

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 3 November 2021**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 26 October 2021

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 8th September 2021 and the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th September 2021 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 38)
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 Greater Manchester Policing Plan
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council
(time limit 20 minutes)

There are no petitions to note.

- 8 Leader's Annual Statement
- 9 Youth Council
(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 10 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 39 - 44)

(time limit 15 minutes)

23rd August 2021

13th September 2021

d Questions on Joint Arrangements (Pages 45 - 136)

(time limit 15 minutes)

GM Waste and Recycling Committee	13 th July 2021
GM Health and Social Care Partnership	30 th July 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	22 nd June 2021
GM Transport Committee	20 th August 2021
GMCA	25 th June 2021 10 th September 2021
Miocare	14 th July 2021
National Peak Park Authority	2 nd July 2021

11 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Shah to MOVE and Councillor Chadderton to SECOND:

Violence Against Women and Girls

This Council notes the shocking prevalence of violence against women and girls, most recently made visible by the appalling murders of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa. This is fuelled by a toxic culture of misogyny, with a recent report from the APPG for UN Women finding that 71% of women of all ages in the UK have experienced some form of sexual harassment in a public space.

Tackling the violence and misogyny in society is a long-term challenge that requires a collective response, from the online companies that enable the sharing of harmful and abusive content to employers not doing enough to address inequality in the workplace. This Council welcomes the recent publication of Greater Manchester's Gender-Based Violence Strategy, which sets out a ten-year plan that includes every part of our society. In Oldham we also take a partnership approach to addressing gender-based violence, aiming to prevent future abuse (including by educating young people about healthy relationships), addressing the behaviour of those who have perpetrated abuse and providing support to survivors. The Council is looking to strengthen this approach further, with a new Domestic Abuse Strategy following work with the charity SafeLives to review Oldham's current activity.

Where violence is committed against women and girls, it is important we have a robust response from our police to deliver justice. This Council notes the appalling statistic revealed by the Government's End-to-End Rape Review that only 1.6% of rape cases brought to the police result in a charge.

The fresh approach brought by the new Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police since his appointment is important if we are to rebuild faith that justice will be served. The disbanding of GMP's Serious Sexual Offences Unit in 2017 as part of a

transformation in favour of omni-competence raised questions about the priorities of the force at the time.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to Chief Constable Stephen Watson:

- Welcoming the improvement plan he has produced for Greater Manchester Police, including a recognition of the importance of Think Victim training, and acknowledgement that there has been a lack of focus on support for those most vulnerable.
- Welcoming the move away from the notion of omni-competence, and requesting information about what this will mean for specialist support for the victims of sexual violence
- Requesting information about what training officers generally are given to support the victims of sexual violence given the reports of women being treated poorly by non-specialist officers of GMP in the past

This Council also resolves to work cross-party to promote the consultation on Oldham's Domestic Abuse Strategy, which is published this week.

Motion 2

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Hulme to SECOND:

COP26

This Council notes the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), taking place in Glasgow, which aims to:

- Secure global net zero emissions by the middle of the century, thereby sustaining the possibility of keeping global temperature rises within the 1.5 degrees target that will avoid climate catastrophe
- Support countries to protect communities and natural habitats affected by climate change
- Mobilise at least \$100bn in climate finance per year
- Finalise rules for countries, businesses and civil to collaborate based on the Paris agreement

This Council welcomes the Government's decision to finally publish its long awaited net zero strategy. We note with concern however that much of the strategy relies on negative emissions technology that doesn't currently exist or is largely untested. Dr Gavin Killip from the University of Oxford has called the strategy "a big disappointment", noting that on home heating and efficiency "the level of financial support is too small, and too many important elements have been ignored." Dr Meysam Qadrdan from Cardiff University has also stated that "the proposed funding fall short", and Prof Kevin Anderson from the University of Manchester said "the UK's Net Zero strategy falls far short of both its Paris and G7 temperature and equality commitments. ... The numbers reveal a story of subterfuge, delusion, offsetting and piecemeal policies." The Wildlife Trusts state that the strategy "falls short of tackling both the nature and climate emergencies. ... It lacks the policies and investment needed to repair our broken natural world both on land and at sea, at the pace and scale required."

While the publication of a strategy, however inadequate, is welcome, this Council notes the recent failures of the Government when it comes to implementation. The National Audit Office described the Government's Green Homes Grants programme as

“botched”, and noted that “as a result, its benefits for carbon reduction were significantly reduced”. The Federation of Master Builders described the Government’s interventions as “flash in the pan policies”. The New Economics Foundation have estimated that 19 million cold homes could be retrofitted for £11.7bn, a fraction of the money spent on the failed test and trace system. They have stated that “the scale of finance committed by the government in decarbonising our leaky housing stock is less than a quarter of what is actually needed by 2025.”

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request that they:

- Enable local authorities to take the lead on developing the projects that will get us to net zero. Local authorities know their areas better than anyone, and with sufficient long-term resource can develop solutions that work for their community, addressing the climate emergency and driving sustainable economic growth and green jobs
- Put the climate emergency and green jobs at the heart of the “levelling up” agenda
- Demonstrate their commitment to Oldham, levelling up and the climate emergency by providing funding for our innovative town centre heat network proposals as originally included in our Towns Fund bid

12 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor H Gloster to SECOND:

Save Our Rivers

This Council notes that:

- Every river in England is now polluted beyond legal limits; with the Environment Agency rating only 14% as Good in 2019.
- Our local rivers, the Beal, Irk, Medlock, and Tame all failed the most recent test for chemical pollution carried out by the agency.
- This chemical pollution is mostly caused by sewage discharges from water companies and the run-offs of nutrients from farms.
- The Rivers Irk and Tame are particularly threatened by further sewage-water discharges.
- Government funding to the Environment Agency to monitor river quality and regulate farms and water companies has dropped 75% since 2010/11.
- Farms are now almost never inspected, water quality is rarely tested, and water companies can pump raw sewage into rivers with virtual impunity.
- In addition, tyre rubber particles, metals from brake pads, and hydrocarbons from vehicle emissions, wash off road surfaces and into rivers, endangering wildlife and potentially introducing carcinogenic material into the water supply.

Council believes that, as host nation of COP-26 (the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties) in Glasgow on 31 October – 12 November 2021, the UK Government should commit to:

- Restoring Environment Agency budgets
- Increasing inspections of water companies and farms, and rigorously prosecuting offenders.

- Funding local and highways authorities to introduce treatment systems to prevent road pollutants from entering our water courses.

Council resolves to request the Chief Executive write to:

- The Environment Minister calling for the Government to make these commitments as host nation of COP-26.
- The Chief Executive of United Utilities calling for further urgent action to address the impact of waste-water discharges on our local rivers, particularly the Irk and Tame.
- The Regional Director of the National Farmers' Union requesting clarification on the action being taken locally by farmers to prevent the run-off of nutrients into our rivers.
- The charity River Action expressing this Council's support for their campaign to restore the health of Britain's rivers.

With our three MPs to be copied into this correspondence and asked for their support.

Motion 2

Councillor Lancaster to MOVE and Councillor Woodvine to SECOND:

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, Crompton Moor and Moorside in our Borough, ought to be included in any additional protected land allocation and can significantly contribute to meeting this national 30% target
- South Pennines Park (formerly '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 3

Councillor Al-Hamdani to MOVE and Councillor C Gloster to SECOND:

Future proofing our properties from flooding

Council notes that:

- Climate change will result in more incidents of flooding in the UK.
- The disaster relief charity ShelterBox estimated 5 million UK homes could be at risk of flooding by 2040.

- Properties in Shaw and Saddleworth have historically been flooded.
- It is becoming increasingly difficult to build defences capable of protecting all properties at risk of flooding.
- The campaign group 'Know Your Flood Risk' is calling upon central Government to make grants available to homeowners and small business owners in flood risk areas to make their properties 'flood resilient'.
- Flood resilience means designing, building and adapting properties such that if they are inundated, they can be made liveable again within days or weeks. This can involve actions such as rendering indoor walls, relaying flooring in water-proof materials or raising kitchen units.
- Victims of major floods are eligible for £5,000 support after the event, but Council believes that a more sensible approach would be to provide grant aid in advance to homeowners and small business owners to help make their properties flood resilient and that this would reduce the long-term cost to the public purse. Such a proposal has the support of the National Flood Forum and the Royal Institute of British Architects.
- 'Know Your Flood Risk' also publishes online guidance for local authorities and home and business owners and offers individual flood risk surveys for property owners.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requesting the Minister look to introduce grant aid to homeowners and small business owners in areas of flood risk to facilitate flood resilience work.
- Ask the Chief Executive to copy in our three local MPs, the Greater Manchester Mayor and the Clerks of the Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils asking for their support.
- Ask the relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Officer to ensure that information about the offer to residents and small business owners of the campaign group 'Know Your Flood Risk' is posted, with links, on the Council's website, and make a request to the Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils to do the same.

Motion 4

Councillor Arnott to MOVE and Councillor Abid to SECOND:

Clean Air Zone

We note with disappointment that the Mayor of Greater Manchester (MoGM) and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) have decided to press ahead with a Clean Air Charge for Greater Manchester (Gtr Manchester). The Gtr Manchester Clean Air Zone will end up being the largest in the UK, measuring 493 square miles. With costs and expenditure set to fall on taxpayers who will have to foot the bill for the infrastructure, maintenance as well as monitoring of cameras and extra layers of red tape, the bureaucracy for billing and collection.

The MoGM and GMCA had two options, and they were:

- Non-charging Clean Air Zones.
- Charging Clean Air Zones.

The decision to charge was made by the MoGM and GMCA. The zone and plans to charge are ill

thought out and badly timed with the pandemic having hit Oldham and Gtr Manchester's economy hard. With vans, buses, coaches, taxis, private hire vehicles

and lorries set to be hit and with many of them being self-employed or working as part of small businesses who already face immense financial difficulties. It is a tax on hard pressed workers and businesses.

The charge will mean that certain vehicles will pay £60 a day to drive within the zone, with vans paying £10 and taxi and private hire vehicles paying £7.50. Failure to pay will result in a £120 fine plus the daily charge.

We believe that this scheme and the required infrastructure will eventually lead to the charge being broadened out to charge motorists of all vehicles and is nothing more than a congestion charge by the back door.

This Council resolves that:

- Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council rejects the need to charge vehicles in the Gtr Manchester Clean Air Zone.
- That the people of Gtr Manchester including Oldham rejected congestion charging in 2008 via a referendum and that any attempt to charge vehicles in future must be put to a referendum once again.
- The Chief Executive and Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council write to the MoGM and GMCA to inform them that Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will unilaterally withdraw from the Gtr Manchester Clean Air Zone.
- That if required by law that Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to implement a Non-charging Clean Air Zone should Oldham need to implement a Clean Air Zone.

13 Covid-19 Response Update (Pages 137 - 146)

14 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 147 - 162)

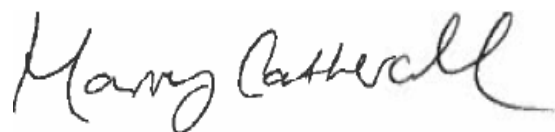
15 District Leads 2021-22

Report to follow.

16 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21 (Pages 163 - 184)

17 Organisational Framework (Pages 185 - 188)

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

