

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 14 July 2021**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 6 July 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 14 July 2021 at 6.00 pm in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 19th May 2021 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 8)
- 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
(time limit 20 minutes)

There are no petitions to consider.

- 7 Youth Council
(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 8 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 9 - 38)
(time limit 15 minutes)

23rd February 2021

23rd March 2021

d Questions on Joint Arrangements (Pages 39 - 170)

(time limit 15 minutes)

AGMA	12th February 2021
GMCA	12th February 2021 23rd March 2021
GM Police, Fire and Crime Panel	29th January 2021
GM Waste and Recycling Committee	13th January 2021
GM Health and Social Care Partnership	31st January 2021 26th March 2021
GM Transport Committee	11th December 2020 12th February 2021 24th March 2021
National Park Authority	4th December 2020 19th February 2021 19th March 2021
Oldham Leadership Board	16th April 2021
Commissioning Partnership Board	25th February 2021 25th March 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	26th January 2021 23rd January 2021

9 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Mushtaq to MOVE and Councillor Moores to SECOND:

Recovery in Education and Young Children's Development

This Council notes that:

- Sir Kevan Collins, appointed by the Prime Minister as the Government's Education Recovery Commissioner judged that some £15bn was needed to repair the damage done to the nation's pupils because of Covid.
- On 2nd June the Government published its plans for education recovery after the pandemic. Its offer, £1.4bn, falls far short and is completely inadequate to build back better from the pandemic and have an education system that supports high standards and strong mental health for everyone.
- The Government's funding is intended mainly for tutors for children in schools. Other essential support, especially for disadvantaged children is not provided for.
- Moreover, there is no mention of support to ensure good development of children in their early years.

This Council further notes that

- Evidence from research for the Government supports the necessity for greater resources for children in Oldham, who are among the poorest and most vulnerable. Oldham suffered extended periods of lock-down and studies have shown that pupils have fallen behind, losing progress in maths and reading.

Progress, about which Oldham is rightfully proud, in reducing the gap in attainment between Oldham's children and those nationally, has been jeopardised. It has been confirmed in national research that the poorest pupils have lost more learning than the average.

- Prolonged absence from social contact with peers and adults in school has negatively affected the mental health of children and young people.
- Attendance in early years settings in Oldham, as more generally in the country, has fallen during the pandemic. This has implications for their development and school readiness.

This Council therefore resolves:

- To urge the Government to value and invest in all our children, so they are supported to develop well, to learn, succeed, and go on to have bright futures.
- To write to the Prime Minister and call on the Government to scale up its ambition for all our children in their early years, in school and in adolescence, to provide the resources needed to ensure that no child is left behind by putting in the investment called for by its own former Education Recovery Commissioner. This investment must include proper provision for pupil and early years premiums, ensuring access to school lunch throughout the year, and to sports and social activities which promote health and mental wellbeing.
- To continue to use the resources available to the Council for the development of all Oldham's children – in school, in college and in early years settings – and to encourage families to do what they can to promote the sound development of their children.

Motion 2

Councillor Hulme to MOVE and Councillor Jabbar to SECOND:

Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill

This Council notes

1. the ongoing climate crisis is the biggest challenge we face in our world. Climate breakdown is causing global temperatures and sea levels to continue to rise and we are experiencing more unseasonal and extreme weather events are taking place.
2. that Oldham Council has declared a climate emergency and is pursuing a Green New Deal strategy to meet ambitious targets of a zero carbon Oldham by 2030 including creating new sustainable, green jobs.
3. the work by local organisations such as the RSPB and City of Trees alongside the Council to improve natural habitats across the Borough and at a regional level by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to meet their 2038 target
4. that despite Parliament declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019, the Government's actions haven't matched its words. An emergency requires strong, decisive action to reverse the climate and ecological crisis. One in seven native British species are now at risk of extinction and tree-planting targets have been missed by over 50%.

This Council believes that

1. that the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill would create the powers needed to take strong, urgent action on both the climate and ecological emergencies missing from the current Climate Change Act. The bill would require the Government to: ensure that the UK reduces greenhouse gas emissions in line

with its legally-binding international obligations to limit global heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; protects and restores habitats, woodlands, wetlands and the wider natural world and establish a representative Citizens' Assembly to involve people from all parts of the UK in deciding which policies are needed to avoid irreversible environmental damage.

2. local authorities across the country will need national Government funding if we are to stop climate breakdown

The Council resolves to:

1. Support the campaign to get the *Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill* passed and ask the Chief Executive to write to Oldham's three MPs urging them to pledge to support the Bill;
2. Raise awareness of the bill and the ongoing climate emergency as well as local projects tackling the issue;
3. Ask the Chief Executive to write to: the Environment Minister, the Rt. Hon. George Eustice MP; the President of the COP26 Climate Conference, the Rt. Hon. Alok Sharma MP, and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP, informing them of this Council's support for the Bill and urging government time be allocated to the Bill to enable it to become law

10 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

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

Pension Fund Divestment from Fossil Fuels

This Council recognises that:

- Burning fossil fuels contributes significantly to global warming, jeopardising the stability of our climate upon which our well-being and economy depend. Such activity also has a negative impact upon air quality and so public health.
- Research demonstrates that 80% or more of the world's proven fossil fuel reserves will have to remain unburnt if we are to have a reasonable chance of keeping global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, the globally agreed target for climate change mitigation.
- Since 80% of fossil fuels must remain in the ground, the reserves of the fossil fuel industry risk becoming 'stranded assets' with little or no value – representing a substantial financial risk for those that invest in them.
- Greater Manchester Pension Fund currently has around £1.7 billion invested in the oil, coal and gas industries. This is environmentally and financially irresponsible.
- To date, over 1,100 institutions representing over \$14 trillion in assets have committed to divest from fossil-fuel companies. These include the World Council of Churches, the Irish state, New York City, the British Medical Association and a growing number of UK local authority pension funds.
- As a local authority with a commitment to become carbon-neutral by 2025, it is illogical for Oldham Council to make employer contributions towards a pension fund that is committed to investments in fossil-fuel companies.

Council resolves:

- Not to invest directly in fossil fuel companies.
- To mandate its representative to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund Board to call for the adoption of Responsible Investment policies which:
 - Immediately freeze any new investment in the top 200 publicly traded fossil fuel companies;
 - By the end of this year, divest from direct ownership of companies involved in coal mining;
 - Within two years, divest from direct ownership of all fossil fuel companies, along with any commingled funds that include any fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds;
 - Set out an approach to quantifying and addressing climate change risks affecting all other investments, and
 - Focus future investments on areas that minimise climate change risk and, where possible, invest in local climate solutions that will benefit fund members, their families and the wider community.
- To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Leaders and Chief Executives of the other 9 Greater Manchester local authorities outlining this Council's position and asking for their support.

Motion 2

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor C Gloster to SECOND:

Pavement Parking: Options for Change

This Council notes that:

- Pavement parking can pose a hazard to pedestrians, especially people with sight loss, parents with pushchairs, wheelchair users and other disabled people.
- People with sight loss are especially at risk as they can be forced into the road and faced with oncoming traffic that they cannot see.
- Pavements are not designed to take the weight of vehicles and so surfaces can become damaged or subside, presenting a further hazard for pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities.

Action to tackle pavement parking in this Borough is currently problematic because:

- The current legislation on nuisance pavement parking is confusing.
- The legal remedies available to tackle nuisance pavement parking are unsatisfactory.
- Greater Manchester Police has previously refused a Council request for assistance with enforcement.

Council:

- Awaits with interest the Government's promised response to the public submissions made to the Department of Transport's 'Pavement Parking: Options for Change' consultation, but regrets that this response, promised by 31 March, is now over three months late.
- Anticipates that the outcome of the consultation will be for government to grant new powers to local authorities to address nuisance pavement parking, rather than imposing an unnecessary blanket ban that will be onerous on residents and costly and difficult for local authorities to enforce.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting that the Government's response to the consultation now be published as promised.

- Ask the relevant Executive Director to conduct a survey amongst the elected members of this Council asking members to identify streets within their ward where nuisance pavement parking occurs.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to bring to a future meeting of this Council a report with the findings of this survey and details of the enforcement action that this Council proposes to take, taking account of any new powers the Government promises to make available to local authorities in their published response to the consultation.

Motion 3

Councillor H Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Kenyon to SECOND:

Hands off our Peak District National Park

Council notes that:

- 2021 is the 70th anniversary of the Peak District and other National Parks
- Our precious National Parks represent an irreplaceable national natural resource which provide enjoyment, education and employment for countless thousands of people every year and are treasured and loved by millions more.
- At present, every National Park is managed by its own LOCAL Park Authority with LOCAL representatives who know and serve the community and keep LOCAL oversight. The Park District National Park Authority includes an appointed representative from Oldham Council.

Council is therefore gravely concerned that the Glover Review of 2019 proposed the replacement of the local National Parks Authorities with a National Landscape Service which would centralise services under one, nationally run, new organisation, and that the Government is giving active consideration to accepting this recommendation.

Council is opposed to the replacement of the locally run National Parks Authorities because:

- It is contrary to the Government's 'levelling-up' agenda which involves government decentralising power and working more directly with local partners and communities.
- The 2019 Conservative Party Manifesto stated that "the days of Whitehall knows best are over" (p.26) and pledged to give communities of all sizes far more control. This Council questions how a centralist National Landscapes Service would achieve this.
- The move is contrary to international good practice in the management of protected landscapes which emphasises the importance of management being undertaken with, and through, local people and mainly for, and by, them.
- Locally run and locally managed National Parks consider local circumstances and take account of local feelings and requirements without the burdensome red-tape of national management.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State urging them not to replace local National Parks Authorities with a National Landscape Service or to take any step which will remove or degrade their powers
- Ask the Chief Executive to send a copy of this letter to the Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority
- Ask the Chief Executive to also copy in our three local MPs and the Chief Executives of other local authorities covered by the Peak District National Park asking for their support and/or similar action

Motion 4

Councillor Sharp to MOVE and Councillor Abid to SECOND:

Oldham Regeneration

The Government Minister for local growth, Luke Hall, stated High Streets are the beating heart of our local communities. That is why we welcome the Conservative Government delivering over £10.7 million for Oldham from the Future High Streets Fund to improve accessibility, connectivity and to aid recovery from the Coronavirus pandemic.

On top of that a further £24.4 million was awarded by the Conservative Government's Town Fund.

However, three of these projects, Northern Roots, the relocation of Tommyfield Market and the development of flexible working within Spindles, have raised considerable concerns with members of the public and businesses, particularly those in the markets. This money was awarded to Oldham to kick start the recovery from the pandemic. That is why it is disappointing that little or no consultation was had with taxpayers, the private sector or Councillors when developing these plans. It is why we have concerns that many of these projects could end up going way over budget like previous projects have done and that they will saddle taxpayers with more debt and higher Council tax bills to pay for it.

This Council therefore resolves:

- That it will properly consult with market traders, local taxpayers and the private sector to understand their concerns with these projects.
- That any future bids must include other parts of the Borough outside of the Town Centre.
- That the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council convey to the Town Deal Board (the board), the concerns that have been raised by the public, and the board will, in future, consult and inform the public of any decision to be made.
- That the board will open itself to proper public scrutiny about any draft plans they consider putting forward.
- That a special committee is established with equal representation from all parties to oversee the planned projects to:
 - Scrutinise and avoid wasteful expenditure of taxpayer's money.
 - To avoid any of the projects overspending.
 - Provide proper overview and scrutiny of these projects.
- That these projects do not go over budget and that contracts and agreements are properly scrutinised before signing to avoid taxpayers footing the bill for a failure to deliver on time or on budget.

- 11 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 171 - 194)
- 12 Covid-19 Recovery Strategy 2021 - 2022 (Pages 195 - 222)
- 13 Districts and Lead Members - Changes to the Constitution (Pages 223 - 230)
- 14 Constitution - Consequential Amendments (Pages 231 - 232)

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 fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

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

