

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)

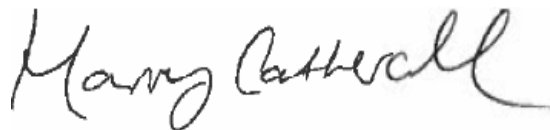
14 Appointment of Independent Persons

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.



**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



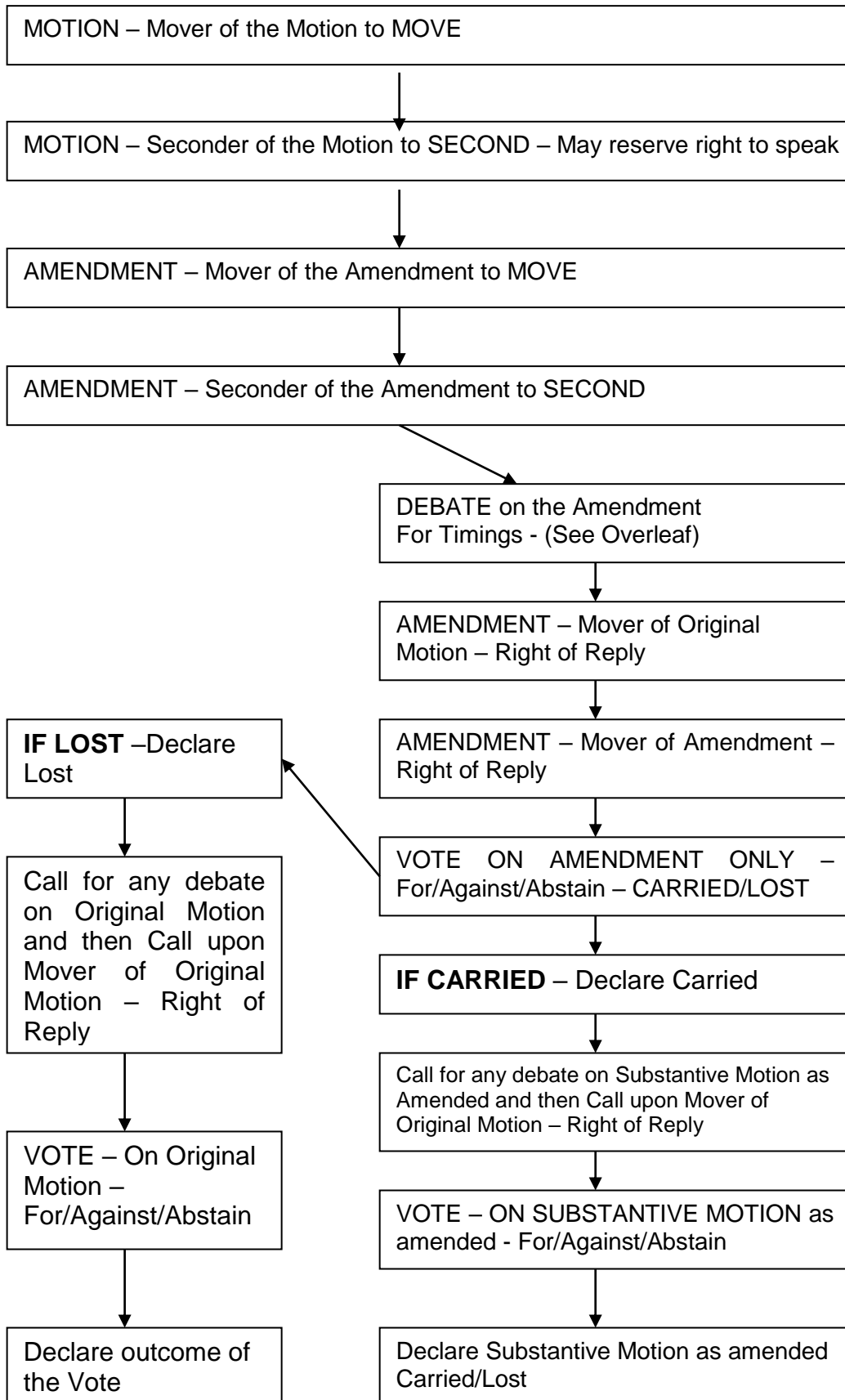
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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



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COUNCIL
14/07/2021 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Harrison

Councillors Abid, Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, G. Alexander, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Birch, Briggs, Brownridge, Byrne, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, A Hussain, F Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, C. Phythian, K. Phythian, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Chadderton, Lancaster and Leach.

2 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 19TH MAY 2021 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 19th May 2021 be approved as a correct record subject to Councillor Lancaster to be added to the attendance list.

3 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING**

Councillors Birch and C and H Gloster declared a personal interest in item 8D and Councillors Garry and Wilkinson declared a pecuniary interest in 8D by virtue of employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillors Ahmed, Akhtar, Alexander, Alyas, Brownridge, Cosgrove, S and M Bashworth, Goodwin, Jabbar, Moores, Roberts, Sykes and Sheldon declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 by virtue of being a Member of the Greater Manchester Pension Scheme.

Councillor Shuttleworth declared a personal interest in the Oldham Council Cabinet minutes of 22nd March 2021, (page 34, item 10) by virtue of being a member of the Unity Partnership Board.

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

There were no items of Urgent Business.

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

The Mayor advised that the Leader of the Council, Councillor Shah had requested to read a statement to the meeting. Council agreed to the request.



As follows:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council

In November 2019, Oldham Council and Oldham's Safeguarding Board wrote to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to commission an independent review into the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham.

The review's remit is to look at historical allegations relating to child sexual exploitation and, to consider whether the Council and its partners provided an appropriate response to protect children.

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority appointed Malcolm Newsham and Gary Ridgeway to oversee this review. Both Gary and Malcolm have extensive experience in social care and policing and have carried out reviews in other areas including Northamptonshire and, more recently, Manchester.

I recently wrote to Baroness Beverly Hughes, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester to ask her to provide an update on the progress of this review. Baroness Hughes has confirmed that the review is progressing well and that they continue to receive the support and access to information that they need to complete their work effectively. She has confirmed that the Review Team have so far received hundreds of documents, report and files, interviewed over 45 people and received 9 written submissions relating to their enquiries.

Baroness Hughes has provided assurances that a first draft of the report should be completed by September, but that a number of procedural steps must then be taken, including review by legal counsel to ensure the report is appropriately anonymised and in line with data protection legislation, and review by individuals mentioned to give them the opportunity to make representations. She has informed us that given the complexity and scale of this work, that this could take "a number of months".

We all share a desire for the review to be published as soon as possible, but we cannot rush them and risk jeopardising the ability of the Review team to complete their work diligently, thoroughly and transparently.

I can confirm that the Council will do everything in its power to support the swift publication of this report once it is finalised. Our biggest responsibility as a Council is to keep our children and young people safe. The review team are leading experts, so I have no doubt they will identify areas where our work in the past has fallen short.

I would add Madam Mayor, that nothing should be said today that seeks to pre-empt or undermine the review. I am acutely aware that those who seek to make political capital will portray

whatever is found as part of a conspiracy if it falls short of completing all that was done at the time to protect young people. We must not allow that to guide us, or to blind us in that we must take its findings, even where it offers challenge, and use that to ensure that lessons are learned. Nothing Madam Mayor, I repeat nothing matters more than the protection of young people and bringing abusers to trial.

I ask each and everyone of you in Oldham, firstly, help us instil confidence, so the victims feel supported to come forward. Help us educate and go into every community to teach young people what positive relationships are and what signs of abuse to watch out for, including control, grooming and inappropriate behaviour at home, in the community, or on-line. Secondly, that there is no hierarchy of victim or offender based on race, religion, social class, gender or anything else. All victims must be supported equally, and all offenders must be dealt with robustly, with the full weight of the law.

I will not shy away, and I hope I have the support of the whole chamber and the wider community. Finally, all of us in public service are here to serve the community to the best of our ability and judgement. It is a fact, a horrible fact that abuse does take place. Protesting, abusing and marginalizing those of us fighting to put it right does not help victims, or encourage decent people into public service. My personal commitment to you is honesty, hard work and accountability.

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

There were no petitions to consider.

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There was no Youth Council business to consider.

8 **QUESTIONS TIME**

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 question would be read out by the Mayor.

a Public Questions

The following questions were submitted:



1. **Question received from Mark Birchall via email:**

Oldham
Council

“Could we have a statement from the Leader of the Council regarding the latest vandalism and violence at the factory on the 21st June 2021. We are aware that MP, Debbie Abrahams, the Leader of OMBC and several Councillors attended to support the demonstration in Parliament Square.

Was any consideration given to the struggling business owners in the area who probably were affected by this, also the constant attendance at the factory which has now been taken to a different and more dangerous level. Has consideration been given to residents near to the factory who are having to ensure this kind of behaviour and are concerned for their own safety with the level of violence and vandalism now being carried out at the premises.”

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“The right to peaceful protest is a vital element of any functioning democracy and one that should be forcefully defended. The Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill that the Government are currently trying to pass and which, amongst other things allows the Police to restrict protests that are noisy, is an affront to our democracy.

Peaceful protest should not lead to vandalism and violence, however, we will always work with the Police and our partners to stop that happening. We are aware that GMP are in regular dialogue with Elbit and have a patrol plan for the area to reassure businesses and residents.”

2. **Question received from Robert Barnes via email:**

“Following the attack on Elbit Ferranti on Monday, June 21 2021 with the smashing of windows and paint being thrown on the floor outside the building, will the Council Leader categorically condemn the violence aimed at a business in our town?

Furthermore, will she also look into the issue of young children being taken to the regular protests that are held outside Elbit Ferranti? This should be a cause of great concern and treated as a potential safeguarding issue as children are too young to understand the very complex issues surrounding this matter. Children of such a young age should not be at such protests.”

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“I won’t repeat what I said in answer to the previous question. On the specific issue of young people at protest, parents and carers can make the decision to bring their children to organised demonstrations/protests. There is no legislation that enables the Local Authority to prevent this. However, if individual safeguarding concerns arise at the time of the event and it is felt that a child is at

risk of significant harm as a result, then safeguarding processes should be followed and a referral made into Children Services for consideration.



Oldham
Council

We work closely with GMP and partner agencies to ensure safeguarding processes are followed in such circumstances and look to minimise associated risks by engaging with protest organisers in the event planning stage.”

3. Question received from Lewis Quigg via email.

“Will the Leader of the Council like any right minded person in our town, condemn the actions of a convicted criminal who is planning to carry out street patrols in Oldham and Chadderton? Does she agree that this is an unacceptable development, and will she take action to stop a convicted criminal from patrolling our streets and support Greater Manchester Police in asking for more street patrols and funding for our Police from the Mayor of Greater Manchester?”

4. Question received from Debbie Barratt-Cole via email:

“Can the Leader please tell me if she agreed with her long-time friend Mohammed Imran Ali (Irish Immy) setting up groups of people to patrol the streets at night in Chadderton and Werneth and will she be making funds for equipment needed for night time street patrols?”

The Mayor advised that as questions 3 and 4 were of a similar nature, Councillor Shah would provide one response covering both questions.

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“Thank you for your question. As a Council, we would not seek to condemn any member of the public who wishes to improve their area. People’s concerns about the levels of crime in their area are very real and something that all Members hear about from their local residents very regularly. We would, however, question whether street patrols of this nature are the best or most appropriate solution to the issues residents raise. As a result, the Council does not currently offer any support or funding to these types of groups and has no plans to do so.

GMP work closely with individuals or groups looking to establish local neighbourhood or street watch schemes like the one this question refers to. They engage directly with these groups to support and advise them on best practice including ensuring adequate insurance is in place, the establishment of codes of conduct for volunteers and making sure effective safeguarding procedures are carried out which could include Disclosure and Barring Service Checks on volunteers where required.

We have passed on details of this proposed scheme to Greater Manchester Police so that they can engage with the individuals involved directly to provide this advice and support. We will, as we

have always done, continue to fight for better funding for our Police services to increase visible policing in our neighbourhoods. The Greater Manchester Mayor has taken action to increase the funding that GMP receives locally through the police precept but more than 75% of the force's funding comes from Central Government. It is not a secret that years of Central Government cuts to police funding have led to over 20,000 fewer police on our streets over the last ten years and we will continue to highlight this and lobby for more resources for our local police.”

RESOLVED – That the questions and responses provided be noted.

b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group:

“I welcome Councillor Shah to this meeting. I’m sure everyone would join me in condemning what she has had to experience recently and in doing so showing those people that we are conducting the business of the town here tonight.”

My first question to the Leader tonight is on an issue that for my Liberal Democrat colleagues and I think is of paramount importance to the future of the people of our Borough, and indeed the people of our planet. I am, of course, referring to climate change and this Council’s ambitious targets to become carbon neutral in 2025 and make our Borough carbon neutral by 2030. Oldham cannot of course single-handedly save the world from climate change, but by taking practical actions to reduce our carbon footprint, and by leading by example, we can make a difference. Every little helps. So, I was pleased to see in the recently published Covid Recovery Strategy reference to the ‘green recovery’. But, unfortunately, when it comes to actions and targets the document falls short on specifics. It references our intention to ‘develop plans’ for a new District Heat Network using renewable heat from disused mines underneath the town centre; to ‘start to deliver’ improvements in energy efficiency in social housing; and to ‘develop plans’ for Council corporate assets. The mine heat project is something I personally welcome as I first suggested it to the then Leader at the October 2014 Council meeting, but sadly it must surely now be in jeopardy as the Government has failed to support the proposal as part of our Towns Fund bid? But, in any case, this misses the real point.

In Bedford, as just one example, the Council also declared a climate emergency, identified its baseline level of carbon emissions, and by installing solar panels on its Council buildings, replacing street lighting with LEDs, and establishing a hydro power scheme in the Great Ouse River, reduced its carbon emissions by 62%. 2025 is only four years away.

Would the Leader not agree that by now we as a Council should be ‘doing’ like Bedford and not just ‘planning’ and ‘starting to deliver’?

So, when are we going to start 'doing it'? Otherwise, how are we as a Council showing leadership and providing encouragement to our public, social and private sector partners and our citizens to join us by doing their bit to stop climate change and save our planet?



Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“Can I acknowledge Cllr Sykes initial comments regarding the last 24 hours which have been very difficult? I cannot say that this has not affected my family and the people I love, because it has, but what I am clear about, that whoever is responsible, and for whatever reason, I will not be diverted from the task in hand. Madam Mayor our town is facing some of its biggest challenges yet, and as we emerge from Covid, the fragile nature of economy and our society will be tested to the limits. My sole focus is on the town and its people. I came into public life because I demand better for every man, woman and child here and, to realise that this will require all the energy I and everyone in this chamber and more widely into the Council and our partners have in us, so let's get on with the task in hand and with doing that I am going to defer the question to my colleague Councillor Abudl Jabbar, who has the portfolio responsibility for the area that Councillor Sykes has just raised, but I would like to thank him for standing and supporting for exactly the good of what Oldham is.”

Cllr Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member, Finance & Low Carbon:

Thank you to Councillor Sykes for his question and thanks to his party for constantly raising the green issue and the support in a number of things that we have tried to do. I think it is a really important question. Let me go through what we are doing. It is good that it is in the Recovery Plan because that just shows the commitment of this Labour administration and we see green as an important part of recovery for this town. In terms of some of the details you talked about, can I just say that we have to set up Oldham Community Power which is solar PV panels on a number of public owned assets and they are actually generating clean electricity for those buildings. We also installed solar power panels on the Tomyfield market. We have planned to install a new ground mounted solar farm on the Wrigley Head site but sadly as you know, the Government turned down our request for funding from the decarbonisation fund.

In terms of all the other things we are doing, we have got a very comprehensive plan, it is called the Green New Deal. We are the first Council anywhere in the land to have such a detailed comprehensive plan to deal with the climate change issue. You will say that we have not seen any projects; I can assure you we are doing a number of things. The coal mine water heating system that you talked about cost £20m. We asked the Government to give us £4m from the Towns Fund. Unfortunately, they did not. That was just to do the bore hole test and also do the feasibility. It is not off the agenda. We are looking at different funding sources. I am absolutely committed, on behalf of the administration to find a way

to bring that project to reality. We are absolutely committed to that in terms of some other things we are doing.




The target that you mentioned for 2025 is for the Council buildings and for the street lighting to be carbon neutral for that date. As part of the revision of our assets, we will make sure that whatever we do next, the renewal energy stuff is taken care of and we come close to achieving carbon neutrality in our new buildings. As part of the street lighting, we are already working with the PFI provider to change the bulbs to low energy. We have done that. There are a number of things that we are doing. If you look closely Howard, we are one of the leading authorities in Greater Manchester. That is not enough, as far as I am concerned because there is a lot more to be done, but as an administration, we are doing everything we can, are totally committed, and I look forward to working with you and your group on this matter. Thank you.”

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group:

I thank the Leader of the Council for her comments and also the Deputy Leader. We will be constructive about this because it is too important not to be. My second question tonight, is a subject that I have previously raised in Council and that is using the spending power of the Council and its partners to do greater good for our communities by employing it to purchase goods and services from local producers, suppliers and trades people and to employ local people. Of course, this creates a VIRTUOUS circle, nobody disagrees with it, as local companies take on more local people and then these companies and people invest their earnings in the local economy as do our residents who are council employees. The result is a more vibrant local economy and higher levels of local employment. It is not rocket science, it's rather the reverse. The meerkat TV Celebrity Professor Alexander Olaff would call it simple, but for this to work, we need to ensure that spending is placed with providers based in our District ??? as well as Oldham itself. This strategy would reflect the new reality that I spoke about with our previous Leader, in September 2020 Council meeting, suggesting that local is the new normal. People are more likely to work from home, shop from home, socialise or engage in leisure activities, in their home, around their homes or in their home's locality. When they do venture out, it will be to local outlets. They want their Council's and its partners to reflect that attitude, to invest first and foremost in our Borough by spending, but also investing locally with trades and businesses in Chadderton, Failsworth, Lees, Royton Shaw, Upper Mill amongst others to make these District centres vibrant alongside Oldham. Sometimes that may involve thinking outside of the box which is why I recently asked for consideration for an artisan and producers' market to be established in Shaw.

Can the Leader therefore please tell me, how far off the current 60% target for local spend are we? What is the administration going to do to increase our local spending by stages, substantially above the current target of 60%? What plans are there to invest and spending in our District Centres as well as Oldham and what



plans are there to earmark more of our Council jobs and those of our partners for local people who live in our Borough? What support are we giving to local people so that they can access these jobs at the Council, Health Bodies, Colleges and other public services. We need to lead by example as it will be us locally who builds back better, and we need to do it for ourselves. It is already clear to me that no one else is going to do it or help us do it in any meaningful way”.

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“We are absolutely committed to local spending in Oldham and the recovery of our economy. I am setting up working training to ensure that our procurement process focusses on social value far greater than it does at the moment. In terms of economic recovery set up, I have arranged and will be launching an Economic Review Board which will be chaired by Alan Francis, who is the Principal of Oldham College, another national and local expert who will help support in our building back agenda. Specific data will be provided to you and I am absolutely committed to economic recovery and recent partnerships between the college and the MCA employment for young people is a step board and my desiring commitment to show that I am willing to work collaboratively to get the best and go there.

The question around artisan markets, I recently met with you Councillor Sykes and we had this discussion and I am absolutely committed which is why I have got a Cabinet Member for Enterprise and Businesses which will focus on encouraging and supporting businesses and District Centres via establishing hubs but also I will look and provide and commit to the opportunity of investing in local people and that will be first and foremost in my agenda. Thank you very much.”

Councillor Graham Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:

“It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your success to the position of Leader of the Labour Group and of this Council. It is the first formal opportunity I have had to wish you well in this significant and demanding role. The Conservative Group will support you when we agree, and put forward a fair and constructive objection, where we may disagree. I am shocked by the news we heard yesterday about your personal trauma, indeed the attack on a person or their property, must not be tolerated. The Conservative Group condemn all verbal and physical abuse to any person carrying out their work or duties. I do not know of any background information but there seems to be tension in Oldham at the moment, and I am hoping that by working with local community and Police, these tensions will be calmed and subside. The Police must be our first call to deal with the upholding of the law and I would ask Councillor Shah to agree that any suggestions of vigilante groups keeping law and order in our town, are strongly discouraged and stopped.”

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:



“I have previously answered this question as a public question, but I would like to thank and welcome Cllr Graham Sheldon’s comments, but I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone in the chamber, that whilst there are tensions in Oldham, the people of this chamber have the utmost responsibility to make sure that we challenge ourselves in our conduct, our colleagues in our conduct and our political groups in our conduct and that goes wider than just the membership of this chamber, Madam Mayor. If we are truly promoting political peace, which I gave my commitment to at Annual Council, when I was declared Leader of this Council, then I would like to see that demonstrated cross party, that we call out bad behaviour, whether that’s one of our own, or if that is anybody else. Of course, I do not understand why I keep getting these continuous questions around vigilante groups and the police being first point of contact. I find it deeply offensive that there is even an assumption that this is not something that I would believe in. I have mentioned previously about my upbringing, my background, my experiences but I am here, and I know who I am, and I am here to lead the Council to make the lives better of every single resident who lives in this Council.

I welcome Cllr Graham Sheldon’s comments but I would also like to point people to using policy areas to attack each other and have discussion and debate around ,but not to make any other assumptions that are dumbfounded, and they know are not necessary or appropriate for this chamber, because every time we speak or behave in a certain way, or give room to these kind of conversations, we are actually doing a disservice to democracy for other people who are watching us and I would just like to remind everybody of our responsibilities.”

Councillor Graham Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:

“I thank the Leader for answering that question and I can certainly say that we will work together with everybody if that does occur. The second question is on a brighter note, with the easing or end of lockdown next Monday, we are all aware of new expectations which could increase the Covid infections in the country, in the Borough. We are told that the vaccination could be up to 98% effective in preventing these infections. I believe it is still a race to vaccinate people, as the disease continues to spread. Long Covid is something that is being discussed more and more. There are thousands of people of all ages, but sadly it is also affecting young children. Will the Council Leader join with me in thanking the Government, Scientists, medical professionals for their works so far, and to encourage people within the Borough to take the offer of the vaccination if they are able, and at the earliest opportunity? not only to protect themselves but their family, friends and those around them. I will continue to wear a face covering in crowded spaces and hope others do the same”.

Councillor Arooj, Leader of the Council responded:



“Thank you, Councillor Graham Sheldon, for your question. Our rates are significantly high locally. We are actively monitoring them. We have vaccinated nearly 300,000 in total of first and second doses in Oldham and will continue to promote our pop-up community clinics across the town.


I would also like to thank the officers of this Council, the community and voluntary sector, who have really adapted in flexible ways to make sure that access for testing and vaccinations are available to our communities and across the town. I have deep concerns that I have raised publicly about the announcement around the 19th July. I will also continue to wear the face mask, as my colleagues will do in this chamber, and we need to continue to do what we have done all along, which is what Oldham’s response has been, putting our residents first, protecting our loved ones, families and our wider communities, and in that sense I would like to use this opportunity to thank Councillor Graham Sheldon for his question, and the scientists that have had a difficult challenge, that has sometimes played out publicly, in managing politicians, especially those that are Ministers in Government at this time, who seem to blurt out announcements for the sake of it and at times hasn’t put public health or the concerns of our residents, at the fore front, but we will continue in Oldham in the same spirits that we have, and that is taking all the precautions that are out there, staying safe and protecting our loved ones.”

Councillor Brian Hobin

I would also like to convey my thoughts to the Leader of the Council on the events of yesterday. She is well aware that she has our backing. On policy matters, the previous administration purchased Spindles Shopping Centre at what was supposed to be a bargain price. I would like to know if this administration has carried on with that plan, if they have any different plans for Spindles and if there is an update on what the bargain price is now up to with the added spending that has been taking place on the site. Thank you.

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“Thank you Madam Mayor and I would also like to thank Councillor Brian Hobin for reaching out and supporting me through the last 24 hours. Buying Spindles was a great decision for Oldham for several reasons. It was a bargain, even if we knocked it down, the land alone is worth more than what we paid for it. It gives the public control of a large site right in the heart of the town centre meaning we can turn it into something that works for Oldham rather than leaving it to rot in the hands of disinterested Californian investors. It is a key to unlocking several other projects because we own Spindles so we can create a new performance space, develop a great new site for the market traders and create much more cost-effective Council offices, develop new houses in the town to reduce pressure to build on the green belt and create a



brand-new town centre park. Without Spindles this all becomes a lot harder. As we develop our plans for Spindles, it is vital that regardless of the opinions of some in this chamber, that residents are at the heart of our decisions. This is their town centre. We received more than 2000 responses to the consultation we ran earlier in the year. We will be consulting again in the summer to see what people think of our earlier ideas designed in response to what people have said. The purchase of Spindles was completed in October 2020 at the cost of £9.5m and this purchase included the whole site and all leases with the exception of a leasehold on the Top Man unit, which was purchased later in June 2021. There are huge opportunities here and I will be continuing with that plan because it has been endorsed not just by my predecessor Council Leader, Sean Fielding but also residents of this town and in that spirit we will continue.”

Councillor Shuttleworth

“I wish to bring to the attention of elected members a posting by an individual who stood for election at the local elections on 6th May in this Borough, and I apologise in advance for the wording and I quote:

Definition of 'Parasite', "an organism that lives in or on an organism of another species (its host) and benefits by deriving nutrients at the other's expense."

Speaking of which, did you know for the pleasure of wearing a few baubles and chains the Mayor of Oldham will trouser an extra £15,662 in allowances for just putting a faux fur coat on and parading around in chains. They will cost you £25,638 for the privilege.

The leveler in me thinks this is rotten hypocrisy of the highest order when the same Councillors complain about children going hungry. Meanwhile they gorge themselves on taxpayer funded civic meals and events whilst being paraded around like the prize pig. That doesn't include the cost of the Mayoral Chauffeur driven car by the way. What a Rotten Borough! End of quote.

May I ask the Leader to express her thoughts about this comment and also ask Cllr Shah to formally raise this with the Leader of the Conservative Group in Oldham to establish if these are the views of his group, and if not, what action he proposes to take against the individual concerned?”

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

I thank Cllr Shuttleworth for his question. I'm sure I share the view of most people in this chamber and those watching online that this sort of attitude and language is hugely destructive. We've seen over the last year what an important role the Mayor of Oldham plays, raising money for charity, supporting communities and doing little things that make a big difference for people like marking birthdays and anniversaries. I would encourage the poster to look at the Mayor's Facebook page to see all the incredible activity and

hard work the role involves, and will certainly raise the issue with the Leader of the Conservative Group.



I'd like to raise a wider point though. We're all very aware of the hate being stoked up in our communities. We've seen it online, locally and nationally with the shocking response to the result at the Euros. Let's be clear: tolerating this hatred online has real world consequences.

We've seen a growth in the kind of dehumanising language used by Mr Quigg. By calling someone a parasite, we invite people to treat them as less than human and open to attack. Like several other members in this chamber, I've experienced a barrage of it in the last couple of years. You can attack my political decisions all you want, but most of the time instead I get attacks against me as a person. Sadly we've seen people in this chamber echoing the arguments of those who seek to divide us, even when they admit elsewhere there's no evidence to support them. I hope they can now see the potential and real consequences of their actions. It's not a game – people's lives are at stake. Oldham is better than this, and it's time for us to show it".

Councillor Dean

"Please could the appropriate Cabinet member give me an update on the future renovation to the archway and house at the entrance to Greenacres Cemetery.

This is an historic and attractive building that has now been encased in scaffolding for over 15 years because of structural issues. I have raised the problem on a number of occasions, and been told solutions are being looked at, but no progress seems to have been arrived at. This is an iconic entrance to Oldham's largest cemetery, and residents are asking for progress. I would be grateful for a positive reply."

Cllr Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member, Finance & Low Carbon responded:

"Thank you to Councillor Dean for his question. The Council took steps back in 2016 to address a number of structural issues that were found to this archway structure, that consisted of two attached residential properties that also have structural problems. A protective scaffold was put into place at the time, to ensure that access would be maintained to the Cemetery, whilst funding opportunities could be explored to address the necessary remedial works identified which have been estimated to be in the region of £0.5m.

While Government cuts mean an ever-decreasing funding pool for competing priorities, we are currently undertaking a strategic asset management review of the Council's estate to see if a potential funding opportunity can be found to support the necessary renovation works."



Oldham
Council

Councillor Alyas

“We are all aware that during the last round of budgetary considerations it was decided to reduce the amount of Direct funding that Mahdlo receive from the Council and I am aware that the Council offered to support Mahdlo in accessing alternative funding streams. Can the relevant Cabinet Member please tell us what support is being provided to Mahdlo and have they been able to access alternative funding?”

Councillor Eddie Moores, Cabinet Member for Children & Young People responded:

“Thank you Cllr Alyas. I would like to assure Members that we have an ongoing dialogue with Mahdlo. Councillor Officers have met with Mahdlo on several occasions and supported them in identifying possible funding streams. I am pleased to be able to tell you that in addition to the £300k investment the Council will give to Mahdlo in this financial year the Council has also helped them to secure additional funding. This includes

- £4,714 from the local support grant
- £18,000 from the Restart Grant
- £75.000 from the Additional Restrictions Grant
- In addition, Mahdlo, following a bid, will receive a further £34K investment from our Holiday Activities Fund; this will support their activities during the Summer.
- The Council is also investigating how its social framework supports the wider voluntary sector offer including Mahdlo.

As promised, The Council supported Mahdlo in identifying funding streams and this support will continue to allow Mahdlo to make an impact on the lives of so many young people.”

Councillor Murphy

“The Government has recently consulted on new proposals to overhaul refuse collection and recycling in England. The stated aim is to recycle 65% of our waste by 2035 and reduce landfill to a maximum of 10%.

The proposals have been met with dire warnings in the media and from some councils that homes will be cursed with seven bins as a result, that bin collection is being ‘nationalised’, and that the proposals represent ‘costly chaos’.

In Oldham we are ahead of the game in already providing for free garden and food waste collections, but can the Cabinet Member please tell me what the Government’s proposals would mean for Oldham, when we are against the 65% target, and whether the 10% target for landfill might mean our Borough is threatened with more air-polluting incinerators, like the one rearing its ugly head to burn the residual non-recyclable waste?”

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member, Finance & Low Carbon.



Oldham
Council

“Thank you, Councillor Murphy for your important question. The waste collected within Oldham is disposed of through a shared contract with other Greater Manchester Authorities. Given the combined authority aims to achieve 55% household recycling by 2025, 60% recycling across the 20 Household Waste Recycling Centres by 2021 and at least 90% diversion from landfill by 2021 we are well placed to deal with the Governments proposals with no plans for additional facilities.”

Councillor Woodvine

“As a result of once having had more Turnpike Roads than anywhere else in the country the Civil Parish of Saddleworth, which was at that time in the West Riding of Yorkshire, has twenty-five surviving milestones which have fallen into a state of disrepair after being neglected.

They were erected in 1894 and as such are historically significant so please can the Cabinet Member responsible commit to repairing and restoring these milestones on Saddleworth’s highway network?

I have relevant reports into the current, deteriorating, condition of the milestones which I can share with the Cabinet Member which includes information and shows where they are located in Saddleworth.”

Prior to Councillor Jabbar’s response, as follows, the Mayor advised that due to timings, Cllr Woodvine’s question would be the last question to receive a response.

Cllr Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Finance & Low Carbon

“Thank you, Councillor Woodvine for this question. Whilst in the full bid it would be necessary to demonstrate that this contributes to building back better, and has significant community support, it would in theory be eligible for a bid through the Local Improvement Fund if you wish to apply.”

9

QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES

Council was 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 23rd February 2021 and 22nd March 2021 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Byrne –

“On the street bin replacement, it does not seem clear whether the bin replacement is going to cover the whole borough. Each time I have made an enquiry, I have had a rather ambiguous answer because in my ward and ward surroundings, we have bins that have been removed and not replaced and when we ask the question about replacement, that response ambiguous in some cases, they say “we will leave you an extra bag”. When I look through these, I didn’t find a commitment to site. I presume we are going to be sent a list of possible sites so that we can comment on them?”

Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“Councillor Chadderton is not present today. I will pass on Councillor Byrne’s comments and pass them on to Councillor Chadderton. Thank you so much.”

10

QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

Council was requested to note the minutes of the following Joint and Partnership meetings and the relevant spokesperson to respond to questions from members.

The minutes of the Joint Authorities and Partnerships were submitted as follows:

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

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor H Gloster–

“GMCA minutes 12th February 2021 – GMCA 37/21 – GM Brownfield Housing Fund – Additional Award of Funding from

MHCLG –“Over £81m had been awarded to Greater Manchester to support Housing Development projects on Brownfield land sites. Please can the Cabinet Member tell me how much of this money has been awarded for Brownfield developments in Oldham and how many extra new homes can now be built on Brownfield instead of on Green Belt sites as a result. Is there any estimate as to how much more money would be needed in Oldham to build all the new homes proposed for the Borough in the Places for Everyone plan solely on Brownfield sites.”

Councillor Hannah Roberts, Cabinet Member, Housing responded:

“I am delighted to confirm that Oldham has been successful in securing a provisional allocation from the fund for just over £8m across four sites to deliver up to 551 new homes. Unfortunately, no estimate exists of how much it will cost for all Brownfield sites in Oldham to be built on, however I can assure you that we will continue to do everything that we can to make sure that we bid and are successful in bidding for housing development on Brownfield sites and to maximise the funding opportunities that will support this approach. We have discussed this before at Full Council. The flexible housing fund exists to help us do that. I would also note that it is not possible to meet the Tory housing need target. There just aren’t enough of them despite all of our efforts scouring the Borough for any sites that may become available, developing the mill strategy and significant increasing the number of homes planned for the town centre.”

Councillor Al-Hamdani

“GMCA 33/21 – Climate Emergency – 6-month update – Over £10m of Green Homes Grants have been awarded or energy efficiency and over £80m of funds secured to retrofit public buildings in Greater Manchester, with an additional £15m of grants anticipated to be made available this year. Can the Cabinet Member tell me how much of that money has been brought into Oldham? How many homes in the Borough have received energy efficiency upgrades and which specific public buildings have been retrofitted as a result of this investment.”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member, Housing responded:

“I think we have reported to Council before about Oldham leading on delivery of the public sector section of the green homes grants programme and we have been able to bid for upgrades for housing that we own in the Borough through that programme. Thirty homes in Oldham have received energy efficiency upgrades between the 1st March and the 31st May 2021 funded by £130,000 from the Green Homes Local Authority delivery scheme. Further installations are in progress and will continue until the end of the year and that includes doing wall insulation and solar panels. Referrals can still be made at www.eonenergy.com/greenhomesgrants. £94,000 has been allocated from the public sector decarbonisation fund from LED Lighting scheme at Oldham Leisure Centre”.



Councillor Mark Kenyon

“GM Health & Care Board minutes 31st January 2020. Please can someone tell me why it has taken 18 months for these minutes to be presented to a meeting of Oldham Council for Scrutiny?”

Councillor Zahid Chauhan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care responded:

Thank you Cllr Kenyon for your question. There was no meeting of the GM Health and Care Board between 31st January and 26th March 2021. The minutes of the meeting of 31st January 2021 were not approved until the meeting in March 2021 and therefore could not be presented to the Full meeting of the Council before that date.”

Councillor Hamblett

“Peak District National Park minutes – 19th March 2021 Climate Change Member Task Group Annual Report. This week we have heard the wonderful news that a baby beaver has been born on Exmoor for the first time in 400 years. Beavers are a force multiplier for good in the fight against climate change. Martin Viarley from the Cheshire Wildlife Trust described the new little guy as a super-hero who can create decarbon capturing landscapes and reduce the impact of floods, droughts and wildfires and looks really cute into the bargain. Plans are now also underway to introduce beavers in Cheshire, Cumbria, Shropshire, Staffordshire and Yorkshire. In part because of the project funded by the Peoples Post Code Lottery. Please can I ask our representative on the Peak District National Parks Authority Board if the climate change Member Task Group discussed reintroducing beavers in any part of the Peak District and if he does not have that information to hand if he can please explore this exciting prospect at the next meeting of the Board?”

Councillor Colin McLaren

“I can advise that the Lead Officer for the Member Climate Change Task Group can confirm that the Task Group has not considered beavers at all in their work so far. However, the National Environment Rural Economy team Manager is able to offer some further information. The National Park Authority currently has no firm plans to introduce beavers to the Peak District, nor is this a topic which has been considered by the Climate Change Member Task Group since in the Peak District there are other measures such as Moorland restoration and Woodland creation which are likely to have a far greater impact on climate change. We are however aware that a partnership organisation is currently considering the introduction of beavers to their land in the national park. We are broadly supportive of this proposal subject to further evaluation of the habitat suitability and potential impacts. The authority is currently in discussion with partners about producing and implementing a

nature recovery plan for the Peak District. As part of this, consideration will be given to the role of reintroduction of relevant species including beavers might play in. Any reintroduction would need to follow appropriate guidelines and consider both potential positive and negative impacts and would need to have support from landowners and need to be adequately resourced. The Peak park is certainly considering it but would want this to be done within the context of other nature conservation and climate change priorities. A proposed nature recovery plan would provide exactly that opportunity and this work will be shared with partners over the coming 12 months.”

11

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 - Recovery in Education and Young Children's Development

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following MOTION:

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.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke on the Motion.

Councillor Moores spoke on the Motion.

Councillor H Gloster spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Sheldon spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Ali spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Mushtaq exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. Oldham Council urges 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; and
2. Oldham Council 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; and
3. The Council 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 - Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill



Councillor Hulme MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following MOTION:

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.



Councillor Moores spoke on the Motion.
Councillor Jabbar spoke on the Motion.
Councillor C Gloster spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Hulme exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote the motion was declared to be carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

RESOLVED

1. Oldham Council 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; and
2. Oldham Council raise awareness of the bill and the ongoing climate emergency as well as local projects tackling the issue; and
3. The Chief Executive be requested 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.

12

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Pension Fund Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Councillor Al-Hamdani **MOVED** and Councillor Hamblett **SECONDED** the following **MOTION**:

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.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke on the motion.

Councillor Hamblett spoke on the motion.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Hulme SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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.
- 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.

Council resolves:

- Not to invest directly in fossil fuel companies.
- To mandate its representative to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund Advisory Panel to support the current Responsible Investment policies, which seek to:
 - Invest to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, in line with the Paris Agreement;
 - Collaborate with partners including Make My Money Matter and the Paris Aligned Asset Owner group, and use the Net Zero Investor Framework to develop a 2030 target in line with the PICC's 1.5-degree pathway which sets out an approach to quantifying and addressing climate change risks affecting the Fund's investments;
 - Be a responsible shareowner activist and proactively work to campaign for all companies in which the fund has an interest to pursue carbon neutrality and environmentally friendly practices to create real world impact and reductions in emissions;
 - Manage financial risks and continue to be in the top quartile of performance of LGPS Pension Funds, which has resulted in over £3.4 billion return in excess of average fund performance through a Just Transition to protect the interests of pension holders, workers and taxpayers across Greater Manchester. 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.

Councillor Sykes spoke AGAINST the amended motion.
Councillor Al-Hamdani exercised his right of reply.
Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply



On being put to the vote the amended motion was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

Councillor Al-Hamdani exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED

1. Not to invest directly in fossil fuel companies.
2. To mandate its representative to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund Advisory Panel to support the current Responsible Investment policies, which seek to:
 - Invest to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 at the latest, in line with the Paris Agreement;
 - Collaborate with partners including Make My Money Matter and the Paris Aligned Asset Owner group, and use the Net Zero Investor Framework to develop a 2030 target in line with the PICC's 1.5-degree pathway which sets out an approach to quantifying and addressing climate change risks affecting the Fund's investments;
 - Be a responsible shareowner activist and proactively work to campaign for all companies in which the fund has an interest to pursue carbon neutrality and environmentally friendly practices to create real world impact and reductions in emissions;
 - Manage financial risks and continue to be in the top quartile of performance of LGPS Pension Funds, which has resulted in over £3.4 billion return in excess of average fund performance through a Just Transition to protect the interests of pension holders, workers and taxpayers across Greater Manchester. 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.
3. 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 – Pavement Parking: Options for Change



Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor C Gloster
SECONDED the following motion:

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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Williams MOVED and Councillor Hulme SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:



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 responsible Cabinet member to share with members the outcome of the ongoing GM consultation on pavement parking and discuss how it can be implemented in their wards

Councillor Williams spoke on the amendment.

Councillor S Bashforth spoke on the amendment.

Councillor C Gloster spoke on the amendment.

Councillor Murphy spoke on the amendment.

ON being put to the vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

On being put to the vote the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED –

1. 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; and
2. Ask the responsible Cabinet member to share with members the outcome of the ongoing GM consultation on pavement parking and discuss how it can be implemented in their wards

Motion 3 – Hands off our Peak District National Park

Councillor H Gloster MOVED and Councillor Kenyon SECONDED the following MOTION:

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

AMENDMENT

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor S Bashforth SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Council notes that:

- 2021 is the 70th anniversary of the Peak District
- 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 Peak District National Park Authority includes an appointed representative from Oldham Council.
- Council is therefore gravely concerned that the Government response to the Glover Review of 2019 suggests the possible replacement of the local National Parks Authorities with a National Landscape Service. This would centralise services under one, nationally run, new organisation. The Government appears to be giving active consideration to this idea subject to consultation with partners later this year.

Council is opposed to any proposal to reduce or replace 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 outcome.

- Such a move would be 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 consider replacing local National Parks Authorities with a National Landscape Service or to take any step which will remove or downgrade their powers
- Ask the Chief Executive to send a copy of this letter to the Chair and the Chief Executive 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

On being put to the vote the amendment was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

On being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared to be carried and it was RESOLVED accordingly.

RESOLVED

1. 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; and
2. Ask the Chief Executive to send a copy of this letter to the Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority; and
3. 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.

The Mayor advised that as each of the main opposition parties had equal numbers, it had been proposed that this item be extended by 10 minutes to provide the Conservative Group to proposed the motion as detailed below.

Council agreed the above proposal.

Motion 4 – Oldham Regeneration

Councillor Sharp MOVED and Councillor Abid SECONDED the following MOTION:



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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Roberts SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:



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 Council's successful bid for 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 the Council secured a further £24.4 million from the Town Fund, endorsing the Labour Administration's vision for Northern Roots, the relocation of Tommyfield Market and the development of flexible working within Spindles.

This money was awarded to Oldham to kick start the recovery from the pandemic. That is why it was so important to engage in thorough consultation with taxpayers, the private sector and Councillors when developing these plans.

This Council notes that:

- Earlier this year over 2,000 residents responded to the Council's consultation on preferences for the town centre, Spindles and Tommyfield Market, with a further 400 contributing via social media. The responses showed overwhelming support for action.
- A separate survey was also conducted with the Tommyfield Market traders
- A further consultation will be taking place this Summer, so that residents can continue to play an active role in shaping the Council's plans for the town centre
- Northern Roots has held more than 60 direct stakeholder engagement activities, and conducted a wide range of consultation events and activities, ranging from online surveys, to focus groups, to face to face events, engaging almost 1,000 people to date
- Several rounds of consultation have taken place with key stakeholders and industry experts on the proposals for a new performance space, and further consultation with stakeholders and residents will take place in the next phase of development
- The Town Deal Board includes a range of local stakeholders, including business people, representatives of the voluntary and community sector, and our major public institutions, and that all agendas and minutes from the Board's meetings are published on the council website
- The Government mandated the geographic area for which bids could be made to the Towns Fund, meaning areas like Royton, Saddleworth and Chadderton were excluded.

This Council therefore resolves:

- That it will continue to properly consult with market traders, local taxpayers and the private sector to understand their concerns with these projects.
- That the Council continues to invest in the whole Borough, and encourages councillors to submit bids to the Local Improvement Fund for projects that will enhance their local area.
- That the Town Deal Board (the board) continue to respond to the issues raised by the public through the extensive consultation that has taken place to date, and the board will, in future, consult and inform the public of any decision to be made, including through the specific consultation sub-group of the Town Deal Board
- That the board continue to publish all agendas and minutes from board meetings to enable proper public scrutiny about any draft plans they consider putting forward.
- That projects continue to be brought to the cross-party Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration, including the update on “Creating a Better Place and Spindles Shopping Centre” scheduled to come before the Committee in November
- That project management systems, processes and procedures continue to be strengthened, and projects go through a robust rigorous gateway process as each business case progresses, as agreed as part of the funding criteria, to ensure 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.

Councillor Sharp exercised her right of reply.

On being put to the vote the amended motion was declared to be carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

On being put to the vote the substantive motion was declared to be carried and it was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

RESOLVED

1. That Council will continue to properly consult with market traders, local taxpayers and the private sector to understand their concerns with these projects; and
2. That the Council continues to invest in the whole Borough, and encourages councillors to submit bids to the Local Improvement Fund for projects that will enhance their local area; and
3. That the Town Deal Board (the board) continue to respond to the issues raised by the public through the extensive consultation that has taken place to date, and the board will, in future, consult and inform the public of any decision to be

- made, including through the specific consultation sub-group of the Town Deal Board; and
4. That the Board continue to publish all agendas and minutes from board meetings to enable proper public scrutiny about any draft plans they consider putting forward; and
 5. That projects continue to be brought to the cross-party Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration, including the update on “Creating a Better Place and Spindles Shopping Centre” scheduled to come before the Committee in November; and
 6. That project management systems, processes and procedures continue to be strengthened, and projects go through a robust rigorous gateway process as each business case progresses, as agreed as part of the funding criteria, to ensure 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.
 7. 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.

13

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which informed members of actions taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on issues raised at those meetings.

Copies of amended appendices in relation to the report were circulated at the meeting.

RESOLVED – That the actions regarding motions and issues from previous Council meetings be agreed and that the correspondence, updates and amended appendices provided be noted.

14

COVID-19 RECOVERY STRATEGY 2021 - 2022

Councillor Shah **MOVED** and Councillor Jabbar **SECONDED** a report recommending that the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy 2021-2022 be adopted by the Council as attached to the report at Appendix 1.

Members were reminded that as a Co-operative Council, Oldham was committed to tackling the impact of Covid-19 and protecting our most vulnerable residents and communities. Members were also advised that building on the learning so far, and the anticipated events to come, a comprehensive Recovery Strategy had been developed, which would help to shape approach and vision for Oldham over the next 18 months whilst continuing to respond to an ongoing critical incident.

It was reported that the objectives and approach to the Recovery Strategy were rooted in our vision, the Oldham Model, ensuring as we adapt to a changing world that we remained

focused on building thriving communities, an inclusive economy and to delivery co-operatively.



It was reported that to develop the new Covid-19 Recovery strategy priorities, consultation had taken place at Directorate Management Team Meetings (DMT), with Cabinet, and through engagement with Overview and Scrutiny.

Key priority areas in the Strategy were reported as:

Driving equality, Investing in quality housing, Championing a green recovery, Creating and protecting jobs and supporting businesses, Prioritising education and skills and Promoting health and wellbeing and supporting the most vulnerable.

Details of each of the above priority areas were outlined within the report. It was reported that each of the above focus areas formed a key strand of the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy, with individual actions attached to each priority area. The Strategy reflected the difficult and challenging times ahead and the opportunities that were arising as we recover from the pandemic as Team Oldham. The Strategy also set out how we can embrace the 'new normal' to build a stronger local economy, increase community resilience and public participation, support our local health system, and support our most vulnerable residents.

Details of monitoring of the Recovery Plan were outlined within the report and Members were advised that following Full Council approval, the Recovery Strategy would be launched, ensuring that the priorities are embedded across Team Oldham. This would include creating a full communications and engagement programme, both within Team Oldham, with stakeholders and residents. An online tool would also be created to regularly update on progress.

The financial implications of delivering the Strategy were also outlined within the report.

Councillor Jabbar extended thanks and appreciation to all staff and NHS partners and volunteers who had dedicated their time and hard work to support the residents of the Borough to get us through the pandemic period.

Questions from Councillors:

Councillor Hamblett:

Supporting patients with long-COVID

"Equal my thanks to all the staff and Members within the Council and Oldham Cares and all health teams. On Page 29, under Driving Equality, I would like to see some commitment to providing support to the many residents in our borough who will be suffering from the impact of long-COVID.

Last month, the Government-funded Reach-2 study revealed that more than 2 million adults have experience COVID-19 symptoms lasting more than 12 weeks and in May, the Cumbria and Lancashire Public Health Collaborative estimated that over 140,000 people in the North West had long Covid last year, with the Collaborative identifying that: “The impact of long Covid is likely to be greater in the North due to employment and economic inequalities and variations in health care access due to the pandemic.”

Please could the Cabinet Member tell me how many cases of long-COVID there have been in this Borough and identify what support and treatment packages will be made available to patients suffering from long-COVID under this recovery?”

Councillor Zahid Chauhan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care responded:

Before I formally answer your question, I would like to say, I was one of the first ones across the country who spoke about the long covid and recognised that and thank you for bringing this here as well. It is a very important issue. I can tell you in Oldham that obviously we are very committed and have a personal commitment in this administration to ensure that not only people who are suffering from long covid are being treated, but people who also have other symptoms exacerbated and conditions exacerbated due to covid are also dealt accordingly.

We have adopted something called MDT approach which is a multi-disciplinary team approach and as at 31st January 20201 we had 20,000 patients diagnosed with covid positive. 8.1% of them were admitted and 91.9% were not admitted. From those around 872 were identified has having symptoms of long covid. We also have to remember that we are learning as we go along. We know much more than we knew about covid on day 1 and about long covid also. I can confirm that out of these patients there are only 64 remaining patients who have not yet been discussed in our MDT clinic. I am sure you will appreciate whilst there is long covid, there is still covid on-going as well. We have full commitment to ensure that patients with long covid are treated appropriately and they receive full support.”

Councillor Howard Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group:

“I would like to seek an assurance which I’ve had privately and publicly that covid whether we call it the recovery plan or covid report or what we’ve had at every Council has been a welcome opportunity for Members to both receive updates on what we are doing. This thing is going to be with us for months if not years as we have already debated, and I just seek an assurance that in this bit of the agenda or elsewhere something around covid whether it’s about the recovery plan or the progress report or whatever will be on future Council meetings as it is the number one issue in terms of the impact on our Borough.

My specific question, Madam Mayor was regarding care home residents, their relatives and staff have had a torrid time since the start of the pandemic. Many times, over the last 15 months, the Liberal Democrat group has asked questions and raised concerns about the experiences and treatment of some care home residents and their relatives/carers and usually, the excellent support made available to them and to staff. Could the appropriate Cabinet Member what support will continue to be made available by the Council and its health partners to care homes in this Borough, its residents and staff after the so called promised lifting of the remaining covid 19 restrictions on the 19th July and what is the plan going forward.”

Cllr Zahid Chauhan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care responded:

“Thank you, Councillor Sykes and thank you for your on-going personal interest in this matter. I know you always speak about this issue and seek assurances and also assisted. Whilst you were asking the question, the Leader has assured me that this issue will be on the Council agenda and we will be providing regular updates.

As you are aware, I really feel very proud to be part of Oldham Council because this was one of the first Councils to set up this hub, our ppe store. We said we would supply ppe. I personally as a cabinet member went around the care homes and met some great key workers and support workers who moved in to care homes to look after the patients. The first questions I asked them, and that was a time that on the national media, it was shown that people were using plastic bags and things instead of ppe. I asked them if they had enough ppe and took me around and showed me extra supplies of ppe. This was thanks to this Council care staff and Members who constantly asked the right questions and sought assurances.

Throughout the pandemic, the Social Care team have been working pro-actively so we had this approach of working proactively. We had daily calls to care homes to ensure that they were ok, including how they are dealing with staff sickness and various issues. We had a specialist team, public health and STICH team (Supporting Treatment in Care Homes), community nursing services and various other services. Let us not forget that was at the time on a national level this Government made a huge blunder and set up the policy of saying that patients should be discharged from hospitals to care homes without being tested. This was the time that we were trying to pull everything together and support people at care homes. Most importantly was the distribution of key information, we ensured that as commissioners as social care department that we had regular newsletters providing all the necessary information to care homes, regular virtual forums and most recently with the vaccinations, I know that some of my colleagues had been holding sessions with care home staff to explain to them the importance of vaccinations and why staff need to have the vaccinations.

We received money towards supporting some aspects of infection control and various other drugs which was passported to care home staff and as more money is being made available, we will do that. To be honest and frank, when the money was not available, we helped and we will continue to help and support our care homes in whichever way we can”.

Councillor Murphy

“Walk-in services at the Integrated Care Centre have been closed to patients for many months and GP services have been very difficult to access; both of these factors have led to more pressure being put upon our already strained Accident and Emergency Service at the Royal Oldham Hospital upon Community Nurses.

Can the Cabinet Member please tell me whether the early restoration of ICC services and face-to-face appointments with local GPs will be made a priority under this recovery plan”?

Cllr Zahid Chauhan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care responded:

“Thank you Councillor Murphy for your question. I can reassure that integrated care services and GP practices have never been shut. They have been operating in a covid safe environment which is the telephone triage and if they need to be seen they have been invited to the surgery.

What was done as a walk in centre, in line with national guidelines, a covid safe digital hub was established to assist patients when they don't need to be in A/E, they can be seen in a more covid safe environment because we could not bring covid patients into the normal practice because of the risk of spreading the infection. Essentially what happened in car homes, this could have been duplicated in general practice as well. Following public consultation in the past, it was decided by the CCG governing body to in 2018 to close the walk-in centre. The walk-in centre is not going to come back instead it was established as an urgent care hub. I don't see any reason why based on the clinical needs why patients should not be offered face to face appointments and there is a national directive. This is a discussion between clinician and the patient. Quite happy to look into that if you have any specification. It has never been the case that due to covid you are not allowed to see a patient, except to see them in a safe environment. If you have any specific examples or issues, please bring it and I will personally look at it.”

Councillor Kenyon

“On page 35-36, the strategy references ‘Creating and Protecting Jobs and Supporting Businesses’. I would like to ask the Cabinet Member a question about this borough's hospitality industry.

Prior to the pandemic, the national hospitality industry employed 2.4 million people in 150,000 businesses. Recent data suggests that 6,000 licensed premises have closed permanently in 2020, and I am sure that many more will have closed so far in 2021.

Can the Cabinet member please tell me how many businesses in the hospitality sector have been lost in this borough and do we have any estimate as to how many jobs have been lost with them?"

Councillor Shoab Akhtar, Cabinet Member, Employment and Enterprise responded:

"Unfortunately, there is no data regarding closure or job losses to us so we cannot access that level of data but the hospitality industry is a priority for the Council and presumably for the Government as well. The Council has chosen this sector to receive priority access to the grants scheme. Average grant has been in the circle of £34,000 since the start of the pandemic, alongside furlough and other support e.g. bounce back loans. The Business Growth and Investment team in the Council have been in contact with most of these hospitality businesses and will continue to engage with key stakeholders. The Council is also working with Sasha Lord, GMCA Night-time economy Tsar to develop a supportive approach for the hospitality sector. The Council have put forward a request for business support for Retail, hospitality and Leisure from the Government's Community Renewal Fund. We are hoping to hear the outcome of this request in September from the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Hopefully in September we are hoping for good news. Get Oldham Working team have been supporting the sector access Kickstart programme that provides 6 months' salary for new jobs targeting 16-24 year olds."

Councillor Hindle

"Regarding the Covid 19 recovery strategy, creating and protecting jobs and supporting local businesses. As a business-man myself, I am only too aware of the frustration of many businesses that approach me complaining of the lack of opportunity when tendering for OMBC contracts. This and the complaints from OMBC licensed taxi drivers that vehicles from other licensing authorities are carrying out OMBC home to school contracts seems to tell a different story. What is the administration going to do to see that much of the local work and local monies from the Council are going to the very business that employ local business who pay their ~Council tax to Oldham Council rather than outside the Borough."

Councillor Shoab Akhtar, Cabinet Member, Employment and Enterprise responded:

"This is a detailed question. I will respond to this in detail when I have the full facts and write to all Councillors."



Councillor C Gloster

“The Government are telling us that we are coming out of restrictions on 19th July. Councillor Chauhan was telling us about the mistake of people leaving hospital care to go into care homes without being tested. The question is to seek an assurance from him that once these restrictions are lifted, there is no possibility that it will revert back to that process, if he knows the answer.”

Councillor Zahid Chauhan, Cabinet Member, Health and Social Care responded:

“I wish I had influence on Boris Johnson and I could give you assurance. That is the honest answer. Also, the honest answer that if infection rates are going up, potentially it will make things worse. We will try our best collectively in this administration and Council to do our best to put systems in place to safeguard people as best as we can.”

Councillor Williams

When I got Covid 19 on October 5th, I thought I would have a cold, a bit of a chill. It felt like I had a backpack on that was full of bricks. For that week, I thought I would get better and then as the second week occurred, I finished up going to hospital for that night because I had low oxygen levels and then I was told I had pneumonia. I then thought I would be ok and that long-term I would be fine. I eventually went back to work on January 14th. Coming out today Madam Mayor, all these months later, I feel absolutely burnt out. I cannot work at home like that can I? Why? Because I am old and clapped out and nearly 64. A couple of weeks something really extraordinary happened. All of a sudden from nowhere I felt rough. I went home sick, the only time in 19 years that I have been home sick. The Manager told me to go for a test. I had a test which was negative. I had another test an hour later which was negative. I visited the Doctor on Wednesday. I told him how I felt, dodgy mood swings, me getting fed up, niggly and nasty, not my personality one bit. The shift in personality niggled me. My Doctor told me it was part of my illness and that it can affect any organ. Immune system shot at. I decided I was not going to feel like that. The Doctor advised that when I feel like that I should just avoid the feeling. I feel fine now but for months I felt absolutely terrible. If I call myself a strong-willed person, how many other people are out there really struggling but just cannot come forward because they simply don't know how to?”

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council responded:

“Thank you to all Members who have contributed to the development of this recovery strategy and for your contributions this evening. It does not need saying again how tough the last year has been for everyone, but it is always worth repeating what an incredible job our residents from Oldham have done to

support one another. Whilst things are opening up, it remains vitally important that we do everything we can to keep each other safe and I hope we will see residents taking this seriously even when sometimes it seems that the Government doesn't.

The plan we approve tonight is about recovery, but it is also about setting the ground for a better tomorrow. We all know that Oldham has loads of things going for it, but that people are struggling. With this plan we are setting the course for better jobs, better health and better lives. Now we are beginning to see the end of the tunnel, it is time to pick up the pace and push forward. We have got this far together, and I know with the efforts of everyone in this room and our residents, we will make the next step together to.”

RESOLVED – That the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy is adopted by Full Council.

15 **DISTRICTS AND LEAD MEMBERS - CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Consideration was given to a report setting out proposed constitutional amendments to realign the Council's Districts, and to update the role of the District Leader Member.

The proposed changes were outlined within the report at Appendix 1.

RESOLVED – That Council approves the changes to the Constitution proposed comprising as follows:

1. Part 2, Article 10.1 – in order to recognise realignment of District geographies; and;
2. Part 2, Article 10.2/10.3 – relating to the role of the District Lead Member.

16 **CONSTITUTION - CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report highlighting, on grounds of good governance, consequential and other amendments to the Council Constitution required following the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 19th May 2021.

Details of the Constitution Consequential Amendments were outlined within the report.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report and the consequential amendments to Part 3 “Responsibility for Functions” to the Constitution be noted; and
2. The revisions to Part 2 “Articles” and Part 3 “Responsibility for Functions” referenced in this report be approved; and
3. Any further consequential amendments arising from this report be delegated to the Director of Legal.

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Present: The Mayor – Councillor Harrison

Councillors Abid, Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Birch, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Davis, Dean, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Hobin, Hulme, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, C. Phythian, K Phythian, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alexander, Briggs, Cosgrove, Curley, A Hussain, F Hussain and Leach

2 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 **PLACES FOR EVERYONE PUBLICATION PLAN 2021: A JOINT DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT FOR 9 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BOLTON, BURY, MANCHESTER, OLDHAM, ROCHDALE, SALFORD, TAMESIDE, TRAFFORD AND WIGAN)**

The Council gave consideration to a report which asked them to approve the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for publication and submission to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government following the motion by Places for Everyone Joint Committee on 20th July 2021.

Members were informed that, following approval by the nine districts, consultation on the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 would commence not earlier than 9 August 2021 for a period of 8 weeks.

When it was adopted Places for Everyone would become part of the development plan for Oldham. It would replace parts of Oldham's Core Strategy and change the Proposals Map. A list of Core Strategy policies that would be replaced by Places for Everyone was contained in Appendix 2.

Members noted that Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 could be found at Appendix 3 and supporting documents were available on GMCA's website at <https://www.greatermanchesterca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/>. The full Places for Everyone

Joint Committee report could be found at Appendix 1 to the report.

The report summarised the main components of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021, what it meant for Oldham and implications for the review of Oldham's Local Plan.



Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED the motion as set out in the report.

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED an amendment as follows:-

“Proposed Amendment from the Oldham Liberal Democrat Opposition Group to the report titled ‘Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan)’

With reference to the options and motions found on pages 11-12 of the report.

Reword Section 3.2, Option 2 to read: ‘Members reject the Places for Everyone: Publication Plan 2021, and agree to formally withdraw from the Places for Everyone process, and instead develop only a Local Plan for the Borough of Oldham, in consultation with the people of this borough, which is focused upon the development of Brownfield sites and takes proper account of the infrastructure capacity of each Ward and District’.

Reword Section 4 Preferred Option 4 to read: ‘The preferred option is for members to reject the Places for Everyone: Publication Plan 2021, and agree to formally withdraw from the Places for Everyone process, and instead develop only a Local Plan for the Borough of Oldham, in consultation with the people of this borough, which is focused upon the development of Brownfield sites and takes proper account of the infrastructure capacity of each Ward and District’.”

Council S Bashforth spoke against the amendment.

Council Dean spoke against the amendment.

Councillor H Gloster spoke in support of the amendment.

Councillor Hamblett spoke in support of the amendment.

Councillor Hobin spoke in support of the amendment.

Councillor Jabbar spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Hulme spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Roberts exercised her right to reply.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right to reply.

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

Councillor		Councillor	
Abid	FOR	Jabbar	AGAINST
Ahmad	AGAINST	Kenyon	FOR

Akhtar	AGAINST	Lancaster	FOR
Al-Hamdani	FOR	Malik	AGAINST
Ali	AGAINST	McLaren	AGAINST
Alyas	AGAINST	Moores	AGAINST
Arnott	FOR	Murphy	FOR
Bashforth, M.	AGAINST	Mushtaq	AGAINST
Bashforth, S.	AGAINST	Phythian C	AGAINST
Birch	AGAINST	Phythian K	AGAINST
Brownridge	AGAINST	Roberts	AGAINST
Byrne	FOR	Salamat	AGAINST
Chadderton	AGAINST	Shah	AGAINST
Chauhan	AGAINST	Sharp	FOR
Davis	AGAINST	Sheldon	FOR
Dean	AGAINST	Shuttleworth	AGAINST
Garry	AGAINST	Stretton	AGAINST
Gloster, C.	FOR	Surjan	AGAINST
Gloster, H.	FOR	Sykes	FOR
Goodwin	AGAINST	Taylor	AGAINST
Hamblett	FOR	Toor	AGAINST
Hindle	FOR	Wilkinson	FOR
Hobin	FOR	Williams	AGAINST
Hulme	AGAINST	Williamson	FOR
Ibrahim	AGAINST	Woodvine	FOR
Iqbal	AGAINST	Harrison	AGAINST
Islam	AGAINST		

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 18 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 35 VOTES cast AGAINST and 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

The meeting considered the original motion.

Councillor Williamson spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Lancaster spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Sheldon spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Murphy spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Woodvine spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Kenyon spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Williamson spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Sharp spoke against the motion.
 Councillor Arnott spoke against the motion.
 Councillor S Bashforth spoke in favour of the motion.
 Councillor Shuttleworth spoke in favour of the motion.
 Councillor Jabbar spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Roberts exercised her right to reply.

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION as follows:

Councillor		Councillor	
Abid	AGAINST	Jabbar	FOR
Ahmad	FOR	Kenyon	AGAINST
Akhtar	FOR	Lancaster	AGAINST

Al-Hamdani	AGAINST	Malik	FOR
Ali	FOR	McLaren	FOR
Alyas	FOR	Moores	FOR
Arnott	AGAINST	Murphy	AGAINST
Bashforth, M.	FOR	Mushtaq	FOR
Bashforth, S.	FOR	Phythian C	FOR
Birch	FOR	Phythian K	FOR
Brownridge	FOR	Roberts	FOR
Byrne	AGAINST	Salamat	FOR
Chadderton	FOR	Shah	FOR
Chauhan	FOR	Sharp	AGAINST
Davis	FOR	Sheldon	AGAINST
Dean	FOR	Shuttleworth	FOR
Garry	FOR	Stretton	FOR
Gloster, C.	AGAINST	Surjan	FOR
Gloster, H.	AGAINST	Sykes	AGAINST
Goodwin	FOR	Taylor	FOR
Hamblett	AGAINST	Toor	FOR
Hindle	FOR	Wilkinson	AGAINST
Hobin	FOR	Williams	FOR
Hulme	FOR	Williamson	AGAINST
Ibrahim	FOR	Woodvine	AGAINST
Iqbal	FOR	Harrison	FOR
Islam	FOR		

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 16 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 37 VOTES cast AGAINST and 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the submission of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 to the Secretary of State for examination following the period for representations be approved.

4

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2021

The Council gave consideration to a report which asked them to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2021.

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 the consideration of planning applications.

This SCI was as per the adopted SCI 2020 version but with references to Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) amended to refer to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared to support the SCI 2020. Given the nature of the changes to this SCI 2021 it was considered that there was no need for a revised EIA as the only changes were in relation to altering references to GMSF to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED the motions set out in the report.

Councillor Byrne spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that the Statement of Community Involvement 2021 be adopted and be made available to view alongside the Equality Impact Assessment 2020.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 8.01 pm



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Present: The Mayor – Councillor Harrison

Councillors Abid, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, Birch, Brownridge, Byrne, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Garry, Goodwin, Hamblett, Hulme, A Hussain, F Hussain, Ibrahim, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Leach, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, C. Phythian, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor and Woodvine

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Ahmad, Alexander, S Bashforth, M Bashforth, Briggs, Chadderton, C Gloster, H Gloster, Hobin, Hindle, Iqbal, Mushtaq, K Phythian, Sharp, Sheldon, Surjan, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williams and Williamson.

2 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING

There were no declarations of interest.

3 APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Workforce and Organisational Design which requested that the Council consider the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to appoint Harry

Catherall as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, whilst consideration was given to the nature of the permanent post and associated recruitment and attraction package

Members were informed that, as a consequence of the Chief Executive leaving the Council on 23rd August 2021, the Appointments Committee had agreed to fill the post on an interim basis whilst work was undertaken to look at the post and advertise on a permanent basis. This post also covered the statutory duties of a Head of Service and so it was important to minimise the gap between appointments. The postholder would also act as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

The Appointments Committee had agreed at its meeting on 6th August 2021, to seek external capacity to fulfil this role and to separate the post from that of Accountable Officer with NHS Oldham CCG in light of the significant challenges faced by both organisations over the next few months, which required significant and dedicated leadership capacity.

The Appointments Committee of the Council had met on 17th August 2021, and unanimously agreed to recommend to Council the appointment of Harry Catherall. Members noted Harry had over 40 years' experience in local government in the North West, having started as an apprentice and qualified as an accountant. He had served as Chief Executive in Blackburn with Darwen Council for over 7 years and, more recently, St. Helens MBC. He was Chief Executive

at Blackburn with Darwen when they were awarded Council of the Year by the Municipal Journal. References had been provided and were exemplary.

Councillor Shah MOVED, Councillor Sykes to SECONDED and Councillor Arnott SUPPORTED the recommendation set out in the report.

Councillor Shah exercised her right to reply.

On being put to the VOTE, the RESOLUTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLVED – that, having considered the recommendation of the Appointments Committee, the Council approved the appointment of Harry Catherall as Interim Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, whilst consideration was given to the nature of the permanent post and associated recruitment and attraction package.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.09 pm

Report to COUNCIL

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

8 September 2021

1 Background

- 1.1 As there are two main opposition groups with the same number of members, it is appropriate for Council to consider an amendment to the Council Procedure Rules relating to opposition business motions at Council.
- 1.2 It is recommended that paragraph 2.13(j) of the Council Procedure Rules is amended to state; - Where two main opposition groups have the same number of members, a motion submitted by one of those groups will be considered first, then a motion submitted by the other main opposition group (alternating in order at subsequent meetings) and then if there is sufficient time within this section of business, a motion submitted by any other group. If a motion is not submitted by any other group and if time permits, a motion will be first considered from the main opposition group who had the right under this paragraph for their motion to be considered first at the meeting and then a motion from the other main opposition group . “

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council to consider the revised Council Procedure Rules

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Legal Services Comments

None

5. Human Resources Comments

5.1 None

6. Risk Assessments

6.1 N/a

7. IT Implications

7.1 N/A

8. Property Implications

8.1 None

9. Procurement Implications

9.1 N/A

10. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

10.1 N/A

11. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

11.1 N/A

12. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

12.1 N/A

13. Key Decision

13.1 No

14. Key Decision Reference

14.1 N/A

15. Background Papers

15.1 None

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Present: Councillor Shah
Councillors Akhtar, Chadderton, Chauhan, Jabbar, Moores,
Mushtaq, Roberts and Stretton

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was one Item of Urgent Business - Appointments to Cabinet Sub-Committees and Joint Committee which the Chair agreed to consider in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as the Cabinet sub-committees were due to meet before the next meeting of Cabinet.

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 22ND MARCH 2021**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd March 2021 be approved.

6 **COVID-19 RECOVERY STRATEGY 2021 - 2022**

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Reform which sought approval of and recommendation to Full Council of the Covid 19 Recovery Strategy 2021-2022.

It was reported that Oldham's current Corporate Plan expired in December 2020 and work to refresh the plan was due to be completed by Summer 2020, however the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic had impacted the viability of producing the plan. It was agreed by Cabinet that a COVID-19 Recovery Strategy would be developed acting as an interim Corporate Plan until at least September 2022.

The Policy and Overview Scrutiny Committee considered Members discussed the key priority areas that had been developed for the Recovery Plan.;

1. Driving Equality
2. Investing in quality Housing
3. Championing a green recovery
4. Creating and protecting Jobs and supporting business
5. Prioritising education and skills
6. Promoting health and wellbeing and supporting the most vulnerable.

Each of these focus areas formed a key strand of the COVID-19 recovery Strategy with individual actions attached to each priority area.

Monitoring of the Recovery plan would be undertaken through the Council's annual business planning process to assure delivery against the plan and quarterly reporting via the Corporate Performance Framework.

Options/alternatives

Option 1 – To agree and recommend that the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy was submitted to Full Council for approval.

Option 2 – Not to agree and recommend the COVID-19 Recovery Strategy to Council.

RESOLVED – That the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy be agreed and commended to Full Council.

7 **COUNCIL PERFORMANCE REPORT MARCH 2021**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Strategy and Performance which provided the Cabinet with a review of the Council Performance to March 2021.

Performance measures that achieved their target as a percentage of all reported Performance measures was 63% with a target of 60%. Corporate Actions completed was 79% this quarter with a target of 90%.

As anticipated, performance in 2021 had continued to be affected by Covid-19. Ongoing restrictions had impacted on the achievement of a number of measures. It was noted that a Covid Recovery Strategy had been developed outlining the priorities to support the Council's recovery from the pandemic and would include revised performance measures.

Option/alternatives considered

N/a

RESOLVED- That the Council Performance Report for March 2021 be noted.

8 **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN) TRAVEL ASSISTANCE SERVICE - CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director of Children & Young People which sought approval to award an optional one year extension to the current Special Educational Needs Transport Service Contract.

It was reported that it was a statutory function of the Council to provide travel assistance to those children and young people with special educational needs, disabilities or mobility issues who were eligible in accordance with SEN Travel Assistance Policy.

A dynamic purchasing system was used to procure and award contracts for the journeys and this was accessed via the CHEST. There were 23 contractors providing specialist vehicles and qualified drivers to provide the service

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and despite the challenges the service had faced over the last two academic years the original contract had been successfully delivered and a contract extension would support all parties during that period.

Options/ alternatives considered

Option 1 – To award the optional 1 year extension to the current contractors that had provided a high quality service and shown

real commitment to the children and Young people of Oldham with Special Educational Needs.

Option 2 – That an extension is not approved and a new tender exercise would be required, the risk of not having a SEND Transport contract in place would leave the Council open to challenge.

RESOLVED – That the Council would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 11 of the agenda before making a decision.

9

URGENT ITEM - APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET SUB-COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEE

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Democratic Services which sought appointments to:

1. The Failsworth Trust Cabinet Sub-Committee
2. The Local Investment Fund Cabinet Sub-Committee
3. The Commisising Partnership Board
4. The Shareholder Cabinet Sub-Committee

RESOLVED – That:

1. Membership in 2021/22 of the Failsworth Trust Sub-Committee was:-
 - The Council Leader
 - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
 - The Cabinet Member for Housing
2. Membership in 2021/22 of the Local Investment Fund Cabinet Sub Committee was:
 - The Council Leader
 - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
 - Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon
3. Membership of the Commisising Partnership Board in 2021/22 was:
 - The Council Leader
 - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
 - Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
 - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
4. Membership in 2021/22 of the Shareholder Cabinet Sub- Committee was:
 - The Council Leader
 - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
 - Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon
 - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

10

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.

11

**SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (SEN) TRAVEL
ASSISTANCE SERVICE - CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 8 Special Educational Needs Travel Assistance Service – Contract Extension.

RESOLVED – That the optional one year contract extension to the current Special Educational Needs Transport Service Contract be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.26pm



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

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 two public questions received. The first question was submitted by Fakrul Choudhury

1. If the Council can endorse a secondary school that blatantly - albeit legally - discriminates against children because of their parents' beliefs, is there something wrong with 'Oldham's Approach to Equality'? Given that the evidence of religious selection in Oldham is to also indirectly disadvantage children on socio-economic grounds, why would Councillors responsible for some of the most deprived wards in the country approve this?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills responded.

1. The Council endorses schools that it feels can directly improve the life chances of pupils in the borough. Under current legislation the Council cannot open new local authority schools and must work with the free schools and academies programme which is approved and funded by the Department of Education. The DfE, as a matter of course, seek the Councils view on new schools proposals including proposed admission arrangements. Regarding the new secondary school for Oldham (the Brian Clarke Academy) the Council are satisfied that the Admissions Policy for that school is fair and equitable to pupils of all faiths and no faith. The Council feel that the Admissions arrangements for the new school will ensure all groups will have an equal opportunity to gain a place at that school, while respecting the right of school providers to promote a faith-based ethos, in line with current regulations.

The second question was submitted by Fair Schools for Oldham

2. Supporters of Fair Schools for Oldham have been encouraged to read 'Building a Fairer Oldham'. We note that the Council has an objective of 'working with partners and communities to make Oldham a fairer place for everyone'. Will the Council engage with our campaign as part of that commitment? How could this be progressed?

The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills responded.

2. The Council will engage with all partners and stakeholders and believes that all schools and academies in the borough, regardless of faith have a role to play in improving outcomes for children and young people. It is important that sufficient school places are available for all children and young people in Oldham and where new schools are required this is only achieved by engaging with the Department for Education and potential school providers, in the context of current legislation.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD 21ST JUNE 2021**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21st June 2021 be approved.

6 **CLEAN STREETS**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which outlined a renewed approach on community engagement in relation to fly tipping and littering and confirmed the investment and resources required in order to strengthen current street cleaning and enforcement activity.

It was reported that clean streets were a priority and the number of service requests to deal with littering and fly tipping had increased as behaviour patterns had changed during the pandemic and the suggested approach supported more focused District led interventions.

The proposal was to invigorate the service with additional resources to support and extend on current activity. A key element of the work going forward would be through community focused, co-operative activity in neighbourhoods led by local elected Members and the establishment of Environment Marshalls and Engagement Coordinators.

Further capacity would be provided including an increase of Dandy Men, and additional fly tipping clearance teams.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Not to increase capacity and work with current resources

Option 2 – To proceed with proposals outlined in Section 3 of the report.

RESOLVED – That option 2, to enhance operational capacity of street cleaning and enforcement by utilising Administration Priorities earmarked reserves activity be approved.

7 **CREATING A BETTER PLACE**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which sought approval to formally accept new external funds to support delivery for various projects to proceed through to the next stage of delivery and for additional community engagement to take place in line with activities permitted under the Government's roadmap to recovery.

Members were provided with details of the Creating a Better Place programme update and project update, including

- Royton Town Hall
- Brownfield Housing Land Grant
- Spindles
- Strategic Asset Review
- Parking Permits

Options/alternatives considered
Considered at Item 18

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

8

OLDHAM'S APPROACH TO EQUALITY

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Reform which provided Members with how the Council currently meet its duties in respect of equality in Oldham as well as proposing the adoption of the new Equality Objectives and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy covering 2021-2025.

At Full Council in June 2020 a commitment was made to develop a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for Oldham Council.

The proposed strategy as detailed at appendix 1 to the report set out the Council's, commitment to progressing equality, diversity and human rights across the Borough. It outlined how the Council would eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations between people regardless of age, disability, race, sex gender identity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, socio-economic and marital or civil partnership status.

Options/alternatives

Option 1 – To approve the Equality Objectives and Equality Strategy and recommend to Full Council for approval.

Option 2 – Not to approve the Equality Objectives and Equality Strategy.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The new Equality Objectives for 2021-2025 be approved
2. The proposed Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for 2021-2025 be endorsed and recommended to Full Council.

9

INTEGRATION OF HEALTH & CARE IN OLDHAM

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Strategic Director of Commisising which sought agreement for the Council to continue to be part of the health and care system by becoming a signatory of a formal integration agreement as preparations of the Health and Care Bill 2021 picked up considerable pace.

It was report that Greater Manchester was working collectively to develop proposals for the redesign of the GM Health and Care System to ensure greater levels on integration. It was proposed, for Oldham that a model based on a legal integration

agreement overseen by a formal System Board (Oldham Health and Care System Board) supported by a Deliver Board.

The report provided further details of the proposals, seeking to ensure the Council continued to be a lead partner in the health and care system for the Borough.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – The expectation is that all localities in Greater Manchester will wish to continue with authority, influence and control of their own locality resource allocation, strategy and outcomes for health and care and will develop their locality operating model. The proposed mechanism to describe the new partnership system was to be set out in an integration agreement with clear roles and responsibilities.

Option 2 – Not to continue in the participation in integration of health and care.

RESOLVED – To be involved in the establishment of a new Integrated Care Partnership for Oldham in anticipation of the changes to be brought forward in relation to health and care and to commit to the Integration Agreement as a full member.

10

PLACES FOR EVERYONE

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which sought approval of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021: A Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) for publication and submission to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government following the recommendation by Places for Everyone Joint Committee on 20 July 2021

A copy of the full Joint Committee report was available at Appendix 1.to the report.

Following approval by the nine districts, consultation on the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 would commence not earlier than 9 August 2021 for a period of 8 weeks. When adopted, Places for Everyone would become part of the development plan for Oldham. It would replace parts of Oldham's Core Strategy and change the Proposals Map. A list of Core Strategy policies that would be replaced by Places for Everyone was contained at Appendix 2. To the report and a copy of the Places for Everyone Publication plan 2021 was contained at Appendix 3 and supporting documents were available on GMCA's website at

<https://www.greatermanchester@ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/>.

The report summarised the main components of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021, what it meant for Oldham and implications for the review of Oldham's Local Plan.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 -

Members approve the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 and supporting background documents for publication and submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

Option 2 – Members do not approve the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 and supporting background documents

for publication and submission to the Secretary of State for examination as per the report recommendations above



Oldham
Council

RESOLVED – That

1. The Places for Everyone: Publication Plan 2021, including strategic site allocations and Green Belt boundary amendments, and reference to the potential use of compulsory purchase powers to assist with site assembly, and the supporting background documents, for publication pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for an 8 week period for representations to begin not earlier than 9 August 2021, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Oldham Council Cabinet Member for Housing in consultation with the Deputy Chief Executive to approve the relevant Statement of 3 Common Ground(s) required pursuant to the National Planning Policy Framework 2019.
3. That the report is recommended to Council to Approve submission of the Places for Everyone Publication Plan 2021 to the Secretary of State for examination following the period for representations.

11

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME 2021

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which sought approval of the update to and publication of the council's Local Development Scheme (LDS) 2021.

The council was required to prepare a Local Plan to ensure the Borough had an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework to support the borough's economic, environmental and social objectives.

The Local Development Scheme (LDS) was the project plan for the Local Plan. It set out details and timetables about the planning documents we will prepare, including:

- Oldham's Local Plan (incorporating site allocations); and
- Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan)

This update had been prepared to amend references from GMSF to Places for Everyone (PfE), reflect the revised timeline for PfE and the review of Oldham's Local Plan. This update ('Issue 12') was effective from 3 August 2021.

The Cabinet Member for Housing advised Cabinet that there was a slight amendment to the report and timetable. to amend the Places for Everyone Profile - Timetable (page 18) as follows:

- Examination – '2022/23' added
- Adoption – 'December 2022' deleted and replaced with '2023'

Reason: to ensure the Places for Everyone timetable aligns with that presented in the Places for Everyone Joint Committee report (paragraph 3.7) and agreed at the Places for Everyone Joint Committee on 20 July 2021.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - To approve and publish the Local Development Scheme 2021. Advantages – updating the LDS means that people would have certainty over the timetable for preparing our planning documents; national planning guidance and legislation requires the preparation of a LDS and that it must be kept up to date. Disadvantages – there were no disadvantages to updating the LDS.

Option 2 - Not to approve and publish the Local Development Scheme 2021. Advantages – there are no advantages in not updating the LDS. Disadvantages – not approving the LDS means that people will have less certainty and confidence in our planning documents coming forward; not updating the LDS means the Council will not be in line with national planning guidance and legislation.

RESOLVED – That the Local Development Scheme 2021 be approved and published with effect from 3 August 2021.

12

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2021

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which sought approval to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) 2021.

It was reported that 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 the consideration of planning applications.

This SCI is as per the adopted SCI 2020 version but with references to Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) amended to refer to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

An Equalities Impact Assessment was prepared to support the SCI 2020. Given the nature of the changes to this SCI 2021 it was considered that there was no need for a revised Equalities Impact Assessment as the only changes are in relation to altering references to GMSF to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

Option/alternatives

Option 1 – Adopt the SCI 2021 and make it available to view alongside the EIA (2020). The advantage of this option was that the SCI will provide certainty to residents, developers and other key groups and organisations as to the consultation methods the council will use. It would also allow us to progress the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document. There are no disadvantages to this option.

Option 2 – Not to adopt the SCI 2021 and make it available to view alongside the EIA (2020). There were no advantages to this option. The disadvantage will be that the SCI will not refer to Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, which will not reflect the correct arrangements.

RESOLVED – That the Statement of Community Involvement be adopted and available to view alongside the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) 2020.

13

GM CLEAN AIR FINAL PLAN

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which set out the proposed Greater Manchester Final Clean Air Plan and policy following a review of all of the information gathered through the GM CAP consultation and wider data, evidence and modelling work which is to be agreed by the ten Greater Manchester local authorities. In Greater Manchester, the ten GM local authorities, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), collectively referred to as “GM”, had worked together to develop a Clean Air Plan to tackle NO₂ Exceedances at the Roadside, referred to as GM CAP. This report set out the progress made on the GM Clean Air Plan, the report was supported by the following documents which are proposed and subject to approval by the ten GM local authorities:

Appendix 1 – GM CAP Policy following Consultation

Appendix 2 – GM CAP Equality Impact Assessment following Consultation

Appendix 3 – AECOM Consultation Report

Appendix 4 – Response to the Consultation

Appendix 5 – Impacts of COVID-19 Report

Appendix 6 – Air Quality Modelling Report following Consultation and with COVID-19 impacts

Appendix 7 – Economic Implications of CAP following Consultation and with COVID-19 impacts

Appendix 8 – Update on Other Cities’ Clean Air Plans

Appendix 9 – Compliance with the Secretary of State’s Direction

Appendix 10 – Clean Air Zone, ANPR and Signage Locations

The proposed final GM Clean Air Plan set out final proposals for: the boundary, hours of operation, management of the scheme, discounts, exemptions and daily charges of a Clean Air Zone; the amount of supporting funds for each vehicle type; and other supporting measures.

The proposed final GM CAP policy, which was summarised in this report, and attached at Appendix 1. In relation to the Clean Air Zone (CAZ), it covered the operation and management of the GM CAZ. The anticipated implementation date of the charging CAZ was Monday 30 May 2022 when the charges would apply to non-compliant buses, HGVs, and Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles licensed outside of Greater Manchester. Non-compliant LGVs, minibuses and coaches, and GM-licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles would be subject to the charges from 1 June 2023 when a temporary exemption expires.

The boundary of the CAZ would cover the whole of Greater Manchester excluding the strategic Road Network (SRN) which is managed by Highways England. The daily charges remain the same as at consultation. Lower charges would mean more people are likely to pay the charge, rather than upgrade their vehicle, which would impose costs onto businesses without delivering air quality benefits. Improved support to businesses is proposed to provide a better mitigation than lower charges. One such mitigation is extended temporary exemptions, which include all LGVs and minibuses, GM-licensed hackney carriages and Private Hire Vehicles (PHVs) and all coaches. These exemptions are now proposed to be in place until 31 May 2023.

Providing a full 12-month exemption, gives those with non-compliant vehicles more time to upgrade, alongside support funds to assist businesses, individuals and organisations to upgrade their non-compliant vehicles.

Feedback from the consultation and consideration of the impact of COVID-19 on Greater Manchester has been used to better understand the requirements of those businesses, individuals and organisations who most need the support to upgrade. It is therefore proposed to amend the support funds from those consulted upon. The final proposed policy increases the funding per vehicle for Private Hire Vehicles, coaches, HGVs and vans whilst remaining the same for other vehicle types. There are also more options for replacement and retrofit for hackney carriages, PHVs, minibuses and vans.

The proposed final GM Clean Air Plan did not include a Hardship Fund. Although feedback from the consultation and the impact of COVID-19 research found that further support was required for GM businesses, Government Ministers do not agree that a Hardship Fund is the best way to mitigate the impact of uncertainty due to the pandemic. Ministers cite other government schemes being available to address wider business impacts. However, Government have confirmed that they wish to ensure that Clean Air Funds can be adapted if necessary; and, that they will continue to work with GM to understand the situation, including the funding position, if the impacts prove to be more severe than forecast.

The proposed final GM Clean Air Plan also explains the next steps with the taxi charging infrastructure and the Try Before You Buy Hackney Carriage scheme. The changes within these schemes have been determined by the funding allocated to GM from Government as well as feedback from the consultation. This report summarises the Air Quality Modelling of the final CAP package, taking into account the impacts of COVID-19, which concludes that the proposed final Plan will achieve compliance with the legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide within Greater Manchester in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest as required by the Ministerial Direction.

The report also sets out:

- the key findings of the consultation.
- highlights from the proposed GM Response to the consultation Report.
- the findings from the Impact of COVID-19 research, which looks at the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential economic and behavioural changes that may occur.
- the key findings of the GM CAP Equality Impact Assessment following consultation.
- the latest position on Government funding, an update on the bus retrofit fund and progress on the GM Clean Air Zone, including signage and governance.

Making the charging scheme is desirable to facilitate the achievement of the local transport policies of the 10 GM local authorities and the GMCA, in particular policy 8 of the 2040 Transport strategy. The GM CAP has been developed, in-line with the 2040 Transport Strategy principles and vision. The 2040

Strategy provides a long-term vision for transport provision in Greater Manchester, along with specific principles and targets for achieving that vision, to ensure that available resources are used to contribute to achieving the region's strategic transport objectives.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The progress of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan be noted.
2. The progress in the distribution of Bus Retrofit funding be noted.
3. Ministers' agreement to include the sections of the A628/A57 in Tameside which form part of the Strategic Road Network within the Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone (CAZ) and their request for Tameside MBC, TfGM and Highways England to establish the most appropriate solution for the charging mechanism to be applied on this section of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) be noted.
4. The GM Clean Air Plan Policy, at Appendix 1 be approved noting that the policy outlined the boundary, discounts, exemptions, daily charges of the Clean Air Zone as well as the financial support packages offered towards upgrading to a compliant vehicle, including the eligibility criteria to be applied.
5. The Equalities Impact Assessment, as set out at Appendix 2 be agreed.
6. The AECOM Consultation Report, as set out at Appendix 3 be agreed.
7. The proposed Response to the Consultation at Appendix 4 which has been prepared by TfGM on behalf of the ten GM local authorities be agreed.
8. The Impacts of COVID-19 Report, as set out at Appendix 5 be agreed.
9. The Modelling report of the final CAP package, as set out at Appendix 6, and in particular that the modelling outputs of the final plan scheme show the achievement of compliance with the legal limits for Nitrogen Dioxide in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest as required by the Ministerial Direction be agreed.
10. The economic implications of the CAP Report, as set out at Appendix 7 be agreed.
11. The update on the GM Minimum Licensing Standards, set out in section 3.1, and in particular that licensing conditions will not be used to support delivery of the GM Clean Air Plan be noted.
12. A 6-week public consultation on the inclusion of motorhomes classified as MSP1 in the GM Clean Air Zone and on the inclusion of the A575 and A580 at Worsley commencing on 1 September 2021 and delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources and the Deputy Chief Executive to approve the consultation materials be agreed.
13. The GM Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee has the authority to make the Charging Scheme Order which establishes the GM Charging Scheme in line with the agreed GM Clean Air Plan Policy be noted.

14. The GM Charging Authorities Committee has the authority to vary the Charging Scheme Order if this is established as the most appropriate charging mechanism to be applied on sections of the A628/A57 part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in Tameside be noted.
15. The Air Quality Administration Committee has the authority to agree the final form of the Operational Agreement for the Central Clean Air Service, and to authorise the making of the Agreement, on behalf of the ten GM local authorities be noted.
16. It be noted that the Air Quality Administration Committee has the authority to:
 - a. establish and distribute the funds set out in the agreed GM Clean Air Plan policy;
 - b. approve the assessment mechanism agreed with JAQU to ensure that Clean Air Funds can be adapted if necessary;
 - c. keep the use of the funds under review and to determine any changes in the amounts allocated to each and their use and
 - d. Monitor and evaluate the joint local charging scheme.
17. The reallocation of funding from the Try Before You Buy scheme to provide additional electric vehicle charging points dedicated for use by taxis be approved.
18. Authority be delegated to the GM Charging Authorities Committee the authority to determine the outcome of the consultation on both the inclusion of motorhomes classified as MSP1 within the scope of Clean Air Zone charges and on the inclusion in the GM Clean Air Zone of the A575 and A580 at Worsley following the conclusion of that consultation;
19. The Clean Air Zone ANPR and signage locations, as set out at Appendix 10 be approved.
20. A delegation to Deputy Chief Executive and the Member for Finance and Corporate Resources be agreed to approve the submission of the Interim Full Business Case if required and the Member for Finance and Corporate Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, the Full Business Case (FBC) to the Government's Joint Air Quality Unit to support the GM Clean Air Plan and any supplementary information to that Unit .

14

GM ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY (EVCI)

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, People and Place which provided details of the Greater Manchester Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy that had been prepared by Transport for Greater Manchester in partnership with the 10 GM local authorities and other stakeholders as a sub-strategy of the GM2040 Transport Strategy. The document would be recommended to the July GMCA for approval and adoption.

The availability of and access to charging infrastructure is recognised as a critical barrier to the adoption of Electric

Vehicles(EVs) in Greater Manchester. In order to support and accelerate the transition to EVs across GM it will be important to have the right type of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in the right locations to meet demand. The GM Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy aims to provide a clear vision, objectives and strategic principles to inform a plan for the delivery of public charging infrastructure across the city region. The Strategy included a series of strategic network principles that will guide the future expansion of the publicly-funded EVCI network and ensure it is: integrated, environmentally responsible, inclusive, well maintained and resilient, safe and secure, reliable, healthy and viable (ie not dependent on public subsidy). The Strategy identified priorities for public investment up to 2025 as being projects which will support the Clean Air Plan and GM 2038 net zero carbon ambitions by meeting the demand likely to be generated by the most polluting vehicles transitioning to EVs and supporting those who would find it most difficult to transition to EVs due to home charging constraints.

Option 1 – To recommend approval.
Option 2 – Not to recommend approval.

RESOLVED – That the GM Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy be recommended for approval by the GM Combined Authority.

15

OPPORTUNITY AREA GRANT, YEAR 5, 2021-2022

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Managing Director of Children and Young People which sought formal approval for the receipt of section 31 grant funding to resource the Opportunity Area programme, to agree that the grant payments would be ring-fenced locally to the Opportunity Area programme and to note and endorse the recommended spending priorities identified in the Opportunity Area Plan. Authorisation was also sought to delegate authority to agree all spending decisions related to the Opportunity Areas programme to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and the Director of Finance, noting the role of the Opportunity Area Partnership Board in this process.

Oldham was one of twelve Opportunity Areas identified by the Department for Education (DfE), that have over the first 4 years of the programme received £90 million to boost opportunities for young people in these communities. The purpose of Opportunity Areas is improving social mobility, using education as a key driver to achieve this.

Oldham Opportunity Area had received approaching £8 million in funding from DfE in the first 4 years of the programme. In May 2021 the Minister confirmed that a further £1,339,000 will be available to the Oldham for year 5 of the programme Sept 21-Aug 22. The Oldham Opportunity Area year 5 plan details the spending priorities identified for Oldham for this period. This plan also included an additional £300,000 grant for the Early Identification of Autism project, and therefore projected expenditure within the plan totals £1.639m. It is important to note that in order to deliver the planned programme, some of the grant resource may be spent directly by the DfE rather than the

Council. Therefore, although Oldham will benefit from the full £1.639m, the Council will receive grant net of expenditure directly incurred by the DfE.

Option/alternatives considered
Considered at Item 19 of the agenda.

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

16

TO AUTHORISE AN EXTENSION TO DAY CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY AGE UK FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST JULY 21 TO 30TH JUNE 2022

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Managing Director Health and Adult Social Care Community Services which sought approval to extend the day services contract provided by Age UK Oldham.

To authorise an extension to the day services contract provided by Age UK Oldham.

On 1st July 2019 the day care services contract was renewed with Age UK Oldham. The term of the contract was extended to 30th June 2021, with the option to extend for one additional year to 30th June 2022.

There was scope to extend the existing service for an additional 12 months to 30th June 2022. The report sought authority to exercise this extension.

Options/alternatives
Contained at Item 20 of the agenda.

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

17

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.

18

CREATING A BETTER PLACE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 – Creating a Better Place.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained within the report(s) be approved.

19

OPPORTUNITY AREA GRANT, YEAR 5, 2021-2022

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 15 – Opportunity Area Grant Year 5 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained within the report be approved.

TO AUTHORISE AN EXTENSION TO DAY CARE SERVICES DELIVERED BY AGE UK FOR THE PERIOD OF 1ST JULY 21 TO 30TH JUNE 2022

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 16- To authorise an extension to Day care services delivered by Age UK for the period of 1st July 21 to 30th June 2022.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as contained within the report be approved.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.43pm

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GM HEALTH AND CARE BOARD

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON 28 MAY 2021

Bolton Council	Councillor Susan Baines
Bury Council	Geoff Little
Manchester CC	Councillor Joanna Midgley
Oldham Council	Councillor Zahid Chauhan
Salford CC	Councillor John Merry Tom Stannard
Stockport MBC	Councillor Jude Wells Mark Fitton
Tameside Council	Councillor Brenda Warrington (Chair) Councillor Eleanor Wills Steven Pleasant
Trafford Council	Councillor Jane Slater
Wigan Council	Councillor Keith Cunliffe Alison Mc Kenzie-Folan
HMR CCG	Chris Duffy
Manchester Health and Care Commissioning	Ruth Bromley
Salford CCG	Tom Tasker
Stockport CCG	Andrea Green
Tameside & Glossop CCG Trafford CCG	Asad Ali Muhammad Imran
Wigan CCG	Tim Dalton Craig Harris
GM Mental Health NHS Trust	Rupert Nichols
MFT	Kathy Cowell

Northern Care Alliance NHS	Michael Luger
NWAS	Carolyn Wood
Bolton NHS FT	Fiona Noden
Pennine Care NHS FT	Evelyn Asante-Mensah
Salford NHS FT	Chris Brookes
Tameside NHS FT	Karen James David Curtis
The Christie	Roger Spencer
Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS FT	Tony Warne
Director of GM Mayors Office	Kevin Lee
GM Deputy Mayor Police & Crime	Baroness Beverly Hughes
GM Mayor	Andy Burnham
GMCA	Julie Connor Lindsay Dunn Andrew Lightfoot
GMCVO	Alex Whinnom
GM Joint Health Scrutiny Members	Councillor Ronald Conway Councillor Keith Holloway Councillor John O'Brien (Chair)
GM Health and Social Care Partnership Team	Laura Conrad Warren Heppolette Jane Pilkington Sarah Price Christina Walters Janet Wilkinson
GM Joint Commissioning Team	Rob Bellingham
Healthwatch	Heather Fairfield
Primary Care Board	Janet Castrogiovanni Tracey Vell

HCB 08/21 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the following;

Councillor Daalat Ali (Rochdale MBC), Mike Barker (Oldham CCG), Eamonn Boylan (GMCA), Andrew Furber (PHE), Sir Richard Leese (GM Healthy Lives Portfolio Lead), Helen Lockwood (Oldham Council), Daren Mochrie (NWS), Silas Nicholls (WWL NHS FT), Dharmesh Patel (PCB), John Patterson (Oldham CCG), Steve Rumbelow (Rochdale Council), Councillor Andrea Simpson (Bury Council), Jeff Schryer (Bury CCG), Sara Todd (Trafford Council), Liz Treacy (GMCA), Councillor Andrew Western (Trafford Council) and Steve Wilson (GMCA).

HBC 09/21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Brenda Warrington (Leader Tameside Council) welcomed all, especially new members, to the virtual meeting of the GM Health and Care Board and explained that she would Chair the meeting in the absence of Sir Richard Leese (Portfolio Lead for Healthy Lives) whose apologies had been noted.

It was advised that political appointments to the Board would be formally received for approval by the GMCA at the meeting on 25 June 2021.

Appreciation was also put on record to those members who had been replaced in their roles in supporting the health and care devolution journey at GM level and within their districts and organisations.

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be noted that political appointments to the Board would be received for approval by the GMCA at the meeting on 25 July 2021.
2. That appreciation be recorded to those who had previously been members for their role supporting health and care devolution.

HCB 10/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 26 MARCH 2021

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2021. It was noted that the minutes had reflected that Martyn Pritchard had at the time been the Managing Director of the Provider Federation Board. It was advised that although that was now his current position, at the time he had been the Accountable Officer for Trafford CCG.

RESOLVED/-

1. That it be recorded that Martyn Pritchard was at the time of the meeting Accountable Officer at Trafford CCG.

2. That the meeting minutes of the GM Health and Care Board held 26 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

HCB 11/21 CHIEF OFFICER REPORT

Sarah Price, Interim Chief Officer, GM Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) introduced a report which provided the GM Health and Care Board with an update on issues relating to the Greater Manchester health and care system and the people who work in it.

Key issues highlighted to the Board included:

- The Workforce Collaborative recently published their end of year report for 2020/21. Despite the unforeseen challenges over the past year, the Collaborative had achieved some notable successes including the launch of the GM Well-being toolkit created for all health and care staff.
- Over 1k people in Greater Manchester had so far been referred to long COVID clinics. Treatment was continuously being improved in local communities to support people with symptoms of COVID-19, after their diagnosis. Plans were improving to ensure there was strong support for people struggling with their mental health, chronic fatigue, and for those with complex health needs.
- New national guidance had been issued around investigations *Learning from Life and Death Reviews* – for people with a learning disability and autistic people.
- NHS England issued its 2021/22 Priorities and Operational Planning Guidance at the end of March 2021. Final versions of the plans were due by 3 June 2021. The submission would be reviewed by an extraordinary meeting of the Partnership Executive Board and a summary of final plans would be provided to the July Health and Care Board.

RESOLVED/-

That the content of the report be noted.

HCB 12/21 CONTAINING COVID-19: TEST, TRACE, ISOLATE AND VACCINATE (TTIV)

Jane Pilkington, Director of Population Health (Interim) GMHSC Partnership introduced a report which provided an update on the Test, Trace, Isolate and Vaccinate (TTIV) arrangements in place in Greater Manchester as part of the strategy to contain the spread of Covid-19.

Christina Walters, GM Covid Testing Team, GMHSC Partnership provided a presentation and advised the Test, Trace, Isolate and Vaccinate (TTIV) programme provided the key mechanism to suppress the spread of infectious diseases and as such, was the cornerstone of the GM Contain Plan. Members were advised that the GM Targeted Testing at Scale Strategy and Operational Plan for 2021, was an update to the GM Mass Testing Strategy,

released in April 2020 in response to the emerging Covid-19 pandemic. The updated Strategy aligned to the wider Covid Response Strategy across GM and set a direction of travel which would be regularly reviewed and updated to ensure it remained current.

An overview of the GM Contact Tracing Model and GM Integrated Contact Tracing System was provided along with data relating to cases dealt with by the GM Integrated Contact Hub. It was noted that this did not include cases that had been dealt with across all ten localities.

It was noted that the Covid vaccination programme was the most successful vaccination programme which had been delivered at pace and scale since the 8 December 2020. A breakdown of the achievements to date in the delivery of Covid-19 vaccinations along with an overview of the innovative engagement activity resulting in increased vaccinations across GM was provided.

In thanking both Jane and Christina for the informative presentation, the Chair recognised the ongoing challenges particularly with the emergence of the new Covid variant and commented that it had demonstrated the positive results that had been achieved through collaborative hard work across GM. Details of how the capacity of the GM hub to provide integrated co-ordinated support to localities to undertake enhanced surge testing and provide resilience to manage increasing demand was discussed.

Members further extended their appreciation on behalf of the system and GM residents for the innovative work and commitment which had resulted in incredible achievements. The quality of advice received from the integrated team was recognised which had assisted GM in the national debate, the scope of which extended beyond GM. Encouraging messaging to ensure maximisation of second vaccinations was considered and discussed. The challenging implications of bringing forward second vaccinations was highlighted, however it was being actively promoted by locality and GM communication teams and the response to date was encouraging. The work undertaken in localities to build trust and address hesitancy and accessibility to drive take up for those most at risk groups was recognised.

The lack of income protection and job security for many was acknowledged to be a potential barrier to self-isolation and testing. It was suggested that evaluation of the self-isolation pathfinder may highlight the issue which in turn could enable future conversations with Government on the importance of income protection to compliance to self-isolation.

Appreciation was extended to all teams including volunteers working hard to undertake the programme of vaccinations in all roles. The crucial role of the VCSE within the programme was acknowledged. The availability and distribution of vaccinations was recognised to be a key factor and it was confirmed that availability was a national supply led programme and GM was currently working collaboratively to distribute mutual aid.

The acceleration of surge testing and vaccinations to deal with the Indian variant in those areas most at risk was recognised to be reliant on the availability of supply and workforce.

It was agreed that further details and JCVI guidance regarding the co-ordination of vaccinations and testing arrangements for prisoners due for release would be shared with the Deputy Mayor Police and Crime, Baroness Beverly Hughes.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the update provided be noted.
2. That the JCVI guidance on testing and vaccinations of prisoners prior to release be provided by Jane Pilkington to Baroness Bev Hughes.

HCB 13/21 ELECTIVE RECOVERY AND REFORM UPDATE

Fiona Noden, Chief Executive, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust and Co-Chair of GM Elective Recovery and Reform Programme provided an update on the approach to elective recovery across GM, including how the system was keeping patients informed while they are waiting for elective procedures.

A presentation which offered the context, an overview of the infrastructure to oversee the collaboration of organisations and priorities of the recovery and reform programme was provided.

It was advised that Clinical Reference Groups had been established for those clinical areas with the biggest challenge in terms of numbers of patients waiting, within which clinicians were working together from primary, community and secondary care and with patient representatives to reform delivery through recovery. This included introducing innovative changes such as Patient Initiated Follow ups as well as organisations providing mutual aid to one another to maximise available capacity. Organisations were working collaboratively, including using mutual aid, to make the most of the available elective capacity.

Members of the Board reflected on the situation for those people having to wait 52 weeks for surgery and considered how their quality of life and mental health had been impacted by the delay. Further information regarding communication of the 'Waiting Well' framework was requested. It was accepted that honest communication with patients highlighting the scale of the challenge was required.

It was suggested that post pandemic, normal prioritisation would not be the most appropriate approach for older people awaiting orthopaedic surgery particularly those who had been shielding. Furthermore, any changes to prioritisation would need to be effectively communicated to avoid public confusion and dissatisfaction. The Board were assured that a holistic approach was being adopted which considered the detrimental effects to patients including mental health and provided consideration to health inequalities.

The collective system wide approach involving primary, secondary and community care was acknowledged with an appreciation of the enormous pressures for hospitals and additional

demands on the scope of Primary Care. It was advised that UEC departments were also experiencing increases in patients attending who were awaiting surgery. Members endorsed the collaborative clinical approach that had been adopted by the hospitals in GM to provide the safest health and follow up care for patients.

RESOLVED/-

That the update regarding the recovery approach to elective care including the identification of opportunities to reform as part of recovery be noted.

HCB 14/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM (ICS) DEVELOPMENT – UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

Sarah Price provided an update on activities to inform the approach taken in Greater Manchester to the development of the ICS and a summary of the immediate next steps. It followed the presentation and paper provided to the Board in March which placed the ICS development in the context of the work as a Partnership since 2016 and the work during summer and Autumn to consider the Future Direction as a Partnership.

The paper also summarised the output from recent workshops involving colleagues across the Partnership and appreciation was extended to those that had attended and engaged in the sessions.

Dr Tom Tasker, Chair Salford CCG and Chair, GM Medical Executive supplemented the report by providing the Board with an update on the proposals for clinical and care professional leadership model. Further details on the proposals were available for members upon request.

Members agreed and acknowledged that areas were at different stages of integration and recognised that rigid structures would not be appropriate for each locality and would require different governance arrangements.

The Chair recognised and thanked those involved for the level of engagement across the system and work undertaken in the development of a statutory Integrated Care System for Greater Manchester along with the requirement to proceed to next steps.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the design principles for the new operating model be supported.
2. That the next steps as set out in section 3 of the report be confirmed.

HCB 15/21 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To be arranged and advised.

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

Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting

Thursday 15th April 2021

Via MS Teams 10am

Commercial in Confidence

Present:	<p>Board Members</p> <p>Cllr Steven Bashforth (Cllr SB) – Chair</p> <p>Cllr Louie Hamblett (Cllr LH)</p> <p>Peter White – Deputy Chair, Non-Executive Board Member (PW)</p> <p>Jeff Jones – Non-Executive Board Member (JJ)</p> <p>Cathy Butterworth – Non-Executive Board Member (CB)</p> <p>Karl Dean – Managing Director (KD)</p>	<p>In attendance</p> <p>Diane Taylor – Associate Director (DT)</p> <p>Val Perrins – Associate Director (VP)</p> <p>Helen Ramsden – Council/Shareholder Representative (HL)</p> <p>Danny Jackson – Finance Manager (DJ)</p> <p>Karen Wilson – Business Support Manager (Minutes)</p>
Apologies	<p>Cllr Zahid Chauhan (Cllr ZC)</p>	<p>Mark Warren – Shareholder's Advisor & DASS (MW)</p>

No	Agenda Item	Action
1	<p>Confidential – Board Members Only</p> <p>There were no items of business discussed.</p>	
2	<p>Welcome, Introduction, attendees and apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.</p>	
3	<p>Declaration of Interest</p> <p>There are no declarations of interest</p>	
For Information		
4	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting</p> <p>a) The confidential minutes of the last Board meeting held on 21st January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>b) The public minutes of the last Board meeting held on 21st January 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>c) The Board action log was discussed and updated accordingly.</p> <p>d) The minutes of the last Operations Committee held on 23rd February 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p> <p>e) The minutes of the last Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee held on 16th March 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.</p>	
For Discussion		

5	<p>Oldham Council Budget Challenge</p> <p>DJ gave a presentation to Board members to provide further understanding of the Council budget challenges and the implications of it for CHASC and MioCare. The presentation covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium Term Financial Strategy • Financial Challenges Pertinent to the Group • COVID • Budget Gap • Budget Reduction Proposals • Implications for MioCare <p>PW asked how likely a 2% increase in Council Tax in the form of a precept was to contribute to the Adult Social Care (ASC) budget was. CllrSB had approved an increase and offered that Councils cannot afford the levels of investment ASC requires because the demand continues to grow year on year and a solution is required nationally. PW stated that this way of budgeting impacts on the ability to plan effectively. KD offered that social care reform discussions are taking place regarding a sustainable approach to funding the sector.</p> <p>HR stated that Helen Whatley the Minister for Care is determined to reform social care. The pandemic has put a spotlight on the fragility and needs of the ASC and has also highlighted an increase in the complexity of people.</p>	
6	<p>Committee Updates – Key Matters</p> <p>As Chair of the Operations Committee, PW advised the minutes of the recent meeting are available within the Board packs and the main areas discussed at the recent meeting are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Good discussion was had regarding spotlight reviews and from a Committee perspective, the annual summary provided gave good reassurance. – Despite all things COVID there were some significantly good results around training etc. – COVID data showed the figures are reducing throughout all services in the Group. <p>PW closed the update by stating it was a very good meeting which emphasised there has been some good performance throughout the organisation in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>As Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, JJ advised the main areas discussed at the recent meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – COVID funding and efficiencies. – Assurance from the external auditors around the rules and regulations for the Covid funding was requested. – The internal audits are back on track after delays from COVID. – Compliance update. – A review of the Shared Lives service was provided from the Service Manager. <p>JJ closed the update by stating overall there was good debate about risk. It was agreed that KD, with support from JJ, would provide a paper at July’s Board meeting showing a 12-month plan of the risk approach derived from the Risk Workshop Summary.</p>	
7	<p>MD Update</p> <p>KD gave an update in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An end of year position of progress against the revised MioCare Group 2020/21 objectives. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arrangements for the Oldham Integrated Care Partnership continue. Comprehensive feedback has been provided on the integration agreement which will feed into the next iteration. It is hoped that a shadow board will be in place by September 2021. A detailed update will be given at Board in July. - A paper on the financial health of MioCare was presented at the Council's Performance and Value for Money Committee. The paper landed well and good feedback was received around MioCare's role facilitating the pandemic. - CHASC workforce briefings are planned in April followed by MioCare staff Getting in the Know staff engagements events are planned for May. All of the events will be via MS TEAMS and members are welcome at any of the MioCare engagements. - Following the completion of the Grassroots consultation the necessary savings of £70k were realised through voluntary redundancy and a member of staff returning to their substantive post. - With the exception of 1 staff member, everyone who was shielding has now returned to work supported by a comprehensive risk assessment. - A new Finance Manager called Tony Chan has been appointed and will join the company on Monday 7th June 2021. - A good standard of applications has been received for the post of Director of Care (DoC). Cathy Butterworth is supporting the process and members will be updated as these progresses. - SLT are looking to establish a Behaviour Specialist role for the LD and Autism portfolio of services. The role will also take the lead on Positive Behaviour Management training. - Good engagement from all teams has been received during the digital discovery project. Board members will be sited on the findings when the business case is produced. - Grant Thornton have been re-appointed as the Group's external auditors. The team will be on site in July. - 23rd September 2021 is the date set for the AGM and Staff Awards event. <p>KD concluded that over the past 15 months the organisation had faced a lot of work and challenges. The sense from the team is the Group has come through the pandemic stronger and more resilient with a positive impact on culture.</p> <p>CB advised she echoed the comments of KD and suggested the Board place formal appreciation for all MioCare Group leadership team over the last 15-month period.</p> <p>PW enquired if thought had been given about resuming face to face Board and Committee meetings. KD responded that he was keen but to some degree and the Team Oldham approach which is still being developed. MioCare's office estate is limited but thought will be given about what COVID secure Board meetings should look like.</p> <p>KD was offered thanks for the report.</p>	
8	<p>Assurance Report</p> <p>VP updated in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A risk workplan will be presented at June's FAR Committee meeting and then on to Board in July. Changes to the current risk register were also provided. - Medlock will continue to retain 'Designated Setting' status although this will remain under review. - An interactive briefing session has been commissioned in April for Registered Managers of all services about changes to the way CQC will inspect and regulate services. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The ‘Spotlight Review’ process has been re-introduced and progressing well. – An annual mandatory training compliance report was presented at Operations Committee. – The Corporate Performance dashboard was presented. – The COVID testing regime has been shared with Committees. It is refreshed as the guidance changes. – There is national debate about Government proposals to make COVID vaccination mandatory for health and social care staff working primarily in older persons care homes. – Health and Safety compliance reporting has resumed with reports provided at FAR Committee meetings. – Ena Hughes received an unannounced COVID spot check from Oldham Council Health and Safety team on 1st April 2021. Once again, the team confirmed that the building is COVID secure with no recommendations. <p>PW stated that the figures of the vaccination programme show good results and he would like staff to be made aware that all Board members strongly encourage staff to take up the vaccine offer for the safety of themselves, their family and the service users they support.</p> <p>Chair thanked VP for the update.</p>	
9	<p>Management Accounts Period 14</p> <p>DJ informed members that at Month 14 accounts had previously been presented to FAR Committee and challenge and scrutiny was provided by JJ, Chair of FAR Committee. DJ confirmed that the surplus across all 3 companies is £135k against a projected budget surplus of £20k with a projected year end surplus of £190k. A breakdown of the individual company performance was provided.</p> <p>Thanks, was offered to DJ for the report</p>	
	For Decision	
10	<p>MioCare Group Budget 2021/22</p> <p>DJ informed members the purpose of the report was to seek approval from members for the provisional 2021-2022 budget. DJ explained that the report is predominantly based on the 2020/21 operating position. The Adult Social Care market fees have yet to be approved by the Council. Additional COVID related grant funding that was announced by the Government and set to extend into 2021/22 has not been built into the budget. The summary budget position for the Group is an overall budgeted surplus of £66k.</p> <p>DJ concluded that although it is a prudent budget it is also ambitious, and everything should be caveated due to the uncertainty in the sector.</p> <p>JJ thanked DJ for the report and advised he encouraged the Group save as much money as possible with there being so many unknowns. J stated he was happy to approve the provisional budget. All members agreed the proposed 2021-22 budget.</p> <p>Decision: Board members approved the initial budget for 2021-2022.</p>	
11	<p>Strategic Plan Refresh and 2021/22 Objectives</p> <p>KD presented members with an annually update of the 2020-2023 plan and a new set of 2021-22 objectives proposed. An attempt had been made in the update to make the language and approach clearer in order to translate it more simply when cascaded down the organisation. The strategic objectives have been renamed as the strategic aims. These 5 strategic aims then translate into 8 annual objectives which are turned into</p>	

	<p>deliverables. KD closed the discussion by asking members to approve the 4 recommendations that are listed at 4.1 of the report.</p> <p>Decision: Board members approved the 4 recommendations listed at 4.1. of the report.</p>	
12	<p>AOB and Close</p> <p>KD offered thanks to members for the question and scrutiny around the budget challenge and strategic plan.</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 14th July 2021 10am – 12.00</p> <p>MS Teams</p>	

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**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY 26 MARCH 2021 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
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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	Jon Dyson
Bury	Geoff Little
Oldham	Carolyn Wilkins
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
TfGM	Simon Warburton
Growth Co	Mark Hughes
GMCA	Simon Nokes
GMCA	Claire Norman
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward

RESOLVED /-

That apologies be received and noted from Tom Stannard (Salford) and Tony Oakman (Bolton).

GMCA 49/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

RESOLVED /-

1. That after detailed consideration by the GMCA on the 23 March, the GM Mayor had chosen to accept their recommendations and proceed with plans for a bus franchising scheme for Greater Manchester.
2. That following an interview process, Stephen Watson would be recommended to the GM Police and Crime Panel at their meeting today for appointment to the role of Chief Constable for Greater Manchester Police.
3. That it be noted that the GM Mayor and Salford City Mayor would be writing to express their disappointment that Government's recently published proposals to reform the asylum seeker system did not reflect previous commitments made to ensure an even distribution across the UK to ensure there was sufficient housing stock capacity.

GMCA 50/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GM Mayor Andy Burnham declared a prejudicial interest in item 30 – A review of remuneration of the Elected Mayor of the GMCA and the Independent Members/Person of the GMCA Audit and Standards Committees.
2. That Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett declared a personal interest in items 26 & 33 – Growth Company Business Plan as a Director of the Growth Company Board.
3. That Councillor Elise Wilson declared a personal interest in items 26 & 33 – Growth Company Business Plan as a Director of the Growth Company Board.

GMCA 51/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA HELD 12 FEBRUARY AND 23 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meetings held on 12 February and 23 March 2021 be approved as correct records.

GMCA 52/21 MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES HELD DURING MARCH 2021

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 12 March 2021 be noted.
2. That the minutes of the Housing, Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 53/21 MINUTES OF THE GM LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP HELD
18 MARCH 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership held on 18 March 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 54/21 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD 19
FEBRUARY 2021**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GM Transport Committee held on 19 February 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 55/21 UPDATE ON GREATER MANCHESTER INDEPENDENT
INEQUALITIES COMMISSION**

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Portfolio Lead for Age Friendly Greater Manchester and Equalities, introduced a report which provided an update on progress of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission which had been established to respond to long term systemic inequality issues present in Greater Manchester and after six months of work, presented a series of ambitious, yet achievable recommendations for consideration.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the update and publication arrangements for the Independent Inequalities Commission, including its work to collect, analyse and report on inequalities, as part of the development of its recommendations, be noted.
2. That the publication of the Commission's Report which included a number of flagship recommendations for addressing inequality in Greater Manchester, be welcomed.
3. That it be noted that a further report will be submitted to the GMCA in early summer containing a proposal for how GM might take action in the light of the Commission's recommendations.
4. That it be agreed that the Tackling Inequalities Board will ensure all future work on inequalities is aligned and takes full account of the Commission's recommendations.

GMCA 56/21 GREATER MANCHESTER'S EQUALITY PANELS

Councillor Brenda Warrington, Portfolio Lead for Age Friendly Greater Manchester and Equalities, presented a report which outlined the development and impact to date of the Greater Manchester Equality Panels. Three panels comprising of the LGBTQ+ Panel, Disabled Peoples Panel and Youth Combined Authority were now well established, further recent additions included Women and Girls Panel and Race Equality Panel. Lastly, the Faith Panel had held its first meeting and the Older People's Panel had just been established. All of which comprised of people from each Local Authority area with particular skills and lived experience to provide invaluable insight into the diversity of GM in a way like never before. It was envisaged that now established, each Panel would be standardised to operate in a common approach that aligned with the Tackling Inequalities Board which had strategic oversight on this agenda.

The GMCA was reminded that inequality proved a strain on all lives, and that no one was immune from the impact. Furthermore, it was a thread that ran through all GMCA portfolio areas and therefore it was imperative that support be offered to the Equality Panels as they develop further.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress made in the establishment and delivery of equalities advisory panels be noted.
2. That an increase the annual budget for the LGBTQ+ Panel to £50,000 for 2021/22 be agreed, to make this consistent with the budget for other panels.
3. That it be agreed to give £50,000 to each of the Youth Combined Authority, Faith Advisory Panel and Older People's Panel from the Mayor's Budget to commission facilitating organisations for 2021/22.

GMCA 57/21 LIVING WITH COVID RESILIENCE PLAN - QUARTER 2 PROGRESS UPDATE

Simon Nokes, Executive Director of Policy & Strategy for the GMCA, took members through the progress made against the Living with Covid Resilience Plan which was written in September 2020. The 'heatmap' included within the report demonstrated the impact of covid across a number of areas, highlighting that many of these were still present and some were more severe despite the start of the recovery period.

The GMCA and its partners had made substantial progress against the actions within the Plan, with a particular impact being visible against the equalities objectives. The lessons learnt over the last months, plus the findings of the Inequalities Commission, would contribute to the refresh of the Greater Manchester Strategy which was due to take place imminently.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress update provided on the delivery of the GM Living with Covid Resilience Plan be noted.

2. That any further comments on this report could be submitted directly to Simon Nokes, Executive Director Policy & Strategy, GMCA.
3. That it be noted that to further strengthen the GMCA's commitment to equalities, reports submitted to the GMCA included an assessment on contributions to meeting equality and environmental impacts.
4. That it be noted that the lessons learnt from this review, plus the findings of the Inequalities Commission would be considered as part of the Greater Manchester Strategy Refresh.

GMCA 58/21 A BED EVERY NIGHT 2021/22

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided information on the development of the A Bed Every Night (ABEN) service and specifically detailed how it was to be funded through 2021/22. The forthcoming year marked the first annual budget for the programme, with £6m to be allocated to Local Authorities in GM to strengthen their local offer. Heriot Whatt University had undertaken an independent evaluation of ABEN, the results were encouraging, with the levels of rough sleeping in Greater Manchester falling greater than the national rate, together with the wider benefits of the programme, including a reduced need for crisis support and a significant impetus to the public sector reform agenda. The Mayor added that the achievements to date were truly attributed to a wide range of partner organisations, who had worked tirelessly to mobilise every element and provide financial support. Future funding from MHCLG was still to be confirmed and the evaluation also echoed the awareness amongst the sector that there were ways that the service could be further improved throughout the forthcoming year.

The City Mayor of Salford, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, added that this funding would be crucial to ensure that ABEN became an integral part of the GM system going forward. Thanks were expressed to all agencies and volunteers who had been involved to date as it had been evident that there was a genuine partnership approach that had enabled the ambitions of the service to be delivered. The evaluation report had further evidenced that the actions taken to support those homeless and rough sleeping throughout the pandemic had been the right actions to take. However, it was imperative that the wider determinants of the health and wellbeing of those who were homeless remained at the forefront of the CA agenda to ensure that tailored provisions could continue to be delivered, and other people could be prevented from homelessness.

Members acknowledged the way that ABEN had enabled support to be given to many more vulnerable people within their respective local authority areas, with Tameside reported that at the most recent count, there were no rough sleepers recorded. This illustrated how many people through the support on offer by passionate local teams, had been able to move individuals to safe places, including permanent accommodation and employment.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the outcomes and the approach to continued service developments in the A Bed Every Night programme be approved.
2. That the specification be approved.

3. That the committed income of £4,554,000 be noted, and that further confirmation was expected in June 2021 regarding the outstanding £1.5m investment from MHCLG to secure the full budget.
4. That the expenditure profile of £6,068,600 as grants to Local Authorities to deliver the service over a 12-month period be noted, pending full funding confirmation in June 2021 and enabling Local Authorities to ensure continuity of service where necessary until that time.

GMCA 59/21 GM DEVOLVED ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET YEAR 1 UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS

Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work and Apprenticeships, took members through a report which provided an overview of the first academic year of Greater Manchester's devolved adult education budget which aimed to equip people with the skills they need for life. This agenda had been further accelerated by the Covid pandemic, as it has a significant role in supporting residents to recover from the crisis. One way that partner organisations have been able to begin to do this has been through the provision of online courses, tailored to address specific skills gaps. The continuation of this work required clarity regarding longer term investment, with some providers anxious about the availability of grant reimbursements or had been excluded from them in the first instance. It was considered that allocations may have impacted some providers unfairly, and therefore support would be needed to ensure they could continue to deliver the courses that were necessary to support residents to move forward.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the updates, set out in Sections 2 & 3 of the report be noted.
2. That the planned approach for the commissioning of the National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 offer, as set out in Section 4. 3 of the report, be noted and that authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Lead Member and Lead Chief Executive for Education, Skills, Work and Apprenticeship (subject to considerations around any conflicts of interest which might arise), to take forward the Adult Education Budget (AEB) commissioning of the National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 offer, for both existing AEB skills providers and the procured element, to the contract award as set out in section 4 of the report.
3. That it be agreed that the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Lead Member and Lead Chief Executive for Education, Skills, Work and Apprenticeship (and subject to considerations around any conflicts of interest which might arise), be granted delegated authority to take forward the AEB commissioning of the National Skills Fund Adult Level 3 offer, for both existing AEB skills providers and the procured element, to contract award as set out in section 4 of the report.
4. That the proposed indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure be approved for the GM grant-funded further education institutions and contract for services skills providers and that authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer to agree any minor changes that arise during discussions between each institution and GMCA, as set out in Section 5 & Annex 5 of the report.

5. That the proposed indicative allocations and subsequent expenditure for the GM grant-funded local authorities be approved and that authority delegated to the GMCA Treasurer to approve any minor changes that arise in the course of discussions between each local authority and GMCA, as set out in Section 5 & annex 6 of the report.

Note: Mayoral function exercised by the Mayor pursuant to Articles 8 and 15 of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 (power to pay grants to a constituent council)

GMCA 60/21 COVID-19 CONTINGENCY SUPPORT MEASURES FOR GM WORK & SKILLS PROGRAMME

Councillor Sean Fielding, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work and Apprenticeships, took members through a report which provided an update on the Covid-19 contingency support measures put in place during the 2020/21 to support the delivery of GM's work and skills externally funded programmes. Many providers had to make adaptations to their delivery and financial support from the Combined Authority which had been used in some instances to stabilise their position.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the work and progress to date on the Covid-19 contingency support measures to be put in place during 2020/21 financial year be noted.
2. That the continuation of the support measures into 2021/22 financial year be agreed.
3. That the support measures for Adult Education Budget for the remainder of the 20/21 academic year, as set out Appendix 2 of the report, be agreed.
4. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to approve the Covid-19 Contingency support measures on a programme by programme basis, in 2021/22 financial year.

GMCA 61/21 TROUBLED FAMILIES FUNDING

The GM Mayor Andy Burnham introduced a report which provided an updated position on the troubled families funding for 2020/21 and 2021/22. Since 2017 there had been a devolved arrangement for this programme which had seen 5000 families supported to date and 65 families stepped down from social care interventions which had been a key measure for success. The report described a number of tangible outcomes from the past year, and informed the Combined Authority that there would be £10.9m of allocations available for distribution this forthcoming year.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of Troubled Families funding for 2020/21 to all GM districts, in line with the previously agreed process, be agreed.
2. That the announcement of a further years funding for the Troubled Families Funding for 2021/22 be noted.

GMCA 62/21**GREATER MANCHESTER CULTURE RECOVERY PLAN 2021**

Councillor David Greenhalgh, Portfolio Lead for Culture, took members through a report which outlined proposals for working with the sector to emerge from the pandemic and how Greater Manchester would be contributing to the wider national and local recovery. It was recognised that covid had brought about huge challenges to the cultural sector and yet they would play a significant role in recovery for Greater Manchester. Despite many cultural venues being required to close during lockdown periods, there had also been opportunities to celebrate art and culture from across GM during the last 12 months and it would be important not to lose the creative ways the sector had adapted nor the creative volunteering that had been seen throughout the pandemic. Over the next year, Greater Manchester would be undertaking its music review to identify ways to best support the sector to move forward.

Members of the Combined Authority recognised the amazing resilience that had been shown by the sector through this very difficult time but were proud of the way it had adapted to meet the challenges and provide innovative initiatives such as United We Stream, which saw over 4 million people tune in for the New Years celebrations.

Bury were looking forward to hosting the town of culture programme for 2021 which would be offering a hybrid of virtual and location based events with a theme of 'happiness' hoped to actively support positive mental health throughout the summer and autumn periods.

RESOLVED /-

1. That GM and national activity to date be noted.
2. That the draft GM Culture Recovery Plan be agreed.
3. That the proposed establishment of a GM Music Commission be endorsed.

GMCA 63/21**MONTHLY ECONOMIC UPDATE**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy, introduced a report which provided the GMCA with the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard. The report highlighted that as at the 23 March 2021, 144,320 people in Greater Manchester were claiming unemployment benefits, increased slightly from the January figures. As at the end of January, there were 184,600 people still furloughed and 84,000 claiming self employment support. However, the week commencing 8 March had seen a 28% increase in passenger journeys compared to January 2021 with 36.9 million trips being undertaken, signalling increased movement across the GM conurbation.

RESOLVED /-

That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard be noted.

GMCA 64/21 PREPARATIONS FOR THE UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (COP26)

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, took members through a report which provided an overview of the opportunity for Greater Manchester presented by UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow on the 1-12 November 2021. The event would be a significant opportunity to share Greater Manchester's carbon neutrality target and how the challenge was already being met through retrofitting, smart energy and transport at a major global event.

The GM Mayor added that this was a huge opportunity for Greater Manchester to stand apart from other localities and showcase its ambition to be a clean growth Combined Authority through effective partnership working and strong scientific based foundations.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the paper detailing activity to date and the current collaboration and potential partnership opportunities that are being explored be noted.
2. That it be noted that by May 2021, GM would be made aware as to whether their application for Blue and/or Green Zone access at the conference had been granted.

GMCA 65/21 GREEN HOMES GRANT LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY SCHEME PHASE 2

Councillor Andrew Western, Portfolio Lead for the Green City Region, introduced a report which sought approval for the GMCA to bid for an additional cr£17m Government funding from the Green Homes Grant : Local Authority Delivery Phase 2 Fund.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposal for GM Local Authorities should collectively bid for an additional cr£17m of Green Homes Grant, to expand our existing Green Homes Grant funded programme from £10.3m to cr£27m and extend delivery timescale from September to December 2021, be agreed.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA should be the accountable body for the bid on behalf of GM Local Authorities and Registered Providers.
3. That, subject to a successful award, authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and Monitoring Officer to contract with Local Energy North West to receive and defray the funds to partners and procured delivery partner(s).
4. That it be noted that the equalities impact from this proposal will be managed via utilising delivery companies with robust equality policies, and the environmental outcome is to substantially reduce the carbon emissions from approximately 1500 homes in Greater Manchester.

GMCA 66/21 TRANSPORT STRATEGY DELIVERY UPDATES

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided an overview of the detailed progress made against the agreed delivery programmes for active travel and electric vehicle charging infrastructure alongside an update on the outcome of the recent consultation on the Manchester/Salford City Centre Transport Strategy.

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 67/21 ACTIVE TRAVEL UPDATE

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, took Members through a report which provided an update regarding the active travel portfolio for Greater Manchester and sought approval for the Region's Active Travel Fund Delivery Plan, Mayor's Challenge Fund Governance Updates and the Active Travel Interim Design Guidance.

There were now 75 schemes included within the BeeNetwork, with significant amounts of delivery ongoing. The report outlined the progress made to date, the recent streamlining of the offer to improve efficiency and the new metrics set up to measure the success of the next phase for the programme. Greater Manchester had also made a further bid to the Department for Transport for some additional active travel funds to continue the development of the network.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the changes to the Active Travel Programme Governance utilised for the Mayor's Challenge Fund, in order to drive efficiency, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be noted.
2. That the progress made to date regarding the delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund, and the intention to provide future updates, as set out in Section 3 and Appendix B of the report, be noted.
3. That the adoption of the Active Travel Interim Design Guide for all cycling and walking schemes, as set out in section 4 and Appendix C of the report, be approved.
4. That the Delivery Plan for the Greater Manchester Active Travel Fund programme be approved for submission to the Department for Transport, in accordance with the requirements of the fund, as detailed in Section 5 and Appendix D of the report.

GMCA 68/21 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided an update on the progress made in delivering electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Greater Manchester. It was noted that there had been £10m from the Mayor's Challenge Fund committed for the scheme expansion and that the draft strategy would be presented to the GMCA for approval in due course.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress made in delivering Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure in Greater Manchester be noted.
2. That the continuing need for public sector intervention in charging infrastructure to overcome barriers to Electric Vehicle ownership be noted.
3. That the next steps, as set out in the report, to support the further expansion of the system be approved and that the draft Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy be submitted to a meeting of the GMCA this summer.

GMCA 69/21 CITY CENTRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, presented a report which set out the work that Manchester and Salford City Councils, together with TfGM had undertaken to finalise the City Centre Transport Strategy. Specifically the outcomes of a public consultation event at the end of 2020 and the changes as a result to the draft strategy and sought approval of the GMCA for the final strategy.

It was reported that this had been a collaborative piece of work across Manchester, Salford and TfGM, which had resulted in an exciting strategy for transport across the city centre. The recovery of the City Region needed an easily accessible city centre that was safe, well connected and had a pleasant environment and therefore this strategy was fundamental to supporting the economic regeneration of Greater Manchester as a whole.

The GM Mayor added that emerging from the pandemic with clarity was highly important and would enable quicker economic recovery for the whole city region in addition to supporting the revival of the city centre and specifically the hospitality and cultural sectors.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the updates to the draft City Centre Transport Strategy following public consultation be noted.
2. That the final City Centre Transport Strategy be endorsed for publication.

GMCA 70/21 MAYORS CHALLENGE FUND FINANCIAL APPROVALS

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided an update on progress and sought further approval in order to ensure the continued delivery of the Mayor's Challenge Fund programme for walking and cycling.

Approvals included the Manchester Cycleway (including the Fallowfield Loop) which would enable the standards to be raised in line with standards of the BeeNetwork, cycle parking at the Metrolink stop in Bury, procurement of a GM Bike Hire Scheme provider and the Victoria Street and Road to Wigan Pier schemes in Wigan.

Members of the GMCA were in support of these schemes being granted approval. Specifically, comments were made in relation to the necessity for infrastructure

improvements at the start and end of a cycle journey that would further support GM's ambitions for a fully integrated public transport system and plans for town centre regeneration. The proposals for the Wigan Pier scheme would further add to investment that had already been made and ensure that links could be made to other areas of the borough. There was now demonstrable evidence of all Greater Manchester Local Authorities taking up the offer of funding through this programme to ensure an even spread across the sub region, and it was hoped that schemes such as the Greater Manchester Bike Hire Scheme would help to sustain some of the environmental benefits seen through the covid lockdowns over the past 12 months.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the agreed Mayor's Challenge Fund (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 the release of up to £2.74 million of development cost funding for the 3 MCF schemes, as set out in section 2 of the report, be approved.
3. That the release of up to £2.1 million MCF funding for Wigan's Victoria Street and 'Road to Wigan Pier' schemes be approved, in order to secure full approval and enable the signing of a delivery agreement, as set out in section 3 of the report.

GMCA 71/21 LOCAL GROWTH DEAL (1, 2 & 3) – SIX MONTHLY PROGRESS UPDATE

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, took Members through the six-monthly progress update report in relation to the Local Growth Deal Programme (tranches 1, 2 and 3) which included a significant number of major projects, transport schemes and place making schemes. It was reported that by the 31 March 2021, the GMCA would have achieved full Growth Deal spend and thanks were recorded to colleagues across the conurbation for delivery management of these schemes.

RESOLVED /-

1. That it be noted that the Local Growth Deal Programme was on target to achieve full Growth Deal grant spend by 31 March 2021.
2. That the progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Major Works programmes be noted.
3. That the progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport Minor Works and Additional Priorities programmes be noted.
4. That the progress made in relation to the Non-Transport Skills Capital and Economic Development & Regeneration programmes be noted.

GMCA 72/21 METROLINK PHASE 3 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which highlighted key findings from recent pre-covid monitoring and evaluation in relation to

Metrolink Phase 3, explained their implications and marked the publication of a second report on the subject which detailed that pre-covid patronage levels were increasing.

Members of the GMCA welcomed the report and noted that the findings of the evaluation were useful in supporting Greater Manchester in moving forward with its multi-modal integrated network ambitions. Metrolink specifically played a key role in carbon reduction across the conurbation and was key to giving residents greater access to employment opportunities. Therefore, its extension to other radial areas had become even more imperative and officers confirmed that there was work underway with each Local Authority to determine priority corridors as part of the 2040 Transport Delivery Plan. Multi-modal ticketing would also be key to a truly integrated network and ensure the greatest return from this significant investment.

The GM Mayor summarised that where the Metrolink had been extended, it had been well received and well used, highlighting the demonstrable benefits to local communities.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the evidence presented in this summary report, the publication of the full report and its value in shaping future scheme planning and transport strategy development activity be noted.
2. That the commitment to pilot tram/train multi-modular ticketing in Rochdale Town Centre be reaffirmed.

GMCA 73/21 GREATER MANCHESTER GOOD LANDLORD SCHEME

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, introduced a report which sought the GMCA's approval of the proposed implementation of Greater Manchester's Good Landlord Scheme to address the issues facing the private rented sector. Long term issues in relation to section 21 evictions remained despite the covid eviction ban having been extended until the 31 May 2021, and concerns were raised that the Government's move to reduce the number of months to trigger a notice was a regressive step. Across Greater Manchester 79,000 households were still on the housing waiting list and in temporary accommodation and with the uncertainty of the Universal Credit uplift the Government's current approach was failing to safeguard residents from further risk of eviction. It was anticipated that the housing crisis would be further exasperated by Covid-19, evidenced by a 30% increase in housing benefit claimants since January 2021.

The Good Landlord Scheme had three elements including providing information and advice for landlords and tenants, targeting enforcement coproduced with Local Authorities to tackle rogue landlords and supporting landlords to capacity build and create greater energy efficient homes through retrofitting programmes. The report requested £1.m from the Housing Investment Loans Fund surplus to support the programme over the next three years, 75% of which would be used to strengthen the enforcement cap. Alongside which there would be active growth of ethical and social lettings with a clear exit route for non-engaged landlords and further lobbying for traction towards greater progressive change for the private rented market.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposals for further development and implementation of a Good Landlord Scheme for Greater Manchester, and associated activity to respond to the pressures in the private rented sector, be approved.
2. That the utilisation of up to £1.5 million over three years from Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loan Fund surpluses to fund activity, as set out in this report, be approved.

GMCA 74/21 GREATER MANCHESTER BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND – TRANCHE 2

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a report which sought approval from the GMCA to allocate grant funding to a number of recommended sites. This was the third report highlighting the progress that the GMCA was making in relation to the use of brownfield sites and included a request for an additional £200m to deliver a further 66 homes. Following the receipt of this funding, the monies received through this scheme now totalled £41.44m, enabling the delivery of an additional 7,703 housing units across 21 sites, further illustrating Greater Manchester's preference for brownfield sites and its ability to address associated viability challenges.

Members welcomed the report and agreed that making brownfield sites viable was a clear way forward in addressing the housing crisis faced by Greater Manchester residents. Furthermore it enabled creative town centre development, protected greenbelt and supported Local Authority ambitions to create 'places for everyone'.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the allocation of grant funding to those sites set out within Appendix 1 of the report and the entering into individual Grant Agreements for those recommended sites be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to agree the final terms of all the necessary agreements.

GMCA 75/21 GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP MEMBERSHIP REVIEW

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for the Economy, took the GMCA through a report which sought approval of the recommendations regarding the future private sector membership of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership for the period April 2021 to March 2023.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the recommendation of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership to reappoint the six existing private sector members' terms of office a another two-year term: Lou

Cordwell, Nancy Rothwell, Lorna Fitzsimons, Amanda Halford, Chris Oglesby, and Richard Topliss), be approved.

2. That the recommendation of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership to appoint five new private sector members to join the LEP as full board members: Steve Connor, Justin Kelly, Marilyn Comrie, Miles Rothbury and Vimla Appadoo, be approved.

GMCA 76/21 GROWTH COMPANY BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

Mark Hughes, Chief Executive, The Growth Company, presented the Business Plan for the 2021-22 financial year, including an agreed performance reporting framework to allow oversight of the core Growth Company deliverables through the GMCA and Local Enterprise Partnership. Members were reminded that The Growth Company provide business support, inward investment and tourism management on behalf of the CA through delivery agents including Marketing Manchester and MIDAS. Its clear focus over the past 12 months had been supporting businesses through Covid through advice, information and grant support coordinated through the Growth Hub.

RESOLVED /-

That the report, the priorities for 2021/22 and the Growth Company Business Plan be noted.

GMCA 77/21 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS UPDATE

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, introduced a report which provided an update on the current and forecasted commitments of the GM Housing Loans Fund. The fund had enabled 54 loans to be processed, 33 of which were to small and medium enterprises in Greater Manchester. Many of the schemes delivered had been outside the city centre, widening the benefits to not only residents, but to developers and contractors as GM worked to support recovery from the pandemic.

Members of the GMCA added that the Housing Investment Loans Fund was a phenomenal good news story in that it has enabled lending to developments which could not be funded elsewhere, and as a result 7000 homes had been built that could have potentially not been. The fund had also generated £16.47m of net income, and from an initial fund of £300m, over £500m has actually been invested as a result of loan returns illustrating the innovative approach taken by Greater Manchester which has proved significant value for money.

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 78/21 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS APPROVALS

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, presented a report which sought approval for two applications to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund.

RESOLVED /-

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

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
SPV subsidiary of Albell Investment Ltd	All Souls Rectory, Every Street	Manchester	£1.000m
Waterside Places	Islington Wharf Phase 4	Manchester	£8.300m

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

GMCA 79/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL AND TEMPORARY DELEGATION

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, introduced a report which sought approval for equity investments in Bankifi Technology Limited, Dr Fertility Limited, Total Swimming Holdings Limited, Erlson Precision Holdings Limited and Waterside Places Ltd from recycled funds. It further sought delegated authority to approve any projects for funding, or urgent variations to the terms of funding for previously approved schemes for the period of 27 March to 27 May 2021.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the funding application for Bankifi (equity investment of £700,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence, noting that this decision was exempt from the scrutiny and overview call in procedure.
2. That the funding application for Dr Fertility (equity investment of £750,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
3. That the funding application for Total Swimming Holdings Limited (an additional loan facility of £2,000,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
4. That the funding application for Erlson Precision Holdings Limited ("Erlson") (a loan facility of £500,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
5. That the funding application for Waterside Places Limited (a loan facility of £8,000,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
6. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above companies, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the transactions, to sign off any outstanding

conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investments at 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 above.

7. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 27 March 2021 to 27 May 2021. Any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

GMCA 80/21 A REVIEW OF REMUNERATION FOR THE ELECTED MAYOR OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY (GMCA) AND THE INDEPENDENT MEMBERS/PERSON APPOINTED TO THE GMCA AUDIT AND STANDARDS COMMITTEES

Liz Treacy, GMCA Monitoring Officer, introduced a report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the GM Elected Mayor and the Independent Members/Person of the GMCA Audit and Standards Committees. This review has been prepared in March 2020 and recommended to retain current levels of remuneration but index link in line with the majority of GM Local Authorities.

Although the subject of allowances was controversial, Members of the GMCA expressed that the remuneration level for the GM Elected Mayor represented value for money as this role incorporated the Police and Crime Commissioner whose allowance was determined by the Senior Salaries Review Body prior to 2017 as £100k. However, it was recognised that there were many other extensive responsibilities of the GM Mayor for an additional allowance of only £10k and there had been no increase over the last 5 years.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the recommendation that the remuneration of the GM Mayor remained at £110,000 be approved.
2. That the recommendation that the allowances paid to the Independent Members on the GMCA Audit and Standards Committees and Independent Person (Standards) remain unchanged be approved.
3. That the indexation of the remuneration of the GM Mayor and the allowances paid to the Independent Members and Independent Person (Standards), as set out in the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, be approved.
4. That it be agreed that a review of remuneration of these positions be undertaken again in early 2024 before the next Mayoral term begins.
5. That the Independent Remuneration Panel's views and recommendations relating to the current pension position of the GM Mayor and current legislation be noted.

GMCA 81/21 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 82/21 GROWTH CO BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 76/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 83/21 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS APPROVALS

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 78/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

GMCA 84/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 79/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair:

1.

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY
HELD ON FRIDAY 28 MAY 2021 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Police, Crime & Fire	
Bolton	Councillor David Greenhalgh
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	Councillor John Merry
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 - Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Carolyn Wilkins
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Pam Smith
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Steve Wilson
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Ross McCrae

GMCA 85/21 APOLOGIES

RESOLVED /-

That apologies be received and noted from Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Sir Richard Leese, Sara Todd, Liz Treacy and Steve Rumbelow.

GMCA 86/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The GM Mayor informed the Combined Authority that the new Chief Constable for GMP, Steve Watson had been formally sworn in, marking a new era for policing in Greater Manchester. With his appointment would come a greater presence of senior police officers across all districts including one dedicated senior commander. This had been welcomed across the force and there had already been positive feedback received on the changes that had been implemented.

Baroness Beverly Hughes, Deputy Mayor for Police, Crime and Fire added that the new Chief Constable was looking at strengthening neighbourhood policing as part of a review of the whole policing system, and not segmenting it from how a case progresses further, as this approach would enable performance management of the whole system to be improved. He would also be supporting the discontinuation of the targeted operational model, removing concerns that the model was not effective in screening out crime and that it resulted in excessive caseloads for inexperienced officers. Those initial initiatives were beginning to formulate a plan that would support GMP in moving forward with more public accountability.

RESOLVED /-

That it be noted that the new Chief Constable for GMP, Steve Watson has been formally sworn in.

GMCA 87/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

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

GMCA 88/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING – 26 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 26 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

GMCA 89/21 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE – 27 APRIL 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on the 27 April 2021 be noted.

GMCA 90/21 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE – 24 MARCH 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GM Transport Committee meeting held on the 24 March 2021 be noted.

GMCA 91/21 MINUTES OF THE GM WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE – 24 APRIL 2021

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GM Waste and Recycling Committee meeting held on 24 April 2021 be noted.

GMCA 92/21 APPOINTMENTS TO THE GMCA

RESOLVED /-

1. That the appointment of Councillor Arooj Shah (Oldham) and Councillor Neil Emmott (Rochdale) as members of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority be noted.
2. That thanks be noted to the outgoing GMCA members Councillor Sean Fielding and Councillor Allen Brett for their dedication to the work of the GMCA throughout their term of office.

GMCA 93/21 GMCA APPOINTMENTS TO SCRUTINY AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEES

Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer to the GMCA took Members through the appointments report and drew attention to the recommendations. In relation to GMCA Portfolios, the following changes were specifically noted –

- Cllr Andrew Western – Digital, Education, skills, Work and apprenticeships & Clean Air
- Cllr Neil Emmott – Green City Region
- Cllr Arooj Shah – Community, Cooperatives & Inclusion

RESOLVED /-

1. That the Mayor's appointments to Portfolios for 2021/22 as detailed in paragraph 1.1 of the report be noted.
2. That it be agreed to re-constitute and appoint to the three Overview & Scrutiny Committees as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report for the period up to 27 May 2022.
3. That it be agreed to appoint up to 16 members to the GMCA Scrutiny substitute's pool, as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report for the period up to 27 May 2022.
4. That it be noted that any remaining Scrutiny appointments will be reported to the GMCA at its meeting on 25 June 2021.

5. That the appointments made by the GM Local Authorities to the GM Transport Committee be noted.
6. That it be noted that the GM Mayor is a member of the GM Transport Committee.
7. That Councillor Brenda Warrington be appointed to act as a substitute member to attend meetings of the GM Transport Committee, in the Mayor's absence.
8. That Councillor Andrew Western be appointed as the GMCA member to the GM Transport Committee and Councillor Eamonn O'Brien be appointed as the GMCA member to act as a substitute to the GM Transport Committee.
9. That it be noted that the GM Mayor will determine the remaining appointments to the Transport Committee.
10. That it be noted that the GM Transport Committee shall select and recommend the appointment of a Chair for approval by the Mayor.
11. That the appointment of the GM Mayor to the Transport for the North Board be noted and that a substitute member will be appointed at the GMCA Annual Meeting in June 2021.
12. That Councillor Roger Jones be re-appointed to act as the GMCA's member to the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee until the GMCA Annual Meeting in June 2021.

GMCA 94/21 TRANSPORT FOR GREATER MANCHESTER NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM introduced a report which sought approval for the extension of the term of office for Les Mosco as a Non-Executive Director to TfGM until the end of December 2021 to allow for the recruitment of a replacement to be undertaken.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the extension of the appointment of Les Mosco as A Non-Executive Director of TfGM until 31 December 2021 be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, GMCA & TfGM to formalise the terms of the extended appointment.
3. That the commencement of a recruitment process for a replacement Non-Executive Director, to replace Les Mosco be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive, GMCA & TfGM to formalise the terms of the appointment of the new Non-Executive Director.

GMCA 95/21 NEXT STAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF BUS REFORM

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM introduced a report which set out the next steps required for the implementation and operation of the Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021 following the making of the scheme by the Mayor on 30 March 2021 and made recommendations for the delegation of certain connected functions to TfGM to enable TfGM to implement and operate the scheme on the GMCA's behalf.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That, in relation to the Local Service Contracts required for the implementation and operation of Tranche 1 of the Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021:
 - i. It be agreed to commence the procurement process as set out in the Assessment and summarised in section 2 of the report.
 - ii. It be agreed to delegate authority to TfGM to undertake and manage the above procurement process on its behalf subject to the following condition as set out in section 2 of this report:
 - a) TfGM will recommend a preferred bidder in relation to each Local Service Contract; in relation to large Local Service Contracts the decision to award will be taken by the GMCA and in relation to small Local Service Contracts and contracts for schools the decision to award will be taken in accordance with the contract award delegations as set out in the GMCA Constitution.
3. That, in relation to on-bus equipment, other equipment, any systems and associated services which are necessary for the implementation and operation of the Greater Manchester Franchising Scheme for Buses 2021:
 - i. It be agreed to commence the procurement of such on-bus equipment, other equipment, any systems and associated services as required.
 - ii. It be agreed to delegate to TfGM the authority to undertake and manage the procurement process on its behalf (including authority to determine the appropriate method of procurement as required and recommend preferred bidders).
 - iii. It be agreed to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM to agree the award of, and final terms of, all necessary legal agreements;
 - iv. It be agreed to delegate authority to the GMCA Monitoring Officer to complete and execute all necessary legal agreements.
 - v. It be agreed to delegate to TfGM the function of managing any such contracts following their award, for the entirety of the contracts.
4. That it be agreed to proceed with the depot strategy set out in the Assessment and that authority be delegated to TfGM to take any necessary or appropriate steps as required in relation to the implementation of the depot strategy. That it be noted that a further report will be submitted by TfGM in due course to recommend appropriate next steps.

5. That it be agreed to implement the Residual Value (RV) mechanism proposals as set out in the Assessment and to delegate authority to TfGM to undertake any preparatory work necessary to establish, operate and manage the RV mechanism on its behalf and that it be noted that a further report will be submitted by TfGM in due course to recommend appropriate next steps.

GMCA 96/21 GREATER MANCHESTER ACTIVE TRAVEL PROGRAMME AND CYCLING & WALKING FINANCIAL UPDATE

The GM Mayor presented a report which sought approval for a delegated scheme of delivery for the active travel schemes that comprise Greater Manchester's Active Travel Fund programme, to facilitate Programme delivery in line with the Department for Transport timescales. Specifically, the report sought approval for funds for development costs for two schemes which had the potential to enhance safety for both pedestrians and cyclists.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the progress to date in securing funding for, and establishing, the GM Active Travel Fund (ATF) programme, following a successful bid to the Department for Transport be noted.
2. That the proposed ATF governance structure and associated delegations set out in sections 2 and 3 of the report be approved.
3. That the current package of infrastructure schemes included within the GM ATF Programme, and the proposed ATF Complimentary Measures work programme be noted.
4. That the release of up to £1.89 million of development cost funding for the 2 MCF schemes set out in section 3 of the report be approved.
5. That GM's Capability Fund submission, in accordance with the region's indicative allocation of £2.88 million revenue funding for Active Travel, be noted.
6. That the current position in relation to grant funding and expenditure for Cycling and Walking measures arising from the impact of COVID-19, as outlined in section 5 of the report be noted.

GMCA 97/21 LOCAL GROWTH DEAL FUNDING AND APPROVALS

The GM Mayor took the Combined Authority through a report which gave an update on the Local Growth Deal Funding, detailing that £493.3m had already been allocated to a range of projects over the last three Growth Deals, including £143m skills capital funds. The paper gave assurance that all funds were now fully committed to GM priorities, and all projects would be able to meet their delivery targets.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the revised final Growth Deal allocations, recycled funding allocations and Growth Deal grant outturn figures for reporting to Government, as set out in the report and detailed in Annex A, be noted.

2. That the proposals for allocating remaining non transport funds, as set out in Sections 8.1 to 8.4 of the report, be approved.

GMCA 98/21 GM HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND - INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM introduced a report which sought approval for a small loan to a SME development company for a scheme in Bury. If approved this would equate the total of the Housing Investment Loan Fund to £528.7m, clearly evidencing the significant value of re-cycled monies for further investment growth in GM.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund loans detailed in the table below, and detailed further in this and the accompanying Part B report be approved;

BORROWER	SCHEME	DISTRICT	LOAN
Belmont Property Investments Ltd	Park Rd, Prestwich	Bury	£1.253m

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

GMCA 99/21 GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources introduced a report which sought approval of a funding application for Broughton House, Veteran Care Village.

Members of the Combined Authority recognised its strong history in Greater Manchester and the shared ambition for gold standard support for veterans that the proposals for this project would actively enhance. The success of the treatment centre was highlighted as something GM should be proud of having being able to achieve through effective collaborative working and it was hoped that this funding would allow the service to further flourish.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the funding application for Broughton House – Veteran Care Village (loan of up to £2,000,000) be approved and progressed to due diligence.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above company, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the transaction, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

3. That it be noted that the loan to Manchester Science Partnerships Limited was agreed under delegated authority.

GMCA 100/21 MONTHLY ECONOMIC UPDATE

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy, introduced a report which provided the GMCA with the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard. It specifically highlighted the economic changes as the Government's roadmap of restriction eases had begun to be introduced. Furthermore it also illustrated the UK's new relationship with the EU and the continued economic impact of the Covid crisis.

Councillor Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of Bury Council drew attention to the proposal from Capita to relocate its offices from Bury to Runcorn, recognising the significant impact this would have on the lives of many GM residents who currently work there.

The GM Mayor added his support to the workforce and offered to meet with Capita and the other businesses included in this potential relocation to endeavour to retain these jobs within Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard be noted.
2. That it be noted that the Mayor and the GMCA would welcome a conversation with Capita, Vodaphone Mobile and the trade unions regarding the proposal to relocate from Bury Town Centre to Runcorn with a view to discuss options for retaining the businesses within Greater Manchester.

GMCA 101/21 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 102/21 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS APPROVALS

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 98/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

**GMCA 103/21 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK,
CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Minute GMCA 99/21 above refers).

RESOLVED /-

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair:

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE 2021 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mark Aldred (in the Chair)	Wigan Council
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton Council
Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Bolton Council
Councillor Jackie Harris	Bury Council
Councillor Kevin Peel	Bury Council
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester City Council
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council
Councillor Emma Taylor	Manchester City Council
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham Council
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale MBC
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside MBC
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside MBC
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford Council
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport MBC
Councillor Angie Clark	Stockport MBC
Councillor Steve Adshead	Trafford Council
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan Council
GM Mayor Andy Burnham	GMCA
Councillor Andrew Western	GMCA

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM
Bob Morris	Chief Operating Officer, TfGM
Simon Warburton	Transport Strategy Director, TfGM
Stephen Rhodes	Customer Director, TfGM
Kate Brown	Director of Corporate Affairs, TfGM
Danny Vaughan	Head of Metrolink, TfGM
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Nicola Ward	Governance Officer, GMCA

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Nigel Featham	Go North West
Daniel Coles	Network Rail
Chris Jackson	Northern
Matthew Rawlinson	Diamond
Lucja Majewski	Transpennine Express
Charlie French	

GMTC 19/21 APOLOGIES

That apologies be noted and received from Councillor Howard Sykes (Councillor Angie Clark substituting), Councillor Elise Wilson (Councillor Tom McGee attending) and Councillor Barry Warner.

GMTC 20/21 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2021/22

Resolved /-

That it be recommended to the GM Mayor that Councillor Mark Aldred be appointed as Chair of the GM Transport Committee for 2021/22.

GMTC 21/21 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS FOR 2021/22

Resolved /-

That Councillors Roger Jones and Doreen Dickinson be appointed as Vice Chairs of the GM Transport Committee for 2021/22.

GMTC 22/21 MEMBERSHIP FOR 2021/22

Resolved /-

That the membership of the GM Transport Committee for 2021/22 be noted as below.

Members	Representing	Political Party
Stuart Haslam	Bolton	Conservative
Kevin Peel	Bury	Labour
Naeem Hassan	Manchester	Labour
Emma Taylor	Manchester	Labour
Norman Briggs	Oldham	Labour
Phil Burke	Rochdale	Labour
Roger Jones	Salford	Labour
TBC	Stockport	Labour
Warren Bray	Tameside	Labour
Steve Adshead	Trafford	Labour
Joanne Marshall	Wigan	Labour
Andy Burnham	GM Mayor	Labour
Andrew Western	GMCA	Labour
Doreen Dickinson	Mayoral appointment	Conservative
Nathan Evans	Mayoral appointment	Conservative
Jackie Harris	Mayoral appointment	Conservative
Mark Aldred	Mayoral appointment	Labour
Mohammed Ayub	Mayoral appointment	Labour
Susan Emmott	Mayoral appointment	Labour
Barry Warner	Mayoral appointment	Labour
Elise Wilson	Mayoral appointment	Labour

John Leech	Mayoral appointment	Liberal Democrat
Howard Sykes	Mayoral appointment	Liberal Democrat

Substitutes	Representing	Political Party
Stuart Hartigan	Bolton	Conservative
Nathan Boroda	Bury	Labour
Julie Connolly	Manchester	Labour
John Farrell	Manchester	Labour
George Hulme	Oldham	Labour
TBC	Rochdale	Labour
Mike McCusker	Salford	Labour
Angie Clark	Stockport	Liberal Democrats
TBC	Tameside	Labour
James Wright	Trafford	Labour
Paul Prescott	Wigan	Labour
Brenda Warrington	GM Mayor	Labour
Eamonn O'Brien	GMCA	Labour
Linda Holt	Mayoral appointment	Conservative
Adam Marsh	Mayoral appointment	Conservative
Tom McGee	Mayoral appointment	Labour

GMTC 23/21 APPOINTMENTS TO THE GMTC SUB COMMITTEES – BUS SERVICES AND METROLINK & RAIL

Resolved /-

1. That the membership of the GMTC Sub Committees be agreed as below –

BUS SERVICES

Members	Representing	Political Party
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford Council	Labour
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside MBC	Labour
Councillor Kevin Peel	Bury Council	Labour
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester City Council	Labour
Councillor Mark Aldred	Wigan Council	Labour
Councillor Susan Emmott	Rochdale Council	Labour
Councillor Barry Warner	Salford Council	Labour
TBC	Stockport MBC	Labour
Councillor Nathan Evans	Trafford Council	Conservative
Councillor Jackie Harris	Bury Council	Conservative
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council	Liberal Democrat

METROLINK & RAIL

Members	Representing	Political Party
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Councillor Emma Taylor	Manchester City Council	Labour
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham Council	Labour
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale Council	Labour
Councillor Joanne Marshall	Wigan Council	Labour
Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Bolton Council	Labour
Councillor Andrew Western	GMCA	Labour
Councillor Elise Wilson	Stockport MBC	Labour
Councillor Steve Adshead	Trafford Council	Labour
Councillor Doreen Dickinson	Tameside MBC	Conservative
Councillor Stuart Haslam	Bolton Council	Conservative
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham Council	Liberal Democrat

2. That it be noted that Councillor Roger Jones be appointed as Chair and Councillor Warren Bray be appointed as Vice Chair for the Bus Services Sub Committee.
3. That it be noted that Councillor Doreen Dickinson be appointed as Chair and Councillor Emma Taylor be appointed as Vice Chair for the Metrolink & Rail Sub Committee.

GMTC 24/21 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

Resolved /-

That the GMCA Members Code of Conduct be noted.

GMTC 25/21 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Resolved /-

That the GM Transport Committee Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure be noted.

GMTC 26/21 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

Resolved /-

1. That Councillors Phil Burke, Roger Jones, Mark Aldred and Doreen Dickinson be appointed to the Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Board.
2. That it be noted that one Labour vacancy remains to the GMATL Board which would be appointed to at the next meeting.
3. That Councillor Steve Adshead be appointed to the Green City Region Partnership.

GMTC 27/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

Resolved /-

There were no chairs announcements or items of urgent business.

GMTC 28/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Resolved /-

That it be noted that Councillor Phil Burke declared a personal interest in relation to item 13, Transport Network Performance.

GMTC 29/21 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 24 MARCH 2021

Resolved /-

That the minutes of the GM Transport Committee meeting held 24 March 2021 be approved as a correct record.

GMTC 30/21 MAYORAL PRIORITIES

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham gave a verbal presentation on his ambitions for public transport reform in Greater Manchester. After decades of efforts, unfortunately bus and rail still remained fragmented systems that seemed to be working less and less well. However, the case for change was now supported by a public who also want to see more control over Greater Manchester's Public Transport System.

The Our Network brought together a strong and coherent vision, which had begun to be delivered through the Bee Network, and as it expanded would bring together the more complex elements of the system under one umbrella, with a single brand and an easy to navigate structure.

As the Government had begun to indicate their ambitions to level up and see public transport reform, it was a timely opportunity for GM to align their own ambitions and push for the required financial and infrastructure support to see real change. A 'London style' system would see better connected communities, access to jobs and more opportunities for young people to access education and experiences. Also driving this agenda forward was the evidential need for cleaner air, especially for those communities who have the poorest air quality and often a wider set of inequalities. Negotiations with Government regarding the implementation of this policy were ongoing, but it also proved an opportunity to look to standardise taxi and bus services so that they were supporting the clean air ambitions and meeting a standard that was more acceptable to passengers.

Bus reform would have the power to unlock many of the ambitions for a reformed public transport network by ensuring full integration with the Metrolink system, a tap in, tap out fare structure with a daily cap and more orbital routes that support access to towns across Greater Manchester. Active travel would also play a critical role in being the most sustainable choice for the first and last mile of any journey, that went on to provide the required infrastructure to take a person to their final destination.

The outcomes of the Great British Railways White Paper should also be kept on the radar, as this would give greater public control to the rail network. In anticipation there were tasks to be undertaken to improve access to rail stations, develop community infrastructure and make the railways part of local place making. Transport remained at the heart of revitalised communities and although complex through its many elements, would be key to levelling up

all of Greater Manchester.

The Bee Network Board had been established to enable focus to remain on delivery and hold TfGM to account at all stages. Chris Boardman had also been appointed as Transport Commissioner to the Board and the Mayor, providing a single point of contact with Government and continuing to develop the good working relationship that had been established through TfGM. Membership of the Board was still being refined but would include representation from the GMCA and the Transport Committee.

The Mayor reiterated the importance of the voice of local authorities and expressed how the Transport Committee could actively ensure that the needs of residents were encapsulated in the GM vision and priorities as they were delivered to ensure that they made sense for communities.

Members of the Committee raised the issue of hydrogen being a strong longer-term option to electric vehicles that should be further championed, specifically as there would be no waste used batteries etc. The Mayor believed that GM should remain open minded about the opportunities to look at hydrogen as an alternative fuel, as Liverpool were looking to introduce into some its Mersey Rail fleet. There was a clear aspiration for renewable fuel, but the preferred options would become clearer as this agenda progressed further.

The Mayor was thanked for his commitment to improving linkages to Middleton, particularly in relation to the area being highlighted as within the top tier for potential Metrolink extensions and in response he added that levelling up in the north of the conurbation was equally important which could be realised through a range of opportunities including the expansion of the Northern Gateway.

In relation to a future fare structure, Members recognised that some people were currently choosing bus travel as it was a cheaper option and would be disinclined to see prices rise as a result of a standardised fare structure. The GM Mayor responded in agreement, that there would be a modal daily cap akin to the current London style structure which retained bus travel as the cheaper option, or even better deals for residents where one ticket allowed multiple journeys within a specified time frame. Members were in agreement that it was not right for public transport to be the most expensive in outlying areas with higher levels of deprivation and therefore Government revenue subsidy would be crucial.

Taxi licensing remained an issue, especially in relation to some cabs being licensed outside of GM further removing the opportunities to ensure standard practice. The Clean Air Plan and work being undertaken on a GM level in relation to minimum taxi licensing standards gave an opportunity to make significant changes across the industry. However, currently there was no legislation to prevent out of town working but this would not prevent advice to GM residents to use GM licensed taxis. This work would also enable GM to offer a greater level of direct support to the GM registered trade throughout the changes and beyond.

Proposals for the widening of the Bee Network were welcomed, however Members urged that not all the focus was on economic levelling up, but that the health inequalities agenda remained high as the network was further developed. The clear link between clean air and health improvement was noted, and the pandemic had further highlighted the health inequalities across GM. There were a range of ways in which TfGM would continue to promote healthy lifestyles, not least through the active travel element of the Bee Network, encouraging residents to consider their first and last miles to be done by bike or on foot. Furthermore, the GM Moving campaign would continue to promote active travel for physical and mental health benefits to everyday wellbeing.

In relation to the importance of community rail assets, Members supported the aspirations of the GM Mayor to make them as accessible to all and to find ways to proactively support the 'friends of' groups who show great commitment to and have great ambitions for their local stations.

Members of the Committee welcomed the opportunities for all the elected Mayors in the north of England to come together and drive forward improvements to the rail network. The GM Mayor recognised the years of effort to date in pushing this agenda, however reported that recent communications with the Secretary of State for transport had indicated that there was a growing cross-party alignment towards greater public control for transport networks. It has also been clear that Greater Manchester has continually moved things forward throughout the last few decades and that there was an equally strong consensus here for further change. However, without the required financial support, it would be a challenge to deliver such aspirations. The GM Mayor further reminded the Committee that the Mayors from Liverpool and Manchester came together to remove the franchise from Northern, which had reduced in more control and order across the timetable. The levers were now in place to enable further change in the future as Northern had embraced the improvements. Tram/train options should also be considered as part of the vision, as evidence has shown that using an old railway line for Metrolink had resulted in six times the number of passengers being transported along the same route per day. This made a strong case for further integration.

Having witnessed the challenges of electrification of the railway, Members were concerned that the move to electric buses may prove challenging and would have significant demand on infrastructure development. In response, officers informed the Committee that the Clean Air Plan had demonstrated the level of air pollution contributed by diesel buses. Therefore, Government had indicated that there would be additional funds to support the roll out of electric buses, but that there would also be a watchful eye on the development of hydrogen vehicles. The GM Mayor also added that he would like to see the standard across the bus fleet mirroring that of the Metrolink system and ensuring that all communities were connected.

Members echoed the need for more orbital routes across the conurbation, connecting towns as well as people directly to the city centre. Reliable, direct and affordable public transport would be the only way to ultimately get people out of their cars. The GM Mayor agreed with this aspiration, and noted that through bus reform, Greater Manchester would gain more control over bus routes and would give greater opportunity to deliver orbital routes in addition to the current predominately radial network. Streets for All would also create quality bus corridors, providing high quality rapid links supported by improved streetscapes.

It would be important to keep articulating the vision for public transport in GM will be public to maintain their support and ensure that all were bought into how it could look in the future. However, the whole journey needed to be integral to the offer, including the complimentary elements available through active travel. Recognising that this would be a completely new ideal to the car traveller and therefore the offer has to be something better than they are currently experiencing.

Members were in support of a holistic approach to transport in the city region and welcomed a move from vision to delivery. Furthermore, the wider benefits of an integrated transport network would include climate outcomes which would be critical to attaining GM's 2038 target. It would also be vital to improving people's access to job opportunities as many were currently prohibited due to the cost of public transport.

The GM Mayor was asked what the single greatest barrier to delivering on this vision was, and where the Transport Committee could apply its focus. He suggested that financial support was still a barrier and that further support from Government was needed in order to bring down the overall cost of delivering a public transport which in turn would reduce ticket costs. For example, if Metrolink was subsidised, then there could be a saving actualised to the passenger. Another significant challenge was capacity, as the system becomes more attractive and patronage increases, would the system be prepared to manage this additional capacity? Overtly to the decline in GM's public transport patronage levels, London has seen a significant increase in passenger numbers and revenue since their system was integrated. Greater control over rail assets was also thought to be a transformational step in delivering this vision, and the GM Mayor welcomed the Committee's support in reviewing how the current infrastructure could be best used.

Resolved /-

1. That it be noted that there was a clear consensus about the importance of delivering an integrated transport network for GM and the role of the GM Transport Committee in working alongside the Mayor, GMCA and ten Local Authorities to champion and support its delivery.
2. That it be noted that over the next 12 months, the GM Mayor suggested that the Committee could add value on the development and delivery of key priorities including Streets for All, the Electric Vehicle Charging Network, the GM Bike Hire scheme, and widening the benefits of community rail assets.
3. Further to this, that it be noted that the GM Mayor suggested that the biggest barriers to public transport reform included the lack of long-term Government financial support, the current capacity of the network and the unused rail infrastructure and encouraged the Committee to consider how they could actively pursue improvements in these areas.
4. That it be noted that the GM Mayor, in conjunction with officers at TfGM, would give further consideration to the importance of active travel and public transport in tackling health inequalities and associated campaign messaging.

GMTC 31/21 TRANSPORT NETWORK PERFORMANCE

Bob Morris, Chief Operating Officer for TfGM took Members through the latest transport network performance report which indicated that the number of overall trips across all modes had now reached 98% of pre-covid levels. Broken down this was c. 75% bus, 50% Metrolink, 50% rail, 95% highways, 130% cycling and 115% walking.

Key points to note included –

- There were planned Metrolink engineering works due to take place over the summer.
- Timetable increases for Metrolink were also due to come into effect from July.
- Rail were now running 80% of the timetable and had confirmed funding from DfT for the forthcoming two years.
- Bus service levels were almost at pre-covid levels, with their service specific funding agreed from DfT until the end of August 2021.
- There had been (and was further planned) active travel infrastructure growth.
- Unfortunately there had been a number of ASB incidents across the network,

predominantly at Interchanges.

- Preparations were underway for stage four of recovery, post 19 July and associated communications.

Members of the Committee were particularly interested to understand more about the next recovery phase and how TfGM were working with employers to support their staff as they returned to work and build their confidence in travelling on the public transport network. Officers reported that there had been a high level of engagement with employers which remained ongoing. In particular advice information and support had been offered regarding sustainable travel and a virtual engagement platform had been set up to provide dedicated support. Businesses were also able to gain travel planning information through TfGM's contact centre. There was a strong desire to capture all the benefits from increased active travel through the lockdown period and a planned targeted campaign to commuters at the end of June 2021.

Resolved /-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the communications campaign scheduled for stage 4 of the roadmap be shared with Members of the Committee.
3. That it be noted that the latest performance data of all transport modes is included within the weekly update for Members.

GMTC 32/21 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Resolved /-

That the following dates and times of future meetings be approved –

Metrolink & Rail	16.07.21
Bus	06.08.21
Full	20.08.21
Metrolink & Rail	17.09.21
Bus	01.10.21
Full	15.10.21
Metrolink & Rail	12.11.21
Bus	19.11.21
Full	10.12.21
Metrolink & Rail	14.01.22
Bus	21.01.22
Full	18.02.22
Metrolink & Rail	11.03.22
Bus	18.03.22

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING COMMITTEE
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2021 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT:

Councillor Alan Quinn	Bury
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar	Manchester
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford
Councillor Robin Garrido	Salford
Councillor Helen Foster Grime	Stockport
Councillor Alison Gwynne (Chair)	Tameside
Councillor Steve Adshead	Trafford

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

David Taylor	GMCA – Executive Director, Waste & Resources
Paul Morgan	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Justin Lomax	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Lindsey Keech	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michelle Whitfield	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Michael Kelly	GMCA – Waste & Resources
Gwynne Williams	GMCA – Deputy Monitoring Officer
Nicola Ward	GMCA – Governance & Scrutiny

WRC 21/14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Councillors Yasmin Toor, Tom Besford and Adele Warren.

WRC 21/15 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

There were no announcements or items of urgent business reported.

WRC 21/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

WRC 21/17 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED/-

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 13 January 2021 be approved as a correct record.

WRC 21/18 CONTRACTS UPDATE

Justin Lomax, Head of Contract Services, Waste and Resources Team introduced a report which provided an update on all contracts between the period of April-December 2020. Highlights from the report included –

- Current recycling rates were at 46% (same as 2019)
- Over 50,000 tonnes had been diverted away from landfill over this period, a 7% increase on last year.
- Rejection levels at the Materials Recovery Facility were c. 18% resulting in 6,500 tonnes being unable to be processed.
- 2 RIDDORS had been issued at Household Waste Recycling Centres since the last meeting, one was relating to failed hydraulics on a shovel and the other relating to a back injury as a result of moving a box of rubble. Both issues had been addressed and appropriate actions taken.
- Despite the covid closures, there had been 547,000 visits to HWRCs, with a significant peak in July 2020 following the first lockdown period. Footfall had now levelled and remained lower than numbers in 2019 and 2018.
- The van permit scheme was in the final stages of development with a soft launch planned for June and a formal launch in July 2021.
- The Environment Agency were consulting on the level of permissible plastic in compost, reducing from 5% to 0.5%. GM levels were c. 10% currently, so this may result in increased levels of rejections and processing costs.
- Carpet recycling now required an environment permit as it has been re-classified as waste. This may result in less opportunities to recycling via equestrian outlets.

Members noted the increased level of rejections and officers confirmed that levels of diligent checking and communications with the public had been increased.

In relation to the disposal of domestic plasterboard, Members questioned whether there would be further facilities put in place across Greater Manchester. Due to the waste type, plasterboard had to be processed separately and therefore there were only the facilities to receive this waste at weigh bridge locations currently. Officers confirmed that additional provision was being considered and any developments would be reported back to the Committee.

Members were concerned about the general increase in contamination of biowaste and urged for stronger enforcement and further education to be delivered. Officers relayed

the challenges as crews were only able to see what was on the top of the green bin and therefore often missed plastic bags, non-green garden waste, tools, plastics etc. Good practice from other local authorities was also being sought in relation to how to best educate the public regarding the impact of contamination.

Specifically, the issue of contaminated bins in shared flat facilities was raised and whether there were any plans to address this concern. Officers reported that best practice from London boroughs had been reviewed as they used a 'bin champion' arrangement where one resident was responsible to check the bins and communicate regularly with other residents. This could be an option for GM to pursue further, however it would require the support of the Local Authority and respective landlords. Members reported of cases where bin holes had been designed to only receive waste of one type had helped to minimise incidents of contamination.

It was considered that Covid-19 may have impacted contamination rates as families had been under significant pressures and recycling correctly may have slipped off their priority list as a result. Communications regarding previous campaigns had seen strong public support when delivering a simple, straightforward message that focussed on reward rather than sanction. In relation to contamination, Members suggested that an awareness campaign as to the cost saving to the council/tax/individual as a result of disposing correctly may be a good option to support behavioural change.

The change of classification for carpet waste was disappointing to the Committee, however, they were informed that although not of the same scale, sound insulation in car doors was another potential outlet.

In relation to the plant installation at Reliance Street, officers reported that the building was now in place and it was still on track to commence operation from August 2021. However, there had been a delay on the commissioning of works for the Raikes Lane site and a further update would be provided at the next meeting of the Committee.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the report be noted.
2. That further information on the increase of plasterboard disposal provision would be brought to the Committee in due course.
3. That it be noted that Michelle Whitfield would share some practical examples of good practice sharing directly with Cllr Lancaster.
4. That an update on the installation of the turbine at the Raikes Lane Facility would be provided at the next Waste & Recycling Committee meeting.

WRC 21/19 COMMUNICATIONS AND BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PLAN UPDATE

Michelle Whitfield, Head of Communications and Behavioural Change, GMCA Waste and Resources Team updated the Committee on the latest communication and engagement activities.

The National Food Waste Action Week had taken place at the beginning of March which had been a relevant and useful campaign and the social media response was positive, however the results were still awaited from WRAP.

The Education Team had been undertaking virtual sessions to support home schooling and community groups in their waste and recycling messaging. Feedback had been positive and there were some interesting lessons to have been learnt. The Education Centre was now undergoing a refit to ensure that it could be as interactive as possible as it begins to be used again.

There was an ongoing campaign in relation to the appropriate disposal of nappies, as often these were mistakenly put in the paper re-cycling bin and in support of this, Keep Britain Tidy had written to nappy manufacturers to identify further ways they could promote these key messages. There had been a particular targeted campaign undertaken with Tameside Council which was to be compiled into a case study from which further lessons could be learnt regarding future campaigns, however officers were well aware that behavioural change takes time, and the results of such campaigns may not be seen immediately. Members reported the initial difference that this campaign had made and welcomed the efforts of the Communications Team. Further to this, Members suggested that some specific communications regarding the disposal of nappies be included with information packs for new parents.

In addressing the wider issues regarding contamination of waste bins, there had been an increase of officers on the ground, with some Local Authorities employing additional officers to support residents to recycle correctly, especially with regards to paper waste. Further campaigns were planned post lockdown, including those with a focus on the correct disposal of mattresses and batteries. Members questioned as to the use of volunteers in promoting recycling activity, officers agreed to look into this option but reported that often local recruitment for short term paid work has been effective as they have had a greater understanding of the communities in which they live. Furthermore, Members suggested that a standard use of pictorial instructions for bin use would allow for a clear GM shared message to become easily recognisable and reduce incidents of confusion.

From June/July there would be extended opening hours for the recycle shops and a further communications campaign to raise awareness of what can be donated, and where items were to be sold.

The R4GM Fund was open for applications, and a Grants Manager had been recruited to help community groups to apply for funding. This opportunity had been actively promoted through the Greater Manchester networks.

In relation to social media coverage, the dashboard for January/February had indicated that interaction had dropped slightly since the new year. However, the vacant post for the Digital Communications Officer had not been recruited to, so further work in this area would be being developed. Members urged that this would be the perfect time to ramp up communications as post pandemic gave a fresh start for considering waste differently.

Members urged that the correct message that only plastic bottles can be recycled in Greater Manchester be further promoted, as current packaging was often incorrect in its labelling and this led to further confusion. Officers confirmed that Keep Britain Tidy were undertaking further work to reset the rules on accurate recycling guidance on packaging as they recognised that it was misleading to the consumer.

Those who chose not to recycle were recognised by the Committee as requiring a different approach to those who made mistakes with their recycling. Greater enforcement was called for to tackle those who repeatedly refuse to recycle as it had been proven that this was the most effective way to change behaviours. Officers agreed that different approaches were needed, and often tailored support had been proven to encourage people to recycle more.

It was considered that small general waste bins with insufficient room for larger families may result in them having to use their recycling bins for the incorrect waste. This had been raised previously with officers and it was anticipated that the new national guidelines may make a difference to the future size of general waste collections. However, it was also recognised that busy lives can often impact effective recycling and it was important to be flexible with bin provision to support the requirement of families with certain needs. This was reported to have been effective in Trafford, where families were able to request temporary additional facilities and in other incidents had shared bin space with their neighbours who needed less.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the progress against the communications and behavioural change plan be noted.
2. That the progress on the joint SUEZ and R4GM communications and engagement plan be noted.
3. That consideration be given to the use of a standardised pictorial messaging in relation to re-cycling bins across Greater Manchester.
4. That further consideration be given as to how best to promote the correct method of nappy disposal to new parents.

WRC 21/20 ENGLAND'S RESOURCE AND WASTE STRATEGY UPDATE

Sarah Mellor, Head of Sustainable Consumption & Production GMCA took the Committee through a report which provided an update on recent Government consultations that relate to England's Resource and Waste Strategy.

Three inter-related policies had been recently published, including the Waste Prevention Programme, the Deposit Return Scheme and the Extended Producer Responsibility guidelines, however the outcomes of the Consistency Collections Consultation were still awaited.

Work was already underway with Local Authorities to determine Greater Manchester's forward position but the outcomes of the Consistency Collections Consultation were really important to determine future modelling.

Members reiterated their concerns regarding separate food waste collections in relation to the number of additional bins being required and other factors. It was reported that Government believed that separate collections would indicate a better standard of return, however any statutory guidance would be best practice and the implementation of such collections would be a local decision. In preparation, officers were undertaking relevant modelling to ensure that Greater Manchester's full quota of funding could be received so that there would be no additional cost to Local Authorities.

In relation to mandated fortnightly residual waste collections, Members were concerned that this would reduce recycling rates and have significant cost implications. Furthermore, three weekly collections were well established in many areas of Greater Manchester so this would potentially cause unnecessary confusion for residents. However, it was noted that collections, bin sizes and bin colours were not standard across GM and therefore it would be difficult in the current contractual arrangements to meet Government demands to standardise at this point.

Members felt that these were progressive documents and showed that Europe was forward thinking in relation to the recycling agenda, however they had to work for Greater Manchester and therefore needed to be agile where required. GM had well established collection patterns and could share its good practice with other areas, however, should also not be quick to introduce changes that would not be for the good of its residents.

The deposit return scheme was generally welcomed by Members, however it was questioned as to whether there would be any financial benefit for Greater Manchester from such a scheme. Officers reported that the financial model had been designed to be cost neutral at no further cost to GM, however there were various options for dealing with the waste that had to be taken out as it was not a 100% catcher scheme. Further details were to be considered and would be included in Greater Manchester's response to the consultation.

RESOLVED/-

1. That the approach to responding to the second round of consultations on England's Resource and Waste Strategy be approved.
2. That the principles set out in the Waste Prevention, Extended Producer Responsibility and Deposit Return Scheme consultations be noted and authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Waste in consultation with the Chair of the Waste and Recycling Committee to approve the responses to the consultations which are required to be submitted in June 2021
3. That authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Waste in consultation with the Chair of the Waste and Recycling Committee to approve the response to the Consistent Collections consultation should this be issued prior to the next Waste and Recycling Committee meeting.

WRC 21/21 DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

RESOLVED/-

That the GM Waste and Recycling Committee would next meet on the 14 July, and that those Members appointed to the committee for the forthcoming municipal year would be notified in due course.

WRC 21/22 EXCLUSION OF THE 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 21/23 CONTRACTS UPDATE

RESOLVED/-

That the contracts update, and key risks set out in the report be noted.

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**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 14TH MAY 2021 AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

PRESENT:

Councillor Janet Emsley, Rochdale Council (Deputy Chair in the Chair)
Councillor Richard Gold, Bury Council
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar, Manchester City Council
Councillor Steve Williams, Oldham Council
Councillor David Lancaster, Salford Council
Councillor Amanda Peers, Stockport Council
Councillor Laura Boyle, Tameside Borough Council
Councillor Graham Whitham, Trafford Council

Also in attendance: Andy Burnham, Greater Manchester Mayor, and Baroness Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor Designate.

Officers Present:

Clare Monaghan, Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley, Salford City Council and GM Police and Crime Policy Lead
Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring officer, GMCA
Steve Annette, Governance and Scrutiny GMCA
Jim Cessford, GMCA
Sarah Keaveny, GMCA
Alexandra Rucki, GMCA
Dave Russel, Chief Fire Officer, GMFRS

PFCP/10/21 MINUTES

RESOLVED/-

That the proceedings of the meeting held on 26th March 2021 to confirm the appointment of the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester be approved as a correct record.

PCFP/11/21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Nadim Muslim, Bolton Council, Allison Gwynn, Tameside Council, Councillor Kevin Anderson, Wigan Council, and Majid Hussain and Angela Lawrence, Independent Members.

PCFP/12/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

PCFP/13/21 URGENT BUSINESS

There were no additional items of urgent business to be transacted.

PCFP/14/21 MR NIGEL MURPHY

Members paid tribute to the valuable contribution that Nigel Murphy had made to the work of the Panel as its Chair and extended their best wishes to him for the future. The Chair

indicated that Nigel's commitment to the work of the Panel was plain for all to see, as was his inherent sense of fairness shown in the courteous way in which he had always sought to conduct proceedings. Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, then paid his own tribute for the work that Nigel Murphy had done to take the role of the Panel forward.

PCFP/15/21 MAYOR OF GREATER MANCHESTER

The Chair extended congratulations to Andy Burnham upon his re-election as Greater Manchester Mayor.

PFCP/16/21 BALANCED APPOINTMENT OBJECTIVE AND CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Consideration was given to a report of the Monitoring Officer that informed Members of the statutory objectives set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and, subject to the agreement of the Secretary of State, recommending that the Panel agree to co-opt local authority members.

The Panel noted that the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 set out the roles and responsibilities of the Police and Crime Commissioner and of local authorities to establish and operate Police and Crime Panels. The Police, Fire and Crime Panel was established under that Act as a joint committee of the ten Greater Manchester districts; with each district appointing one member to the Panel and the Panel itself appointing two independent co-opted members, and it imposed a duty on the districts and the Panel itself to meet, so far as reasonably practicable, the balanced appointment objective to achieve a political make-up that brought together the skills, knowledge and experience necessary for the Police and Crime Panel to discharge its functions effectively.

The Fire Amendment Order placed a further duty on the Panel to meet a "fire and rescue expertise objective", so that members of the panel have the skills, knowledge and experience necessary to effectively discharge its functions in relation to fire and rescue services, and it was the introduction of this latter objective that now required the Panel to review its composition.

To achieve a balanced Police Fire and Crime Panel, the Panel could choose to co-opt five local authority members to produce a Panel with a total membership of 17. If the Panel decided to co-opt additional local authority members, the appointment of the additional members could be made to reflect the wishes of the relevant political groups, though such appointments could only be made following notification of the Secretary of State's agreement.

RESOLVED/-

1. To agree in principle to appoint five local authority co-opted members to meet the objectives described above; to seek the Secretary of State's agreement to this proposal, and to request a further report from the officers following the Secretary of State's determination.

PFCP/17/21 APPOINTMENT OF GREATER MANCHESTER DEPUTY MAYOR.

In accordance with the requirements in Schedule 1 to the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011; the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Transfer of Police and Crime Commissioner Functions to the Mayor) Order 2017; the Greater Manchester

Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) (Amendment) Order 2020 and clause 18.3 of the Greater Manchester Police Fire and Crime Panel Procedure Rules, the Panel considered a report in relation to the Greater Manchester Mayor's formal notification of his recommendation that Baroness Beverley Hughes be re-appointed as Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor. The Panel was required to hold a confirmation hearing within 3 weeks of the day on which it received notification of the Greater Manchester Mayor's recommendations in respect of the appointment.

The Greater Manchester Mayor reminded the Panel of the scope of role to be carried out by the Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor, including setting the policing budget and precept, the production of a Police and Crime Plan and a Fire Plan for Greater Manchester, and the appointment and dismissal of a Chief Constable and a Chief Fire Officer, and that the skills set necessary to undertake the role, included -

- knowledge of the policing and criminal justice landscape both nationally and at a Greater Manchester Level;
- ability to work at a senior executive level and make strategic decisions as a sole decision maker;
- skills to influence policy at a national level to ensure that Greater Manchester's interests are considered in future government decision making;
- proven ability to engage with partners and the public in order to lead Greater Manchester's policing and community safety agenda;
- proven experience in understanding complex issues and the ability to challenge at a senior executive level, and
- extensive understanding of the complex nature of crime, its contributing causes and associated vulnerabilities both for victims and offenders.

He then set these criteria against the unforeseen challenges that had been faced during Baroness Hughes' time in office, including the Manchester Arena bombing, issues around local child sexual exploitation and safeguarding, the response to the control of moorland wildfires, the introduction of IOPS, responses to the pandemic, and finally the fall-out from the HMIC inspection report in 2020, all of which demonstrated that the scope of the Deputy Mayor's role had to be flexible.

The Deputy Mayor had given him sustained levels of support and advice in addressing each of those issues. He then gave an overview of the criteria used to assess the continued suitability of the candidate in terms of meeting those criteria and outlined the terms and conditions on which the appointment was proposed to be made. The Mayor considered that Baroness Hughes met the requirements for Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime and Fire, a position in which she has served since 2017, and taking on formal oversight of Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service in 2020. She brought to the position relevant previous experience as a Minister of the Crown, as a local Member of Parliament and as a local Council Leader.

Baroness Hughes then made a presentation at the Panel meeting about the programmes and projects she had delivered alongside the Mayor over the past four years. She reflected on the challenges faced by the police and fire services, paid tribute to the way both services had responded to those challenges, and in particular in response to the pandemic, which had shown those services at their very best. A good deal of progress had been made across a number of areas of work, especially around the restitution of police resources, neighbourhood and partnership working, community policing, support for victims of crime, and support for the work of local community safety partnerships in terms of harnessing local knowledge to find local solutions to often intractable local problems. Much remained to be

done to build on those foundations and the strong working relationships that had been built up over the past four years both within the GMP and GMFRS, with this Panel, and with local communities.

Baroness Hughes and the GM Mayor then responded to questions posed by members, including –

- whether there were contingency measures in place to enable the GM Mayor to ensure that support for the Deputy Mayor properly reflects the additional and often unexpected demands that have fallen to her to deal with;
- the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's short-term priorities. Which they then outlined as being (a) the establishment in post of the new Chief Constable, harnessing the opportunities that presented in terms of maximising the potential for cultural change within GMP (b) the achievement of cultural and organisational change within GMFRS (c) fixing the 101 Service, because peoples' first interaction with GMP needs to be better, and (d) fixing IOPS and supporting officers on the ground, and
- the priority that needs to be given around neighbourhood place-based working which the Deputy Mayor indicated was key to strong leadership and was already one of the key priorities identified already by the incoming Chief Constable.

At the conclusion of the overviews given and the detailed questioning, the Panel agreed unanimously to the Greater Manchester Mayor's recommendation of Baroness Beverley Hughes' re-appointment as Deputy Mayor. In reaching this conclusion, the Chair indicated that the Panel considered that Baroness Hughes continued to demonstrate the required leadership qualities and breadth of experience necessary to effectively discharge the duties of the office of Deputy Mayor; remained strongly committed to effective partnership engagement with the ten constituent Councils, and to continue to build robust co-operative relationships with the diverse cultural communities within the districts of Greater Manchester and with representative local organisations and community groups, and to harness the inherent talent in the workforces of GMP and GMFRS to drive forward the development of those services in Greater Manchester. In conclusion the Chair said that Panel looked forward to having a continued successful working relationship with Baroness Hughes, and to strive together to achieve shared goals.

RESOLVED/-

1. To confirm the recommendation of the Greater Manchester Mayor in relation to the re-appointment of Baroness Beverley Hughes to the post of Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor for Policing, Fire and Crime, at a salary of £85,000 per annum, and subject to GMCA terms and conditions.

PFCP/18/21 GM FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE - FIRE PLAN

Consideration was given to a report introducing the Fire Plan for Greater Manchester as an overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) to be delivered over the next four years.

Dave Russel, Chief Fire Officer then gave a brief presentation of the 47 key commitments within the Plan, outlining the way that annual delivery plans would underpin the Plan and provide a robust framework against which to enable the Panel to monitor and scrutinise progress against the delivery of each of those commitments. He emphasised that the Plan

involved a significant amount of work and involved significant cultural step changes for GMFRS and the way that it worked in the future with strategic partners.

Members welcomed the Plan as a positive piece of work the implementation of which would deliver significant benefits for local communities in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED/-

1. To note the content of the Fire Plan as the overarching strategy for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service for the next four years.
2. To advise the Greater Manchester Mayor that the Panel supports the key priorities and objectives set out in the Fire Plan.

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MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 21 May 2021 at 10.00 am

Venue: Cliff College, Calver, S32 3XG

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Cllr W Armitage, Cllr P Brady, Cllr M Chaplin, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr C Furness, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr V Priestley, Cllr K Richardson, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods

Apologies for absence: Cllr J Atkin, Cllr C Farrell, Mr Z Hamid, Ms A Harling, Cllr A Hart, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr B Lewis, Cllr R Walker, Cllr G D Wharmby and Mrs C Waller.

26/21 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 18

Most Members had received emails from Patricia Stubbs, Matt Denham and David Leng.

27/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 19TH MARCH 2021

The minutes of the last meeting of the Authority Meeting held on 19th March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

28/21 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

29/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public had given notice to make representations to the Committee.

Cllr Brady joined the meeting at 10:10

30/21 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair updated Members on the following:-

1. The Government has made some important announcements on nature recovery in particular the England Tree Action Plan and the Peat Action Plan for England which has been published, which promises funding for the Great North Bog Project. Sarah Fowler to circulate the link to Members so they can follow it up.
2. Joined the Peak District National Park Foundation Trustees and Staff on the Monsal Trail for a litter pick to launch the Peak District Proud Fund which the Foundation was taking forward to buy community litter picks for the Peak Park Communities.
3. Took part in a photo call to launch the Hope Valley Explorer Bus with Robert Largan MP, representatives from Visit Peak District and Stage Coach.

31/21 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT (SLF)

Members noted the Chief Executive's report that included updates to Members on key items since the previous Authority meeting.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

32/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2020/21 AUDIT STRATEGY (JW)

The report was introduced by Mark SurrIDGE and Tom Greenshill from Mazars, the Authority's External Auditors, and Members were asked to consider the 2020/21 External Audit Strategy Memorandum.

The Chair of the Authority thanked Mark SurrIDGE and Tom Greenshill for the report, and asked whether the CoVID restrictions would cause any issues; Tom Greenshill reported that one problem that had been identified which would limit the audit would be the inability of the auditors to carry out a physical inventory as they would not be present at the properties to do a stock take.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:

- 1. That the 2020/21 External Audit Strategy Memorandum was considered and acknowledged.**

33/21 INTERNAL AUDIT BLOCK 2 (JW)

Ian Morton from the Internal Auditors was welcomed to the meeting then presented his report to Members and the agreed actions for consideration.

Ian Morton reported that no major concerns had been detected in the 3 audits contained within Block 2 and as such there was nothing he wished to highlight to Members.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. That the internal audit reports for the three areas covered under Block 2 for 2020/21 (in appendices 1-3 of the report) be received and the agreed actions considered.**

34/21 INTERNAL AUDIT 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT

Ian Morton, Internal Auditor tabled his report. Members were informed the focus of the audits carried out during the 20/21 period were those most greatly impacted by Covid - 19 and concentrated in the main on financial and information system where controls have changed due to homeworking and remote access. The overall opinion of the Head of Internal Audit on the framework and governance, risk managements and control operating in the Authority was that it provides Substantial Assurance and there were no significant control weaknesses which in the opinion of the Head of Internal Audit needed to be considered for inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement. However it was noted that Covid-19 had significantly affected the Authority and is was not possible for the Head of Audit to conclude on the full extent of the impact of the pandemic on the operations of the Authority. Ian Morton thanked Officers for their support over the last year which hadn't been easy.

The Chair thanked Ian Morton for his report.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. To note and accept the 2020/21 Annual Report from the Internal Auditors as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**

35/21 2020/21 OUTTURN REPORT (JW)

The Chief Executive presented the report on behalf of the Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer, reminding Members that the outturn was the look back at the financial performance of 2020/21 which was also a key part of the year end statement of accounts process.

The Chief Executive reported on an amendment to the table on Page 97 of the report which had a line missing showing the Furlough Income figures, which should read 127,175 and 48 going left to right.

The Chief Executive then went onto highlight some key points from the outturn report.

- Reflection on an exceptional year due to CoVID
- Loss of trading, lower than expected
- National Park Grant (NPG) is at same level 2020/21
- Still awaiting outcome of the Glover Review

The Chief Executive reminded Members that whilst the Authority was in a good financial position now, there still remained the threat of budget reductions in the future. If the NPG remained at a flat cash level, inflationary impacts on costs and pay increases would have to be absorbed by current budgets. However, Officers are already starting scenario

planning into the future, as we did in the last financial year and this will be shared with Members when Officers are in a position to do so.

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. That the outturn be noted, and the slippage requests and specific reserve appropriations shown in Appendix C of the report be approved.**
- 2. The two new proposed reserves also shown in Appendix C of the report be approved, with delegated authority given to the Chief Executive Officer to bring options back to Authority for the new Resilience Reserve.**

36/21 TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL MANAGEMENT AND INVESTMENT STRATEGY (A1327/JW)

The Chief Executive presented the report on behalf of the Head of Finance and Chief Finance Officer to seek approval from Members to approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement and the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy.

The CEO informed Members that our surplus funds are invested by North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) and we had an Service Level Agreement with them, which was renewed in 2020 for three years to April 2023. This approach provides a strong professional approach to investment of our funds with a rate of return, which is currently the best we can expect given the very low interest rates.

In respect of borrowing, we only borrow in line with the approved Capital Strategy and only externally with the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB), within the Authorised limit. Currently, it is more cost effective to borrow internally from our own surplus balances. This is because the rate of return on investing our money is lower than the actual interest we charged by borrowing from PWLB. Therefore, the interest we lose by using our own money is less than it would cost in interest if we borrowed externally.

The Bank of England cut the bank base rate cut from 0.25% to 0.10% in March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. If rates remain this low, the investment return could fall by another £15k to £10k, which will be considered at the mid-year review and is included in assumptions for the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The recommendations as set out in the report was moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. To approve the Treasury Management Policy Statement in Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. To approve the Annual Treasury Management and Investment Strategy in Appendix 2 of the report, with specific approval of the Prudential Indicators and borrowing limits (paragraphs 5-13), and the policy on Minimum Revenue Provision (paragraphs 14-15), and adopts the Investment Strategy of North Yorkshire County Council (Appendix 3 – NYCC Appendix C, Schedules 1 to 6).**

The meeting adjourned for a short break at 10:50am and reconvened at 11:05am

37/21 NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT 2020/21 (MM)

The Head of Information and Performance Management introduced the report which was to provide Members with monitoring information for the year end of the third year of the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23, and to seek Members approval to adopt the agreed definition of thriving and sustainable communities.

Members were informed that progress had been made against most of the intentions identified in the NPMP with 31 delivery actions on target, 3 not achieved due to CoVID and 6 rated amber, so there may be a delay in their delivery.

The Head of Information and Performance Management informed Members that since the report was written, last minute feedback had been received from Oldham Council on the definition of Thriving and Sustainable Communities, but because of the lateness, Officers hadn't had time to look at them in detail. As officers were minded to take the feedback into account, a fourth recommendation was proposed, to change the word from "Churches" to "Places of Worship" and to consider strengthening the wording on biodiversity net gain.

The CEO informed Members that a high level public consultation had gone out to the public yesterday to seek views on priorities.

Members thanks Officers for their report.

A motion to support the recommendation was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. That approve the National Park Management Plan Annual Monitoring Report 2020/21.**
- 2. That any necessary changes to the proposed wording of the Annual Monitoring Report and the Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-23 delivery plan be delegated to the Chief Executive.**
- 3. To approve and adopt the definition of the thriving and sustainable communities.**
- 4. To delegate to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Authority minor revisions to the definition of thriving and sustainable communities to replace churches with places of worship and strengthen references to biodiversity net gain.**

38/21 2020/21 YEAR END PERFORMANCE REPORT, 20/21 PERFORMANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN AND 2021/22 CORPORATE RISK REGISTER (HW)

The Head of Information and Performance Management introduced the report which was to provide Members with a set of performance monitoring information for review and approval.

It was reported that when you took out the KPIs that had performance issues that had been impacted on by Covid, 3 targets had not been met. They were KP6, KP7 and KP2. Members asked whether KPI 7 was too ambitious, as it may never be met.

A motion to support the recommendation was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. That the Q4 and year end performance report, given in Appendix 1 of the report, is reviewed and any actions to address issues agreed.**
- 2. To approve the Performance and Business Plan content in Appendix 2 of the report and completion of details is delegated to the Chief Executive, to allow publication by the statutory deadline of 30 June.**
- 3. That the 2020/21 year end corporate risk register given in Appendix 3 of the report is reviewed and the status of risks accepted.**
- 4. That the start of year 2021/22 corporate risk register given in Appendix 4 of the report is reviewed and the proposed risks agreed.**
- 5. To note the status of complaints, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requests, given in Appendix 5, of the report.**

Cllr Furness and Cllr Heath left the meeting at 11:50am

39/21 RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY (A91941/HW)

The Head of Information and Performance Management introduced the report which was to seek approval from Members to approve the revised Risk Management Policy following the recent management restructure and changes to the Authority's performance reporting.

A motion to support the recommendation was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. To approve the updated Risk Management Policy in Appendix 1 of the report, Risk Register Template in Appendix 2 of the report, and Risk Scoring System in Appendix 3 of the report.**

40/21 CREATION OF A MEMBER TASK AND FINISH GROUP FOR REVIEWING THE NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN AND CORPORATE STRATEGY (EF)

The Head of Information and Performance Management introduced the report which was to seek approval to establish a Member Task and Finish Group for reviewing the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy.

The Group would consist of 6 Members and would report to the Member Forum and Authority meetings as appropriate. Any Authority Members that would be interested in

joining the group would be invited to provide a short written statement setting out the reason(s) they would like to join the Group and what they could contribute to the Group in the way of skills, knowledge and experience.

If more than six Members express an interest in joining the Group then the Chief Executive would consult with the Chair of the Authority in order to determine the membership of the Group, ensuring that there was a good representation across the categories of Members.

Members asked that the wording in Recommendation 4 be changed to delete the wording 'of the Committee', which was agreed.

A motion to support the recommendations as amended was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. To establish a Member Task and Finish Group until October 2022 for reviewing the National Park Management Plan and Corporate Strategy.**
- 2. To approve the Draft Terms of Reference for the Group (set out in Appendix 1 of the report)**
- 3. To implement the appointment arrangements as described in the report. This includes delegating authority to the Chief Executive to determine the membership of the Task Group, following consultation with the Chair of the Authority, should more than six Members express an interest in joining the Task Group..**
- 4. To confirm that attendance at meetings of the Task and Finish Group is an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowances.**

41/21 PROGRAMMES AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE PROGRAMME PLAN FOR 2021-22 (SLF)

The Chief Executive introduced the report which was to approve the programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee (P&R) for 2021-22 and onwards.

The four programme themes have been aligned to the National Parks England's Delivery Plans which will then enable the P&R Committee to consider a forward work plan. The four deliver themes with the Head of Service Leads identified in brackets are:

- Climate Leadership (Head of Information & Performance Management)
- Wildlife and Nature Recovery (Head of Landscape)
- Sustainable Farming and Land Management Head of Landscape)
- Landscapes for Everyone (Head of Engagement)

Members welcomed the paper.

A motion to support the recommendations was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. To approve the proposal that the four programme themes for the Programmes and Resources Committee from 2021-22 will align to National Parks England four delivery priorities of:**
 - a) Climate Leadership (Head of Information & Performance Management)**
 - b) Wildlife and Nature Recovery (Head of Landscape)**
 - c) Sustainable Farming and Land Management (Head of Landscape)**
 - d) Landscapes for Everyone (Head of Engagement)**
- 2. To note that once the themes are approved for Programmes and Resources Committee, the Committee will be able to then consider a forward work plan for the themes to enable it to maintain its oversight on work to move them forward.**

42/21 MEMBERSHIP OF THE APPOINTMENT PROCESS PANEL (RC)

The Head of Law introduced the report which was to confirm the membership of the Member Appointment Process Panel. The Panel makes a significant contribution to the smooth running of the Annual Meeting by attempting to resolve any potential issues beforehand so the Authority would like that to continue.

The current 3 Members of the Panel had indicated that they wished to continue their appointments, however the Panel was currently carrying a vacancy for a Local Authority Member.. Nominations for a further Local Authority Member were requested but none were made.

The Panel is currently carrying a vacancy for a Local Authority Member so expressions of interest was needed.

A motion to support the recommendations was proposed and seconded, put to the vote and carried.

RESOLVED:-

- 1. To appoint the following Members to the Member Appointment Process Panel – Cllr P Tapping, Ms Y Witter and Cllr B Woods.**
- 2. To confirm that the Panel will look at expressions of interest in the context of the appointment principles set out in paragraph 6 of the report.**

43/21 GREEN LANES IN THE PEAK DISTRICT (A7622/SAS)

The Chair introduced the report which provided Members with an update on the progress relating to the implementation of the Authority's strategy for the management of recreational motorised vehicles in 20/21.

The Chair thanked the Local Access Forum on their work and advice.

Members were concerned that there was no reference to Cultural Heritage in the Green Lanes Communications Action Plan which the Chief Executive agreed to feedback to the Rights of Way Officer.

RESOLVED:-

To note the report.

44/21 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED:

That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 20 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 'information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).

45/21 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19TH MARCH 2021

The exempt minutes of the Authority meeting held on 19th March 2021 were approved as a correct record.

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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

8th September 2021

Reason for Decision

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

Executive Summary

This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 14th July 2021.

Recommendations

The Council is asked to note the actions taken regarding motions and actions agreed at the Council meeting on 14th July 2021.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 The report sets out the actions officers have taken on notices of motions approved at the Council meeting held on 14th July 2021.

2 Current Position

2.1 The current position from actions as a result of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One.

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	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held 14th July 2021 are available online at: http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails
20	Appendices
20.1	Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 14 th July 2021.

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Actions from Council 14th July 2021

ACTION	ISSUE/RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Administration Motion 1: Recovery in Education and Young Children's Development	Letter to be sent to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP	Chief Executive	26 th August 2021
Administration Motion 2: Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill	<p>Letter to be sent to Oldham's Three MPs</p> <p>Letter to be sent to Environment Secretary, President of the COP26 Climate Conference, the Rt Hon. Alok Sharma MP, and the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson MP</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>26th August 2021</p> <p>26th August 2021</p>
Opposition Motion 1: Pension Fund Divestment from Fossil Fuels	Letter to be sent to Leaders and Chief Executives of the other 9 Greater Manchester Local Authorities outlining this Council's position and asking for their support.	Chief Executive	In progress
Opposition Motion 2: Pavement Parking: Options for Change	Letter to be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport requesting that the Government's response to the consultation now be published as promised.	Chief Executive	26 th August 2021
Opposition Motion 3: Hands off our Peak District National Park	1. Letter to be sent to the Secretary of State urging them not to replace local national Parks Authorities with a National Landscape Service or to	Chief Executive	In progress

	<p>take any step which will remove or degrade their powers 2. Copy of the letter to be sent to the Chair of the Peak District National Park Authority 3. 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.</p>	Chief Executive	In progress
		Chief Executive	In progress
Covid-19 Recovery Strategy 2021-2022	Response to the question asked by Councillor Hindle.	Councillor Shoab Akhtar	In progress

Report to COUNCIL

REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

8 September 2021

1 Background

- 1.1 The LGA have reviewed the Members Code of Conduct which all local authorities have a legal requirement to have and have produced a revised Code for consideration. Whilst the principles in the draft Code are similar to the existing Code, the intention of the revised Code is to provide clarity for members on obligations under the Code and clarify the paragraphs on member interests.
- 1.2 The Standards Committee have considered the draft and recommend the revised Code for approval.
- 1.3 The revised Code is attached at Appendix 1. Guidance has also been issued by the LGA which will be circulated to members. If the Code is approved, training on the new Code will be provided to all members.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 Council to consider the approval of the revised Members Code

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Legal Services Comments

- 4.1 Contained within the report

5. Human Resources Comments

5.1 None

6. Risk Assessments

6.1 None

7. IT Implications

7.1 N/A

8. Property Implications

8.1 None

9. Procurement Implications

9.1 N/A

10. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

10.1 N/A

11. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

11.1 N/A

12. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?

12.1 N/A

13. Key Decision

13.1 No

14. Key Decision Reference

14.1 N/A

15. Background Papers

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;

Name of file : LGA model member code
Officer ; Director of Legal Services

Councillor Model Code of Conduct

Joint statement

The role of councillor across all tiers of local government is a vital part of our country's system of democracy. It is important that as councillors we can be held accountable and all adopt the behaviours and responsibilities associated with the role. Our conduct as an individual councillor affects the reputation of all councillors. We want the role of councillor to be one that people aspire to. We also want individuals from a range of backgrounds and circumstances to be putting themselves forward to become councillors.

As councillors, we represent local residents, work to develop better services and deliver local change. The public have high expectations of us and entrust us to represent our local area, taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. We have both an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.

Importantly, we should be able to undertake our role as a councillor without being intimidated, abused, bullied, or threatened by anyone, including the general public.

This Code has been designed to protect our democratic role, encourage good conduct and safeguard the public's trust in local government.

Introduction

The Local Government Association (LGA) has developed this Model Councillor Code of Conduct, in association with key partners and after extensive consultation with the sector, as part of its work on supporting all tiers of local government to continue to aspire to high standards of leadership and performance. It is a template for councils to adopt in whole and/or with local amendments.

All councils are required to have a local Councillor Code of Conduct.

The LGA will undertake an annual review of this Code to ensure it continues to be fit-for-purpose, incorporating advances in technology, social media and changes in legislation. The LGA can also offer support, training and mediation to councils and councillors on the application of the Code and the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and the county associations of local councils can offer advice and support to town and parish councils.

Definitions

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, a “councillor” means a member or co-opted member of a local authority or a directly elected mayor. A “co-opted member” is defined in the Localism Act 2011 Section 27(4) as “a person who is not a member of the authority but who

- a) is a member of any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or;
- b) is a member of, and represents the authority on, any joint committee or joint sub-committee of the authority;

and who is entitled to vote on any question that falls to be decided at any meeting of that committee or sub-committee”.

For the purposes of this Code of Conduct, “local authority” includes county councils, district councils, London borough councils, parish councils, town councils, fire and rescue authorities, police authorities, joint authorities, economic prosperity boards, combined authorities and National Park authorities.

Purpose of the Code of Conduct

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to assist you, as a councillor, in modelling the behaviour that is expected of you, to provide a personal check and balance, and to set out the type of conduct that could lead to action being taken against you. It is also to protect you, the public, fellow councillors, local authority officers and the reputation of local government. It sets out general principles of conduct expected of all councillors and your specific obligations in relation to standards of conduct. The LGA encourages the use of support, training and mediation prior to action being taken using the Code. The fundamental aim of the Code is to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.

General principles of councillor conduct

Everyone in public office at all levels; all who serve the public or deliver public services, including ministers, civil servants, councillors and local authority officers; should uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life, also known as the Nolan Principles.

Building on these principles, the following general principles have been developed specifically for the role of councillor.

In accordance with the public trust placed in me, on all occasions:

- I act with integrity and honesty
- I act lawfully
- I treat all persons fairly and with respect; and
- I lead by example and act in a way that secures public confidence in the role of councillor.

In undertaking my role:

-
- I impartially exercise my responsibilities in the interests of the local community
 - I do not improperly seek to confer an advantage, or disadvantage, on any person
 - I avoid conflicts of interest
 - I exercise reasonable care and diligence; and
 - I ensure that public resources are used prudently in accordance with my local authority's requirements and in the public interest.

Application of the Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to you as soon as you sign your declaration of acceptance of the office of councillor or attend your first meeting as a co-opted member and continues to apply to you until you cease to be a councillor.

This Code of Conduct applies to you when you are acting in your capacity as a councillor which may include when:

- you misuse your position as a councillor
- Your actions would give the impression to a reasonable member of the public with knowledge of all the facts that you are acting as a councillor;

The Code applies to all forms of communication and interaction, including:

- at face-to-face meetings
- at online or telephone meetings
- in written communication
- in verbal communication
- in non-verbal communication
- in electronic and social media communication, posts, statements and comments.

You are also expected to uphold high standards of conduct and show leadership at all times when acting as a councillor.

Your Monitoring Officer has statutory responsibility for the implementation of the Code of Conduct, and you are encouraged to seek advice from your Monitoring Officer on any matters that may relate to the Code of Conduct. Town and parish councillors are encouraged to seek advice from their Clerk, who may refer matters to the Monitoring Officer.

Standards of councillor conduct

This section sets out your obligations, which are the minimum standards of conduct required of you as a councillor. Should your conduct fall short of these standards, a complaint may be made against you, which may result in action being taken.

Guidance is included to help explain the reasons for the obligations and how they should be followed.

General Conduct

The general conduct guidance follows below:

1. Respect

As a councillor:

1.1 I treat other councillors and members of the public with respect.

1.2 I treat local authority employees, employees and representatives of partner organisations and those volunteering for the local authority with respect and respect the role they play.

Respect means politeness and courtesy in behaviour, speech, and in the written word. Debate and having different views are all part of a healthy democracy. As a councillor, you can express, challenge, criticise and disagree with views, ideas, opinions and policies in a robust but civil manner. You should not, however, subject individuals, groups of people or organisations to personal attack.

In your contact with the public, you should treat them politely and courteously. Rude and offensive behaviour lowers the public's expectations and confidence in councillors.

In return, you have a right to expect respectful behaviour from the public. If members of the public are being abusive, intimidatory or threatening you are entitled to stop any conversation or interaction in person or online and report them to the local authority, the relevant social media provider or the police. This also applies to fellow councillors, where action could then be taken under the Councillor Code of Conduct, and local authority employees, where concerns should be raised in line with the local authority's councillor-officer protocol.

2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination

As a councillor:

2.1 I do not bully any person.

2.2 I do not harass any person.

2.3 I promote equalities and do not discriminate unlawfully against any person.

The Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) characterises bullying as offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means that undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipient. Bullying might be a regular pattern of behaviour or a one-off incident, happen face-to-face, on social media, in emails or phone calls, happen in the workplace or at work social events and may not always be obvious or noticed by others.

The Protection from Harassment Act 1997 defines harassment as conduct that causes alarm or distress or puts people in fear of violence and must involve such conduct on at least two occasions. It can include repeated attempts to impose unwanted communications and contact upon a person in a manner that could be expected to cause distress or fear in any reasonable person.

Unlawful discrimination is where someone is treated unfairly because of a protected characteristic. Protected characteristics are specific aspects of a person's identity defined by the Equality Act 2010. They are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on local authorities. Councillors have a central role to play in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the local authority's performance and strategic aims, and that there is a strong vision and public commitment to equality across public services.

3. Impartiality of officers of the council

As a councillor:

3.1 I do not compromise, or attempt to compromise, the impartiality of anyone who works for, or on behalf of, the local authority.

Officers work for the local authority as a whole and must be politically neutral (unless they are political assistants). They should not be coerced or persuaded to act in a way that would undermine their neutrality. You can question officers in order to understand, for example, their reasons for proposing to act in a particular way, or the content of a report that they have written. However, you must not try and force them to act differently, change their advice, or alter the content of that report, if doing so would prejudice their professional integrity.

4. Confidentiality and access to information

As a councillor:

- **4.1 I do not disclose information:**
 - **a. given to me in confidence by anyone**
 - **b. acquired by me which I believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, unless**
 - **i. I have received the consent of a person authorised to give it;**
 - **ii. I am required by law to do so;**
 - **iii. the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or**
 - **iv. the disclosure is:**
 - **1. reasonable and in the public interest; and**
 - **2. made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the local authority; and**
 - **3. I have consulted the Monitoring Officer prior to its release.**

4.2 I do not improperly use knowledge gained solely as a result of my role as a councillor for the advancement of myself, my friends, my family members, my employer or my business interests.

4.3 I do not prevent anyone from getting information that they are entitled to by law.

Local authorities must work openly and transparently, and their proceedings and printed materials are open to the public, except in certain legally defined circumstances. You should work on this basis, but there will be times when it is required by law that discussions, documents and other information relating to or held by the local authority must be treated in a confidential manner. Examples include personal data relating to individuals or information relating to ongoing negotiations.

5. Disrepute

As a councillor:

5.1 I do not bring my role or local authority into disrepute.

As a Councillor, you are trusted to make decisions on behalf of your community and your actions and behaviour are subject to greater scrutiny than that of ordinary members of the public. You should be aware that your actions might have an adverse impact on you, other councillors and/or your local authority and may lower the public's confidence in you or your local authority's ability to discharge your/its functions. For example, behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute.

You are able to hold the local authority and fellow councillors to account and are able to constructively challenge and express concern about decisions and processes undertaken by the council whilst continuing to adhere to other aspects of this Code of Conduct.

6. Use of position

As a councillor:

6.1 I do not use, or attempt to use, my position improperly to the advantage or disadvantage of myself or anyone else.

Your position as a member of the local authority provides you with certain opportunities, responsibilities, and privileges, and you make choices all the time that will impact others. However, you should not take advantage of these opportunities to further your own or others' private interests or to disadvantage anyone unfairly.

7. Use of local authority resources and facilities

As a councillor:

7.1 I do not misuse council resources.

7.2 I will, when using the resources of the local authority or authorising their use by others:

- **a. act in accordance with the local authority's requirements; and**
- **b. ensure that such resources are not used for political purposes unless that use could reasonably be regarded as likely to facilitate, or be conducive to, the discharge of the functions of the local authority or of the office to which I have been elected or appointed.**

You may be provided with resources and facilities by the local authority to assist you in carrying out your duties as a councillor.

Examples include:

- office support
- stationery
- equipment such as phones, and computers
- transport
- access and use of local authority buildings and rooms.

These are given to you to help you carry out your role as a councillor more effectively and are not to be used for business or personal gain. They should be used in accordance with the purpose for which they have been provided and the local authority's own policies regarding their use.

8. Complying with the Code of Conduct

As a Councillor:

8.1 I undertake Code of Conduct training provided by my local authority.

8.2 I cooperate with any Code of Conduct investigation and/or determination.

8.3 I do not intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is likely to be involved with the administration of any investigation or proceedings.

8.4 I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct.

It is extremely important for you as a councillor to demonstrate high standards, for you to have your actions open to scrutiny and for you not to undermine public trust in the local authority or its governance. If you do not understand or are concerned about the local authority's processes in handling a complaint you should raise this with your Monitoring Officer.

9. Protecting your reputation and the reputation of the local authority

9. Interests

As a councillor:

9.1 I register and disclose my interests.

Section 29 of the Localism Act 2011 requires the Monitoring Officer to establish and maintain a register of interests of members of the authority .

You need to register your interests so that the public, local authority employees and fellow councillors know which of your interests might give rise to a conflict of interest. The register is a public document that can be consulted when (or before) an issue arises. The register

also protects you by allowing you to demonstrate openness and a willingness to be held accountable. You are personally responsible for deciding whether or not you should disclose an interest in a meeting, but it can be helpful for you to know early on if others think that a potential conflict might arise. It is also important that the public know about any interest that might have to be disclosed by you or other councillors when making or taking part in decisions, so that decision making is seen by the public as open and honest. This helps to ensure that public confidence in the integrity of local governance is maintained.

You should note that failure to register or disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest as set out in **Table 1**, is a criminal offence under the Localism Act 2011.

Appendix B sets out the detailed provisions on registering and disclosing interests. If in doubt, you should always seek advice from your Monitoring Officer.

10. Gifts and hospitality

As a councillor:

10.1 I do not accept gifts or hospitality, irrespective of estimated value, which could give rise to real or substantive personal gain or a reasonable suspicion of influence on my part to show favour from persons seeking to acquire, develop or do business with the local authority or from persons who may apply to the local authority for any permission, licence or other significant advantage.

10.2 I register with the Monitoring Officer any gift or hospitality with an estimated value of at least £50 within 28 days of its receipt.

10.3 I register with the Monitoring Officer any significant gift or hospitality that I have been offered but have refused to accept.

In order to protect your position and the reputation of the local authority, you should exercise caution in accepting any gifts or hospitality which are (or which you reasonably believe to be) offered to you because you are a councillor. The presumption should always be not to accept significant gifts or hospitality. However, there may be times when such a refusal may be difficult if it is seen as rudeness in which case you could accept it but must ensure it is publicly registered. However, you do not need to register gifts and hospitality which are not related to your role as a councillor, such as Christmas gifts from your friends and family. It is also important to note that it is appropriate to accept normal expenses and hospitality associated with your duties as a councillor. If you are unsure, do contact your Monitoring Officer for guidance.

Appendix A – The Seven Principles of Public Life

The principles are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must disclose and resolve any interests and relationships.

Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Appendix B Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.

2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.

3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest. Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. [Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest

or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in Table 1) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –

- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
- b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
- c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2**

you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied

9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well-being:

- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
- b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

10. [Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it]

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the [Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012](#).

Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Subject	Description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	<p>Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses.</p> <p>This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.</p>

Contracts	<p>Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council —</p> <p>(a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and</p> <p>(b) which has not been fully discharged.</p>
Land and property	<p>Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.</p>
Licenses	<p>Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer</p>
Corporate tenancies	<p>Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)—</p> <p>(a) the landlord is the council; and</p> <p>(b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.</p>
Securities	<p>Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where—</p> <p>(a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and</p> <p>(b) either—</p> <p>(i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or</p> <p>(ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.</p>

* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

Table 2: Other Registrable Interest

You must register as an Other Registerable Interest :

a) any unpaid directorships

b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority

c) any body

(i) exercising functions of a public nature

(ii) directed to charitable purposes or

(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management

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Report to Full Council

Oldham's Approach to Equality

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform

Officer Contact:

Rebekah Sutcliffe, Strategic Director of Communities & Reform

Report Author: Jonathan Downs (Corporate Policy Lead)

08.09.2021

Reason for Decision

At Full Council in June 2020 a commitment was made to develop a new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy for Oldham Council, including the adoption of new Equality Objectives.

This report summarises how we currently meet our duties in respect of equality in Oldham, as well as proposing the adoption of new Equality Objectives and an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy covering 2021 – 2025.

Executive Summary

In summary, those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This report summarises how we currently achieve this in Oldham, as well as what we do to further champion equality and diversity in Oldham.

Recommendations

1. To approve the new Equality Objectives for 2021 - 2025
2. To endorse the proposed EDI Strategy for 2021 - 2025

1 **Background**

- 1.1 At Full Council in June 2020 a commitment was made to develop a new EDI Strategy for Oldham Council, including the adoption of new Equality Objectives.
- 1.2 This report summarises how we currently meet our duties in respect of equality in Oldham, as well proposing the adoption of new Equality Objectives and an EDI Strategy covering 2021 – 2025.

2 **What are our duties in respect of equality?**

- 2.1 The Equality Act 2010 brought several separate pieces of equality legislation together into one Act. It also extended the public sector equality duties to cover eight protected characteristics, namely:

Age	pregnancy and maternity
disability	race
gender	religion and belief
gender reassignment	sexual orientation

- 2.2 In December 2010, the Government announced that it would not be taking forward the socio-economic duty for public bodies. Despite this we have continued to consider people on low incomes as part of our equality impact assessment (EIA) process.
- 2.3 In summary, those subject to the equality duty must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
 - Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 2.4 The Act also introduced the Public Sector Equality Duty. Under this duty, local authorities must:
 - publish service and workforce data annually
 - set at least one equality objective for the organisation (maximum timeframe for achievement set at 4 years)

3.0 **How are we meeting these duties in Oldham?**

- 3.1 There are five main elements to our approach to equality in Oldham, they are:
 - 1. **Considering the impact of our decisions through the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process** - In taking decisions the Council must demonstrate that it has given “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and promote good relations between different groups.

Demonstrating that “due regard” has been given involves:

- assessing the potential equality impact of proposed decisions at an appropriate stage in the decision-making process - so that it informs the development of policy and is considered **before** a decision is taken;
- ensuring that decision makers are aware of the equality duties and any potential equality issues when making decisions.

It is important to note that having due regard does not mean the Council cannot make decisions which have the potential to impact disproportionately, it means that we must be clear where this is the case and must be able to demonstrate that we have consulted, understood and mitigated the impact, where possible.

2. **Publishing service and workforce data** – The Equality Act 2010 requires the council to publish information showing compliance with the Equality Duty, on at least an annual basis. Over time we intend to collect even more service information and to strengthen the collection of equality related data across the council. This work is referenced in the new EDI Strategy.
3. **Setting Equality Objectives** – The Equality Act 2010 requires the council to publish specific and measurable equality objectives. However, setting equality objectives is an important way for us to show our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. We have refreshed our Equality Objectives for 2021 – 2025, please see section 4.0.
4. **Developing a new EDI Strategy for the Council** – To support the council's ambition to champion Equality and Diversity, an EDI Strategy has been developed, which shows the activity that will be undertaken to create a place that values and celebrates our differences while creating equal opportunities for all, please see section 5.0.
5. **Shaping our Covid-19 response through Oldham's Equality Advisory Group** – 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. To support this approach, we have established an Equality Advisory Group which will provide insight and expertise, helping us capture the voice of lived community experience in our COVID-19 response and recovery planning and beyond.

4.0 **Adopting New Equality Objectives**

4.1 Under the duties of the Equality Act (2010) and the Public Sector Equality Duty, a local authority must set at least one equality objective for the organisation (with a maximum timeframe for achievement set at 4 years). Oldham Council adopted two Equality Objectives in April 2015 which were set for four years. These objectives were as follows:

- 1) **To establish standardised categories and classifications for equality data being recorded:** This was to ensure that equality data is collected and reported consistently across the organisation, using uniform criteria which can be future proofed and adapted for any changes to equality categorisation.

Over the past four years the we have started to standardise equality datasets and analysed them to look at how we can achieve a more representative workforce. This piece of work was one of the deep-dives for 2016/17. Over time we intend to collect even more service information and to strengthen the collection of equality related data across the council. Crucially, we will work to identify how we use this data to inform service planning and development, seeking to continually improve our performance over time.

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- 2) **To carry out in-depth research and analysis of service areas for which we collect equality data at a rate of one service area per year:** This was to enable the council to look at how the equality data we collect can be improved and how we can better use the data to inform service planning.

The first deep-dive (2015/16) we carried out was looking at the impact of welfare reform on those aged between 16-25 years old. Two other deep-dives have been undertaken: the work to look at how we can achieve a more representative workforce, and the work to develop a Street Charter for those with a sensory disability which includes mechanisms for better collection of data around these issues. A fourth deep dive into the equality impact of Covid-19 was recently completed, which has been used to help shape our ongoing Covid-19 response and recovery planning.

- 4.2 The objectives now need to be refreshed to outline Team Oldham's equality focus for the next four years from 2021 - 2025. Following consultation with services, portfolio holders and equality leads from across the partnership, we are proposing to adopt four new Equality Objectives that will set out our commitment for progressing equality, diversity and human rights across the borough:

1. **Identify and mitigate the equality impacts of COVID-19, informing our response through research, best practice and lived experience, while supporting the delivery of our Covid-19 Recovery Strategy** – As a council we are committed to minimizing the impact of Covid-19 on our residents. Though the Equality Impact Assessment process that has been completed, we have identified additional steps will take to address inequalities as a result of the pandemic response through to mitigating against inequality as we recover.
2. **Provide services that put the citizens' voice at the heart of decision-making, ensuring our services are inclusive and drive equity** – Our policies and strategies aim to capture the lived experiences of our communities and our action EDI Strategy reflects their insights.
3. **Champion inclusivity across the borough, working with our partners and communities to make Oldham a fairer place for everyone, while valuing and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all** – Ensuring equality is fully embedded within our organisational culture and across Team Oldham and is reflected in our principles and values in everything we do
4. **Achieve a skilled and diverse workforce building a culture of equality and inclusion in everything we do** – Implementing a programme of activity which supports workforce equality and diversity in a holistic way through The Workforce Strategy 2020-2023.

- 4.3 These objectives will be supported by Oldham's EDI Strategy, which shows how we will achieve these objectives.

5.0 **Oldham's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy**

- 5.1 At Full Council in June 2020 a commitment was made to develop a new EDI Strategy for Oldham Council, including the adoption of new Equality Objectives covering 2021 – 2025.

- 5.2 The proposed strategy sets out the council's commitment to progressing equality, diversity and human rights across the borough. It outlines how we will eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and promote good relations between all people regardless of age, disability, race, sex, gender identity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, pregnancy or maternity, socio-economic and marital or civil partnership status.

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- 5.4 The aim of the EDI Strategy is to place equality and diversity at the heart of what we do, providing our key priority areas for embedding equality, diversity and inclusion across Oldham. The strategy sets ambitious goals and measures progress against these in order to drive organisational improvement. We are currently identifying key leads for each action in the strategy, who will be responsible for ensuring delivery. This will include developing detailed delivery plans that sit behind the strategy, enabling us to monitor progress and impact.
- 5.5 The strategy builds on the four Equality Objectives proposed in section 4.0, ensuring Oldham Council meets the general and specific requirements of the equality legislation in everything we do so that equality is fully embedded within our organisational culture and reflected in our values and principles. The proposed EDI Strategy can be seen in full in Appendix 1, which the accompanying Equality Action Plan.
- 5.6 Whilst the Equality Action Plan articulates our key priority areas it does not capture everything that we do to address inequality, as the work to address inequalities is reflected in the relevant individual strategies, plans and policies that are in place across Team Oldham. This is a living document. It recognises that Equality and Diversity doesn't stay the same, it changes, Covid-19 has shown us that. This is about ensuring we are doing everything we can, to tackle inequality in all its forms, through all our work. The Equality Action Plan will be updated regularly and overseen by Oldham's Equality Advisory Group and Oldham Council's Equality Steering Group.
- 5.7 The action plan will continue to be developed with action leads, reflecting the ongoing work to capture the learning from our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as work that is currently being undertaken to map equality impacts across the wider system. This includes the development of a dedicated performance dashboard for equalities, helping us measure how we are tackling inequalities across the borough, Team Oldham's services and our workforce.
- 6.0 **Options/Alternatives**
- 6.1 Option one – to formally approve the equality objectives and EDI strategy.
- 6.2 Option two – to not approve the equality objectives and EDI strategy.
- 7 **Preferred Option**
- 7.1 Option one is the preferred and recommended option.
- 8 **Consultation**
- 8.1 During the development of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy we have consulted with Oldham's Equality Advisory Group (representing communities with protected characteristic), key partners (including the CCG and VCFSE sector), senior officers and Overview and Scrutiny. (Jonathan Downs)
- 9 **Financial Implications**
- 9.1 None
- 10 **Legal Services Comments**

10.1 The report appropriately sets out the Council's duties under the provisions of the Equality Act 2010 and the Council's strategy for complying with such duties which meet the requirements of the Act. As such, no legal issues arise from the proposals. (Colin Brittain)

11. **Co-operative Agenda**

11.1 As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to embedding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion into everything we do. This strategy sets out our vision for equality and diversity in Oldham, weaving equality, diversity and human rights into everything we do to develop a culture of fairness, openness and respect, as defined by our Co-operative values. (Jonathan Downs)

12 **Human Resources Comments**

12.1 The development of a new EDI Strategy for Oldham presents a great opportunity to champion equality and diversity in everything we do. HR have been closely involved in the development of the objectives in the Strategy which encourages a diverse workforce with the right skills to build a culture of equality and inclusion in the way we relate to residents as well as how we create a culture that embraces diversity across the workforce. The Workforce Strategy for #TeamOldham has at its heart an ambition to improve the diversity of our workforce in a way that recognises the skills and difference of our population and contributes to Community Wealth Building. The intention is to align objectives for Oldham in order to share best practices, create more whole system career pathways and make a real difference to the employment opportunities for our communities.

12.2 Communications will be key in promoting and embedding messaging around diversity in order that programmes of work to promote inclusion and difference become business as usual rather than discreet and transitory activities. (Elisabetta Coccia)

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 This strategy sets out how we plan to achieve equality aims and objectives by working collaboratively across Team Oldham, as well as showing how we will monitor our progress.

19 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

19.1 N/A

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- 20 **Key Decision**
 - 20.1 No
 - 21 **Key Decision Reference**
 - 21.1 N/A
 - 22 **Background Papers**
 - 22.1 N/A
 - 23 **Appendices**
 - 23.1 Appendix 1 – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

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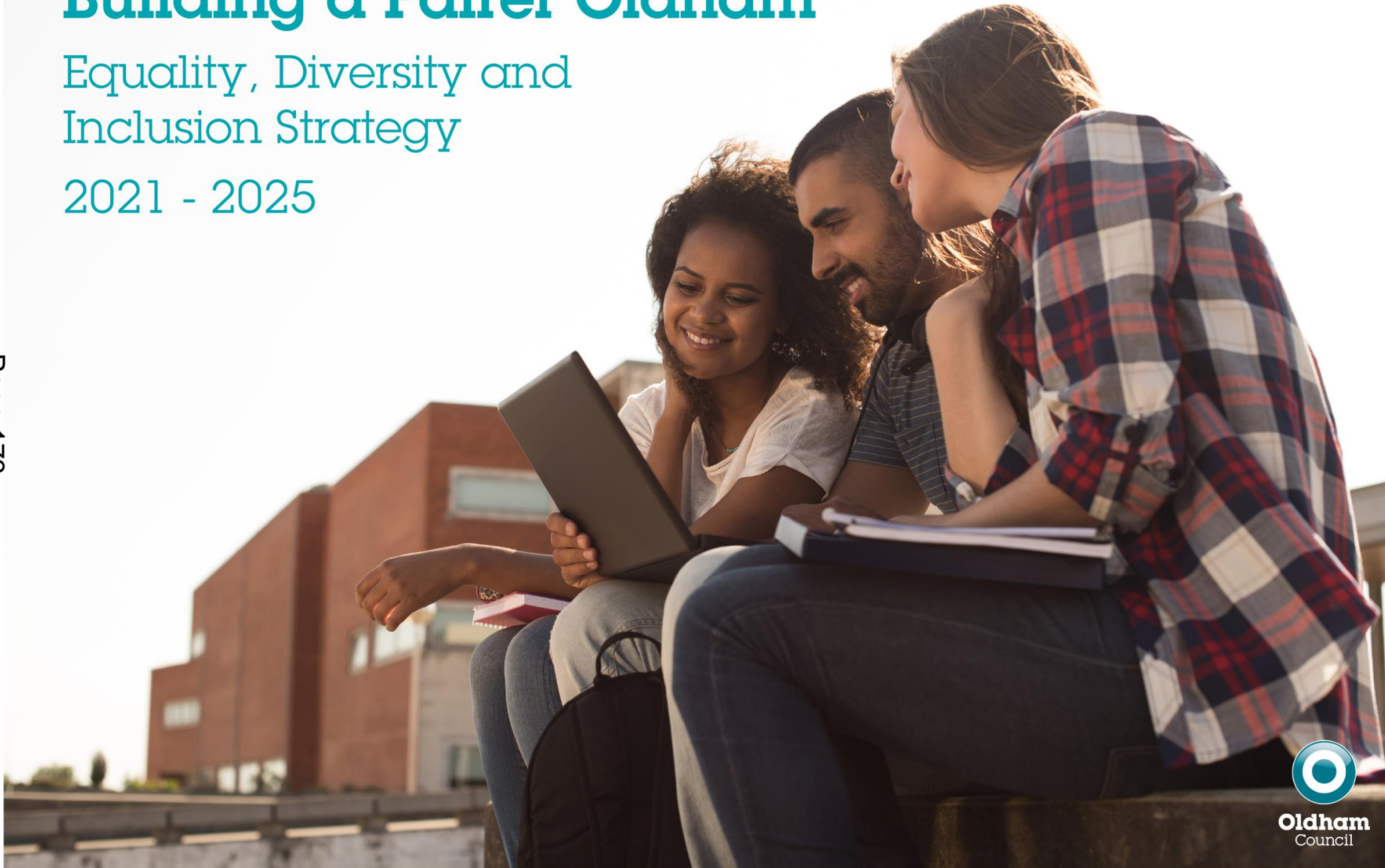
Signed _____ Cabinet Member (specify whom)	Dated _____
Signed _____ Strategic Director/Deputy Chief Executive	Dated _____

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Building a Fairer Oldham

Equality, Diversity and
Inclusion Strategy

2021 - 2025



Message from Cllr. Shah, Leader of Oldham Council

I am delighted to introduce Oldham's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy: 'Building a Fairer Oldham'. Oldham is a vibrant and diverse borough, but not everyone has access to the same opportunities. I believe our town will only fulfil its collective potential if everyone who lives and works here can reach their own individual potential and are not limited because of who they are or where they live.

Working in partnership is core to our approach in Oldham and this strategy recognises that tackling inequality requires the widest possible ownership, engagement and contribution. We need to use all our resources, our creating and commitment if we are to deliver on our shared ambition of a more equitable Oldham; an Oldham where all who live and work comfortably, healthily and happily.

Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is an important document setting out our priorities over the coming years as we seek to fundamentally redesign Team Oldham's services, recover from the impact of COVID-19, deliver significant budget cuts and improve outcomes for residents. Our vision is to create a place where people understand, respect and celebrate each other's differences, this strategy sets out the improvements we would like to see and expands on the successful work already happening to tackle unfairness across the borough.

This strategy will build on the hard work and dedication of individuals and organisations that are committed to equality and fairness. It will provide ways for people to share their experiences, good and bad, and to establish systems that concentrate our efforts, knowing that working together will have the greatest impact.

Despite the challenges we face collectively and as individuals, I believe our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and the actions that will be developed under it to meet our equality objectives will have real benefits for Oldham. It is a work of shared values and vision created through listening to our Equality Advisory Group, communities, Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) partners, stakeholders and staff. We are grateful to everyone who has helped us to shape this strategy so far, and who we will continue to work with to build a fairer Oldham, so nobody is left behind.

This strategy sets out how we plan to achieve these aims by working collaboratively across Team Oldham, as well as showing how we will monitor our progress. I have made a commitment to report on our progress regularly, in order to make sure that there is accountability for the actions that we have said we will take forward. It's important to recognise that this is a living document: as we implement the strategy, working with our communities to deliver the work, the detail and content will adapt and change, reflecting the needs of Oldham's communities and the insights that they bring to inform our approach.

Introduction to Oldham's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy

Our vision is to create a place where people understand, respect and celebrate each other's difference, while tackling the inequalities that exist in health, income and opportunity across the borough. We are committed to creating a place that values and celebrates our differences while promoting equal opportunities for all.

Oldham has a rich history of people from different backgrounds and cultures living and working together. However, we know that there are groups of people that are marginalised, who are more likely to face inequality and discrimination than others. As we recover from the impact of Covid-19 it is critical that we tackle inequality and discrimination head on, setting aspirational targets for improving equality across the borough. Evidence shows us that Covid-19 has impacted disproportionately on our communities from ethnic minority backgrounds; older people and younger people – the latter being particularly affected by rising unemployment; and more generally, people living on low incomes.

We are proud of the work in Oldham to reduce inequalities experienced by individuals and groups of people across Oldham, but we know we can do more. Our policies and strategies aim to capture the lived experiences of our communities and our Equality Strategy reflects their insights and expertise. The purpose of our Equality Strategy is:

- To meet the general and specific requirements of the equality legislation in everything we do so that equality is fully embedded within our organisational culture and reflected in our principles and values.
- To state our commitment to make Oldham a fairer place in which to live, work and feel safe.
- To ensure our workforce are aware and equipped to provide culturally appropriate and inclusive services.
- To address and outline the additional steps we are undertaking to address inequalities as a result of Covid-19 from our initial pandemic response through to our recovery and rebuild phase.
- To implement a programme of activity which supports workforce equality and diversity in a holistic way through the #TeamOldham Workforce Strategy 2020-2023.

We recognise that we have a range of statutory responsibilities, including the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty, and take equality and diversity seriously, but our ambition is to go beyond these obligations and weave equality, diversity and human rights into everything we do to develop a culture of fairness, openness and respect, as defined by our Co-operative values.

We know that there are difficult challenges that lie ahead. Inequalities have been exacerbated in recent times by Covid-19, public sector cuts and different political ideologies. The recent Marmot Review, 'Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives', published 30 June 2021, sets out the devastating impacts of inequalities on our communities. The report shows that the Manchester City Region had a 25% higher COVID-19 death rate than England as a whole in the 13 months to March 2021. This high

death rate contributed to a decline in life expectancy in the North West region, which was larger than the average in England. Life expectancy fell in 2020 by 1.6 years for men and 1.2 years for women in the North West compared 1.3 years and 0.9 years, respectively, across England.

Given all the evidence for the inequalities in risks of mortality from COVID-19, it is essential that all efforts at rebuilding have the goal of greater equity at their heart – so that we can Build Back Fairer and ensure that unfair and unnecessary health inequalities are reduced.

This Strategy will be reviewed regularly to ensure the needs of our communities are being met fairly and equally. Progress will be monitored and reported, with supporting delivery plans developed to accompany each strategic action area, underpinning the delivery of the strategy.

Why do we need an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy in Oldham?

Society is diverse, with a wide range of differences among people, families and communities. We may be older or younger, have a religious belief or no religious belief, or have a different background. This is a normal part of life.

When we talk about inequality, we mean that people are treated unfairly and less favourably because of these differences and characteristics, real or perceived. Furthermore, equality does not mean that everyone should be treated the same, but that everyone should have an equal opportunity to make the most of their lives and talents. This means removing societal barriers across the borough so that everyone can be involved and feels welcome. It also means recognising that a one size all approach to services doesn't connect with residents needs or achieve the outcomes we want for our communities.

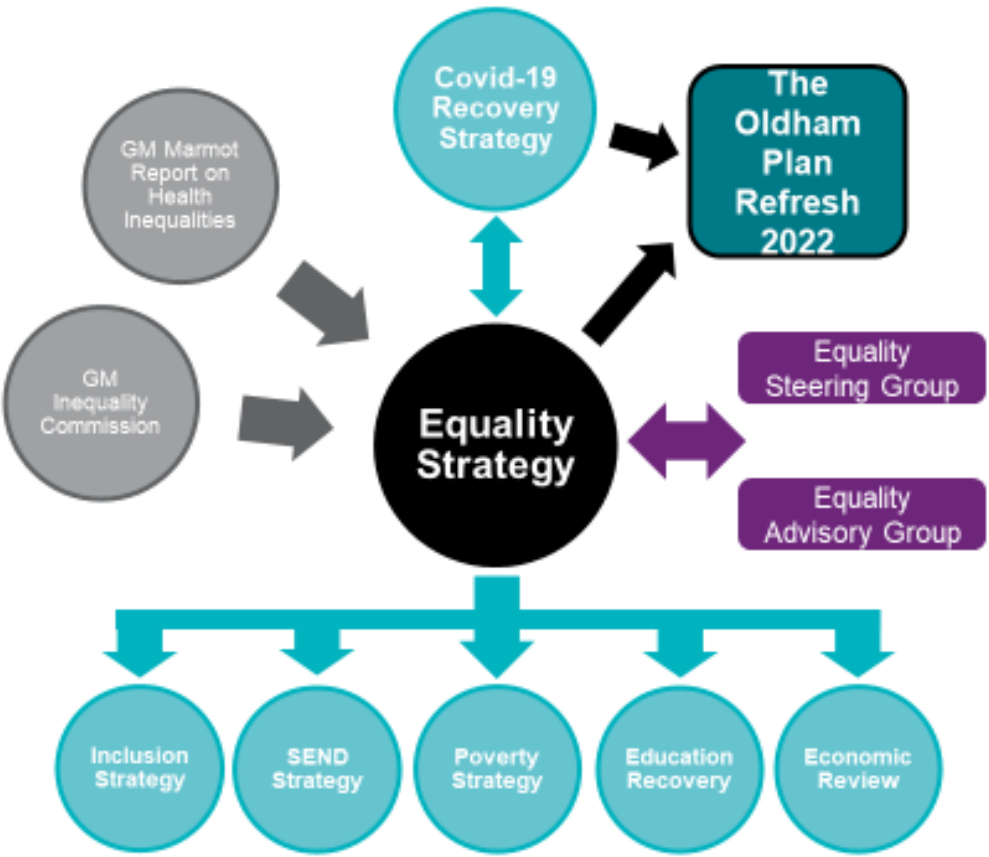
We believe the people of Oldham want to live in a place that is committed to fairness and equality of opportunity, a borough that tackles discrimination and prejudice and that these principles help communities come together and live together harmoniously.

We want to make it possible for everyone to feel that they can make a difference, to open the debate about inequality and unfairness. This strategy brings together key commitments and priorities against which we need to deliver to achieve our collective ambitions. It is everyone's responsibility to make Oldham a fairer place to live in. It is a shared endeavour, involving communities and employers, as well as Team Oldham and our VCFSE partners.

The strategy, whilst ambitious, cannot reflect every inequality which will be experienced over the next 4 years. It sets out key actions across 4 equality objectives. These are:

1. Identify and mitigate the equality impacts of COVID-19, informing our response through research, best practice and lived experience, while supporting the delivery of our Covid-19 Recovery Strategy.
2. Provide services that put the citizens' voice at the heart of decision-making, ensuring our services are inclusive and drive equity.
3. Champion inclusivity across the borough, working with our partners and communities to make Oldham a fairer place for everyone, while valuing and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all.
4. Achieve a skilled and diverse workforce building a culture of equality and inclusion in everything we do.

Progress against the actions, and accountability for wider system change, will be visible through performance measures and action taken through the broader strategic and operational framework of Team Oldham. Please see the diagram below that shows some of the key interconnectivities:



Equality Objective 1 - Identify and mitigate the equality impacts of COVID-19, informing our response through research, best practice and lived experience, while supporting the delivery of our Covid-19 Recovery Strategy:

More than ever, as we recover from the impact of COVID-19 it is critical that we continue to tackle inequality and discrimination head on. The COVID-19 pandemic was experienced in significantly different ways across our communities and has exacerbated many pre-existing inequalities, including health and finance. We have seen existing inequalities resulting in people being more at risk of transmission of COVID-19, at risk of poorer outcomes from infection, and at risk of greater impact from control measures. The Marmot Review [‘Build Back Fairer’](#) (January 2021) found shockingly high COVID-19 mortality rates among British people who self-identify as Black, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Indian, with clear links to the challenges caused by deprivation. The Review also found that Covid-19 and the response to the pandemic has also widened existing inequalities, with more people suffering poorer health outcomes as a result. Public Health England (PHE) have found older people, males, those living in deprived areas, and those from minority ethnicities are at increased risk of poor outcomes. However, it is equally important to note that inequalities are also experienced in relationships between services / organisations – in the assumptions that are made; the language that is used; the way we communicate; and how services are designed and accessed.

The Marmot review [‘Fair Society, Healthy lives’](#) (2010) demonstrated how health inequalities are affected by a wide range of social and economic factors including where we live, our housing, our income, the environment, our relationship with the local community and the lifestyle choices we make. The review considered how health inequalities are an accumulative process with the influences of negative and positive factors beginning at birth and continuing over a person’s life. These factors are now widely accepted as being responsible for significant levels of health inequalities. People living in deprived areas and in the lowest income group are much more likely to have a reduced life expectancy and a poorer health outcome than more affluent people.

Both COVID-19 and the measures to control it have exacerbated the fundamental inequality in death rates between Oldham, GM and the wider North, and the rest of the UK. The Northern Health Science Alliance has found that 12.4 more people per 100,000 population have died with COVID-19 in the North from March to July than elsewhere in the country, with 57.7 more people per 100,000 dying of all causes.

The exacerbation of existing inequalities because of COVID-19 has also resulted in a further deepening and widening of poverty in the borough. Unemployment rates have doubled since March and rates are highest in our most disadvantaged communities. We are especially concerned about the rise in youth unemployment; now approaching 16% borough wide in some hotspots, within our poorer wards, as high as 37%.

We will continue to work across Team Oldham to tackle these inequalities, especially for communities who have been disproportionately hit hardest by the pandemic. Through our Covid Recovery Plan we will take steps to support our most vulnerable communities, protect our health system, and support our economy.

Equality Objective 2 - Provide services that put the citizens' voice at the heart of decision-making, ensuring our services are inclusive and drive equity:

How we develop and co-produce services is fundamental to how we meet our equality and diversity responsibilities. The co-design process and decision-making about how we make changes to services is underpinned by principles and approaches that ensure equality and diversity issues are identified and acted on so that residents' needs are met and that they can access services in ways that balance the delivery of effective and efficient services with what suits them.

Good engagement and consultation with residents is key to providing accessible and resident focused services that are co-designed and influenced by the people who will use and benefit from them. When engaging we take care to reach all sections of the community, often using the expertise of the Oldham Partnership, Equality Advisory Group and our VCFSE partners to better understand the impact on people and communities with protected characteristics, helping co-design and develop solutions to the challenges facing these communities.

Our Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) process is an essential tool for co-designing services, policies and strategies, and understanding the impact, positive and negative, of our decisions on different protected groups. EIAs are the primary way in which equalities and diversity issues are identified across Team Oldham and they provide a systematic framework and evidence-base to demonstrate that we have considered equalities and diversity in our decision-making processes, as well as evidencing how we will mitigate any identified impacts. We will strengthen our EIA process, firming up our approach to community engagement and inclusive design and co-production, ensuring equality issues are at the heart of Oldham's decision-making approach.

Concerns about the digital divide have been particularly acute during the COVID-19 pandemic as the internet and digital devices have played an important role in allowing people to access services, attend medical appointments and stay in touch with friends and family. Through our Team Oldham Digital Strategy, we are committed to 'delivering a connected Oldham for everyone'. The strategy is deliberately broad in its focus to ensure that we balance delivery of digital infrastructure with designing and delivering digital services that reflect the needs of the people who use them. By understanding resident's needs, services should be designed in a way that makes them easy to use and access 24/7 from the comfort of their own homes. This includes the council website as the 'front door' to digital services meeting accessibility standards and the online customer journey being effective and efficient from start to finish. We are also committed to playing our part to work together with partners to ensure that everyone has the access,

skills and confidence to feel empowered to benefit from the opportunities that digital brings in our day-to-day lives. Access to the digital world should be a basic human right, everyone in Oldham whatever their age, location, or situation, should be able to benefit from the opportunities digital brings, so we will be developing a plan to address the barriers of digital exclusion and the digital divide, in a co-ordinated and focussed way, informed by local needs and sharing learning, resource and expertise.

As a service provider we are working to ensure that the way services are co-designed and delivered take account of the diverse needs of our residents and communities, ensuring our services are accessible to all. We will be undertaking a fundamental review of how we work with residents, developing policies and procedures that support co-design and ensure transparency when delivering services. By promoting fairness and inclusion we will remove barriers to services and opportunities. We will take practical steps to improve the way we provide our services and act to tackle discrimination that affects specific groups. We also have a Public Sector Equality Duty to be able demonstrate to the community how we have considered the impacts of our decisions and what the outcome of these considerations has been. We will continue to publish this information annually through our annual equality report.

Equality Objective 3 - Champion inclusivity across the borough, working with our partners and communities to make Oldham a fairer place for everyone, while valuing and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all:

Equality is at the heart of our vision and values and is a part of everything that we do. Oldham has an increasingly diverse population, but inequality continues to affect different people and communities in different ways. We are committed to tackling discrimination and the inequalities which prevent people from fulfilling their true potential.

We know some people face prejudice and discrimination. This can be due to fear, a lack of understanding or because of hatred and intolerance. This may include harassment, hatred or violence and may be linked to homophobia, racism, sexism or transphobia. We recognise that some people express fear, lack of respect and contempt towards people from other groups and communities. As champions of inclusivity, we will take a no-tolerance approach to hate crimes, doing more to enable victims or witnesses to come forward. We must also continue to support victims and ensure that perpetrators face justice. Finally, we must work across Team Oldham and are communities to challenge the attitudes and beliefs that drive these crimes.

Historical and contemporary systemic and institutionalised discrimination and prejudice in the treatment of Black and Asian people, and people belonging to other ethnic minorities, have resulted in entrenched inequalities rooted in long-standing structural issues of poverty and disadvantage. We will work to increase peoples' knowledge and understanding about specific equalities issues. We will focus on promoting positive messages, celebrating equality, diversity and inclusion. We will work with staff, members of the public, service users, community groups and VCFSE partners to achieve this, developing campaigns and initiatives in partnership with

groups and communities with lived experience of protected characteristics. Our goal is to challenge discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and understanding and foster good relations across Oldham's communities.

Building a Fairer Oldham also means recognising that there are other causes of inequality or exclusion, often inter-connected and mutually reinforcing. People can be excluded because they have low income, are socially isolated, live in poor housing or due to poor health. Despite the best efforts of Team Oldham, through commitments such as the living wage, Fair Employment Charter and Ethical Framework, poverty and inequality in Oldham have been increasing over the last 10 years and gaps in wealth and health across the borough continue to widen. Pre-Covid19, Oldham's place in the IMD had worsened (19th LA) and the borough continues to have some of the highest rates of child poverty in the country.

We are currently refreshing Oldham's Poverty Action Plan through Oldham's Poverty Steering Group (comprising senior leaders and officers from across the system, to provide strategic oversight and direction), ensuring that it is responsive to the increasing demands placed on services across the system caused by COVID-19. As well as meeting urgent needs now, the plan will begin to look forward to recovery and will have a greater focus on tackling the underlying causes of poverty and inequality. In this respect, the Poverty Action Plan is a pre-cursor to the development of a Poverty Strategy, taking forward key actions now and beginning work at a strategic and operational level that will make our efforts to combat the symptoms and causes of poverty more effective.

Equality Objective 4 – Achieve a skilled and diverse workforce building a culture of equality and inclusion in everything we do:

The Team Oldham Workforce Strategy ensures that our employment processes and conditions are free from discrimination and that we work towards removing barriers to employment, development and career opportunities for everyone. We are committed to building an inclusive Team Oldham where the workforce reflects the borough we serve and the needs of all citizens, and where colleagues feel confident about being themselves at work.

The profile of the existing Team Oldham workforce does not currently reflect the diversity of our communities and we have recognised that we need to accelerate improvements in this area, especially as one of the borough's largest employers we need to lead by example. To increase the pace of change we are setting ambitious targets and actions to ensure our actions match our ambition. We want to attract people from all backgrounds to work for us, and we want to retain staff by valuing their contribution and supporting them to give their best. Our approach to inclusivity and diversity is at the heart of how we do this. As we need our workforce to understand how to make difference work for all of us. As well as applying fair recruitment practices and tackling barriers to employment, we offer flexible ways of working, family-friendly policies, and learning and development opportunities to

help staff fulfil their potential. We are also committed to tackling the gender pay gap, ensuring everyone is payed fairly and exploring how our working practices can be made more flexible to support women who return to work after having a baby.

The greatest challenges we face to having a diverse workforce is increasing the number of people with disabilities we employ and ensuring good levels of progression for our black and minority ethnic communities. This means we need to have both generic and targeted measures in place to address these challenges. We already ensure that all disabled candidates who meet essential criteria are guaranteed an interview and steps are taken to support people who need adaptations of any nature but there is still work to do and we have an ambitious Apprenticeship and Kick Start programme which aims specifically to offer new opportunities to those people who may not normally look to find employment with us. In respect of people from a Black and Minority Ethnic background our workforce does consist of people from a rich mix of cultures but these staff are predominantly in front line and junior roles and so the challenge is to understand and address how we can be more representative at all levels and create development opportunities which will accelerate progression at a faster pace.

We will continue to promote our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion across Team Oldham so that our actions both within and outside our organisations demonstrate a passion and commitment to create opportunities for all. To further workforce equality across Team Oldham we are committed to participating in the Stonewall UK Workplace Equality Index, measure our progress on lesbian, gay, bi and trans inclusion in the workplace. We are also committed to becoming a Disability Confident accredited employer, making our workplaces more accessible to staff with disabilities.

We are committed to creating an environment where employees feel able to be open about their background, identity and characteristics, if they choose to do so. We will appoint workforce equality champions, ensuring staff with protected characteristics are represented and heard in relation to workforce issues. We expect respect from all and will celebrate differences among the communities we serve and within our own workforce. We will take robust action to ensure Team Oldham provides a working environment that is free from discrimination and harassment and will take action as needs be, both to ensure best practice is applied and to ensure people and organisations are protected.

Appendix: Equality Action Plan 2021 – 2025

The aim of the Equality Action Plan is to place equality and diversity at the heart of what we do, setting ourselves ambitious goals and measuring progress against these in order to narrow the gaps that exist across the borough.

Whilst the Equality Action Plan articulates our priorities it does not capture everything that we do to address inequality, as the work to address inequalities is reflected in the relevant individual strategies, plans and policies that are in place across Team Oldham. This is a living document. It recognises that Equality and Diversity doesn't stay the same, it changes, Covid-19 has shown us that. This is about ensuring we are doing everything we can, to tackle inequality in all its forms, through all our work. The Equality Action Plan will be updated regularly and overseen by Oldham's Equality Advisory Group and Oldham Council's Equality Steering Group. The current focus of the Action Plan is on the Council, CCG, Unity and parts of Team Oldham, but additional development will deepen this approach across the wider system.

The action plan will continue to be developed with action leads, reflecting the ongoing work to capture the learning from our response to the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as work that is currently being undertaken to map equality impacts across the wider system. This includes the development of a dedicated performance dashboard for equalities, helping us measure how we are tackling inequalities across the borough, Team Oldham's services and our workforce.

Equality Strategy: Action Plan 2021 / 2025			
Equality Objective	Key Actions	Officer Leads	Impact
<i>Identify and mitigate the equality impacts of COVID-19, informing our response through research, best practice and lived experience, while supporting the delivery of our Covid-19 Recovery Strategy.</i>	We will continue to work across Team Oldham, Oldham's Equality Advisory Group and our communities to deliver Oldham's Covid-19 Recovery plan, focused on mitigating the impact of the pandemic across all of Oldham's communities.	Lead - Matthew Drogan, Head of Strategy and Performance Supported by - Team Oldham / Equality Advisory Group / Public Health / Corporate Policy	Learning from the pandemic is embedded in future ways of working.
	We will continue to meet with the Equality Advisory Group on a fortnightly basis, capturing community insight and co-developing solutions to the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic.		
	Reducing the inequalities created, or that were pre-existing and exacerbated, during the pandemic for people with protected characteristics or other vulnerable groups through	Lead - Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy Lead	No communities or groups are disproportionately impacted by the

	<p>Team Oldham's Equality Impact Assessment Process, which will identify potential issues, ensuring appropriate mitigations can be put in place across the wider Team Oldham system.</p> <p>We will update the Covid-19 EIA quarterly, identifying any new or emerging impacts on vulnerable groups or groups with protected characteristics, ensuring appropriate mitigations can be put in place.</p>	<p>Lead - Mark Drury, Head of Public Affairs (Oldham CCG)</p> <p>Supported by - Public Health / Adult's Social Care / Children's Social Care / OD</p>	<p>pandemic, or the mitigating actions put in place.</p>
	<p>We will continue to address health inequalities which have been further exacerbated by Covid-19, acting to tackle both the underlying causes as well as the negative impacts of health inequalities. This work is reflected in this Strategy as well as other key local strategies and plans including the Poverty Strategy and Covid-19 Recovery Strategy.</p>	<p>Lead - Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health</p> <p>Supported by - Public Health / Adult's Social Care / Children's Social Care / Equality Advisory Group / Research and Engagement / Social Prescribing Network</p>	<p>No communities or groups are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, or the mitigating actions put in place.</p>
	<p>Undertake a learning review of our Covid-19 response, including test and trace, vaccination and broader CV-19 engagement activity to help drive how we work together as a system to deliver health, care and other public services more broadly going forward. The initial findings from this work will be published by October 2021.</p>	<p>Lead - Erin Portsmouth, Director of Corporate Affairs (Oldham CCG)</p> <p>Supported by - Oldham CCG / Corporate Policy / OD</p>	<p>Learning from the pandemic is embedded in future ways of working.</p>
	<p>Address and tackle equality issues for those from key ethnic groups and other disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Providing advocacy for those with English as their second language and finding alternative ways to engage and communicate key messaging to hard to reach communities, for example, through Oldham's Community Champions programme, a project delivered in partnership between Oldham Council and Action Together, which aims to support people disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, including minority ethnic communities and people with a disability.</p>	<p>Lead - Neil Consterdine - Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities</p> <p>Lead - Laura Windsor-Welsh, Strategic Locality Lead (Action Together)</p>	<p>People from particular ethnic groups are actively engaged and able to co-design solutions that meet their needs.</p>

		Supported by - Equality Advisory Group Supported / Communications Team / Policy Team / Action Together	
	<p>Monitoring and reviewing the potential impacts of the pandemic relating to sex and gender reassignment including access to midwifery and domestic violence support services, ensuring that we are providing the right level of support across Team Oldham. This will include minimising the impact of the pandemic on the LGBTQ+ community, ensuring our services are inclusive and accessible through regularly reviewing our policies and procedures.</p> <p>We will review our policies and procedures annually, ensuring that they continue to support the LGBTQ+ community.</p>	<p>Lead - Bruce Penhale, Assistant Director Early Help * covering domestic abuse</p> <p>Lead - Claire Smith, Director of Nursing and Quality (Oldham CCG) *covering midwifery</p> <p>Supported by - Corporate Policy / Equality Advisory Group / Community Cohesion Team</p>	No communities or groups are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, or the mitigating actions put in place.
	<p>Continue to develop an integrated financial support offer, ensuring financial support can be accessed through the community hubs, helping to help to prevent further escalation into crisis for those who are struggling financially. *</p> <p>Identify impacts for those on low incomes, or zero-hour contracts, who cannot work from home and those with no access to public funds, through providing routes to advocacy and supporting people to access grants.</p> <p>* Please see Oldham's Poverty Action Plan for further information.</p>	<p>Lead - Ann Marie-McGinn, Emerging Communities Manager</p> <p>Lead - Fran Stanning, Head of Customer and Digital Experience</p> <p>Supported by - PAG and Community Hubs / Welfare Rights / Revenues and Benefits /</p>	Residents are appropriately signposted to the right support, with our most vulnerable communities stopped from falling into further crisis.

		Emerging Communities Team / DWP	
	<p>Addressing inequalities relating to age. This is both for Older People and Young People:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Older People – providing information and support for older people who have been impacted by the pandemic, including helping them access crisis support post-pandemic. 2. Young people – providing information and support for younger people who have been impacted by the pandemic, considering the reduction in their support services, mental health and wellbeing provision and access to respite and support for young carers. <p>We will update the Covid-19 EIA quarterly, identifying any new or emerging impacts on both older people and younger people, ensuring appropriate mitigations can be put in place.</p> <p>We will support schools and educational settings to help young people catch-up on their learning; ensuring all children and young people can achieve their full potential; meeting the needs of children with SEND and building inclusive school cultures.</p> <p>We will work to provide the Best Start in Life to all Oldham’s children, reducing vulnerabilities and addressing inequalities, developing a comprehensive approach to identifying and addressing the needs of children and families. * Please see Oldham’s Covid-19 Recovery Strategy for further details.</p>	<p>Lead - Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director, Youth, Leisure and Communities</p> <p>Supported by - Ageing Hub / Youth Services / Adult Social Care / Children’s Social Care / Children and Young People</p>	<p>No communities or groups are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, or the mitigating actions put in place.</p>
	<p>Through the Equality Advisory Group, we will continue to ensure that those with particular faiths or beliefs are able to live their lives accordingly, identifying any potential gaps in our understanding or approach to tackling the pandemic in Oldham. This includes ensuring access to appropriate end of</p>	<p>Lead - Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy Lead</p>	<p>No communities or groups are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, or the</p>

	<p>life care, bereavement services, culturally appropriate food and other religious and cultural needs.</p> <p>We will continue to meet with the Equality Advisory Group on a fortnightly basis, working with different faith groups to ensure Oldham’s Covid-19 response is culturally sensitive and appropriate.</p>	Supported by - Equality Advisory Group / Oldham Interfaith Forum	mitigating actions put in place.
Equality Objective	Key Actions	Who	Impact
<p><i>Provide services that put the citizens’ voice at the heart of decision-making, ensuring our services are inclusive and drive equity:</i></p>	<p>Establish standardised categories and classifications for equality data being collected and recorded, ensuring consistency across Team Oldham to inform and shape our decisions.</p> <p>We will develop an equality dashboard helping us measure how we are tackling inequalities across the borough, Team Oldham’s services and our workforce.</p> <p>We will continue to strengthen the collection of equality related data across the council and will work to identify how we use this data to inform service planning and development, seeking to continually improve our performance over time. The results of this work will be reported back to Oldham’s Equality Steering Group on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Lead - Jon Taylor, Business Intelligence Lead</p> <p>Supported by - Data and Insight / Oldham CCG</p>	<p>Increased understanding of our communities and workforce.</p>
	<p>Actively engage with people and communities to better understand the confidence people have in our services, as well as the barriers they experience when accessing services and where applicable we work in partnership with service users from protected groups, both internal and external to address these barriers.</p> <p>We will continue to work with the Equality Advisory Group, Community Champions programme and wider network to co-design and improve our services, ensuring they are accessible to everyone, especially those with protected characteristics.</p>	<p>Lead - Shelley Kipling, Assistant Director Communications, Strategy and Performance</p> <p>Lead - Fran Lautman, Head of Customer and Digital Experience</p> <p>Supported by - Marketing and Research / Elected Members /</p>	

		Poverty Action Group / Poverty Truth Commission / Equality Advisory Group / Stronger Communities Team	
	Continue to publish Oldham's annual equality report a profile of the borough's population based on the nine protected characteristics.	Lead - Jon Taylor, Business Intelligence Lead Supported by - Data and Insight / Corporate Policy	Increased understanding of our communities and workforce.
Equality Objective	Key Actions	Who	Impact
<i>Champion inclusivity across the borough, working with our partners and communities to make Oldham a fairer place for everyone, while valuing and celebrating diversity and inclusion for all.</i>	Establish a new Women's Taskforce, chaired by the Council Leader, with the aim of addressing women's disadvantage and promoting greater equality. The Taskforce will explore issues that are affecting women in Oldham, to tackle any existing inequalities and deliver a series of projects that make a real difference to women and families in the borough.	Lead - Shelley Kipling, Assistant Director Communications, Strategy and Performance Supported by - Corporate Policy / Equality Advisory Group / Communications Team	Increased visibility and accountability to tackle equality, diversity and inclusion issues across Team Oldham.
	Take a joined-up approach with our public and voluntary sector partners to raise awareness of hate crime and to ensure that hate crime is effectively tackled, helping people feel more confident to report it. We will monitor customer satisfaction through the Greater Manchester Police reporting framework, identifying and implementing opportunities to improve the experience of people impacted by hate crime.	Lead - Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer Supported by - Stronger Communities Team / VCFSE partners	Increased reporting of all strands of hate incidents and hate crime.

	<p>Supporting and adopting an approach to combat racial prejudice, stereotyping, harassment, unjustified discrimination, undignified and culturally insensitive and offensive behaviour.</p> <p>We will continue to promote race equality and cultural awareness, helping us foster mutually beneficial and respectful long-term relationships across different communities.</p>	<p>Lead - Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer</p> <p>Team Oldham / Stronger Communities Team / Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership / Communications Team</p>	<p>Increased reporting of all strands of hate incidents and hate crime.</p>
	<p>Develop a training programme that has equality, diversity and inclusion at its heart, providing training on equality issues, including cultural awareness training, co-design with communities, tackling inequalities that exist across Oldham and embedding equality and diversity into the development, design and delivery of Oldham's services.</p>	<p>Lead - Julia Veall, Director of Workforce and Organisational Design</p> <p>Supported by - Stronger Communities Team / Business Intelligence / Organisational Development / Research and Engagement</p>	<p>Awareness raised of help and support available to residents across Team Oldham.</p>
	<p>Improve the knowledge and understanding of hate crime identification by staff and drive improvements in recording hate crimes.</p> <p>We will monitor customer satisfaction through the Greater Manchester Police reporting framework.</p>	<p>Lead - Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer</p> <p>Supported by - Stronger Communities Team / Business Intelligence / Organisational Development</p>	<p>Increased reporting of all strands of hate incidents and hate crime.</p>
	<p>Work with the community safety and cohesion partnership to proactively communicate the support available to minority ethnic communities, ensuring staff are aware of potential equality issues and cultural sensitivities that may lead to a lack of engagement from vulnerable groups.</p>	<p>Lead - Tanya Farrugia, Intensive Support Team Manager Early Help</p> <p>Supported by - Stronger Communities Team /</p>	<p>Increased reporting of all strands of hate incidents and hate crime.</p>

		Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership	
	<p>Establish a Poverty Truth Commission made up of councillors and commissioners, to recommend measures to tackle poverty, identify causes and mitigate the consequences, informing the development of a Poverty Strategy. This work will have a direct link with the COVID-19 response and recovery work and will seek to identify specific areas around poverty including (not exhaustive) –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No recourse to funds • Access to food and foodbanks • Resources for children being educated at home 	<p>Lead - Amanda Richardson, Corporate Policy Manager</p> <p>Supported by - Action Together / Corporate Policy</p>	<p>Reduced levels of financial hardship / poverty across the borough.</p> <p>*Please see Oldham's Poverty Strategy for further details.</p>
	<p>Establish a Poverty Steering Group to take forward co-ordinated action to tackle poverty in Oldham, informed by the Poverty Truth Commission; which will include a representative from the Equalities Advisory Group.</p> <p>The Poverty Steering Group will meet quarterly, aiming to address both the symptoms and causes of poverty in Oldham.</p>	<p>Lead - Amanda Richardson, Corporate Policy Manager</p> <p>Supported by - Corporate Policy / Executive Support</p>	<p>Reduced levels of financial hardship / poverty across the borough.</p> <p>*Please see Oldham's Poverty Strategy for further details.</p>
	<p>Celebrate Oldham's diversity through regular equality-related events: Black History Month, International Women's Day, International Day of Persons with a Disability; LGBT+ History Month; Holocaust Memorial Day.</p>	<p>Lead - Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer</p> <p>Lead - Jeni Harvey, Head of Communications and Research</p> <p>Supported by - Research and Engagement / Heritage, Libraries and Arts</p>	<p>Increased community awareness of different protected characteristics, groups and backgrounds.</p>

	Continue to promote Team Oldham-wide campaigns on issues such as mental health and domestic abuse, raising staff awareness and improving the customer experience through staff education and training.	Lead - Jeni Harvey, Head of Communications and Research Supported by - Public Health / Oldham CCG / Communications / Stronger Communities Team / Heritage, Libraries and Arts	Awareness raised of help and support available to residents across Team Oldham.
	Continue to participate in Hate Crime Awareness campaigns, helping residents gain a better understanding of what hate crime is, how they can access support, and how they report and prevent hate crime in their area.	Lead - Virbai Kara, Senior Communities Officer Supported by - Stronger Communities Team / Public Health / Communications / Organisational Development / Heritage, Libraries and Arts	Increased reporting of all strands of hate incidents and hate crime / reduction in levels of hate crime.
	Identify opportunities through our culture programme and Oldham's Cultural Strategy to capture and celebrate Oldham's diversity, for example, through statues, monuments, and cultural ambassadors.	Lead - Subnum Hariff- Khan, Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts Supported by - Communications / Heritage, Libraries and Arts	Increased community awareness of different protected characteristics, groups and backgrounds.
	Become a Living Wage Place, expanding the number of organisations in the borough that have living wage accreditation, and increasing the number of people whose salaries are uplifted as a result, providing secure, safe employment, addressing gender and ethnic pay imbalances	Lead - Jonathan Downs, Corporate Policy Lead Lead - Steve Boyd, Head of Procurement	Reduced levels of poverty across the borough. *Please see Oldham's Poverty Strategy for further details.

	and developing strategies for in-work progression and wellbeing support. All Oldham's contracts will be uplifted to the Foundation Living Wage by 2023.	Corporate Policy / Procurement / Get Oldham Working / Equality Advisory Group	
Equality Objective	Key Actions	Who	Impact
<i>Achieve a skilled and diverse workforce building a culture of equality and inclusion in everything we do.</i>	Appoint corporate equality champions, drawn from the Team Oldham's senior management team to raise awareness on equality issues and promote good practice. Appoint diversity champions, drawn from the Team Oldham workforce to champion diversity, challenge poor practice and provide feedback on issues impacting the wider Team Oldham workforce.	Lead - Paul Dernley Assistant Director, HR Operations Supported by - Human Resources Organisational Development (HR/OD)	Increased visibility and accountability to tackle equality, diversity and inclusion issues across Team Oldham.
	Use our role as an anchor institution to actively promote apprenticeships, increasing the number of apprenticeships available for underrepresented groups across Team Oldham, with the aim of having 2.3% of the workforce undertaking a new apprenticeship.	Lead - Jon Bloor, Head of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Skills Service Lead - Vikki Morris, Assistant Director, Organisational Development Supported by - Economy and Enterprise/ HR/OD / All Services	More opportunities for young people to come and work for Team Oldham.
	Publish an annual report showing how we are eradicating the pay gap between our male and female employees, helping to highlight any unfair practices, which we can abolish through our Workforce Strategy. We will also continue to develop this work to identify pay gaps for other underrepresented groups	Lead - Paul Dernley Assistant Director, HR Operations	Reduction in the gender pay gap.

	(where there is statistical validity) with a view to publish this information, while removing unfair or unequitable practices across our workforce.	Supported by - HR/OD / Data and Insight	
	Reduce the proportion of 'unknown' equality data we hold on our employees. We will publish the result of this work annually through our annual Equality Report.	Lead - Adam Ratcliffe, HR Delivery and Performance Manager Supported by - HR/OD / Data and Insight	Increased understanding of our communities and workforce.
	Review diversity data at all levels of our workforce and amongst our commissioned services to help identify areas for improvement, including amongst our commissioned services, highlighting priority areas for change.	Lead - Paul Dernley Assistant Director, HR Operations Supported by - HR/OD / Equality Advisory Group	Increased understanding of our communities and workforce.
	Develop a recruitment framework that aims to improve the diversity of Team Oldham. The framework will improve how recruitment processes operate in practice with a view to better understand why some groups are less likely to succeed in getting jobs than other groups. We will challenge our internal recruitment processes to overcome these barriers. The outcomes of this work will be reported to the Equality Advisory Group on an annual basis.	Lead - Paul Dernley Assistant Director, HR Operations Supported by - HR/OD / Equality Advisory Group	Increased understanding of our communities and workforce.
	Pilot new approaches to advertising roles through community outreach and different platforms to better target local communities and supports our approach to Community Wealth Building.	Lead - Paul Dernley Assistant Director, HR Operations Supported by - HR/OD / Communications and Marketing / Equality Advisory Group	Improved community representation across Team Oldham's workforce.
	Review existing recruitment practices to ensure the values and competency-based approach to recruitment at all levels	Lead - Paul Dernley	Improved community representation across

	provides the right approach to improve diversity throughout the organisation	Assistant Director, HR Operations Supported by - HR/OD	Team Oldham's workforce.
	Continue to develop a workforce that is representative of the communities we serve, seeking to recruit locally and from priority groups where appropriate e.g. young people, people with disabilities and long-term health problems, people experiencing poverty.	Lead - Paul Dernley Assistant Director, HR Operations Supported by - HR/OD / Equality Advisory Group	Improved community representation across Team Oldham's workforce.
	Ensure that managers are equipped with the tools to manage their teams in a supportive way; embracing difference whilst applying consistently fair practices across all groups.	Lead - Vikki Morris, Assistant Director, Organisational Development Supported by - All Services / HR/OD	Improved employee satisfaction / Improved community representation across Team Oldham's workforce.

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Report to Council

Treasury Management Review 2020/21

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Report Author: Lee Walsh, Finance Manager

Ext. 6608

8 September 2021

Reason for Decision

The Council is 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 2020/21. This report meets 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 2020/21 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 26 February 2020)
- a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (approved 16 December 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 is therefore important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

The Council confirms that it has complied with the requirements under the Code to give prior scrutiny to the treasury strategy and the mid-year update. The Audit Committee is charged with the scrutiny of treasury management activities in Oldham and reviewed the content of this annual report at its meeting of 29 June 2021. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet and Council (to ensure full compliance with

the Code for 2020/21). Cabinet approved the report on 23 August 2021 and was content to commend the report to Council.

Executive Summary

During 2020/21, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Actual prudential and treasury indicators	2019/20 Actual £'000	2020/21 Revised £'000	2020/21 Actual £'000
Actual capital expenditure	54,383	81,013	73,227
Total Capital Financing Requirement:	472,377	504,935	491,713
Gross borrowing	167,843	172,843	172,843
External debt	403,709	402,195	397,248
Investments			
· Longer than 1 year	15,000	15,000	15,000
· Under 1 year	103,120	52,000	68,540
· Total	118,120	67,000	83,540
Net Borrowing (Gross borrowing less investments)	49,723	105,843	89,303

As can be seen in the table above, actual capital expenditure was less than the revised budget estimate for 2020/21 presented within the 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy report considered at the Council meeting of 4 March 2021. The outturn position was significantly less than the £147.632m original capital budget for 2020/21 as approved at Budget Council on 26 February 2020.

It was apparent at the beginning of 2020/21 that spending plans were not going to be realised, the COVID-19 pandemic halted works on projects and delayed the start of others. Because of this, and taking account of re-profiled expenditure, new assumptions, approvals and scheme updates the expenditure budgets and funding plans were continually reassessed throughout in year. The significant re-phasing was associated with the revised vision and strategic framework for 'Creating a Better Place' which was approved in August 2020. This placed more emphasis on economic recovery, given the impact of the pandemic. This review required several existing regeneration projects to be reviewed and rephased to align to the long-term vision of the new strategy.

The final outturn position for 2020/21 of £73.227m was a significant reduction compared to the expenditure initially planned and approved at Budget Council in February 2020.

Short Term Temporary Borrowing was undertaken during the year and is detailed in the report.

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report.

The Director of Finance confirms that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached during the financial year 2020/21.

The financial year 2020/21 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the actual 2020/21 prudential and treasury indicators presented in this report
- 2) Approve the annual treasury management report for 2020/21

Treasury Management Review 2020/21

1 Background

1.1 The Council has adopted the Revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017. The primary requirements of the code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's Treasury Management activities
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives
- Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year
- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring Treasury Management Policies and Practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions. In Oldham, this responsibility is delegated to the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance).
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies to a specific named body. In Oldham, the delegated body is the Audit Committee.

Treasury management in this context is defined as:

“The management of the local authority’s investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

1.2 The report therefore summarises the following the:-

- Council’s capital expenditure and financing during the year;
- Impact of this activity on the Council’s underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- Actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- Summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- Detailed debt activity; and
- Detailed investment activity.

2 Current Position

2.1 The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing during 2020/21

2.1.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure when it invests in or acquires long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- Financed by borrowing if insufficient immediate financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply available resources, the capital expenditure gives rise to a borrowing need.

2.1.2 The actual level of capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators (these indicators are all summarised in Appendix 1). The table below shows the actual level of capital expenditure and how this was financed. As can be seen in the table below, actual capital expenditure in 2020/21 was less than the revised budget estimate. The revised budget estimate is based on the month 8 2020/21 reported position to align with the Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2020/21 report, and not the latest reported position (March 2021). All prudential indicators in the 2020/21 strategy are based on this revised budget. Capital expenditure was less in year due to re-phasing of some IT projects, property related schemes, Housing Revenue Account (HRA) schemes and education schemes that were expected to progress during the year. In addition, a revised vision and strategic framework for 'Creating a Better Place' was approved in August 2020, which placed more emphasis on economic recovery, given the impact of the pandemic. This review required several existing regeneration projects to be reviewed and rephased to align to the long-term vision of the new strategy.

	2019/20 Actual £'000	2020/21 Revised £'000	2020/21 Actual £'000
Non-HRA capital expenditure	52,249	76,061	68,830
HRA capital expenditure	2,134	4,952	4,397
Total capital expenditure	54,383	81,013	73,227
Resourced by:			
• Capital receipts	9,914	2,335	3,184
• Capital grants	42,091	19,827	20,820
• HRA	2,134	4,974	2,532
• Revenue	244	323	147
Unfinanced capital expenditure	0	53,553	46,544

2.2 The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

2.2.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2020/21 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

2.2.2 Part of the Council's treasury activity is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB] or the money markets) or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

Reducing the CFR

2.2.3 The Council's (non-Housing Revenue Account [HRA]) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non- HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

2.2.4 The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- The application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- Charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

2.2.5 The Council's 2020/21 MRP Policy (as required by Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government Guidance) was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy report for 2020/21 on 26 February 2020.

2.2.6 The Council's CFR for the year is shown in the table below and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes PFI and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council's borrowing need. In 2020/21 the Council had seven PFI schemes in operation; however, no borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included within each contract.

Capital Financing Requirement	2019/20 Actual £'000	2020/21 Revised £'000	2020/21 Actual £'000
Opening balance	493,880	472,377	472,377
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	0	53,553	46,544
Add adjustment for the inclusion of on-balance sheet PFI and leasing schemes (if applicable)	525	0	270
Less MRP/VRP*	(2,742)	(2,742)	(2,742)
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	(19,286)	(18,253)	(24,736)
Closing balance	472,377	504,935	491,713

* Includes voluntary application of capital receipts and revenue resources

2.2.7 Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing, the CFR and by the authorised limit.

Gross borrowing and the CFR

2.2.8 In order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2019/20) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2020/21) and next two financial years.

2.2.9 This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

2.2.10 This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2020/21 if so required. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	2019/20 Actual £'000	2020/21 Revised £'000	2020/21 Actual £'000
Gross borrowing position	403,709	402,195	397,248
CFR - including PFI / Finance Leases	472,377	504,935	491,713
Under / (Over) funding of the CFR	68,668	102,740	94,465

The table above shows the position as at 31 March 2021 for the Council's gross borrowing position and CFR. This shows, compared to the revised budget position:

- Movement in the gross borrowing position, reflecting the fact that additional borrowing of £5m of short term borrowing still outstanding at 31 March 2021 which has been offset by repayment of transferred debt, PFI and finance leases.

- An increase in the CFR, predominantly through additional prudential borrowing in the capital programme.

The Authorised Limit

2.2.11 The authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and was set at £537.5m. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level.

The Operational Boundary

2.2.12 The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year and was set at £512.5m. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

	2020/21 Actual £'000
Authorised Limit	537,500
Operational Boundary	512,500

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream

2.2.13 This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream and is within expected levels.

	2020/21 Actual £'000
External Debt	172,843
PFI / Finance leases	224,405
Actual External Debt (Gross Borrowing) (rounded)	397,248
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream (General Fund)	12.39%

2.2.14 The table above splits the gross borrowing position of the Council between actual external debt (loans) and PFI / Finance lease debt. As can be seen above the gross borrowing position is well within the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary. The difference between the two reflects the Council’s under borrowed position.

2.3 The Council's Debt and Investment Position

2.3.1 The Council's debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through Member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

2.3.2 At the end of 2020/21 the Council's treasury position was as follows:

	31 March 2020 Principal £'000	Average Rate/ Return	Average Life years	31 March 2021 Principal £'000	Average Rate/ Return	Average Life years
Fixed rate funding:						
-PWLB	35,482			35,482		
-Stock	6,600			6,600		
Market	125,761			130,761		
Total borrowings	167,843	4.30%	37.08	172,843	3.96%	36.35
PFI & Finance lease liabilities	235,867			224,405		
Total External debt	403,710			397,248		
CFR	472,377			491,713		
Over/ (under) borrowing	(68,667)			(94,465)		
Investments:						
Financial Institutions/LA's	103,120	0.94%		68,540	0.37%	
Property	15,000	4.32%		15,000	4.44%	
Total investments	118,120			83,540		
Net Debt	49,723			89,303		

2.3.3 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

	2019/20 Actual %	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %	2020/21 Actual %
Under 12 months	23%	40%	0%	32%
12 months and within 24 months	0%	40%	0%	10%
24 months and within 5 years	32%	40%	0%	13%
5 years and within 10 years	4%	40%	0%	4%
10 years and above	40%	50%	0%	40%

2.3.4 The investment portfolio and maturity structure was as follows:

Investment Portfolio	Actual 31 March 2020 £'000	Actual 31 March 2020 %	Actual 31 March 2021 £'000	Actual 31 March 2021 %
Treasury Investments				
Banks	37,500	15.31%	20,000	23.94%
Local Authorities / Public Bodies	28,500	35.92%	28,000	33.52%
Money Market Funds (MMF's)	37,120	31.10%	20,540	24.59%
Total managed in house	103,120	82.33%	68,540	82.04%
Bond Funds				
Property Funds	15,000	12.70%	15,000	17.96%
Cash Fund Managers				
Total Managed Externally	15,000	12.70%	15,000	17.96%
TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS	118,120	100.00%	83,540	100%
TOTAL NON TREASURY INVESTMENTS *	2,181	100%	0	0%

* Members should note that the Non-Treasury Investments during 2019/20 related to property purchase. No purchases classed as property investment purchases were made in 2020/21. During the year the Council did acquire the Spindles Shopping Centre. This purchase is part of the regeneration of the town centre and is held in the Council's accounts under the category of Other Land and Buildings.

	2019/20 Actual £'000	2020/21 Actual £'000
Investments		
Longer than 1 year	0	0
Under 1 year	103,120	68,540
Property Fund	15,000	15,000
Total	118,120	83,540

2.3.5 Key features of the debt and investment position are:

- a) Over the course of the year 2020/21, investments have decreased by £34.580m. The large decrease in investments related to additional Government grants received in March 2020 in the previous reporting period to support the increase in expenditure needed to tackle the COVID-19 crisis. Another factor was the funds being held to make the upfront payment of pension costs in April 2020. By the end of the financial year, treasury activity had returned to more normal levels and this resulted in lower investment balances at the end of 2020/21.

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- b) The average rate of return on investments with Financial Institutions decreased from 0.94% in 2019/20 to 0.38% in 2020/21. This decrease relates to the Bank of England base rate being at 0.10% whereas it was 0.75% for the majority of the previous year. These low investment returns are a factor of Brexit and the COVID 19 Global Pandemic.
 - c) Investments were arranged throughout the year to ensure there was enough liquid cash available to support the paying of COVID support grants to local businesses, but still trying to make a return by placing cash for longer periods.

2.4 Investment Strategy and control of interest rate risk

- 2.4.1 Investment returns which had been low during 2019/20, plunged during 2020/21 to near zero or even into negative territory. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the growth of inter local authority lending.
- 2.4.2 The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2020/21 was that Bank Rate would continue at the start of the year at 0.75% before rising to end 2022/23 at 1.25%. This forecast was invalidated by the COVID-19 pandemic beginning in March 2020 which caused the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to cut Bank Rate in March, first to 0.25% and then to 0.10%, in order to counter the hugely negative impact of the national lockdown on large swathes of the economy.
- 2.4.3 The Bank of England and the Government also introduced new programmes of supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the lockdown. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand for borrowing, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates plummeted.
- 2.4.4 While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.
- 2.4.5 Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

2.4.6 The table below shows bank rate at various timeframes together with a high, low and average rate.

	Bank Rate	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
High	0.10	0.00	0.14	0.56	0.62	0.77
High Date	01/04/2020	02/04/2020	20/04/2020	08/04/2020	14/04/2020	21/04/2020
Low	0.10	-0.10	-0.11	-0.10	-0.10	-0.05
Low Date	01/04/2020	31/12/2020	29/12/2020	23/12/2020	21/12/2020	11/01/2021
Average	0.10	-0.07	-0.05	0.01	0.07	0.17
Spread	0.00	0.10	0.25	0.66	0.73	0.83

2.5 Borrowing Strategy and control of interest rate risk

2.5.1 During 2020/21, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and counterparty risk on placing investments was also minimised.

2.5.2 A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.

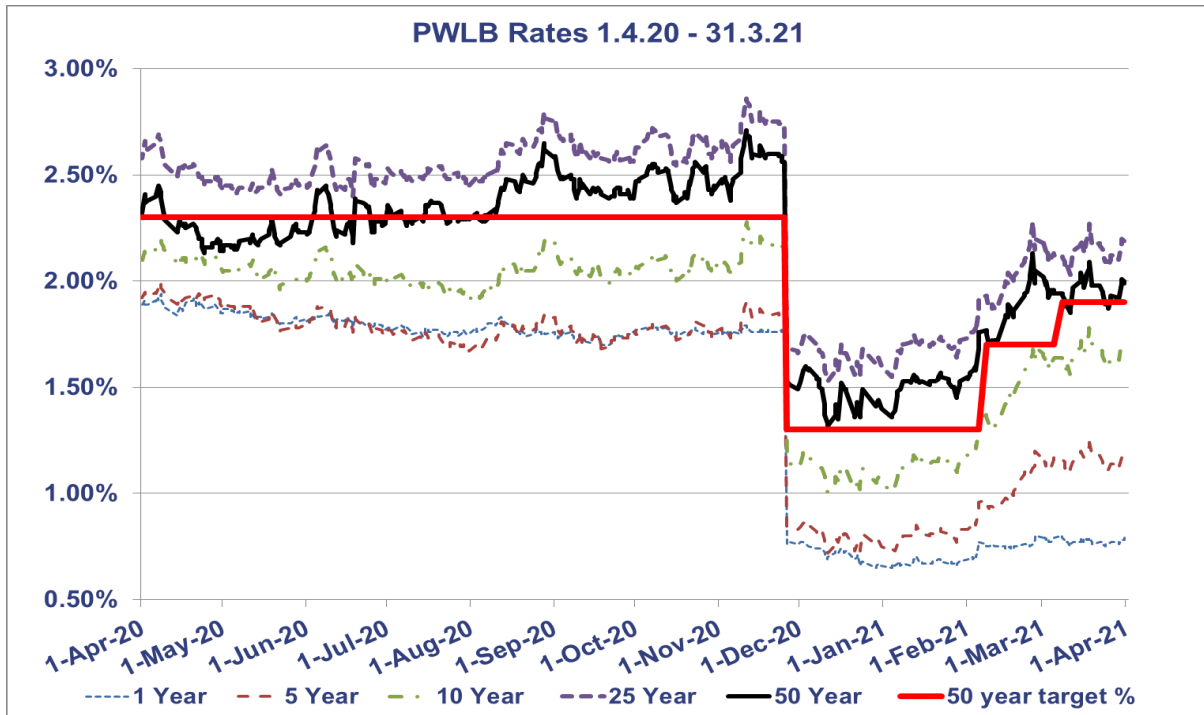
2.5.3 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

2.5.4 Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Treasury Management Team and the Director of Finance therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks

- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp **fall** in long and short term rates, (e.g. due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing would have been considered.
- if it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper **rise** in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst

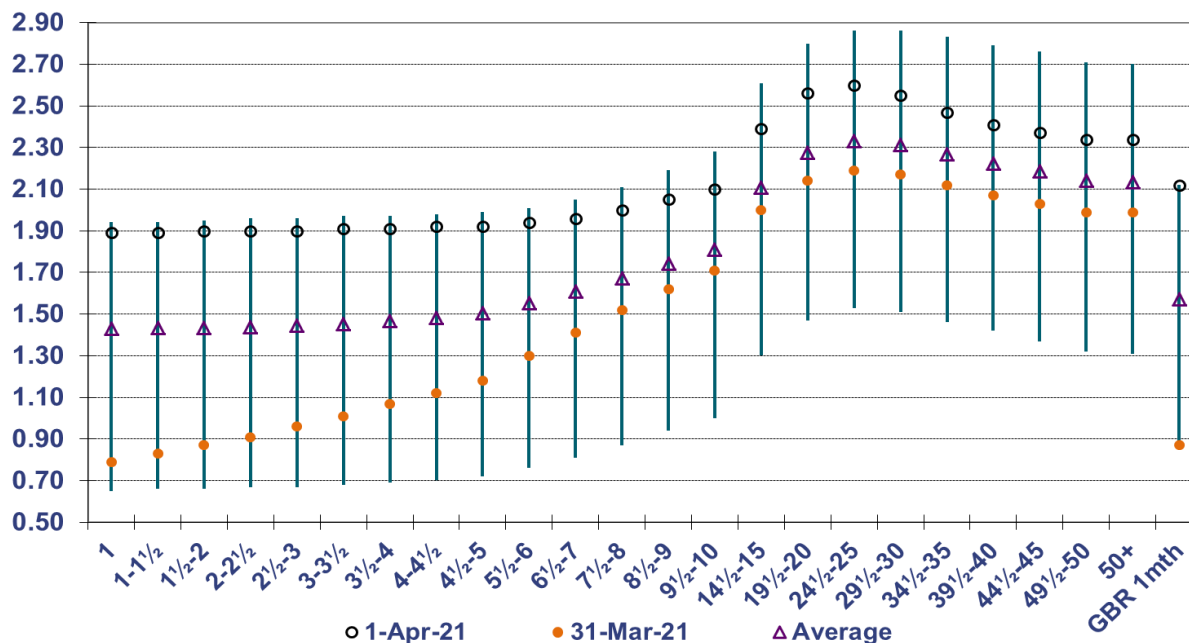
interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

- 2.5.5 Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2020/21 and the two subsequent financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period.
- 2.5.6 The information in the table below and in graphs and tables in Appendices 2 and 3 show PWLB rates for a selection of maturity periods, the average borrowing rates, the high and low points in rates:



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
Low	0.65%	0.72%	1.00%	1.53%	1.32%
Low date	04/01/2021	11/12/2020	11/12/2020	11/12/2020	11/12/2020
High	1.94%	1.99%	2.28%	2.86%	2.71%
High date	08/04/2020	08/04/2020	11/11/2020	11/11/2020	11/11/2020
Average	1.43%	1.50%	1.81%	2.33%	2.14%
Spread	1.29%	1.27%	1.28%	1.33%	1.39%

PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 1.4.20 to 31.3.2021



- 2.5.7 PWLB rates are based on, and are determined by, gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through H.M. Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields.
- 2.5.8 The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields. Inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last 30 years in lowering inflation and the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation, etc.
- 2.5.9 This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. Over the last two years in the Eurozone, many bond yields up to 10 years have turned negative on the expectation that the EU would struggle to get growth rates and inflation up from low levels. In addition, there has, at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US whereby 10 year yields have fallen below shorter term yields. In the past, this has been a precursor of a recession.
- 2.5.10 Gilt yields fell sharply from the start of 2020 and then spiked up during a challenging period for financial markets in March caused by the pandemic hitting western countries; this was rapidly countered by central banks flooding the markets with liquidity. While US treasury yields do exert influence on UK gilt yields so that the two often move in tandem, they have diverged during the first three quarters of 2020/21 but then converged in the final quarter.
- 2.5.11 Expectations of economic recovery started earlier in the US than the UK but once the UK vaccination programme started making rapid progress in the new year of 2021, gilt yields and gilt yields and PWLB rates started rising sharply as confidence in economic recovery rebounded. Financial markets also expected Bank Rate to rise quicker than in the forecast tables in this report.

2.5.12 At the close of the day on 31 March 2021, all gilt yields from 1 to 5 years were between 0.19 – 0.58% while the 10-year and 25-year yields were at 1.11% and 1.59%.

2.5.13 HM Treasury imposed **two changes of margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates in 2019/20** without any prior warning. The first took place on 9 October 2019, adding an additional 1% margin over gilts to all PWLB period rates. That increase was then, at least partially, reversed for some forms of borrowing on 11 March 2020, but not for mainstream non-HRA capital schemes.

2.5.14 A consultation was then held with local authorities and **on 25 November 2020, the Chancellor announced the conclusion to the review of margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates**; the standard and certainty margins were reduced by 1% but a prohibition was introduced to deny access to borrowing from the PWLB for any local authority which had the purchase of assets for yield in its three year capital programme. The new margins over gilt yields are as follows: -

- **PWLB Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- **PWLB Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- **PWLB HRA Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- **PWLB HRA Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- **Local Infrastructure Rate** is gilt plus 60 basis points (G+60bps)

2.5.15 There is likely to be only a gentle rise in gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years as Bank Rate is not forecast to rise from 0.10% by March 2024 as the Bank of England has clearly stated that it will not raise rates until inflation is sustainably above its target of 2%; this sets a high bar for Bank Rate to start rising.

2.6 Borrowing Outturn for 2020/21

Treasury Borrowing

2.6.1 The Council borrowed short term £20m from Public Bodies in April 2020 as can be seen in the table below. The borrowing was undertaken to fund capital expenditure early on in the financial year when cash flows were a little uncertain due to the COVID Pandemic and following the large payment to the Greater Manchester Pension Fund for the 3-year upfront payment. A further £5m was borrowed in November 2020.

Date	Lender	Principal £'000	Type	Interest Rate	Maturity (Months)
23-Apr-20	West Midlands CA	10,000	Maturity	0.720%	3
23-Apr-20	North of Tyne CA	10,000	Maturity	0.800%	6
04-Nov-20	Hampshire Pension Fund	5,000	Maturity	0.160%	6
Total		25,000			

Debt Rescheduling

- 2.6.2 No rescheduling was done during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

Repayment of Debt

- 2.6.3 Due to the type of borrowing undertaken in year £20m of the short-term borrowing reached maturity and was repaid as can be seen in the table below:

Date	Lender	Amount repaid £'000	Interest Rate	Comment
27-Jul-20	West Midlands CA	10,000	0.720%	Repayment of short term debt
04-Nov-20	North of Tyne CA	10,000	0.800%	Repayment of short term debt
Total		20,000		

The £5m remaining at the end of 2020/21 was repaid on 04 May 2021.

Borrowing in Advance of Need

- 2.6.4 The Council has not borrowed in advance of its needs.

2.7 Investment Outturn

Investment Policy

- 2.7.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy which for 2020/21 was approved by Council on 26 February 2020. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
- 2.7.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Resources

- 2.7.3 The Council's cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council's core cash resources comprised as follows:

Balance Sheet Resources	31 March 2020 (£'000)	31 March 2021 (£'000)
Balances General Fund	15,110	17,263
Balances HRA	21,796	21,370
Earmarked Reserves	79,360	113,513
Provisions	28,367	25,428
Usable Capital Receipts	0	0
Total (rounded)	144,633	175,422

Investments at 31 March 2021

2.7.4 The Council managed all of its investments in house with the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list. At the end of the financial year the Council had £83.540m of investments as follows:

Institution	Type	Amount £'000	Term (days)	Rate %	Start date	End date
CCLA Property	Property	15,000		4.44%		
Total Property		15,000				
Wokingham Borough Council	Fixed	5,000	31	0.08%	29-Mar-21	29-Apr-21
Blackpool Council	Fixed	3,000	94	0.07%	19-Mar-21	21-Jun-21
Goldman Sachs	Fixed	5,000	181	0.11%	26-Jan-21	26-Jul-21
Aberdeen City Council	Fixed	5,000	181	0.06%	05-Feb-21	05-Aug-21
Warrington Borough Council	Fixed	5,000	161	0.06%	25-Feb-21	05-Aug-21
Blaenau Gwent County Council	Fixed	5,000	182	0.08%	22-Feb-21	23-Aug-21
Canterbury City Council	Fixed	5,000	185	0.17%	05-Mar-21	06-Sep-21
Total Fixed Deposits		33,000				
Santander	Notice	2,500	35	0.30%	03-Jun-20	
Bank of Scotland	Notice	5,000	95	0.05%	22-Dec-20	
Santander	Notice	2,500	180	0.58%	02-Nov-20	30-Apr-21
Santander	Notice	5,000	180	0.58%	30-Nov-20	28-May-21
Total Notice Accounts		15,000				
Invesco MMF	MMF	2,000		0.01%	01-Mar-21	01-Apr-21
Federated MMF	MMF	8,540	1	0.01%	31-Mar-21	01-Apr-21
Aberdeen MMF	MMF	10,000	1	0.01%	31-Mar-21	01-Apr-21
Total Money Market Funds		20,540				
Total Investments		83,540				

* Money Market Funds (MMF)

2.7.5 The Council's investment strategy was to maintain sufficient cash reserves to give it necessary liquidity, whilst trying to attain a benchmark average rate of return of London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) on the relevant time deposit multiplied by 5%, whilst ensuring funds were invested in institutions which were the most secure. The table below shows the returns by the relevant time period.

	LIBID + 5%	Actual Return %
7 Day	(0.074%)	0.131%
1 Month	(0.055%)	0.270%
3 Month	0.016%	0.467%
6 Month	0.077%	0.633%
Average		0.375%

2.7.6 The Council's overall average performance on its cash investments exceeded its LIBID benchmark in all periods.

2.7.7 The investments held with the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) property fund generated £0.622m of income with an average return in year of 4.44%. Furthermore, the Director of Finance confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during 2020/21.

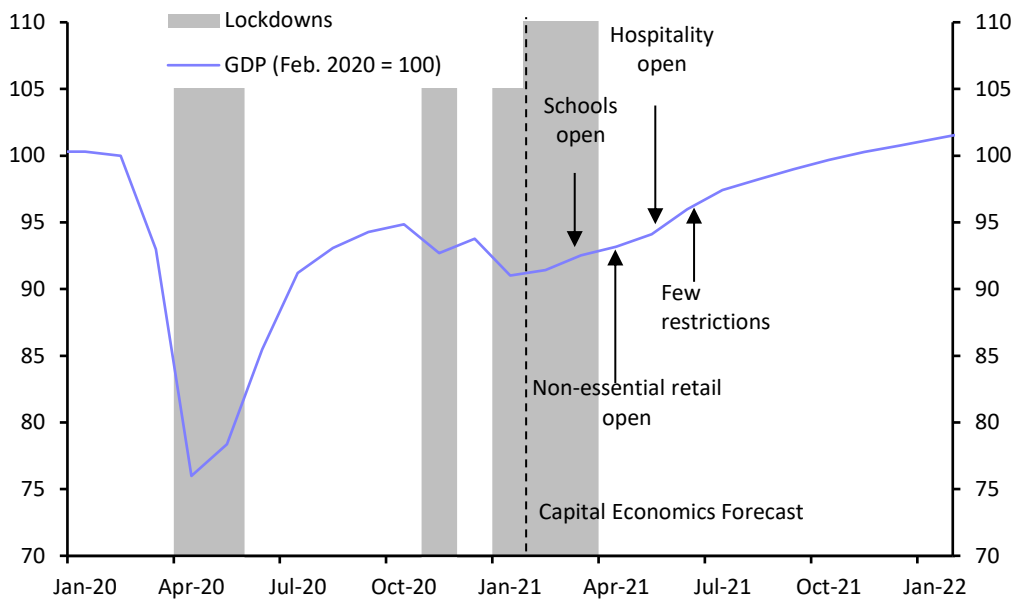
2.8 The Economy and Interest Rates

UK – Coronavirus

2.8.1 The financial year 2020/21 will go down in history as being the year of the pandemic. The first national lockdown beginning in late March 2020 did huge damage to an economy that was unprepared for such an eventuality. This caused an economic downturn that exceeded the one caused by the financial crisis of 2008/09. A short second lockdown in November did relatively little damage but by the time of the third lockdown in January 2021, businesses and individuals had become more resilient in adapting to working in new ways during a three month lockdown so much less damage than was caused than in the first one.

2.8.2 The advent of vaccines starting in November 2020, were a game changer. The way in which the UK and US have led the world in implementing a fast programme of vaccination which promises to lead to a return to something approaching normal life during the second half of 2021, has been instrumental in speeding economic recovery and the reopening of the economy.

2.8.3 In addition, the household saving rate has been exceptionally high since the first lockdown in March 2020 and so there is plenty of pent-up demand and purchasing power stored up for services in the still-depressed sectors like restaurants, travel and hotels. It is therefore expected that the UK economy could recover its pre-pandemic level of economic activity during quarter 1 of 2022 as illustrated in the table below.



- 2.8.4 Both the Government and the Bank of England took rapid action in March 2020 at the height of the crisis to provide support to financial markets to ensure their proper functioning, and to support the economy and to protect jobs.
- 2.8.5 The Monetary Policy Committee cut Bank Rate from 0.75% to 0.25% and then to 0.10% in March 2020 and embarked on a £200bn programme of quantitative easing (QE) (purchase of gilts so as to reduce borrowing costs throughout the economy by lowering gilt yields). The MPC then increased QE by £100bn in June and by £150bn in November to a total of £895bn.
- 2.8.6 While Bank Rate remained unchanged for the rest of the year, financial markets were concerned that the MPC could cut Bank Rate to a negative rate; this was firmly discounted at the February 2021 MPC meeting when it was established that commercial banks would be unable to implement negative rates for at least six months – by which time the economy was expected to be making a strong recovery and negative rates would no longer be needed.
- 2.8.7 Average inflation targeting was the major change adopted by the Bank of England in terms of implementing its inflation target of 2%. The key addition to the Bank’s forward guidance in August 2020 was a new phrase in the policy statement, namely that “it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and **achieving the 2% target sustainably**”. That seems designed to say, in effect, that even if inflation rises to 2% in a couple of years’ time, do not expect any action from the MPC to raise Bank Rate – until they can clearly see that level of inflation is going to be persistently above target if it takes no action to raise Bank Rate.
- 2.8.8 This sets a high bar for raising Bank Rate and no increase is expected until March 2024, and possibly for as long as five years. Inflation has been well under 2% during 2020/21; it is expected to briefly peak at just over 2% towards the end of 2021, but this is a temporary short lived factor and so not a concern to the MPC.

Government support.

- 2.8.9 The Chancellor has implemented repeated rounds of support to businesses by way of cheap loans and other measures, and has protected jobs by paying for workers to be placed on furlough. This support has come at a huge cost in terms of the Government's budget deficit increasing in 2020/21 and 2021/22 so that the Debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratio reaches around 100%.
- 2.8.10 The Budget on 3 March 2021 increased fiscal support to the economy and employment during 2021 and 2022 followed by substantial tax rises in the following three years to help to pay the cost for the pandemic. This will help further to strengthen the economic recovery from the pandemic and to return the Government's finances to a balanced budget on a current expenditure and income basis in 2025/26. This will stop the Debt to GDP ratio rising further from 100%.
- 2.8.11 An area of concern, though, is that the Government's debt is now twice as sensitive to interest rate rises as before the pandemic due to QE operations substituting fixed long-term debt for floating rate debt; there is, therefore, much incentive for the Government to promote Bank Rate staying low e.g. by using fiscal policy in conjunction with the monetary policy action by the Bank of England to keep inflation from rising too high, and / or by amending the Bank's policy mandate to allow for a higher target for inflation.

Brexit

- 2.8.12 The final agreement on 24 December 2020 eliminated a significant downside risk for the UK economy. The initial agreement only covered trade so there is further work to be done on the services sector where temporary equivalence has been granted in both directions between the UK and EU; that now needs to be formalised on a permanent basis.
- 2.8.13 There was much disruption to trade in January as form filling has proved to be a formidable barrier to trade. This appears to have eased somewhat since then but is an area that needs further work to ease difficulties, which are still acute in some areas.

USA

- 2.8.14 The US economy did not suffer as much damage as the UK economy due to the pandemic. The Democrats won the presidential election in November 2020 and have control of both Congress and the Senate, although power is more limited in the latter. This enabled the Democrats to pass a \$1.9trn (8.8% of GDP) stimulus package in March on top of the \$900bn fiscal stimulus deal passed by Congress in late December. These, together with the vaccine rollout proceeding swiftly to hit the target of giving a first jab to over half of the population within the President's first 100 days, will promote a rapid easing of restrictions and strong economic recovery during 2021. The Democrats are also planning to pass a \$2trn fiscal stimulus package aimed at renewing infrastructure over the next decade. Although this package is longer-term, if passed, it would also help economic recovery in the near-term.
- 2.8.15 After Chair Jerome Powell spoke on the US Federal Reserve (**Fed**) adoption of **a flexible average inflation target** in his Jackson Hole speech in late August 2020, the mid-September meeting of the Fed agreed a new inflation target - that

"it would likely be appropriate to maintain the current target range until labour market conditions were judged to be consistent with the Committee's assessments of maximum employment and inflation had risen to 2% and was on track to moderately exceed 2% for some time." This change was aimed to provide more stimulus for economic growth and higher levels of employment and to avoid the danger of getting caught in a deflationary "trap" like Japan.

- 2.8.16 It is to be noted that inflation has actually been under-shooting the 2% target significantly for most of the last decade, (and this year), so financial markets took note that higher levels of inflation are likely to be in the pipeline; long-term bond yields duly rose after the meeting.
- 2.8.17 There is now some expectation that where the Fed has led in changing its policy towards implementing its inflation and full employment mandate, other major central banks will follow, as indeed the Bank of England has done so already. The Fed expects strong economic growth during 2021 to have only a transitory impact on inflation, which explains why the majority of Fed officials project US interest rates to remain near-zero through to the end of 2023.
- 2.8.18 The key message is still that policy will remain unusually accommodative – with near-zero rates and asset purchases – continuing for several more years. This is likely to result in keeping treasury yields at historically low levels.
- 2.8.19 However, financial markets in 2021 have been concerned that the sheer amount of fiscal stimulus, on top of highly accommodative monetary policy, could be over-kill leading to a rapid elimination of spare capacity in the economy and generating higher inflation much quicker than the Fed expects.
- 2.8.20 They have also been concerned as to how and when the Fed will eventually wind down its programme of monthly QE purchases of treasuries. These concerns have pushed treasury yields sharply up in the US in 2021 and is likely to have also exerted some upward pressure on gilt yields in the UK.

Eurozone (EZ)

- 2.8.21 Both the roll out and take up of vaccines has been disappointingly slow in the EU in 2021. Many countries experienced a sharp rise in cases which threatened to overwhelm hospitals in some major countries; this led to renewed severe restrictions or lockdowns during March.
- 2.8.22 This will inevitably put back economic recovery after the economy had staged a rapid rebound from the first lockdowns in Q3 of 2020 but contracted slightly in Q4 to end 2020 only 4.9% below its pre-pandemic level. Recovery will now be delayed until Q3 of 2021 and a return to pre-pandemic levels is expected in the second half of 2022.
- 2.8.23 Inflation was well under 2% during 2020/21. The ECB did not cut its main rate of -0.5% further into negative territory during 2020/21. It embarked on a major expansion of its QE operations - the Pandemic Emergency Purchase Programme (PEPP) in March 2020 and added further to that in its December 2020 meeting when it also greatly expanded its programme of providing cheap loans to banks. The total PEPP scheme of €1,850bn is providing protection to the sovereign bond yields of weaker countries like Italy. There is, therefore, unlikely to be a euro crisis while the European Central Bank (ECB) is able to maintain this level of support.

China

- 2.8.24 After a concerted effort to get on top of the virus outbreak in Q1 of 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of the year; this has enabled China to recover all of the contraction in Q1. Policy makers have both quashed the virus and implemented a programme of monetary and fiscal support that has been particularly effective at stimulating short-term growth.

Japan

- 2.8.25 Three rounds of Government fiscal support in 2020 together with Japan's relative success in containing the virus without draconian measures so far, and the roll out of vaccines gathering momentum in 2021, should help to ensure a strong recovery in 2021 and to get back to pre-virus levels by Q3.

World Growth

- 2.8.26 World growth was in recession in 2020. Inflation is unlikely to be a problem in most countries for some years due to the creation of excess production capacity and depressed demand caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Deglobalisation

- 2.8.27 Until recent years, world growth has been boosted by increasing globalisation i.e. countries specialising in producing goods and commodities in which they have an economic advantage and which they then trade with the rest of the world. This has boosted worldwide productivity and growth, and, by lowering costs, has also depressed inflation.
- 2.8.28 However, the rise of China as an economic superpower over the last 30 years, which now accounts for nearly 20% of total world GDP, has unbalanced the world economy. In March 2021, western democracies implemented limited sanctions against a few officials in charge of Government policy on the Uighurs in Xinjiang; this led to a much bigger retaliation by China and is likely to mean that the China / EU investment deal then being negotiated, will not proceed.
- 2.8.29 After the pandemic exposed how frail extended supply lines were around the world, both factors are now likely to lead to a sharp retrenchment of economies into two blocs of western democracies v. autocracies. It is, therefore, likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a reversal of world globalisation and a decoupling of western countries from dependence on China to supply products and vice versa. This is likely to reduce world growth rates.

Central banks' monetary policy.

- 2.8.30 During the pandemic, the Governments of western countries have provided massive fiscal support to their economies which has resulted in a big increase in total Government debt in each country. It is therefore very important that bond yields stay low while debt to GDP ratios slowly subside under the impact of economic growth.
- 2.8.31 This provides Governments with a good reason to amend the mandates given to central banks to allow higher average levels of inflation than we have generally seen over the last couple of decades. Both the Fed and Bank of England have already changed their policy towards implementing their existing mandates on inflation, (and full employment), to hitting an average level of inflation. Greater emphasis could also be placed on hitting subsidiary targets e.g. full employment

before raising rates. Higher average rates of inflation would also help to erode the real value of Government debt more quickly.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 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.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 The preferred option is that the contents of the report are approved.

5 Consultation

5.1 There has been consultation with Link Asset Services, Treasury Management Advisors.

5.2 The presentation of the Treasury Management Review 2020/21 to the Audit Committee for detailed scrutiny on 29 June 2021 was in compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Codes of Practice. The report was then presented to Cabinet for approval on 23 August 2021. Cabinet was content to commend the report to Council for its approval.

5.3 Approval by Council will complete the compliance with the CIPFA Codes of Practice for 2020/21.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 All included in the report.

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 None

8 Cooperative Agenda

8.1 The treasury management strategy embraces the Council's cooperative agenda. The Council will develop its investment framework to ensure it complements the cooperative ethos of the Council.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 None

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 There are considerable risks to the security of the Authority's resources if appropriate treasury management strategies and policies are not adopted and

followed. The Council has established good practice in relation to treasury management which has previously been acknowledged in Internal Audit reports and in the External Auditors' reports presented to the Audit Committee.

11 IT Implications

11.1 None

12 Property Implications

12.1 None

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 None

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 None

15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications

15.1 None

16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed

16.1 No

17 Key Decision

17.1 Yes

18 Key Decision Reference

18.1 FLC-11-21

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:

File Ref: Background papers are provided in Appendices 1 and 2
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20 Appendices

Appendix 1 Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators
Appendix 2 Graphs

Appendix 1: Prudential and Treasury Indicators

TABLE 1: Prudential indicators	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
	Outturn	Original	Revised	Outturn
Capital Expenditure				
Non – HRA	52,249	142,094	76,061	68,830
HRA	2,134	5,538	4,952	4,397
TOTAL	54,383	147,632	81,013	73,227
Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream				
Non – HRA	13.41%	14.02%	14.02%	12.39%
In year Capital Financing Requirement				
Non – HRA	(21,503)	94,865	32,558	19,336
TOTAL	(21,503)	94,865	32,558	19,336
Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March	472,377	567,242	504,935	491,713

TABLE 2: Treasury management indicators	2019/20	2020/21	2020/21	2020/21
	Outturn	Original Budget	Revised	Outturn
Authorised Limit for external debt				
Borrowing	272,000	372,000	308,000	308,000
Other long term liabilities	240,000	229,500	229,500	229,500
TOTAL	512,000	601,500	537,500	537,500
Operational Boundary for external debt -				
Borrowing	260,000	350,000	288,000	288,000
Other long term liabilities	235,000	224,500	224,500	224,500
TOTAL	495,000	574,500	512,500	512,500
Actual external debt	403,710			397,248
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2020/21	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Actual
Under 12 months	40%	0%	32%
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%	10%
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	13%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	4%
10 years and above	50%	0%	40%

Appendix 2 Graphs

