

COUNCIL
03/11/2021 at 6.00 pm



Present: The Mayor – Councillor Harrison

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, G. Alexander, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Birch, Briggs, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Hindle, Hobin, A Hussain, F Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, 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 Abid, Hulme, Leach and C Phythian.

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

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 8th September 2021 be approved as correct records.

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

Councillor Garry declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 10d by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10d by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Hazel Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10d by virtue of her husband's receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Surjan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Item 13.

Councillor Hamblett declared an other registerable interest at Item 10d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared an other registerable interest at Item 10d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the Board.

Councillor S Bashforth declared an other registerable interest at Item 10d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the 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 made reference to the recent death of Sir David Amess MP following a knife attack during a surgery at his constituency in Leigh-on-Sea and the Council held a minute's silence in his memory.

6 **GREATER MANCHESTER POLICING PLAN**

Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen addressed the meeting.

The Council was informed that he had been in post for five weeks. He would be focussing on the future of policing in Oldham.

He had come to a passionate workforce that wanted to make a difference to the communities of Greater Manchester (GM), that needed to pull in the same direction to make things better.

GMP would make five promises to the people of GM:-

1. Respond to incidents and emergencies
2. Investigate and solve crime
3. Prevent, reduce crime, reduce harm and reduce anti-social behaviour
4. Deliver outstanding service
5. Build back public trust and confidence

Delivery of the first four promises would help to deliver the fifth.

Councillor Shah asked how it was intended to deliver promise five and build trust back within communities?

Chief Superintendent Bowen responded that delivery of the first four promises would deliver the fifth. The force had to prove to the people that promises 1-4 were actually being delivered and the statistics would show this. It was accepted that there would be times when things were not right, and these would be identified and lessons learned to stop it happening again.

Councillor Sheldon welcomed the new Chief Superintendent.

Councillor Sykes asked how it would be possible to return to community policing and what three things would have visibly improved for Oldham residents in twelve months time?

Chief Superintendent Bowen responded that he was passionate about neighbourhood policing and its benefit. A neighbourhood policing review was currently being undertaken and it would ensure every area had a named police officer. Three things to demonstrate improvement:-

1. Get to victims quickly, respond appropriately and deal with properly
2. Free up neighbourhood policing to do true problem-solving policing
3. Increase visibility of neighbourhood policing

This would require time to implement new procedures and he would happily come back to provide updates to inform the Council on progress.

Councillor Hobin welcomed the new Chief Superintendent.

The Mayor thanked Chief Superintendent Bowen for his attendance.

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

8 **LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, delivered her first Annual Statement.

The Leader reminded the Council of her priorities, as set out in May 2021.

- Getting back to basics by investing in cleaning up streets, taking action on littering and flytipping and restoring a sense of pride in neighbourhoods.
- Steering the town's economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic – supporting local businesses, creating jobs and attracting investment and funding. At the heart of this was the delivery of key regeneration schemes, both in the town centre and elsewhere.
- Reconnecting with local people, to acknowledge that many residents felt distant from the decisions made about their area and from how their local services were run, and to do something to put that right.
- Continuing to support the most vulnerable and to drive out inequality and unfairness wherever it existed.

The recruitment of a new Chief Executive, Harry Catherall, had made a real difference to the culture and approach in the organisation. He shared the Leader's passion for putting residents at the centre of everything the Council did and for providing great quality local services and was already working to drive that culture through every council service and to every council employee. Thanks were given to the Chief Executive for what he had already done for Oldham and for the amazing things he would continue to achieve for local people.

The scale of the challenges that Oldham and its people faced and the role of elected members in addressing those challenges was acknowledged

The Leader referred to the difficulties of the last eighteen months. Many local people felt the impact of the pandemic on their jobs and their wages as well as their health, and rising costs for basic necessities like food and fuel were pushing more people into poverty. The recent cut to universal credit had served to push people further towards financial crisis. Young people had seen their education significantly disrupted by the

pandemic, and more disrupted in Oldham than other areas of the country. Public services had been stretched to breaking point through sheer demand— hospitals, ambulance service and GPs and also services like welfare rights and other support teams. The pandemic had increased the number of young people and families needing support from safeguarding services to keep them safe.

The Leader highlighted that, at such times, Councils and the services they provided were vital and mattered more than ever to local communities. To support them, the Council needed fair funding through sustainable levels of funding that acknowledged the level of need in different areas. It was not true levelling up to ask local council-tax payers to bear the brunt of the impact of the pandemic on local services like adult social care through increased ‘precepts’. It was not levelling up to ensure that areas with high levels of need were left with the stark choices of cutting local services, selling off local assets or heaping the financial burden onto already struggling local taxpayers. There could be no levelling up until there was acknowledgement of the huge impact that ten years of government cuts had on services. In Oldham that amounted to nearly £200 million of funding stripped from local services since 2011.

The Leader referred to her top priority of in the last few months, listening to residents to make sure the nature of the challenges they faced was understood. As part of this, meetings would be held in each area, to give people the chance to ask questions and raise local issues with the Leader and the Chief Executive. These sessions were open to everyone and were a real opportunity for people to share their views and ask anything they needed to of the Council.

A Big Conversation would be held with local people about the town centre regeneration plans. The Leader was excited about the prospects for Spindles, for the new housing planned for the area, for the fantastic new town centre park, for our new events space, new theatre, for a new improved home for Tommyfield Market and for the plans for the Egyptian Rooms. This investment was crucial to create a new future for the Town Centre as shopping and leisure habits changed even more in light of the pandemic. The purchase of Spindles was a vital step in delivering this future and a planning application was expected to be submitted before the end of the year, with work on site starting soon after.

The town centre belonged to the people of Oldham and would not thrive without their support, so the plans needed to reflect their thoughts, their wishes and their concerns through open discussion. The Big Conversation was happening now and residents could add their thoughts online if they were unable to make the events.

The Leader highlighted the need for innovation and fresh thinking to shape our own economic destiny as a town. She had asked Alun Francis to lead an Independent Economic Review,

with a group of experts – everyone from national think tanks, academics and local business people - to hear evidence on how best to create economic growth in Oldham in a way that genuinely worked for local people. What was required were great jobs and Oldham people in those jobs to get on in life. The Review would be making its recommendations early next year.



The Leader informed the Council she had invited levelling up minister Michael Gove for a visit and that invitation remained open but believed the Government would not be coming to help Oldham.

The Leader highlighted that there was much to do to tackle the inequalities and injustices that continued to shame society. She was determined to use her time as leader to make a difference for those who experienced discrimination and unfairness on a daily basis. She had recently launched the Oldham Women's Taskforce, with a group of truly inspiring women from across the borough who had given up their time to highlight and tackle the issues that made women's lives most difficult. Issues that particularly affected women could be missed or treated as an afterthought and the taskforce would put them front and centre. An Equality Strategy had been published, and with the Women's Taskforce, the Poverty Truth Commission, and work at Greater Manchester with the Cooperatives and Inclusion portfolio, there would be a lot more to come on this agenda in the weeks and months ahead. A programme with local businesses to create jobs for people who have been in the criminal justice system or are at risk of becoming involved in crime was due to be launched very soon.

The Leader referred to her desire for Oldham to be a place people were really proud to call home. She highlighted the work of Councillor Amanda Chadderton in bringing forward a solution to litter issues. £1.27m would be invested to enhance street cleaning and the fly-tipping enforcement budget. This had been used to increase permanent street cleaning and enforcement staff, work more closely with local communities and voluntary groups and instigate a deep clean of the whole borough. In the first month of the deep clean the team picked up 17 tonnes of litter. Since May there had been 84 community litter picks, and fly-tipping prosecutions were way up.

The Leader referred to the murder of Sir David Amess MP and the risk taken by Councillors in representing their communities. She expressed the wish that this tragic incident would act as a catalyst for change in Oldham and elsewhere. Councillors regularly faced abuse, harassment and intimidation online and in person. She was seeking less hatred and less personal abuse, most of which was fuelled by lies and misinformation, and by the colour of her skin, her religion and the fact that she was a woman.

The Leader highlighted that, over the last few months, she had faced regular death threats, had been approached and verbally attacked in the street and, on a small number of occasions,

physically threatened by people. She urged Councillors to collectively agree not to fuel mistrust and division, to address misinformation rather than use it for political gain, and to publicly condemn those who sought to spread hate and incite abuse. The best way to combat the hate and vitriol seen online and in real life was by working well together and with mutual respect. The contribution of the whole Council was needed to meet the ambitious plans for the borough and the aim to improve local people's lives.



RESOLVED that the content of the Leader's Annual Statement be noted.

9 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There were no items submitted by the Youth Council.

10 **QUESTIONS TIME**

a Public Questions

1. Question received from Robert Barnes
The time limit for Public Questions has been reduced to 15 minutes by this administration. Would the Council Leader give serious consideration to restoring the time limit to 30 minutes? In addition, at the moment there is no right of reply to the question that has been asked. In the interests of openness, transparency, accountability and democracy, will the Council Leader give serious consideration to allow the public a right of reply of two minutes to an answer they have been given by an Elected Member? Elected Members are servants of the people. Isn't it time that this administration acknowledged that?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that it was important to say that every public question that was submitted to Full Council received an answer from the Leader or another Cabinet Member and they tried to fit as many answers into the meeting as they could. Any that they did not get to received a written response that was also published on the Council's website.

By extending time for public questions the Council would however, have to reduce time for other urgent and important business that it had to get through or reduce time for elected representatives to raise issues or queries about their wards. A right of reply could be considered, but this would inevitably reduce the number of public questions that could be addressed in any meeting.

Decisions about changes to Full Council timings were made by a cross-party group made up of the Leader and fellow group leaders and this could be taken to a future meeting for discussion.

As a Conservative candidate for a councillor position, Mr Barnes could also raise this with Councillor Sheldon, who could also bring it to that meeting for discussion.



2. Question received from Julie and George Heywood
My question is to the leader of oldham council. Does she think it is OK for ombc to block and blank my dad's concerns, he is 89 yrs old has been waiting for a call back since June last year!! Also blocked from I love oldham page on Facebook. complaints had me ring my complaint then email then put it in writing to be then told "i'm out of time" do you think something needs to be done to prevent us the public from having our concerns and complaints blocked and blanked. Thankyou

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that the Council's social media channels aimed to provide an informative, engaging and inclusive space for all residents of Oldham. The Council would answer questions, provide useful information, and signpost residents to the services and departments they need.

Posts that directed criticism to the Council were not usually removed. In fact, we welcomed – and encouraged – feedback from our residents. We were happy to be told where we had got it wrong.

However, there was a zero tolerance approach to racism and abuse on our social media pages, just as there would be in face to face conversations. That was why the Council had a policy on what was deemed to be acceptable use, which was published on both the Facebook page and the website.

On occasion, there were comments that did not meet the social standards and the Council was forced to remove them. If users breached this policy more than once, or if they used language that was deemed serious, then they would be blocked from commenting on posts.

On 10 December 2019, Ms Heywood was banned from commenting on posts, as her comment breached what would be deemed to be acceptable.

The policy clearly stated that anyone making abusive, discriminatory or offensive comments would have them removed and they would be blocked from posting on our channels.

George Heywood was not listed as currently, or ever, having been banned from commenting.

The Leader was aware that Ms Heywood had previously complained about being blocked from the Facebook page, and the Council had responded to her some weeks ago to explain why. It had also clarified that her father had not been blocked.

It had also been confirmed to Ms Heywood that, given the length of time that had passed, she had been reinstated on the Love Oldham facebook page, and could now engage with content in line with the social media rules.

3. Question received from Joshua Charters
Throughout the country Young Carers are struggling with the

pressures put on them as they try to balance education, work, caring responsibilities and perhaps, if possible, leisure time. Unfortunately, young people with caring responsibilities are often hidden from public view and struggle to find the help and support they need. Could the relevant Cabinet Member, please tell us how many young people in Oldham are classed as Young Carers and what services we have in place to support them?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People replied that there were 601 young carers receiving support from Positive Steps at the end of March 2021, but this was only the tip of the iceberg, there were many more young carers out there who were hidden from view. The Council contracted with Positive Steps to deliver a Young Carers Support Service. This provided and maintained a support service for young people with caring responsibilities who were living or educated in Oldham and to their families. They worked with schools and other support agencies to identify young people aged 8 to 18 who had caring responsibilities and assessed the needs of individuals to agree the level of support needed. They also led on delivery of targeted interventions for those young people who needed intensive care

Positive Steps attracted additional funding through Charitable Trusts and donations to support work with young people with caring responsibilities. They had recently secured a grant from Children in Need which would enable them to develop a peer support programme with some of the older young people aged 14+ and enabled them to employ a coordinator for the Service. During the pandemic, rather than furloughing staff, Positive Steps chose to provide additional support to these young people, using their own resources, as they were concerned that, with schools closed, the responsibilities and lack of respite time was increased. They also arranged for all young people active within the service to obtain an iPad so that they could continue with their schooling and use it for social contact and leisure activities.

Councillor Moores had visited Positive Steps the day before and met two young carers. He had heard how they supported members of their family and how they valued the support provided by the service.

4. Question received from Leanne Munroe

I am very concerned about a huge increase in fuel bills at the same time that the government has cut Universal Credit by £20 a week, food costs are rising and furlough has ended. What will be the impact on Oldham residents and what can the Council do to help?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon

replied that the Council was keenly aware of the financial pressures being faced by many in Oldham and the highest

tax burden in peacetime falling on working people. In this regard the Council was providing support in a number of ways:

- Firstly, using Oldham's allocation the Government's Household Support Fund to support vulnerable families with children and young people with food over the October half term and again over the Christmas 2021 period and February 2022 half term holiday.
- Secondly, using funding from the Government's Holiday Food and Activities programme to provide a range of support including the provision of healthy food and enriching activities, for school-aged children who receive benefits-related free school meals.
- Thirdly, the Warm Homes team assist residents in need with emergency credit vouchers for electricity and gas and with new and replacement boilers as well as give practical advice on switching energy supplier or tariff, energy saving measures and reducing energy use around the home.
- Fourthly, the Local Welfare Provision Scheme was available to support those in crisis with essential household items including beds, bedding, white goods and furniture.

There was also the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme to assist residents where Housing Benefit or Universal Credit did not meet the full rent being charged and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme supported those on low incomes to pay their Council Tax. The Council understood the additional financial pressures on households in Oldham and was doing all it could to support them.

5. Question received from Sarah Birch

I saw a report on Northwest tonight saying Oldham has a housing crisis – can the Cabinet member for Housing explain if this is true and whether the recent news that all social homes in Oldham will be available through the Housing Options service will make any difference?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that Oldham Council had over 6,000 households on the housing register who all had a housing need. Oldham Council operated a Common Allocation Framework (CAF) and members of the CAF (there were had 6 registered social landlords who took part) provided all of their available to rent homes through this framework. (The remaining 5 registered providers operated a nominations agreement, letting half of their available to rent social homes to households on the Council's housing register). The Council received approximately 150 re-housing applications each week, of these approximately 80% or 120 were accepted onto the Council's rehousing register.

When the pandemic hit there was a sharp decrease in the number of social homes becoming available to rent, with approximately 5 – 10 homes becoming available each week. The number of socially rented homes becoming available to

rent was increasing, with an average for the past 4 weeks of 32 per week. This meant that the numbers on the Housing Register were still increasing by about 100 households a week.



Oldham had also seen an increase in homelessness applications from 1,286 in 19/20 to 1,367 in 20/21, which was an increase of over 6% over the past 12 months.

As a local authority, we were doing all we could to try and improve supply and access to affordable homes within the borough including the ambitious Creating a Better Place Programme. However, we needed a change in Government policy to provide Oldham with the funding to build social homes at the scale needed to meet the increasing demand, demonstrated by the number of households on the Housing Register.

6. Question received from Neil Wilby
Would Cllr Shah, on behalf of the Council, please provide Members with an update on the progress of the Oldham Strand of the Greater Manchester Mayor's Assurance Review regarding Child Sexual Exploitation? Thank you

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that the ongoing independent review into historic safeguarding practices was being led by the GMCA and it was the Combined Authority, and report authors Malcom Newsome and Gary Ridgeway who would determine final arrangements for its publication. She had not yet had sight of the draft report, and would not until it had been finalised, but I was assured by Andy Burnham that the report would be published by the end of the year as he indicated it would.

What she could promise was that, when it was published, we would welcome its findings, reflect on any lessons we could learn from past practice and aim to make the support we gave to victims of abuse better. At the heart of this review was reinstating trust and confidence in our safeguarding procedures, so that people felt confident reporting concerns, knowing that they would be dealt with robustly and sensitively.

As promised, as soon as we had a publication date, we would arrange a special meeting for Councillors and members of the public to ask any questions and consider the findings.

7. Question received from Dale Rees
Please can i ask what's going on with this barrier we was promised to stop fly tipping at back of St james Church in derker where its bad for fly tipping i see all other locations have been done?

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that other barriers were now in place across Oldham in some of the fly-tipping hotspots, and to very positive effect. This one required a legal process to

be undertaken, which would take between 3 to 6 months. Officers had been asked to do this as soon as possible and if, as expected, there was a positive outcome, to install the barrier as soon as they could.



8. Question received from Neil Wilby
Would Cllr Shah, on behalf of the Council, please inform Members of progress being made with regards to tackling on-line abuse in the darker corners of the internet in Oldham. The Hate Crime Awareness Week campaign, run by the Council, was well conceived and executed but is there any positive steps that can be taken by the Executive Management Team to arrest the problem? Thank you.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform responded that it was known that this had been a particular issue in Oldham over the last few years with a small minority of people spreading lies and misinformation widely online in order to incite abuse both online and in 'real-life'.

From her own experience taking steps against the abuse this incited was difficult as reporting to social media platforms often offered no response or action, even where content was clearly racist, misogynistic or part of a targeted campaign of harassment.

Where it was believed that online abuse that that had been notified was of a threatening nature or could be considered a hate crime it was always reported to Greater Manchester Police. Others subjected to such abuse were urged to also report it through the proper channels.

b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group:

Question 1 – Marking Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee

"My first question tonight relates to the concerns the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year.

First and foremost, I hope all Council will join me in wishing her majesty a full and speedy recovery from her recent spell of being under the weather.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II will in 2022 have been our noble sovereign and Head of the Commonwealth for 70 years, and there are rightly calls from every quarter that this magnificent and unsurpassed achievement in public service be properly celebrated in every corner of our land.

In June, I wrote to Councillor Chadderton as Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, requesting that rose varieties named after Her Majesty the Queen and her late husband HRH Prince Phillip should be planted side-by-side in Oldham's major public parks and



gardens as a tribute to our Royal Family.

I also copied in Councillor Hulme as Council Tree Champion as I suggested that we get our borough's residents involved in a tree planting programme to mark the Platinum Jubilee, with schools and community groups planting trees in our parks and gardens.

On 2 June 2022, the actual date of the anniversary, localities in the UK and across the Commonwealth are being invited to light beacons, to arrange for town criers to make proclamations, and at the setting of the sun local pipe bands will play a unique tune specially composed for the occasion.

We shall no doubt also receive many calls from our Borough's residents for permission to hold street parties and other celebratory events.

So, can the Leader please tell me what is being done to prepare for this momentous event, and will she also consider appointing a senior member of her Administration as a Champion to co-ordinate the effort?"

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that there were discussion taking places and proposals being put forward, which would be shared when they were finalised. She agreed that the Jubilee should be celebrated in the dignified way it warranted.

Question 2 – Princes Gate turns Seven

"For my second question tonight, I want to return to a subject that has now become a fixture in the annual Council calendar.

No, I am not referring to the Oldham Big Bang which explodes once more tomorrow night. Instead, it is that annual question that I as Opposition Leader ask about Prince's Gate.

For once more this month we shall arrive at yet another anniversary of the announcement by a former Council Leader, now thrice removed, of the supposed 'gamechanger' that was to be Prince's Gate. And this year this farce turns seven.

I would have brought a birthday cake with candles to share, but we have yet to even see the birth.

For Princes' Gate has had a gestation period over four times longer than an elephant. (That's 18 to 22 months by the way). On 19 November 2014, the BBC first reported Oldham Council's announcement of the 'game changer' and the promise of a 150,000 square foot retail development, with 800 homes and 700 parking spaces.

This project has seen numerous false dawns. It is now two years since the latest when in the Council's Town Centre Vision this Administration promised work 'due to start on site autumn 2019'.



The project has also been significantly scaled back. The early withdrawal of “missing retail giant” Marks and Spencer meant we now have only the promise of a 28,500 square foot retail development – one fifth the size of the original proposal – and supporting acts Lidl and Travelodge, not original headliner M+S.

So, as we rapidly approach the seventh anniversary of inactivity, please can the Leader tell me if there is any possibility - whatsoever - of shovels in the ground any time soon?”

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that it was disappointing that Princes Gate had not progressed and the frustrations were shared. The detailed plans were available on the website for comment. As set out in her Annual Statement, a detailed planning application was expected for Spindles towards the end of this year, with the project commencing soon after for the wider town centre regeneration.

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:

Question 1 – Oldham Ramblers

Would the Leader join me in thanking the Oldham Ramblers for their sterling work over the past 12 months? The group did their last job for the year yesterday and will now take a break until spring. They are a voluntary group who turn out in all weathers to tidy up footpaths around our Borough. The group use their own equipment, tools and their own time to carry out this work. on occasion, they may need some financial support and we, as Councillors, can support this work through our individual budgets. I would also like to encourage residents to get out into the fresh air and discover the paths which have now been cleared. Walking is a sure way to enjoy the outdoors and is a benefit both for our mental health and social interaction. Once again, my sincere thanks to the Oldham Ramblers.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that of course she would join him in thanking them, as she would with any voluntary group that was improving the Borough. She would be happy to meet with them to discuss how the Council could work with them as part of the “Don’t Trash Oldham” campaign, as those footpaths were vital to the Borough. It would be nice of she and the Mayor could meet them jointly to acknowledge and celebrate their achievements.

Question 2 – Fireworks

Please will the Leader condemn all illegal sales of fireworks and ask members of the public to respect their neighbours, particularly those with young children, when setting off fireworks? May I also highlight the distress fireworks can cause to pets and livestock, which all suffer from loud noises. I would ask everybody to enjoy fireworks but be responsible when lighting them.



Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that she agreed fireworks being set off could be distressful and harmful and the Council would do what it could to promote the use of safe fireworks. She joined the condemnation of the sale of illegal fireworks, which not only caused distress but also were unacceptable in being set off at all times of the day and night. Action was needed along with a strong lobbying perspective, and she would do what she could to promote the use of safe fireworks.

The Council agreed to waive Council Procedure Rule 2.1.3 (h) to allow Councillor Hindle to ask a question.

Councillor Hindle asked the following question:

In light of the news that the Council could find no development partner for the Spindles site and is planning to self-deliver, would a more sensible option be to cut the losses and sell the site on? With the Council's track record on projects, Princes Gate, the flagship Queen Elizabeth hall conference centre, and the massive overspend on the cinema, to name a few, this has the makings of becoming another money pit. The previous Leader assured us that it was a bargain purchase, surely then someone will take this bargain off our hands. Our residents deserve better than having to pay for any more vanity projects.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that it would absolutely not be sold. It was in the middle of the town centre and the Council could not afford for it to be owned by people who did not care about it. We had been there before and it had grim consequences. There were plans that would be live next year and it was the Council's job to support the town centre and build its future. She was not going to apologise for being ambitious for the people of the town or the town centre.

1. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:
With a number of new residential developments now underway in Chadderton Central Ward and also the fact that we have 2 high schools all situated on the west side of Broadway, could the Cabinet Member responsible for transport please explain what is being put in place to encourage people living, working and studying in this area to walk, cycle or use public transport?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that there was a lot going on to make it easier for people to get around on foot, by bike or to use the bus.

The Mayor's Bee Network cycling and walking plan included two schemes in the Chadderton area – one linking Broadway to the Metrolink stop at Freehold, and one linking Broadway to the Rochdale Canal. We were also working with local residents in Chadderton North and Westwood to



design Oldham's first Active Neighbourhood scheme to make it easier for them to get around on foot and by bike. We were working with Transport for Greater Manchester to improve public transport, with the number of parking spaces at Mills Hill Rail Station set to double as part of a scheme to improve the Park and Ride there, and plans being developed to improve the main bus route between Oldham, Rochdale and Ashton. Greater Manchester was also changing the way buses were run, bringing them under local control, which would mean better services for all areas, including Chadderton Central.

We were asking TfGM to look at whether Metrolink could be extended from Oldham to Middleton as part of their long term plan.

This was all part of a much bigger plan for Greater Manchester to have a London-style active travel and public transport network that would make it easier for everyone to get around.

2. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:
Could the Cabinet member for Finance please explain to the council and to Oldham's residents and businesses the impact of the Chancellor's budget and spending review? What will be the impact over the next few years on personal budgets and on the council's capacity to deliver quality services?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that the Chancellor had placed the highest tax burden on the people in peacetime.

There were a range of issues that impacted on personal finances including changes to universal credit, but the overall impact on individuals would be linked to personal circumstances. However, the previously announced increase in National Insurance Contributions to support health and social care spending would have a detrimental impact on household incomes.

The fundamental review of Business Rates had been deferred which would not only impact on businesses but also the financing of the Council. However, business rates reliefs were extended for retail, leisure and hospitality businesses into 2022/23.

There was clearly additional funding for Local Government - £4.8bn of new grant funding over the next 3 financial years, but the additional resources announced were at such a high level it was not possible to determine the actual benefit to the Council until the detail was provided in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, which was expected in December. The receipt of additional funding would support the Council in its budget setting and would support the financial sustainability of the Council for 20-22/23 and future years. Once the detail was known, the financial forecasts of the Council would be finalised.

3. Councillor Garry asked the following question:



I was shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Sir David Amess MP at his surgery – taking part in a fundamental building block of our democracy: the ability of our constituents to meet their representatives face to face, alone.

I watched the tributes – from all sides of the House – and was moved by the responses. A cursory appraisal of what was written in most of the daily newspapers was also positive, calling for more respect of opposing views etc. I was therefore, understandably surprised to read of the vile abuse and death threat that an Oldham MP has received from a troll on facebook, but pleased that the disgraceful troll has now received a suspended prison sentence and a fine for his actions.

However. I was outraged when a resident called ‘John’ wrote the following on the Oldham Times facebook page as a result of a report on Jim’s “Justice has left Town” article, and I will read the comment to you.

“This quote said by Cher’s character to Daryl Van Horne in “The Witches of Eastwick” perfectly sums up JM and his phoney cronies at OMBC.

You are physically repulsive, intellectually retarded, you’re morally reprehensible, vulgar, insensitive, selfish, stupid, you have no taste, a lousy sense of humour and you smell.

You’re not even interesting enough to make me sick.”

Obviously, I reported this to facebook and was told that it doesn’t go against any of our Community Standards. For this reason, we didn’t take the comment down.

I find John’s disgraceful comments sickening and wonder, will we never rise up above the pits that political discourse seems to have descended to as long as such disgraceful comments (against whichever Political Party) are allowed?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that she agreed on this issue and more should be done to regulate online hate and abuse. Unfortunately the Community Standards that social media platforms claimed to uphold were, quite simply, a joke. She had reported several posts that were racist and abusive in nature, only to be told that they did not breach the standards. Facebook and other social media platforms were, at their heart, advertising platforms and should be held to similar standards as other advertising, as on television and in print. Those who ran such groups should moderate the content. On the Council’s social media channels, there was a zero-tolerance approach and posts were removed as soon as the Council became aware of them and it was hoped other local organisations would follow suit.

4. Councillor Byrne asked the following question:
There are Definitive Footpaths in most wards which have not been given attention during the past 18 months.
Many have been deliberately blocked, signs turned in opposite directions and many just fallen into disrepair.



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Enforcements on actions to rectify these have been almost non-existent by the Council for a number of reasons throughout this Pandemic.

I know of a number of Footpath issues that have been raised in the Saddleworth Wards.

These are the 'Rural' Wards where these paths are now in greater use by residents not only from these wards but from the wider Oldham area.

Open air recreation has become very important to so many people and as a Council we have encouraged this.

We are now to have a new Footpaths Officer and can I ask that he has a suitable budget and time to recommence and enforce rules and Laws that have been suspended during the Time of COVID so that it does not just fall to willing volunteers and Councillors Allowances to put right.

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that a new permanent full-time Public Rights of Way (PROW) officer was appointed this summer 2021 and had been working to re-establish communications and relationships with many local walking groups and associations over the last few months. He had been already focussing on dealing with numerous unofficial "blockages" on the PROW network that were not dealt with during the early Covid lockdown period. This backlog of very specific issues was being prioritised by the PROW officer.

In addition to the full-time permanent post, there was overall funding of £35,000 per year for PROW small schemes / maintenance works – this comprised both revenue and capital monies. In order to fund larger capital scheme improvements, where possible funds were approved within the overall Highways Capital programme for individual schemes such as the very recent replacement of the large bridleway bridge across Church Road in Uppermill carrying the Pennine Bridleway. There were further funds approved within this programme for two more replacement footbridges totalling £165,000.

Where possible external grant funding was also applied for and, if necessary, the Council did match-fund.

5. Councillor C Gloster asked the following question:

Any anticipated action on tackling HMO's?

In the Oldham Liberal Democrats' written submission to the Local Plan, the group called for tighter controls on premises being converted to Houses of Multiple Occupation, or HMO's. This was picked up by the Oldham Times who asked the Cabinet Member for Housing for her comments where she accused the Liberal Democrats of 'playing to the gallery'.

It is notable that Jim McMahon MP, who is the MP representing constituents in Cllr Robert's Ward, has recently called for the very same thing stating that Oldham Council needs to act now to stop the constant stream of HMO applications, adding: 'I would press for action to be

prioritised to address this head on' (Oldham Times 1/10/21). Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell us if we can now envisage action to be prioritised or is Jim McMahon MP simply playing to the gallery as well?



Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing replied that the Council was already considering what measures are available enable stronger management of the conversion of properties to HMO's. Any changes to Council planning policy on the conversion of properties to HMO's would need to be made through the Local Plan review, as new planning policies could not be introduced without the due process of a Local Plan examination and the adoption of those new policies within a new Local Plan. Once adopted, those policies could then be material considerations in the planning application process.

Alongside this, the Council was exploring introducing Article 4 Directions and specifically included this issue in the issues and options consultation on the Local Plan, where there was evidence that would justify the removal of permitted development rights for the conversion of homes to HMO's housing fewer than seven unrelated individuals. Currently, permitted development rights meant that no planning permission was needed for such a conversion. For all conversions of non-residential properties to HMO's, and for conversion of residential properties to HMO's of seven or more people, planning permission was already required.

6. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:
The land at the former failed Collective Spirit Free School site within Chadderton South Ward was returned to Council control some years ago now and one individual, from outside Chadderton South, continues to question the future use of the site. Part of the site has already been returned to Whitegate End Primary School to benefit the children who have missed out on the use of the playing field in recent years.

While this site appears on the Strategic Housing Land Availability schedule, may I ask the appropriate Cabinet member to confirm:

- if this land would only be suitable for housing?
- has there been any interest in the purchase of the land from any developer?
- is there, or has there been, any application under consideration for housing development or any other development?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that a site of this site and nature could have a number of potential uses, however given the well-publicised shortage of quality new homes (and in particular of affordable homes) within the borough, and the need to meet the Government's Housing targets while minimising the impact on the greenbelt, housing was considered to represent the most

appropriate use of the land in these circumstances. There had been no recent direct enquiries from developers for this specific site. The Council had not taken forward any planning applications in relation to the site to date.



7. Councillor Mushtaq asked the following question:
Following the highly successful clean-up campaign in Alexandra Ward this September the ward councillors have received numerous comments expressing gratitude and praising the staff for their great work. They have also asked that this great work be complemented by stronger enforcement and prosecutions to help reduce the number of people fly-tipping can the relevant cabinet member please update us on these issues.

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, thanked him for the question and the appreciation of the team involved in the 'Don't Trash Oldham' work that happened in Alexandra ward in September. It was good to hear such positive comments from residents and businesses in this and other wards. She would like to reassure the Councillor that the Council's Environmental Enforcement team were constantly responding to new reports of flytipping and where evidence was found will progress the case and either serve a fixed penalty notice or look to instigate legal proceedings against the offenders. As a comparator, across Greater Manchester, Oldham Council has a good reputation for flytipping enforcement actions with the latest benchmarking statistics showing that we are 3rd out of the 10 local authorities in Gm.

This enforcement work is regularly reported on a ward by ward basis and would shortly be complimented by five new Environment Marshals. Each cluster would have one Environment Marshal and their role would be to patrol the areas in that cluster and report any issues needing enforcement action.

8. Councillor Taylor asked the following question:
Could the Leader of the Council update us on the roll out of the Big Conversation and the response so far both in talking to residents about the Town centre proposals and the neighbourhood meetings in Hollinwood and Saddleworth West and Lees.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that the Big Oldham Conversation was our new approach to engagement with people throughout Oldham, and she was pleased to say that it had been very successful so far. We were talking to residents and businesses across the borough to find out what they thought about subjects such as littering, public transport, anti-social behaviour and our plans for the new-look town centre – no topic of



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conversation was out of bounds.

The first Meet the Leader session took place in October in Hollinwood, where residents asked about issues including fly-tipping, street cleaning and potholes, as well as talking about other issues important to their communities.

The following day she would be in Saddleworth West and Leeds for the second Meet the Leader event; on Saturday, in Spindles talking to people about the town centre regeneration plans, and the following Tuesday the third Meet the Leader event was being held at Oldham Library, for people living and working in Coldhurst and St Mary's. Sessions would be hosted in wards across the borough, with every ward being included before the end of March 2022, and she was really keen that as many residents, businesses and members as possible attended, to ensure everyone has their say.

9. Councillor Arnott asked the following question:
2021 marks the centenary anniversary of the Royal British Legion, the foremost and most recognisable of any of the many charities that support our service men and women and very importantly our veterans. The work of the legion over its 100 years has benefited literally hundreds of thousands of men, women and children, and the organisation is rightly held in the highest esteem and regarded as part of the very fabric of our proud nation.

As we approach the 11 November, and the annual Remembrance Day commemorations, services and parades, could I, as a veteran myself, ask the Council Leader to provide an update on how the Council has engaged with, recognised and supported the Royal British Legion and the outstanding work that it does, in this, its 100th year.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that Oldham Council have graciously agreed for the Greater Manchester County Conference to be held in the Council Chamber on 22 January 2022. This would have taken place in 2021, however Covid had stopped this. This will mean that all branches will be invited to attend.

An Officer of the Council, who is the Chadderton Branch Secretary, RBL Branch Community Support Officer and a Member of the Greater Manchester County Committee approached the RBL to hold the meeting in Oldham and this was voted on and agreed, and we are looking forward to hosting this meeting in the North of Manchester for the first time in a lot of years.

We have several branches across Oldham, in Chadderton, Lees, Oldham, Royton, Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton, which Madam Mayor will formally reopen on 11.11.2021 at the Central Hall in Newtown Street, Shaw.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.



RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

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c Questions on Cabinet Minutes

The 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 August 2021 and 13th September 2021 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:-

Councillor C Gloster asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 23rd August 2021 – Item 8 – Towns Fund Grant Acceptance

The £24 million is to be split between four big capital projects. Projects of this size either fail to materialise, complete in a different form to that envisaged or goes grossly over budget. Does the relevant Cabinet Member believe that we will be able to deliver these projects without any of the deficiencies outlined, bearing in mind the advice from the Peer Review Group not to be over-ambitious in the area of capital projects?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform responded that the projects are all costed in the Capital Programme. If there was not confidence, the plans would not have been put forward. Concerns were understandable, which was why conversations were being had to consult and make sure everyone was on board. It would be valuable if all Members could join in instilling confidence in the residents and helping them to understand the projects were for them, about them and guided by them.

Councillor C Gloster asked a supplementary question as to the concerns raised by the Peer Review Group.

Councillor Shah replied that she had responded to this.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 23rd August 2021 and 13th September be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

d Questions on Joint Arrangements

Council was asked to note the minutes of the following Joint Authority and Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members.

The minutes of the Joint Authorities and Partnerships were

submitted as follows:



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

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Toor asked in relation to page 91 GMCA 114/ 21 Clean Air Plan Update
Can the Leader please clarify and explain the reasons for Oldham participating in the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform responded that working together through the GM Combined Authority, local councils, including Oldham were under direction from the Government to introduce the Clean Air Plan and subsequent Clean Air Zone in the shortest possible time. This was to comply with legal Nitrogen Dioxide limits on local roads. All GM Authorities (the nine Labour councils and the Conservative Council in Bolton) had approved the GM Clean Air Plan and category 'C' Clean Air Zone because they had no choice but to act, not only because they had been told to do so, but also because many people in the city region were suffering ill health and even early death due to dirty air. However, the funding package provided by the Government was significantly less than required to install the infrastructure needed, support local businesses affected and to pay for the running of the scheme by the Government, meaning that, once again, the cost was left to be picked up by those who lived and worked in Greater Manchester. Alongside other GM Leaders, she was continuing to lobby Government for fair funding for the running of this scheme.

2. Councillor Hamblett asked in relation to Health and Wellbeing Board 22/6/21 Item 8, pages 2-3 – Healthwatch Oldham Report – COVID-19: Your Health and Care Experiences Report
With reference to the Healthwatch report two issues that are repeatedly raised by constituents with elected members are
1. The difficulty in actually getting through to medical centre reception staff by telephone, with long wait times, calls frequently being cut off and calls not being returned,
2. The inability of patients to actually access in person appointments with GPs.

What is the Health and Wellbeing Board doing to address these issues of real public concern with medical professionals and surgery staff, and when can our constituents expect to see real improvements in the service?



Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that the issue was under remit of NHS Oldham and a detailed response had been requested which would be provided to the Councillor. This was a national issue which had multiple causes including funding. An article had recently been published where the Health Secretary had acknowledged he could not fulfil the manifesto pledge to provide 6000 GP's and there had been cuts to training for nurses.

3. Councillor Al-Hamdani asked in relation to GMTC 42/21, page 8-9 – Electric Vehicle Charging Network
With plans for a new clean air zone to launch in May 2022 for Manchester, it is critical to ensure we have enough electric vehicle charging points in place to support existing and new electric vehicle owners. It is estimated that we will need 3,000 public chargers by 2025, but we only have 323 in place at present and there are only plans to add 54 next year.

At this rate we won't have a public charging network in place in 50 year's time, yet alone in less than five. With the lack of action, drivers will have no means to move to sustainable transport and the clean air zone will be all stick and no carrot.

Can the Cabinet Member tell me what is being done to install more EV charging points more quickly in this borough and to put more pressure on the Greater Manchester Mayor and Greater Manchester Combined Authority to speed up installations across the city region?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform responded that Electric vehicle charging points in Greater Manchester were provided by many different operators. Be.EV was Greater Manchester's publicly-owned network and was owned and co-ordinated by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) on behalf of all 10 GM local authorities, including Oldham. 130 of the 360 public charging points already available in GM were Be.EV charging points.

To help deliver the 3000 charging points GM needs by 2025, TfGM had ambitious plans to invest in the Be.EV network in the short term while we were waiting for commercial operators step up their networks. GMCA had recently published a GM Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy which would guide this investment. Funding had already been secured for some additional chargers through the Clean Air Plan, with more rapid chargers and dedicated taxi chargers on their way, and TfGM was asking for more government funding to deliver more points - we were, for example, awaiting the outcome of a bid to the Government's

On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme for a number of community charger hubs.

We were working closely with TfGM to expand the Be.EV network in Oldham.



4. Councillor Sykes asked in relation to GMTC 43/21, page 9 – Network Performance Report

This minute refers to the increasing instances of crime and violence on the network, and regrettably many of these instances occur on the Rochdale – Oldham – Manchester Metrolink line.

There are also more reports of children and young people taking their lives in their hands by ‘surfing’ the tram through riding on the couplings between carriages

It is conceded that there is a minimal police presence on the network, so surely with passengers facing an increasing risk of attack, harassment, or theft and with the increasing risk of a child or young person dying through an act of juvenile foolhardiness, isn't this the time to look again at improving public safety on our trams by introducing conductors as the Liberal Democrats first suggested three years ago in November 2018?

Councillor Briggs responded he had echoed these concerns at the last GMTC meeting when he concurred with the fact that a presence on the trams was needed. There been violence from the Manchester boundary as far as Rochdale. The Rochdale Councillor had agreed with Councillor Briggs at that meeting and they were waiting for a response as to what TfGM were going to do.

5. Councillor H Gloster asked in relation to GMCA 119/21, page 20-21 - Brownfield Housing Land –

The Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced the most welcome, and much needed, establishment of a £1.8bn fund to build around 160,000 homes on brownfield sites as part of the funding settlement for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in last Wednesday's Budget. Obviously more money for brownfield means less pressure on our irreplaceable green belt so my hope is that some of this money will come Oldham's way. Prior to the Budget, the Greater Manchester Mayor revealed how much extra Greater Manchester was going to receive for public transport, so has he revealed how much of this Brownfield Housing Land fund will be coming to our city region as well?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that it was correct that there was a headline announcement in the recent budget of £1.8bn to support housing supply. This included £300m locally led grant funding that would be distributed to Mayoral Combined Authorities and LAs to unlock smaller brownfield sites. We had not received further information from the Department as to how much GM would receive.

There was also information about £1.5bn fund to regenerate

underused land and deliver transport links and community facilities – again with further information to follow regarding allocation/bidding.

As you would expect, both GMCA would be doing everything they could to secure as much of this grant funding as possible for the region, and the Council would seek to secure funding to help support delivery of the much needed local housing supply, in line with a brownfield first approach.



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11

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Chadderton SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 1 - 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



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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.

Councillor Toor spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Roberts spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Goodwin spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Williamson spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

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

Councillor Ahmad MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED that the time allowed for this Item be extended by 15 minutes.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be asked 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
2. The Council would work cross-party to promote the consultation on Oldham's Domestic Abuse Strategy, which was published this week.

Motion 2

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Ahmad SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 2 - 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



AMENDMENT

Councillor C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Hamblett SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Insert a new paragraph after the third paragraph ending ‘by 2025’. The new paragraph to read:

‘However, Council also recognises that, as a local authority ambitious to become a carbon neutral council by 2025 and a carbon neutral borough by 2030, we must lead the local drive towards Net Zero by making practical and time-bound commitments.’

After the conclusion of the original motion which ends ‘Towns Fund bid’ insert the following new wording:

‘In addition, Council also resolves to:

- Deliver the town centre heat network proposals once the money is found.
- Support the development of other renewable energy and battery storage projects, either alone or with private or public sector partners and communities, within the borough.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of its estate and vehicle fleet by divesting itself of surplus or energy-inefficient properties, retrofitting existing buildings, investing in solar and other renewable technology to light and heat its estate, and replacing diesel-petrol powered vehicles with electric, hydrogen or hybrid models wherever possible.
- Retrofit all streetlamps over time with more efficient and less costly LED lights.
- Work with public and private sector partners to accelerate the provision of electric vehicle charging points across the borough.
- Deliver 20mph zones to reduce vehicle speed, increase public safety and improve air quality.
- Increase tree coverage in the borough by retaining existing trees and engaging in the extensive planting of new woodland, particularly of native variants.
- Work to make this authority single plastic-use free.
- Work with supermarket retailers to establish reverse vending machine sites in the borough.
- Establish new planning guidance under the Local Plan requiring developers to achieve higher standards of insulation, take account of the impact of heatwaves and flooding, provide for greater in-situ self-generation of power and heat (through renewable technologies), and make provision for on-site electric vehicle charging points.

The amended motion to read:



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."

However, Council also recognises that, as a local authority ambitious to become a carbon neutral council by 2025 and a carbon neutral borough by 2030, we must lead the local drive towards Net Zero by making practical and time-bound commitments.

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

In addition, Council also resolves to:

- Deliver the town centre heat network proposals once the money is found.
- Support the development of other renewable energy and battery storage projects, either alone or with private or public sector partners and communities, within the borough.
- Reduce the carbon footprint of its estate and vehicle fleet by divesting itself of surplus or energy-inefficient properties, retrofitting existing buildings, investing in solar and other renewable technology to light and heat its estate, and replacing diesel-petrol powered vehicles with electric, hydrogen or hybrid models wherever possible.
- Retrofit all streetlamps over time with more efficient and less costly LED lights.
- Work with public and private sector partners to accelerate the provision of electric vehicle charging points across the borough.
- Deliver 20mph zones to reduce vehicle speed, increase public safety and improve air quality.
- Increase tree coverage in the borough by retaining existing trees and engaging in the extensive planting of new woodland, particularly of native variants.
- Work to make this authority single plastic-use free.
- Work with supermarket retailers to establish reverse vending machine sites in the borough.
- Establish new planning guidance under the Local Plan requiring developers to achieve higher standards of insulation, take account of the impact of heatwaves and flooding, provide for greater in-situ self-generation of power and heat (through renewable technologies), and make provision for on-site electric vehicle charging points.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT, which was LOST.

Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

The Chief Executive be asked 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

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NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1

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

Motion 1 - 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.

Councillor Jabbar spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

The Chief Executive be requested to 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 the three MPs to be copied into this correspondence and asked for their support.

Motion 2

Councillor Lancaster to MOVED and Councillor Woodvine to SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 2 - 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

AMENDMENT

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Roberts SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

To add bullet point 6 under 'This Council notes'

- Engage with the Peak District National Park Authority and National Parks England to seek further advice and information as to the best possible means of protecting the South Pennines landscape in the light of the Glover Report and in the present financial climate.

The amended motion to read:

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
- Engage with the Peak District National Park Authority and National Parks England to seek further advice and information as to the best possible means of protecting the South Pennines landscape in the light of the Glover Report and in the present financial climate.

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

Councillor Lancaster exercised his right of reply and indicated he accepted the amendment.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT, which was CARRIED and became the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION as amended was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

The Council would

1. 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
2. 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 MOVED and Councillor C Gloster SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 3 - 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.

Councillor Sheldon spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Al-Hamdani exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION as amended was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be asked 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.

2. The Chief Executive be asked to write 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.
3. The relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Officer be asked 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 Sharp MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 4 – 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.¹

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.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION was LOST.

13

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Chauhan SECONDED a report of the Strategic Director of Communities & Reform which provided an update on how the Council and its partners continue to monitor and manage the impact of COVID-19 in Oldham.

COVID-19 was still circulating across the UK and new cases were seen in Oldham every day. The report summarised the Council's activity, demonstrating how it collectively managed and prevented the spread of COVID-19 across Oldham communities.

It was PROPOSED and SECONDED that questions be submitted and responded to in writing.

On being put to the vote, the PROPOSAL was CARRIED.

RESOLVED that:

1. The content of the report be noted.
2. Questions be submitted and responded to in writing.

14

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 8th September 2021.

RESOLVED that the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 8th September 2021 be noted.

15

DISTRICT LEADS 2021-22

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Head of Democratic Services which asked the Council to consider appointing District Leads for each new geographical District and a Deputy District Lead in North and East Districts and the recommendation that the District Leads receive an allowance.

Members were informed that, as part of the development of the new Place-Based Working model, the Council and partner services had moved to alignment of provision around a new set of five geographies. Council agreed to the changes on 14th July 2021.

To facilitate the role of Elected Members in the Place-Based model, a new District Lead was required for each of the new 5 Districts. A Deputy in North District and East District would also be required. This was to reflect the consultation with members over the past twelve months, recognise the wards in the North and East fall into two distinct communities, and to reflect the governance arrangements that had been in place and worked over the past few years. The deputies would not be remunerated.

RESOLVED that:

1. The appointment of a District Lead for each District Area and a Deputy District Lead in the North District and East District be agreed.
2. The allowance for the District Leads of £6,286, following a recommendation of the Independent Remuneration Panel and the adjustment to the basic allowance as outlined in the report, be agreed.
3. The following Members be appointed as District Leads and Deputy District Leads:
Central District Lead – Councillor Salamat
North District Lead – Councillor S Bashforth
North District Deputy – Councillor Williamson
East District Lead – Councillor Cosgrove
East District Deputy – Councillor Byrne
South District Lead – Councillor Davis
West District Lead – Councillor Brownridge

16

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Akhtar SECONDED a report of Cllr Colin McLaren, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, 2020/21

Cllr Riaz Ahmad, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee, 2020/21 and Cllr Shoab Akhtar, Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee, 2020/21, which provided the Council with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for the 2020/21 Municipal Year as required by the Council's Constitution at Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.1.

The report outlined the statutory role of overview and scrutiny; the roles and responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money Select Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee in 2020/21; and a summary of the considerations and work undertaken by the three bodies during 2020/21.

Councillor McLaren offered his thanks to all the officers and Members who had contributed to the Scrutiny programme during

2020 and 2021, ably supported by the Constitutional Services Team, who had helped to facilitate the programme.



Oldham
Council

RESOLVED that:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21 be noted.
2. The thanks of the Chairs expressed to Cabinet Members, Council Officers and representatives from partner organisations for their support and contributions in the delivery of as full a scrutiny function as was achievable during the difficult times in 2020/21 be supported.

17

ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED the report of the Chief Executive.

Members were reminded that, in July 2021, Council approved the Council's Covid-19 Recovery Strategy (Corporate Plan) for the Borough. The new strategy set out ambitions in six areas – driving equality; investing in quality housing; championing a green recovery; creating and protecting jobs and supporting businesses; prioritising education, skills and early years and promoting health and wellbeing including protecting the most vulnerable.

There was a requirement that appropriate Executive Leadership arrangements were put in place for the Council to deliver against the ambitions of the plan and also to continue to deliver statutory services and priorities.

Members were informed that the Council's Appointments Committee had met and considered revisions to the Council's Senior Management Team Structure and the report detailed a recommendation from that Committee for Full Council's consideration.

RESOLVED that the recommendations as detailed in the report be agreed.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.31 pm.