

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 16 December 2020**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 8 December 2020

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 16 December 2020 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 Civic Appreciation Award - Myra Wyers
- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 Attendance and declarations of interest
- 4 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4th November 2020 and 25th November 2020 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 52)
- 5 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 6 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 8 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There was no Youth Council business to consider.

- 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 53 - 66)

(time limit 15 minutes)

19th October 2020

9th November 2020

16th November 2020

d Questions on Joint Arrangements (Pages 67 - 112)

(time limit 15 minutes)

Greater Manchester Combined Authority	27 th November 2020
AGMA Executive Board	30 th October 2020
Police, Fire and Crime Panel	29 th September 2020
Peak Park District Authority	4 th September 2020 2 nd October 2020
Health and Wellbeing Board	21 st July 2020
Greater Manchester Transport Committee	9 th October 2020

10 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion1

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Ali to SECOND:

Spending review November 2020

This Council notes the spending commitments outlined in the one-year spending review

This Council regrets that

- the Chancellor failed to address the systemic underfunding of local Councils, opting instead for a series of one-off measures and further transferring the burden of paying for essential services to local Council Tax payers who have in many cases already been hard hit by the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic and years of Tory austerity. The Spending Review announced a £2.2bn increase in Councils' Core Spending Power. Of this sum £1.5bn is assumed to come from Councils increasing Council Tax by 5% - the maximum the Government will allow without a referendum. Only £600m of this was badged as new money and £300m of this is recycled so is not new!
- The Government has not brought forward a plan to reform funding and provision of adult social care as promised and instead has given councils the power to raise a further adult social care precept – indeed it assumes that this will be raised within the Core Spending Power increase. The precept can increase by 3% for 2021/22, but by using the ability to raise Council Tax as a means to generate income for adult social care, it's not linking to need. Those areas that can generate more Council Tax can raise more funding.
- While the Government has provided significant additional funding for 2020/21, including over £23m of general Grant funding for Oldham Council this year, this still leaves a shortfall and the Government continues to break its promise to 'do whatever it takes' to support public services tackling the pandemic including fully

- reimbursing councils and schools for additional costs and reduced income
- While receiving over £14m of grants for specific purposes in Oldham this year is welcome, these grants have come with substantial restrictions from Government on how they can be used. Such funding could be used more effectively if there was greater flexibility.
- the Spending Review did not include additional funding for public health. This runs contrary to addressing the stark health inequalities exposed by COVID-19 and levelling up our communities. Keeping people healthy and well throughout their lives reduces pressure on the NHS and social care.
- the Government has not temporarily removed the No Recourse to Public Funds condition. This would reduce public health risks and ease the pressure on homelessness services by enabling vulnerable people to access welfare benefits, who are currently unable to do so because of their immigration status. The Chancellor also failed to commit to making permanent the £20 a week supplement to Universal Credit that has been crucial to protecting people from poverty.

This Council condemns the wage freeze imposed on 2m public sector workers including firefighters, the police, teachers and local authority staff. Many of these workers have kept the country going during the pandemic and deserve more than a real term pay cut.

This Council believes that only with the right funding and freedoms, can councils lead local efforts to level up the stark inequalities the pandemic has exposed and level up the economy so that it benefits everyone.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to

1. the Local Government Association to urge a vigorous campaign for a long term local government funding settlement, for reform of adult social care and adequate funding of children's social care, education and social housing in the context of a new settlement reversing the centralisation of powers and decision-making that has been evident even before the pandemic
2. the borough's three MPs urging that they oppose the public sector pay freeze and support efforts to secure the necessary funding and freedoms for local authorities
3. Thérèse Coffey MP, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, calling on her to make the £20 a week Universal Credit supplement permanent

Motion 2

Councillor Mushtaq to MOVE and Councillor Goodwin to SECOND:

Fair Grade for All 2021

After the fiasco of this year's A-level and GCSE results, this Council is keen to ensure fairness for students next year. On 19 August, trade union leaders wrote to Gavin Williamson MP outlining what steps the Government must take to ensure no student is disadvantaged, as did Kate Green MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education on 10 November. Students and teachers urgently need clarity on A-levels and GCSEs, in particular what contingency is in place if exams have to be cancelled again next year. It is imperative that the distressing experiences of 2020 A-level students are never repeated. The chaos of 2020 justifies a wider review of how qualifications are awarded.

This Council calls on Government to:

- Create a level playing field across the country for all students sitting exams next year. The pandemic has hit and will continue to hit the regions to varying degrees. The government has hinted at flexibility to boundary grades but must go further and commit to a regional approach to norm-referencing performance to reflect the varying degrees of school attendance levels across the regions rather than setting up an expert group to monitor the situation
- Put in place arrangements to make sure that no student misses out on the opportunity to receive their qualifications as a result of having to self-isolate during next year's exam period. This government must work with exam boards to make reserve papers available in all subjects. This would give students who miss an exam the opportunity to sit it later.
- Publish its plans now for a worst-case scenario whereby exams cannot go ahead next year due to the impact of the pandemic. A credible Plan B is required that must have the confidence of parents, teachers, school leaders and unions.

This Council calls on the Leader and Chief Executive of Oldham Council to:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education asking him to respond as a matter of urgency to all the above points.
- To write to Oldham's three MPs, highlighting the motion and asking that they raise the issues in Parliament as a matter of urgency.

11 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor C Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

Tracking Stalkers and Domestic Abusers

Council notes that:

- Stalking and domestic abuse are crimes which are insidious and terrifying, the majority committed by men against women. Offenders go from victim to victim, yet many remain undetected and unconvicted.
- The evidence shows that domestic abuse has become more prevalent during the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns. Some stalkers and domestic abusers go on to commit murder, and tragically the domestic homicide rate, mostly of women, continues to increase.
- Despite clear warning signs that such crimes are often repeated and follow a pattern, much offending behaviour remains undetected by the Police, probation and other agencies, and offenders are left at large.
- Although the provisions of the Domestic Abuse Bill now before Parliament are welcome, the Bill is manifestly deficient in not addressing the importance of robustly tracking and apprehending these offenders.

Council further notes that:

- Whilst the Domestic Abuse Bill would place Clare's Law (the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme) on a statutory footing, this will place the onus upon victims to come forward to seek information about their partner or a family member and this

can sometimes place the victim in danger.

- There is no duty on police services to identify, track and manage stalkers and domestic abusers.

Council believes that:

- It is imperative that serial stalkers and domestic abusers are prioritised and proactively identified, assessed and managed by Police, probation and other relevant agencies, so that intelligence can be shared about their offending behaviour to hold them to account and close down their behaviour.
- The details of stalkers and domestic abusers should be included on the Violent and Sexual Offender's Register and managed via the Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Home Secretary asking her to make these changes to more effectively track and apprehend stalkers and domestic abusers, and to copy in our three local Members of Parliament and the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester asking them to make representations to the Home Secretary in support of the Council's position.

Motion 2

Councillor H Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Hamblett to SECOND:

Young Carers Action Day

Council commends the young people in this borough who selflessly provide care for others.

Council notes that:

- Recent research shows that one in five secondary school children may be a young carer. For many, their caring journey begins at a much younger age.
- Caring for someone can be very isolating, worrying and stressful. For young carers, this can negatively impact on their experiences and outcomes in education, having a lasting effect on their life chances.
- Each year, The Carers Trust has organised a Young Carers' Action Awareness Day. In 2021 this will be renamed Young Carers' Action Day and marked on March 16.
- The purpose of the day is to raise public awareness of the challenges faced by young people and young adults because of their caring role, and to campaign for greater support for young carers to meet their needs.

Council resolves to:

- Promote Young Carers Action Day as widely as possible on an annual basis, particularly to young carers and their families.
- Ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to work with the Carers' Trust, the Connexions Young Carers' Project and the Youth Council to establish an annual event in Oldham to mark this date to which young carers and their families can be invited in person or online, and at which appropriate information and services can be accessed.

Motion 3

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

Turning over a new leaf

Council notes:

- That the revised National Planning Policy Framework [NPPF] (2018) put planning protection for ancient woodland and ancient and veteran trees on a par with that offered to the best of our built heritage.
- The NPPF states that: "When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should apply the following principles: c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons".
- That over 1200 Ancient Woodland sites across the UK are under threat from development.

Council recognises

- That the forthcoming Local Plan provides an opportunity for us to ensure that Ancient Woodland and ancient and veteran trees are protected across our Borough;
- That protection is required before the Local Plan is delivered to ensure that Ancient Woodland and ancient and veteran trees remain protected in the interim period;
- That not all Ancient Woodland and ancient and veteran trees have been properly identified, and it is important that a clear route is available to identify and protect Ancient Woodland and ancient and veteran trees across the borough

Council resolves

- To include the protection of Ancient Woodland and ancient and veteran trees into its forthcoming Local Plan, and maintain such protections in future Local Plans, adopting the following wording:
 - o Development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons.
 - o As ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees are irreplaceable, discussions over possible compensation should not form part of the assessment to determine whether the exceptional benefits of the development proposal outweigh the loss.
 - o Ancient wood pasture and historic parkland should receive the same consideration as other forms of ancient woodland. The protection of the whole habitat is necessary even though tree cover may be comparatively sparse. Development on open space between trees in an area of ancient wood pasture or historic parkland should not be permitted.
- To write to the Secretary of State to ensure that any changes to the planning system do not remove the rights of Local Councils to protect Ancient Woodland and ancient and veteran trees as part of their planning policies.

- As part of the consultation process for the new Local Plan, include consultation on any Ancient Woodland sites and any ancient and veteran trees throughout the borough, which should be covered by protection.

Motion 4

GMSF

Councillor Sheldon to MOVE and Councillor Curley to SECOND:

Following the withdrawal of the vote on the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) report on the 25th November 2020 Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) meeting, and following the vote to reject the GMSF at Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council, that OMBC believes that the GMSF is ultimately no longer fit for purpose.

Oldham Borough Council Conservatives reject the need to build on our Greenbelt. We believe that the GMSF has damaged public trust due to the top down nature of the plans. That is why we are asking that OMBC listen to local communities and that OMBC explore the use of neighbourhood plans for each ward/s, area or parish enabling communities to play a much stronger role in shaping the areas in which they live and work. We note that a neighbourhood plan attains the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan) once it has been approved at a referendum as stated under the neighbourhood planning act 2017.

We believe that the people must have the final say on any future plan/s or proposal/s for their area.

We also note that should the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority continue in pursuing plans for a Greater Manchester wide plan whether GMSF or something else, that OMBC look at mechanisms to first ratify the matter with the people of the OMBC area impacted by any plan first. We suggest that this is held through a referendum.

Given these factors, and until a satisfactory resolution is found, that this Council resolves:

- That the OMBC Leader write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester:
 - Asking him to clarify if the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Greater Manchester Combined Authority intend to pursue the GMSF or a new Greater Manchester wide plan that excludes Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.
- That OMBC commits to do the following:
 - Take full advantage of HM Government and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rishi Sunak's £400 million fund aimed at creating more homes on brownfield land, as part of a package of Budget measures intended to boost housing delivery.
 - Complete a full and accurate online register detailing and listing all the Brownfield sites available in the OMBC area and any estimated costs associated with repurposing the land.
 - Always look to build on brownfield or derelict sites first or on sites with existing planning permission.
 - That OMBC look to build beautifully, by building homes that have garden

space and take consideration of local aesthetics and existing building styles.

- By converting long-term empty mills, shops, and offices into homes; and that existing long-term empty homes should also be brought back into use.
- Look at adopting a neighbourhood plan for each ward/s, area or parish as it attains the same legal status as a local plan (and other documents that form part of the statutory development plan) once it has been approved at a referendum as stated under the neighbourhood planning act 2017.
- That should a new, modified or existing Greater Manchester wide plan emerge that OMBC look at mechanisms to first ratify the matter with the wards or areas in the OMBC area through a referendum.
- Adopt and where appropriate strengthen the declaration of interests procedure and register of interests and or all other policies where there could be a perceived or actual conflict of interest/s either for Councillors or Council employees so as to make sure that members do not leave themselves open to (or perceived to be open to) improper influence through the acceptance of gifts and hospitality, or otherwise.

- 12 Oldham's COVID-19 Response - Update (Pages 113 - 120)
- 13 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 121 - 132)
- 14 Children's Services update (Pages 133 - 138)
- 15 Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report 2020/21 (Pages 139 - 164)
- 16 2019/20 Annual Statement of Accounts (Pages 165 - 408)
- 17 Civic Appreciation Nomination 2021 (Pages 409 - 410)
- 18 Municipal Diary 2021/22 (Pages 411 - 428)

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



**Carolyn Wilkins
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT

