

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 8 September 2021

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 31 August 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 8 September 2021 at 6.10 pm or immediately at the rise of the Special Council meeting whichever is the later 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 14th July 2021, 28th July 2021 and 25th August 2021 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 50)
- 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 Council Procedure Rules (Pages 51 - 54)
- 7 Youth Council
(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 8 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council
(time limit 20 minutes)

There were no petitions 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 55 - 72)
(time limit 15 minutes)

21st June 2021

26th July 2021

d Questions on Joint Arrangements (Pages 73 - 148)

(time limit 15 minutes)

GM Health and Social Care Partnership	28 th May 2021
MIOCARE	15 TH April 2021
GMCA	26 TH March 2021 28 th May 2021
GM Transport Committee	18 th June 2021
GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee	21 st April 2021
Police, Fire and Crime Panel	14 th May 2021
National Park Authority	21 st May 2021

10 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Roberts to SECOND the motion:

#keepthelifeline

This Council notes the devastating effect the Coronavirus pandemic has had on many of Oldham's communities, laying bare the inequalities opened up by austerity policies imposed by successive Coalition and Conservative Governments.

This Council further notes that despite the introduction of the National Living Wage and record employment, poverty amongst workers and children was rising before the pandemic. The cuts and freezes in social security played a significant part in this.

This Council is concerned that policies put in place to protect the most vulnerable during the pandemic are being wound down and in particular that furlough is due to end on the 30 September 2021 – the National Institute for Economic and Social research estimates 150,000 additional people will lose their jobs across the UK.

In addition, the Conservative Government has so far refused to continue the £20 a week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit– unfairly never paid to those receiving legacy benefits. The removal of the uplift will amount to a loss of benefit income of £1,040 per year from early October and will have the most severe impact in the North of England, Wales, the West Midlands and Northern Ireland. The Government has also re-instated the minimum income floor for self-employed earners claiming Universal Credit.

The ability of those on low incomes to pay their housing costs will be impacted by these changes at a time when the evictions ban has ended and when Local Housing Allowance rates have been frozen from April this year. These changes will result in a real terms income cut for renters receiving Housing Benefit or Universal Credit despite the cost of rents rising across the country.

This Council resolves to

1. Support the #keepthelifeline campaign to stop the planned cut to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit
2. Urge the Conservative Government to
 - a. Keep the £20 a week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit
 - b. Stop discriminating against families receiving 'legacy benefits', such as Employment Support Allowance, Jobseeker's Allowance and Income Support, by not giving them this uplift.
 - c. Remove the minimum income floor for self-employed earners claiming Universal Credit
 - d. Remove the April 2021 freeze on Local Housing Allowance rates
 - e. Bring forward as soon as possible legislation to end s21 no fault evictions
3. Ask the interim Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Secretary of State for MHCLG respectively outlining our concerns and asking for swift action to
 - prevent the 45,000 families who are Oldham residents in receipt of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credits (69% of whom are families with children) from falling deeper into poverty because of the changes to these benefits
 - prevent the homes of the most vulnerable families in private rented accommodation in Oldham from being at risk because of the freeze in Local Housing Allowance rates and the end of the evictions ban.

Motion 2

Councillor Chadderton to MOVE and Councillor Williams to SECOND the motion

Safer Communities: Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour

This Council notes that:

- This Conservative Government has cut police to the lowest level in a generation and cut funding for services that prevent crime from happening. These decisions have caused a surge in antisocial behaviour leaving people afraid in their own communities.
- Anti-social behaviour has rocketed, with police forces in England and Wales recording 2,022,274 incidents of anti-social behaviour in 2020-21, up by more than 600,000 in a year and the highest rate for seven years. Analysis of the Crime Survey data lays bare the scale of the problem with over 13.6 million adults having witnessed or experienced anti-social behaviour in the last twelve months.
- Greater Manchester Police in 2020-21 have recorded a twenty four percent increase in incidents of anti-social behaviour, this more than 16,506 incidents than in the previous year 2019-20.
- The Government is failing on law and order. Since 2014-15, violent crime has more than doubled with 1,680,884 violent crimes recorded in 2019/20, while the number of suspects charged has fallen by a quarter. Furthermore since 2015-16 there has been a 90 per cent increase in police recorded domestic abuse.

- On 22nd July 2021 the Police Federation of England and Wales (PFEW) representing 130,000 officers stated they no longer had confidence in the Home Secretary The Rt Hon. Priti Patel MP.

This Council further notes that:

- Police in England and Wales are still faced with a £1.6 billion funding gap in 2021 compared with 2010.
- Cuts to policing since 2010 has led to 8,433 fewer officers, 7,633 fewer PCSOs and 7,502 fewer police staff, with 99% of cuts to the police since 2010 being from the frontline. Greater Manchester Police has lost 2,000 officers and 1,000 support staff.

This Council therefore resolves

1. to ask the interim Chief Executive to write to:
 - The Home Secretary to urge the Government to do more to tackle the trouble escalation of anti-social behaviour across the country, including putting the victims of crime first by strengthening the legal protections for victims of persistent, unresolved anti-social behaviour.
 - the Prime Minister urging him to abandon his vanity national yacht project and instead redirect the over £280 million of funds on fighting crime in our communities. This additional funding could be used for surge funding of police officers and PCSOs and for helping councils fund enforcement or to pay for additional CCTV.
2. To continue supporting Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham in his goal to recruit 325 additional officers by the end of this year: this would mean an increase of 1,000 police officers since 2017.

11 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Arnott to MOVE and Councillor Byrne to SECOND the motion:

For Queen and Country

The Council notes that.

- Saying that you are proud to be British should not be a source of shame and there is nothing wrong with Patriotism or flying our national flag. It is one of many things that binds our society together.
- That the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is in fact a unique bastion of freedom and that we should be proud of the outstanding role it has played across the world in education, art, culture, science, engineering and in exporting democracy and the rule of law.
- We all have heroes in our communities – whether they are historical or present day, and we should properly celebrate these individuals, and their contribution to our country.

This Council resolves that:

- The Chief Executive of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council write to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office and Secretary of State for Education asking them to support Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council by providing support for schools to teach the national anthem, fly the Union Flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, display a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II and teach our islands' history.
- Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council reaffirms its support for the sovereignty of the Union of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Crown dependencies and United Kingdom Overseas Territories.
- That the relevant cabinet member will request all schools in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough to:
 - Teach their children to sing the national anthem.
 - Fly the Union Flag all year round.
 - Display a portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II in a prominent place in schools.
- That Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council display a proper and fitting portrait of HM Queen Elizabeth II (and any future sovereign) in a prominent place within the Council chamber and at the reception of Oldham Council along with our Union Flag of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. –
- This Council rejects the phenomena known as 'Cancel Culture' and that it holds these truths to be self-evident, that of freedom of speech and democracy. Truths which must be cherished and defended

Motion 2

Councillor Kenyon to MOVE and Councillor Al-Hamdani to SECOND the motion:

Adopting 'Permission Accomplished' standards in planning

This Council:

- Believes that confidence in the planning process is undermined in circumstances where the public, elected members and professionals are convinced, or simply perceive, that pre-determined bias exists, that the process is not fully transparent, or worse, that corrupt practices prevail.
- Commits that Oldham follow best practice standards in planning to provide reassurance to all parties that the process has integrity, impartiality and is transparent.
- Notes that Transparency International UK (TI-UK), part of the world's leading non-governmental anti-corruption organisation, published a report 'Permission Accomplished' in July 2020 identifying best practice.

Council believes that the 'Permission Accomplished' report represents an excellent opportunity to benchmark our local planning procedures, so they mirror the best practice recommendations outlined by TI-UK.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to establish a task-and-finish group of senior planning and legal officers, all party representation from the Planning Committee, and a representative from TI-UK, to examine the report and identify the best practice that should be adopted in Oldham.
- Ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to bring their report and recommendations to a future meeting of Council for adoption.

Motion 3

Councillor Lancaster to MOVE and Councillor Woodvine to SECOND the motion:

South Pennines National Park

This Council notes that:

- the UK Government's commitment to protect 30% of our land by 2030, an ambition now shared by all G7 Members following the recent Summit in Cornwall, is very welcome
- the South Pennines, covering much of Saddleworth and Crompton Moor in our Borough, ought to be included in any additional protected land allocation and can significantly contribute to meeting this national 30% target
- Pennine Prospects and other groups campaigning for a Regional Park for the South Pennines have undertaken significant and applaudable work, but this proposal would not provide equal status and support as is enjoyed by the other ten existing National Parks in England
- the South Pennines was first considered for National Park designation in the original Hobhouse Committee of seventy years ago, and its suitability for such designation remains strong today

This Council resolves to:

- work with the Local Authorities, any other key stakeholders and those with relevant expertise within the South Pennines geographic remit to build a case for and promote the South Pennines National Park concept
- proactively engage with, and present a case for National Park designation to, the upcoming Natural England assessment into England's landscapes in the 21st Century, and progress any further opportunities which may arise to advance this designation

Motion 4

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor H Gloster to SECOND the motion:

Government funding for our overlooked emergency services

Council notes that 9 September is annually marked as Emergency Services Day in the United Kingdom.

Council recognises, with pride and gratitude, the tremendous professionalism and commitment shown by our emergency services personnel (ambulance, fire, police and coastguard) day-in-day out, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, three of our essential emergency services currently remain almost completely unfunded by central government and largely run with financial support from the public by selfless and dedicated volunteers; these being the UK's mountain and cave rescue services; air ambulance services; and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI).

Many injured or ill residents and visitors to this borough have been beneficiaries of the services provided by the Oldham Mountain Rescue Team and North West Air Ambulance Service, and some residents will have also been assisted at sea by the RNLI, yet these services almost wholly rely upon public donations, which are uncertain, rather than having any guarantee of their costs being reimbursed by central government.

Council believes this is unfair, and that some government funding should be provided to guarantee these invaluable services a certain level of income every year.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that the UK government provide annual funding to these services on an ongoing basis as a clear commitment in the 2022 March Budget.
- Copy in our three local MPs and the Mayor of Greater Manchester seeking their support.

12 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 149 - 154)

13 Revised Code of Conduct (Pages 155 - 170)

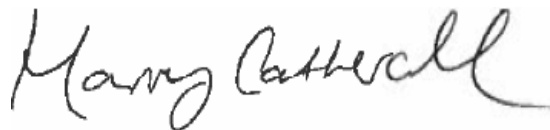
14 Appointment of Independent Persons

Report to follow.

15 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy (Pages 171 - 202)

16 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2020-21 (Pages 203 - 230)

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 "Harry Catherall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Harry Catherall
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

