

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting  
Wednesday 16 March 2022**



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 8 March 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 16 March 2022 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th December 2021 and 2nd March 2022 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 84)
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There are no petitions to note.

- 7 Youth Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

### *Safer Streets*

Our motion today has come about because of personal experience of some of our Youth Councillors. Family members and close friends have been the victims of crime on the streets of Oldham. While the criminals were apprehended, some of us still feel unsafe walking around our local community especially at night. In working with other youth voice groups and consulting with Oldham's young people we have found that others feel the same way.

The 2019 UK Youth Parliament's consultation 'Make Your Mark', had 'Put an End to Knife Crime' as it's top issue. Since that time we have been working and talking to young people about being safe on Oldham's streets.

Police figures for Oldham do suggest that Oldham has a higher-than-average crime rate for Greater Manchester. However, looking at crimes you would expect to increase people feeling unsafe (such as theft from a person, possessions of weapons and drugs offences) these were all lower than the Greater Manchester Police average and were between 1 and 2 per 1,000 population. Even though violence and sexual offences recorded at around 40 per 1,000 population, this too was below the greater Manchester average. While we realise crime is still an issue (like the rest of Greater

Manchester) it is perhaps the perception of safety that is causing people to not want to go out.

From our consultation approximately one third of young people feel unsafe in their local community at least half of the time and this rises further to 56.5% in communities outside their local area. Young people told us that they fear crimes such as being mugged, drug related crime and bladed weapon related crime as well as large groups who maybe using alcohol and/or drugs. This would seem to dispute the figures given for crime in Oldham and does suggest that it is a perceived fear rather than an actual one.

To help feel safer 67% of the 400 respondents wanted more trusted adults such as Police to be more visible and approachable and over half felt that Oldham needed better street lighting to make it lighter while walking at night. The main suggestion to do this was the use of white LED streetlights rather than the old orange sodium lighting. Young people also wanted to make any existing CCTV more visible, perhaps with signage or by making it more prominent, so that people knew where to walk.

Following our consultation and research over the past 2 years, we ask:

That Council resolves to:

1. Ask the relevant department to complete a review of the street lighting and CCTV that is used within the borough.
2. Investigate if it possible and practicable, that existing lighting is changed to LED lights and CCTV is made as visible as it can be
3. Investigate the possibility of installing LED lights in all new street lighting especially in the plans for the town centre.

8 Questions Time

a Public Questions

*(time limit 15 Minutes)*

b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

c Questions on Cabinet Minutes (Pages 85 - 108)

*(time limit 15 minutes)*

- a) 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021
- b) 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- c) 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022

d Questions on Joint Arrangements (Pages 109 - 242)

*(time limit 15 minutes)*

Commisioing Partnership Board	21 <sup>st</sup> October 2021 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Health and Wellbeing Board	16 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
AGMA Executive Board	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
GM Transport Committee	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2021

GMCA	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Miocare	14 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
National Park Authority	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2022
Police, Fire and Crime Panel	22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2022

## 9 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

Councillor Shah to MOVE and Councillor Roberts to SECOND:

*Tackling the Tories cost of living crisis*

Families across Oldham are facing the worse cost of living crisis in a generation, brought on by political decisions of this Conservative Government and the cumulative effects of 12 years of austerity, welfare cuts and a race to the bottom on wages through the “gig economy”.

Oldhamers are facing their highest tax burden on record, with National Insurance set to rise as well as indirect taxes. In addition fuel, food and energy costs have increased dramatically in the last few months. Aside from general inflation, profit-motivated fuel and petrochemical companies continue to make billions in profits, paid from the pockets of Oldhamers into the pockets of their shareholders. Petrol has reached a high of 151p per litre and diesel is at a record high of 155p per litre and may well be more when this motion is presented. While it is understood that global conflict raises the price of Brent crude prices, government is just not doing enough to make fuel companies pass on price reductions at the pump.

Energy costs similarly, are rising by an average of 54% and the government’s price cap is set to rise to £1,970 per year on April 1<sup>st</sup>, with a further rise expected later in the year. Wholesale gas prices have rose to an all-time high in December 2021 and are set to exceed that level again later this year. This is not only a damning indictment of the governments underfunding and underinvestment in sustainable and reliable green energy, energy efficiency in Oldham’s homes and our national power infrastructure, but of energy suppliers too.

Despite taxes being at their highest in living memory, the government’s 12-year austerity agenda has stripped public services of any capacity to deal with an inflation crisis. Indeed, benefit cuts have been a choice made by this government and as more people turn to find support, they will sadly discover it already cut away. In-work benefits are needed by many because of the unregulated gig economy operating carte blanche in UK workplaces, workers have no security, and the government is doing nothing to address this, or indeed the horrific practice of “fire and re-hire”.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that they:

- Implement emergency measures to ease food, fuel and energy prices on

Oldham residents.

- Reverse cuts to welfare, specifically Universal Credit and restore the Triple-Lock Guarantee to the state pension to support our most vulnerable residents in this time of crisis in the cost of living.
- Accept that families are facing a cost of living crisis and therefore reverse the decision to raise National Insurance, affecting not only workers but jobs and businesses.

## 10 Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

### Motion 1

Councillor Lancaster to MOVE and Councillor Woodvine to SECOND:

#### *Levelling Up Motion*

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, the UK Government announced its flagship 'Levelling Up' White Paper - a document which sets out a plan to transform the United Kingdom by spreading opportunity and prosperity to all parts of it, including across our Borough of Oldham.

This Council notes that:

- The UK Government has ably assisted our Borough throughout the pandemic, supporting the employment of almost 40,000 residents through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), the provision of several grant schemes available to thousands of local businesses, and in awarding funding to Oldham Coliseum through the Culture Recovery Fund.
- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the UK Government has already made significant financial contribution and progress in encouraging growth across our Borough, including with a £6.5m award from the Brownfield Housing Fund, a £10.75m award from the Future High Streets Fund, a £24.4 million award from the Towns Fund, a £9.7m award for the Oldham Opportunity Area, a £22m uplift in school spending; and a new £4.5m diagnostics centre in Royton, set to benefit up to 30,000 people across the Borough, and a £28m extension to the Oldham Royal Hospital via the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group.
- In designating Oldham as an Education Investment Area to drive school improvement, intervention in underperforming schools, growth of strong trusts and the retention of high-quality teachers, the UK Government has clearly recognised our Borough as being central to its national 'Levelling Up' agenda going forward.
- The twelve missions contained within the 'Levelling Up' White Paper, including productivity, public investment, pride in place, public transport, paths to home ownership, amongst others, represent the right priorities for this national agenda.

This Council resolves to:

- Proactively work with the UK Government in seeking further national investment, including making an application for our Borough to host the new home of the Great British Railways (GBR) Headquarters.
- Align with the UK Government's ambition for Local Government Pension Funds to increase asset investment in projects which support local areas, and work with Tameside MBC and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure this ambition

- is realised with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) in our Borough.
- Proactively work with the UK Government, via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), in the negotiation of a new devolution deal for the City Region.
  - Support the establishment of and practically cooperate with the UK Government's intended new independent body to assess performance and strengthen transparency across the local government sector.
  - Ensure that its senior executive staff partake in the leadership capability training which will be made available through the new Leadership College for Government from April 2022.
  - -Utilise the spatial modelling techniques for planning which the UK Government is investing in through an Office for National Statistics (ONS)-led collaboration platform and which is to be made available throughout local government.
  - -Develop relations with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, local businesses and research and development (R&D) institutions with a view to increasing R&D activity in our Borough, and to seek to derive benefit for our Borough from the UK Government's new Innovation Accelerator for Greater Manchester.
  - -Utilise the data and information to be made available through the Department for Education's intended Unit for Future Skills, in order to inform local policies and provisions, alignment with labour market need, and the updating of apprenticeship programmes.
  - -Adopt policies in favour of local community empowerment and partnership and to contribute the UK Government's review of neighbourhood governance accordingly.
  - -Support future bids to the UK Government's Safer Streets Fund, building on the initial investment to the GMCA of £550k late last year.

### Motion 2

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

#### *Fly tipping*

This council notes:

Increased levels of fly tipping at across Oldham Borough, in particular organised criminal, commercial dumping of waste, despite the best efforts of the *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign.

The costs involved in responding to this problem, both in terms of the specific *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign, but also the necessary costs of clearance and prosecution, where possible.

The widespread upset caused by the effect this has on residents' environment, the associated health and safety issues, and the dangers of a further acceleration of this problem.

The connection residents make between this growing problem and the increased charges/reduced availability of bulky waste collection and household waste facilities. That if convicted, fly-tippers can face unlimited fines, and up to five years in prison. That the Government is currently investigating options to introduce a move towards a permit-based system for disposal of waste rather than registration.

This council agrees:

1. To produce an annual report, clearly detailing the costs of managing this issue, both

specific campaigns, and associated clearances and prosecution, and any income generated through enforcement measures and bulky waste collections.

2. To ensure that the report also identifies any correlation between fly-tipping and other social factors.

3. To introduce a credible and effective enforcement strategy, with clear criteria and approaches for the introduction of fixed and mobile CCTV at or near known fly-tipping sites, and barriers to prevent access where necessary.

4. To introduce a clear information and education strategy to sit alongside *Don't Trash Oldham* to ensure residents are clear about what services are available for clearing waste, how to report fly tipping, and their responsibilities and the potential for prosecution if they do not dispose of waste correctly.

5. To ensure that the Council's response to the current Government consultation strongly supports any measures which make it easier to crack down on commercial, criminal activity, and ensure that any revenue generated by this can be used by the Council to cut the costs of recycling and bulky waste removal for residents.

### Motion 3

Councillor Arnott to MOVE and Councillor Sharp to SECOND:

#### *Oldham CSE Motion*

The Council notes that.

- After a number of significant delays, Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham made a firm commitment in December 2021, that the independent report by Malcolm Newsam CBE and Gary Ridgeway into the response to historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Oldham, would be published in week ending 28 January 2022.
- Just days before this latest deadline for publication, Mr Burnham released a further short statement, to the effect that the report would not be released in time to meet the deadline, with no further date for publication suggested.
- This series of delays causes considerable emotional distress to the victims and their families and a lack of trust in the integrity of the report from the public in Oldham.
- There is a growing feeling of unease amongst the residents of Oldham, and a suspicion that this latest delay of nearly eight weeks, is an indication that Mayor Andy Burnham is seeking to delay the publication of the report until after the local elections in May.

This Council resolves that:

- This council has lost its confidence in the ability, or ambition of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to publish the results of the review into CSE in Oldham with the urgency and expediency that the victims, their families, and the residents of Oldham deserve.
- The Chief Executive of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council write to the Home Secretary asking for urgent and immediate direct Government intervention and assistance in ensuring that the report is published as quickly as possible and without any further delay.
- The Home Secretary is further requested to establish whether previous delays could have been avoided, and to establish whether there had been any direct or indirect influence exerted to delay the publication of the report until after, or until a date very close to, the local government elections in May 2022.



#### Motion 4

Councillor Murphy to MOVE and Councillor Sykes to SECOND:

#### *Speed Cameras*

This Council notes that:

Current guidance from the National Government and Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership means that at least three separate collisions involving deaths or serious injuries must happen on a road before a fixed speed camera will even be considered for installation.

Statistics are not currently kept on non-injury incidents; it is estimated that for each injury incident or fatality there are between are up to 100 non-injury incidents, meaning there could be nearly 300 incidents at a location before action is even considered.

A freedom of information request sent by the BBC Panorama programme to all British police forces found that the road fatality rate has increased by five per cent, the first significant increase in 40 years, and that the same investigation revealed up to 50% of fixed cameras were not working.

Of the current speed cameras installed in Greater Manchester only around 40% are functional the rest are former 'wet film cameras' that are still waiting to be digitalised before they become operational.

From May 2022, local councils can apply to the Department for Transport for powers to enforce moving traffic offences. These can include the power to enforce school streets by issuing fixed penalty notice fines of up to £70 to anyone who violates them.

The council believes that:

- One serious injury on the road is one too many and we should not have to wait until a death to take enforcement action on dangerous drivers.
- Fair and appropriate measures must be taken to minimise the potential for dangerous driving, and to identify and stop dangerous drivers.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. write to the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership and the Westminster Government to update the criteria for speed cameras, making it easier to install cameras where there is evidence to do so including community demands, without having to wait for serious injuries or deaths to occur.
2. write to the GMCA to reinforce the need for any non-working cameras to be replaced as soon as possible, as part of the work to replace 'wet film cameras' across the region with digital cameras.
3. endorse the 20s Plenty campaign, in line with Resolution 11 of the Stockholm Declaration, which was signed by the UK government in 2020, introducing 20mph as the default speed limit for residential streets – particularly streets around schools.

11 Appointment of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (Pages 243 - 246)

12 Oldham's COVID-19 Response - Update (Pages 247 - 254)

13 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 255 - 272)

14 Annual Reports (Pages 273 - 274)

Appendix to follow.

15 Adoption of the Public Health Act 1925 Concerning Naming of Streets (Pages 275 - 284)

**NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 3 hours and 30 minutes after the commencement of the meeting.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Catherall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal tail on the final letter.

**Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive**

**PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



MOTION – Secunder of the Motion to SECOND – May reserve right to speak



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

**RULE ON TIMINGS**

(a) No Member shall speak longer than four minutes on any **Motion or Amendment**, or by way of question, observation or reply, unless by consent of the Members of the Council present, he/she is allowed an extension, in which case only one extension of 30 seconds shall be allowed.

(b) A Member replying to more than one question will have up to six minutes to reply to each question with an extension of 30 seconds

## WITH AMENDMENT

