduction on the capital programme, a reduction in the amount needed from prudential borrowing, the Council could still deliver the ambition while providing much needed savings to support the post-covid financial stability of the Council and future service delivery. The review and findings take into account external funding streams, which would continue to be targeted to support and enable project delivery, (ie Towns Fund, High Street Fund, Growth Deal).

Further details were provided in the commercially sensitive report at Item 17 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 17 of the agenda before making a decision.

10

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2020

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which provided the Cabinet with an updated Statement of Community Involvement which set out how Oldham Council would involve the community in the preparation and the revision of planning policy such as the Local Plan, together with the consideration of planning applications.

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required local planning authorities to prepare a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). Oldham Council first adopted its SCI in April 2007. The SCI document identified how the council would involve the community in the consideration of planning applications, the preparation and revision of the Local Plan, the preparation of Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs, and the Environment– the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF); and it also set out policies for giving advice or assistance on neighbourhood planning.

Since the SCI was reviewed and adopted in 2019, the planning department have been deploying new ways of working, new systems and processes to work towards a more efficient and customer focused service. It was considered necessary to update the SCI to introduce proposals, which included to:

- make clear that statutory consultees, councillors and Oldham Partnership receive an email or letter with details of strategic planning consultations rather than an electronic copy of the documents;
- publicise planning applications by site notices and / or neighbour notification letters, removing the requirement to do both, where it is not deemed necessary;
- remove copies of planning applications being available in paper files. Planning applications will be available online. This reduces time spent by officers creating paper files;
- publish individual comments anonymously, however, names and addresses of respondents cannot be treated as confidential and are available for public inspection without exception. Representations are kept on file with the application and form part of the public record, which must be presented upon request; and make submitting representations on planning applications to online only. This is to reduce the time spent by officers scanning and saving representations to ensure that planning applications can be handled efficiently.

The SCI had also been updated to reflect The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 to allow Local Plan consultations and development management decisions to continue to progress during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The SCI sets out what methods the Council would use to engage with people, how people could comment and get involved in the planning process and the result was a Local Plan /planning decisions that had been influenced co-operatively. The plan needed to be submitted to Full Council for consideration and adoption as it was a Local Development Document.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the EIA.

Option 2 – Not to adopt the SCI and make it available to view alongside the EIA.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet commend the updated Statement of Community Involvement to Council for adoption.

11

GM CLEAN AIR PLAN - APPROVAL TO COMMENCE STATUTORY CONSULTATION ON KEY MEASURES

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which set out the progress that had been made on the development of Greater Manchester's Clean Air Plan following the decision that the GM Local Authorities will move to a statutory public consultation on the GM Clean Air Plan as soon as reasonably practicable in light of COVID-19 restrictions, and the link to taxi and private hire common minimum licensing standards. The report also considered the formal governance

mechanisms that would underpin the delivery of a GM Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and the supporting measures.

This report was not seeking a decision on whether to make a scheme as that has been mandated by the Secretary of State. It was setting out a position for consultation on the daily charge, discounts and exemptions of a Category C GM Clean Air Zone, and the proposals for the supporting funds that had been developed taking stakeholder engagement and statistical modelling into account.

The report sought agreement to consult and endorsement of the policy for consultation. The policy would be reviewed in line with the findings from the statutory consultation.

This report provided an update on recent developments of the GM Clean Air Plan including the LGV and hackney funding position, and interaction with the strategic route network and Highways England. It confirmed arrangements for distributing funding received for bus retrofit and highlights separate discussions with DfT about funding for bus replacement.

It also set out the results of the public conversation that was held last year and the key points from a number of focus groups that were held with key impacted stakeholders and set out a proposal for consultation, within current Government COVID-19 guidelines, over an eight-week period starting in October 2020.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To agree the recommendations as contained within the report

Options 2 – Not to agree the recommendations contained within the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan be noted.
2. Transport for Greater Manchester had confirmation that the funding award for Bus Retrofit should be distributed as soon as possible as per arrangements put in place for the Clean Bus Technology Funds and this was noted.
3. The update on the possible impacts of COVID-19 on the GM Clean Air Plan be noted.
4. Oldham Council along with the other nine GM local Authorities to hold an 8-week public consultation on the GM Clean Air Plan commencing in October 2020;
5. The GM local Authorities intention to consult on GM's proposed Minimum Licensing Standards, alongside the Clean Air Plan consultation be noted.
6. Transport for Greater Manchester to act as the Operating Body for the GM Clean Air Zone and supporting measures as set out at paragraph 7.5 of the report be agreed.
7. Oldham Council along with the other nine GM Authorities individually to be a 'charging authority' for the purposes of the Clean Air Zone, pursuant to the Transport Act 2000 be agreed.
8. The Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan Policy for Consultation at Appendix 3 of the report be endorsed.

9. The Equalities Impact Assessment on the Clean Air Plan, as set out at Appendix 5 of the report be noted.
10. The submission of further reports would be brought forward to set out the formal governance mechanisms that will underpin the delivery of a GM Clean Air Zone and the supporting measures, including the full scope of the suite of powers that would be needed to be delegated to the Operating Body be noted
11. The delegation to Helen Lockwood and Cllr Barbara Brownridge to approve the submission of the cases for measures to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit to support the GM Clean Air Plan be agreed.
12. The delegation to Helen Lockwood and Cllr Barbara Brownridge to approve the GM Clean Air Plan consultation materials, to include the Equalities Impact Assessment on the consultation be agreed.
13. It be noted the submission of a response to Department for Transport' s Decarbonising Transport – setting the challenge, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report had been submitted to Government.

12

KINGFISHER SCHOOL EXPANSION OF PAN & HYDRO POOL REPLACEMENT

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought additional funding support for classroom expansion and the replacement of the Hydro Pool, as a consequence of a budget shortfall, COVID 19 impacting on the finances of the project, and pending the release of the grant funders contribution.

In January 2018 Cabinet approved the expansion of classrooms and the replacement hydro pool at Kingfisher School, total funding of £2,970,000.

The purpose of the report was to seek additional funding from the Basic Needs Grant and to agree to a temporary contribution pending the match funding grant contribution.

Options/alternatives considered

The options were considered in the commercially sensitive report.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information detailed at Item 18 of the agenda before making a decision.

13

OLDHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE - CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Director, Communities and Reform which sought:

- To update the Cabinet with the current position of the Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) (including GloGym) as a result of Covid 19.
- Agreement to pay OCL loss of income without prejudice, based on a contractual position, due to a forced closure of its facilities as a result of Covid-19 for the period of the 1st April 2020 through to the 24th July 2020

- Agreement that ongoing dialogue with OCL was required during operational recovery to ensure it continues as a going concern in the most efficient and effective manner.

Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) delivers the leisure offer through operating leisure centres owned by the Council, one private venture and a wider community offer. This was contracted through the Council (except the private venture). The Covid-19 situation had presented a number of significant issues for Leisure and Sport. This included the cancellation of all team sport activity from all National Governing Body of Sport. In addition, a forced closure of all leisure facilities. Therefore, OCL's Leisure facilities had been closed since close of play of the 20th March 2020 including its GloGym facility (the private venture). The Government prohibited reopening until the 25th July 2020.

Improving the health of our communities was even more important currently and in particular for those residents and communities that were vulnerable.

During lockdown OCL, as a social enterprise, had been extremely supportive of our community response to support our most vulnerable residents. This had included them offering Oldham Sports Centre as a venue to operate the foodbank from and staff to support this. The Leader placed his thanks on record for the staff at OCL for their assistance and the hard work undertaken to open the facilities.

Ongoing conversations had taken place with OCL to understand the impact of the Closure and Covid 19 and the mitigations they have put in place.

- Job retention scheme (furlough) – OCL have had a maximum number of staff on furlough from first date of mandatory closure across OCL & Wellbeing Leisure in order to maximise the amount of financial support from central government. 95% of OCL staff have been initially furloughed, with wages topped up to normal earnings (due to pension risk), saving circa £0.160m per month.
- GM position – Other GM authorities, albeit they have differing contractual arrangements, are in a similar position to Oldham and are looking to support their Trusts.
- Contractual obligations - There were both legal and financial complexities associated with this contract for both the loss of income claim due to the sports centre closures and how the Council can work with OCL during operational recovery.
- Impact - Next Steps Operational Delivery – The Government announced that Leisure Centres could reopen from the 25th July 2020. Following meetings, it is clear OCL would be able to open for this date and in particular because of the work they have done during lockdown to safely open. OCL had put in place plans for a safe opening and the Council has also supported through its Public Health team. An area by area analysis on sites had been undertaken and appropriate assessments on numbers allowed in each space and

alternate use of some spaces along with new safety signage was in place.

Options/Alternatives considered
Further detail was set out in the report in the commercially sensitive report detailed at Item 19 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 19 of the agenda before making a decision.

14

EXTEND THE UNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought agreement to extend the existing partnership agreement between the Council and The Unity Partnership Limited which was due to expire on 31st August for a further period of five years subject to an annual review of the delivery of the services.

On 2nd July 2018 the Council acquired the remaining shares in The Unity Partnership Limited so that it became a wholly owned Council controlled company.

On 24th September 2019 the Council signed a partnership agreement with The Unity Partnership for the delivery of services to the Council. The agreement was for an initial period of 11 months and was due to expire on 31st August 2020. Cabinet were asked to consider the extension of the existing service provision by The Unity Partnership Ltd for a further period of five years. This would be called the Extension Period. The delivery of services under the partnership agreement during the Extension Period would be subject to an annual review by the Council. Should the Council decide that it no longer wishes to continue with the provision of services by The Unity Partnership Limited the Council could trigger the termination provisions within the partnership agreement and the template exit plan within the partnership agreement would be invoked.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Cabinet could approve the extension of the existing partnership agreement with The Unity Partnership Limited.

Option 2 - Cabinet could decide not to extend the partnership agreement and terminate the agreement in accordance with the terms and conditions of the partnership agreement.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially information contained at Item 20 of the agenda before making a decision.

15

SUPPLY OF WASTE CONTAINERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought approval to award a 4-year contract for the ongoing supply of plastic waste containers.

A tendering exercise had been carried out for the ongoing supply of plastic waste containers over the next 4 years. The Council had an obligation to supply recycling and general rubbish containers to residents. The containers are used to

support new recycling activity, to replace old/damaged containers, to support its trade waste collection service and to support project work based on improving waste management performance.

In order to fulfil this statutory duty, households must have suitable waste and recycling containers to store waste in between collections.

Oldham Council delivered an average of 16,000 waste and recycling containers annually to households across the borough. Oldham Council required waste and recycling containers to satisfy demand from:

- Residents who wish to start recycling for the first time
- New commercial waste contracts
- Residents who wish to swap their existing containers for a bigger/smaller size.
- Containers for newly built properties
- People whose existing bins are old and/or damaged and need replacing
- People whose bins have gone missing

The current contract was due to expire on 14th August 2020 and given this background, a procurement exercise has been carried out to manufacture Oldham Council's ongoing supply of plastic bins for the next 4 years.

The value of the contract was detailed in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

An open OJEU procurement route was followed in accordance with Oldham Council's Contract Procedure Rules and EU Regulations. The OJEU Contract Notice (Reference Number 2020/S 075-178965) was published on 16th April 2020 using the CPV code 34928480. The Invitation to Tender (ITT) was published on the Chest e-procurement portal on 16th April 2020 with a closing date of 18th May 2020.

Four bids were received; however, from an initial evaluation a submission was automatically disqualified for not providing and pricing all the products required.

The bids were evaluated by officers of the Council.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - To award the contract to the bidder, who submitted the most economically advantageous tender; offering high quality goods at a competitive price.

Option2 - To not award the contract. This option would leave the Council with no formal contract in place, prompting a new procurement exercise. This will increase the timescales in implementing a formal contract leaving the Council open to risk.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive contained at Item 21 before making a decision.

16

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED -That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs

3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

17

KINGFISHER SCHOOL EXPANSION OF PAN & HYDRO POOL REPLACEMENT

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 12 -Kingfisher School Expansion of PAN & Hydro Pool Replacement.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be approved.

18

OLDHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE - CONTRACT

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 13 - Oldham Community Leisure – Contract.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as contained in the commercially sensitive report be approved.

19

EXTEND THE UNITY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNCIL

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 14 -Extend The Unity Partnership Agreement with the Council.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as contained in the commercially sensitive report be approved.

20

SUPPLY OF WASTE CONTAINERS

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 15 - Supply of Waste Containers.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as contained in the commercially sensitive be approved.

21

CREATING A BETTER PLACE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 – Creating a better Place.

RESOLVED – That the meeting be ADJOURNED and the options recommendations as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be considered at a reconvened meeting on Friday 28th September 2020 at 9.30am.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.36pm

RECONVENED MEETING

Friday 28th September 9.30am

Attendance; Councillor Fielding (Chiar)
Councillors Brownridge, Jabbar, Moores, Mushtaq, Roberts and Shah

Apologies – Councillors Chadderton and Chauhan

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 – Creating a better Place.



RESOLVED – That:

1. Option 4 a) of the report at Appendix B be approved.
2. Option 1 of the report at Appendix C be approved.
3. The recommendations contained in Appendix D be approved.
4. Appendix E (i) – Starting at p.397 - Acknowledge and Endorse the red book value and approved associated limits for negotiation
5. The 90 day plan as detailed at Appendix E (ii) be approved.
6. The recommendations as detailed at Appendix E (iii) be approved.
7. The detail of the plan at Appendix E (iv) be noted.

The meeting started at 9.30am and finished at 9.40am.

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Present: Councillor Fielding (Chair)
Councillors Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Jabbar, Moores,
Mushtaq, Roberts and Shah

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 24TH
AUGUST 2020**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on
24th August 2020 be approved.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME 2020/21 MONTH 4 – JULY 2020**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance
which provided an the Cabinet with an update on the Council's
2020/21 forecast revenue budget position as at Annex 1 to the
report and the financial position of the capital programme as at
31 July 2020 (Month 4) together with the revised capital
programme 2020/25, as outlined in section two of the report at
Annex 2 of the report.

Revenue Position

It was reported that the current forecast outturn position for
2020/21 was a projected deficit variance of £17.979m after
allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from
reserves.

The position also included additional costs and pressures that
had been identified by the Authority in this financial year as a
direct result of the Governments lockdown arrangements to
mitigate the spread of COVID-19 commencing on 23 March
2020. The additional pressures included forecasts of both
income shortfalls and additional expenditure that had impacted
on the Authority's budgets as a result of the pandemic

The pandemic had affected nearly all aspects of Council service
delivery; however, the most significant areas of concern were
the People and Place, Children's Services and Community
Health & Adult Social Care Portfolios. Action was being taken
and would continue for the remainder of the financial year to
address variances and take mitigating action as detailed in the
report.

The overall corporate position was partly being offset by the application of the £16.638m unringfenced Government COVID related grant funding received to date. The full Government grant was presented at Annex 1 to the report as a single sum so that it highlighted the level of variation across all Council budgets, given that there was insufficient resource to offset the adverse variance.

However, this summary report presented the position after applying the Government grant across Portfolio areas. As further General Fund grant was expected in respect of lost income for sales, fees and charges, both the overall financial position and the application of Government grant would therefore change during the course of the financial year. An update on the major issues driving the projections was detailed within Annex 1, Section 2 of the report.

As this financial monitoring report reflected the financial position at Month 4, it could be regarded as an indicator of the potential year end position if action was not taken to reduce net expenditure where possible. However, management action had been initiated across all service areas to review and challenge planned expenditure and to maximise income. Although, the effect of this action has yet to take full effect, it is anticipated that by the year end, the outturn position deficit should be reduced and this should start to be demonstrated in the monthly update reports to be presented to Cabinet.

Information on the latest position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Collection Fund was also outlined in the report.

Capital position

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2020/25 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2020/21 was £142.617m at the close of Month 4, a net decrease of £5.015m from the original budget of £147.632m. Actual expenditure to 31 July 2020 was £29.373m (20.60% of the forecast outturn).

It is probable that the forecast position would continue to change before the year end with additional re-profiling into future years.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - To approve the forecast revenue and capital positions presented in the report including proposed changes

Option 2 - To approve some of the forecasts and changes included in the report

Option 3 - Not to approve any of the forecasts and changes included in the r

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Forecast revenue outturn for 2020/21 at Month 4 being a £17.979m adverse variance having regard to the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.
2. The forecast positions for the Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be approved.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 to the report be approved.

4. The revised capital programme for 2020/2024 as at Month 4 be approved.

7

SHORT-TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING PROVISION (YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN, GENERIC/COMPLEX ADULTS): COMMISSION



Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director, Community Health and Social Care – DASS, which sought approval to recommission the provision of short-term supported housing in the Borough.

The report provided details of the current arrangements for the provision of short-term supported housing funded by the council and the budget for the provision (£1.195m p.a.) which was held within Community Services and Adult Social Care, however the service provision was cross-cutting, impacting the strategic intentions of several council directorates and of partner agencies: as such, Cabinet was requested to consider and approve the commissioning intentions outlined in the report and the associated budget, and to delegate a subsequent future contract award to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in consultation with Managing Director Health & Adult Social Care Community Services.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Allow service provision to continue as is. This is not the recommended option, as:

- The provision was out of contract and there are greater legal risks with this option.
- The local landscape and the legislative context for supported housing was now more stable and it was considered that a procurement exercise could now take place, subject to the need to respond to Covid - 19, at the earliest appropriate/safe date to do so.
- There were desired changes to the service specification that cannot reasonably be undertaken unless part of a new procurement exercise
- Continued uncertainty placed strains on service providers, such as the impact on staff retention, and on landlords, who were less likely to invest in the stock where future use is uncertain.

Option 2 - Not to commission replacement provision. This was not the recommended option, as:

- The provision of supported housing made a significant contribution to the councils duty of prevention and relief of homelessness for households with additional support needs, who struggle in unsupported Temporary Accommodation (TA) provision and cannot access general needs accommodation until their support needs are addressed. The provision reduced from 146 units to 104 in 2016/17 to meet savings targets from these contracts: to cease provision further/altogether would severely compromise the council's ability to meet its duties. It would also create risks where a household may not be owed a duty to

accommodate, but where they have complex support needs: there is likely to be negative impacts for these households - and potentially on the wider community - if their housing and support needs are not met.

- The provision was less costly to the council than TA, or provision in the private landlord sector claiming high rents/Intensive Housing Management: the commissioned provision meets exempt accommodation regulations and the council can therefore claim full HB subsidy. It is also generally of a better standard and quality.
- The provision underpinned several council priorities which would be impacted if the service ceases, making it more difficult for instance, to support care leavers to move on to independence, to support victims of domestic abuse - which was likely to become a new statutory duty - to prevent homelessness, and to improve the mental health of vulnerable residents. It was likely that many households would experience further crises and require higher cost, more intensive services.

Option 3 -To retender the provision, and that Cabinet approve:

- the commissioning intentions outlined for re-tendering of the provision
- that the overall contract value remains £1.195m per annum with provision made for inflationary uplifts
- that a subsequent future contract award, of 3 years plus options to extend by up to two further years, be delegated to the Managing Director Community Health and Social Care Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

Consultation

Consultation with service users, and with a range of key partners/stakeholders informed the options and recommended future service design in this report. Consultation methods included holding stakeholder events; specific ones were held for each service with representation from a range of referring agencies and public sector organizations, plus an aggregated version was taken to the Homelessness Forum – which included representatives from many voluntary sector organization – for comment. Service users within each service were consulted about their views of service.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 10 of the agenda before making a decision.

8

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT JUNE 2020

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Head of Strategy and Performance which provided a review of Council performance to June 2020

The report provided the Cabinet with an overview of the Council's performance against priorities outlined within the Corporate Plan, which had been monitored in the period.

Options/Alternatives considered:-
To note the Council performance April- June 2020.

RESOLVED – That the Council Performance Report June 2020 be noted.

9 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

10 **SHORT-TERM SUPPORTED HOUSING PROVISION (YOUNG PEOPLE, WOMEN, GENERIC/COMPLEX ADULTS): COMMISSION**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 – Short-term supported housing provision (young people, women, generic/complex adults): Commission.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The commissioning intentions outlined in the report for re-tendering of the provision be approved.
2. The overall contract value remained at £1.195m per annum with provision made for inflationary uplifts.
3. A subsequent contract award, of 3 years plus an option to extend the contract by up to two further years, be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in consultation with the Managing Director Community Health and Social Care Service.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 18.25pm

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URGENT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN FROM 29TH OCTOBER 2019 TO 26TH OCTOBER 2020

Title of Report and Date of Approval	Reason the Report was Exempt from Call-In	Decision
Resources Received by the Council in Response to COVID-19 and the Creation of a Council Fund for Related Expenditure to Supplement the Government Announced Funding (23 April 2020)	Approval had been given under Rule 14 of the Council's Constitution by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board to action this report as urgent. The decision could not wait until the end of the call-in period to meet the support required.	RESOLVED that the recommendations as set out in the report be approved.
Hardship Funding 2020/21 (23 April 2020)	Approval had been given under Rule 14 of the Council's Constitution by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board to action this report as urgent. The decision could not wait until the end of the call-in period to meet the support required.	RESOLVED that the recommendations and delegations as set out in the report be approved.
Proposed Purchase of former WH Shaw Pallet Works, Huddersfield Road, Diggle (23 April 2020)	Approval had been given under Rule 14 of the Council's Constitution by the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board to action this report as urgent. The reason for urgency was to support the strict timescales being imposed by the Department of Education.	RESOLVED that the recommendations and delegations as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be approved.
Additional Expenditure in Support of Health and Social Care In Response to Covid-19 Emergency (7 July 2020)	Approval had been given under Rule 14 of the Council's Constitution by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Board to action the report in respect of the additional expenditure to the Covid-19 Emergency.	RESOLVED that the recommendations as set out in the report be approved.

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON FRIDAY 14 AUGUST VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

PRESENT:

Councillor Mark Aldred (in the Chair)	Wigan Council
Councillor Richard Gold	Bury Council
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton Council
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester City Council
Councillor Shah Wazir	Rochdale Council
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale Council
Councillor David Meller	Stockport MBC
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside MBC
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside MBC
Councillor Peter Robinson	Tameside MBC
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council
Councillor Steve Adshead	Trafford Council
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan Council

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive, GMCA & TfGM
Bob Morris	Chief Operating Officer, TfGM
Alison Chew	Interim Head of Bus Services, TfGM
Kate Brown	Director of Corporate Affairs, TfGM
Simon Elliott	Head of Rail Programme, TfGM
James Baldwin	Senior Policy Officer, TfGM
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Nicola Ward	Governance Officer, GMCA

GMTC 56/20 APOLOGIES

Resolved /-

That apologies be noted and received from Councillor Howard Sykes (Councillor Angie Clark substituting), Councillor Roger Jones, Councillor Angeliki Stogia, Councillor Atteque Ur-Rehman and Councillor Sean Fielding.

GMTC 57/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Resolved /-

That there were no Chair's announcements or urgent business.

GMTC 58/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Resolved /-

That it be noted that Councillor Phil Burke declared a personal interest in relation to item 6, Transport Network Performance as an employee of Metrolink.

GMTC 59/20 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 10 JULY 2020

Resolved /-

1. That the minutes of the meeting held 10 July 2020 be approved.
2. That an update on Road Safety Schemes be considered at a future meeting of the GMTC.

GMTC 60/20 GOVERNANCE REPORT

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer GMCA introduced a report which gave Members the opportunity to review the governance arrangements of the Greater Manchester Transport Committee to ensure they could most effectively undertake their role and functions as set out in the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Members sought clarification as to whether they would be able to substitute for one another across sub committees, officers confirmed that the appointed substitutes would be asked to attend if a Member of the sub-committee was not available.

Resolved /-

1. That it be agreed to establish two sub committees to specifically look at Bus Services and Metrolink & Rail Services.
2. That Chairs for the sub committees be appointed as follows –
 - Bus Services – Cllr Roger Jones
 - Metrolink & Rail Services – Cllr Doreen Dickinson
3. That the following Members be appointed to each of the Sub Committees.

Bus Services

Councillor Roger Jones
Councillor Angeliki Stogia
Councillor Mark Aldred
Councillor Sean Fielding
Councillor Warren Bray
Councillor Phil Burke
Councillor David Mellor
Councillor Barry Warner

Councillor John Leech
Councillor Nathan Evans
Councillor Roy Walker

Metrolink & Rail Services

Councillor Peter Robinson
Councillor Richard Gold
Councillor Joanne Marshall
Councillor Atteque UrRehman
Councillor Dzidra Noor
Councillor Steve Adshead
Councillor Shah Wazir
Councillor Naeem Hassan
Councillor Howard Sykes
Councillor Doreen Dickinson
Councillor Stuart Haslam

GMTC 61/20 TRANSPORT NETWORK PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Bob Morris, Chief Operating Officer, TfGM took Members through a report which provided an overview of Transport Network Performance in Greater Manchester for July 2020 during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Regarding Metrolink, Government had recently confirmed funding up until 26 October which totalled £1.6m weekly and would allow the continuation of the current service pattern. Members thanked those officers who had successfully negotiated with Government for this further funding. However, concern was raised as to the illustrated spike in anti-social behaviour on Metrolink services in May 2020, officers confirmed that this was attributed to the key performance indicator being measured against the number of journeys, so as patronage levels fell but incidents of ASB remained the same, this looked like a spike but actually was nothing significant. Members further asked whether incidents of ASB could be defined clearly by location within future reports, so that potential hotspots could be identified.

It had been a steady period for rail services, however there had been a recent announcement from Northern regarding the temporary removal of the Rose Hill – Piccadilly service. TfGM had opposed this removal, and had continued to work with Northern to ensure alternative provision was available for passengers. In response to this, Northern explained the reasons for the temporary removal of this service between 14 September and 14 December, including a number of staff remaining shielding, a delayed driver training programme, significantly low patronage compared to other routes and the potential other transport links within this area. It was confirmed that if possible, the service would be reinstated before December, and that specific complaints would be dealt with as a matter of priority. Members expressed their strong dissatisfaction with the removal of this service, due to the significant impact on passengers. It was reported that TfGM had put a number of options to Northern, however, each option was not deemed possible. Therefore, it was suggested that the GMTC write to the Rail Minister to express their concerns with this proposal and Northern's overall communication with the relevant stakeholders. Members reminded the Committee that Northern was now a nationalised service, and therefore the Rail Minister needed to address this inequality for the Rose Hill/Marple area

that also impacted the whole of Greater Manchester.

Members added that the Rose Hill service has often been unfairly impacted by Northern, and that passenger numbers were substantive. Rose Hill station serves both Marple Hall High School and Marple Sixth Form and the current proposals for rail replacement services would not allow sufficient time for journeys to school and the impact of congestion on the local road work in September. Current timetables allow 10 minutes, whereas commercial services allow for 30 minutes. There was a strong local feeling against this decision, with a petition of over 5000 signatures to evidence the views of residents. Members felt that Marple already suffered from a poor local transport offer, and had recently also had bus services removed. Northern reported that there had only been a 4% increase in passenger numbers from Rose Hill in comparison to a 77% increase from Marple, and therefore capacity has been allocated where it was needed most.

Rail operators reported that there had been a slight decline in face covering compliance during the recent hot weather, but that there were a number of communications campaigns running to encourage and advise of their use, with the possibility of a fine for non-compliance. Members asked whether there were figures available in relation to the number of fines issued for non-compliance, officers confirmed that this specific data was not currently available, but that an educate and persuade approach had been used over enforcement in most instances. Members were concerned that some members of the public were aware of the guidelines but choosing not to comply, and therefore a stronger enforcement approach should be pursued.

In relation to rail stations, 25 lifts across Greater Manchester were now operational when ticket offices were closed, resulting in improved access levels for passengers with mobility issues. Members welcomed this improvement.

Northern confirmed that there would be an introduction of new trains before the end of the year on south east routes in Greater Manchester, which would also require some additional training.

In relation to bus services, patronage had continued to increase across all operators and the Bus Priority Programme early findings report had been submitted to DfT in relation to Oxford Road Scheme and Vantage Service on Leigh Guided Busway. Furthermore, bus stations and interchanges had returned to normal opening levels.

Highways levels had now reached 85% of normal levels. Members asked how many of these journeys could be attributed to people moving from public transport to their cars, as some routes seemed to be busier than they were pre-covid. Officers confirmed that the regional centre trips were on a par with other GM areas, however future travel surveys would be the only way to determine how many of those would have previously been trips made on the public transport network. Further to this, Members asked whether there would be a tipping point to congestion levels being reached. Officers confirmed that each road has an individual tipping point, and that some roads were already reaching levels of congestion.

Members questioned as to how often public transport units were cleaned, officers confirmed that cleaning regimes had been increased across all modes, with regular deep cleans and fogging having been introduced.

In relation to communications, Members were pleased to see clear messages regarding the return to use of public transport. However, urged that capacity is made available for the envisaged

increase in passengers in September once schools return. Officers confirmed that Metrolink was now operating at its maximum capacity, but that bus and rail were stepping up in increments to reach full capacity as soon as possible.

Resolved /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That it be noted that funding for Metrolink for the period of 4 August – 26 October had been received by TfGM.
3. That it be noted that TfGM had objected to the temporary removal of rail services to Rose Hill between 14 September and 14 December 2020, and were working with Northern to ensure alternative services would be provided.
4. That a breakdown of the location of anti-social behaviour incidents on Metrolink be brought to a future meeting of GMTC.
5. That it be noted that the 85% current level on the highways are cross GM but that this does not indicate that congestion levels have been reached as each road has its own tipping point.
6. That it be noted that in relation to ensuring the highest level of face covering compliance, personal accountability was also vital to support current communications and enforcement activity.
7. That the GM Transport Committee write to the Rail Minister to urge for the re-instatement of the rail service to Rose Hill between September-December.
8. That it be noted that Northern would review the timings of the rail replacement timetable for Rose Hill/Marple – Romiley and liaise directly with Councillor Clarke.

GMTC 62/20 SCHOOL TRANSPORT: PREPARATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

Alison Chew, Head of Bus Services, TfGM took Members through a report which provided an update on the approach to planning for the return of pupils to schools in September and the wider transport implications.

Following the publication of the report, further guidelines had been issued by Government, including confirmation of a £40m funding package for additional transport capacity to be provided for schools during the first term of 2020/21. Greater Manchester has been allocated £2.25m of this fund which would be fully auditable to DfT.

There had been further guidance published by DfE on 11 August which covered transport to places of education. It particularly focussed on key issues including managing public transport demand, promoting active travel, engaging with employers, staggered start and finish times, providing dedicated transport to schools and places of education, social distancing, appropriate ventilation and face coverings for over 11's, and how to respond to any case of infection.

Officers across GM had recently met and TfGM had provided an update on this guidance. Work was ongoing with operators regarding potential pressures on network, and additional available capacity and officers were now analysing the best places for this funding to be used to support pupils in returning to school in liaison with Local Authorities.

A back to school communication campaign had also been launched this week, which promoted advice within this guidance to parents, pupils and general members of the public.

Members asked whether there was a model DfT survey to parents across GM to ensure consistency, officers agreed to look into this, liaise with Local Authority leads, and report directly back to the Committee.

In relation to the available funding to support additional school services, Members asked whether it could be applied to train services for pupils who use this mode. Officers agreed to check this and also review rail services particularly to Knutsford school and report back to Cllr Adshead.

In respect of bus services, Members asked whether this funding would allow for pre-covid levels of patronage. Officers confirmed there would be full capacity available on school services, but that there was no available funding to increase capacity on the commercial network.

Resolved /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That TfGM endeavour to ensure that the DfT parents' survey in relation to schools transport be coordinated across GM, and report back to the GMTC.
3. That details as to how available Government funding for additional school services is also be applied to rail be reported direct back to Councillor Adshead, specifically in relation to school travel to Knutsford.
4. That it be noted that Northern would share Government's 'Guidance for Parents' in relation to social distancing once schools re-open with Members of the GMTC.

GMTC 63/20 GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer for the GMCA took Members through the draft Work Programme for the Greater Manchester Transport Committee and the two newly constituted sub committees.

Resolved /-

1. That the Work Programme be noted.
2. That there be an update on Road Safety Schemes be provided at a future meeting.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER
WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22 JULY 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Adele Warren	Bolton
Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar	Manchester
Councillor Shaukat Ali	Manchester
Councillor Ateeque Ur-Rehman	Oldham
Councillor Yasmin Toor	Oldham
Councillor Tom Besford	Rochdale
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford
Councillor Helen Foster Grimes	Stockport
Councillor Allison Gwynne (Chair)	Tameside

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Taylor	GMCA – Executive Director, Waste & Resources
Paul Morgan	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Justin Lomax	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Lindsay Keech	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michelle Whitfield	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michael Kelly	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Gwynne Williams	GMCA – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Sarah Mellor	GMCA – Environment Team
Kerry Bond	GMCA – Governance & Scrutiny
Matt Berry	GMCA – Governance & Scrutiny
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA – Governance & Scrutiny
Megan Rogers	GMCA – Service Operations

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BUSINESS**WRC 20/28****APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rabnawaz Akbar (Manchester), Robin Garrido (Salford) and Roy Driver (Stockport) and Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer.

WRC 20/29 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

RESOLVED/-

That Councillor Allison Gwynne be appointed Chair for the 2020/21.

WRC 20/30 MEMBERSHIP OF THE GM WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE 2020/21

RESOLVED/-

That the Membership of the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee, as agreed by the GMCA on 26 June 2020 for 2020/2021, be noted, as follows.

District	Member
Bolton	Adele Warren (Con)
Bury	Alan Quinn (Lab)
Manchester	Rabnawaz Akbar (Lab) Shaukat Ali (Lab)
Oldham	Ateeque Ur-Rehman (Lab) Yasmin Toor (Lab)
Rochdale	Tom Besford (Lab) Susan Emmott (Lab)
Salford	David Lancaster (Lab) Robin Garrido(Con)
Stockport	Roy Driver (Lab) Helen Foster-Grime (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Allison Gwynne (Lab)
Trafford	Judith Lloyd (Lab) To be confirmed (Con)

WRC 20/31 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT AND ANNUAL DECLARATION OF INTEREST FORM

RESOLVED/-

That Members noted their obligations under the GMCA Members' Code of Conduct and to complete an annual declaration of interest form and that the completed form would be published on the GMCA website be also noted.

WRC 20/32 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED/-

That the Terms of Reference for the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee be noted.

WCR 20/33 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2020/21

RESOLVED/-

That the Programme of Meetings, be noted as follows:

- 14 October 2020, 11.00am, Venue TBC
- 13 January 2021, 9.30am, Venue TBC
- 14 April 2021, 9.30am, Venue TBC

ORDINARY MEETING BUSINESS

WRC 20/34 APPOINTMENT TO THE GREEN CITY REGION BOARD

RESOLVED/-

That Alan Quinn be appointed to the Green City Region Board for the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

WRC 20/35 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

WRC 20/36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported by any Member in respect of any item on the agenda.

WRC 20/37 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 MARCH 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12 March 2020, be approved as a correct record.

WRC 20/38 WASTE & RECYCLING COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2020/21

Members considered the Waste & Recycling Committee Work Programme, which provided a forward look of items that would focus the work of the Committee during 2020/2021.

Work surrounding the Waste Strategy would be developed into the Work Programme to fit in with the national position.

RESOLVED/-

That the Work Programme be noted.

WRC 20/39 CONTRACTS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report that updated the Committee on performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

It was reported that performance reporting provided used verified data to the end of March 2020, which was the full financial year position for 2019/20 (equating to month 10 of the Suez Contracts).

A progress update on the works at Chichester Street in Rochdale and Reliance Street in Manchester was provided as well as an update on the implementation of the Household Waste Recycling Centre access restriction policy.

Data for the annual position (financial year 2019/20) was provided below, to show the overall position for comparison to the previous year:

Annual Performance Comparison (Year end – April 19 to March 20)	2019 / 2020	2018 / 2019
OVERALL performance		
Total arisings (t)	1,091,055	1,089,655
Recycling Rate (%)	47.25%	45.38%
Landfill Diversion Rate (%)	93.45%	90.60%
HWRC performance		
Recycling Rate (Household Waste) %	41.15%	41.90%
Diversion (Household Waste)	90.66%	74.16%
Diversion (Total Arising, inc. rubble) %	92.21%	78.77%
Longley Lane MRF		
Rejection of Kerbside Recycling Collections (t)	2,063	864
MRF Contamination Rate (Commingled) %	18.53%	18.81%

In summary, the overall performance for both contracts for the financial year April 2019 to March 2020 gave a diversion rate of over 93% and recycling above 47%, with both positions showing improvement on the previous year.

RESOLVED/-

That the performance of the Waste and Resource Management Services and Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) Management Services Contracts be noted.

WRC 20/40 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE ACTION PLAN PROGRESS

The Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team provided members with an update on the Recycle for Greater Manchester Communications & Behavioural Change Delivery Plan and the Joint Communications Plan with Suez.

Members asked a number of questions, including:

- A member asked about encouraging residents to recycle their garden waste at home and asked how Councils could support that work. The plan was to offer discounted compost and bins and there was further work around working with partners to engage with the public. Work and resources were still being developed; there would also be a dedicated page on the website. Promotion of the campaign would also take place with Districts. A briefing note would be shared with partners and members at the end of July 2020.
- A member enquired about the video content for education purposes and if there were plans to share this with the general public. It was suggested that residents would be interested to see the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). It was agreed that the content would be made available as many public questions were received about what happened to their waste. Developing the videos especially around paper, card and mixed recycling would sit very well on the You Tube channel and website. Videos from the e-learning rolled out to Districts would also be developed for residents.
- A member expressed that there was a problem in Bury around pulpables; the decontamination rate had increased. Officers recognised there was a problem, not just in Manchester; it was UK wide. It was suggested that items could be easily hidden in the bin therefore the contamination rate had increased. It was a complex problem to unravel and understand resident's behaviour. Work with Bury Council on bin stickers and leaflets was underway. However, more work was needed to fully understand and solve the problem.
- It was clarified that a Face Book page was already available and a second education page would be linked to that, which would be available later this month.
- A member raised contamination in communal bins and asked how that would be addressed. There had always been a problem with communal bins. The issue with these bins was that there was no ownership therefore identifying who was contaminating the bin was extremely

difficult. Talks were underway with Manchester City Council about the support needed to solve this problem.

- A member praised the comprehensive report. All communications across Stockport had been very useful especially in terms of giving advice about contamination to concerned residents and the community. The member was also delighted about the development of the education centre, education service and resources. The Waste and Resources Team was thanked for all their hard work throughout this uncertain period. The Chair echoed the member’s comments.

RESOLVED/-

That progress against the Communications & Behavioural Change Plan and the Joint Suez/R4GM Communications and Stakeholder Engagement Plan be noted.

WRC 20/41 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES ACCESS POLICY REPORT

The Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team introduced a report that set out examples of van permit schemes in operation elsewhere and sought approval for a fully developed scheme to be worked up and presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was reported that in the first month of operation the scheme was successful in driving trade waste out of the HWRC network. The total vehicle visits recorded were as follows:

Vehicle Type	Dec-19	Jan-20	Feb-20	March-20*
Car	511,828	445,941	371,038	350,324
Van	13,952	20,307	12,120	6,824
Vans as % of total	2.65	4.36	3.16	1.91
Total	525,780	466,248	383,153	357,148

* data for period 1 March 2020 to 23 March 2020 only

Members raised the following questions:

- A member suggested that the app should be developed to contain permit information and perhaps in the future, allow access to sites. Officers acknowledge there was technology available, which would be part of the development process and to provide longevity. All points would be considered.
- A member commented that trade waste abuse was costing council tax payers a vast amount of money. Whilst procedures were now in place, it was recommended that this be taken further.

- Members were supportive of the registration scheme but asked that any proposals were distributed to members well in advance of the meeting so they could be fully considered.

RESOLVED/-

That the development of a project plan for a potential van permit scheme be noted and submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

WRC 20/42 RESOURCE AND WASTE STRATEGY UPATE

The Head of Sustainable Consumption and Production, Environment Team, provided an overview of England’s Resource and Waste Strategy (Our waste, Our resources) along with four recently published consultations on key components of the strategy.

It was envisaged that through the second round of consultations, the GMCA would have a clearer picture, although not definitive, as to what would be the minimum requirements within the statutory guidance. Subject to that level of clarity, the process to commence work to develop Greater Manchester’s Resource and Waste Strategy could begin. Whilst timings of when this process could commence, development of the Strategy would have to undertake a number of stages. These were:

Stage	Activity
1.	Respond to second round of consultations
2.	Once second round/England’s Waste Strategy is finalised undertake analysis. Emerging principles to go to SOG and Waste Committee
3.	Draft Tender for TEP (if required) & SEA
4.	Draft Outline of Waste Strategy (Principles to be agreed with SOG & Waste Committee)
5.	Procure TEP & SEA
6.	Go out to consultation
7.	Analyse of consultation responses
8.	Analyse SEA Analysis
9.	Conclusions of Consultation and SEA to SOG/Waste Committee
10.	Go to Overview & Scrutiny
11.	Draft Waste Strategy
12.	Go out to consultation – if required
13.	Formal approval by Districts
14.	Final Strategy to Waste Committee & CA

Members raised the following questions:

- A member raised the possibility of weekly food and glass collections and residents needing two further bins. The member also enquired about costs should the proposal be agreed. There were also concerns raised about the incineration tax and how Greater Manchester would be penalised for adopting the four bin system. In terms of the collection system, there was potentially a minimum of six and a maximum of eight bins, which was industry driven as they wanted the best possible quality recyclates. It was suggested there would be six mandatory receptacles in Greater Manchester. All options would be considered but it had been made very clear that Greater Manchester's system was ahead of the game and was consistent. Government had been lobbied and it was important that Local Council's collection systems remained the same. In relation to incineration, there was potentially a tax. However, as Greater Manchester's system included a heat and power facility, a tax was not currently being considered but this could change in the future.
- A member highlighted anaerobic digestion systems to deal with food waste. These systems were previously adopted in Greater Manchester without success. It was explained there was potential to use an In Vessel Composting (IVC) facility and a piece of work had been commissioned to consider options and services.
- A member enquired about costs. It was reported that the cost of the infrastructure and for changes in collection systems, Government had said that any changes would have a zero impact on waste collection or waste disposal authorities. It was anticipated that the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the return deposit scheme would pay for those services to remain in place. Collection authorities would pay year or year for those services.
- A member commented that there should be more emphasis about the reuse of all materials in the procurement policy. It was reported that work was taking place with Councils on procurement and green sustainability criteria. Work on public procurement would be brought back to the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted, and that the delaying of the development of Greater Manchester's Waste Strategy until there was more clarity on the direction of England's Waste Strategy be reconfirmed.

WRC 20/43 BUDGET UPDATE REPORT

Members considered a report that set out the revenue and capital outturn for 2019/20 for the Waste and Resources Service.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

WRC 20/44

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED/-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, member of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that this involves the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in paragraphs 3 & 5, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

WRC 20/45

CONTRACTS UPDATE

A report was presented that updated the Committee on performance and commercial issues relating to the Waste and Resources and HWRC Management Services Contracts that commenced on 1 June 2019.

RESOLVED/-

That the report be noted.

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**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

GM Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester & GM Deputy Mayor	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Salford	Jim Taylor
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
Youth Task Force	Diane Modahl
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Claire Norman
GMCA	Ross Macrae
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA 133/20

APOLOGIES

Resolved /-

That apologies be received and noted from Eamonn Boylan (Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM).

The GM Mayor commended the collaborative approach of the GMCA, putting the health of Greater Manchester's residents foremost. He reported that there had been a consensus amongst Leaders for the additional measures to be removed from households in Wigan and Stockport, however as cases of Covid had increased significantly and rapidly in Trafford and Bolton they had written to the Health Secretary to ask that measures remain in these areas. Although this was not an easy decision, it was felt to be the right one, as there were currently no alternative measures on the ground to help keep cases low.

Members of the GMCA reported a further unified GM position that the continuation of blanket restrictions over the longer term was not acceptable, as their effectiveness was diminishing with confusion about the application of restrictions. The volatility in case numbers, combined with the inconsistent application, was undermining confidence in the national strategy. Further conversation need to be progressed Government on a new approach for GM, with a move towards an exit strategy for GM underpinned by the development of a GM proposition for test and trace and self-isolation delivered locally was now crucial. In order to achieve effective and sustained reductions in infection rates, this new phase should be driven by Local Authorities, based on clear data from local test and trace interventions, supported by a significant increase in testing, working with businesses and communities to raise awareness and stronger enforcement.

Officers across GM were urgently working on a resourcing proposal for submission to Government, which will include a request for financial support for those residents who need to self-isolate.

The letter to the Health Secretary reiterated the need to remove the additional restrictions on beauticians, soft play and other leisure facilities in GM immediately to avoid any further unnecessary damage to the GM economy and ensure a level playing field for those industries across the conurbation.

The focus now needs to be on managing the impact of Covid-19, within the wider context of the general health of GM residents to ensure a balanced and proportionate approach. It was agreed that a robust outbreak management plan would be key to managing the continued fluctuations in cases supported by a balanced and holistic approach to people's lives, driven by the Local Authority who were in the best position to address the needs of residents..

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Councillor Brian Shaw (Trafford) to the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee be approved.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor had written to the Health Secretary advising that Bolton and Trafford were opposed to the lifting of the current restrictions in response to the rapid increased numbers of positive tests in those districts.
3. That it also be noted that the letter to the Health Secretary also sought agreement to move to a pathway to replace the restrictions in all parts of GM as soon as practically and safely as possible with targeted, hyper-local intervention similar to those that have been successful in Oldham, together with the commitment of resources to support: intensive, hyper-local test and

trace interventions; a significant increase in testing, including asymptomatic people; work with business and communities to raise awareness; and stronger enforcement where necessary.

4. That the Government be advised that the GMCA want to move to a GM wide exit strategy from the current blanket restriction approach and that Government should support Local Authorities to move to a new phase of local control and balanced targeted interventions that are data led.
5. That the required level of control and resources should be made available from Government to allow Local Authorities to implement these interventions.
6. That the announcement by the Health Secretary today to retain the current restrictions in place in Trafford and Bolton, in response to the rise in infection rates be welcomed.
7. That it be noted that Government has confirmed the planned release of restrictions in Stockport.

GMCA 135/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interests received.

GMCA 136/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD 31 JULY 2020

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA held 31 July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 137/20 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD 14 AUGUST 2020

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the GM Transport Committee held 14 August be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor will raise the issue of reinstating train services between Rose Hill, Marple and Manchester Piccadilly with Northern Rail.

GMCA 138/20 TOWN HOUSE PROJECT

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Leader of Tameside Council, showcased the recently opened 'Town House' project that had been designed to support people who identified as homeless, and had been named after a local resident Pauline Town who was a key local ambassador for the area. The project was one of a series of assets in the area to support the homeless, and provided a range of wrap around care and support through the community hub approach. The facility operated in partnership with a number of agencies, including the local parish of St Annes and Stronger Together Tameside, and had been in receipt of significant donations from residents and businesses. As a

result of these interventions, Tameside had seen an 86% reduction in homelessness, which was the most significant reduction in England and most importantly, providing a new beginning, away from the streets, for many people.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the 'Town House Project' in Tameside be recognised as an exemplar of people focussed holistic interventions through its community hub approach in collaboration with a range of agencies.
2. That the GMCA record its thanks to Vanessa Rothwell and John Gregory for their leadership in the creation of the project, and to all the residents and businesses who have donated items to help get the project started.

GMCA 139/20 GREATER MANCHESTER LIVING WITH COVID RESILLIENCE PLAN

The GM Mayor introduced the final draft of the Greater Manchester Living with Covid Resilience Plan which detailed how, in anticipation of a vaccine, GM would support people to return to work, schools and make steps toward an economic recovery. The Plan sought to address all types of impacts on people's lives, and learn lessons from each phase to enable GM to build back better. It detailed a list of deliverables, with the lead agencies identified for each, and assessed each impact against social, economic and environmental factors. The Mayor added that this was a strong foundation on which to approach the next set of challenges, and it was right for GM to have such a plan in place.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the Living with Covid Plan be agreed, and support be given to its implementation as a system wide driver for change and improvement.
2. That it be agreed that all GMCA reports include recommendations that assess and identify the impact of the proposal on inequalities, environmental and financial issues in relation to the topic. This would be supported by a commitment to collect, analyse and report on data, including community intelligence, to understand that impact.
3. That, building on the recommendation above, it be agreed to develop a mechanism to utilise the established and developing partnership governance for the Age-friendly and Equalities Portfolio to support system wide responses. This would include actions to address equalities issues identified and unresolved through the above assessment process.
4. That it be agreed to adopt minimum targets or standards for each locality or neighbourhood that would support the effective targeting of resources across all GMCA activity. This would ensure that there is an ongoing recognition that address inequalities in all communities is fundamental to the whole of Greater Manchester being able to achieve its collective ambitions.

Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships and Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Portfolio Lead for Children & Young People presented a report which set out initial ideas around a Young Person's Guarantee for those aged 11-30 in Greater Manchester during and following the pandemic. This work further supported the Life Ready agenda by bringing together coherent commitments from education, business and health, setting out the opportunities and messages that were there for young people and young adults to continue to prosper and was the result of ongoing work to deliver on the commitments and recovery plans for the GM Children & Young People's Plan, under the direction of the GM Children's Board and the work of the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel.

To add value to this collaboration, a Youth Task Force for GM had also been developed to help GM drive forward the Young Person's Guarantee in respect of its design, development and delivery. The Task Force was chaired by Diane Modahl and has multi-agency representation, working closely with the Youth Combined Authority (YCA) and wider youth groups to better understand the views and concerns of young people from across Greater Manchester. The Youth Task Force would further strengthen the scope of Guarantee, ensuring its offer and entitlements reflect what young people have told us. It would also provide GM with an overarching framework for the delivery of opportunities for young people, bringing together key initiatives such as 'Our Pass' and our expanding mental health support.

Diane Modahl, Chair of the Young Person's Task Force, added that the vision for the Young Person's Guarantee was focussed 'no one should be left behind' and that it would be shaped by the young people's advisory group who had been selected from over 90 applications to be diversely representational of young people between 11-30 years old in Greater Manchester.

The GM Mayor added that this was ground breaking work was vital to support young people to raise their voices, shape future services and address any disparity that Covid-19 may have caused to their generation.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the approach to the emerging Guarantee be agreed.
2. That the implementation of a 'youth task force' be agreed.

The GM Mayor introduced a report which provided an update on the proposed approach for the allocation of the £2,249,016 grant received from the Department for Education for Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport. Members of the GMCA were reminded that this proposal included services that go beyond the GM boundary in transporting pupils to educational establishments.

RESOLVED/-

That the approach being adopted to allocate the £2,249,016 grant received by Greater Manchester from the Department for Education for 'Additional Dedicated Home to School and College Transport' be noted.

GMCA 142/20 RECOVERING FROM COVID-19 AND TACKLING INEQUALITY: SOCIAL VALUE & PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

Councillor Allen Brett, Portfolio Lead for Community, Cooperatives and Inclusion, introduced a report which presented a set of proposals to support Greater Manchester to build back better from the impact of Covid-19, including tackling inequality by updating the city region's existing Social Value Policy with a refreshed set of priorities for the Social Value Framework, containing priority actions linked to public procurement.

The GM Mayor added that this was a key element to GM's Good Employment Charter, and would be able to contribute to an improvement in working practice standards.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the refreshed Greater Manchester Social Value Framework be agreed.
2. That the link between the Framework and public procurement in Greater Manchester be endorsed.

GMCA 143/20 GM CO-OPERATIVE COMMISSION

Councillor Allen Brett, Portfolio Lead for Community, Cooperatives and Inclusion, introduced a report presenting the final Report of the Commission, which was published in January 2020, and an update on subsequent progress which has been made to implement the recommendations of that Report.

Councillor Allen Brett also expressed his thanks to the Commission for their work to date in pursuing a GM approach to cooperatives. He added that cooperatives had the ability to play a key role in post Covid recovery, and that a clear tender process would be central to the success of any new cooperative.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the recommendations contained within the Report of the Greater Manchester Co-operative Commission be endorsed.
2. That the GMCA confirm its commitment to be involved in implementing the recommendations.
3. That it be agreed to look for ways as to how the recommendations within the report might be applied across all Greater Manchester local authority areas, and through the work of the GMCA.

4. That the GM Cooperative Commission Delivery Plan be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

GMCA 144/20 APPROVAL OF THE VARIATION TO THE WORKING WELL WORK AND HEALTH PROGRAMME CONTRACT

Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships, took Members through a report which provided information on the expected process for utilising the additional funding allocated from the Department Work and Pensions (DWP) to develop the variation to the Working Well and Health Programme contract.

Working Well Light was scheduled to commence in October 2020, and would support 13,200 residents into employment through a personalised package of support as part of GM's economic recovery response.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the proposed variation to the Working Well Work and Health Programme in order to expand the scope of delivery to support those recently unemployed be approved.

GMCA 145/20 THE MAYORS CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND (MCF)

The GM Mayor introduced a report which sought approval for funding to ensure the continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for Walking and Cycling, specifically two schemes in Stockport requiring full approval, and another five schemes across GM that required development approval.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the MCF delivery priorities across GM and the prioritised first phase for the programme be agreed.
2. That £3.1 million MCF funding for the Stockport Gillbent Road and Heaton's Cycle Link schemes be approved, in order to secure full approval and enable the signing of a delivery agreement.
3. That the release of up to £1.9 million of development cost funding for the five MCF schemes be approved.

GMCA 146/20 GM HOUSING LOANS INVESTMENT FUND 2019/20 UPDATE REPORT

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, presented a report to the GMCA on the position the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund to 31 March 2020.

The GMCA was advised that the fund continued to support GM in delivering its housing ambitions of 10,000 homes, to be delivered over the next ten years. To date 67 loans have been approved, to the value of £508.3m, 37 of these loans being for developments outside of the business districts. To further support SME house builders, a small loans fund had been established for amounts up to £2m, with 32 successful loans completed to date. £5m equity from the Housing Investment Loan Fund had also been invested in the Social Housing Sustainable Fund to deliver an additional 80 social housing units, in addition to a range of other social housing schemes supported by the GMCA.

The report further detailed that 5500 units had been developed on brownfield land, in support of the GMCA's commitment to brownfield preference policy. Furthermore, the fund has supported a number of town centre re-generation schemes including, £5m for Stockport Interchange and £4m for Rochdale's Riverside phase two schemes.

The GM Housing Strategy makes clear ambitions including the delivery of affordable housing, bringing back empty homes and tackling rogue landlords and a delivery team had now been established to enact the pledges within the Strategy.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the position of the GM Housing Investment Loan Fund as at 31 March 2020 be noted, specifically that there has been no requirement for GMCA to account for any impairments as a result of the performance of the Fund.
2. That it be noted that discussions with Government were ongoing to vary the terms of the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund agreement and provide further funds to GMCA and/or remove the requirement for funds to be handed back at year-end, and therefore maintain and increase the Fund's capacity to support the delivery of new homes.

1.

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
Wigan	Councillor Jenny Bullen

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA - Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA – GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	James Binks
Oldham	Helen Lockwood
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Ben Dolan
Stockport	Pam Smith
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

GMCA 147/20 APOLOGIES

Resolved /-

That apologies be received and noted from Jim Taylor and Joanne Roney.

GMCA 148/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no Chair's announcements or urgent business.

GMCA 149/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

There were no declarations of interests received.

GMCA 150/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA held 2 September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 151/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD IN SEPTEMBER

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Issues and Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 8 September 2020 be noted.
2. That the minutes of the meeting of the Economy, Business, Skills and Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 11 September 2020 be noted.
3. That the minutes of the meeting of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held 12 September 2020 be noted.

GMCA 152/20 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED/-

1. That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee held 8 September 2020 be noted.
2. That the appointment of Cllr Cox (Bolton) to replace Cllr Allen (Bolton) to the GMCA Audit

Committee be approved.

GMCA 153/20 MINUTES OF THE GM LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP – 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership held 8 September 2020 be noted.

GMCA 154/20 FINANCE UPDATE

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment introduced a report which provided an update on the financial implications of Covid 19 for GM Districts, the GMCA and TfGM.

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer provided further detail on the review of the GMCA core budgets and savings identified. Conversations with the Department of Transport regarding longer term funding for Metrolink continued given the current arrangement expired on the 23 October 2020.

The GM Mayor added that the Government announcement had confirmed that the annual budget would not take place this year, which may have an impact on the Comprehensive Spending Review, which was a concern for Local Government across the board.

Members welcomed the return of funds, with Officers confirming that work was already underway with Treasurers from across the GM Local Authorities to ensure these transfers could happen as soon as possible.

A) COVID FINANCES UPDATE

RESOLVED/-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the estimated financial impacts of COVID 19 on GM districts, GMCA and TFGM budgets be noted.
3. That the analysis of the position be noted for :
 - GM Waste Disposal Budgets
 - TFGM and Metrolink
 - Other GMCA budgets
 - Retained Business Rates pilot
4. That the return of a further £5m of GMCA reserves to the nine GM waste districts be approved.
5. That the return of £1m of GMCA funding from GMCA core budgets to or for the use of the ten districts be approved.

B) GMCA REVENUE UPDATE 2020/21

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the Mayoral General revenue outturn position for 2020/21 shows a breakeven position.
2. That it be noted that the Mayoral General – GM Fire & Rescue revenue outturn position for 2020/21 shows an underspend position of £2.946 million.
3. That the GMCA General Budget revenue outturn position for 2020/21 be noted, which shows a breakeven position.
4. That it be noted that the GMCA transport revenue outturn position for 2020/21 was in line with budget.
5. That the Waste outturn position for 2020/21 be noted and that the proposal to transfer estimated at £2.142m from reserves be noted.
6. That it be noted that the TfGM revenue position for 2020/21 was in line with budget after efficiency savings and transfers from reserves of £4.870 million.
7. That it be noted that appropriate adjustments to the 2020/21 budget will be included in the Quarter 2 revenue update.

C) GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE 2020/21

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current 2020/21 forecast underspend of £21.319m compared to the 2020/21 capital budget be noted.
2. That the addition to the 2020/21 Capital Programme of £1.9 million of costs, funded from the capital grant of £1.9 million that forms part of the £3.2 million of Emergency Active Travel (Tranche 1) funding, be approved.

D) GMCA TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2019/20

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 155/20

CULTURAL RECOVERY IN GREATER MANCHESTER

Councillor David Greenhalgh, Portfolio Lead for Culture, took Members through the report which outlined activity to date to support culture in GM, the national response to Cultural Recovery and presented a draft GM Cultural Recovery Plan for consideration. He praised the resilience that had been evident from the sector, however expressed significant concerns for the cultural industry in

the event that the guidelines and level of support was to remain the same for the remainder of this financial year.

The GM Mayor echoed these concerns and reported that the recent announcements from Government in relation to the future of the Job Retention Scheme sadly may not provide the support required for some businesses within the cultural sector.

Members of the GMCA recognised the importance of the cultural offer, and the value that it brings to Greater Manchester. Furthermore, that it's longevity would be vital for the recovery and growth of GM over the next few years. However, there were concerns that Government's current regulations were significantly harming the sector and potentially causing permanent damage to its future. Members added that many cultural venues were beginning to open within the current guidelines, and these needed to be actively promoted in order to build back audiences and retain these spaces that have a clear impact on positive wellbeing.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the activity to date in Greater Manchester and across the UK to support the cultural sector be noted.
2. That the draft GMCA Culture Recovery Plan, as set out at Appendix B of the report, be agreed.
3. That it be agreed that Bury would have a further opportunity to be GM's Town of Culture in 2021.

GMCA 156/20 HOMELESSNESS COVID-19 UPDATE

The GM Mayor introduced a report which provided an update on the ongoing homelessness response to Covid-19. He recognised the phenomenal response across Greater Manchester, with a rapid mobilisation of effort across Local Authorities, the voluntary and community sector which had seen over 2000 people supported over the last 6 months. Notwithstanding that, more people had presented as homeless throughout this time, with the latest counts had identified 111 people, a third of which were newly homeless. In response to this, GM was expanding its temporary accommodation estate, introducing new mobile support services and looking for further measures to support people as we head into the winter months. There had also been an increase in begging activity across GM, with a more proactive and supportive approach introduced.

Recent funding from Government to provide 575 temporary accommodation places was welcomed, however this did not provide the 700 places that were initially requested, and to achieve Greater Manchester's wider ambition of 500 homes for the homeless by March 2021. It was clear that further support was needed from Government. On a more positive note, there would be 130 people to benefit through the 'Housing First' scheme over the next six months. The GM Mayor expressed concern regarding the continued impact on homelessness as economic pressures were building and the risk of redundancy across some sectors was increasing.

Members of the GMCA praised the system as a whole for how it had supported the homeless and rough sleepers over the past few months, and echoed concerns regarding the challenge ahead and the need for more resources to expand the temporary accommodation offer. Specifically, it was felt

that the benefit cap was disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable, and that those with no recourse to public funds were being further marginalised.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the pressures on homelessness services and ongoing response activities be noted, and that the planned next steps be supported.
2. That a further detailed report on specific measures be submitted to the GMCA in November.
3. That it be noted that the GMCA would commit to collect, analyse and report on data to understand the impact of this work as an inequalities priority.

GMCA 157/20 GM ENVIRONMENT FUND UPDATE

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, took Members through a report which provided detail on the progress made against the GM 5 Year Environmental Plan, and sought approval for the next steps. He reported that the recent virtual Green Summit had been a successful event, which had demonstrated significant progress on all areas of this agenda, and showcased a wide range of interventions that had elevated GM's ambition to be a green city region and a prominent space.

Work would be progressed to ensure that speakers at future Green Summit events included a wider spectrum of representation of backgrounds in order to demonstrate GM's commitment to diversity and ensure that all communities were represented.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress made in developing the Greater Manchester Environment Fund since the publication of the Greater Manchester 5 Year Environment Plan be noted.
2. That the initiation of the Fund be approved and that authority delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, GMCA Monitoring Officer and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Green City region, to finalise the form and make-up of the Fund and GMCA's role within it.
3. That the Greater Manchester Environment Fund Briefing Note for publication (annex 1 to the report) be agreed.
4. That it be noted that the purpose of the fund was to stimulate investment to deliver positive environmental impact across Greater Manchester, the scale of impact will depend on the success of the fund managers in attracting suitable funds. Projects ultimately delivered by the fund will, inter alia, take into account equality and diversity considerations; the charitable nature of the fund will serve to underpin this aim.
5. That it be noted that the progress of the fund will be monitored by the Fund Board and be reported quarterly to GMCA and other partners.

6. That it be noted that the diversity of speakers will be progressed further for next year's event.

GMCA 158/20 FUNDING BID – GREEN HOMES GRANT: LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, introduced a report which outlined proposals for a combined Greater Manchester bid of £4.7m Government funding from the 'Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery' Phase 1 Fund. This scheme would be specifically targeted at low income households and would actively contribute to lowering carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency in a significant number of homes across GM.

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be noted that a bid of £4.7m was submitted by GMCA to the Green Homes Grant: Local Authority Delivery fund early September 2020.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA should be the accountable body for the bid on behalf of GM Local Authorities.
3. That, in the event of a successful bid, authority be delegated to Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, to:
 - sign an MOU/contract agreement with BEIS to receive grant funding of circa £4.7m for domestic energy efficiency retrofit programme; and
 - spend the awarded grant funds with EON and GM Registered Providers via an OJEU compliant framework and supply chains
4. That it be noted that, if delivered as envisioned, the programme will save in the order of 36,000 tonnes carbon emissions over 20 years. The focus of the programme will be for those citizens on low income, living in energy inefficient homes. The programme would therefore support the alleviation of fuel poverty in over 500 properties in Greater Manchester, with outcomes measured and monitored on a monthly basis.

GMCA 159/20 GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE ACCORD – INVESTMENT IN VCSE SECTOR LEADERSHIP AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Councillor Allen Brett, Portfolio Lead for Community, Cooperatives and Inclusion, introduced a report which presented an investment proposal for adoption from April 2021.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the work undertaken to review GMCA investment with VCSE organisations in the light of the evolving GM policy context be noted.
2. That the investment proposal contained at section 3 of the report be approved, and approval be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead and Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Community, Co-operatives and Inclusion Portfolio Leader, to award grant agreements, subject to final agreement of GMCA budgets for 2021/22 onwards.

GMCA 160/20**ESTABLISHING A GM RACE EQUALITY PANEL**

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Portfolio Lead for Age-Friendly Greater Manchester & Equalities, presented a report that provided an update on the recent listening exercise across Greater Manchester and asked the GMCA to consider a proposal to establish a GM Race Equality Panel. She reminded Members that the issue of inequalities had been evident prior to Covid, however the pandemic had further demonstrated how certain equality groups were being disadvantaged. Following a series of engagement sessions in 2019, it was agreed that there should be two further equality panels established, one to focus on race equality and the other to focus on faith based equality issues. Over July/August 2020 there had been a further set of listening exercises undertaken including over 300 representatives and had identified specific areas of focus for each of the panels.

The Mayor thanked all those involved in developing the proposals for the Panel and added that this was a key part of Greater Manchester's response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the work to date, including responses received to the recent listening exercise, be noted.
2. That the establishment of the Race Equality Panel, including the allocation of a budget of £50,000 per annum for a VCSE Race Equality Partner to support the work of the Panel, commencing in the current financial year, be approved.

GMCA 161/20**GREATER MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY REFRESH**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, took Members through a report which summarised the background and context of the one year refreshed Greater Manchester International Strategy. The strategy had been developed in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Partnership and key stakeholders including the Greater Manchester Local Authorities, and was recently reviewed by the Growth Board. Although an initial three year refreshed document was planned, it was felt that in the current climate that a 12 month strategy was more appropriate which could sit alongside the Living with Covid Plan, that focussed on innovation, economic prosperity and supporting GM to build back better.

The GM Mayor added that this was an important piece of work, and crucial to Greater Manchester's recovery from Coronavirus, and that the city region's international presence was recognised amongst ministers and would continue to be a major opportunity going forward.

Members encouraged officers of the GMCA to discover ways to build on the relationships with other areas of the world through the cultural links that were already evident. Furthermore, that the importance of developing GM's logistical infrastructure such as the waterways and rail network would be imperative to the success of future trade relationships and economic growth.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the refreshed Greater Manchester International Strategy be approved.
2. That the development of relationships with countries with which GM has a strong cultural links, such as Bangladesh, be progressed.
3. That the importance of the development GM's unique infrastructure assets to support logistics and address congestion, be recognised as integral to GM ambition to build back better and aligned to the green economy.

GMCA 162/20 MONTHLY ECONOMIC RECOVERY UPDATE

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, introduced the monthly economic update, which included the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard. In the current climate it would be even more important to regularly monitor this data to ensure that the GMCA was aware of forthcoming challenges, including the significant increase in people claiming benefits since March to 140,000 residents across GM and the potential for further claimants as a result of the conclusion the Job Retention Scheme. The recent announcements from the Chancellor were broadly welcomed, however concerns remained for those who were already unemployed, and those who were self-employed and specifically in the hospitality, cultural and aviation sectors.

It would be imperative for GM to remain ambitious and continue to lead the way in supporting residents whilst making a case to Government for the relevant resources and powers to support its residents, especially in the uncertainty of any Comprehensive Spending Review announcement.

Members of the GMCA added that public confidence would be key to re-building the economy, and that sharing information about new investments into the sub region would help to give a clear message that investors had confidence in the potential future economic growth of GM.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard be noted.
2. That it be noted that GM remained confident and ambitious, with the continuation of lobbying for support and interventions for residents.

GMCA 163/20 THE MAYORS CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND

The GM Mayor introduced a report detailing the funding requirements in order to ensure continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for walking and cycling.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the agreed MCF delivery priorities across GM and the prioritised first phase for the programme, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report, be noted.

2. That £6.9 million MCF funding for the Stockport Bramhall Park to A6 Major Scheme be approved, in order to secure Full Approval and enable the signing of a Delivery Agreement.
3. That the release of up to £2.6 million of development cost funding for the two MCF schemes, as set out in the report, be approved.

GMCA 164/20 LOCAL GROWTH DEAL (1,2 AND 3) – SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE AND EXPENDITURE APPROVALS

The GM Mayor took Members through a report which provided an overview of progress on the delivery of the Local Growth Deal Programme, tranches 1, 2 and 3.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the good progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Major Schemes programme be noted.
2. That the good progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Minor Works and Additional Priorities programmes be noted.
3. That the good progress made in relation to the Non Transport Skills Capital and Economic Development & Regeneration (ED &R) programmes be noted.
4. That the payment of grants of £1.819 million to Bolton in relation to the delivery of the SBNI Bolton Delivery Package 5 Phase 3 scheme be approved.
5. That the expenditure approvals for phased delivery of the remaining SBNI 2020/21 works not exceeding £6.036 million be approved, subject to agreed Growth Deal governance.
6. That the expenditure approval for delivery of the first phase of the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration 2020/21 works, not exceeding £1.355 million be approved, subject to agreed Growth Deal governance.

GMCA 165/20 TRIPARTITE AGREEMENT BETWEEN GMCA, GM HOUSING PROVIDERS AND GM HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, presented the draft tripartite agreement which provided further significance to the important relationship that the GMCA and GMHSCP (GM Health and Social Care Partnership) have with housing providers as key active partners in delivering GM priorities in the heart of a number of communities. From the 25 housing providers across GM, there had been 8000 new homes built over the last five years and the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy and Housing Strategy further recognised the key role that housing plays in people’s health and wellbeing.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the draft Tripartite Agreement between GMCA, GM Housing Providers and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership be approved.
2. That it be noted that an official launch and signing event will be arranged over the forthcoming weeks.

GMCA 166/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a number of applications to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund seeking the GMCA’s approval.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loans as detailed below, be approved:

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
Bricks & Soul Trading Ltd	Various	GM wide	£0.750m
Newco SPV (an MCR Property Group Company)	Wharf Road, Altrincham	Trafford	£6.397m
Jubilee Way Estates Ltd	Bury Magistrates Court	Bury	£3.948m

2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the GMCA Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

GMCA 167/20 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED /-

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

GMCA 168/20 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND – INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Note: This item was considered in support of the Part A – GM Housing Investment Loans Fund – Investment Approval Recommendations (minutes reference GMCA 166/20)

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

1.

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 31 JULY 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Allen Brett
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Tom McGee
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
Wigan	Councillor Chris Ready

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA – Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA – Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA - Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Mike Barker
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Ben Dolan
Stockport	Kathryn Rees
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Nikki Bishop
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

AGMA 12/20 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

That apologies be received and noted from Cllr Elise Wilson, Carolyn Wilkins, Sara Todd and Jim Taylor.

AGMA 13/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED /-

There were no Chairs announcements or urgent business.

AGMA 14/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

AGMA 15/20 MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2020

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board meeting held 26 June 2020 be approved.

AGMA 16/20 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK - TIMETABLE

City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure requested that this item be deferred until the next meeting of the AGMA Executive Board to allow for detailed consideration.

RESOLVED /-

That this item be deferred until the next meeting of the AGMA Executive Board.

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER
AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 9 SEPTEMBER 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Oldham	Councillor Sean Fielding
Rochdale	Councillor Sara Rowbotham
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

IN ATTENDANCE:

Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley
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OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA - Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bury	Geoff Little
Manchester	Fiona Worrall
Oldham	Rebekah Sutcliffe
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Jim Taylor
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Jayne Traverse
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

AGMA 17/20 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

That the apologies be received and noted from Cllr Allen Brett (Cllr Sara Rowbotham attending) Cllr Richard Leese and Cllr David Greenhalgh.

BOLTON	MANCHESTER	ROCHDALE	STOCKPORT	TRAFFORD
BURY	OLDHAM	SALFORD	TAMESIDE	WIGAN

AGMA 18/20 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED /-

There were no Chairs announcements or urgent business.

AGMA 19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to any item on the agenda.

AGMA 20/20 MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING HELD ON 31 JULY 2020

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board meeting held 31 July 2020 be approved.

AGMA 21/20 GREATER MANCHESTER SPATIAL FRAMEWORK - TIMETABLE

City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, explained how the Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (GMSF) was a statutory Joint Development Plan which sought to contribute to the sustainable development of Greater Manchester. The Plan will be submitted to the Secretary of State for independent examination following a detailed consultation period and would also require formal sign off by each GM Local Authority.

The GMSF does not sit in isolation and was part of a suite of policy documents that would be key to supporting the recovery and long term growth of Greater Manchester. It also supported the ambitions of a number of portfolio areas through its potential for reducing inequalities, contributing to economic growth and helping to reduce carbon emissions.

In the context of living with Covid, it was important to recognise the even greater need for clarity and vision for GM's future, and therefore that the GMSF needs to remain on track to help tackle the wider issues that people will now be facing.

Greater Manchester has a target to deliver 50,000 affordable homes, 30,000 of which to be available for affordable rent. The GMSF is key tool to ensuring that this target was deliverable to determine where development could take place, protecting the land of greatest utility and avoiding the additional future resource cost of going through the planning by appeal process.

Government have already demonstrated their commitment to supporting future building and regeneration schemes through the creation of the Brownfield Land Fund and Getting Building Fund, both of which Greater Manchester had been successful in applying for and being awarded. These resources and commitments were vital to help

Greater Manchester to begin to level up.

Members welcomed the proposed timetable, and sought further clarity on the consultation process given social distancing restrictions, with a view to ensuring that all residents had the ability to participate. It was confirmed that there were a number of approaches being reviewed to ensure maximum engagement, including virtual conferences, telephony consultations, and advocates for vulnerable users in addition to the use of online consultation tools.

The GM Mayor noted these additional measures, and reiterated the importance for a voice to be given to all residents through a creative consultation approach.

RESOLVED /-

1. That Greater Manchester's Plan for Homes, Jobs and the Environment (GMSF) be considered in the context of other GM Strategies such as the Local Industrial Strategy and Housing Strategy as all seek to contribute to the sustainable development of Greater Manchester.
2. That the proposed timeline for the GMSF as outlined in Section 6 of the report be approved. Specifically that it is proposed that an 8 week consultation will begin in early November 2020, and that all evidence base documents will be available for public viewing 4 weeks prior to the formal consultation starting.

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**MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE GM POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
HELD ON MONDAY 20 JULY 2020 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Nadim Muslim	Bolton Council
Councillor Nigel Murphy	Manchester City Council – (In the Chair)
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council
Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford City Council
Councillor Amanda Peers	Stockport Council
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside Council

ALSO PRESENT:

Andy Burnham	GM Mayor
Baroness Beverley Hughes	GM Deputy Mayor
David Russell	Candidate for appointment as GM Chief Fire Officer

OFFICERS:

Clare Monaghan	Director Policing, Crime and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley	Salford City Council & GM Police and Crime Policy Lead
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Sylvia Welsh	Head of Governance & Scrutiny, GMCA
Sarah Keaveny	Head off Comms, GMCA
Claire Smith	Comms Manager, GMCA
James Cessford	Policy Officer, GMCA
Jenny Hollamby	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny
Lee Teasdale	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny
Steve Annette	GMCA Governance and Scrutiny

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received on behalf Councillor Kevin Anderson, Councillor David Jones, Councillor Graham Whitham, Angela Lawrence and Majid Hussain, Independent Panel Members and Carolyn Wilkins, Lead Chief Executive, Policing, Fire and Crime.

PFCP/01/20 CONFIRMATION HEARING IN RELATION TO APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FIRE OFFICER FOR GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report that set out the process to be followed to confirm the appointment of the Chief Fire officer, following a recruitment and selection process conducted by the GMCA. The report detailed the procedures to be followed, the criteria required to be met and the candidate's qualifications for the role. It also set out the terms and conditions of employment.

The Deputy Mayor outlined for members the robust recruitment procedure that had been followed in relation to the appointment, commencing with a competitive tendering process to appoint the recruiting agents that would assist the Authority, the post was widely advertised during April and 19 applications were received. Five candidates ultimately emerged from a process of technical assessment to be short-listed for full assessment by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chief Executive, and with input by representatives of the Authority's partners and other stakeholders.

Mr David Russell attended the confirmation hearing to answer questions in relation to this appointment. A visual presentation was made in which Mr Russell outlined the challenges and opportunities that the appointment presented to him, and the long experience that he brought to the post, specifically his most recent post as Deputy Chief Fire Officer with Lancashire Fire Service, which he considered meant he was well prepared to lead transformational change and to meet key challenges going forward, including those that will present themselves in the post Covid-19 landscape, and (a) the key drivers of delivering the GM Mayor's Programme for Change, (b) addressing the recommendations in the 2019 HMI Report on GM Fire Service, (c) the Arena Inquiry, and (d) the legacy of Grenfell for the local built environment.

The Mayor detailed the qualities that had recommended Mr Russell to the interview panel and the strong legacy of achievement that he brought with him. He also paid tribute to the work that Jim Wallace had done in stabilising the Fire Service and addressing the financial challenges that he faced.

Mr Russell then responded to a range of questions from members of the Panel, including –

- the as yet unqualifiable consequences across all service sectors from the Covid-19 emergency, and the likely challenges to be faced by the Fire Service going forward;
- his key initial priorities in post would embrace a focus on observing, listening to, and communicating with staff at every level of the service, and in his first 100 days to have met with every Watch on every Fire Station and every team within every department of the Service, and thereafter the cohesive operation of the Corporate Leadership Team and the challenges it faces;
- Lancashire CC had agreed release him with effect from 7 September 2020, and
- the lessons that can be learned from other authorities in relation to partnership working in terms of finding local and sustainable solutions to local problem.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the process outlined for the appointment of the Chief Fire Officer, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service be noted.
2. That the Panel recommend to the GM Mayor that David Russell be appointed to the position of GM Fire Officer.

3. That it be noted that the current incumbent in post is due to leave on 31 August 2020 upon the expiry of his fixed term contract, and the Panel considers that it will be wholly beneficial for the Service if the proposed appointee can commence employment as quickly as possible thereafter.

PFCP/02/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. To be determined in consultation with the Chair.

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COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
23/07/2020 at 1.00 pm



Present: Councillors Chauhan, Fielding, Moores and Shah

Ben Galbraith	Chief Finance Officer CCG
Majid Hussain	Lay Chair Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
Dr. Ian Milnes	(Deputy Chief Clinical Officer CCG)

Also in Attendance:

Mike Barker	Strategic Director of Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer
Graham Foulkes	Lay Member for Patient and Public involvement
Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services
Gerard Jones	Managing Director Children and Young People
Anne Ryans	Director of Finance
Mark Warren	Managing Director Community Health and Adult Social Care
Dr. Carolyn Wilkins OBE	Chief Executive / Accountable Officer

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor Chauhan be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. John Patterson, Dr. Gopi, Claire Smith, Shelley Grumbridge, Helen Lockwood, Rebekah Sutcliffe and Nicola Hepburn.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

6 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Commissioning Partnership Board meeting held on 27th February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

7 **SECTION 75 2019-20 YEAR END POSITION REPORT**

The Commissioning Partnership Board gave consideration to the Oldham Care Section 75 pooled fund year-end position for 2019/20.

The report showed expenditure of £163.970m compared to a budget of £157.941m which resulted in an adverse variance of £6.029m. Most of the variance related to Oldham Council services, of which a significant amount was offset by favourable variances outside the S75 budget areas.

The Section 75 (S.75) agreements existed between Local Authorities and the NHS nationally for the pooling of budgets to facilitate closer working. Oldham Council and Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had entered into such an agreement to facilitate a whole system approach for the delivery of care to the citizens of Oldham. The agreement for 2019/20, broadened in scope and increased in value. It was enhanced by the Council's £5.9m increased contribution to the wider healthcare economy. The final 2019/20 S75 Agreement and pooled fund had been considered and approved under emergency arrangements. The Board were reminded that S75 monitoring reports had been presented at Months 6, 8 and 9 during the 2019/20 financial year.

The final budget and actual expenditure were presented in the report.

The Council reported an adverse variance against the pooled budget of £5.99m compared with £5.35m at month 9. The increase was as a result of backdated care package payment not previously recorded. A significant amount of the adverse variance was offset by favourable variances from income generation and salaries cost. The whole of the Community Health and Adults Social Care Services portfolio had an overspend of £2.21m at the end of the 2019/20 financial year. The major contributing factors were pressures within community care placements, linked to people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, sensory and memory and cognitive need.

The CCG reported a net pooled overspend of £0.04m compared with £0.51m at Month 9. This was principally in respect of increase usage of mental health inpatient beds. In addition there were variances within the category of health care placement, which collectively had a small net overspend.

Options Considered

1. To note the contents of the report
2. To challenge the contents and recommendations in the report

RESOLVED that the Section 75 2019-20 Year End Position report be noted.

The meeting started at 1.00 pm and ended at 1.15 pm

COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD
24/09/2020 at 1.00 pm



Present: Majid Hussain (Chair)
Councillors Chauhan, Fielding, Moores and Shah

Ben Galbraith	Chief Finance Officer CCG
Dr. Ian Milnes	Deputy Chief Clinical Officer CCG
Dr. John Patterson	Clinical Commissioning Group

Also in Attendance:
Mike Barker

	Strategic Director of Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer
Graham Foulkes	Lay Member for Patient and Public involvement
Dr. Shelley Grumbridge	GP Governing Body Member - East Cluster
Nicola Hepburn	Director of Commissioning
Lori Hughes	Constitutional Services
Anne Ryans	Director of Finance
Dr. Andrew Vance	GP Governing Body Member - North Cluster
Mark Warren	Managing Director Community Health and Adult Social Care
Dr. Carolyn Wilkins OBE	Chief Executive / Accountable Officer

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Majid Hussain be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Claire Smith, Helen Lockwood, Rebekah Sutcliffe, Dr. Gopi and Gerard Jones.

3 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

5 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

6 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Commissioning Partnership Board held on 23rd July 2020 be approved as a correct record.

7 **INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BROKERAGE FRAMEWORK**

The Board gave consideration to a report which requested approval to tender and implement an integrated Health and Social Care Brokerage Framework. The report provided an

outline for the requirements of a brokerage framework, provided some content regarding historic attempts to implement such a framework and provided assurance that full consultation had taken place with all stakeholders.

As there were no current framework agreements in place, it was very difficult to monitor and manage funds related to brokerage services and there was potential risk for the Council in regard to being accountable for public funds. As more areas of health were delivered via a personal health budget, costs may increase, however it was unsure which of the health products would be delivered via a direct payment as yet. The introduction of the framework was more apparent than ever, especially following the implementation of other project workstreams, such as the Care at Home contract which resulted in an increase in brokerage services.

This framework would cover the administration of direct payments in line with the specification for adults and children's services and personal health budgets. As a consequence of the Care Act, local authorities were required to undertake assessments where people were in need. If residents were eligible for care needs and required support, there was a legal duty to determine how the individual would be supported through a support plan. When the support plan was agreed, a financial determined and the local authority or CCG would commission services. If the individual wished to commission their own support, from an employment point of view this could be quite difficult and would include the establishment of payroll and terms and conditions for the provider. If a brokerage service was in place, this could assist residents. Oldham currently had between 900 to 1,100 residents who chose to take direct payment. Since 2012, Oldham had progressed the personalised agenda.

A previous Cabinet report which had requested approval to tender for a brokerage service had technical difficulties and did not continue.

Members commented that the service needed to make sure it did not have a direct impact on service users and a framework created still giving residents choices where possible and ensuring they received the care they needed.

Members asked if there would be disruption to the broker being used currently or that would there be no disruption to care. Members were informed that there shouldn't be disruption and brokers would be recommended who were currently on the framework.

Members sought and received clarification on the direct payments and hourly rates, the move toward the Resource Allocation System and algorithms used to calculate the value of personal budgets.

Members sought and received clarification on the payments made via direct payment and those payments through a contracted commissioned provider which would include overhead payments.

Options/Alternatives Considered:

- Option 1: Retain the status quo.
- Option 2: Cease Funding Brokerage Services
- Option 3: Tender for an approved framework

RESOLVED that the Commissioning Partnership Board would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 9 of the agenda before making a decision.

NOTES:

1. The Chair and Board offered congratulations to Councillor Chauhan and Dr.Grumbidge who had been recognised as being in the top 50 doctors in the who had made significant improvements during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. The Board noted the appointment of Nicola Hepburn as Director of Commissioning.

8 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

9 **INTEGRATED HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BROKERAGE FRAMEWORK**

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 – Integrated Health and Social Care Brokerage Framework.

RESOLVED that the recommendations as contained in the commercially sensitive report be approved.

The meeting started at 1.00 pm and ended at 1.30 pm

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**(MioCare Group CIC, Oldham Care and Support Ltd,
MioCare Services Ltd)**

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursday 23rd July 2020

Via MS Teams 4pm

Public Minutes

Present:	Board Members Cllr Steven Bashforth (Cllr SB) – Chair Cllr Zahid Chauhan (Cllr ZC) Cllr Louie Hamblett (Cllr LH) Peter White – Deputy Chair, Non-Executive Board Member (PW) – Chair Jeff Jones – Non-Executive Board Member (JJ) Cathy Butterworth – Non-Executive Board Member (CB) Karl Dean – Managing Director (KD)	In attendance Rick Vogan – Director of Care (RV) Mark Warren – Shareholder’s Advisor & DASS (MW) Paul Wood – System Integration Director, Oldham (PWo) Paul Wilkinson – Finance Manager (PWi) Joanne Love – Director, Grant Thornton – Audit (JL) Julia Veall – Transformation Advisor, Council (JV) Karen Wilson – Business Support Manager (Minutes)
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No	Agenda Item	Action
1	Confidential – Board Members Only	
2	Welcome, Introduction, attendees and apologies SB welcomed all attendees.	
3	Declaration of Interest MW is the MD of the Community Health and Adult Social Care Service (CHASC), Shareholder’s Advisor & DASS for Oldham.	
For Information		
4	Minutes of Last Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The confidential minutes of the last Board meeting held on 23rd April 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record. b) The public minutes of the last Board meeting held on 23rd April 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record. c) The Board action log was discussed and updated accordingly. d) The minutes of the last Operations Committee held on 13th May 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record. e) The minutes of the last Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee held on 16th June 2020 were agreed as a true and accurate record. 	
For Discussion		
5	Reflection, Recovery and Forward Plan KD provided Board Members with a presentation of a MioCare COVID19 situation review and explained there are themes of what had gone well during the Covid-19 pandemic,	

	<p>what could have gone better and some key learning points. KD went on to say that he felt despite the huge challenges of Covid-19, the MioCare Group had come out of it stronger and its position as a key stakeholder had been strengthened.</p> <p>KD presented a revised business plan objectives in light of Covid-19 with some 2020/21 targets being pushed back.</p> <p>Members offered that the target dates may be too ambitious in the current climate. PW asked how Members will be kept up to speed about the development of the deliverables that pose significant issues for the Board? KD confirmed that whenever there is a significant development the Board Members will be advised with timelines in place to ensure this also.</p> <p>CLrLH asked what the timeline is for those services who have been paused to return. KD advised that most services had continued throughout the crisis and those paused are starting to return. Respite is very close to reopening with a paper currently going through system governance with an intention of opening in early August. The reopening of day services is taking longer because this service is more difficult to manage with Covid-19 restrictions. Extra Care and Holly Bank are also assessing clients to move into the services.</p> <p>Chair concluded there is confidence everything has been identified and it was job well done to all of the team. Thanks, was offered to KD for the presentation.</p>	
6	<p>CHASC Alliance Integration Road Map PWo who has been commissioned to the role of System Integration Director for Oldham, provided a presentation to Board Members to update on the potential Oldham Integration Care Partnership (ICP). This included models, contractual form and delivery structure and a draft timeline and road map.</p> <p>A discussion followed and CLrZC stated that all key stakeholders were engaged early on these matters and there was appropriate consultation. MW offered that the Council are looking for key partners to try and explore the next stage of working together. CLrZC reminded it is for Board Members to decide what's in the best interests of the MioCare Group.</p>	
7	<p>National Care Forum (NCF) Board Member Session Update Due to time restraints, CB recommended she speak to KD and JJ at a later date to discuss if the learning from the NCF Forum will impact the business risk in the wake of COVID19. The notes and slides will be sent to Members. This was agreed. Action: Notes and slides from the NCF Board Member session to be sent to Board Members.</p>	CB, KW
8	<p>Committee Updates As Chair of the Remuneration Committee, CB proposed that the minutes of the recent Remuneration Committee meeting that had been previously distributed to Board Members be considered and proposals within the minutes accepted. Decision – Members voted to approve the minutes and the recommendations.</p> <p>As Chair of the Operations Committee, PW advised the main order of the recent meeting was the impact of COVID 19, he also requested it be placed on record that operationally the workforce have done an outstanding job.</p> <p>As Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, JJ advised that the recent meeting was a catch up of all the responses to COVID 19. JJ added he is particularly pleased about</p>	

	<p>how the Committee has developed and the processes that have been put in place over the last 12 months. It is a credit to those that put them in place. KD has provided a COVID Risk Register which will have an impact going forward. JJ concluded by agreeing with PW in relation to the to the great efforts from the workforce during this time.</p>	
9	<p>MD Update</p> <p>KD reminded Board Members that this paper provides an organisational update with regard to items not covered elsewhere on the agenda.</p> <p>KD gave an update in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Risk assessments of workplaces and people, with specific priority to BAME staff – NHS guidance sets out that he hospitals shouldn't be above 80% capacity and are required to how A&E departments should be accessed. The whole system is looking how it can rise to the challenge. – There has been lots of debate around progressing CHASC to a formal alliance the Integrated Care Partnership. – The QPC team have secured a further £10k of funding from the workforce development fund. None of the money is in the original budget. – The discharge hub has successfully seen the majority of people go straight home from hospital with care, which has resulted in less demand for Medlock Court bed base. The hub has been a real success story of the last few months. – Transition planning is underway to see us accommodate 8 people to move into Holly Bank by the end of August. The next cohort are being identified and it is expected it will be at full occupancy by March 2021. – A risk register around COVID has been completed and will be alluded to during the assurance report. 	
10	<p>Assurance Report</p> <p>RV informed Board Members that this paper allows them to be sighted on assurance activity since the previous meeting and will provide an update in response to the COVID pandemic. RV updated in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There have been no serious staff incidents/accidents. – To make environments COVID safe and after liaising with the Health and Safety team, a comprehensive risk assessment process for all staff and operational environments is currently underway. – The FAR Committee reviewed the corporate risk register during the FAR meeting which took place in June. A breakdown of the risk type was provided. – A COVID 19 risk register has been developed with 8 risks identified. – Redeploying and managing the workforce to ensure essential services continued to be safely delivered has been the main focus over this difficult period. – Staff and service user testing for Covid-19 has been well accessed. None of the staff who tested positive have required hospital treatment. Continuing the testing as a rolling programme across all services is being looked at. – A number of communication measures have been introduced to ensure the workforce are as informed as possible during this time of substantial change. – The existing business continuity plans will need to be reviewed in the light of the learning from the last few months. This work will be scheduled for later in the year. 	
11	<p>Management Account Period 6</p> <p>PWi informed the Board Members that at Month 6 the surplus across all 3 companies was £93k, at month 5 this had been £29k. The breakdown of the individual companies is MioCare Group has a deficit of £16k against a budget of £19k deficit, OCS has a surplus of £80k against a budget of £8k surplus and MSL has a surplus of £29k against a budget</p>	

	of £16k surplus.	
For Decision		
12	<p>Team Oldham Workforce Plan</p> <p>JV informed Members that this report seeks approval of the new Workforce Strategy for #TeamOldham 2020 – 2023 and the implementation of developing delivery plans to support its embedding across #TeamOldham organisations. A workforce strategy is required to set the ambitions and strategic direction for the #TeamOldham workforce and is at the core of realising organisational priorities. When endorsed, the Workforce Strategy will be translated into a delivery plan ensuring a coherent and cohesive approach to workforce design and development over 2020-2023. An explanation of the 12 pillars that the strategy has been developed into was provided to Members. JV welcomed questions and comments.</p> <p>Decision: Board Members agreed to adopt the #TeamOldham strategy for MioCare Group.</p>	
13	<p> a) External Audit b) 2019 Final Accounts MioCare Group CIC c) 2019 Final Accounts Oldham Care and Support d) 2019 Final Accounts MioCare Services </p> <p>JL informed the group she presented MioCare Group CIC statutory accounts 2019 for approval and formal signing. JL provided a brief verbal update of the audit findings and informed Members that in the audit opinion of significant risks there was nothing of significant concern. JL asked if Board Members formally approved the audit findings and agree for the signing of the 2019 accounts. All Board Members agreed. JL concluded by offering thanks to PWi and his team for their assistance whilst the auditors prepared the accounts and also to Board for commissioning Grant Thornton.</p> <p>JJ stated that as Chair of FAR Committee, he would welcome a conversation with JL to discuss the audit and budgets over the next 6–9 months. JL confirmed she would be happy to discuss offline.</p> <p>Action: JJ & JL meet to further discuss the audit and budgets.</p> <p>Decision: Chair and KD formally signed off the statutory accounts of 2019.</p>	
14	AOB and Close	
	<p>Next Meeting Thursday 22nd October 2020 4pm – 6pm MS Teams</p>	



Report to COUNCIL

Progress Update on the Oldham Review of Safeguarding Practice

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Sean Fielding

Officer Contact: Gerard Jones, Managing Director, Children and Young People

Report Author: Sharon Moore, Assistant Director Quality and Assurance

4th November 2020

Executive Summary

This briefing provides an overview of the support that Oldham Council and its statutory safeguarding partners are providing to the ongoing independent review into historical safeguarding practice in Oldham launched in November 2019.

Due to the independent nature of the review we are unable to give an update on its current lines of enquiry or on any findings until the review is complete and the Independent Review Team have reported. This is expected to take place towards the end of this calendar year.

Recommendations

For Council to note the ongoing work to support the independent review.

Progress Update on the Oldham Review into Safeguarding Practice

1 Background

- 1.1 In November 2019 Oldham Council and Oldham Safeguarding Partnership commissioned an independent review into historical safeguarding practice in Oldham. This review was established in response to allegations and concerns relating to child sexual exploitation (CSE) raised by members of the public on social media.
- 1.2 At this time the Leader of Oldham Council, Sean Fielding and the Chair of Oldham's safeguarding Partnership Henri Giller wrote jointly to the Mayor and the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Standards Board to request that a dedicated investigation into the effectiveness of the response to historic CSE in Oldham be carried out by the existing Independent Review Team already delivering an assurance exercise into Greater Manchester CSE practice. This team has earlier this year published the findings of a review into Manchester's safeguarding practice. This was agreed.
- 1.3 As a result, the Independent Review Team, Malcolm Newsam CBE, a child-care expert with extensive experience driving improvement in children's services, and Gary Ridgeway, previously a Detective Superintendent and Head of Public Protection, are currently undertaking a review of the practice of Oldham Council and its partner safeguarding agencies in responding to allegations of child sexual exploitation.
- 1.4 The review will focus on historical allegations relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and will consider whether the Council, along with its statutory safeguarding partners, provided an appropriate response to protect children vulnerable to or known to be victims of Child Sexual Exploitation. The scope of the Review includes, but is not limited to:
 - The Council and its statutory safeguarding partners response to allegations of CSE between 2011 and 2014 with particular reference to concerns expressed on social media that agencies were aware of the abuse, failed to respond appropriately and covered up any failings.
 - The risk posed to children from local shisha establishments during the period 2011-2014
 - The nature and extent to which adults had inappropriate access to children and young people resident in Children's homes in Oldham during 2011-2014
 - The nature and extent of the use of local taxi services to access children and young people for the purposes of CSE during 2011-2014
 - Allegations or concerns expressed in relation to specific cases.
 - The cases of known offenders previously employed by Oldham Council and the extent to which the historical actions and employment records have been investigated by the Council.
- 1.5 Additionally, as outlined clearly in the terms of reference, where it has been considered necessary to inform the overall purpose of the review, the review team have, and will continue to consider matters outside of the 2011-2014 time frame.
- 1.6 The full Terms of Reference for the Oldham Review are attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.7 There is a Data Security/Data Processing Agreement in place between Oldham Council, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Independent Review Team which allows the Council, partners and the review team to share relevant documents and information required for the effective delivery of the review.

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- 1.8 The GMCA provides overall governance of the Review. This oversight is provided by a GM Steering Group which meets regularly and is chaired by Deputy GM Mayor, Baroness Beverley Hughes. The Managing Director of Children and Young People and Strategic Director of Communities and Reform from Oldham Council both attend this on behalf of Oldham. The GMCA provide administrative support to the Review Team.
 - 1.9 The Oldham Review is supported by an Oldham Council Team made up of Children's Services, HR, Legal, Performance and Communications which meets on a weekly basis to quality assure and co-ordinate activity required to support the efficient progress of the review. This includes the identification and contact of interviewees in accordance with the DPA and ensuring the Review Team have access to and provision of documentation.

2. Progress Update

- 2.1 Since the commencement of the Review a substantial amount of written evidence has been submitted to the Independent Review Team comprising of minutes, reports, emails, intelligence and performance information relating to the Council and Safeguarding Partnership's response to historic Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham.
- 2.2 The Review Team are also undertaking interviews with a number of individuals who have been identified as relevant to the scope and purpose of the Review. These interviews are being conducted 'virtually' through video conferencing due to Covid-19 restrictions on face-to-face contact. The Team has interviewed a number of individuals including current and previous Council employees and one former Councillor. It is understood that there remains a relatively small number of people that the review team will still seek to interview.
- 2.3 The Council is continuing to support the Independent Review Team with the identification of other individuals who can contribute to the Review and further interviews are scheduled to take place. Prior to an interview taking place, in accordance with Data Protection legislation, consent is requested from the individual identified by the Review Team prior to their contact details being shared and each interviewee receives a draft transcript of their interview for approval.
- 2.4 The Council is also supporting the Review Team to make initial contact with individuals who have expressed concerns, either on social media or through other channels, regarding the effectiveness of the Council's response to CSE. This is in order to establish if they wish to speak to the independent reviewers.
- 2.5 The Review Team are also seeking the views of survivors of CSE who feel able to share their personal experience. It is recognized by all concerned that this requires a sensitive approach. The Council is collaborating with the Review Team to ensure that this request is managed appropriately.
- 2.6 A log of all requests for information, documentation and interviews is being maintained by the Council and progress in the timely provision of these is monitored by the GMCA.
- 2.7 The Review team are expected to report their initial findings to the GM Steering Group by the end of the calendar year 2020. This is an independent review and Oldham Council do not have any direct ability to influence the timing of this report.
- 2.8 Any reports or other concerns from members of the public which relate to current or historic sexual abuse continue to be responded to through the Adult and Children's Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub which is based at the Civic Centre. Anyone with these concerns is encouraged to contact the Council on 0161 770 7777.

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Assuring the Effectiveness of Multi Agency
Responses to Child Sexual Exploitation in
Greater Manchester.

Terms of Reference for Oldham workstream

8 January 2020

Purpose

In September 2017, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, in his role as Police and Crime Commissioner launched an independent assurance exercise to explore the current and potential future delivery model of the response to child sexual exploitation (CSE) across Greater Manchester. The first report of the independent review team is to be published in January 2020 into Operation Augusta a joint police and children's services investigation into child sexual exploitation within the Manchester City area. The review team has also commenced but has not yet concluded an assurance exercise into the exploitation of children in the Rochdale area.

In November 2019, the Leader of Oldham Council, Sean Fielding and Henri Giller, Chair of Oldham Safeguarding Partnership, wrote jointly to the Mayor and the Greater Manchester Safeguarding Standards Board's independent chair Jane Shuttleworth, to request that the review into safeguarding practices in the borough of Oldham be combined into the independent review team's assurance work.

The remit of this aspect of the review will focus on historical allegations relating to child sexual exploitation and consider whether the council, with its partner agencies provided an appropriate response to protect children vulnerable to or known to be victims of child sexual exploitation. The assurance review will specifically consider, but will not be limited to, allegations that have circulated on social media of inappropriate access to young people involving shisha bars, taxi companies and children's homes. It will also, look at the extent to which historical actions and employment records have been adequately investigated in the case of known offenders previously employed within Oldham public services.

The findings of the report completed by the assurance team will be published and communication inquiries will be dealt with by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on behalf of the Mayor, in his role as Police and Crime Commissioner, in consultation with Oldham Council and other partners.

Scope

To review the practice of Oldham Council in partnership with its statutory safeguarding agencies in response to allegations of child sexual exploitation between 2011 and 2014, with particular reference to the concerns expressed in social media and elsewhere that the statutory agencies were aware of this abuse,

failed to respond appropriately to safeguard the children and subsequently covered up these failings. In addition, the review will consider specific cases that may fall outside of the 2011-2014 timeframe (as set out in points 2 and 3 below).

The assurance work will cover the work of the safeguarding agencies in Oldham during the period 2011 to 2014 (Review Period).

The scope of the review will include, but not be limited to, providing assurance in respect of the following concerns:

1. Allegations made on social media about
 - The risks posed to children from local shisha establishments during 2011-14
 - The nature and extent to which adults had inappropriate access to children and young people resident in children's homes in Oldham putting them at risk of harm during 2011-14
 - The nature and extent of the use of local taxi services to access children and young people for the purposes of sexual exploitation during 2011-14
2. Allegations or concerns expressed in relation to specific cases. The review will in particular consider complaints made in a letter by an individual complainant to the Leader of Oldham Council in November 2019 and copied to the Mayor of GMCA. about the handling of her case during 2005/06.
3. The cases of known offenders previously employed within Oldham Council and the extent to which the historical actions and employment records have been adequately investigated by the Council.
4. The review team will not review any active enquiries or on-going investigations into any of these allegations but GMP will support the review by sharing progress on Operation Hexagon.

Methodology

This review will provide assurance through the following methodology:

A desktop review of all reports, audits and performance information on the management of child sexual exploitation during the review period

- Review and evaluate all reports and information provided to Oldham Cabinet, Oldham Scrutiny Committees and the Oldham Local

Safeguarding Board on child sexual exploitation in the borough, including its prevalence prevention and detection during the review period.

- Any whistleblowing allegations made during the review period that relates to CSE or concerns about how the agencies were responding to the issue.
- LSCB Audit and thematic review evidence from the period including Annual reports, and the work of the LSCB sub groups that address the issue of CSE.
- Serious Case Reviews, OFSTED or DFE notification of cases of concern where CSE was an issue during the review period
- Details of any CSE thematic single agency audits held during the the review period.

Scoping the allegations made in social media postings covering the period 2011-14

- Review of social media postings expressing concerns about the council's response to concerns in respect of child sexual exploitation during the review period
- Interviews with individuals who have made significant allegations.
- Preliminary interviews with senior officers in Oldham Council, and if required former officers
- Review of the management of known offenders previously employed within Oldham Council and the extent to which the historical actions and employment records have been adequately investigated by the council
- An initial evaluation of the evidence base for the allegations and setting out of the key lines of inquiry
- Developing key lines of inquiry based on substantive evidence

Gateway Reviews and the engagement of partner agencies

- Regular gateway reviews will be built into the work programme for the review team. The first review will be undertaken by the steering group following the completion of the desktop analysis, the scoping of the allegations and development of the key lines of inquiry. This gateway review will also determine, based on the key lines of inquiry whether access to additional information and data will be required from GMP and NHS agencies
- For the first gateway review the review team will provide a report to the Steering Group. This report will determine if further work is required to provide the necessary level of assurance, including any additional key lines of inquiry. If further information is required a formal request will be

made to access data held by the statutory agencies to complete its assurance exercise.

- To facilitate access to case records, reports, correspondence and other information relevant to the review's inquiries a data processing agreement will be agreed between GMCA, the review team and Oldham Council and if required also with GMP and NHS organisations.

Additional Assurance

The review team will undertake further detailed assurance work, as required, on specific cases where it is identified that children may not have been appropriately protected from sexual exploitation or where there are specific concerns in respect of the conduct of individuals employed by the council in relation to CSE.

This will include evaluation of the records for young people identified at risk of or experiencing CSE at the time and where a concern has been identified that the risk or incidence of CSE was not appropriately identified and responded to at the time.

The Assurance Team

The team will report directly to Baroness Hughes, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, who will act as sponsor.

The team will be led by Malcolm Newsam CBE, who will be supported by Gary Ridgway.

Malcolm Newsam is an experienced child-care expert with extensive experience of providing diagnostics, interventions and improvement support to a range of councils across the country. He has been appointed by the Secretary of State for Education as a commissioner for children's services in Rotherham, Sandwell and Northamptonshire. He was awarded a CBE in the 2017 New Year Honours for services to children's social care.

Gary Ridgway was previously a Detective Superintendent in Cambridgeshire Police and Head of Public Protection. He has pioneered proactive victim-led CSE investigations and led Operation Erle which resulted in the successful conviction of ten offenders. He now works as an independent consultant supporting the National Crime Agency, Councils and Police Forces on CSE.

Governance

- This work has been commissioned by the Mayor of Greater Manchester at the request of Oldham Council and the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership.
- The team will report directly to the Deputy Mayor in relation to progress and outcomes. In 2017, the Deputy Mayor established a steering group to join her in providing governance and oversight of the assurance review. The steering group is chaired by the Deputy Mayor and is attended by the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police, the Chief Executive of Manchester City Council, the Chief Executive of Bury Council, the Chief Executive of Rochdale Council, senior officers from St Mary's Sexual Assault Referral Centre, senior officers of GMCA and the review team. The Oldham workstream will be overseen by this steering group. Oldham Council will be represented on the steering group by the Strategic Director for Communities and Reform and by the Managing Director for Children and Young People.
- There will be regular meetings chaired by the Deputy Mayor to monitor progress, tackle any concerns and agree the next milestones. Additional meetings may be required which will be arranged according to need.
- Whilst formal governance for the review is through reporting lines to the Deputy Mayor, the team will, on a regular basis engage directly with core members of the Local Safeguarding Partnership to discuss matters that relate to the review and progress on the key lines of inquiry.
- The GMCA Deputy Chief Executive will be responsible for the management of the contracts with the external team and will oversee the budget.

Resources and Commitments

- GMCA, on behalf of the Mayor, will engage with partner agencies including GMP, local authorities, NHS colleagues and the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership to explain the scope of, and arrange co-operation with, the assurance team and will organise meetings as required.
- The Deputy Mayor, GMCA's Deputy Chief Executive and the other steering group members will engage as required with Oldham Council, GMP, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust and other relevant NHS organisations in relation to this work to ensure that a data

processing agreement is in place if required in respect of access to case records, reports, correspondence and other information relevant to the review's inquiries.

- GMP will ensure that relevant information on the progress of Operation Hexagon is shared with the review team to support their inquiries
- GMCA, on behalf of the Mayor, will be responsible for all communications in consultation with partners.
- On behalf of the Mayor, GMCA Deputy Chief Executive Andrew Lightfoot, will provide senior executive officer support to the assurance team to ensure it runs effectively and is adequately resourced.
- GMCA, on behalf of the Mayor, will provide legal advice to the assurance team as required and will provide legal input into the final drafting and publication of the report.
- GMCA, on behalf of the Mayor, will provide a note taker to be present at all interviews undertaken by the team and a minute taker for all decision-making meetings.
- GMCA, on behalf of the Mayor, will provide a secure room for the team to be based during their work at Churchgate House. Oldham Council will provide a secure room for the team to be based during their work at the Civic Centre and staff support to access information and records.

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Report to COUNCIL

Oldham's COVID-19 Response - Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Covid-19 Recovery

Officer Contact:

Rebekah Sutcliffe, Strategic Director of Communities & Reform

Report Author: Jonathan Downs (Corporate Policy Lead)

4th November 2020

Reason for Decision

This report provides an update on how the Council and its partners continue to monitor and manage the impact of Covid-19 in Oldham.

Executive Summary

COVID-19 is still circulating across the UK and we continue to see a rise in cases across Oldham every day. This report summarises our activity, demonstrating how we will collectively manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 across our communities.

Recommendations

To note the content of the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 Over the past several months Covid-19 cases have risen in Oldham, across Greater Manchester and nationally. Following the rise in cases Government introduced the “rule of six” on September 14th, making gatherings of more than six people in England illegal, unless they meet one of the exemptions, for example, a wedding or a funeral.
- 1.2 As cases continued to rise across the UK, Central Government introduced three-tier coronavirus alert levels: Medium Level (Tier 1), High Alert (Tier 2) and Very High Alert (Tier 3). On Friday 23 October, following failed negotiations with Government, Oldham, along with the rest of Greater Manchester, was placed into local Covid alert level very high (tier 3) restrictions. Throughout the Council and its partners has maintained a focus on enforcement and compliance, testing, tracing, and communications and community engagement.
- 1.3 Under tier three, very high alert level rules, pubs and bars not serving substantial meals must close, while household mixing is banned indoors and outdoors in hospitality settings and private gardens. Betting shops, casinos, bingo halls, adult gaming centres and soft play areas also must close, and there is guidance against travelling in or out of the very high alert area to reduce the risk of virus transmission.
- 1.4 This report provides an update on how we are continuing to collectively manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 across our communities following the implementation of the new restrictions.

2 COVID-19 in Oldham

- 2.1 As of the 26th October 2020 there has been **8,351** cases of COVID-19 identified in Oldham, **the weekly** infection rates are currently running at around **640** cases per 100,000 people.
- 2.2 Over the past 30 days (**up to 23rd October**), **36,770** people have been tested for COVID-19 in Oldham. This includes **10,396** in Pillar 1 (tests undertaken in hospitals, care homes and staff employed by the health and care sector) and **26,374** in Pillar 2 (commercial labs that process at-home and drive-through tests). Out of the **36,770** tests undertaken, **4,749** people tested positive (**552** in Pillar 1 and **4,197** in Pillar 2). There have been **288** deaths in Oldham (up to 16th October).

3.0 Oldham’s Covid-19 Response Updates

- 3.1 For the purposes of this report, Oldham’s response has been broken down into four key themes: Test, Trace, Enforcement and Compliance, and Community Engagement and Communications.

4.0 Test

- 4.1 **Local Testing** – The ongoing overall aim of Oldham’s local testing approach is to test at least 500 people/100,000 a day, and to have testing sites operating in all 5 districts of the borough each week. We continue testing at a higher daily rate than our Greater Manchester and national counterparts, with an average testing rate over the 7 days to 21st October of 528.7/100,000. We have undertaken a data and intelligence led mapping exercise to identify suitable local testing sites across the 5 districts and this is regularly

reviewed by our Testing Bronze Group. This approach is based on outbreaks, demographics and geographical profiles.

- 4.2 **Door to Door Testing** – Our door to door testing offer launched on Friday 14th August. This offer is operating alongside community engagement work. To date we have held over 10,000 conversations with households and tested 2,300 people on the doorstep. Doorstep testing is being planned systematically based on need, trends and cases, using our hotspot mapping tool.
- 4.3 **Business Testing** – To support local businesses to increase the testing of staff, The Well Pharmacy in Saddleworth has agreed to be part of a pilot to distribute home testing kits for local businesses such as public houses and restaurants. We have also been engaging with high risk workplaces with the aim to complete 10% routine testing as a pilot programme, aiming to prevent outbreaks before they occur.
- 4.4 **School Testing** – We are currently working with schools to ensure they have access to testing kits, with systems being put in place to enable schools to order and replenish their stocks. Throughout the pandemic, we have been safeguarding vulnerable children through a partnership arrangement between education, health, social care and schools; supporting Early Years and school resilience through health advice, infection control and case management; building sector partnership through regular bulletins, virtual meetings and reference groups for stakeholders; and promoting attendance through the education welfare system and school, parental and community campaigns.
- 4.5 **Homelessness Testing** – Working closely with Oldham Street Angels, the 7-day homelessness service enables individuals to provide an address for test results, ensuring that homeless people can access testing facilities in Oldham.
- 4.6 **Care Homes** – In line with national hospital discharge requirements, all patients being discharged to care homes are tested for Covid-19 prior to discharge. We have developed a system-wide risk assessment and individual risk assessment regarding care home admissions. This has involved all parts of the system, including the hospital and forms the basis of our approach to care home admissions.
- 4.7 **Testing Results** – Turnaround time for tests have improved, with the average now 48 hours. As such, a request has been put through to the Department for Health and Social Care and Deloitte for walk up appointments to resume at Local Testing Sites. A similar request has been made to Greater Manchester for Mobile Testing Unit Sites to offer walk up provision to address digital exclusion issues and to have the ability to reserve slots for outbreak management e.g. schools with multiple cases.
- 5.0 **Trace**
- 5.1 We have recognised that Test and Trace is both a key part of our immediate response to COVID-19 and a feature of our locality system for the foreseeable future. The overall aim of our contact tracing approach is to increasing completion rates for cases to 90% and contacts to 85%.
- 5.2 Alongside other Greater Manchester authorities, we have invested in a Greater Manchester Contact Tracing Hub which handles complex cases and situations referred on from the national contact tracing service.
- 5.3 Locally Supported Contact Tracing has been in place in Oldham since mid-August, whereby local contact tracers follow up cases of individuals who have not been successfully contacted by the national team within 24 hours of a positive test. The average number of

cases per day referred to the local team is between 30 – 50, after duplicates have been removed.

6.0 **Enforcement and Compliance**

- 6.1 **Tier 3 Restrictions** – Following the announcement of tier 3 restrictions, all 169 wet pubs (pubs providing just alcohol) in the borough have been written to and informed of the new regulations, including what is required if they decide to start serving a substantial meal. We are working with these premises to provide alternative support, such as signposting them to business grants and other forms of local / regional support as required. Betting shops, casinos, bingo halls, adult gaming centres and soft play areas have also been contacted to offer support. Most premises are complying with the new regulations. Where we have identified non-compliance, premises are being served with directions and in a small number of cases, being temporarily closed.
- 6.2 **Support to Businesses** (please note the information in this section is subject to change) – A new Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) will support approximately 210 businesses in Oldham which stand to lose under the tier 3 restrictions. It is applicable to those businesses that have been required to close for at least three weeks on or after 9th September due to lockdown restrictions. There will also be a discretionary fund to allow support for other businesses affected by closure, which may not be on the business rates list and which are deemed vital to their local economy. Please see section 9.0, *Finance Comments*, for full details of the support available.
- 6.3 **Takeaways** – Various premises are visited on a weekly basis through joint police/environmental health and NSL parking officer visits, ensuring compliance and providing information and support to these businesses to help keep staff and residents safe. Fixed penalty notices have been served for failure to provide / display QR codes (Pubs, restaurants, barbers and museums are required to display new QR codes in a bid to control coronavirus and save lives).
- 6.4 **Covid Cars** – There are 4 Greater Manchester Police Covid Cars on patrol every weekend. These vehicles are responsive and can be called upon to quickly respond to reports of breaches in the restrictions, including people holding parties or meeting in large groups.
- 6.5 **Metrolink** – We have been working with Transport for Greater Manchester (TFGM) on a joint deployment at Metrolink stops, including undertaking face covering compliance checks. This approach enables us to communicate with commuters, ensuring everyone understands the guidance to travelling on Metrolink and to ensure they feel safe while using public transport.
- 6.6 **Barbers and hairdressers** – Further communications activity is planned to remind these establishments about their responsibility for QR codes, as well as Covid safe working practices.
- 6.7 **Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles** – 2500 face coverings have been made available for use across the borough and are issued to taxi drivers as well as other at-risk groups. Work continues to secure the budget to further install safety screens in taxi's and private hire vehicles.
- 6.8 **Furlough** – The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (also known as furlough) was launched at the end of April 2020, providing 80% of the salary costs up to a top limit of £2,500. This scheme ends on 31st October. On 9th October, the Chancellor launched the Job Support Scheme and expanded it so that firms whose premises are legally required to close due to Covid restrictions will receive grants to pay the wages of staff who cannot work. Support will be capped at 67% of their salary level up to a maximum of £2,100 a month.

7.0 **Community Engagement and Communications**

- 7.1 **Community Engagement Teams** – Five community engagement teams are been recruited (one per district). These will provide a more sustainable staffing resource to undertake engagement work over the coming months, supporting our ongoing door-to-door information and testing campaign.
- 7.2 **Public Health Messaging** – Key public health messaging, including updated messaging on the tier 3 guidelines has been communicated through a wide range of engagement channels, including social media, press and billboards. These messages have also been shared in several relevant languages to help achieve as wide an audience as possible.
- 7.3 **We are Oldham Campaign** – The We Are Oldham Campaign aims to show how the borough is coming together to help tackle Coronavirus. It includes stories of residents and community groups who have gone the extra mile, as well as information on how we can all keep safe.
- 7.4 **Mental Health Support** – We know that the Covid-19 pandemic has put a huge strain on people’s mental health with some people feeling socially isolated, anxious and stressed. Through our website, communication channels and partners we have been promoting a wide range of support that’s available, including MIND (the leading mental health charity) and mental health crisis support services. There is also a dedicated helpline for NHS staff, providing confidential listening from trained professionals and specialist advisors, including coaching, bereavement care, mental health and financial help.
- 7.5 **Self-isolation Payments** – Promoting self-isolation payments to support people self-isolating. On 20th September, the Government announced a new national Test and Trace Support scheme. Under the new scheme, payments of £500 are now available for residents who have received notification from NHS Test and Trace to self-isolate, providing that their period of self-isolation started on or after 28th September 2020.
- 7.6 **Social Media** – Social media messaging has continued, showing examples of businesses that are adhering to social distancing rules to keep their customers and staff safe. This includes paid for advertising targeted at “hotspot” areas, particularly sports clubs, pubs and restaurants.
- 7.7 **Test and Trace** – Council departments and local businesses have been worked with to both promote and encourage take up of the NHS test and trace app.
- 7.8 **Reopening the High Street Safely Fund** – Oldham has been granted £210k from the European Regional Development Fund to support safe trading in public places. To date we have used the funding to create radio advertising, billboards, targeted social media posts and face covering reminder stickers for taxi doors. Also, in the pipeline is lamppost signage, sanitising stations and tram and bus advertising to support the Christmas period.

8 **Consultation**

8.1 N/A

9 **Financial Implications**

- 9.1 The Government continues to allocate a range of ringfenced and unringfenced grants to support the Local Government response to COVID-19. The Council has received £16.638m of unringfenced funding and been notified of a further £6.058m. These are grants that are

available to every Local Authority and the impact of these grants on the overall financial position of the Council is included in Financial Monitoring reports presented to Cabinet.

9.2 However, specific funding in relation to the COVID response is as follows:

a) Local Authority Test and Trace Service Support Grant - £1.560m

This grant is being used to support all aspects of the Councils response to the test, track and trace initiative and on activities to control the spread of the infection

b) Infection Control Grant – Tranche 1 £2.017m and Tranche 2 £2.276m

Essentially, the Infection Control Grant is paid to Local Authorities who must then passport this to care providers to support measures to control the spread of COVID-19. The first allocation of £2.017m has been utilized in full. Tranche 2 funding is split into two funding streams, the first of which was received on 1st October and this will be utilized in line with Government guidance. The second funding stream will be paid to Councils in December 2020.

c) COVID-19 Enhanced Response Grant - £0.300m

This grant was received to support on-going initiatives the Council was funding in July/August when Oldham was one of the very few Local Authorities in the country with significant infection levels.

d) Hardship Grant - £3.015m

A report agreed by Cabinet on 23rd April outlined the way in which the Council would use the Government Hardship Grant of £3.015m to provide help with Council Tax payments for working age claimants of Council Tax Reduction (CTR) up to a maximum of £150 and other residents facing financial hardship.

e) Local Authority Emergency Assistance Grant for Food and Essential Supplies - £0.361m

This grant has been allocated to enable the Council to meet the immediate need and help those who are struggling to afford food and essentials due to COVID-19.

f) Next Steps Accommodation Programme - £0.147m

The grant funding must be used to achieve move-on for those rough sleepers accommodated during the pandemic and support a sustained reduction in rough sleeping and the Council is working on a range of initiatives in support of this aim.

g) Local Authority Compliance and Enforcement Grant - £0.155m

This funding is supporting initiatives being undertaken by the Council to enhance compliance and enforcement of measures to control the spread of COVID-19 amongst individuals, businesses and in the community.

h) Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme - £0.245m

The national Test and Trace Support payments scheme of 28th September 2020 will operate until 31st January 2021. Support is available for those told to self- isolate by

Test and Trace because they have tested positive for coronavirus or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive.

Payments of £500 are available to those employed, or self-employed earners also in receipt of means-tested benefits. Payments are also subject to tax, and only available to those who will lose earned income as a result of self-isolating e.g. where statutory sick pay cannot be claimed.

Oldham has been allocated £0.129m for the main scheme and £0.077m for a discretionary scheme (enough to support 154 applications), as well as £0.039m for administrative costs. If more is spent on the main scheme it will be topped up by Government

The guidance allows awards of discretionary payments of £500 to those who satisfy most of the eligibility for the main scheme but are not in receipt of the qualifying benefits. The funding for this scheme is limited and will not be topped up by the Government - so managing the impact of the demand for discretionary payments may be an issue. Common criteria have been agreed across Greater Manchester for the discretionary scheme.

Specific Tier 3 Support

9.3 The movement into tier 3 restrictions has resulted in some additional grants being made available to the Council and the Oldham area. These are as follows:

a) Support for Business

As a result of the movement into Tier 3 restrictions, as advised above, certain businesses will be required to close. The Council will manage payments to eligible businesses via the Local Restrictions Support Grant and will be fully recompensed by Government. Payments are linked to the rateable value of a property and will be paid as follows:

- Businesses with properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive grants of £667 per two weeks of closure (£1,334 per month).
- Businesses with properties with a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive grants of £1,000 per two weeks of closure (£2,000 per month)
- Businesses with properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or over will receive grants of £1,500 per two weeks of closure (£3,000 per month)

There will be a discretionary grant available to support other businesses impacted by the Tier 3 restrictions. This discretionary scheme will be funded from the resources allocated at a Greater Manchester level as part of the agreement with the Government. There are discussions taking place about operating this scheme using a common approach across Greater Manchester although for businesses in Oldham it would be managed by the Council.

b) Contain Outbreak Management Fund

The Council will receive a funding allocation of £8 per head of population from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The exact sum has not yet been confirmed but it will be around £1.9m. This is to additional funding to support local initiatives to cover such issues as:

- Targeted testing for hard-to-reach groups out of scope of other testing programmes
- Additional contact tracing

- Enhanced communication and marketing e.g. towards hard-to-reach groups and other localised messaging
- Delivery of essentials for those in self-isolation
- Measures to support the continued functioning of commercial areas and their compliance with public health guidance.
- Targeted support for school/university outbreaks.
- Community-based support for those disproportionately impacted such as the BAME population.

Business Support at Tier 2

9.4 On 22 October 2020, the Government announced a further round of grant compensation for those businesses in high alert level areas (Tier 2) that are not legally closed but severely impacted by the restrictions on socialising such as hotels, pubs, restaurants, bed and breakfasts and leisure businesses. It is currently anticipated that this will be backdated to 1 August and will run to the start of the Tier 3 measures. Detailed guidance on this support has not yet been issued and eligible businesses have not yet been identified. However, once eligibility has been determined, Oldham businesses will be able to access up funding as follows:

- Businesses with properties with a rateable value of £15,000 or under will receive grants of £934 per month
- Businesses with properties with a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive grants of £1,400 per month.
- Businesses with properties with a rateable value of £51,000 or over will receive grants of £2,100 per month.

There will also be a discretionary fund to allow support for other businesses affected by closures which may not be on the business rates list and those businesses deemed vital to their local economy. More detailed information in respect of the discretionary grant will be available soon. (Anne Ryans – Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer)

10 **Legal Services Comments**

10.1 There are no direct legal issues arising from the report, however, Central Government has issued emergency legislation and guidance in relation to many functions affected by the pandemic and it is important that such functions comply with or have regard to such provisions or guidance to ensure that the Council is acting lawfully. Further, the Council is required to maintain its decision-making processes, ensure good governance and that appropriate health and safety risk assessments are in place and operational to avoid legal challenge. (Colin Brittain)

11 **Co-operative Agenda**

11.1 As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to tackling the impact of COVID-19, protecting our most vulnerable residents and communities. We are putting the voice of the resident at the heart of our response, ensuring the voice of lives experience and the people impacted by COVID-19 shapes our approach to mitigation and recover. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead)

12 **Human Resources Comments**

12.1 N/A

13 **Risk Assessments**

13.1	N/A
14	IT Implications
14.1	N/A
15	Property Implications
15.1	N/A
16	Procurement Implications
16.1	N/A
17	Environmental and Health & Safety Implications
17.1	N/A
18	Equality, community cohesion and crime implications
18.1	The response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the emergency legislation powers introduced to tackle it, has had a significant impact on Oldham's communities.
18.2	In Oldham we are committed to minimising the impact of COVID-19 across our communities. The steps we are taking to tackle the pandemic and the subsequent recovery planning, aim to support people, especially those groups with protected characteristics who are often most impacted.
18.3	To support this approach we have established an Advisory Group, made up of council, community and partnership representatives, to support Oldham Council and the wider partnership with its commitment to integrate Equality and Diversity throughout its Covid-19 response and subsequent recovery planning.
19	Equality Impact Assessment Completed?
19.1	Yes
20	Key Decision
20.1	No
21	Key Decision Reference
21.1	N/A
22	Background Papers
22.1	Council Report – COVID-19 Response – June 2020
22.2	Council Report – Covid-19 Response – July 2020
23	Appendices
23.1	N/A

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COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Democratic Services
Ext. 4705

4th November 2020

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from previous Council meetings.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 9th September 2020.
2. This report also provides feedback on other issues raised at that meeting and previous meetings.

Recommendations

Council are asked to agree the action taken and correspondence received regarding motions and actions agreed at previous Council meetings.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 The report sets out the actions officers have taken on motions of outstanding business and notice of motions approved at the Council meeting held on 9th September 2020.

2 Current Position

2.1 The current position from actions as a result of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One. Letters are attached at Appendix Two in response to the actions approved at Council.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 N/A

4 Preferred Option

4.1 N/A

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 N/A

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 N/A

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

11.1 N/A

12 Property Implications

12.1 N/A

13 Procurement Implications

-
- 13.1 N/A
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:
- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held 9th September 2020 are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 9th September 2020.
- 20.2 Appendix 2 – Letters and other information received in response to actions approved at previous Council meetings.

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Actions from Council 9th September 2020

ACTION	ISSUE/RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Electronic Voting at Council	Permit the use of electronic voting at meetings.	Council	Council approved the report on 9 September 2020.
Question on Cabinet Minutes: Clean Air Update from Councillor Murphy	Emissions tests and number of taxis in the borough	Councillor Brownridge	Response sent. See Note 1 below.
Question on Peak District National Park Authority Minutes from Councillor Harkness	Issue of Illegal Killing of Birds of Prey	Councillor McLaren	Response sent 9 Oct 20. See Note 2 below.
Question on GM Waste and Recycling Committee Minutes	Impact on fly-tipping incidents; spend on cleaning up after fly-tippers; comparisons with previous year; impact due to closure of recycling centres under coronavirus	Councillor Brownridge	Response sent. See Note 3 below.
Administration Motion: Planning for the Future	Response to be sent to the Consultation	Chief Executive	In progress.
Opposition Motion 1: Not Every Disability is Visible	Referred to Overview and Scrutiny	Overview and Scrutiny	In progress.
Opposition Motion 2: Let's All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter	Overview and Scrutiny to examine merits of becoming a Local Authority member of the Keep Britain Tidy Network Letters to be sent to National Supermarket Chains to consider Oldham as a location of a reverse vending machine	Overview and Scrutiny Chief Executive	Information provided to the O&S Board on 20 Oct 2020. See Note 4 below. Letters sent 16 September 2020

	<p>Take Up of the DEFRA Voluntary Code amongst fast food businesses</p> <p>Response from Tesco dated 24 Sep 20 received 28 Sep 20</p> <p>Response from Aldi dated and received 29 Sep 20</p>	<p>Information sent to relevant officers</p>	<p>14 September 2020</p>
<p>Opposition Motion 3: Roads Policing 'Not Optional'</p>	<p>Letters to be sent to the Home Secretary and Secretary of State for Transport</p> <p>Letters to be sent to Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner, Police and Crime Panel and three Local MPs</p> <p>Police and Crime Panel Representative to request the Panel revisit the Local Policing Plan</p> <p>Submission to be made to the Roads Policing Review</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive in conjunction with relevant officers and Cabinet Member</p>	<p>16 September 2020</p> <p>16 September 2020</p> <p>16 September 2020</p> <p>Oldham highway/Unity have provided their support on a technical level to TfGM's Safer Roads Group intended combined response. TfGM Safer Roads Group are now collecting this support from the 10 Districts along with that from other (Police and Goods operators etc.). TfGM will be finalising the submission shortly and submitting to Government.</p>

	<p>Response from Secretary of State for Transport dated 29 Sep 20 received 30 Sep 20</p> <p>Response from D. Abrahams MP dated and received 12 Oct 20</p>		
Oldham's Covid-19 Response	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oldham's Partnership Response to the COVID-19 pandemic be noted. 2. The questions and responses provided be noted. 	Council	Council noted the report on 9 th September 2020
Update on the Actions from Council	<p>RESOLVED that the actions taken regarding motions and actions from previous Council meetings be agreed and correspondence and updates received be noted.</p>	Council	Council approved the report on 9 th September 2020.
<p>Opposition Motion 1: Making a Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (10 July 2019)</p> <p>Amendment submitted (9 September 2020)</p>	<p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report commended to Council by the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee on the work by Oldham which contributed to the ambitions of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals be approved. 2. The amendment as submitted related to 'Pledge to Peace' be referred to Overview and Scrutiny. 	O&S Board and Health Scrutiny	<p>Report commended to Council by O&S Board and Health Scrutiny which was agreed on 9 September 2020.</p> <p>Amendment which was submitted to be considered by O&S Board and Health Scrutiny.</p>

Statement of Community Involvement	RESOLVED that the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) be adopted and made available to view alongside the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA).	Council	Council approved the report on 9 th September 2020.
Treasury Management Review 2019/20	RESOLVED that: 1. The actual 2019/20 Prudential and Treasury Indicators presented in the report be approved. 2. The Annual Treasury Management Report for 2019/20 be approved.	Council	Council approved the report on 9 th September 2020.
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20	RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for 2019/20 be approved.	Council	Council approved the report on 9 th September 2020.

Note 1: Cabinet minute question related to Clean Air Update – response: In terms of vehicles licensed we have 1060 private hire and 85 hackneys. At the present time testers are performing a visual test on exhausts and if there is smoke, they then perform a full test on emissions. With the clean air proposals going out to the consultation the licensing manager feels we should have a more stringent test so has asked that full emissions tests commence on all vehicles.

Note 2: Peak Park District Minute question related to Birds of Prey – response:

“The issue of Bird of Prey persecution is a long-standing problem in the Peak District, as it is throughout the country (see <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/0f04dd3b78e544d9a6175b7435ba0f8c> - the “heat map” (map 2) shows the number of incidents). In 2011, following several years of surveillance initiatives, which failed to significantly address the issue, the Peak District National Park Authority established the Peak District Bird of Prey initiative. This is a joint initiative with local raptor groups, the Moorland Association, National Gamekeepers’ Organisation, Natural England, the National Trust and the police. The Initiative identified target populations for key species, based on past numbers, and has focused particularly on encouraging collaboration between local gamekeepers and raptor workers to monitor birds of prey and tackle persecution. These targets have been adopted within the National Park Management Plan, and progress is reported to members on a quarterly basis to Authority meetings. Our Chief Executive has also provided a recent up-date in her CEO report to the Authority meeting on 2 October.

Although previous years have seen increased and welcome collaboration between gamekeepers and raptor workers, this has shown limited signs of increasing bird of prey populations until recently. However a pair of Hen Harriers bred in the Peak District in 2018 and 2019- the first

time they have bred in two successive years for over a century; the last two years have seen a welcome increase in Goshawk breeding success; and this year saw a significant increase in peregrine breeding success, with all 6 nests successful- double the number in any of the last 10 years. Whilst these are encouraging results, we recognise these still fall short of the target populations which we believe should be present, and incidents of known or suspected persecution still occur. It remains to be seen whether these improvements are short-term or whether, as we hope, they will be part of a longer-term upturn in the fortunes of these birds.

Copies of the Initiative's annual reports can be found at <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/biodiversity/news>. The 2020 interim report gives a brief update on the current season, and the 2019 report provides more information about the targets and trends, and an appendix with more background about the Initiative.

Proving that a wildlife crime has been committed, let alone apprehending the perpetrator, is extremely difficult in these remote locations. We believe that this collaborative approach offers the best opportunity for tackling the issue. We are also in discussion with the RSPB about other possible measures to help birds of prey such as public awareness-raising and satellite tagging.

Police involvement in the Initiative to date has largely been with Derbyshire (and to some extent South Yorkshire) Constabulary. We are currently in discussion with Derbyshire Police about drawing up a statement of intent for working together to tackle rural and wildlife crime, which could potentially be rolled out to other police forces. Our contact with Greater Manchester Police to date has largely been in response to particular incidents."

Note 3: GM Waste and Recycling Minute question related to impact of Covid – response: *Question :At the start of 2020, vehicle number plate recognition and restrictions on the number of visits to municipal tips were introduced in this borough. Can the Cabinet Member tell me if this has had an adverse impact on fly-tipping incidents? How many reports of fly tipping have there been in the current year compared to the comparable period last year? And how much are we currently spending per annum cleaning up after fly-tippers?*

- Vehicle number plate recognition and restrictions on number of visits were introduced to tackle traders illegally using the municipal tips to dispose of trade waste
- The table below shows the amount of tonnages collected from fly-tipping activity in Oldham
- Flytipping figures for the period Jan/Feb/March when the new trade waste restrictions were introduced are actually down on the previous year
- Cost per tonne is £300 for fly-tipping waste and the tonnages for this last year and the previous year are given below.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2019	153.5	124.06	133.12	89.74	86.92	73.38
2020	94.98	63.5	109.1	144.74	108.22	146.22

And can the Cabinet Member tell me if there is any clear indication of a change in behaviour on fly-tipping due to the closure of recycling centres under coronavirus, and can the Council provide an estimated breakdown of what proportion of any increases are related to that, rather than to the change in restrictions on visits, by comparing the data pre-lockdown, under lockdown and post-lockdown?"

- The difficulty we have is factoring in the impact of CV19. From the middle of March we have had a period when the tips were actually closed and then re-opened up with limited access for certain materials. Over this period the Council's Bulky collection service was suspended and there were significant changes to domestic waste collections. The systems we have in place for monitoring fly tipping do not allow for the increases seen in April/May/June to differentiate between changes at the municipal waste collection site and the impact of CV19.

Note 4: Let's All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter – information provided to O&S Board on 20 October:

The Board noted that the local authority was already a member of the network and received information related to a variety of campaigns and initiatives from Keep Britain Tidy. The campaigns and initiatives were assessed individually to see if they were relevant to the Borough. There were some campaigns such as those related to keep beaches clean which were not applicable to Oldham. Where the campaigns were seen as being relevant, they were supported and publicized such as the Love Parks Campaign which was featured during Love Parks Week from July 12th to 21st 2020. The Great British September Clean was also supported all while social distancing. The Great British Spring Clean had to be postponed due to Coronavirus. Consideration to the Charity Bins proposal was given but at this stage it is unable to adopt. Further consideration will be given as part of a future replacement bin programme.

Previous to 9 September 2020 Council:			
ACTION	RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Opposition Motion 1: Tackling Dog Fouling and Nuisance (20 March 2019)	Consultation be undertaken on application of maximum on the spot penalty and O&S Board asked to examine current examples of best practice and confer with the Dog Trust	People & Place / O&S Board	The motion was taken to the O&S Board at the meeting held on 18 June 2019. It was reported to Council on 17 July 2020 that work on progressing the motion via the Overview and Scrutiny Board had been delayed. A councillor had been nominated from the Board to work with officers to progress the points raised and this work would now be prioritised.
Opposition Motion 3: Ban on Fast Food and Energy Drinks Advertising (11 Sep 2019)	Referred to O&S Board	O&S Board	See Note 1 below.
Youth Council Motion: Make Your Mark (8 Jan 2020)	Task and Finish Group with Relevant Cabinet Members	Cabinet Members / Youth Council	In progress. Report in process of being prepared.
Opposition Motion 1: Tax Relief for Public Transport (17 Jun 2020)	Motion referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board	Overview and Scrutiny Board	The motion was discussed at O&S Board on 8 September 2020. The Board has commended the motion back to Council to agree the resolutions as set out in the original motion. (Report attached)

Opposition Motion 2: Accessible Shopping Districts (17 Jun 2020)	Ensure investment took account of good practice in improving access; members be encouraged to consider bids to the Local Improvement Fund and continue to promote and support the work of the Oldham Dementia Partnership, Oldham Dementia Alliance and Oldham Dementia Friends Network	People and Place	In progress – information sent to relevant officers
Opposition Motion 3: Chatty Checkouts and Cafés (17 Jun 2020)	Ask the Health Scrutiny Board to examine issue	Health Scrutiny	See Note 2 below.
Youth Council Motion (15 July 2020)	Quality job opportunities and apprenticeships for young people	Overview and Scrutiny Board	O&S Board agreed a workshop to be organised with the Youth Council and relevant officers. In progress.

Note 1: Ban on Fast Food and Energy Drinks Advertising – Health Scrutiny at its meeting held on 1 September resolved that the motion be referred to Cabinet with a recommendation that the issues raised within the motion related to a ban on fast food and energy drink advertising be progress on a Greater Manchester wide basis, that the matter be raised with the Leaders of the other Greater Manchester authorities and that the Mayor of Greater Manchester be requested to run a campaign on these issues in conjunction with the Greater Manchester local authorities.

Note 2: Chatty Checkouts and Cafes – The motion was discussed at Health Scrutiny on 1 September. The action had been, in the first instance, referred to the Thriving Communities Programme Manager for initial consideration, it being noted that social prescribing was to be considered alongside other activities and priorities which Covid-19 presented. It was proposed that a report to a future meeting be programmed into the Health Scrutiny Work Programme.



Customer Engagement Centre
Baird Avenue
Dundee
DD2 3TN

24/09/2020



Dr Carolyn Wilkins Obe
Level 3 Room 329
Civic Centre
West Street
OLDHAM
Lancashire
OL1 1UT

Our ref: 4274805

Dear Dr Wilkins

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your suggestion of Oldham for a location of any future reverse vending machine trial(s).

We support a Deposit Return System as part of a broader approach to improve recycling and reduce waste.

To encourage customers to recycle plastic bottles, we trialled in-store recycling machines in a number of stores across the UK, which paid customers 10p for every plastic bottle sold by Tesco they return.

The trial has now ended and we're reviewing the feedback received. I have shared your request with our facilities team and we'll consider this request should we decide to continue the scheme.

Kind regards,

Shaun McGlinchey

Customer Service Specialist
On behalf of the Chief Executive's Office
Tel: 0800 072 6685

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From: Richard Conway
Sent: 29 September 2020 09:36
To: Carolyn Wilkins
Cc: Corporate Projects
Subject: Re: Let's All Do Our Bit to Tackle Litter

Dear Dr Wilkins,

Thank you for your recent letter addressed to our CEO Giles Hurley. Giles has read your letter with interest and has asked me to respond to you on his behalf.

In principle Aldi supports a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for plastic bottles and we are conducting a feasibility study into how we could implement such a scheme. As such we are actively engaged with DEFRA as they complete further research into a potential DRS in England, Wales and NI.

Due to the insight we have gained from similar schemes which are already in operation in Aldi Germany, USA and Australia, at this stage we do not have any plans to install trial machines in our stores in England. We are however, very much focused on our preparation ahead of the Government's DRS target implementation date of 2023.

Aldi is committed to tackling waste, and helping our customers do the same, to minimise our impact on the environment. We actively encourage our customers to recycle by providing clear information on all our product packaging and we also recycle plastic and cardboard waste generated through our store network.

We recently committed to halving the volume of plastic packaging we use by 2025, removing 74,000 tonnes of plastic during that time. This is part of our aim to achieve 100% recyclable, reusable or compostable packaging across all products by 2025.

More recently, we committed to halving the volume of plastic packaging we use by 2025 by removing over 2 billion pieces of plastic from circulation.

Thank you for your consideration and I wish Oldham Council well with your campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Richard
Richard Conway
Corporate Property UK/IRL
Corporate Property Director
ALDI Stores Ltd
Holly Lane
Atherstone
CV9 2SQ
United Kingdom

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Department
for Transport

Dr Carolyn Wilkins OBE
Chief Executive and Accountable Officer
Oldham Council
Level 3, Room 329, Civic Centre
West Street, Oldham
OL1 1UG

From the Secretary of State
The Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps

Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 4DR

Tel: 0300 330 3000
E-Mail: grant.shapps@dft.gov.uk

Web site: www.gov.uk/dft

Our Ref: MC/310522
Your Ref: Council – Roads Policing 20200909

29 September 2020

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 16 September, about roads policing.

Road safety is a priority for the Government and the Department for Transport is working with road safety stakeholders to reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured on our roads. We have some of the safest roads in comparison with other countries, but the Government is not complacent and there is more work to be done.

That is why the Government has launched a two-year review into roads policing and traffic enforcement. The Department for Transport will be looking at this with the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs' Council. We aim to identify ways of increasing capability and capacity across a range of agencies. This review will not only highlight where police forces are doing good work, it will show what more can be done to improve road safety. I am grateful that you will be responding to the Call for Evidence, which forms part of the Roads Policing Review. The responses will help shape the future of enforcement of road traffic law.

Operational decisions including resourcing allocations are matters for Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables.

Once again thank you for taking the time to respond to the Call for Evidence.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT

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From: Debbie Abrahams <abrahamsd@parliament.uk>

Sent: 12 October 2020 13:48

To: Carolyn Wilkins <Carolyn.Wilkins@oldham.gov.uk>

Subject: Council Resolution (Case Ref: DA37283)

Dear Carolyn

Thank you for your recent letter (Your Ref: Council – Roads Policing – 20200909), received 6th October.

I appreciate you taking the time to make me aware of the resolutions passed by Full Council and the actions you have taken on behalf of councillors on this issue, including correspondence with the Department for Transport, Home Office and GM Police and Crime Commissioner.

With best wishes

Debbie

Debbie Abrahams MP
Member of Parliament for Oldham East and Saddleworth

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Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Tax Relief for Public Transport Travel

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member Neighbourhoods & Culture

Officer Contact: Helen Lockwood, Deputy Chief Executive

Report Author: Catherine Jackson, Sustainable Transport Officer

Ext. 1387, currently working from home

8 September 2020

Purpose of the Report

Following the full council meeting held on 17th June 2020, Councillor Harkness **MOVED** and Councillor Hamblett **SECONDED** the following motion:

This Council notes that:

- In his article for the Daily Telegraph 'Tax Relief just the Ticket' (6 October 2013), journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be 'allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.'
- Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby 'the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee's) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.'
- The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.
- An annual season ticket costs a Metrolink tram commuter from Shaw to Manchester £1,154, a Train commuter from Greenfield to Manchester £1,208, and a Bus commuter with First Manchester £670.
- Such a tax-relief scheme would represent a significant financial saving for our Borough's commuters.
- Council further notes that now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.

Council resolves to:

-
- Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of The Exchequer to request that this Government introduces a tax relief scheme.
 - This would be on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013) making this effective as soon as possible.
 - Write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester saying that we all should support such a scheme."

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Fielding SECONDED that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4d) the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Councillor Harkness did not exercise his right of reply.

On being put to the VOTE, that the MOTION be REFERRED to Overview and Scrutiny Board was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED under Council Procedure Rule 8.4d), the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny.

Executive Summary

N/A

Recommendations

- The decision that needs to be made is whether to ask the Chief Executive to write a letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Manchester Mayor to consider introducing a salary sacrifice tax relief scheme for Public Transport Travel.
- Asking for this consideration would not commit the Council to taking part in any subsequent scheme.
- The Officer recommends that Overview and Scrutiny agree to ask the Chief Executive to write a letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Manchester Mayor to consider introducing a salary sacrifice tax relief scheme for Public Transport Travel.

Tax Relief for Public Transport Travel

1 Background

- 1.1 There have been several Government led initiatives to enable employers and employees to make savings through salary sacrifice schemes, such as childcare vouchers and cycle2work. This means that the employer provides the funds upfront for an employee to buy goods or services. The employee agrees to pay back the amount from their salary usually over a period of 12 months. The deductions are calculated from the salary before tax and national insurance is calculated. The employee makes savings in their tax and national insurance contributions and the employer saves on their employer national insurance contributions.
- 1.2 Salary sacrifice schemes for Public Transport (excluding rail) were previously made available to employers by Government and in use in Oldham Council under the GreenTravel2WorkScheme.
- 1.3 In the Autumn Statement of 2016, the Chancellor Philip Hammond announced a tightening of salary sacrifice schemes to come into force on 6th April 2017, the start of the new tax year.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 For Oldham Council, Pay and Reward currently manage schemes of this nature which are approved by HMRC. Any employer can set up an approved scheme for their staff.
- 2.2 There isn't currently an approved scheme to allow a salary sacrifice scheme to be set up for Public Transport Travel.

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 The key issue to discuss here is whether to ask the Chief Executive to write a letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Manchester Mayor to ask them to consider bringing back a HMRC approved salary sacrifice scheme for Public Transport Travel.

4 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider

- 4.1 Would a HMRC approved salary sacrifice scheme for Public Transport Travel benefit Oldham employers and employees including the Council and those employed by the Council?

5. Links to Corporate Outcomes

- 5.1 Links to Council ambition to be a Carbon Neutral Borough by 2030.

-
- 6 **Additional Supporting Information**
 - 6.1 The previous scheme aimed to save employees 41% on their annual season tickets.
 - 7 **Consultation**
 - 7.1 N/A
 - 8 **Appendices**
 - 8.1 GreenTravel2Work Scheme 2005, information leaflet.



Report to COUNCIL

Council Size Submission – Electoral Review of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Elizabeth Droган, Head of Democratic Services

4th November 2020

Executive Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council's local government electoral arrangements. The outcome of the review will be implemented for the 2023 Council elections.

The attached document has been produced to help inform the first part of the review on Council Size. The Commission will form its view regarding Council Size for Oldham by considering the following;

- The Governance Arrangements of the Council
- The Council's Scrutiny Functions
- The representational Role of Councilors

Recommendations

That Full Council approves the Council Size Submission to the Local Government Boundary Review Commission for England.

1 **Background**

- 1.1 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has informed the Council of its decision to carry out an Electoral Review of the Council and the number of wards and ward boundaries for the Council.

2 **Current Position**

- 2.1 Under stage 1 of the review, the Council is required provide the Local Government Boundary Commission with a Council Size Submission which provides the Council's view on the appropriate number of Councils (council size) using relevant supporting evidence. The submission date to the Local Government Boundary Commission is 23rd November 2020.
- A cross departmental officer working Group produced the submission and this was presented to Group Leaders. The recommendation contained within the submission is that the Council size remains the same.
- Individual Members and Groups are able to submit their own representation to the LGBCE if required.

3 **Options/Alternatives**

It is a statutory requirement for the Council to produce the information requested by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in relation to Council Size. If Members disagree with the submission and recommendations an alternative proposal can be submitted which meets the statutory criteria.

4 **Financial Implications**

Included in the report (Mark Stenson)

5 **Legal Implications**

Included in the report (Paul Entwistle)

6 **Co-Operative Agenda**

Comments are included in the report (Jonathan Downs)

7 **Background papers**

The following is a list of the background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents, which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by that Act.

File Ref: Councillor Survey Results

Held by: Constitutional Services

Email: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

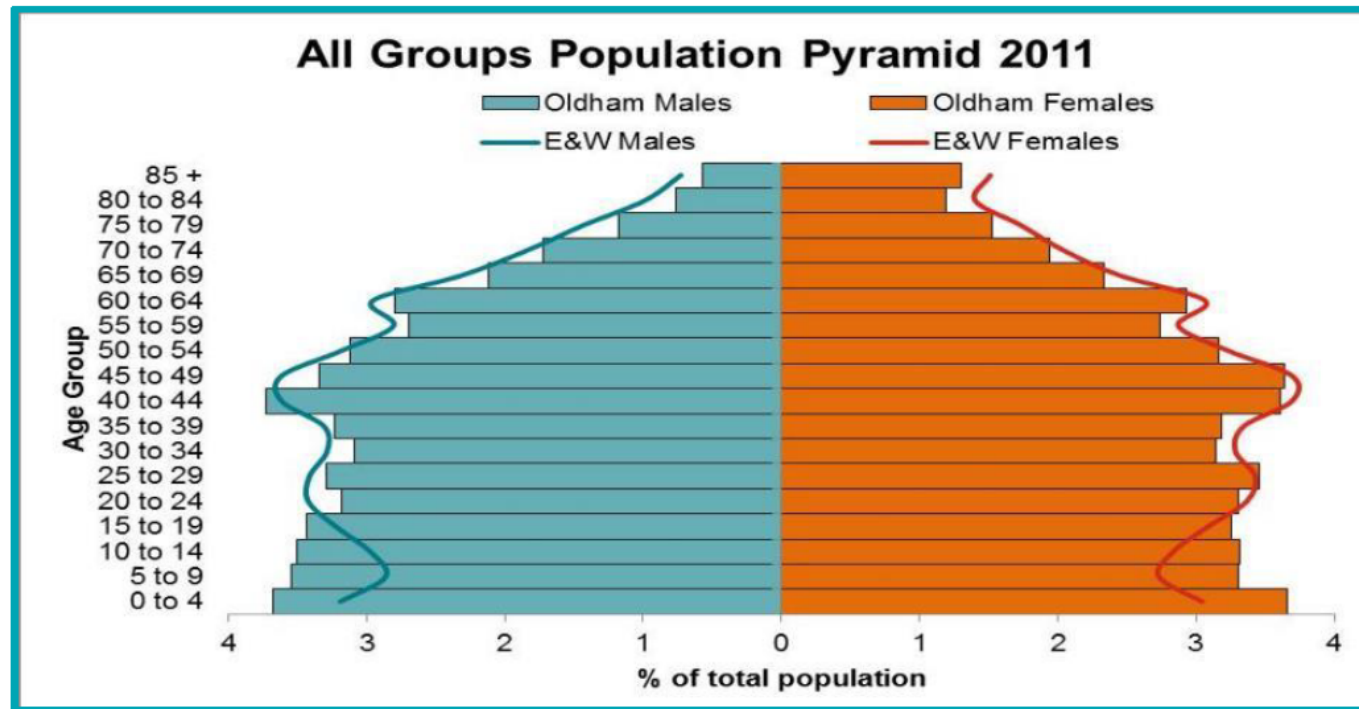
8 **Appendices**

- 8.1 Appendix 1 - Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council – Council Size Submission.

Council Size Submission

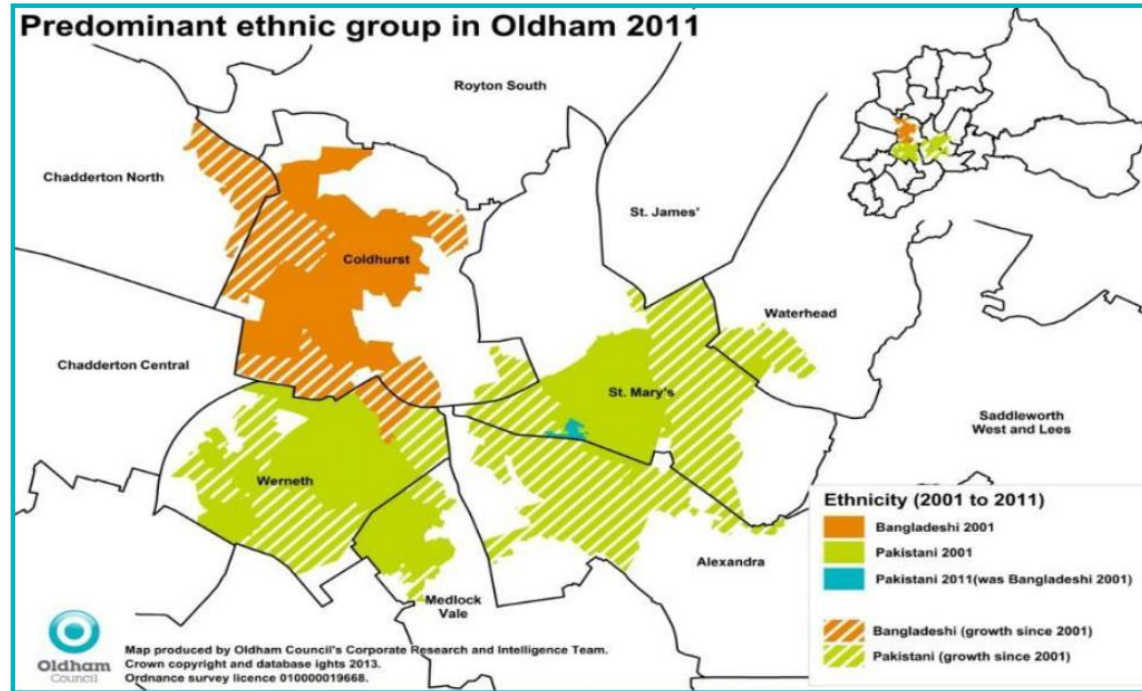
Local Authority Profile

- Oldham is a local authority within the Greater Manchester conurbation. Though predominantly urban, Oldham benefits from a high-quality rural and semi-rural environment, including a quarter of the borough lying within the Peak District National Park. This means Oldham has more countryside than other GM local authorities, with a less complete transport network than that seen in urban areas.
- Economically, Oldham has many challenges, stemming largely from its history as a cotton town. As the cotton industry declined jobs were partially replaced by those in heavy industry and manufacturing, although not on the scale of places like Warrington and even Tameside owing in part to the limited availability of flat areas of open land. Oldham is home to several national and international brands and companies including the Trinity Mirror Group, Diodes Incorporated, Ferranti Technologies, Seton Healthcare Ltd, Park Cake Bakeries, Innovative Technologies, Ambassador Textiles, and Nov Mono Pumps.
- Demographically, after 100 years of population decline Oldham has now returned to population levels last seen in the early 1900's, with further increase expected. Oldham has a high proportion (22.5%) of residents aged under 16 and proportionally fewer (15.7%) aged 65 and over. The age distribution of the borough is as follows:



Source: ONS Census 2011

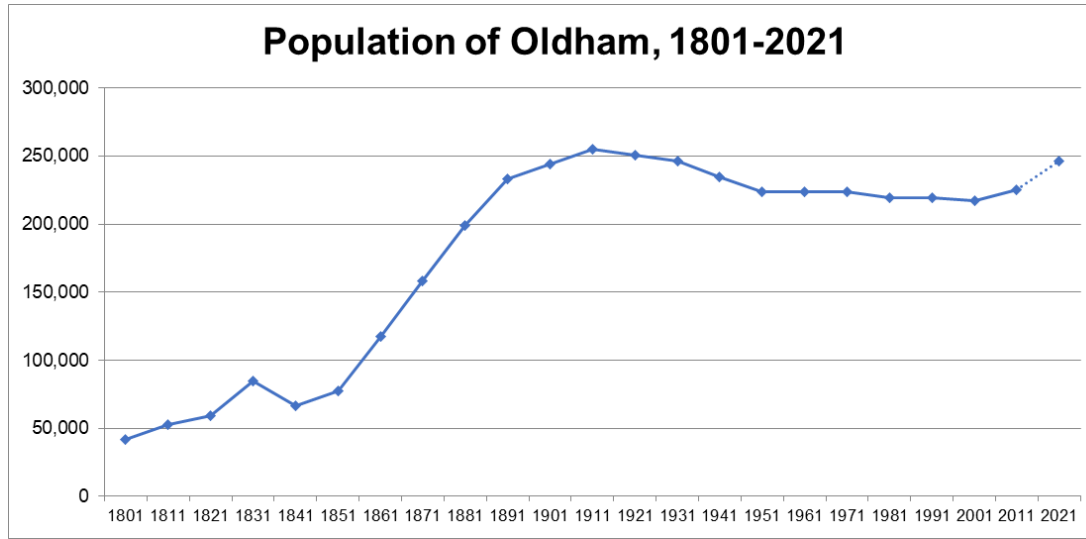
- The overall structure of the population has shifted downwards due to the growth in Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities, which have younger age profiles. The expected future population increase will be driven both by the growth of relatively young ethnic minority populations and programmes of new house building opening-up more suburban areas for development.
- Oldham has a higher proportion (22.5%) of non-white Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) residents than in Greater Manchester (16.3%), the North West (9.8%), and England (14.6%). This proportion has increased from 13.5% in 2002. The ethnic composition in Oldham currently stands at 77.5% White, 10.1% Pakistani, 7.3% Bangladeshi and 5.1% 'other'. Oldham's Pakistani and Bangladeshi communities are primarily concentrated around the Oldham town centre wards of Coldhurst, St Mary's, Alexandra and Werneth as illustrated on the map below:



Source: ONS Census 2011

Population Forecasts

- The population of Oldham is growing, after a period of decline in the 20th Century, following the closure of many of Oldham's mills:



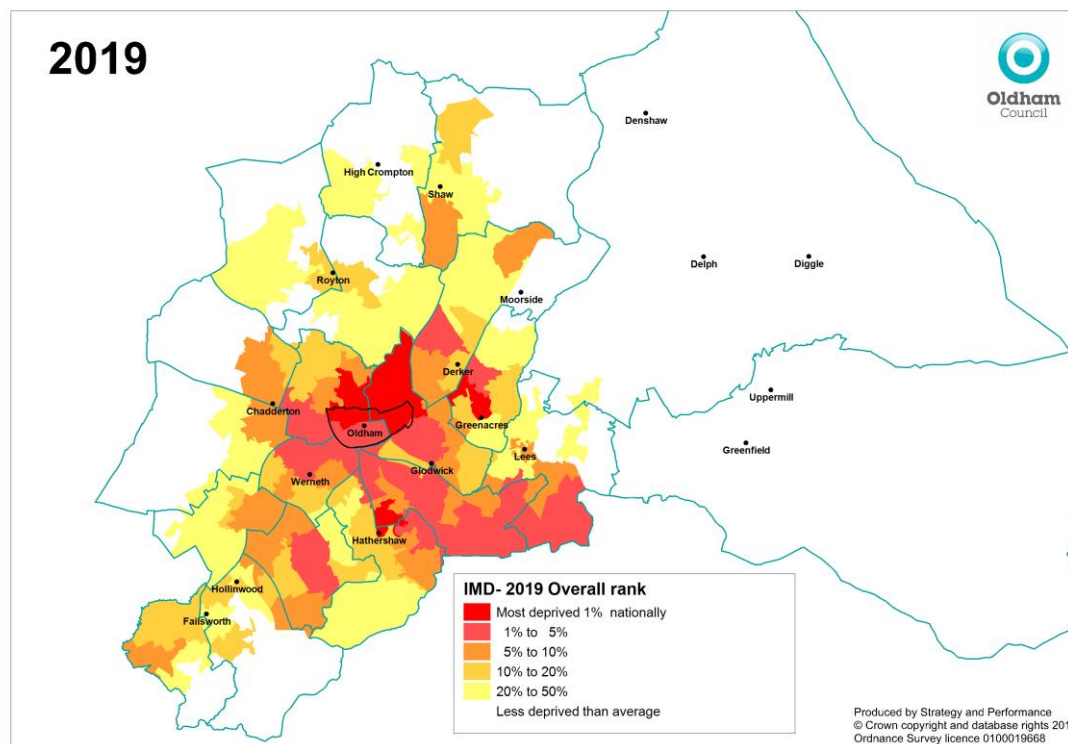
Sources: 1801-1991 Vision of Britain, 2001 Casweb, 2011 Nomis, 2021 Oldham 2020-based projection

- There are two population projections available: the official ONS Sub-National Population Projection (SNPP), and the council’s own projection. The latter uses data available within the council and puts our population as slightly higher than the official projections.
- Both have the population of Oldham continuing to grow for the foreseeable future:

Year	ONS SNPP-18	Oldham Council's own projection
2018	235,623	241,860
2019	237,112	243,540
2020	238,525	244,930
2021	239,878	246,200
2022	241,176	247,440
2023	242,395	248,600
2024	243,495	249,730
2025	244,539	250,860
2026	245,551	252,010

Deprivation

- Deprivation in local authorities is usually measured by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Levels of deprivation directly impact on the caseload and community working of elected members, with higher levels of deprivation leading to increased intervention and need.
- According to the Office for National Statistics Oldham is one of the most deprived boroughs in the UK. Oldham currently has four areas within the borough which are among the top 1% of the nation's most deprived areas. Most of these areas are centred in and around the town centre, particularly within the wards of St Mary's, Coldhurst and Alexandra. Only the wards of Crompton, Saddleworth North and Saddleworth South do not contain any areas that fall within the nation's top 20% most deprived. In Oldham, 33 per cent of children are in absolute poverty.



- As can be seen below, Oldham's IMD rank has worsened over time. Of perhaps particular relevance is the worsening in the extent rank, which would imply that more elected members will be seeing a greater workload associated with deprivation.
- Our local councillors are on the front line when it comes to supporting families and individuals who are in crisis. Individually, councillors often encounter constituents in distress either at surgeries, or through referrals, emails and telephone calls. We know that many people who come to our councillors for help – whether for housing, financial or family issues – are struggling with their mental health too. This often means elected members are supporting these individuals on an ongoing basis to get the support they need, placing a significant demand on their time. Higher levels of unemployment, and particularly youth unemployment, are also linked to anti-social behaviour and community tensions, which also add substantially to councillor caseloads. Councillors have reported rarely taking the full recess to which they are entitled owing to the ongoing demand of residents, which can increase during holiday periods when issues like hunger are more prominent, particularly for young people.
- Examples of support provided by councillors include helping constituents to access advice and support through our Welfare Rights, Revenue and Benefits Team to resolve issues in relation to Council Tax arrears.
- While it should be added that these figures are relative rather than absolute, we would still expect relative deprivation increases to impact on workload, as they will at the very least affect lifestyle expectations versus national norms.

Domain	2019 Rank (of 317 LAs)	2015 Rank (of 326 LAs)	2010 Rank (of 326 LAs)	2007 Rank (of 354 LAs)	2004 Rank (of 354 LAs)
IMD Score	19	34	37	42	43
Income Scale	39	44	44	39	48
Employment Scale	46	45	48	49	44
Concentration	22	28	25	23	26
Extent	18	29	30	34	36

- Child poverty is another important marker. According to recently released DWP/HMRC calculations, 38% of Oldham children are now in relative poverty, up from 28.7% five years ago. Oldham has the highest child poverty figures nationally, and one of the highest rates of increase, so we might expect deprivation to remain high over the next five years and beyond.

- Our Councillors also work to support residents through their knowledge of and work with local voluntary and charitable organisations in their area. Councillors have, for example, worked to support local charities by making them aware of potential sources of funding from within the Council and across Team Oldham. This has helped to ensure the longer-term sustainability of organisations that provide frontline support in some of our most disadvantaged wards.
- The Council has established a focused long-term strategy to tackle poverty in the borough, including establishing a commitment to support every school to reach a “good” Ofsted rating. This strategy does, however, recognise that tackling poverty can only be achieved sustainably over the long term, meaning that the negative impact of deprivation on councillor workload will remain for the foreseeable future.

Impacts of Covid-19

- The impacts of Covid-19 are likely to further increase elected member workload.
- Covid-19 has exacerbated many of the challenges we have been facing in Oldham, especially when it comes to high levels of unemployment. Between 12th March and 13th August, unemployment claimants in Oldham rose by 6,515 to a total of 13,985 claimants. Since the beginning of Covid-19, Oldham’s monthly Claimant Count has increased by 108.7%. Since the beginning of Covid-19, Oldham’s monthly youth Claimant Count has increased by 136.5%. 40,900 employees are on furlough schemes such as the CJRS and SEISS, which gives Oldham an estimated furlough rate of 40.94% (July 2020). Based on the path of the last recession, and Oldham’s levels of economic resilience, we would expect at a minimum that there would be significant unemployment impacts for at least 3 years (as was seen last recession), and perhaps 5 years or more (given that the economic impacts this time appear to be significantly more severe nationally). Hence there are likely to be caseload implications for members.
- This significant increase in unemployment is going to lead to additional pressure across the system, especially across crisis support services. Our elected members are already seeing a huge increase in workload due to people losing their jobs, being made homeless, or requiring emergency support and provision. Members report increasing enquiries for support accessing welfare, with business support, on council tax and greater levels of door to door engagement alongside officers. Elements of this caseload increase are likely to remain for a considerable number of years to come.

- Over the past six months we have seen a 5-fold increase in the use of food banks, with many of our elected members volunteering to distribute essential food and medicines through our emergency hubs. Our District Teams who support our local councillors have been redeployed to support our crisis response, meaning that there is a backlog of core casework that will need to be completed.
- Through our Place-Based approach, we will be better able to support our elected members to complete this work, though it's important to recognise the challenges that Covid-19 has presented, especially to our most deprived communities.
- We are aware that Covid 19 has impacted disproportionately on our diverse communities in Oldham and our local Councillors, as community connectors, have played a pivotal role in working with their local community contacts and networks to ensure information about Covid19 is accessible to everyone. Our Councillors have, for example, participated in door-knocking and leafleting exercises and worked with local faith leaders to ensure constituents are aware of and adhere to Covid restrictions.
- Others have been directly involved in the delivery of food and medical supplies to shielded constituents during the lockdown – using their local knowledge and connections to ensure that all those who need help receive it; especially those previously not known to services.
- Further, there are significant numbers of other Covid-19 impacts being documented locally or nationally which will impact on workloads into the future, only some of which are listed here:
 - Reviews of Covid-19 practices, internally or by external bodies
 - Increased poverty crisis issues (food and fuel poverty, eviction, pensions etc)
 - Lack of support for those with long term conditions
 - Increased mental health issues
 - Vaccination campaigns and community advocacy
 - Increased addiction issues (drugs, alcohol, gambling)
 - Contested health and safety situations
 - Business support for new or failing businesses
 - Support for charities and other 3rd sector groups seeing increased demand
 - Increased fly tipping
 - Increased hate offences
 - Fraud and cyberattack

- Increased relationship breakdowns and domestic violence

Council Size

The Commission believes that councillors have three broad aspects to their role. These are categorised as: Strategic Leadership, Accountability (Scrutiny, Regulation and Partnerships), and Community Leadership. Submissions should address each of these in turn and provide supporting evidence. Prompts in the boxes below should help shape responses.

Strategic Leadership

Respondents should provide the Commission with details as to how elected members will provide strategic leadership for the authority. Responses should also indicate how many members will be required for this role and why this is justified.

The Council currently has 60 Councillors elected by thirds. There are 20 wards within the Borough with three Councillors representing each of the Borough's wards.

The Political composition of the Council is:

- The Labour Group 44 Members
- The Liberal Democrat Group 8 Members
- The Conservative Group 4 Members
- Independent 2 Members
- Vacancies 2 Members (to be filled at 2021 election)

Full Council

Full Council meetings take place eight times a year comprising: An Annual Meeting, a Budget Meeting and six ordinary meetings. Extraordinary meetings are convened as and when required by the Council's Constitution. Full Council Meetings comprise all 60

ward Councillors, one of whom is also the Civic Mayor and chairs the meetings.

Full Council has responsibility for taking decisions that affect the Council's Constitution, approve and adopt the budget and policy framework, appoints the Leader of the Council, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor and Council Committees, and all matters reserved to the Council by law. There is good attendance and participation of Councillors in Council meetings demonstrated by the debating of submitted Motions, the asking of questions of Cabinet Members on both corporate and ward issues, and discussion of significant issues affecting the Borough.

The Executive

The Council operates an Executive System with a Strong Leader Model of governance and has done so since 2009. The Council appoints one of its 60 members to be the Leader of the Council and this appointment is for a prescribed period (4 years) unless the Leader resigns from the position, ceases to be a Councillor or is removed from the position by Full Council by resolution. The period of office of the current Leader of the Council was due to expire in May 2020 but has been extended by virtue of provisions within the Local Authorities and police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

The Leader provides political and strategic leadership of the Council and specific duties include:

- Political Leadership - being principal spokesperson for the Council; providing political leadership and direction to the style, priorities, strategic policy and strategic management initiatives of the Council, and developing and managing Members of the Executive.
- Corporate Leadership - taking overall political responsibility for the revenue and capital budget strategies, priorities and the Corporate Plan which underpin the Budget and Policy Framework; providing political leadership to the Chief Executive, Chief Officers, and all other officers in relation to the Corporate Plan and to the development and implementation of the Budget and Policy Framework
- Accountability and Governance - Reporting when required to bodies such as Full Council, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Cabinet, partners and other stakeholders and promoting good governance by promoting open and transparent decision making.
- Community Leadership - Promoting Council priorities, acting as an advocate for residents and local communities.
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority/Association of Greater Manchester Executive Board –The Leader is the Council's representative on both the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Association of Greater Manchester (AGMA) Executive Board which both comprise the Leaders or elected Mayors of the ten Greater Manchester Councils and the

elected [Mayor of Greater Manchester](#), who work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city-region. Each Council Leader and elected Mayor holds a portfolio of responsibilities at the Greater Manchester level. The current Oldham Council Leader is responsible for Employment Skills and Digital.

- The Leader is also the representative for the Brough in relation to national bodies and forums to promote the Borough.

All executive functions of the Council are, by law, vested in the Leader of the Council who may, as he/she sees fit, delegate executive functions to the Cabinet, Cabinet Committees or Boards, individual Cabinet Members, district partnerships or Officers, or arrange for the delivery of executive functions through joint arrangements. The Leader determines all delegation of executive functions, appoints the Cabinet and determines the Cabinet Member Portfolios and responsibilities.

The current Cabinet comprises nine Members (including the Leader). The size of the Cabinet and the roles of individual members of the Cabinet is reviewed by the Leader of the Council, considering changing circumstances and challenges, and while the Leader may make changes in mid-year, the Annual Council always receives details of the Leader's executive arrangements for the coming year. For example, in June 2020 the size of the Cabinet was increased by one and responsibilities re-allocated to provide for a Cabinet Member with specific responsibilities linked to the Borough's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Oldham Council's Executive comprises the Cabinet, Cabinet committees and sub-Committees, and the Commissioning Partnership Board. Part 3 of the Constitution sets out in detail matters reserved for Executive decision

<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/documents/s118524/ConstitutionPart3ResponsibilityforFunctionsJune2020.docx.pdf>

Executive Body	Membership
Cabinet	9 Executive Members
Bishops Park Trust Cabinet Sub-Committee	3 Executive Members
Community Asset Transfer Cabinet Sub- Committee	3 Executive Members
Failsworth Trust Committee Cabinet Sub- Committee	3 Executive Members
Local Improvement Fund Committee Cabinet Sub-	Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the

Committee	Council, and Cabinet Member for Finance and Human Resources
Shareholder Committee	4 Executive Members
Commissioning Partnership Board	Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Covid Recovery, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

The Cabinet

The Council's Constitution provides for the Leader to appoint at least two but no more than 9 Executive Members to sit on the Cabinet. The Cabinet meets on average 12 times a Municipal year and makes key decisions above certain financial thresholds. During the 2018/19 Municipal year the Cabinet made 70 key decisions.

Key Decisions that are to be taken by Cabinet, Cabinet Members or its Committees are published in a Key Decision Document on the Council's website 28 days in advance of the decision being made. The meetings are open to the public except where confidential or exempt matter are being discussed of which notice has been given.

Cabinet Members

Each Cabinet Member has been allocated responsibility for a particular portfolio area. In relation to their portfolio areas, Cabinet Members have delegated powers assigned to them by the Leader of the Council to make decisions on matters relevant to their particular portfolio as set out in the Council's constitution. Cabinet Members make decisions in relation to contracts/key decisions above a financial threshold within their relevant portfolios.

Deputy Cabinet Members

The Leader of the Council may nominate Members of the Council to act as ‘Deputy Cabinet Members’. The role of these Members is to assist the Portfolio Holder to whom they are assigned. Deputy Cabinet Members cannot, by law, exercise any formal executive decision-making powers, either in a meeting or in connection with any individual delegated powers.

Deputy Cabinet Members may:

- Deputise for Cabinet Members at Cabinet briefings
- Deputise for Cabinet Members when responding to questions at Full Council
- Be appointed a Member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee (provided the matter under consideration is not related to the portfolio).

Since June 2020 there have been 9 Cabinet portfolio areas. These are detailed below:

Leader of the Council	Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader	Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member	Stat. Deputy Leader
Economy and Skills	Education	Neighbourhoods and Culture	Finance and Green	Children and Young People	Health and Social Care	HR and Corporate Reform	Housing	COVID-19 Response
City region and devolution	Education and Skills Commission	Highways	Capital projects and investments	GM Children's Partnership	Adult social services	First response	Strategic housing	Community wealth building
External relations	Education Alliance	Trading Standards	Finance	GM Children's Services Review	Adult safeguarding	District working	Housing quality enforcement	Unemployment
Policy and performance	School place planning	Registrars and cemeteries	ICT and transactional services	Adoption and fostering	Provider services	Early help	Planning and building control	Isolation
Communications and media	Looked after children – educational	Car parking and enforcement	Internal Business Support Unit	Children in care	Disability services and adaptations	Public service reform	Homelessness	Community cohesion

	performance							
Regeneration and infrastructure		Street lighting	Revenues and benefits	Child safeguarding	Family support	HR and organisational development		Community engagement
Enterprise and business support		Environmental services	Customer Services (inc. Contact Oldham)	Children's health and wellbeing	GM Adult Services Review	Council workforce and progression		Poverty
Corporate property and assets		Licensing	Energy	Youth service	Health devolution	Community safety and policing		
Oldham town centre and markets		Libraries, heritage and local studies	Green New Deal	Early years	Oldham Locality Plan	Youth justice		
Get Oldham Working		Culture and arts	Unity Partnership		Health improvement	Community justice		
Employability		Transport	Welfare rights		Mental health	Probation services		
Work and skills strategy		Waste and recycling						
Lifelong learning		Clean air						
Apprenticeships								

The Deputy Cabinet Member portfolios are listed below:

Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member	Deputy Cabinet Member
Skills	Education	Neighbourhoods and Culture	Finance and Green	Early Years	Poverty	Health and Social Care	Blue Light Services

In addition to the requirements to take decisions under the Scheme of Delegation and exercise their responsibilities in their particular Portfolio, members of the Cabinet will be required:

- a) to work, as appropriate, with the other Executive members and with Chief Officers and their staff to compile and, after approval, implement the approved Budget and Policy Framework. The collective responsibility to implement the approved Budget and Policy Framework includes the monitoring of both service delivery and financial performance during the year, and, when necessary, ensure that remedial action is identified and then carried out;
- b) to represent the Council, or arrange for it to be represented, in all National, Regional and Local forums relevant to their responsibilities; This includes a range of Committees within the Greater Manchester Combined Authority in relation to their portfolios and representation on Joint venture bodies and local partnerships.
- c) to work, as appropriate, through formal and informal partnerships with voluntary, private sector and other public sector interests to enhance the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the local community;
- d) to contribute to the preparation, carrying out and monitoring of performance of the Community Strategy (“The Oldham Plan”), the Corporate Plan, and other Strategies and Plans of equivalent status; to liaise and work with other members of the Cabinet as and when required, balancing the demands and requirements in relation to personal Portfolio responsibilities with cross cutting corporate perspectives and obligations;
- e) to commission relevant research, especially into better ways of service delivery, in relation to personal Portfolio responsibilities. When doing so, Cabinet members will be expected to place citizens’ needs for services and information above the preferences of service providers while recognising the practical, legal and financial constraints which apply;
- f) to liaise with and respond to the Chairs or Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as and when required,

balancing the demands and requirements of personal Portfolio responsibilities with cross cutting corporate perspectives and obligations;

- g) to ensure that all actions and activities of the Council, especially those in relation to personal Portfolio responsibilities are carried out in a socially inclusive way, in full acknowledgement and discharge of the legislation on gender, race, disability and the environment;
- h) to contribute to the determination, adoption, application and review of operation of the Corporate and Service Strategies, Policies and Standards;
- i) to monitor the effectiveness of and levels of satisfaction in current service delivery;

Individual Cabinet Members can also make key decisions and make contract decisions in line with financial thresholds. Part 3 of the Constitution sets this out in detail

<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/documents/s119536/Part%203%20-%20Responsibility%20for%20Functions.pdf>

The workload of Cabinet Member is a full-time role and demands on time including reading documents, attending meetings, individual decision making, as well as decision making at Cabinet makes it difficult for this role to be undertaken part-time. Cabinet members also hold positions on a wide range of sub-committees, joint committees, outside bodies and partnerships including:

- Commission Partnership Board
- Oldham Leadership Board
- Oldham Economic Development Board
- Shareholder Committee
- Foxdenton Development Company
- First Choice Homes Oldham
- Capital Programme Investment Board
- Corporate Property Board
- Corporate Parenting Board

Cabinet Members also attend Scrutiny meetings relevant to their portfolios and attend several portfolio related Grater Manchester Combined Authority Committee and Partnership meetings.

Non-Executive Councillors

There are 51 non-Executive Councillors who are expected to attend Full Council and in addition sit on various Committees of the Council. In addition to Full Council every Councillor sits on at least 1 committee of the Council.

Council Delegation

Non-Executive functions are delegated by the Council. The Council's Constitution sets out the delegation arrangements in respect of Regulatory functions including Planning and Licensing functions.

Executive Delegation and Terms of Reference

The Leader determines the nature and extent of the delegation of executive functions and powers to the Cabinet, Cabinet Committees or Boards, individual Cabinet Members, district partnerships or Officers, or through joint arrangements, and the terms of reference of any Cabinet Committee, Board or Joint Committee established.

The Cabinet may delegate all or some of its powers to a Cabinet Committee or Board, a district partnership or an officer. A Cabinet member may delegate all or some of their delegated powers to a district partnership or an Officer. A Cabinet Committee or Board, or an individual Cabinet member holding delegated powers, may delegate all or some of their delegated powers to a district partnership or an Officer. Details of such delegations and the terms of reference are provided at Sections 7-9 of Part 3 of the Constitution.

Accountability

Give the Commission details as to how the authority and its decision makers and partners will be held to account. The Commission is interested in both the internal and external dimensions of this role.

Executive decision makers are held to account through the scrutiny function via:

- the call-in process which allows any two Members of the Council to call-in eligible executive decisions taken by the Cabinet, Cabinet Committees/Sub-Committees, individual Cabinet Members and the Commissioning Partnership Board (a Committee-in-Common established with the Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group) for scrutiny before they are implemented. Any decision called in is considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in public (subject to any exception as a result of exempt or confidential information forming part of the consideration). A representative of the decision maker (or the decision maker in the case of an individual decision) is required to attend and explain the decision before the Committee;
- the publication of a Forward Plan (or Key Decision Notice) that provides all Members of the Council and the public with at least four weeks' notice of major decisions that are intended to be taken by the executive. This provides an opportunity for Members of the Council to seek a prior scrutiny consideration of a proposal and alerts members of the public to issues that they might wish to make representations on.
- the statutory requirement for certain policy proposals that are being developed by the Cabinet for submission to the full Council for adoption to be consulted upon through the overview and scrutiny function – this is the 'Policy Framework'. The views of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reported to the Cabinet who respond to the matters raised.
- the similar statutory requirement for the Council's annual budget and related proposals that are being developed by the Cabinet for submission to the full Council for adoption to be consulted upon through the overview and scrutiny function. The views of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee are reported to the Cabinet who respond to the matters raised.
- the consideration by Overview and Scrutiny Committees of regular financial and performance monitoring reports, enabling the identification of poorly performing areas and the holding to account of the respective executive Member.
- any non-executive Member of the Council can have an item relevant to the functions of that Committee included on an agenda, subject to the Chair considering the request against the Committee's prioritisation framework.

The Council has had an overview and scrutiny function comprising three Committees/Sub-Committees for some time. The structure was reviewed in early 2020 during which it was considered that the three-body model remained appropriate to Oldham's needs and had proved deliverable in terms of both Member and Officer time and capacity. In considering options, a thematic approach to

overview and scrutiny was considered (comprising, in brief, a corporate/strategic Committee, a 'place' based Committee, and a Committee covering health, schools and care), alongside the policy/performance/health model ultimately adopted. Implementation of the new structure was delayed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic but will be implemented no later than the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in 2021.

The new structure comprises the three following Committees:

- a Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee that would lead the development of the overview and scrutiny process in Oldham; undertake strategic level scrutiny relating to the Council and to outside bodies and partners; scrutinise the Policy Framework and Budget proposals of the executive; be the statutory designated 'crime and disorder' overview and scrutiny committee; and consider all called in business (with the exception of called in business from the Commissioning Partnership Board);
- a Performance and Value for Money Overview and Scrutiny Committee that would monitor and hold to account the performance of service delivery within Oldham Council and of strategic partners; scrutinise plans for improvement where performance is weak and maintain oversight until performance improves; scrutinise the financial performance of the Council against the approved budget and identified efficiency savings; and scrutinise issues identified as requiring improvement by external assessors (with the exception of social care matters); and
- a Health Scrutiny Committee that would discharge the statutory health scrutiny functions of the Council; scrutinise the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board, including the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy; scrutinise any joint arrangements established or being established under a s75 Agreement between the Council and a relevant NHS organisation; scrutinise public health services generally; scrutinise issues identified as requiring improvement by external assessors in respect of social care matters; and consider called in business arising from the Commissioning Partnership Board.

All three Committees would hold the power to make referrals to the Council or to the executive, either in accordance with statutory or Constitutional requirements or as a Committee might consider appropriate in the circumstances.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, the current Overview and Scrutiny Committees collectively had been programmed to meet on 22 occasions over the 2020/21 Municipal Year, broadly on a six-weekly cycle with additional meetings linked specifically to the budget development process. It is envisaged that a similar pattern and number of meetings would be programmed for the new committees

when implemented.

Alongside the three formal Committees, the council has established an additional Scrutiny Committee dedicated to looking at the response to Covid for the duration of the pandemic.

The undertaking of scrutiny work outside of a formal Overview and Scrutiny Committee setting is a longstanding feature of Oldham's overview and scrutiny arrangements and is recognised as essential if an effective scrutiny work programme is to be delivered. The terms of reference of all three new Overview and Scrutiny Committees permit the establishment of Task and Finish Groups, Inquiries, or other such bodies to give in depth consideration to issues within the terms of reference of a particular Committee. Approaches to such work may include site visits, undertaking public surveys, holding public meetings, commissioning research and any other action they reasonably consider necessary to inform their deliberations. On a more informal basis, the Committees are able to hold workshops or development sessions, generally as one-off sessions to enable Committee members to become better acquainted with particular matters under scrutiny or of a more general interest.

While Task and Finish Groups and other events established outside of the formal Committee meetings might be held in private, the requirement for openness and transparency in the overview and scrutiny process is recognised. Each Committee is required to maintain a work programme that is submitted to each meeting and which details the activities undertaken by the Committee and its members. This work programme includes the detail of work undertaken outside of formal Committee meetings if this is not otherwise reflected in reports submitted to the Committee.

There is no requirement on the Committees to establish a set number of Task and Finish Groups or other bodies in a particular year. At any one time, the issues presenting themselves may lead to consideration by Task and Finish Groups, Inquiries and the like, or may be better considered in one-off sessions. Matters under consideration outside of a Committee setting may be subject to timescales not in the gift of the Committee. While the undertaking of activities outside of a formal Overview and Scrutiny Committee are by their nature ad hoc and therefore unpredictable, it might be reasonable to suggest that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee member would be called upon on at least one occasion between each Committee meeting to undertake an activity other than Committee attendance.

The Council has determined that an Overview and Scrutiny Committee should comprise eight Members. This membership level is longstanding and was re-affirmed in the recent review exercise. The Council has a substitute member arrangement for its Committees to cover Member absence which expands the potential pool of non-executive Members who can be called upon to participate in the scrutiny function. While the Council does not prescribe the number of Members required to form a Task and Finish Group, leaving it to individual Committees to make such a determination, it might be expected that this number does not

exceed the number of Members serving on the Committee. While membership of a Task and Finish Group, Inquiry or other like body would be drawn from the parent Committee membership in the first instance, it would be an option to call upon substitute members or a Member from outside the Committee ‘family’ who has a particular interest or expertise in the matter under consideration if this would add value to the process. Notwithstanding, Committee members would be expected to be in the majority and take a leading role, and for the Committee to retain ownership.

Joint Scrutiny

In addition to the above Committees, the Council is a constituent authority of three joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees or Panels that have been established for the scrutiny of NHS organisations whose boundaries cover more than one local authority area. These three joint bodies are -

- the Joint Scrutiny Panel for Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust;
- the Joint Scrutiny Panel for Pennine Care NHS Trust; and
- the Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

The establishment of these bodies does not preclude the Health Scrutiny Committee from considering purely local issues concerning the NHS bodies covered by these three joint scrutiny Committees or Panels.

In addition to the Executive and Full Council the Council has established Committees to discharge Council functions including regulatory, trustee and Chief Officer appointments functions. Membership of the committees is predominately comprised of the 51 non-executive members.

Membership of a Committee requires all attendees to prepare, attend site visits (if required) and to read and digest committee papers to ensure decisions can be made with reasons given. Meeting duration can last between ½ and hour to 4 hours.

Committee	Membership	Quorum
Planning Committee	14 Council Members	4 Members
Licensing Committee	14 Council Members	4 Members
Audit Committee	9 Council Members	3 Members
Traffic Regulation Order Panel	4 Council Members	3 Members
Commons Registration Committee	5 Council Members	3 Members
Charitable Trustee	5 Council Members	3 Members

Committee		
Selection Committee	5 Council Members	
Standards Committee	5 Council Members, 2 Parish Councillors and 4 Independent Persons	3 Members, one of which must be an Independent Person
Appeals Committee	3 Members	3 Members
Independent Panel	3 Independent Members	3 Members
Health and Wellbeing Board	At least one Council Member appointed by the Leader of the Council; the Council's Directors of Adult Social Services, of Children's Services, and of Public Health; a CCG representative; a Healthwatch representative; any additional person/body the Board or the Council (subject to consultation with the Board) thinks appropriate.	One Third

Planning Committee

The Planning Committee is responsible for exercising the Council (or 'non-executive') functions as defined in Part A of Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) in respect of planning applications and related matters (except where the site is specifically allocated for that purpose in the adopted Development Plan, major development).

The applications that are considered by the Committee include:

1. applications for minerals or waste development;

2. the provision of: i. 20 or more dwellings; or ii. residential development on a site area of 1 hectare or more;
3. the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1000 square metres or more;
4. retail, commercial, industrial or other development on a site having an area of 1 hectare or more;
5. Applications which require an environmental statement;
6. Applications which are notifiable departures from the Council's Development Plan, other than applications which the Deputy Chief Executive is minded to refuse;
7. Applications to be considered under the referral procedure or referred at the discretion of the Head of Planning and Development Management;
8. Applications submitted by a Councillor, senior Council Officer (Officers on senior manager pay grade and above) or a member of staff employed within the Planning and Development Management service area, or by an immediate family member or partner of these persons, which would otherwise be delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive;
9. Applications to remove or vary conditions where the relevant planning condition was agreed by the Planning Committee in addition to those recommended in the Officer's report;
10. Consultations from adjoining local authorities, including the Peak District National Park Authority, which fall into the categories 1 (a-d) above, where an objection is raised to the proposed development;
11. The nomination of a Member of the Committee to represent the Council at any subsequent hearing or inquiry where the decision was made contrary to Officer advice.
12. Major applications involving the Council either as applicant or land owner (not including minor developments which accord with planning policy and to which no objection has been made).

The Planning Committee is comprised of 14 councillors, all non-executive. Although it is legally possible for executive members to sit on the committee, to reduce any conflicts of interest, the Council has for several years adopted the practice of not appointing executive members to this committee.

The Committee meets 11 times a year with at least one training session taking place following elections. There may be further training and there may also be extraordinary meetings.

During the municipal year 2018/19 a total of 58 applications were considered by the Planning Committee and during the 2019/20 municipal year a total of 57 application were considered. It isn't anticipated that the numbers will reduce for the foreseeable future.

The Licensing Committee – Meets 3 times a Municipal year

The Licensing Committee has 14 Members and undertakes Council (or 'non-executive') functions as defined in Paragraph B to Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) to the extent of –

- a) Functions under the Licensing Act 2003
 - a) Functions under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1972/Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (as amended)
 - b) Functions under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982
 - c) any further functions relating to licensing, registration or a related permission
 - Private hire and hackney carriages
 - Gambling premises
 - Alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment
 - Street trading
 - Highways licences
 - Animal licensing
 - House to house and street collections
 - Marriage premises
 - Sexual entertainment venues and shops
 - Housing licences
 - Scrap metal
 - Other small-scale licensing permissions

In accordance with Part 3 of the Councils Constitution the Licensing Committee has the power to determine all licensing applications received. On a day to day basis it is not practical for the several thousand applications that are received to all be determined by the Licensing Committee or its panels. In addition, there are also occasions where urgent decisions need to be taken. The Constitution allows for the Committee to delegate its functions to the Deputy Chief Executive who, in turn, can delegate to Officers for the smooth running of the licensing function.

There are occasions where a hearing is convened due to legislation or local delegations not allowing for Officer determination. In such circumstances a Panel of Elected Members is convened. These circumstances include: -

- Convictions held by proposed or current licenced drivers
- Private hire operators
- Objections to premises licences of various sorts

- Objections to scrap metal applications
- Objections to or reviews of street trading licences

Licensing Panel - Deals predominately with alcohol licensing and licensing in relation to gambling legislation- There are 10 meeting scheduled each municipal year

The Licensing Committee has established a Sub-Committees (Panels) to deal with such matters specified by that legislation and other matters as may be referred to that Sub-Committee or Panel by the relevant Officer, the Committee or the Council, including –

- Licensing Act 2003 – such matters as referred to at 4.3.1(a)(i, ii, iv-x) of the Licensing Committee terms of reference;
- Gambling Act 2005 - such matters as referred to at 4.3.1(b)(i-1iii, v-x) of the Licensing Committee terms of reference; and
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 – such matters as referred to at 4.3.1(d)(i-iii, v) of the Licensing Committee terms of reference.

The Licensing Panels comprise no fewer than three Elected Members drawn from Members of the Licensing Committee. There are 5 Licensing Panels and the membership of the Panels is rotated as necessary amongst Members of the Committee at the beginning of each municipal year.

Licensing Driver Panel – Deals with anything taxi related, mainly new applicants or existing taxi drivers with convictions to assess licence suitability. – 10 meetings scheduled each municipal year

The Licensing Committee has established a Sub-Committee (Panel) to deal with such matters as referred to at 4.3.1(c) of the Licensing Committee terms of reference related to Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1972/Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (as amended) as may be referred to the Panel by the relevant Officer.

The Licensing Driver Panel comprises of seven Elected Members drawn from Members of the Licensing Committee.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee undertakes the statutory function of approving the Council’s statement of accounts; as suggested in guidance prepared by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), is responsible for oversight of the Council’s

internal audit arrangements and for oversight of the relationship with the external auditor, reviews Financial and Contract Procedure Rules, and contributes to corporate governance arrangements; and contributes to the Council's risk management process. The Committee is scheduled to meet on six occasions per year and comprises an independent Chair and nine members of Council. Beyond the statutory function of the Committee, it is considered appropriate for elected Members to undertake the further roles to ensure the proper scrutiny of the Council's affairs.

Traffic Regulation Order Panel

The panel undertakes statutory functions with regard to footpaths, bridleways and other rights of way, considers representations in respect of traffic regulation orders and public space protection orders, and acts as the Petitioner Panel in respect of the Council's petition procedure. The Committee is scheduled to meet on six occasions per year and comprises four members of the Council. The Panel is convened principally when objections or representations are received concerning published proposals of the Council. In these circumstances it is considered appropriate to have those objections and representations considered by elected members.

Commons Registration Committee

The Committee undertakes statutory functions in relation to the registration or variation of common land or town or village greens. Such matters may be linked to other issues and be controversial and it is considered appropriate for these to be considered by elected Members. Meetings are convened on an ad hoc basis, as and when issues arise. The Committee comprises 5 members.

Charitable Trust Committee

The Charitable Trust Committee discharges the functions of the Council where the Council acts as Trustee of various charities including land and legacy funds and any further or future Trusts or bequests or arrangements where the Council is identified as the sole Trustee, including the consideration of matters where there is a conflict or potential conflict between the Council's interests and those of the beneficiaries of the charitable trusts. Meetings are convened on an ad hoc basis, as and when issues arise. The Committee comprises 5 members.

Transport Appeals

To consider individual cases and make arrangements on behalf of the Council to pay for or provide transport to and from an education provider for pupils and students whom the Director of Children's Services does not consider to qualify either statutorily or

under the normal policy of the Council for such transport.

Joint Arrangements

The Council is involved in several joint arrangements with other local authorities or bodies. These joint arrangements may be formal, in that they may be required by law or the Council or the Leader of the Council has established them to deal with statutory functions, or informal where the Council or the Leader of the Council has chosen to enter into informal partnership with other organisations from the public, private and/or third sector.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) is made up of the ten Greater Manchester Councils of which Oldham is one and the Greater Manchester Mayor, who work with other local services, businesses, communities and other partners to improve the city-region. The work undertaken by GMCA requires a large amount of time spent by the Leader and Cabinet Members on Combined Authority business.

Several non-Executive Members are members of some GMCA committees. The work undertaken as Members of various committees includes, preparation for the meetings, reading and understanding technical information contained in the agendas, attendance at the meetings which can last between 1hour up to 3hours and to act as a representative of Oldham.

A variety of boards, panels and committees look specifically at areas like transport, Police and Crime, health and social care, planning and housing within the City region:

- GM Combined Authority
- AGMA Executive Board
- GM Health Scrutiny Committee
- Statutory Functions Committee
- GM Culture and Social Impact Fund Committee
- Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- GMCA Audit Committee
- GM European Structural Investment Fund
- Greater Manchester Pensions Fund Management Panel

- Greater Manchester Reform Committee
- GMCA Standards Committee
- Health and Social Care Partnership Board
- Health and Social Care Joint Commissioning Board
- Manchester Growth Company Board
- Peoples History Museum
- Halle
- Planning and Housing Commission
- Police and Crime Panel
- Police and Crime Steering Group
- Greater Manchester Transport Committee
- Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee
- GM Waste and Recycling Committee
- Corporate Issues & Reform Overview & Scrutiny
- Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny
- Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny
- GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Substitute Pool Nominations

Commissioning Partnership Board

Oldham Council and Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group had been working closely together for a number of years to ensure there was alignment and the necessary interdependencies existed between the two organisations' commissioned services.

In February 2015, the Greater Manchester Devolution agreement for Health & Social Care provided a new impetus to the integration of Health & Social Care provision across GM and within each of the ten localities. Oldham's ambition for integration was outlined in the Oldham Locality Plan, agreed in December 2015.

Significant work had been carried out by the Council and Oldham CCG to develop the vision, structures and processes that were needed to be put in place to make this vision a reality.

The Commissioning Partnership Board was established and is the integrated strategic commissioning body for health and social care services established under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 between NHS Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group (the CCG) and Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (the Council or OMBC).

The Commissioning Partnership Board is a joint committee of the Council and the CCG established under Regulation 10(2) of the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000 (the Partnership Regulations).

The Board was established to exercise functions on behalf of the CCG and Oldham Council integrated commissioning functions delegated to it by way of S.75 agreement by way of pooled and aligned budgets. The board has equal representation of Cabinet Members, clinical leads/members of the CCG and advisory members.

The role of integrated commissioning will demand more time and commitment from all ward councillors within their geographical footprint as the Council moves to a 'Place Based' model of delivery. Place based, multi-agency integration is key to the transformation and reform of public services and communities both here in Oldham and across Greater Manchester. Only by developing a single approach to building resilience that is informed by insight into what drives demand and shapes behaviour in communities will we shift the stubborn inequalities that exist within our borough.

This way of working will also need a strong scrutiny element which will be driven through the Council's Scrutiny model.

Partnership Working

In addition, there are a number of partner organisations and outside bodies that have Councillor representation to ensure partnership working and that a whole Oldham approach is taken in service delivery. The organisations include the following;

- ACE Centre
- Action Oldham Fund Advisory Panel
- Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership
- Corporate Parenting Panel
- Domestic Violence Partnership
- Fostering Panel
- Learning Disability Partnership Board
- MioCare and Support
- Oldham Council Music Awards
- Oldham Distress Fund
- Oldham Leadership Board
- Oldham Strategic Housing Board
- PFI and Housing Revenue Account Board
- Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

External and Voluntary Sector

- LGA General Assembly
- LGA Executive
- MAHDLO
- North West Employers Organisation
- Oldham Athletic Community Trust
- Oldham Brass Bands Association
- Oldham Citizen's Advice Bureau
- Oldham Credit Union
- Oldham Henshaw and Church of England Education Trust
- Oldham Hulme Grammar Schools
- Oldham Play Action Group
- Oldham United Charity
- Parking Traffic Regulations Outside London (Patrol)
- Peak District National Park Authority
- Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust - Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Pennine Care NHS Trust – Joint Mental Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee
- Pennine Care NHS Trust – (Mental Health) Council of Governors
- Southern Pennine Rural Regeneration Company (formerly Pennine Prospects)
- Positive Steps Board
- NW Reserve Forces and Cadets Association
- University of Manchester General Assembly
- Youth Justice Management Board

GM Bodies

- Greater Manchester Forests Partnership
- Greater Manchester Pension Fund Management/Advisory Panel

Joint Ventures

The Council is involved in a number of Joint Ventures of which includes elected Members on the various boards:

- Foxdenton Development Board
- Meridian Development Company Ltd
- Oldham Coliseum Theatre
- Oldham Community Leisure Ltd Management Committee
- Oldham Community Power Ltd Management Board
- Oldham Economic Development Association Board
- Oldham Property Partnership Limited (and associated OPP Ltd companies)
- Southlink Developments Limited

Community Involvement

The Commission understands that there is no single approach to community leadership and that members represent, and provide leadership to, their communities in different ways. The Commission wants to know how members are required to provide effective community leadership and what support the council offers them in this role. For example, does the authority have a defined role and performance system for its elected members? And what support networks are available within the council to help members in their duties?

Representational Role

An elected Member's role is set out within the Council's Constitution and all Members are required to adhere to the Member's Code of Conduct.

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200143/complaints_and_feedback/631/councillor_complaints_and_feedback

As per Part 2, Article 2 of the Constitution all Councillors will:

- a) collectively be the ultimate policy-makers and carry out a number of strategic and corporate management functions
- b) effectively represent their communities, balancing the different interests identified in the Ward or the community, and bring their views into the Council's decision making process, i.e. become the advocate of and for their communities;
- c) contribute to the good governance of the area and actively encourage community public participation and citizen involvement in decision making;
- d) deal effectively with individual casework fairly and impartially, and act as an advocate for constituents in seeking to resolve particular concerns or grievances;
- e) participate in the governance and management of the Council, being involved in decision making and, as required, in the exercise of the Council's quasi-judicial functions;
- f) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
- g) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

Following each local election, newly appointed and existing members are invited to an induction which includes training on the Members Code of Conduct, decision making and declarations of interest. Members are provided with IT and facilities information and details of the Elected Member Development programme which runs throughout each municipal year. Licensing and Planning members have specific training session so that they have a thorough understanding of the legal requirements and meeting procedures of those committees. All Members through induction are required to attend mandatory Safeguarding sessions.

Oldham Councillors spend extensive periods of time working within their wards/districts and communities holding Ward Surgeries, attending community meetings, holding community forums, working with partners, scrutinising local delivery of services and dealing with casework.

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Council has managed to continue with 'business as usual' committee meetings via Microsoft Teams. In addition to their role as committee Members during the evening, elected Members are also Community Leaders interacting with their constituents using a variety of methods, email, Facebook, Twitter, blogs and Microsoft TEAMS which has enabled Members to reach a wider audience including younger constituents, minority groups and those not on the electoral register. The Youth Council also work with Councillors to be the link between young people and the Council. The Council has a Youth Service that supports the wider Youth Voice and access to young people members can consult with. This is supported by Youth Workers and includes The Youth Council, The Children in Care Council and Barrier Breakers (Children and Young people with a disability). Elected members can work with young people through this mechanism. These groups are representatives of our young people from each part of the Borough. In addition there are many other mechanisms elected members can engage with young people including full council and

panels. In addition elected members get invited to specific thematic conversations with *young people*. overview and scrutiny.

Oldham Councillors were surveyed and asked about their representational role. Oldham Councillors carry out a range of activities and responsibilities whilst carrying out their role. These include:

- Engagement with residents, groups and local organisations on a wide range of different issues
- Carrying out casework on behalf of residents and local groups
- Providing important community leadership
- Providing a bridge between the Council and the community, communicating decisions and policies made by the Council that affect residents and community members
- Promoting ward interests within and outside the Council
- Ensuring that the needs of local communities and residents are identified, understood and supported.

Representing local views at council meetings and leading local campaigns on behalf of the community.

It is part of the role of a councillor in Oldham to make sure that they regularly engage with constituents. The most popular means to engage with constituents are face to face, by telephone and by email. 97% of respondents stated that they use face to face means and the telephone when engaging with residents, while 91% stated this also happened through email.

When asked if there had been a significant change to the amount of time spent communicating with constituents over the last 12 months; 90% of councillors stated that they felt that they were spending significantly more time engaging through email, while 84% stated they were spending more time engaging on the phone.

While more time was spent on phone and email engagement, councillors felt that face to face engagement was on the decline. When asked if they had noticed any changes in the past 12 months 81% said they were spending less time (or significantly less time) on surgeries than they had done before, while 65% stated they were spending less time on face to face engagement in general.

An aspect of the role of a councillor is being available to residents through a number of channels. When asked, nearly two-thirds believed they had the right balance of communication channels for them to conduct their role appropriately.

When it comes to casework, councillors deal with their casework in a variety of ways. Councillors often liaise with the appropriate officers as well as dealing with the issues themselves. 78% states that they deal with casework using the appropriate officers, while only 8% carried out casework with little or no support.

When asked, 59% of councillors stated that they spent more time on casework duties than they did when first elected. Just under 1 in 5 state that another aspect of their workload that had increased was having to attend and prepare for meetings.

91% of respondents stated that they spend more time in general on council business than they did when initially elected. 22% of these indicated that part of the reason was down to being more familiar in the local community, and therefore being asked to assist more with issues that might crop up for residents.

All Councillors are very active within their communities and hold regular Ward Surgeries basis and do encourage constituents who are not able to attend surgeries (pre COVID) to get in touch via email/telephone with any concerns queries they may have. Following the Covid-19 restrictions Ward Surgeries are held via email/telephone and Microsoft TEAMS.

The high population density, pockets of deprivation in the Borough and the comparatively high number of out of work benefit claimants means the demand for services is high and the volume and complexity of casework that Councillors manage is significant. The current pressure on Members time is a combination of evening meetings and complex casework.

Engagement with residents and local groups also includes communicating Council decisions, policies and service decisions and promoting their ward issues and interests both within the Council and outside.

Members are the conduit for their constituents in relation to liaising with Cabinet Members and officers to ensure local views are represented and as advocates for their ward create a Community Leadership role by being visible and accessible.

Councillors were surveyed as part of the review process to understand the demands on time, communication with residents and the impact of changes in role of the Councillors.

- Most commonly respondents identified as White British and were over 40 years of age. Six in ten respondents were male. : 63% respondents are male and 37% female¹
- Around three-quarters of respondents specified their length of service as between 0 to 10 years, and around three-quarters held additional roles to that of Councillor.

¹ Source LGBCE Survey 2020 Q25 (n40)

- The majority of respondents spent over 20 hours a month on attending meetings with officers and Council groups, followed closely by engaging with constituents and dealing with enquiries and casework. Around three-quarters of respondents dealt with casework with support from officers.
- The majority felt the time spent on Council business had increased since they were first elected. Reasons included becoming more involved in local activities and increased familiarity with constituents as well as service and budget changes.
- In relation to the aspects of duties which had most increased since becoming elected, the majority of respondents reported casework and constituent issues, followed by attending or preparing for meetings.
- Almost all respondents engaged with constituents face to face or via telephone. Nine in ten respondents engaged with residents via email or meetings. Around one-quarter of respondents' time was taken up by email communication.
- Nine in ten respondents stated that email communication had taken up more or significantly more of their time in the last 12 months, and around eight in ten reported an increase in telephone communication.
- Two-thirds of respondents felt that the balance was about right to communicate effectively with constituents, with half commenting on the importance of being available via different communication tools.

The use of technology and immediacy of social media has resulted in Councillors spending extended periods of time responding using this technology with expectations from constituents of immediate responses and this '24-7' demand is becoming more challenging for Councillors. There are over 100 committee places plus substitute positions that Councillors need to fill not including community meetings, political meetings, Member development meetings and with the majority of meetings taking place in the evening. Case work is increasingly complex and Members are dealing with constituents that have multiple needs.

Casework/Constituent issues'

A majority of the councillors responded that since being elected they had since the biggest increase in the amount of casework and constituent issues they face:

- 'Case work around health, housing and ASB'
- 'Responding to constituents enquiries. Typing support and research always important in this respect. More time needed to fully

understand reports presented by officers on range of problems confronting the Council'

- 'chasing up casework when officers don't keep you updated on progress'
- 'Issues in the community such as fly tipping and crime issues'

Attendance at/preparation for meetings'

Just under 1 in 5 mentioned that they had seen their workload increased by having to attend meetings, be it as an ordinary councillor or due to being on a committee(s):

'Attendance at leadership meetings, participation in portfolio meetings and preparation for them'

'Initially after being elected in a by-election I was not assigned to many committees. I work full-time I pick up most of my council work in the evening and at weekends, including committees I now serve on'

'Internal meetings. Complex casework such as benefits and housing cases'

'Casework and preparation. Also preparation for meetings'

'General increase in workload'

A number of the respondents mentioned that their workload has increased generally, sometimes without being able to pinpoint anything specifically. Councillors stated 'Everything' can be case work including;

- 'Poverty issues ,housing issues , keeping communities together , and health challenges'
- 'General enquiries and need of front line services mainly on environmental issues'
- 'All ward work has increased. Services required have increased. Along with residents needing help on how to obtain the service and funding they need'
- 'Hard to pin point, it is just a lifestyle you have to adopt to and not a job. Jobs you can at some point switch off from but this I feel you can't'

Time pressures'

15% of responses reflected on time pressures as a factor impacting on communicating effectively with constituents:

- 'Casework has increased and is still increasing'

- 'Not enough time and so much to do'
- 'it isn't always possible to do so as much as I would like as demand determines where you need to prioritise'

Districts

Oldham has a long history of area and District working. Prior to 2019 the Council had District Executives operating as the formal decision making element within area working, taking decisions about funding or other resources delegated to them by Council. The primary role of each District Executive was to set priorities and take decisions at a local level, and to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area. They were responsible for developing a plan for their area, within the context of the Oldham Plan and allocating resources in support of this.

In 2019 a review was undertaken to;

- Consider how elected members can be supported in their role as democratic leaders and in particular at a place based level.
- Review the resources allocated to Districts and district working.
- Consider district working in the context of the wider reform agenda, to ensure we operate in the most effective way to support elected members and deliver better outcomes for residents.

A new model of District working was agreed by Full Council which;

- Created the role of a District Lead
- Created a wider programme of work to include;
 - A member development programme that will ensure members have the skills and support needed. The 2019/20 programme is currently being developed, with a new Learning Needs Analysis survey (to help identify any gaps in elected member skills and knowledge) sent to all members. Work is ongoing to engage elected members with the programme, with a cross-party elected member development group now established to support the development and promotion of the programme.
 - A review of how District Teams were connected into and supported by Council services. This would involve developing networks between Districts, the wider organisation and partners and reviewing governance arrangements to improve integration and joint working.
 - More effective ways of engaging with residents. It is recognised that a wider range of approaches to engagement are required.
 - A new Casework system to improve management of casework and communication.

- Better tools and more systematic partnerships to identify the area priorities and to plan effectively for more integrated working with partners. Over the next twelve months work will continue to develop a placed based operating model of which Districts and elected members will be an integral part. This requires detailed work in the meantime, ensuring Districts are well placed to integrate with this developing place-based model.

Place-Based Integration

We are currently developing an ambitious programme of place-based reform aligned to our newly agreed 5 public service areas that will integrate a whole range of council, health, care, housing and policing services at sub borough level. This will include a local leadership structure that will include both elected members and key partners as the key decision makers for the area (e.g. policing, health, primary care, housing, council etc). This leadership team will be responsible for developing a plan for the area, directing resources across public services and a single outcomes agreement. Mechanisms will also be put in place to ensure this is informed by resident voice and a strong voluntary sector network. We are currently developing these proposals and it is anticipated they will be in place by March 2021.

We recognise that to deliver the scale of change required it is essential that elected members are at the heart of our approach, ensuring the focus of public services is on the people who receive them and the communities in which they live, and not on the organisations that provide them. Elected members are key to understanding and communicating the needs of Oldham's diverse communities, ensuring that the voice of the resident shapes the delivery of public services in Oldham.

Elected members are also incredibly important as community connectors, connecting residents to the assets of the community, including community groups and wider support services. Their role is critical to understanding the wider system, helping residents access services, but also supporting Team Oldham to integrate services around the needs of our communities.

There are seven Districts representing the different parts of the Borough each with a District Lead as follows:-

District	Wards Covered
Oldham East	Alexandra St Mary's St James Waterhead
Oldham West	Coldhurst

	Medlock Vale Werneth
Failsworth and Hollinwood	Failsworth East Failsworth West Hollinwood
Chadderton	Chadderton Central Chadderton North Chadderton South
Saddleworth and Lees	Saddleworth North Saddleworth South Saddleworth West and Lees
Royton	Royton North Royton South
Shaw and Crompton	Crompton Shaw

District Leads

The role of the District Lead is to work closely with all elected members in their district to support them in their role as strong local leaders. The District Lead also plays a vital role in championing the needs of the district. They provide leadership across the district and ensure parallels exist between corporate and local priorities.

The role is a strategic position that requires vision and the ability to look beyond ward issues to those that affect the district as a whole. It is important that the District Lead is able to make decisions based on district priorities which may not always align fully with ward priorities.

Requirements of the District Lead

The District Lead is a Councillor who will –

- a) provide leadership within and beyond the district;
- b) support elected members in the district in their role as local leaders;
- c) engage with elected members across the district and encourage active contribution to district initiatives that take place;

- d) work with the District Team to develop the District Plan, ensuring it reflects both local and corporate priorities;
- e) champion the district as a place and represent the district in any discussions and/or negotiations at a borough level;
- f) lead on any applications to the Local Improvement Fund.
- g) Chair relevant working groups as appropriate;
- h) lead on the development of a district Community Engagement Strategy, ensuring all residents have an opportunity to contribute their ideas or concerns to the district;
- i) work as appropriate with the Executive Management Team, District Co-ordinator and District Team to plan and deliver against locally agreed priorities;
- j) liaise and work with other District Leads as and when required to deliver against priorities that cross district boundaries;
- k) liaise with and respond to the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees as and when required;

- l) ensure that all actions and activities of the district are carried out in a socially inclusive way, in full acknowledgement and discharge of the equality legislation pertaining to all protected characteristics, and also legislation pertaining to the environment;
- m) work with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services to identify further opportunities for district working as appropriate;
- n) be the lead member in a district for corporate campaigns and ensure the involvement of Ward Members in supporting this activity.
- o) work, as appropriate, through formal and informal partnership with voluntary, private sector and other public sector interests to enhance the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the local community;
- p) support the development of a strong Voluntary, Community and Faith sector which can work with the District Team in improving the quality of life of local people and encouraging the active involvement of residents in this;
- q) promote the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector as a key driver of local productivity, recognising the contribution of this sector in improving the economy and enterprise of the district;
- r) champion events, festivals and celebrations across the district. provide leadership in building strong cohesive communities within and beyond the district; and promote equality of opportunity and eliminate discrimination

There are two Districts in Oldham which also have Parish Councils. The District Councillors work closely with and support the Parishes and joint meetings/events are held to provide partnership working and support within the District.

Members have high levels of case work resulting from surgeries, queries, meetings normally from residents reporting issues or requiring assistance. The Executive support provided to Members is limited to the Leader, Cabinet Members and the Leader of the Major Opposition. Non-Executive Members must be self-sufficient, personally managing most of their case work and their diaries of

formal and informal meetings, events and Council commitments. Additionally, District Teams support Councillors with day to day constituency work,

Members also receive support from the Civic and Political team and Democratic in relation to:

- Induction
- IT Support
- General queries
- Committee advice
- Allowances
- Member Development
- Civic events and duties

Councillors are issued with appropriate technology equipment and this increased use of technology has allowed Councillors to reach wider groups and communities via Facebook, Twitter and other social media channels. The increased use of technology places pressure on Councillors to respond with immediately with increasingly complex workloads.

The Councillor survey stated that 35 respondents indicated a range of between 6 and 150 cases per month. Most commonly respondents indicated a workload of 30 cases per month.

How do you deal with your ward casework and what support do you receive

There were 40 responses to this question, with the main themes being dealing with casework with support from the relevant officers (78%), dealing with casework directly (53%) and dealing with casework without any, or with very little, support (8%).

Dealing with casework using the relevant officers

The majority of the respondents mentioned that they often look to support/district/relevant officers for support when it came to be carrying out casework

'Deal with casework by email, phone and personal visits. I receive support from the caseworker in the District Office'

'Most of the casework I deal with them myself. I do however use the Executive Support Officer and the Oldham West District for some casework'

'Refer to caseworker if appropriate. Contact officers directly when necessary. Ask advice from other councillors if unsure how to

proceed with a particular issue.'

'Dealing with casework directly'

Over half stated that they often dealt with casework directly by themselves, either with or without support from officers and the Contact Centre:

'I reply to all queries and obtain advice as necessary or ask for steps to be taken. I do not use the district team unless absolutely necessary as they are very busy'

'I adopt a variety of ways when dealing with casework. Where possible I deal with it directly if not, I go through council officers, I may directly contact housing associations, a local business, a resident or the local PCSO'

'All Casework is dealt with personally on the administration side with no support. Officers offer advice and support on specific details and any historical information which may be necessary'

Other Issues

Future Challenges and Priorities

- Oldham is a diverse and dynamic Borough. It has a growing population and demand for services. For planning purposes Greater Manchester is about to approve for consultation on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and the latest ONS figures projects households to grow by:
 - 2019 (93,890), 2020 (94,560), 2021 (95,182), 2022 (95,979) and 2023 (96,746),
 - Since the previous review in 2003 the population of electors has grown by 18,620 and we forecast this upward trend will continue. By 2023 our Councillors will be representing a greater number of residents living in larger households which will have implications on the casework of councillors and the increase in residents will also lead to an increased demand on council services and the scrutiny and governance of decision making.
 - Population Growth – Increases in Oldham's population will in turn increase demand for universal services.

- Older People Growth – It is expected that the number of older people in Oldham’s population will grow by 40% within the next 24 years. This will bring major challenges for adult social care and health provision.
- Increased Diversity – Changes in Oldham’s ethnic composition are likely to affect patterns of residence within Oldham. There may be an increased need to support community relations, particularly within neighbourhoods where ethnic compositions are shifting rapidly.
- Oldham’s councillors have a pivotal role of community leadership in demand for services, scrutiny and decision-making regarding Health and Social Care and to support community relations.

Changing Role of Elected Members

As a co-operative council and a founding member of the Co-operative Councils’ Innovation Network, Oldham is committed to reconnecting the Council with our local communities; providing new ways of delivering services and facilitating the regeneration of the borough.

The Oldham Model is a whole-system approach that encompasses everything we do. This ranges from working in line with co-operative principles to getting residents to actively take part in decision making and from co-production of services with residents to establishing co-operative models of delivery.

Elected members are at the heart of our co-operative approach, engaging with communities to coproduce solutions to challenges we face, while championing change across Team Oldham and the communities they serve.

An important aspect of the role of a Councillor is to be accessible to those they represent and to be able to devote time to the decision-making process. The Council is of the view that by retaining its existing complement it facilitates easy access for residents whilst at the same time driving forward our co-operative ambition.

Oldham is now at the forefront of the Co-operative Council agenda – rethinking the way residents are involved in shaping and receiving services, facilitated by local councillors. We are serious about giving residents the chance to shape local decisions. We look at the real issues and challenges facing communities and how together we can make a co-operative difference, capturing the residents in everything we do.

The role of Councillors has changed over the years as demonstrated by the Member survey. The changes in role include; Health and Social Care integration, working with the CCG, Adult Social Care, hospitals and care providers. As public health is such a cross-cutting issue, one of the major public health activities of local councils is to develop, foster and influence relationships with the rest of the local and regional health system. Some of these relationships will be facilitated by HWBs, but others will need individual councillors to take the initiative, for example, in working with very local community groups or with large employers and/or education providers.

Oldham's Role in Greater Manchester as part of the GMCA

The Greater Manchester Strategy sets out a clear set of priorities including:

- All children to start school ready to learn
- Young people equipped for life
- Good quality housing, and an end to rough sleeping
- Greater Manchester to pioneer a positive vision for growing older

Through the GM devolution agreements, local authorities across GM have additional responsibility for:

- more control of local transport, with a long-term government budget to help us plan a more modern, better-connected network
- new planning powers to encourage regeneration and development
- a new £300 million fund for housing: enough for an extra 15,000 new homes over ten years
- extra funding to get up to 50,000 people back into work
- incentives to skills-providers to develop more work-related training
- extra budget to support and develop local businesses
- the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner being merged with the elected mayor
- control of investment through a new 'earn back' funding arrangement which gives us extra money for the region's infrastructure if we reach certain levels of economic growth

This additional responsibility also comes with an increased workload for elected members, who are represented on numerous GMCA boards, committees and groups as detailed earlier in the submission.

The GMCA gives local people more control over issues that affect their area. It means the region speaks with one voice and can make a strong case for resources and investment. It helps the entire north of England achieve its full potential. Oldham Council as a member of GMCA is working to meet those priorities and deliver, this work is undertaken by the Leader, Cabinet Members and other councillors as part of GMCA appointments/committees.

Meeting The Budget Challenge

The Council is facing unprecedented budget savings with further financial pressures resulting from COVID-19, with analysis undertaken by the ten Greater Manchester councils and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) showing that the impact of coronavirus and the actions taken to manage the pandemic will be in the region of £732m by the end of 2020/21 alone.

Council budgets are underpinned by a substantial amount of locally raised income, of which council tax makes up a significant proportion. Most metropolitan districts are c49% reliant on council tax income and, in some Greater Manchester authorities, this is as high as 67%. Council tax receipts have fallen because people's incomes have been adversely affected by the COVID crisis and this has led to an increase in those eligible for council tax support, with others struggling to pay bills or deferring or defaulting on payments.

With a big loss of income coming from commercial investments, it will significantly impact on the economy of the city-region and Oldham and the recovery efforts to build back better. These investments are about the strategic development of local places and are part of wider regeneration and economic development strategies, for example acquisition of property to support regeneration, enhancing existing assets, zero carbon interventions, site remediation and facilitation works, and other measures.

The impact of Covid on budgets is particularly stark because of the decade of budget cuts that Oldham has experienced. Oldham has experienced the 6th deepest cuts in the country, losing 60% of our budget and a third of our staff since 2010. These cuts have in part been managed by working with the voluntary sector, looking to them to provide some of the services that used to come from the council. This in turn has further increased pressure on councillors, who play a central role in establishing and maintaining the relationships with these voluntary groups, as well as supporting them to deliver effectively.

The Council will have to take even more challenging and unpalatable measures to deliver the savings required because of Covid. This will call for additional demand on Member's time to help identify savings through the budget challenge process, as well as future

proofing services so we can continue to serve Oldham's residents. The required savings will also lead to changes in service provision which will result in increased demand on Councillor time via casework, queries and decision making.

Summary

Conclusion and Recommendations

In developing the recommendation, the Council has carefully considered the various factors outlined in this document and it is recommended that the Council size remains the same. The submission above provides detail on the Borough's growing population, diverse communities, budget challenges, COVID-19 and its impact all these factors will have on a Councillor's work load, the ability of the Council to meet its governance and scrutiny requirements and to continue to play an active role as representatives and leaders of our local communities.

Reduction in Councillors

As stated above the growth in the population of Oldham would not be well supported with fewer councillors. The changes to the role of a councillor in relation to Greater Manchester, Health and Social Care and Place based working and the additional work/caseloads generated by the budget challenges mean that the option of reducing the number of councillors is unsustainable. Austerity has increased the burden on Councillors to pick up more demanding issues and queries for their constituents which require more support and a reduction in numbers would limit the ability of Councillors to carry out their full range of duties.

Increase Councillors

Although there are significant demands placed on the Councillors as a result of the increase to the electorate, and the growing complexity of the role, the substantial financial pressures faced by both the Council and residents would make a decision to increase the number of councillors very difficult. Any increase in Councillor numbers would have to be offset by a further reduction in service provision elsewhere which would be unpalatable for the council and the electorate.

Remain the Same – preferred option

The Council remains the same with 20 wards and 60 councillors. The survey shows that although there are demands placed on Councillors the Council's current function allows for the management of this, with the 3 councillor per ward model, this allows workloads and representational roles to be shared equally and allows support for those ward Members that are also Cabinet Members, Deputy Cabinet Members, Opposition Members, Scrutiny Members, Planning and Licencing Committee Members.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and response numerous challenges will be presented to the Borough which will shape how the Council operates. Councillors play a fundamentally important role, supporting, connecting, and representing residents. That role has become more challenging and more stretching. The capacity of councillors is currently near its limit. However, it is felt that at this point in time resources should be directed to front line services rather than expanding the number of councillors to reduce pressure on their workloads. { The view supported by the majority of Members is that the number of Councillors should remain the same.}