

# 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)

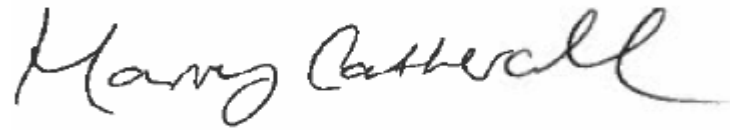
13 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 255 - 272)

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.

**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



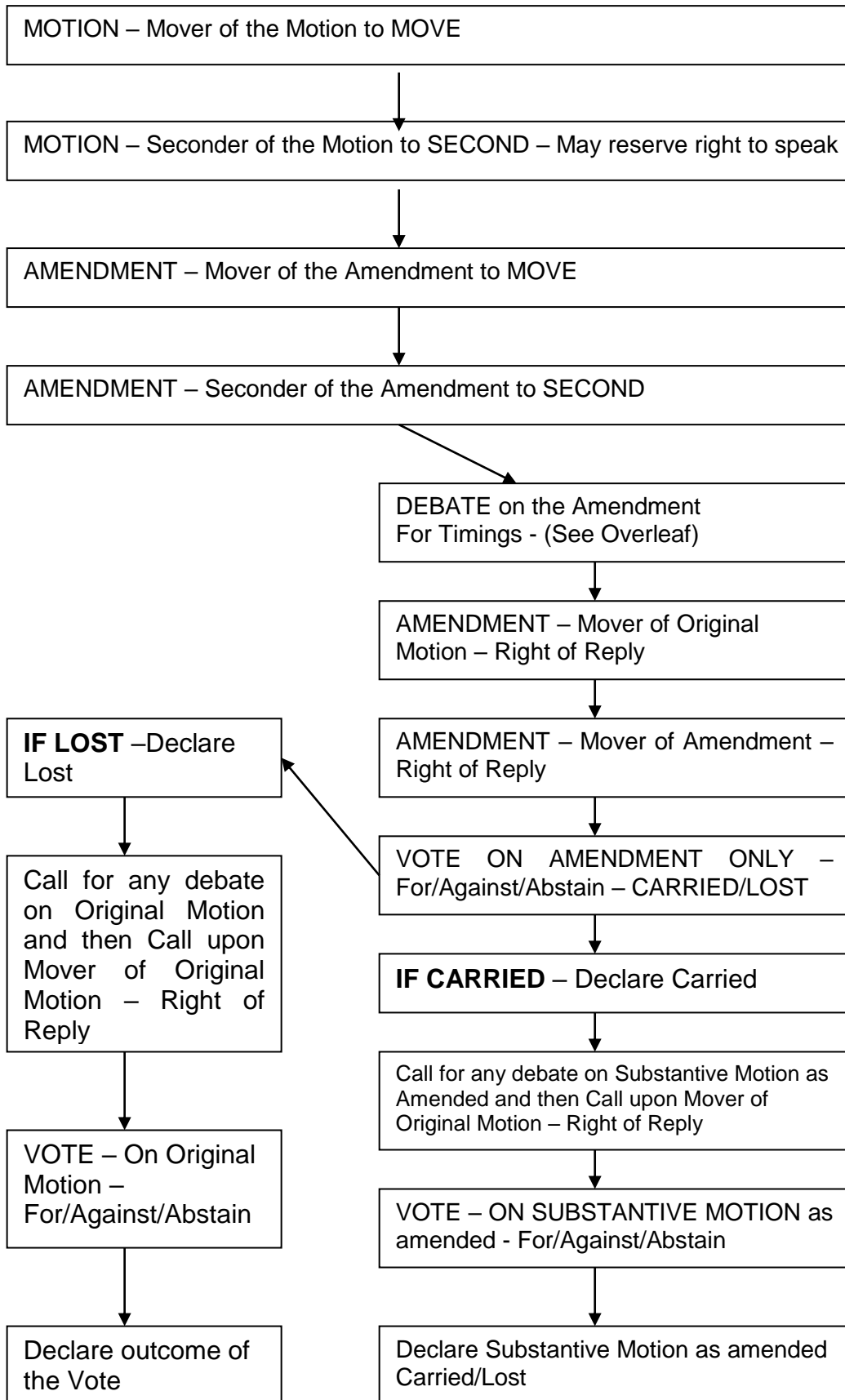
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**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**







**COUNCIL**  
**15/12/2021 at 6.00 pm**

**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Harrison

Councillors Abid, Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, G. Alexander, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, Birch, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harrison, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, A Hussain, Ibrahim, Islam, Jabbar, Lancaster, Leach, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, C. Phythian, K Phythian, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sheldon, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Briggs, F Hussain, Iqbal, Kenyon, Malik, Mushtaq, Sharp, Shuttleworth, Stretton and Toor.

2 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2021 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

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

Councillor Garry declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 8d by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 8d by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Hazel Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 8d by virtue of her husband's receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest at Item 8d by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Hamblett declared an other registerable interest at Item 8d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared an other registerable interest at Item 8d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the Board.

Councillor Hobin declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 9 Motion 1 by virtue of his employment by Stagecoach.

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

There were no communications

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

### 7 YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council PROPOSED the following MOTION:

#### **Mental ill-health amongst young people**

Council recognises that poor, and declining, mental health has been identified by young people in the borough as one of the biggest issues they face, especially after the adverse impact upon their health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the most recent annual Make Your Mark Ballot (a UK wide consultation of 11–18-year-olds), mental ill-health received 1,250 votes of the 8,700 cast, constituting the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest issue of concern to young people in Oldham. This was reinforced by the findings of an online survey by the Oldham Youth Service in July 2021.

Research by the Children’s Society shows that 75% of young people with mental health problems are not getting the help they need and that 34% of those people referred to NHS services are not accepted.

Although the budget for mental health support rose from £4.5 billion in 2016 to £10.5 billion in 2021. As 75% of all mental health conditions manifest in young adults before the age of 24 we believe that more money needs to be invested in treating mental ill health in young people.

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, and to the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, to express the concerns of the young people of Oldham, and to seek an adequate share of the £79M set aside for mental health care to meet the needs of our young people.

Councillor Moores spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor H Gloster spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Arnott spoke on the Motion.

Councillor Shah spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor H Gloster SECONDED the MOTION as presented by the Youth Council.

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Abid, Sahr	ABSTAIN	Ibrahim, Nyla	FOR
Ahmad, Riaz	FOR	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	FOR	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Alexander, Ginny	FOR	Jabbar, Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani,	FOR	Kenyon, Mark	ABSENT

Sam			
Ali, Mohon	FOR	Lancaster, Luke	FOR
Alyas, Mohammed	FOR	Leach, Valerie	FOR
Arnott, Dave	ABSTAIN	Malik, Abdul	ABSENT
Bashforth, Marie	ABSENT	McLaren, Colin	FOR
Bashforth, Steven	ABSENT	Moore, Eddie	FOR
Birch, Ros	FOR	Murphy, Dave	FOR
Briggs, Norman	ABSENT	Mushtaq, Shaid	ABSENT
Brownridge, Barbara	FOR	Phythian, Clint	FOR
Byrne, Pam	FOR	Phythian, Kyle	FOR
Chadderton, Amanda	FOR	Roberts, Hannah	FOR
Chauhan, Zahid	FOR	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	FOR
Cosgrove, Angela	FOR	Shah, Arooj	FOR
Curley, Jamie	FOR	Sharp, Beth	ABSENT
Davis, Peter	FOR	Sheldon, Graham	ABSTAIN
Dean, Peter	FOR	Shuttleworth, Graham	ABSENT
Garry, Elaine	FOR	Stretton, Jean	ABSENT
Gloster, Chris	FOR	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster, Hazel	FOR	Sykes MBE, Howard	FOR
Goodwin, Chris	FOR	Taylor, Elaine	FOR
Hamblett, Louie	FOR	Toor, Yasmin	ABSENT
Hindle, Neil	FOR	Wilkinson, Mark	FOR
Hobin, Brian	FOR	Williamson, Diane	FOR
Hulme, George	FOR	Williams, Steve	FOR
Hussain, Aftab	FOR	Woodvine, Max	FOR
Hussain, Fida	ABSENT	Harrison Jenny	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 44 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 0 VOTES cast AGAINST and 4 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, and to the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP, to express the concerns of the young people of Oldham, and to seek an adequate share of the £79M set aside for mental health care to meet the needs of our young people.

8

## QUESTIONS TIME

9

## PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question received from Duncan Breeze  
Why has millions been spent on Alexander Park, but many others now represent derelict wastelands included Failsworth Park. Will there be any work done to improve Failsworth park so the residents of Failsworth can exercise and take there family's there etc?

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods responded that the millions that were spent on Alexandra park were a result of a successful lottery bid which brought in just over £2.6 million. This was not recent money and had come in between 1997 and 2004. Bids had been put forward for other park and only one of the other parks, Dunwood Park in Shaw, had received lottery funding. Investment was and continued to be made in all parks with Section 106 money earmarked for Higher Memorial Park (Failsworth Park) and, if the local housing developments went ahead, would see an investment of around £65,000 into improvements to the hard service games area and general improvements to the parks landscape. When this money was received, she would ensure that a consultation exercise took place with Ward Members and the public prior to the commitment of the funding.

2. Question received from Matthew Smith

It's become apparent in recent months that Mr Neil Wilby (Press) has much better access to Oldham Council and specifically the leader of the council than most of the constituents in the town. I recently emailed labour councillors on a number of issues and never got a reply, however Mr Wilby seems to have a hotline directly to the leader especially. May I remind Labour councillors & the leader of the council this is the same Journalist who has tweeted a number of offensive/abusive tweets about Labour MPs including Angela Rayner. Does the leader think it's right that 1) A member of the press has better access to the council than most of the citizens of the town and

2) How do you expect the citizens of the town to take the leader seriously when she's speaking about bullying & harassment, when she is happy to be in communications with a journalist, thanking him on a number of occasion, when he has made a number of offensive tweets regarding your female Labour colleagues?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that she was glad he asked that question. She welcomed the opportunity to make the facts clear on a subject that was a matter of much online speculation. She had worked hard to improve the accessibility and transparency of the Council. She had introduced the Big Oldham Conversation, which involved holding public events across the borough, so the public could ask questions of her and the Chief Executive about the borough. A consultation had been launched on the town centre plans and ramped up engagement with local businesses. Local people could also ask questions at full Council and other meetings, and could contact their Councillors or the Council to ask questions and find out information, and they often did. Mr Wilby was an accredited journalist and

his queries were managed through the Council's Press Office, as any other journalist. The local media played an important part of holding the Council to account, so they did have fair and appropriate access to information and could ask questions at any point. The relationship with journalists was managed by Council officers and not by the Leader. In terms of her personal engagement with people on social media, she responded positively to a wide range of people, to talk about local issues and the borough on twitter and elsewhere. She thanked people would made useful comments and were positive about the town, and this should not be taken as an endorsement for everything that was said by those she engaged with. Although she strived to be accountable and open, whether with journalists or members of the public, engagement happened using the proper Council processes. It had come to her attention that there were a number of allegations of leaks and/or breaches of data sharing that did concern her. It was not acceptable for anyone in the Council to be sharing information inappropriately. Due to the speculation about this issue, she had asked for a thorough, robust investigation into where information which appeared to be leaked was coming from, which should conclude by the end of the week. Robust action would be taken against anyone found to be breaching the Council's processes and procedures. She had made it very clear at the start of her leadership that she took her role and responsibility very seriously and she would ensure robust action would be taken to protect democracy and public confidence in Councillors and the Council.

3. Question received from Robert Barnes  
Following on from last month's question regarding the issue of giving the public a right of reply to Public Questions, would the Council Leader give serious consideration to suspending Standing Orders when there is no Youth Council business? This would allow for an extension of Public Questions to 30 minutes. A right of reply of two minutes for the public could then be built in to Public Questions. Why does the Council Leader not believe that the people of our town should have a right of reply to answers to questions they have raised? In the interests of transparency, accountability, democracy and trust in our Elected Members, would the Council Leader now look again at extending Public Questions to include time for members of the public to reply?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that, as confirmed at the last meeting she had committed to reviewing the approach taken to public questions, including the time allocated to them. This review would be considered by the cross-party Constitution Working Group who could then make recommendations to Council. The objective would be to ensure that residents



had as much opportunity as they could to engage with the Council, whilst still allowing time for other important business.



**Oldham**  
Council

4. Question received from Paul Shilton  
Community centers are vital hubs of each community that they serve, and their futures must be secured for generations to come. Short term leases of up to 25 years are only offered to these facilities, when a more permanent lease could ensure community investment was not raised or donated in vain. After over 2 years, the 25 year lease for Grotton Pavilion is still to be confirmed. Can the Council assure this community that their community hub will not be sacrificed for the profits of developers in 25 years time, by providing a 100 year lease to ensure its future?

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that the Council valued its community facilities and was always keen to work with community groups to retain and develop their services in Council premises in accordance with its Council policy. The Council and the Grotton Residents Association had agreed terms for their continued occupation of their premises. This agreement was approved on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and was now with the respective parties solicitors to formalise the matter.

5. Question received from Roland Smith  
It's good to see the council has volunteered Oldham to accommodate asylum seekers, however I have a big concern that Oldham Council is doing this without improving facilities in the town. My doctors takes typically 3 weeks for a face to face appointment. My granddaughter struggled to get in her first chose of school, which was the closest to her home. Oldham A&E is at busting points both financially and resources. I have a real fear the town is taking too much of the responsibility when it comes to asylum seekers, especially when you see the Tory run councils which take zero to little in terms of asylum seekers. Whilst it's helpful to take these people it can't be done at the detriment of the current population. Can you reassure me if we are to take more asylum seekers, then these areas are massively improved?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that the Council had not volunteered to accommodate more asylum seekers. The Home Office informed Oldham Council that they intended to use the hotel due to the significant pressures currently in the national asylum system. Decisions regarding where asylum seekers were placed were taken by the Home Office. The regional provider Serco produced a list of hotels for the Home Office, which then decided which hotels to use. The

Council did not receive any funding for this and she echoed the concerns about this and also about the inequity of the current asylum dispersal system. Decisions on placements were made by the Home Office based on cost, with people placed where cheap accommodation could be found. As a result, places with higher levels of poverty were taking more asylum placements than more affluent areas and the areas with higher numbers of placements were also the areas hardest hit by the impact of cuts to public service funding over the last ten years. This same issue had been raised, time and again, with the government. The previous Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, made a commitment in 2018 to address this but there has been no change and she had raised this exact same issue again in a recent letter to the Home Secretary, Priti Patel, and was awaiting a response.

6. Question received from Peter Roberts  
Oldham has the highest youth unemployment rate, could the relevant cabinet member please inform the Council what support is available for young people to support them into employment or training.

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise replied that the youth unemployment rate in Oldham had been dramatically impacted by Covid. Youth Unemployment peaked in March 2021 at 16.4%. In November this had dropped to 10.9%, a 34% reduction over that 8 month period. The re-opening of the economy was having an impact and reducing youth unemployment. A year ago there were just 5,000 jobs posted across Greater Manchester and this had now more than doubled to almost 11,000 vacancies. The Council was working hard with partners to promote access to a range of schemes such as Kickstart, GMCA ESF NEET's Youth Employment programme, work was ongoing with Get Oldham Working, Job Centre Plus, Princes Trust, Positive Steps, Rio Ferdinand Foundation and Oldham Enterprise Trust to provide support to 12 projects that were in place to support unemployed residents. He would urge unemployed and NEET young people to get in touch with the Council or the job centre, who would put them in touch with the relevant scheme for support. Get Oldham Working had supported 9,000 Oldham residents into employment over the last 8 years.

However, there was gap for emerging for some 18 year olds. Some of this would be addressed by the Community Renewal programme that Positive Steps and Northern Roots were successful in winning. The economy was improving, there was a growth in new business start ups and a great demand for business space in Oldham. The Council and Partners would be launching a campaign in the new year to make sure that the young people of Oldham knew what support was available over the next year and beyond.

7. Question received from Peter Scoltock  
Just recently the Council promoted the Oldham Business Growth Fund to Businesses across the Borough and invited bids from the manufacturing, creative and digital sectors. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please update on how many Businesses have been supported through this Fund, the number of anticipated jobs created and the amount of Private Sector Contributions.

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise responded that the Council was finalising the approval of the grant agreements and it was expected that the Business Growth Grant (value £345,045) would support 26 companies to create 120 jobs and leverage a further £555,815 private sector investment/contribution.

8. Question received from Janet Hargreaves  
Could the relevant cabinet member please share what plans the council has to engage with small businesses across the borough and explain how the GM clean air zone charge will affect small businesses in Oldham.

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that small businesses had been engaged around the GM Clean Air Plan and the Clean Air Zone that would be operational from 30th May 2022. The Council had already been actively engaging with small businesses via press releases and social media posts as well as promoting the Clean Air Plan via the weekly business newsletter which had 5,000 subscribers. Information had also been posted recently regarding the grant funding available to owners of non-compliant HGVs so they could be helped to replace prior to May 2022. Details of other grant funding focussed towards owners of non-compliant Light Goods vehicles (LGVs) and Taxis who had an exemption to any charges in the Zone until 1st June 2023. This grant funding would be made available at the end of January 2022 and the Council had committed with all GM Authorities to continue engagement with the affected business owners.

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## **QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET**

### **Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:**

#### **Question 1 – Music Licence Refund**

Council will be aware that businesses and places of worship currently hold a music licence. This used to be two licences from the Performing Rights Society (PRS) and the Phonographic Performance Limited (PPL). This licence enables all types of businesses to play live, recorded music and music heard on a television to their customers in their place of business. The cost of these licences varies depending on the size of venue and how the music is played in the venue. I would like to bring to your attention that all businesses can apply for a credit if the



venue is closed during lockdown and they are unable to play television or background music. One of my constituents has waited three months for a credit note but I thought it was important to remind the businesses in Oldham town centre and in the area in general, that a refund is available in these difficult financial times.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that she was grateful Councillor Sheldon had highlighted the availability of this refund and she would meet with him afterwards to discuss how best to communicate this to businesses.

#### Question 2 – Personal Responsibility for Raising Safeguarding Concerns

We are all seeing on the television in the last few days with utter disbelief the tragic circumstances following the death of a little boy and a baby girl that were killed and tortured by their parents and guardians. We need to raise awareness that, if anyone has a concern, they personally need to raise that concern and call our Safeguarding Team. I know the Team at the borough has an excellent record and I would like everyone to have the number 0161 770 7777. Please do not expect others to call. If you have a concern or suspect anything untoward is happening, you need to make that call. The Safeguarding Team will then decide to take any necessary action. Council is asked to consider whether a review is necessary and whether our laws and the penalty for such horrendous and evils acts should be revisited. Finally, I need to reiterate that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and tragedies like these must not happen.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that all Councillors were aware of the recent tragic cases. There had been a lot of public concern about the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements arising from these cases and that was something she completely understood. She was also aware that the government had announced two reviews in response to these highly-concerning cases - a review of both cases by the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and a joint targeted area inspection to look at the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements in Solihull. They had also appointed a Commissioner to conduct an independent review of safeguarding practice in Bradford and this additional scrutiny was welcome so we could all learn the lessons from these very sad cases. We could never be in a position to say we have got this right because we have not and there was always learning to be done. It was unfortunate that sometimes that was triggered by such tragedies. In Oldham we were committed to a strong Safeguarding Service to protect children and it was always deeply concerning when such a tragedy occurred. She wished to give her support to Councillor Sheldon and say we should communicate helplines and build public confidence in services. She was aware the work of social workers was extremely hard and there should be a constant review of the support they

received whilst always holding the Council to the highest standards.



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**Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democratic Group:**

Question 1 – Hospital Car Parking

For my first question to the Leader tonight I want to look at car parking at the Royal Oldham Hospital.

The complaints that both I and my Liberal Democrat colleagues receive regularly from constituents, who are either outpatients or visitors to the hospital, is the difficulty they encounter in finding a car parking space.

Sometimes residents, myself included, drive around for an age to find a space as the minutes tick away for their appointment. Frankly the stress is just not needed, especially when you are awaiting life- saving treatment for cancer or rushing to visiting a sick relative.

In addition, car parking spaces are sometimes some way from the relevant ward or outpatient's department, and visitors who are infirm or in ill-health can struggle to make the distance between their car and the building.

Can I ask the Leader, and through her the Cabinet Member for Health, if an appeal could be made to the hospital authorities to look again at visitor parking spaces to create more spaces in future development plans?

Can they also be asked to ensure that patient and visitor spaces, rather than staff spaces, are located closer to the wards and outpatient departments?

We also receive complaints about car parking charges. I have carried out some research about car parking charges at our hospital and there are a surprising number of concessions that would allow many patients to park for free or at a much-reduced rate – if only they knew about them and could find a parking space.

So, in a third part to my question can I ask if the Leader and Cabinet Member will work with the health authority and with relevant agencies, such as Healthwatch and cancer charities, to raise the public's awareness of these concessions?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that she shared Councillor Sykes' concerns and frustrations around this. She was aware conversations were already happening between the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the hospital. She would support working with the relevant agencies to effectively raise awareness of concessions.

Question 2 – Exploring Crowdfunding

My second question relates to Crowdfunding.

For councils up and down the country, it is becoming increasingly difficult to afford capital projects or provide for services or events that are outside statutory provision.

One innovation that more and more councils, from Manchester to Lewisham, are using is Crowdfunding.

Crowdfunding provides a new model for local authorities to connect with communities and residents.

It is a means by which local people become empowered to help deliver a capital project, service, or event that they want to see in their community by making an online financial contribution without the bureaucracy of funding bids.

Sometimes this contribution is made altruistically, sometimes in the expectation of personal gain such as receiving an interest payment or an invitation to a launch event.

Plymouth Council was the first who launched Crowdfund Plymouth in 2015. Within 12 months, this initiative raised over £430,000 to back more than 100 projects in the city where 4,550 members of the public had themselves raised one-quarter of the money.

Several local authorities have used crowdfunding specifically to finance renewable energy projects. This is the number one area Oldham needs to look at in my opinion.

Swindon Borough Council raised £4.3m from the public to fund two solar parks; Warrington and West Berkshire Councils £1 million each through Community Municipal Bonds; and Islington Council is just currently doing the same.

Back in 2019, a report from the University of Leeds, titled 'Financing for Society' concluded that crowdfunding has 'huge, untapped potential' for public sector infrastructure finance with finance accessible at a comparable rate to loans from the Public Works Loan Board.

My question to the Leader is therefore that if we are indeed a Co-operative Council intent on engaging our communities in our work and in getting 'everyone to do their bit', especially in helping to make our borough carbon-neutral by 2030, shouldn't we as a Council be at least investigating the merits of crowdfunding?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that she agreed entirely and would ask officers to undertake a piece of work to explore the crowd-funding opportunities. She would also volunteer the Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, who was very passionate about this area to have a conversation with Councillor Sykes about this. She welcomed the idea and recognised the need for innovation, especially as it was known that the government would not be giving more and Councils would need to do more for themselves.

**Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party:**

Question 1 – Leaks of Information

The Leader will be aware that my colleague Councillor Wilkinson has experienced leaks against him going out to the public and to a malicious blogger, who received details about a Committee before Councillor Wilkinson. This blogger had admitted in tweets that he had received information through leaked documents from this Council. This goes to the heart of what we do here and it should worry all Members if information goes outside that

should not do, especially if it goes to people that are going to use it against us. Confidentiality should be paramount in this place, we should be able to trust one another. I know we are building bridges with each other, with the Leaders and other Members, and trying to work together at the Council as never before. Surely items like this and leaks like this will cause friction, and are being put out there for the very reason, to cause division and scupper the relationships we have. Even more concerning for me was that we recently found out that it was not just Members of this Chamber who were being leaked against, but a member of the public has had matters leaked against them to this malicious blogger, who has used them against him. This is private information. The Council itself has admitted that the leak has taken place. It is very concerning and surely an issue of GDPR. I know that Councillor Shah has made a statement on this during the earlier question but I would like assurance that the source of these leaks will be found, will be dealt with severely, with criminal action taken if necessary, and that contact with any malicious blogger from any Member in this Chamber should be condemned.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that she did think this was important and she shared Councillor Hobin's concerns. The issue of confidential information being shared outside the organisation had been brought to her attention. Local people should be able to trust that the Council would manage their data when they contacted us and manage confidential information in appropriate ways and keep it as safe as possible. That was the Council's responsibility and duty. She had already asked officers to undertake an urgent review into the particular issue referred to and investigate who, if anyone, was inappropriately sharing confidential information. This review would conclude by the end of the week and the strongest possible action would be taken against anyone found to be leaking or sharing inappropriately. She was just as appalled as Councillor Hobin and promised that, if this was found to be happening, immediate action would be taken.

1. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:  
Even before the pandemic, food poverty was on the rise nationally. Here in Oldham the Council recognised the problem and worked closely with its partners to tackle hunger amongst young children., unfortunately the pandemic made a bad situation worse, and many Oldham families will be worried about how they will cope during the summer. Could the relevant Cabinet Member please advise us what help and support was available for children, young people and their families during October half-term and what are the plans for Christmas school holidays?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People responded that Oldham Council recognised it needed to tackle hunger amongst young children during school holidays. The Department for Work

and Pensions (DWP) recently announced new funding, the Household Support Grant fund, which covered the period October 2021 to March 2022, the Council chose to use some of this funding during the October half term holiday to issue food vouchers for families with children eligible for means tested Free School Meals, families on low incomes with pre-school children, support for college students eligible for Free School Meals and vouchers for care leavers under 25. This funding will also be used to support children and young people in the same way over the Christmas holiday and during the half term holiday in February next year.

In addition to this, Oldham Council, with the support of the wider voluntary sector, for these periods, are utilising the Holiday Activity Fund, to provide free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, for school-aged children who receive benefits-related free school meals.

2. Councillor Davis asked the following question:  
Now the public consultation on the Oldham planning local plan has finished, which I encouraged members of the public to take part in as well as commenting myself, to request an Article 4 Direction which would remove the permitted rights to be able to convert properties in Oldham into Houses of multiple occupancy (HMOs) I have noticed a lot of these developments changing the make up of areas including my own area in Failsworth and the loss of family homes which there is a need for! Can I rely on the Council's backing for my suggestion?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing replied that following the close of the recent public consultation on the Oldham Local Plan, the Council continued work on this. One of the matters the Council would address through the Local Plan was how best to manage the conversion of properties to HMOs across the borough. This would involve assessing whether an Article 4 Direction, to remove permitted development rights on the conversion of homes to HMOs for up to six people, could be justified in certain parts of the borough most affected by a proliferation of HMOs. It would also involve introducing a policy in the Local Plan for the Council to use when making decisions on planning applications for the conversion of non-residential properties to HMOs and the conversion of residential properties to HMOs of more than six people.

3. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:  
Recent figures from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have shown that a total of 194,060 new build homes were constructed between April 1 2020 and March 31 2021 - a five-year low, and down more than 11% on the previous year. A contributing factor for this decline has been stated as being as a result



of council approvals being slowed by staff working from home.

May I ask the responsible Cabinet Member to confirm:  
How many homes have been built within the Borough, or are in progress, during the same 12 month period?  
How this figure compares with the previous 12 months?  
How many planning applications have been granted for housing developments in the Borough over the last three years?  
How many such approved developments are yet to commence?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing replied that she could clarify that the reduction in the number of new homes built both nationally and in Oldham between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 was not related to council staff working from home. Homes built between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 would have been granted planning permission before March 2020. Council staff, both nationally and in Oldham, only moved to home-working with the introduction of the first national COVID lockdown on 23 March 2020.

In reality, the reduction in the number of new homes built in 2020/21 was due to the fact that the vast majority of construction sites stopped work for at least part of that first national lockdown and, when they were able to re-open, had to introduce additional COVID safety measures that slowed construction compared to normal practices.

In answer to Cllr Goodwins's specific questions:

The number of homes built in Oldham between 1 April 2020 and 31 March 2021 was 373. The number of homes built in Oldham between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 was 728, and that was the highest number for several years. The number of planning applications granted for housing developments in Oldham between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2021 was 254 sites granted planning permission, providing a total of 1,886 homes. The number of those planning applications granted for housing developments in Oldham between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2021 that had not yet started as at 30 September 2021 was 148 of those sites (providing a total of 1,034 homes). However, it should be noted that 81 of those sites (730 homes) were only granted planning permission in the last year. This lag between granting permission and commencing development was not unusual, given that there was often much pre-commencement work (including the discharge of pre-commencement planning conditions) to be done between getting planning permission and starting building.

4. Councillor H Gloster asked the following question:  
Although asbestos has been banned, it can still be found in 80% of British schools, meaning our teachers continue to work and our children often continue to study in buildings containing this toxic material. Since 2001, at

least 305 teachers and other education professionals have died of mesothelioma after exposure.

The campaign Airtight on Asbestos believes that the situation could be much improved if routine air monitoring takes place in our classrooms and if the CLASP and system-built schools of the 1950's can be replaced.

Can the Cabinet Member for Education please tell me what checks are routinely carried out in our older schools to monitor air quality for asbestos particles, and what action is taken if these are found to be at an unacceptable level?

And can the Cabinet Member please tell me how many CLASP or system built schools we have in our borough and what is the current timescale to replace them?

Councillor Ali, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied that Oldham Council complied fully with Regulation 4 of the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2012, which obliged all organisations to effectively and proactively manage the risk from asbestos. From 2002, asbestos surveys had been commissioned to all Council Schools, to identify, as far as is reasonably practicable, the presence and extent of any Asbestos Containing Materials in the premises and to assess their condition in relation to the immediate environment.

The Unity Partnership's BOHS registered asbestos competent consultants under the current Building Maintenance - Service Level Agreements, were regularly carrying out the necessary asbestos condition inspection and priority risk assessment works to ensure compliance with the Regulations. Asbestos installations remaining in-situ in occupied areas of the schools were in good condition and sealed and were recorded on the schools live asbestos register. Schools that did not buy into the SLA were monitored by the Council's Health and Safety service.

As part of this work, site specific asbestos management plans had been created for each premise. The purpose of the plan was to set out how the risks from any asbestos found during the survey were to be managed and therefore to prevent accidental exposure to asbestos fibres.

This work by the Unity Partnership was repeated on an annual basis to assist in updating the Asbestos Site Management Plans. In addition to the annual reviews, the school site managers carried out a weekly condition inspection check of the asbestos material.

Previously identified CLASP or system built schools had now been demolished and new schools built. The same management protocols were in place for these buildings prior to demolition.

The ongoing monitoring of the asbestos management plans, demonstrated the Council's on-going commitment to a strong and effective health and safety culture. The primary objective was to ensuring the safety and welfare of pupils, staff and anyone else who visit the schools

5. Councillor Arnott asked the following question:  
On 24 November, The Oldham Evening Chronicle published an extremely disturbing article in relation to allegations of bullying and sexual assault (by a fellow pupil) at the Radclyffe School in Chadderton. Three members of this Council are members of the Board of Governors at the school. Although for obvious reasons, many details of the harrowing events that led to a pupil attempting to take her own life cannot be published, it is clear that there were significant failings in the processes and procedures that should have been followed. Please could the Council Leader or appropriate cabinet member, reassure parents that all schools in the Borough have been contacted and reminded of their responsibilities and obligations when it comes to the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of the children who are in their care.

Councillor Ali, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied that the Headteacher of Radclyffe School issued a statement saying: " We have acknowledged and apologised where failings have occurred, and we will be learning from this in the future".

I can reassure parents that school leaders in the Borough were regularly reminded of their responsibilities for safeguarding of children in their care, through regular communications from the Portfolio Holders for Childrens' Services and Education and from the Director of Childrens' Services and Education. In addition, Headteachers and Chairs of Governors received a weekly update on pertinent safeguarding matters through the Education and Early Years briefing.

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership had an engagement model which was used to communicate with settings, schools, academies and colleges regarding keeping children safe in education matters. There was representation on the strategic safeguarding partnership from senior leaders in all education sectors and designated safeguarding leads were on key safeguarding groups. Termly network meetings were held to ensure information was shared from the partnership. Within the partnership business unit, there was a dedicated safeguarding advisor for education who was the link with schools on safeguarding matters and a training officer who worked with schools and colleges offering training and support on relationships and sex education topics. A number of Council services were tasked with supporting schools on emotional well-being and mental health.

The Mental Health in Education team worked with schools to embed universal support for all pupils and all staff. Each school had an allocated advisor to address their needs through consultation, curriculum planning or training. The team worked with stakeholders to ensure



that there was a consistent approach to Mental Health in schools and across the health sector. They offered bespoke support based on the needs identified through self-assessments and action plans. The core training offer enabled staff to have a wellbeing conversation, look beyond behaviour and support staff wellbeing.

6. Councillor Leach asked the following question:  
It is more important than ever that young children are in school or in early years provision according to their age. Providers of early childhood development services in schools, in private and voluntary organisations' settings, childminders, all are facing cost pressures. Claims against government COVID funds will no longer be available, but staffing absences continue and official staffing ratios must still be adhered to and so costs of temporary staff must be incurred or services closed. Providers are also reporting difficulties in recruiting staff and wage rates are rising. Given these staffing and cost pressures, can the Cabinet Member let us know what is the impact on the numbers of children attending early childhood development services?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People replied he had a lengthy response that he would keep brief and ensure the full response was circulated later. Providers of early years education and childcare were facing a very challenging time as they strived to maintain quality services amid multiple operational and financial pressures. These included:

- Changing patterns of parental demand as a result of new ways of working;
- Additional operational demands associated with need for infection control;
- Staff absences due to illness and isolating.
- Staff recruitment difficulties due to unattractive wages.

With regard to attendance in Early Years Settings, the DfE estimated that current attendance was approximately 86% of the usual daily level.

The take-up of places in Oldham showed a slight dip from the levels of take-up of places pre-pandemic.

There were a number of financial implications. Providers would continue to face further pressures on their running costs. These included a legacy of slightly lower levels of funding in Oldham compared to other similar authorities, inflation standing at 5.1%, and a 6.6% increase in the living wage. Where the problem really lay was in the government's failure to invest in early years provision. In the autumn budget, they announced a 3.8% increase in the hourly rate of funding to be paid to local authorities for free early education from April 2022, which was too little too late.

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



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**RESOLVED** that the questions and responses provided be noted.

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## **QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES**

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the undermentioned dates, 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 20th September 2021 and 18th October 2021 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:-

Councillor Lancaster asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 20/9/21, Item 7, p41 OPOL Interim Planning Paper Following the different Greater Manchester-wide spatial development plans – the GMSF and now ‘Places for Everyone’ – there is understandably a great deal of mistrust amongst residents of our Borough about the Council’s willingness to stand up and protect our precious green spaces for future generations to enjoy.

Unfortunately, on our current course, this feeling of mistrust will only deepen further, with five of the present Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) sites set to be de-designated and not recommended for succession to the new Local Green Spaces (LGS) model.

Two of these sites are situated in Saddleworth, one of which at Rumbles Lane, Delph, being in my Saddleworth North ward. In both instances, the Council’s own assessment acknowledges that the land adds to our area’s attractiveness.

Can I please ask the Cabinet Member for Housing for reconsideration to be given to these sites with a view to them being designated under LGS?

I would also like to welcome the addition of a new site at Sholver Lane in the St. James’ ward, and ask as well that further efforts are invested into finding new sites across the Borough which would benefit from LGS protection.

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that potentially de-designating OPOL sites and potentially designating new local green spaces was something that would be dealt with in the new local plan for Oldham. The reason for moving from a locally-set designation like OPOL to designations such as local green space was intended to reinforce the protection from development, to try and give stronger protection to those areas designated as a local green space and the criteria for this were different. In identifying which sites should be designated as local green space, the Council had put forward an initial view based on the assessment of OPOL sites against green space criteria, but no final decision had yet been made. If Members or local residents wished to put forward further

evidence why any OPOL sites should be designated as local green spaces, or why any other new sites should be considered for designation, the Council was listening to those suggestions as it prepared the new local plan. Some local residents had put forward responses to the issues and options and, if any Members wished to put forward more suggestions, they should do so. Green space was preferable as the land would be better protected.

Councillor Woodvine asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 18/10/21, Item 8, page 51 Waste collection vehicles I am pleased the Cabinet have chosen to replace the waste collection vehicles, but I'm surprised there are only five to cover the Borough.

In Saddleworth, and I suppose the Borough, we do have an ageing population and as such increasing single households and houses with older couples only.

For these people three weekly collections are more than enough, however, I have had concerns brought to me by families that fortnightly collections would be better.

In a perfect world we would have weekly collections although with Budgetary constraints I realise this isn't possible in a Borough this size.

Some of those families are happy, however, to take their own waste to the tip - saving the Council money.

But the restrictions on the tip mean they cannot go as often as they may need to, especially if they drive pick-ups for domestic purposes.

Therefore, did the Cabinet consider that reducing restrictions on the tip may mean people are happier to dispose of their own waste, and did they consider increasing the number of collection vehicles to in turn increase collection frequency?

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that 5 vehicles were not enough to cover a borough of Oldham's size. Oldham Council operated a fleet of over 25 waste collection vehicles.

The procurement process of new vehicles was staggered to reduce the financial requirement and risk to the service of replacing all the vehicles at the same time.

The 3-weekly collections implemented over four years ago had delivered savings in the millions towards the cost of disposing of general rubbish and improved recycling performance as well.

Although restrictions had been made to the number of visits to the tip these were in line with restrictions which had been imposed across the UK. Each household could visit the tip once every week and reduced visits only applied to larger vehicles.

At this time there were no considerations being made to increase the domestic collection frequencies or limit any further the restriction around the tips.

Councillor C Gloster asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 20/9/21 Item 6, p41  
Alexandra Park Depot Contract – Construction Contract and final business case approval

Whilst broadly welcoming the reconstruction of the Alexandra Park Depot which should provide a better and more efficient service to the communities of The Borough. This project received Cabinet approval almost 12 months ago however the construction phase has only just begun. Since approval, costs in the building trade have spiralled. Can the cabinet member assure us that this project will be completed on time and within the budget set for this project?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that in January this year, Cabinet approved the scope of the project and the commencement of the contractor procurement process. Following the completion of the designs and a robust tender process, the preferred contractor submitted an initial cost on 7th July 2021.

This was followed by a detailed tender negotiation to ensure price certainty and a fixed price lump sum, culminating in Cabinet approval on 20th September 2021. The final contract sum was signed off by the Chair of CIPB on 3rd November 2021 and included approval for an adjustment in the contractor's costs recognising material inflation.

Since then, the contractor has commenced work on site on 6th December 2021 and, as with other Council capital projects, comprehensive contract management and change control processes were in place to manage the project as it progressed. These processes would be managed by an experienced team of professionals who would monitor the contract and the work. he was hopeful that the contract would be delivered on budget and on time.

Councillor Murphy asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 20/9/21, Item 7, p41 OPOL Interim Planning Paper I note that finally, we have something that resembles Oldham's stance on Other Protected Open Land (OPOL), which to note the Liberal Democrats have been asking for a long time. If a proper OPOL policy was in date when planning applications like Cowlshaw and Denbigh Drive were submitted, then residents would have or would be in a better position to keep the area where they live as it is.

The Administration has used the lack of policy as a backdoor way to sneak in housing numbers to achieve Tory housing targets.

Cabinet resolved that "the Other Protected Open Land Interim Planning Paper be adopted. The Interim Planning Paper would be used as a material consideration to assess the significance of each Other Protected Open Land."

Could I ask the Cabinet member how exactly will the Council "assess the significance of each Other Protected Open Land"? And would the Cabinet Member please explain why we are behind other local authorities and do not have a proper OPOL policy and why did we not update it sooner?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that the Council had, and had always had since 2011, a "proper" policy on Other Protected Open Land (OPOL) in the form of Policy 22 of the adopted Joint Core Strategy and Development

Management Policies DPD. The question fails to acknowledge that Local Plan policies can be rendered out of date under paragraph 11(d) of the National Planning Policy Framework where the Council was unable to demonstrate a five-year housing land supply. The only way to bring that policy up to date was to demonstrate either a five-year supply or to adopt an entirely new policy through a review of the Local Plan.

Where the Council did not have a five year housing land supply, and so policies like that for OPOL were considered “out of date”, under national planning policy, the weight that the Council could give to those policies in decision-making on planning applications was reduced, and the weight given to the fact that an application would provide much-needed new housing was given greater weight. This meant the Council was less able to resist applications for housing development on OPOL sites, such as that referred to at Cowlshaw. (It should be noted that the application for Denbigh Drive had not yet been determined). The Interim Planning Paper, was designed to be used as a “material consideration” in determining planning applications. A material consideration was any matter which, while possibly not adopted policy, was relevant to consider in deciding planning applications. The Interim Planning Paper set out how the OPOL sites in the borough met Local Green Space criteria – a national designation that would provide stronger protection to such sites. The suggestion that the Council “are behind other local authorities and do not have a proper OPOL policy and why did we not update it sooner?”, this was entirely misleading. We could not be “behind other local authorities” in relation to an OPOL policy, as it was a locally-set policy unique to Oldham. As already said, the Council had a “proper” OPOL policy. Updating it to use a Local Green Space designation instead could only be done through adopting a new Local Plan. The Council were already preparing said new Local Plan, as councillors were aware.

Councillor Williamson asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 20/9/21, Item 8, page 42 Education Contributions Interim Planning Paper

This paper focuses solely on education contributions. Could the Cabinet member responsible please tell me why there has not been a matching Health Contributions Interim Planning Paper, particularly when there is considerable pressure to provide new healthcare facilities in a number of wards across the borough?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, replied that it had been standard practice in Oldham for some time to collect contributions towards education improvements from a new development, where it would create a need for additional school places in the local area. The latest Education Contributions Paper was an update to the existing formula for calculating those contributions. Where a new development was adding significantly to the burden of existing health infrastructure it was also possible to ask for a health contribution

However, the majority of new developments in the borough struggled to be viable, due to the low market values for housing in many areas and the costs of developing many sites in the



borough. This meant that many developments simply could not afford to make contributions secured towards provision of all of things asked for and remain viable. All too often one or more of these policy requirements was reduced or removed entirely from a development. Asking for a health contribution in addition would make this situation worse.

Nonetheless the overall policy on developer contribution would be reviewed as part of the Local Plan and if necessary a Health Contributions policy would be developed.

Councillor Hamblett asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 20/9/21 Item 11, p44 GM Streets for all Strategy  
To the relevant cabinet member: Will this mean our footpaths will finally be sorted and not be lumpy for the future?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform responded that Streets for All did not offer specific funding for highway repairs and the Council had invested to improve roads and footpaths. It was also working hard to maximise government funding for highways improvements.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

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**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:

GMCA	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 29 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
Police, Fire and Crime Panel	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021
National Peak Park Authority	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Commissioning Partnership Board	29 <sup>th</sup> April 2021

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Hamblett asked the following question in relation to GMCA 165/21

Education, work and skills activity update

Point 3 records that: That the progress made to date on the European Social Fund Skills for Growth Programme be noted.

Could I ask what funding has been made available to replace

the European Social Fund Skills for Growth Programme since our departure from the EU?



**Oldham**  
Council

Councillor Ali, Deputy Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied that under the exit agreement, there was a continuation of existing commitments from the European Social Investment Framework until December 2023. The replacement fund was the Shared Prosperity Fund worth £2.6bn (£0.4bn in 2022-23, £0.7bn in 2023-24 and £1.5bn in 2024-25).

The Government as part of its levelling up commitment created the Shared Prosperity Fund which should have seen £3m being targeted at Oldham but locally projects managed to just access c. £0.5m. GM in total only benefited to the value of c. £4.5m from an expected £12m. The Council remained concerned that the government was not concerned in investing in Levelling up the North.

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked the following question in relation to GMCA 168/21 Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy

The minutes note that "it was important that Government also recognised the seismic issue and stepped up their level of support". The Law Commission recently published its recommendation to create a new crime of Public Sexual Harassment – in line with the Liberal Democrat motion agreed universally by this Council – but declined to recommend making misogyny a hate crime. Does the member responsible feel that this is going far enough? Would they agree with me that it is important that the Government sends out a stronger message against misogyny, and that more work needs to be done with a view to adopting misogyny as a hate crime?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform responded that this was an easy question to answer because yes, she absolutely believed that misogyny should be a hate crime, and unlike our Prime Minister, she believed that the scale of the issue was more of a reason to address it.

In Oldham we recognised and understood the harmful impact of misogyny and there was a wealth of ongoing work to raise awareness and respond.

We supported the introduction of any legislation which held perpetrators to account for their targeted behaviour toward people on the basis of protected characteristics, and which recognised aggravating factors that needed to be considered during sentencing.

This included the Law Commission's recommendation to extend the existing offence of stirring up hatred to include doing so on the grounds of sex and gender. This would make it a criminal offence to promote misogynistic views and this was vital.

Introducing new offences was not enough. It was also critical that new measures resulted in meaningful enforcement action. The government needed to ensure that there were both the resources available and a willingness to prosecute new offences. The message from the government about misogyny needs to be seen to result in action.

Councillor Williamson asked the following question in relation to GMCA 172/21 GMCA, Environment Agency and United Utilities Memorandum of Understanding

There have been an increasing number of instances of United Utilities disputing whether repair works in the borough are their responsibility. Could the cabinet member responsible tell me if any data is being kept on the number of cases where this has happened, and if this Memorandum of Understanding will help the Council reduce the number of occasions on which this is happening?

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that she agreed it felt like United Utilities were trying to pass the buck and the reality was that Oldham Council and its residents would continue to be affected as a result of these ongoing disputes.

The issue had been raised at a North West and also GMCA level. It was disappointing that there had only been a slight improvement to the service provided so far.

The Council kept a log with information of all the incidents and disputes that came in that involved United Utilities, however concerns remained and the Council was not convinced that the Memorandum of Understanding will reduce the number of occasions that this was happening.

These type of issues were always subjective and each issue was investigated on a case by case basis so it was very hard to conclude who exactly was responsible for the issue on many occasions.

The Council had recently been allocated specific personnel to deal with at United Utilities, so there was now a very specific point of contact for when issues arose. However, faced with the number of historic and ongoing cases it remained a concern as to how this could be resolved.

Councillor Sykes asked the following question in relation to GMCA 202/21

Greater Manchester Brownfield Housing Fund – Reallocation of Tranche 2 additional 10% monies

What is Oldham's share of the £96.9M the minute refers to, and bearing in mind the amount of brownfield land in Oldham, is that a fair and equitable share or, as usual, are we being short changed?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, replied that the figure of £96.9m, in the minute referred to, was the total amount of Brownfield Housing Land Funding secured by GMCA from government to date, for allocation on qualifying residential development schemes across the whole of the GM City Region. Oldham had secured a total of £8.1 Million Brownfield Housing Fund Grant to support the delivery of up to 500 new homes across 4 sites. The Council had secured provisional allocations of £2 M and £4.5 M for proposed developments at Derker and Southlink respectively. First Choice Homes had secured £1 M to deliver the redevelopment of Westvale and Countryside



Properties secured £0.6 M to help deliver new homes at Bullcote Lane, Royton.

The Council would of course continue to closely monitor whether any further opportunities to deliver the quality new affordable homes that were needed came forward and if so would bid accordingly, doing everything possible to ensure that Oldham received its fair share of any funding opportunities that were on offer.

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked the following question in relation to GMPCFP/25/21 iOPS

The minutes state that the Chief Constable aimed to be in a position by the end of the year (2021) to know whether the current system was fit for purpose. We are now in our final meeting of the year, and no decision yet appears to have been taken on whether the system is fit for purpose. At a cost of £27 million and rising, can the member responsible give me a yes/no answer as to whether a decision is going to be taken in the next three weeks?

The minutes also note that the Panel noted the difficulties that are faced in introducing any new software system into a large-scale organisation. Could the member responsible give me a simple list of other police forces have faced similar problems to those in Greater Manchester?

Councillor Williams responded that other police forces had experienced difficulties but not to the same extent. GMP had experience issues others had not. In relation to the first part of the question, he had checked today and been told there may be an answer by the end of next month. If iOPS was to be replaced, it would take at least two years and iOPS would have to be used for that time. The other option would be to stick with it and fix it. There were may meetings taking place with a range of people involved in iOPS and there should be a decision by the end of January. Whatever the decision, it needed to be absolutely right.

Councillor H Gloster asked the following question in relation to Commissioning Partnership Board, p97

Does the member response think it is satisfactory from minutes of this important body from April 21, 8 months ago are only now being presented to the Council? I for one do not!

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, replied that minutes sent to Full Council must have been approved at the following meeting of the relevant Committee or Board before being part of the Council agenda. Since the meeting in April 2021, the next meeting of the Commissioning Partnership Board was held on the 21st October, where the minutes from April were approved.

Members were able to view the minutes online before they went to the following meeting and Full Council and Members could also attend the meeting.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Joint Authorities and Partnership meetings as detailed in the report be noted.

2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

## NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

### Motion 1

Councillor Hulme MOVED and Councillor Chadderton  
SECONDED the following MOTION:



### **Motion 1 - Levelling down transport in Greater Manchester**

This Council notes:

1. The recently published Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) scales back the Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) project to such an extent it has effectively been scrapped. The lack of a dedicated highspeed line between Liverpool and Leeds will impact the service at Greenfield and other towns and villages on the Huddersfield Line. The lack of any funding for electrification on the Rochdale line reduces capacity and reliability.
2. That the promise of an underground station at Manchester Piccadilly has been scrapped by the Government, potentially cutting billions from the local economy. This also raises concerns about the route of the new line running from Manchester to Marsden and how it may impact Oldham.
3. The difference in transport costs between London and Greater Manchester. In London, someone can make as many bus journeys as they like in an hour for only £1.55 whereas a single bus journey in Oldham can cost at least double that.
4. The excellent work of Mayor Andy Burnham in taking back control of our buses in Greater Manchester. The Government has shown support for The Mayor's vision for travel in Greater Manchester with a £1bn package, however this does not make up for the billions now cut from transport in GM in the IRP.

This Council believes that the Government has reneged on its pledge to level up the economies of the north and the south: the difference in transport investment between London and the North is stark. Figures from the IPPR show the North has an £86bn deficit in Treasury transport spending compared to London. The North has received just £349 per person in transport spending since 2009/10 compared with £864 in London. The IPPR has also stated that to meet the challenge of the climate crisis, an extra £12bn a year must be invested. The Government promised repeatedly that they would build NPR and HS2 in full. This promise has been broken and the people of the north betrayed.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to

1. Mayor Andy Burnham supporting his efforts to secure the future of Northern Powerhouse Rail and the additional investment needed to provide a modern, efficient and integrated public transport system in Greater Manchester
2. Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps demanding that the Government revisits the IRP to

ensure that Oldham, Greater Manchester and the North West receive a fair share in transport spending in comparison to London and that key projects such as the underground station at Manchester Piccadilly, HS2 and rail electrification are reinstated.



## AMENDMENT

Councillor Hindle MOVED and Councillor Wilkinson SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Motion 1 – Note 4

To remove first sentence of above Note 4 “The Council notes the excellent work of Mayor Andy Burnham, in taking back control of our buses in Greater Manchester”.

The amended motion to read:

This Council notes:

1. The recently published Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) scales back the Northern Powerhouse Rail (NPR) project to such an extent it has effectively been scrapped. The lack of a dedicated highspeed line between Liverpool and Leeds will impact the service at Greenfield and other towns and villages on the Huddersfield Line. The lack of any funding for electrification on the Rochdale line reduces capacity and reliability.
2. That the promise of an underground station at Manchester Piccadilly has been scrapped by the Government, potentially cutting billions from the local economy. This also raises concerns about the route of the new line running from Manchester to Marsden and how it may impact Oldham.
3. The difference in transport costs between London and Greater Manchester. In London, someone can make as many bus journeys as they like in an hour for only £1.55 whereas a single bus journey in Oldham can cost at least double that.
4. The Government has shown support for The Mayor’s vision for travel in Greater Manchester with a £1bn package, however this does not make up for the billions now cut from transport in GM in the IRP.

This Council believes that the Government has reneged on its pledge to level up the economies of the north and the south: the difference in transport investment between London and the North is stark. Figures from the IPPR show the North has an £86bn deficit in Treasury transport spending compared to London. The North has received just £349 per person in transport spending since 2009/10 compared with £864 in London. The IPPR has also stated that to meet the challenge of the climate crisis, an extra £12bn a year must be invested. The Government promised repeatedly that they would build NPR and HS2 in full. This promise has been broken and the people of the north betrayed.

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to

1. Mayor Andy Burnham supporting his efforts to secure the future of Northern Powerhouse Rail and the additional investment needed to provide a modern, efficient and integrated public transport system in Greater Manchester
2. Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps demanding that the Government revisits the IRP to ensure that Oldham, Greater Manchester and the North West receive a fair share in transport spending in comparison to London and that key projects such as the underground station at Manchester Piccadilly, HS2 and rail electrification are reinstated.

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

Councillor Woodvine spoke against the motion.

Councillor Sykes spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Shah spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Hulme 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

1. Mayor Andy Burnham supporting his efforts to secure the future of Northern Powerhouse Rail and the additional investment needed to provide a modern, efficient and integrated public transport system in Greater Manchester
2. Secretary of State for Transport Grant Shapps demanding that the Government revisits the IRP to ensure that Oldham, Greater Manchester and the North West receive a fair share in transport spending in comparison to London and that key projects such as the underground station at Manchester Piccadilly, HS2 and rail electrification are reinstated.

#### Motion 2

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Ali SECONDED the following MOTION:

#### **Motion 2 - Supporting Oldham's children with SEND**

This Council acknowledges the incredible work done by teachers, parents, and carers in supporting and nurturing children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND). SEND comes in many forms, early identification and intervention are vital in ensuring we deliver the best possible outcomes for children with SEND. In Oldham we work tremendously hard to ensure that children with SEND are offered the best opportunities to thrive and develop in our education system. This is not easy task when schools are required to fund the at least first £6,000 of support for a child with SEND in the face of cuts to schools General Budgets, local authorities are also struggling

with increasing demand, increasing cost and a failure by Central Government to adequately fund SEND provision.

One area of particular concern is the lack of investment) Speech Language and Communications (SLC) needs, this is just one of the many classification categories and children can be identified as having SLC needs as a primary SEND need, but we know that children in the majority of the other SEND categories will have associated SLC need.

This Council notes:

- There are around 7800 children and young people in Oldham who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- 2634 children and young people have an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP).
- Demand for SEND services is increasing rapidly and services are also responding to more complex needs. During 2020 - 2021 we saw a 100% increase in the number of EHC needs assessment requests between May and September.
- Oldham received Government SEND funding of £33,043,000 in 2019/20, but it spent more than £37m on services and in 2020/21 it received £39,189,000 and spent in excess of £40m
- The funding from Government has failed to keep pace with rapidly increasing costs, leaving big gaps in budgets for both the Council and schools.
- The Local Government Association estimated that councils in England would face a SEND funding gap of up to £1.6 billion by 2021.
- The requirement on schools to fund the at least first £6,000 of support for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, making caring for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities a financial burden on schools in the face of cuts to schools General Budgets.
- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) services for children with SLC needs requires significant investment at a national level.

This Council believes:

1. We face a national crisis in high needs funding, but this crisis is hitting towns like Oldham harder than other parts of the country.
2. The Government have failed to invest in services to children at risk of not being able to speak or understand language at an age-appropriate level.
3. The Government is failing to fund SEND services properly and it's falling to local councils and schools to plug the gaps.
4. That while the additional £6,146m of Government funding is welcome, it doesn't even cover the gap we already face.
5. Children and young people with special needs and disabilities are some of the most vulnerable in our society and it's vital that the services that support them are funded fairly and properly.



This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education urging him to urgently invest SEND services and ensure that Government funding keeps pace with rising demand complexity of need, including Speech and Language Therapy Services and to end the requirement on schools to fund at least the first £6,000.

Councillor H Gloster spoke in favour of the motion.  
Councillor Williams spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Moores exercised his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Education urging him to urgently invest SEND services and ensure that Government funding keeps pace with rising demand complexity of need, including Speech and Language Therapy Services and to end the requirement on schools to fund at least the first £6,000.

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## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### Motion 1

Councillor Arnott MOVED and Councillor Lancaster SECONDED the following MOTION:

### **Motion 1 - Oldhams Roads Are Not Racetracks For Criminals.**

In 2020, close to 680m vehicle miles were travelled in Oldham. Given the sheer number of vehicle miles travelled, it is sadly inevitable that collisions and accidents will occur, even when drivers are law abiding and drive considerately.

On average 681 people are killed or seriously injured on the roads of Greater Manchester each year. Of all reported collisions, 58% involved a driver aged between 17 and 35 and a staggering 80% of all fatal incidents involved a male driver.

However, there is a dangerous group, of mostly young men and women, who consider the roads of Oldham as their own personal racetrack, and routinely and recklessly speed on our roads with no regard for the safety of themselves or others, putting other drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians in real danger of serious injury or worse.

A number of these vehicles are not taxed or insured and have been modified to increase speed and performance at the expense of safety and security. Speed cameras are sadly not enough as, our roads have become the plaything of these people with some using stolen vehicles and plates to race each other and then abandon those same vehicles also. Several vehicles are used in crimes such as burglaries, carjacking's, transportation of narcotics, get away driving, prostitution, and illegal street racing.

This Council resolves :

- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, on behalf of the people of this Borough, write to the Division

Commander of Oldham and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to demand that they take these vehicles off the road and target these groups of “boy racers” who consciously and deliberately set out to drive at speed, with reckless abandon putting the lives of others at risk.

- That the Council work with and give full use and access to GMP of cameras, buildings, and offices in implementing a crackdown.
- That Oldham Council share its records with GMP on reports of incidents which residents have reported and look to build a database which they can then target criminals with.
- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council recommend that GMP should look to seize and crush vehicles that partake in these dangerous acts of driving as well as cash fines and points on their licence.
- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council recommend that GMP look to deploy a team to patrol some of the worst highways from the evening to the early hours of the morning when many of these crimes take place.
- That Oldham Council takes a zero-tolerance approach to all crimes that involve narcotics and will support GMP in their efforts to test and arrest those driving whilst under the influence of narcotics.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Williams SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Delete Paragraph 3 and insert:

We acknowledge that the majority of Oldham residents are responsible drivers, who do not as a matter of course, drive in a way that would endanger themselves or anyone else. However, there are a minority of residents that continue to speed and drive in a dangerous manner and this isn't acceptable.

Over recent years, Oldham Council has deployed a combination of evidence based, data led Engineering, Enforcement and Engineering initiatives. This has been successful and in recent years we have seen a steady decrease in the number of road traffic injury collisions in line with national targets.

We currently undertake a range of initiatives designed to reduce dangerous driving and teach young people about road safety as part of our Road Safety Education and Training which is delivered in schools and the local community.

However, Oldham Council can only do so much on its own. The responsibility for catching and taking action against dangerous drivers falls to Greater Manchester Police and we would welcome a more proactive approach from GMP on dealing with these drivers, particularly in some our 'hot spot' areas.

Bullet point 1 – delete ‘...to demand that they take these vehicles off the road and target these groups of “boy racers” who consciously and deliberately set out to drive at speed, with reckless abandon putting the lives of others at risk’

And insert 'to ask for clarity on what is Greater Manchester Police's policy in seizing cars that are involved in dangerous driving, causing a nuisance or organised crime and how many cars have been seized in Oldham over the past five years'.

Delete bullet points 2 & 3

Delete bullet point 6 and insert

- Ask how much money and resource GMP deploy in Oldham to tackle speeding and dangerous driving and how this compares with the other nine Greater Manchester Authorities.

The amended motion to read:

In 2020, close to 680m vehicle miles were travelled in Oldham. Given the sheer number of vehicle miles travelled, it is sadly inevitable that collisions and accidents will occur, even when drivers are law abiding and drive considerately.

On average 681 people are killed or seriously injured on the roads of Greater Manchester each year. Of all reported collisions, 58% involved a driver aged between 17 and 35 and a staggering 80% of all fatal incidents involved a male driver.

We acknowledge that the majority of Oldham residents are responsible drivers, who do not as a matter of course, drive in a way that would endanger themselves or anyone else. However, there are a minority of residents that continue to speed and drive in a dangerous manner and this isn't acceptable.

Over recent years, Oldham Council has deployed a combination of evidence based, data led Engineering, Enforcement and Engineering initiatives. This has been successful and in recent years we have seen a steady decrease in the number of road traffic injury collisions in line with national targets.

We currently undertake a range of initiatives designed to reduce dangerous driving and teach young people about road safety as part of our Road Safety Education and Training which is delivered in schools and the local community.

However, Oldham Council can only do so much on its own. The responsibility for catching and taking action against dangerous drivers falls to Greater Manchester Police and we would welcome a more proactive approach from GMP on dealing with these drivers, particularly in some our 'hot spot' areas.

A number of these vehicles are not taxed or insured and have been modified to increase speed and performance at the expense of safety and security. Speed cameras are sadly not enough as, our roads have become the plaything of these people with some using stolen vehicles and plates to race each other and then abandon those same vehicles also. Several vehicles are used in crimes such as burglaries, carjacking's, transportation of narcotics, get away driving, prostitution, and illegal street racing.

This Council resolves :

- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council, on behalf of the people of this Borough, write to the Division Commander of Oldham and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to ask for clarity on what is Greater Manchester Police's policy in seizing cars that are involved in



dangerous driving, causing a nuisance or organised crime and how many cars have been seized in Oldham over the past five years.

- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council recommend that GMP should look to seize and crush vehicles that partake in these dangerous acts of driving as well as cash fines and points on their licence.
- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council recommend that GMP look to deploy a team to patrol some of the worst highways from the evening to the early hours of the morning when many of these crimes take place.
- Ask how much money and resource GMP deploy in Oldham to tackle speeding and dangerous driving and how this compares with the other nine Greater Manchester Authorities.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke to the amendment.

Councillor Hobin spoke against the amendment.

Councillor Arnott exercised his right of reply.

Councillor Chadderton exercised her right of reply.

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

Councillor C. Gloster spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Woodvine spoke in favour of the motion.

Councillor Arnott exercised his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED** that:

- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council be asked, on behalf of the people of this Borough, to write to the Division Commander of Oldham and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to ask for clarity on what is Greater Manchester Police's policy in seizing cars that are involved in dangerous driving, causing a nuisance or organised crime and how many cars have been seized in Oldham over the past five years.
- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council recommend that GMP should look to seize and crush vehicles that partake in these dangerous acts of driving as well as cash fines and points on their licence.
- That the Chief Executive of Oldham Council recommend that GMP look to deploy a team to patrol some of the worst highways from the evening to the early hours of the morning when many of these crimes take place.
- That the Chief Executive asks how much money and resource GMP deploy in Oldham to tackle speeding and dangerous driving and how this compares with the other nine Greater Manchester Authorities.

## Motion 2

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Williamson  
SECONDED the following MOTION:

### **Motion 2 - Time for the Fair Game manifesto in football**

Council believes that football, the national game in the UK, is currently in crisis.

COVID-19 has devastated the revenue of many lower-league clubs, with the loss of some notables, and dozens more clubs teetering on the brink of survival. Frequently bad management has gone unnoticed or ignored and clubs are run unsustainably, putting at risk all the history, heritage, and economic benefit they bring to an area – often in pursuit of short-term gain.

Council believes that football clubs are not ordinary businesses; they are historic sporting institutions that are both a civic and community asset, and a source of pride and unity, in their hometown or city.

Council therefore supports Fair Game, a national campaign that seeks radical reform of the way football is managed and run, specifically its call for:

- An independent regulator for the sport.
- A refocus on ‘values’ rather than profit.
- The establishment of a Sustainability Index, which will reallocate the payments made to clubs to reward those which are run well, respect equality standards and properly engage with their fans and their community.
- Fans to be given the final say on any proposed change to a club’s ‘crown jewels’, including the club’s name, nickname, colours, badge and the geographical location from where the club plays.

Council also notes that former Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP is about to publish a Government-commissioned fan-led review into football governance and believes that some of its findings will mirror Fair Game’s aspirations.

As a Co-operative Council, we would also like to see football clubs co-operatively owned by their fans, rather than owners with no connection to a town or with more interest in extracting profits from the club, rather than the team’s on-pitch performance.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, ‘Solutions for our National Game’, and calls on other councils to join us in our support.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, asking them to support and work towards implementing Fair Game’s manifesto and the findings of the fan-led review led by Tracey Crouch MP.
- Ask the Council’s representative to the Co-operative Council’s Innovation Network to request the CCIN investigate how best member councils can support the

registration of their local football clubs as Assets of Community Value and facilitate their future purchase and operation, when the opportunity arises, as fan-owned co-operatives.



Councillor Byrne spoke in favour of the motion.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Council:

- Declare its support for the Fair Game manifesto, 'Solutions for our National Game', and calls on other councils to join us in our support.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Sport, our local Members of Parliament, and the Chair of the Local Government Association Culture, Tourism and Sport Board, asking them to support and work towards implementing Fair Game's manifesto and the findings of the fan-led review led by Tracey Crouch MP.
- Ask the Council's representative to the Co-operative Council's Innovation Network to request the CCIN investigate how best member councils can support the registration of their local football clubs as Assets of Community Value and facilitate their future purchase and operation, when the opportunity arises, as fan-owned co-operatives.

### Motion 3

Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Byrne SECONDED the following MOTION:

### **Motion 3 – Earthshot Oldham**

In 2020 H.R.H the Duke of Cambridge founded the Earthshot Prize, inspiring innovative ideas and incentivising change, across this country and around the world. It is ambitious and prestigious. A year on Oldham can also be inspired by the words and work of the Royal Family and these 'Earthshots' – simple but ambitious goals which, if achieved by 2030, will improve life for us all, and for generations to come.

Each Earthshot is underpinned by scientifically agreed targets including the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally recognised measures to help repair our planet.

Together, they form a unique set of challenges rooted in science, which aim to generate new ways of thinking, as well as new technologies, systems, policies and solutions.

By bringing these five critical issues together this Council can recognise the interconnectivity between environmental challenges and the urgent need to tackle them together. Like the Prize, this Council can aim to turn the current pessimism surrounding environmental issues into optimism, by highlighting the ability of human ingenuity to bring about change, and inspiring collective action.

As it is a decade of action this Council notes that:

- Species face extinction as habitats are destroyed, but destroying nature threatens our lives too. Forests and natural land are vital to human health and happiness, helping to prevent global warming and producing oxygen that we breathe.
- Thousands of children in Oldham breathe toxic air every day, causing countless deaths that could be prevented. We refuse to accept this – clean air and healthy lives are within our reach.
- Warmer temperatures, pollution, plastic and harmful fishing practices are having devastating impacts on the ocean, putting life underwater in jeopardy but this decade we can choose to make our ocean healthy.
- The world we have built is not like this; we throw everything away, and this is harming our planet but we have the power to build something better.
- Carbon in the atmosphere is making our planet warmer, to levels which threaten all life on Earth but it is not too late; if we act now, we can make the world a better, more sustainable home for everyone.

By 2030 this Council chooses to:

- Repair and preserve the habitats that our animals need to live, from forests and grasslands, to wetlands, lakes and rivers.
- End outdated transport that emits toxic fumes, remove pollution from the air using both technology and nature, and eliminate the burning of fossil fuels, choosing 100% renewable energy for everyone – from our towns to villages.
- Bring forward a new era where everyone uses the ocean sustainably and to refuse to accept a world where turtles, dolphins and coral reefs vanish from our seas.
- Eliminate food waste, single-use packaging, and inspire a new generation of people, companies, and industries to reuse, repurpose, and recycle.
- Build a system that can work forever, where people in Oldham can live safe, healthy and happy lives, without waste.
- Fix our climate so that life everywhere can thrive for generations to come.

As we must act now to protect our future this Council resolves to:

- Protect and restore nature in Oldham, ensuring that for the first time in human history the natural world around us is growing and not shrinking.
- Clean our air, ensuring that everybody in Oldham breathes clean, healthy air – at the World Health Organisation standard, or better.
- Revive our oceans, repairing and preserving our oceans for future generations.
- Build a waste-free Oldham, and world, where nothing goes to waste and where the leftovers of one process become the raw materials of the next – just like they do in nature.

- Fix our climate by cutting out Carbon and building a Carbon-neutral economy that lets every culture and community in Oldham thrive.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Roberts SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Insert as new para 2: Oldham Green New Deal Strategy sets a target of 2030 Carbon Neutrality for the borough.

Add at end of notes (after bullet point 5) For many years now, Oldham Council has been a leading council regionally, nationally and internationally in a number of key areas in climate change strategy and community energy. Further to this, in September 2019 Oldham Council declared Climate Emergency and in March 2020 adopted the UK's first local authority Green New Deal Strategy

Delete: From by 2030 ...to ...generations to come

Insert As at the beginning of we must act now

Add at end of bullet point 1 - by amongst other policies delivering the Northern Roots Country Park and bio-diversity net gain through the planning process

Add at end of bullet point 2 - through, for example, our commitment at a Greater Manchester level and in Oldham to the Bee Network, Bus Franchising and the Clean Air Plan.

Insert at beginning of bullet point 3 Support work to and add at end continue to implement our plan to reduce the use of single use plastics.

Insert at beginning of bullet point 5: Do our bit to f (delete capital F) and add at end – including using the policies in Places for Everyone - Chapter 5 of the Places for Everyone (PfE)

Publication Plan 2021 is on Sustainable and Resilient Places and includes a section on Addressing Climate Change which is set within Greater Manchester's vision to be at the forefront of action on climate change by becoming a carbon neutral city region by 2038.

Add new bullet point 6

- Deliver the vision, Objectives and Pledges in the in the Oldham Green New Strategy, including the 2030 carbon neutrality target for the borough

Add new bullet point 7

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, inviting him to visit Oldham to discuss our innovative and leading-edge Green New Deal plans and proposals, and to identify how the Government can help us to meet our ambitious carbon neutrality targets for both the Council and the Borough, and secure jobs and training opportunities for Oldham residents in the key growth Green Technology and Services sector.

*Revised motion to read:*

In 2020 H.R.H the Duke of Cambridge founded the Earthshot Prize, inspiring innovative ideas and incentivising change, across this country and around the world. It is ambitious and



prestigious. A year on Oldham can also be inspired by the words and work of the Royal Family and these 'Earthshots' – simple but ambitious goals which, if achieved by 2030, will improve life for us all, and for generations to come.

Oldham Green New Deal Strategy sets a target of 2030 Carbon Neutrality for the borough.

Each Earthshot is underpinned by scientifically agreed targets including the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally recognised measures to help repair our planet. Together, they form a unique set of challenges rooted in science, which aim to generate new ways of thinking, as well as new technologies, systems, policies and solutions.

By bringing these five critical issues together this Council can recognise the interconnectivity between environmental challenges and the urgent need to tackle them together. Like the Prize, this Council can aim to turn the current pessimism surrounding environmental issues into optimism, by highlighting the ability of human ingenuity to bring about change, and inspiring collective action.

As it is a decade of action this Council notes that:

- Species face extinction as habitats are destroyed, but destroying nature threatens our lives too. Forests and natural land are vital to human health and happiness, helping to prevent global warming and producing oxygen that we breathe.
- Thousands of children in Oldham breathe toxic air every day, causing countless deaths that could be prevented. We refuse to accept this – clean air and healthy lives are within our reach.
- Warmer temperatures, pollution, plastic and harmful fishing practices are having devastating impacts on the ocean, putting life underwater in jeopardy but this decade we can choose to make our ocean healthy.
- The world we have built is not like this; we throw everything away, and this is harming our planet but we have the power to build something better.
- Carbon in the atmosphere is making our planet warmer, to levels which threaten all life on Earth but it is not too late; if we act now, we can make the world a better, more sustainable home for everyone.

For many years now, Oldham Council has been a leading council regionally, nationally and internationally in a number of key areas in climate change strategy and community energy. Further to this, in September 2019 Oldham Council declared Climate Emergency and in March 2020 adopted the UK's first local authority Green New Deal Strategy.

As we must act now to protect our future this Council resolves to:

- Protect and restore nature in Oldham, ensuring that for the first time in human history the natural world around us is growing and **not** shrinking by amongst other policies delivering the Northern Roots Country Park and bio-diversity net gain through the planning process.
- Clean our air, ensuring that everybody in Oldham breathes clean, healthy air – at the World Health

Organisation standard, or better through, for example, our commitment at a Greater Manchester level and in Oldham to the Bee Network, Bus Franchising and the Clean Air Plan.

- Support work to revive our oceans, repairing and preserving our oceans for future generations and continue to implement our plan to reduce the use of single use plastics.
- Build a waste-free Oldham, and world, where nothing goes to waste and where the leftovers of one process become the raw materials of the next – just like they do in nature.
- Do our bit to fix our climate by cutting out Carbon and building a Carbon-neutral economy that lets every culture and community in Oldham thrive including using the policies in Places for Everyone - Chapter 5 of the Places for Everyone (PfE) Publication Plan 2021 is on Sustainable and Resilient Places and includes a section on Addressing Climate Change which is set within Greater Manchester's vision to be at the forefront of action on climate change by becoming a carbon neutral city region by 2038.
- Deliver the vision, Objectives and Pledges in the in the Oldham Green New Strategy, including the 2030 carbon neutrality target for the borough.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, inviting him to visit Oldham to discuss our innovative and leading-edge Green New Deal plans and proposals, and to identify how the Government can help us to meet our ambitious carbon neutrality targets for both the Council and the Borough, and secure jobs and training opportunities for Oldham residents in the key growth Green Technology and Services sector.

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 protect and restore nature in Oldham, ensuring that for the first time in human history the natural world around us is growing and **not** shrinking by amongst other policies delivering the Northern Roots Country Park and bio-diversity net gain through the planning process.
- The Council would clean our air, ensuring that everybody in Oldham breathes clean, healthy air – at the World Health Organisation standard, or better through, for example, our commitment at a Greater Manchester level and in Oldham to the Bee Network, Bus Franchising and the Clean Air Plan.
- The Council would support work to revive our oceans, repairing and preserving our oceans for future



generations and continue to implement our plan to reduce the use of single use plastics.

- The Council would build a waste-free Oldham, and world, where nothing goes to waste and where the leftovers of one process become the raw materials of the next – just like they do in nature.
- The Council would do our bit to fix our climate by cutting out Carbon and building a Carbon-neutral economy that lets every culture and community in Oldham thrive including using the policies in Places for Everyone - Chapter 5 of the Places for Everyone (PfE) Publication Plan 2021 is on Sustainable and Resilient Places and includes a section on Addressing Climate Change which is set within Greater Manchester's vision to be at the forefront of action on climate change by becoming a carbon neutral city region by 2038.
- The Council would deliver the vision, Objectives and Pledges in the in the Oldham Green New Strategy, including the 2030 carbon neutrality target for the borough.
- The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, inviting him to visit Oldham to discuss our innovative and leading-edge Green New Deal plans and proposals, and to identify how the Government can help us to meet our ambitious carbon neutrality targets for both the Council and the Borough, and secure jobs and training opportunities for Oldham residents in the key growth Green Technology and Services sector.

#### Motion 4

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

#### **Motion 4 – Increasing and promoting the Warm Home Discount**

This Council notes:

- The Warm Home Discount Scheme, a Government initiative administered by energy suppliers, provides eligible households with a £140 discount on their electricity bill between September and March each year which has remained fixed for over 9 years.
- Energy prices have increased significantly in recent years, with the costs of energy increasing by 40% in the last year alone.
- Additionally, Ofgem has recently set an unprecedented price cap hike, a measure which the End Fuel Poverty Coalition has predicted will propel a further 1.2 million people into fuel poverty (up from 4.1 million to 5.3 million).
- Following a consultation earlier this year, the government has pledged to increase the rebate in England and Wales and to expand the scheme so



that an additional 780,000 households become eligible.

Council believes:

- That the Warm Home Discount is vital in helping to tackle fuel poverty.
- The £10 increase is wholly inadequate given price inflation over the last nine years and the increases proposed in the future.
- That many eligible households are not aware of the discount or how to apply for it.

This Council resolves

- To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to urgently increase the value of the Warm Home Discount Scheme to reflect price inflation and future increases and to identify new ways to promote the rebate so many more eligible households are aware of it and apply.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Chief Executive be asked to write to the Minister of State at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy to urgently increase the value of the Warm Home Discount Scheme to reflect price inflation and future increases and to identify new ways to promote the rebate so many more eligible households are aware of it and apply.

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### **COVID 19 UPDATE**

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

In moving the report, Councillor Shah thanked local health and Council staff and the voluntary sector who would be doing their utmost to meet the government's vaccine promises at the time they most needed a break. There would be over 400,000 NHS workers and the Council's Social Care workers who would be working through Christmas, and the work of the community and voluntary sectors had to be acknowledged, all of whom would not be spending Christmas the way they would have expected.

Members noted that COVID-19 was still circulating across the UK and there continued to be new cases in Oldham every day. The report summarised activity, demonstrating how the spread of COVID-19 across communities would be collectively managed and prevented.

In the winter months, there were multiple risks ahead associated with COVID-19, its direct and indirect impact on people and services, as well as the impacts of other winter pressures. Whilst many aspects of life had begun to see a return to pre-pandemic times, the transmission and impact of COVID-19 still required careful management, and if rates continued to rise, further

measures to mitigate the impact on individuals, society and economy might be required.

On 26th November 2021 the World Health Organisation designated the Covid variant B.1.1.529 a variant of concern, named Omicron. First identified in South Africa, Omicron had been identified in several other countries, including the UK. Work was ongoing to understand the virulence of the new variant, its transmissibility and how effective the vaccines were at combatting it.

The Government has reintroduced various measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 in England. These measures included:

- Compulsory face coverings on public transport and in shops
- Pupils strongly advised to wear face coverings in communal areas in secondary schools
- Contacts of suspected Omicron cases to self-isolate for 10 days, regardless of age or vaccination status
- Travelers to the UK to take PCR or lateral flow tests prior to departure, and to take a PCR test within 48 hours of arrival in the UK, isolating until they had a negative result.

Members were informed that there was still considerable uncertainty about the future course of the pandemic, funding and government policy. In this context the local response needed to remain agile. Given Oldham's experience of COVID-19 to date the response was well established and wide in scope and as such was well placed to be able to adapt as needed.

As of 27th November 2021, there had been 44,813 cases of COVID-19 identified in Oldham; the weekly infection rates were currently running at around 308 cases per 100,000 people. This remained the lowest in Greater Manchester and lower than the England rate of 434 per 100,000.

Increasing vaccination uptake remained the primary focus of the local response. Over 162,000 Oldham residents had received their first doses (74.7% of Oldham's eligible population) and over 148,000 had received second doses (72.9% of Oldham's eligible population), with an additional 52,000 booster shots or third doses delivered.

As the vaccination programme had evolved in Oldham, the number and range of settings where vaccination clinics were provided had widened substantially, informed by feedback from residents. Current clinics included GP surgeries, pharmacies, the hospital and community venues. In addition, vaccinations for 12-17 year olds had been offered in education settings.

The borough had a wide-ranging testing offer, including lateral flow testing for people who did not have symptoms, and PCR tests for people with symptoms and those who had been close contacts of a confirmed case.

A multi-channel communications and engagement plan was in place to support the COVID-19 response, including social and digital media, print and out of home advertising, video and direct mail/newsletters to specific groups.

The current focus of communications activity was on increasing vaccination uptake and reminding residents that “Covid is still here”, meaning that standard infection, prevention and control measures were still important.

Councillors asked the following questions:

Councillor Sykes asked:

I fully support the Governments vaccination programme and in particular its booster vaccination programme. However, I am really concerned by the recently announced acceleration of that booster programme will have a devastating impact on other NHS preventive services and treatments. When even the Prime Minister says these will be cancelled, delayed or need to be rescheduled we all need to be very worried. As we all know Oldham’s population is not a healthy one – delays in such services will impact on the life expectancy of many of our citizens and have massive impacts on tens of thousands of others. What steps can we take, with our health partners, to reduce this risk for our residents?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that choices had to be made between addressing Covid and routine care. Health inequalities would not be corrected in the coming weeks and months, however the next two to three weeks would be crucial to get people vaccinated and it was necessary to use resources to ensure this. Routine care would be affected but there needed to be a balance to preserve lives.

Councillor Williamson asked:

Given the unprecedented level of remote learning over the last 18 months due to COVID 19, it is clear that as we approach exams season in the new year that pupils will be at a disadvantage to their former peers in relation to learning and in particular relevant subject knowledge. Is the cabinet member aware of any steps that have been taken to ensure that these pupils are not disadvantaged for life in relation to ensuring they are exam ready?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that the Council needed to ensure that pupils education and prospects were not damaged, which was why vaccination was so important. He would send Members the detailed response and sincerely hoped all the provisions in place collectively would help pupils to catch up and that all the steps taken with regard to prevention would help them return to school normally after Christmas.

Councillor Hamblett asked:

Given the unprecedented level of remote calls and very few face to face appointments, can the cabinet member now reassure residents of Oldham that more face to face appointments with their GP is now being offered to residents especially to those who struggle to communicate through telephony or online systems as this would be crucial to help ease the pressure from our hospital colleagues during the winter period?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care replied GP's were regulated by national policies, not by Oldham Council, but he could confirm face to face appointments in Greater Manchester were up to 60% of pre pandemic levels and still rising. They may go down in the next few weeks because of the new variant. It was best to negotiate with the patient as to what suited them as most people would say face to face was not needed and they were happy with a different appointment. The issue was whether this was a shared decision with the patient and the clinician as the best way forward.

Councillor Byrne asked:

If you looked at the wards and percentages that had received their first Covid injection, some wards were much higher than other wards. Perhaps the lower wards were where people did not have cars and could not easily get to centres. What could the Council do about that? There had been pop-up vaccination centres but the figures showed the lowest areas were where people may want to be vaccinated but were not able to the vaccination centre.

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care replied that he would get a detailed response on that. He had been someone who had spoken on vaccine accessibility and there had been much work nationally. Locally, people had gone door to door and street to street and opened local centres and pop-up clinics to try to reach areas based on high infection rates. Comparing where Oldham was two years ago and where it was now, with one of the lowest infection rates in England, this must have been the right thing to do. Pharmacies and community centres were still delivery vaccinations and, whilst this was not perfect, this was why the Council was a community leader, to have essential intelligence on the issue and be able to deliver accessibly.

Councillor H Gloster asked:

Can the relevant Cabinet member assure the people of Oldham that much needed access to dentistry and orthodontics appointments will not be limited even if further restrictions apply?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that he shared her concerns this was a directly commissioned responsibility of NHS England. He had been lobbying for the last twelve months to Greater Manchester to ask how we could increase that access to dentistry for residents and he would continue to do this to make sure all residents got the right care.



Councillor Sheldon asked:

I still note the number of people, especially in shops who do not wear a face mask. Not everyone can do, but there were still a lot of people who simply did not want to. The Prime minister and Labour Leader had both encouraged vaccination. What more could be done to convince those that could do to be vaccinated and recognise we were all in this situation together?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that there were a number of things that could be done as a Council such as increasing Covid marshals and the use of the voluntary and community sectors. People could not be forced to comply, it was a case of addressing concerns and that was where social media had a place. Councillors collectively spoke to residents and provided leaflets which spread the educational element. They had put real physical effort into collectively spreading the message.

Councillor Hobin asked:

He was aware Councillor Chauhan had worked very hard over the last two years battling this and it was great that the Council had a medical expert to help the Council. He appreciated having received a clear message rather than the confused statements that came from elsewhere.

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that he was grateful for the appreciation.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the report be noted.

16

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.

**RESOLVED** that the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021 be noted.

17

**PUBLIC SPEAKING AT TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER PANEL**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which sought the introduction of a formal procedure for public speaking at meetings of the Traffic Regulation Order Panel.

Members were informed that, under the Council's Constitution, the Traffic Regulation Order Panel was responsible for considering any representations made in respect of a proposed traffic regulation order and deciding whether or not to make the order and determining proposed public spaces protection orders. Unlike the position with planning applications being considered by the Planning Committee, there was currently no formal procedure for permitting public speaking at meetings of the Traffic Regulation Order Panel.

To ensure consistency with the Planning Committee procedures and to enhance public participation in decision making it was recommended that a formal procedure to allow public speaking at meetings of the Traffic Regulation Order Panel be introduced. The proposed procedure was included at Appendix 1 to the report and was based on the protocol for public speaking at meetings of the Planning Committee. The procedure would allow speaking by one supporter and one objector who had made representations. As with the procedure at Planning Committee, the public would be restricted to 3 minutes to make representations. Ward Members would also be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the procedure for public speaking at meetings of the Traffic Regulation Order Panel detailed in Appendix 1 be adopted and be included in the procedure in Part 8 Appendix 3 of the Constitution.

18

### **2020/21 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which advised Council of the recently approved 2020/21 audited Statement of Accounts and the External Auditor (Mazars LLP) Audit Completion Report (ACR).

Members were informed that Oldham Council was among the 9% of Councils that had complete their accounts for last year by the statutory deadline and thanks were offered to all concerned.

The report presented the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2020/21 as considered by the Audit Committee on 29 July 2020. Delegated authority was given to the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee after consultation with Director of Finance to approve the accounts, pending the completion of the outstanding work on the Council's group accounts, IT audit and the receipt, by the External Auditor, of assurances with regard to the audit of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF).

The accounts were subsequently approved on 30 September 2021 within the statutory deadline. There were no changes to the Statement of Accounts presented and accepted at the Audit Committee on 29 July 2020.

The report highlighted:

- The overall revenue outturn position for 2020/21 was a surplus of £2.153m;
- The year-end variances that were attributable to each Portfolio;
- The level of grants received in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic;
- Schools balances at 31 March 2021 were £9.306m
- The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) deficit was £3.560m which is now held in an unusable reserve rather than



being netted off the Schools balances (as presented in the accounts in previous years);

- The final Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balance was £21.370m;
- The balance on the Collection Fund was a deficit of £27.213m;
- The revenue account earmarked reserves at £113.512m, other earmarked reserves at £29.452m (Revenue Grant Reserves of £20.145m plus School Balances as above) and an increase in the General Fund balance of £2.153m to £17.263m, reflective of the revenue outturn position;
- Expenditure on the Council's Capital Programme for 2020/21 was £73.227m which is an increase on the month 9 forecast expenditure of £71.012m. The increase in expenditure required funding allocated to future years to be re-profiled to fully finance the Capital Programme in 2020/21;
- The significant items in each of the primary financial statements;
- The preparation of Group Accounts incorporating the Councils two wholly owned companies – the Unity Partnership Ltd. and MioCare Community Interest Company;
- The Annual Governance Statement;
- The performance of the Finance Team in closing the accounts

The presentation of the audited Statement of Accounts provided Council Members with the opportunity to review the Council's year-end financial position (following completion of the audit by the Council's External Auditors, Mazars LLP).

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Council's final accounts position for 2020/21, the audited Statement of Accounts, the draft Audit Completion Report and subsequent letter entitled Completion of Pending Matters – Audit Completion Report be noted.
2. It be noted that the audit of the accounts for 2020/21 by the External Auditors Mazars LLP could only be finalised once the Value for Money (VFM) opinion was provided and Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) audit was completed and that a further report outlining the VFM and WGA final positions would be presented.

19

**PROCUREMENT OF THE COUNCIL'S EXTERNAL AUDITORS 2023/24 TO 2027/28**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which set out proposals for appointing the external auditor to the Council for the accounts for the five-year period from 2023/24.

Council was informed that the current auditor appointment arrangements covered the period up to and including the audit of the 2022/23 accounts. The Council, as with the vast majority

of other Council's, had opted into the 'appointing person' national auditor appointment arrangements which were established by Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for the period covering the accounts for 2018/19 to 2022/23.

PSAA was undertaking a procurement exercise for the next appointing period, covering audits for the 2023/24 to 2027/28 financial years. During Autumn 2021 all Local Government bodies needed to make important decisions about their external audit arrangements from 2023/24. The other options for the procurement were to arrange their own procurement and make the appointment themselves or, in conjunction with other bodies, they could join and take advantage of the national collective scheme administered by PSAA.

The report concluded that the sector-wide procurement conducted by PSAA was the best option for the Council because:

- collective procurement reduced costs for those submitting bids and for individual authorities compared to a multiplicity of smaller local procurements;
- if the Council did not use the national appointment arrangements, the Council would need to establish its own auditor panel with an independent chair and independent members to oversee a local auditor procurement exercise and ongoing management of the audit contract;
- it was the best opportunity to secure the appointment of a qualified, registered auditor - there are only nine accredited local audit firms, and should the Council undertake its own procurement exercise, the Council would be drawing from the same limited supply of auditor resources as PSAA's national procurement, and;
- supporting the sector-led body helped to ensure there was a continuing and sustainable public audit market into the medium and long term.

Members noted that, if the Council wished to take advantage of the national auditor appointment arrangements, it was required, under the Local Audit Regulations, to make the decision at full Council. The opt-in period started on 22 September 2021 and closed on 11 March 2022. To opt into the national scheme from 2023/24, the Council needed to return completed opt-in documents to PSAA by 11 March 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the PSAA invitation to opt into the sector-led option for the appointment of external auditors to principal Local Government and Police Bodies for five financial years from 1 April 2023 be accepted.

the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2022/2023 Municipal Year.



**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

21

**COUNCIL GAMBLING POLICY REVIEW**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Environmental Services which updated Members on the recent review of the Council's Gambling Policy and sought approval of a revised policy to take effect from 1st January 2022.

Members were informed that the Council, acting in its a position as Licensing Authority, had a statutory duty to uphold the licensing objectives within the Gambling Act 2005. In setting its local policy the Council must show how it would seek to promote the licensing objectives under the Act which were:

- Preventing gambling from being a source of crime and disorder, being associated with crime or disorder or being used to support crime;
- Ensuring gambling is conducted in a fair and open way; and
- Protecting children and other vulnerable people from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed Gambling Policy be approved.

22

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2021/22**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which advised on the performance of the Treasury Management Function of the Council for the first half of 2021/22 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

Members noted that the Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2017). The report set out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review and outlined:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2021/22;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2021/22;

- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2021/22;
- Why there had been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2021/22; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2021/22.

A version of the report was presented to the Audit Committee on 2 November 2021 to enable it to have the opportunity to review and scrutinise the 2021/22 Treasury Management Mid-Year Review report prior to its presentation to Cabinet. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. The report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting of 15 November 2021. Cabinet was content to commend the report to Council.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2021/22 and the projected outturn position be approved.
2. The Amendments to both Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.
3. The Amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 be approved.

23

**ADOPTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925  
CONCERNING NAMING OF STREETS**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Environmental Services which sought the adoption by the Council of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough.

During a review of the Council's policy on street naming and it had been identified that no record of the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 had been retained by the Council. For the avoidance of doubt and to provide greater flexibility to the process of naming of streets it was requested that the Council approve the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 for the whole Borough. The updated street naming policy would then be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods for approval.

To adopt the provisions the Council was required to publish a notice for 2 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in their area of the intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 and 19. The date the resolution was to take effect was not earlier than one month from the date of the resolution.

**RESOLVED** that the process for adopting sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough be commenced and that a further report to adopt the sections be submitted to the next Council meeting

after public notice had been given in accordance with Schedule 14 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.35 pm



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**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Harrison

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

**1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akhtar, Chauhan, Hulme, A Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Leach, C Phythian and Williamson.

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

Councillor Garry declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 4 by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Chris Gloster declared an other interest at Item 4 by virtue of his being a member of the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Jabbar declared an other interest at Item 4 by virtue of his being a member of the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Hamblett declared an other registerable interest at Item 4 in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the Board.

Councillor S Bashforth declared an other registerable interest at Item 4 in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being Chair of the Board.

Councillor Roberts declared an other registerable interest at Item 4 as a Trustee of Positive Steps.

Councillor Birch declared two other registerable interests at Item 4 as a Trustee of Positive Steps and Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Councillor Malik declared an other registerable interest at Item 4 as a Board Member of Positive Steps.

Councillor Shuttleworth declared two other registerable interests at Item 4 as a Board Member of Positive Steps and a Board member of Unity Partnership.

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

The Mayor made reference to events currently taking place in the Ukraine and the lives lost during this conflict and asked Members to stand for a minute silence in memory of those lives lost.

The Council held a minute's silence in memory of those lost.

**TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET CABINET MEETING HELD ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2022 AND TO CONSIDER THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF CABINET IN RELATION TO THE BUDGET FOR 2022/23 AND FURTHER TO THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED REPORTS**

The Mayor requested and it was RESOLVED that Council Procedure Rule 14 (Rules of Debate) be suspended to enable the Leader of the Council to exceed the time limit for her contribution in moving the Administration Budget to 15 minutes with a 30 second extension and the seconder Councillor Jabbar 6 minutes, the Deputy Leaders of the Main Opposition Groups in moving the opposition budget, a time limit of 7 minutes 30 seconds if required, with a right of reply of 6 mins, those Members seconding the main opposition budgets a time limit of 4 minutes and the Minority opposition 4 minutes in moving and seconding the amendment with 4 minutes right of reply. All other speakers would be limited to 4 minutes.

The Mayor requested and it was RESOLVED to amend the order of business in the summons to enable the debate on the amendments to take place after the moving and seconding the Administration budget in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.4 (c). The order of business would be, Item 4 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (g) then Items 4(f), (h), (i) and the minority opposition amendment.

The Mayor informed members that regulations had been implemented which required recorded votes on specific decision at the Budget Council meeting. Members would be advised when a recorded vote was required.

Prior to the consideration of the Budget Proposals, the Mayor asked the Council to note the draft minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

On a vote being taken, the recommendation was **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 be noted.

- a) Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2021/22 to 2025/26

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a joint report which set out for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the detailed budget estimates for 2022/23, the strategic estimates for the four years 2023/24 through to 2026/27 and outturn estimate for 2021/22. The report also set out the recommended dwelling, nondwelling rents and service and concierge charges to be applied from April 2022. The report set out the HRA proposed 2022/23 original budget and the forecast outturn for 2021/22. The

opportunity was also taken to present the provisional strategic budgets for 2023/24 through to 2026/27. Members were informed that HRA activities were a key element of the Council's Housing Strategy (approved by Council on 10 July 2019) which aimed to provide a diverse Oldham housing offer that was attractive and met the needs of different sections of the population at different stages of their lives.

After taking all relevant issues into account, the projected financial position for 2021/22 was estimated to be a £4.828m positive variance when compared to the original budget forecast for 2021/22 approved at the Budget Council meeting, 4 March 2021. Of this variance, £1.756m was attributable to a higher than anticipated brought forward balance from 2020/21 and the remaining £3.072m was as a result of the re-profiling of HRA funded capital schemes into later years due to revisions to planned spending profiles. The estimated balance at the end of 2021/22 was projected to be £22.291m. The closing financial position for 2022/23 showed an estimated HRA closing balance of £20.483m which was sufficient to meet future operational commitments and the potential financial pressures identified in the risk assessment.

The 2022/23 position had been presented after allowing for an increase in dwelling rents of 2.1%, an increase in non-dwelling rents in line with individual contracts, the freezing of all service charges and the setting of Extra Care Housing concierge charges to fully recover costs. The current Government policy guidance for the period 2020-2025 was that all rents were calculated based on a maximum of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate at September of the preceding year plus 1%. Oldham's projections for the 2022/23 budget had been set assuming rental increases of 2.1% which was 2% lower than if it were to follow the maximum uplift (September 2021 CPI rate being 3.1% plus 1%). The Council had opted to propose this reduced rate given the current healthy levels of HRA balances and the ongoing pressures, including inflation, on household incomes. The financial projections for the HRA over the period 2021/22 to 2026/27 showed an overall reduction in the level of balances from £22.291m at the end of 2021/22 to £8.123m at the end of 2026/27. HRA resources were to be used to support several major approved housing capital projects including development within the town centre and on smaller sites around the borough. There was also a commitment to purchase currently empty properties owned by private sector landlords to increase the number of Council owned housing stock.

The HRA detailed budget for 2022/23 and strategic estimates for the four years 2023/24 to 2026/27 and the outturn estimate for 2021/22 were presented to the Policy Overview Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2022. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet without amendment. Cabinet duly considered

and approved the report at its meeting on 14 February 2022 and commended the report to Council.



**Oldham**  
Council

No members spoke on this item.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Forecast HRA outturn for 2021/22, as outlined at Appendix A of the report, be approved.
  2. The Proposed HRA budget for 2022/23, as outlined at Appendix B of the report, be approved.
  3. The strategic estimates for 2022/23 to 2026/27, as outlined at Appendix D of the report, be approved.
  4. The proposed increase to dwelling rents for all properties of 2.1% be approved.
  5. The proposed increase to non-dwelling rents as per individual contracts be approved.
  6. The proposal that service charges were unchanged be approved.
  7. The proposal to set Extra Care Housing concierge charges to fully recover actual costs be approved.
- b) Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which set out the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 and thereby the proposed 2022/23 capital programme, including identified capital investment priorities, together with the indicative capital programme for 2023/24 to 2026/27, having regard to the resources available over the life of the programme.

The Capital Strategy

Members were informed that the Council's Capital Strategy and capital programme were set over a five year timeframe.

The proposed Capital Strategy and programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 took the essential elements of the 2021/22 to 2025/26 and previous years' strategies and programmes and moved them forward in the context of the financial and political environment for 2022/23.

The Strategy included a longer-term vision, a forward look at those projects that were likely to run beyond the five year strategy and programme period or be initiated subsequently. This covered a timeframe for the 10 years from 2027/28 to 2036/37.

The format of the Capital Strategy reflected the latest Prudential and Treasury Management Codes issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). The strategy therefore presented:

- A high-level long-term overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of services.



- An overview of how the associated risk was managed; and
- The implications for future financial sustainability.

The Capital Strategy was presented at Appendix 1. It was prepared in 15 sections and ensured that Members were presented with the overall long-term capital investment policy objectives and resulting Capital Strategy requirements, governance procedures and risk appetite. The Strategy was aligned with the Creating a Better Place programme which was focused on building more homes for the borough's residents, creating new jobs through regeneration and ensuring Oldham was a great place to visit with lots of family friendly and accessible places to go. This also incorporated the Medium-Term Property Strategy and Housing Strategy and aimed to deliver its ambition in ways that contributed to a reduction in carbon emissions in support of the Council's Green New Deal strategy.

Section 1 of the Capital Strategy highlighted the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on programme delivery, summarised the recently announced revisions to Prudential and Treasury Management Codes of Practice and described how the Capital Strategy was shaped by the ethos of being a Co-operative Council, the Corporate Plan and COVID-19 Recovery Strategy. This section of the report also described more fully the Creating a Better Place programme (encompassing the Medium-Term Property Strategy and Housing Strategy) which accounted for around 2/3rds of planned Capital Expenditure over the five-year period 2022/23 to 2026/27. The National Infrastructure Strategy (NIS) published alongside the Chancellor's 2020 Spending Review had, in the last year, overseen the launch of the UK Infrastructure Bank; confirmed a further 15 Towns Deals worth £335 million (including Oldham's worth £24.4m) to revitalise towns across England; and provided £1.2 billion up to 2024/25 for gigabit broadband rollout across the UK.

The Council would aim to access the maximum level of NIS resources to support projects in Oldham and the wider Greater Manchester region, working with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and other GM Authorities as necessary

Annex C of Appendix 1 set out the proposed capital expenditure and financing for the period covered by the Capital Strategy, 2022/23 to 2026/27.

The Strategy also advised that the Council was proposing to continue the use the flexibility provided by the Government to use capital receipts to fund the revenue cost of transformation. The 2022/23 revenue budget would rely on up to £2.500m of such funding from capital receipts. Annex D of Appendix 1 presented the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy.

Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2025/26



The 2021/22 month 8 capital monitoring position presented alongside the report included expenditure projections that were a key determinant of the 2022/23 programme. As many schemes spanned more than one year, the anticipated level of reprofiling between years set the underlying position.

The projected outturn spending position for 2021/22 was £52.558m. The People and Place Directorate which managed all of the major regeneration projects, constituted the main area of expenditure. Grants and Other Contributions (£19.850m) followed by Prudential Borrowing provided the main source of financing (£26.294m).

Actual expenditure to 30 November 2021 was £23.801m (45.29% of the forecast outturn).

This spending profile was lower than in previous years, however the position would be kept under review and budgets would continue to be managed in accordance with forecasts.

#### Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27

The Council had set out its capital programme for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27 based on the principles of the Capital Strategy. The Capital Programme and Capital Strategy had been influenced by the level of resources considered available. The level of prudential borrowing included reflected the financing available in the revenue budget, capital receipts aligned with forecasts and grant funding and other contributions were based on already notified allocations or best estimates at time of preparation. If additional resources became available, projects that met the Council's strategic capital objectives would be brought forward for approval.

As at the month 8 capital monitoring position, the anticipated expenditure over the five year life of the 2021/22 to 2025/26 strategy was £368.705m, taking 2021/22 aside (£52.558m) left £316.147m for the remainder of the approved 2022/23 to 2025/26 capital programme. Following the refresh of existing strategies and the Creating a Better Place programme, and moving forward the planning period by one year, the Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 totalled £347.387m.

The capital programme included proposed expenditure for 2022/23 of £100.248m of which £81.465m was the largest area of expenditure being on regeneration, schools, transport and infrastructure projects within the People and Place Directorate. Total expenditure decreased to £86.993m, £64.253m, £48.810m and £47.083m in 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 respectively.

#### Resources Available to Support the Capital Programme

The Government was continuing to provide significant levels of grant funding. The main sources of grant income were the Towns Fund at £24.400m (£24.200m over the period 2022/23 to 2026/27), along with Education-related Basic Need Capital grant provision of £10.104m over the life of the programme. There were also considerable



resources allocated to the Council via the GMCA including the Mayors Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund (£10.125m in 2022/23) and Local Transport Programme – Highway Maintenance Grant totalled £14.812m over the strategy period.

The grant funding provided by Government could be split into two categories: un-ringfenced and ringfenced resources, as explained in Section 10 of the Capital Strategy. The majority of capital Government Grant funding was un-ringfenced. Resources classified as ringfenced had to be utilised to finance particular categories of expenditure and therefore were restricted in their use. The 2022/23 capital programme relied on £11.714m of unringfenced and £33.787m of ringfenced grants.

As in previous years, a major source of financing remained prudential borrowing. The amount required in 2022/23 (£46.990m) included borrowing attributed to schemes that had been reprofiled from prior years as well as new borrowing associated with the regeneration programme. The timing of the borrowing was linked to the cash position of the Council and may therefore not mirror the spending/financing profile set out above.

#### On-going Review of the Capital Programme

There would be a continued review of capital spending requirements as the Council had further regeneration ambitions, but affordability and deliverability would be a key consideration in this regard. It was possible that the capital position may change prior to the start of 2022/23 and during the year as:

- The outcome of specific grant bids which would be announced during 2022/23.
- It is also likely that there would be new initiatives announced later in the financial year.
- There may also be the opportunity to bid for additional funding.
- The Council may identify other funding sources, including capital receipts, to finance additional capital expenditure.

Therefore, the overall capital programme position would be kept under review and any new information regarding funding allocations would be presented to Members in future reports.

#### Consultation

There had been consultation with the Members of the Capital Investment Programme Board on the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27.

The consideration of the proposed Capital Strategy and Capital Programme for 2022/23 to 2026/27 by the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2022 was a key element of the consultation process. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. The Cabinet considered the Capital Strategy

and Programme report at its meeting on 14 February 2022 and was content to commend the report to Council.

Councillor Kenyon spoke against the motion  
Councillor Roberts spoke in favour of the motion

Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply



**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Capital Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27 as detailed at Appendix 1 of this report and summarised at Section 2.1 of the report be approved.
2. The Capital Programme for 2022/23 and indicative programmes for 2023/24 to 2026/27 at Annex C of Appendix 1 to the report and summarised at Sections 2.2 to 2.6 of the report be approved.
3. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as presented at Annex D of Appendix 1 to the report be approved.

c) Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2022/23

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which set out the strategy for 2022/23 Treasury Management activities including the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, the Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators together with linkages to the Capital Strategy.

The Council was required through regulations supporting the Local Government Act 2003 to 'have regard to' the Prudential Code and to set Prudential Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans were affordable, prudent and sustainable. It was also required to produce an annual Treasury Strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy setting out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to security and liquidity of those investments. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2017 (the Code) also required the receipt by full Council of a Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

The Strategy for 2022/23 covered two main areas.

Capital Issues

- The Capital expenditure plans and the associated Prudential Indicators
- The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

Treasury Management Issues:

- The Current Treasury Position Treasury Indicators which limited the treasury risk and activities of the Council
- Prospects for Interest Rates

- The Borrowing Strategy
- The Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need
- Debt Rescheduling
- The Investment Strategy
- The Creditworthiness Policy
- The Policy regarding the use of external service providers.

The report outlined the implications and key factors in relation to each of the above Capital and Treasury Management issues and made recommendations with regard to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23.

The report included an economic background commentary which reflected the position at 31 January 2021.

During 2021, there were two consultation exercises on the Prudential Code and Code of Practice on Treasury Management with a range of proposed changes being considered.

These mainly related to commercial investments and the requirement for Authorities to adopt a more prudent approach. The second consultation ended on 16 November 2021 and the changes to the Codes were issued on 20 December 2021. The Council's strategy for 2022/23 had incorporated these recent changes in the Codes where information was readily available.

The Audit Committee, the body charged with the detailed scrutiny of Treasury Management activities considered the proposed 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy report at its meeting on 17 January 2022. It was also presented to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2022. Both the Audit Committee and the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee were content to commend the report to Cabinet. The report was considered at the Cabinet meeting on 14 February 2022. Cabinet was content to commend the report to Council.

No members spoke on this item.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. Capital Expenditure Estimates as per paragraph 2.1.2 be approved;
2. MRP policy and method of calculation as per Appendix 1 be approved ;
3. Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) Projections as per paragraph 2.2.4 be approved;
4. Projected treasury position as at 31 March 2022 as per paragraph 2.3.3 be approved;
5. Treasury Limits as per section 2.4 be approved;
6. Borrowing Strategy for 2022/23 as per section 2.6 be approved;

7. Annual Investment Strategy as per section 2.10 including risk management and the creditworthiness policy at section 2.11 be approved; and
  8. Level of investment in specified and non-specified investments detailed at Appendix 5 be approved.
- d) Statement of the Chief Financial Officer on Reserves, Robustness of Estimates and Affordability and Prudence of Capital Investments

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which sought agreement to the level of balances necessary to support the 2022/23 budget underpinned by the agreed policy on Earmarked Reserves, setting a properly balanced revenue budget which included the financing of capital investments within the present investment proposals.

Members were informed that, in order to comply with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003; the Authority's Chief Financial Officer (the Director of Finance) was required to report on the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the revenue budget calculations and the adequacy of the proposed reserves. This information enabled a longer-term view of the overall financial resilience of the Council to be taken. It also reported on the Director of Finance's consideration of the affordability and prudence of capital investment proposals. The level of general balances to support the budget and an appropriate level of Earmarked Reserves maintained by the Council in accordance with the agreed Council Policy on Earmarked Reserves, were an integral part of its continued financial resilience supporting the stability of the Council.

Members were informed that over the last few years there had been a number of Local Authorities which had been subject to the issuing of a Section 114 notice or approaching Government for exceptional financial assistance. During 2021/22, both Slough Borough Council and Wirral Council had been subject to such measures and/or requirements. Further details of this could be found at Section 5.

Whilst the Council had prepared a detailed revenue budget within a three year Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), a five year Capital Programme and continued the closure of accounts within an appropriate timeframe allowing early focus on the upcoming challenges and a robust financial transformation programme, there continued to be a reliance on the use of reserves to balance the revenue budget.

Since 2016/17, reserves of £74.627m had been used to underpin the Council's revenue budget alongside other one-off measures. This included £25.182m relating to grant compensation received in 2020/21 and used in 2021/22 to support the Collection Fund deficit arising from the award by Government of Business Rates Relief

after the budget for 2020/21 had been set. For 2022/23, it was proposed to use corporate reserves of £10.074m and specific reserves of £1.805m together with £13.092m to offset the Collection Fund deficit for 2021/22 arising from the awarding of retail, leisure, hospitality and nursery Business Rates Reliefs (£8.888m) and further Business Rates reliefs relating to the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (£4.204m) after the budget had been set (this is a technical accounting adjustment), combined with other one-off measures totaling £2.500m. The remaining corporate Balancing Budget reserve of £9.932m would be used to support the 2023/24 and 2024/25 budgets.

There was, therefore, a reliance on the use of reserves to balance the budget over part of the MTFs period. The continued use of reserves and one-off measures had the impact of deferring the changes that were required to balance the revenue budget by on-going sustainable means. The implementation of the next phase of the Council's transformation programme in 2022/23 was expected to address this challenge although transformation had not advanced as expected as the previous phase was impacted by the global pandemic. The expected benefits of the transformation programme would be phased over several financial years and was therefore supported by the use of reserves over the short term.

As detailed within the Council's Audit Completion Report for 2020/21 received by the Council on 17 December 2021, the External Auditor concluded that "there is not a significant weakness in the Council's arrangements in relation to financial sustainability". This was encouraging and should be considered in the context of 2022/23 budget setting and the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2022/23 to 2026/27.

It was important to note that the reviews into both Slough Borough Council and Wirral Council indicated that they were at risk of not being able to agree balanced budgets as their reserves were insufficient to mitigate either in year or 2022/23 estimated shortfalls in resources. Financial resilience did depend in part on the Council maintaining an adequate level of reserves which were set out in the report. In order to scrutinise the level of reserves held by the Council the policy on Earmarked Reserves was considered by the Audit Committee in July 2021 and it was proposed to action the same review again in 2022/23 after the closure of the accounts for 2021/22.

Whilst the Council was utilising a number of reserves to support the 2022/23 revenue budget and anticipated a use of reserves in both 2023/24 and 2024/25, Members were assured that Oldham Council currently remained financially resilient. Work was taking place to address the on-going financial pressures that the Council was facing. At the start of 2022/23 it would continue to be well placed to meet the difficult financial challenges ahead. However,



this strategy relied on the delivery of the transformation programme over the short to medium term. Public findings reported elsewhere had shown that some Authorities had not, in a small number of cases, been able to deliver the level of transformational savings required so it was important that the Council delivered on current plans.

Members were advised of the robustness of the estimates and the affordability and prudence of capital estimates for 2022/23. Despite the use of reserves over recent years, the level of reserves remained adequate to support the 2022/23 financial position and demonstrated financial resilience. However, this was only the case provided that action was taken to ensure that the balances were set at the level of £19.935m for 2022/23 as calculated in this report and that all budget options, or in year alternatives, were monitored closely and delivered as planned.

The Statement of the Chief Financial Officer was presented to Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2022. The Scrutiny Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. In turn, Cabinet approved the report at its meeting on 14 February 2022 and commended the report to Council.

No members spoke on this item.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The proposed General Fund Balance currently calculated for 2022/23 at £19.935m be approved.
  2. The initial estimate of General Fund Balances to support the Medium-Term Financial Strategy be noted as follows:
    - £21.268m for 2023/24 and
    - £21.415m for 2024/25 to 2026/27.
  3. The intended report to be presented to the Audit Committee on Earmarked Reserves to ensure this area was subject to the appropriate scrutiny be approved.
  4. The actions necessary to secure a properly balanced budget as presented in paragraph 3.6 of the report be approved.
  5. The actions necessary to ensure the prudence and affordability of the capital investments as noted in Section 4 be approved.
- e) Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which presented the proposed Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2022/23 for approval.

Members were reminded there was a requirement to have a local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme to support residents of working age on a low income who qualified for assistance in paying Council Tax. The Local Government Finance Act 2012 placed a requirement that



each year a billing authority must consider whether to revise its Council Tax Reduction scheme or to replace it with another scheme. Any change to the 2022/23 scheme must be agreed by full Council in line with budget setting and no later than 10 March 2022. For Oldham, this required the Council to agree a revised 2022/23 scheme at this Council meeting. Any proposed change must be subject to prior consultation with the major preceptors (for Oldham this is the Greater Manchester Combined Authority), and with the public.

The Council, in deciding the CTR scheme for 2022/23, needed to consider both the affordability of the scheme for the Council given the financial challenge it currently faced and the impact of retaining the existing scheme (or of revising the scheme) on Oldham's residents of working age in receipt of low incomes. The scheme for those of pensionable age was set by the Government and could not be changed.

The Council currently had a CTR scheme that awarded a maximum reduction of 85% of a Band A rate of Council Tax and had removed the provision to award second adult rebate for claimants of working age. From April 2019, the Council also introduced changes to support CTR claimants in receipt of Universal Credit (UC) including the application of some earnings disregards and the use of DWP information as a claim for CTR.

The furlough scheme (Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme) concluded on 30 September 2021 as did the fifth grant under the Self-Employed Income Support scheme and the Universal Credit £20 uplift. Self-employed recipients of Universal Credit were not subject to the minimum income floor during the pandemic, but this was re-instated (with some exceptions) from 31 July 2021. The effects of the phasing out of these schemes that had provided financial help for residents, along with the on-going impacts of the pandemic in shifting the demand for support under CTR scheme and the ability of residents to pay over the remainder of 2021/22 and into 2022/23 was difficult to estimate, and the full economic impact was uncertain.

Given levels of uncertainty about the impact of the pandemic on the demand for CTR in the coming months, it was proposed that the CTR scheme for 2022/23 remained unchanged from that operating in 2021/22, having regard to the aim of ensuring continuity about entitlement to those residents on the lowest incomes. The proposed scheme for 2022/23 was considered by the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 January 2022. The Committee agreed the proposed scheme (i.e. no change to that operating in 2021/22). It was therefore content to commend the proposed CTR scheme for 2022/23 to Cabinet without additional comment. The proposed CTR scheme for 2022/23 was considered at the Cabinet meeting of 14 February 2022. Cabinet was content to commend the proposed CTR scheme to Council without amendment.

No members spoke on this item.

**RESOLVED that** the proposed Council Tax Reduction scheme for 2022/23 which kept the scheme unchanged from that operating in 2021/22 be approved.

- g) Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 to 2026/27  
Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah  
SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Council with the forecast budget reduction requirement estimates for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27 having regard to the three-year indicative Spending Review published on 27 October 2021, key Government Policy Documents (including the three White Papers on the future of Adult Social Care entitled Building Back Better, People at the Heart of Social Care and Joining up Care for People, Paces and Populations plus the Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper issued on 2 February 2022) and the Final Local Government Finance Settlement published on 7 February 2022. The report set out the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27. The report advised Members of the key financial challenges and issues which would be faced by the Council over the forecast period and set out the estimated budget reduction requirement for this period. The report presented the purpose and scope of the Medium Term Financial Strategy and how it had a vital role to play in enabling the translation of the Council's ambition and priorities into action. It also advised of the national policy landscape and economic context in which the Council was setting both its revenue budget for 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27. Members noted the Government had only provided certainty in a one-year settlement for the financial year 2022/23 and an indicative settlement as per the Spending Review for a further two years. The MTFS estimates for 2023/24 to 2026/27 were, therefore, based on a series of assumptions and must be considered indicative at this stage. The notification of detailed allocations of grant funding for one year had caused uncertainty and hindered effective planning by the Council both financially and operationally as future Government funding intentions such as those detailed in the Adult Social Care reforms and Levelling Up the UK White Papers were difficult to assess. This position, together with the transformational and organisational plans for change that the Council would implement to address its best estimate of the present financial challenge, were outlined in the report. The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was received on 16 December 2021 which informed the preparation of the initial 2022/23 Budget Report and initial

MTFS. The Final Settlement was announced on 7 February 2022 (debated in Parliament on 9 February 2022) but did not result in any significant change to the financial projections. The implications for the MTFS arising from the Settlement had been incorporated into the financial projections where appropriate.

The MTFS highlighted the plan to deliver significant savings from the financial year 2023/24 onwards linking into the budget report elsewhere on the Agenda which outlined the proposals for the financial year 2022/23. Whilst it was anticipated that the Council would continue to rely on the use of reserves to support the revenue budget in 2023/24 and 2024/25 at a value of £9.932m, additional budget reductions were expected to be achieved as part of the Council's transformation programme. There were budget reductions agreed within the 2021/22 budget that had an impact on 2022/23 and beyond and proposed budget reductions for 2022/23 that had an impact on 2023/24 and beyond. In total it was anticipated that these budget reductions would impact on 2023/24 at a value of £6.817m, £1.450m in the financial year 2024/25 and further £0.303m in the financial year 2025/26.

The budget reduction requirement for subsequent years after the delivery of approved budget reductions and the use of reserves was forecast to be £16.711m for 2023/24, £8.117m for 2024/25, £8.384m for 2025/26 and £5.682m for 2026/27. However, given the level of anticipated change instigated by Government, the estimates would be kept under constant review and be subject to amendment. Nonetheless they provided a starting position from which more detailed financial and operational plans could be developed.

The Council's approach to balancing its budget was to embark on an ambitious transformation programme based upon the Delivering a Sustainable Future (DaSF) concept and shape programme supported by appropriate investment which would aim to deliver long term recurring savings whilst improving the efficiency of service delivery. This was developing the work established in the 2021/22 to 2023/24 MTFS, largely aligned to the themes established and approved at Budget Council in March 2021. The DaSF core themes were:

- Enablers for Transformation
- Placed Based Integration/ Communities
- Children's Transformation Programme
- Adult Social Care Transformation Programme including Health and Care Integration
- Economy and Public Realm (including the Creating a Better Place Strategy)

A range of Cross Cutting initiatives had been identified that would complement the core themes within the transformational programme.

Given the financial challenges that had been identified for 2023/24 to 2026/27, indicative budget reduction targets

had been assigned to each core theme. There would be some flexibility within this plan given the uncertainty that underpinned financial planning, especially for the latter part of the MTFS period. In view of the importance of delivering budget reductions and embedding the programme of transformational change, during 2022/23, there would be a regular review of the progress of the existing change programmes against the delivery milestones and financial targets. It would also ensure that there was continuous emphasis on the delivery of change and the achievement of the budget reductions required in line with the five-year strategy.

Presentation of the MTFS report to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2022 was a key stage in the budget consultation process. The Committee scrutinised the report and the other reports on the agenda that formed a core part of the Council's strategic financial planning framework. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet without additional comment. Cabinet in turn, was content to commend the report to Council.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke to the motion.

Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The policy landscape and economic context in which the Council is setting its
  2. Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27 be approved.
  3. The impact of Oldham Council Policies and Strategies on the Council's budget setting process and the development of its Medium Term Financial Strategy be approved.
  4. The financial forecasts for 2022/23 to 2026/27 having regard to the Final Local Government Finance Settlement, three-year indicative Spending Review, key White Papers and associated funding announcements be approved.
  5. The key issues to be addressed in continuing to respond to the financial challenges facing the Council be approved.
  6. The proposed use of £6.000m of reserves to support the 2023/24 budget and
  7. £3.932m of reserves to support the 2024/25 budget be approved.
  8. The revised estimated budget reduction targets of £16.711m for 2023/24, £8.117m for 2024/25, £8.384m for 2025/26, and £5.682m for 2026/27 after the use of reserves (as at recommendation 5) and the impact of budget reductions agreed for 2021/22 and 2022/23 be approved.
- f) Revenue Budget 2022/23

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Council with the forecast budget reduction requirement and the Administration's budget proposals for 2022/23 having regard to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement published on 16 December 2021 and the subsequent Final Local Government Settlement published on 7 February 2022. This report presented the Council's Revenue Budget for 2022/23 including the Administration's revenue budget proposals for 2022/23. The report set out the key policies and strategies that influenced the budget process, the initial budget reduction requirement for 2022/23, how that had been adjusted to arrive at a revised budget reduction requirement and the means by which the budget was balanced.

The starting point for preparing the 2022/23 revenue budget estimates was an underlying base budget of £237.349m and the 2021/22 revenue budget forecast outturn position presented in the month 8 Financial Monitoring Report. It highlighted a current favourable projected variance for 2021/22 of £2.672m. This consisted of net COVID pressures of £3.311m and a favourable business as usual variance of £5.983m. It was noted that the Council had received £7.737m of general grant as support for COVID related expenditure from the Government for 2021/22 and an estimated £0.352m of compensation for Sales, Fees and Charges; a total of £8.089m. This was being used to offset an overall net pressure of £11.400m caused by the pandemic. This COVID pressure had to be addressed in 2022/23 as the Government was not providing any additional specific funding to support COVID costs in 2022/23.

Section 5 summarised the revisions to the estimates since the initial budget gap for 2022/23 was assessed at £31.900m. An updated budget gap was estimated at £24.404m arising from a range of adjustments to both expenditure pressures/variations and income increases/decreases.

Expenditure pressures were adjustments to the base budget outlined in Section 6, expenditure adjustments (Section 7), use of the Development Fund (Section 8) and the impact of levies (Section 9).

Sections 10 to 14 presented the impact of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 16 December 2021 and the Final Local Government Finance Settlement issued on 7 February 2022 and income related adjustments to the estimates.

Cabinet at its meeting of 24 January 2022, initially set the 2022/23 Council's Business Rates Tax Base at £48.605m plus an anticipated gain of £1.360m in relation to piloting 100% Business Rates Retention. Total Business Rates income (including the GMCA's share of the Business Rates Retention pilot gain at £1.360m) was set at £51.325m. However, the setting of this Tax Base was aligned to the preparation of a Government return, the



NNDR1, which for 2022/23, had to be submitted by 31 January 2022. Cabinet therefore delegated the setting of the final Tax Base to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon in consultation with the Director of Finance, having regard to the contents of the NNDR1. Under delegation, the Tax Base had been revised to £48.429m but with a higher anticipated gain from piloting Business Rates Retention (£3.421m of which the Council could utilise £1.711m). Total Business Rates income was therefore £51.850m which was an increase from the initial estimate of £50.612m. This was despite the introduction of additional Business Rate Reliefs (which reduced the impact of collectable Business Rates) since the original estimate was made and was in part due to the introduction of gains from the piloting of 100% Business Rates Retention which were not anticipated. Grant in lieu of Business Rates represented compensation for historic Government policy announcements and events that had the impact of reducing the amount of collectable Business Rates revenue. These grants were effectively a substitute for Retained Business Rates income. Due to the introduction of Business Rate Reliefs for 2022/23 and the adjustment to factors used in the calculation, the anticipated grant had increased by £8.628m from £10.843m to £19.471m. Section 13 presented the Council Tax position for 2022/23.

- The Council Tax Tax Base has been set at 57,450, which was lower than the initial estimate but 250 higher than the 57,200 Tax Base for 2021/22.
- Current Council Tax policy was to have a 1.99% general purposes increase and a 2% increase in the Adult Social Care Precept which was within the referendum criteria issued by the Government in the LGFS.
- It was intended that resources generated by 1% of the increase would be used to support Adult Social Care providers remunerate staff at the level of the Living Wage Foundation National Living Wage.
- Total Council Tax to be generated for use by the Council based on the Tax Base and the 3.99% increase was £102.932m.
- Major precepting Authorities confirmed their precepts on 11 February 2022, the impact of which was included in the report.
- The Parish Councils both agreed their precepts in late January and confirmed figures were presented in the report.
- On 3 February 2022 the Government announced a Council Tax Energy Rebate and associated discretionary fund that would be introduced from 1 April 2022. Delegation was sought to facilitate the implementation of this development in a timely manner.



Section 14 outlined the impact of Collection Fund and three key issues

- The budget must be adjusted for a 2020/21 Collection Fund deficit of £2.192m (the Government passed legislation to allow deficits arising from the major impact of the pandemic in 2020/21 to be recovered over three years (2020/21 to 2022/23)).
- The 2021/22 Collection Fund forecast outturn projection as outlined in the month 8 financial monitoring report produced a net surplus of £1.307m which would be available to support the 2022/23 revenue budget.
- As in 2021/22, a technical adjustment to the budget was required in 2022/23 as a result of the Collection Fund deficit caused by the Government notifying the continuation of Business Rate reliefs for retail, leisure, hospitality and nursery businesses after the 2021/22 budget had been set and the introduction on 15 December 2021 of the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) to provide discretionary rate relief in 2021/22. The estimated combined deficit this produced in 2021/22 was £13.092m which must be addressed in 2022/23. Government was providing the Council with grant compensation for the loss of Business Rates income throughout 2021/22 and this would be carried forward as a reserve to offset the deficit in 2022/23.

Section 15 presented the first stage in the Administration's approach to balancing the budget for 2022/23, a review of the twelve Budget Reductions that were approved within the 2021/22 Budget Report but had an impact of £6.050m on 2022/23.

Section 16 of the report detailed the Administration's budget reduction proposals for 2022/23. There were a total of 53 proposals presented in accordance with Political Portfolios. These were expected to deliver savings totalling £6.268m and have an FTE impact of 22.60. The proposals also had an impact on 2023/24 of £1.895m and 2024/25 of £1.150m. All the proposals were presented in summary at Appendix 5 and in detail at Appendix 6.

Two of the proposals required investment of £0.405m in 2022/23 to deliver savings in 2023/24. Assuming approval of the 2022/23 budget reduction proposals, the budget reduction requirement for 2022/23 reduced from £32.029m to £25.761m.

Section 17 outlined the opportunity to use capital receipts flexibly to finance expenditure leading to transformation in the sum of £2.500m. Having applied this to the budget, the budget gap reduced from £25.761m to £23.261m.



Section 18 advised that specific and corporate reserves from the Balancing Budget Reserve would be used to address the balance.

There was also a planned movement to reserves of £1.710m relating to the setting aside of gains from the piloting of 100% Business Rates Retention in anticipation of allocating the funds to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority as its share of gains from 2022/23.

Approval of the proposals presented in the report in full by Budget Council including the use of reserves as set out above delivered a balanced revenue budget for 2022/23.

Section 19 considered the ability of the Council to address COVID related pressures in 2022/23 given the uncertainty that still prevailed and the impact of the Omicron variant.

Section 20 presented the expected level of reserves at the end of 2021/22 at £89.772m and how they supported the 2022/23 budget including the balancing budget reserve for 2022/23 which addressed the reserves requirement.

Section 21 summarises the overall budget strategy to balance the budget for 2022/23.

Sections 22 to 23 set out the Administration's proposals in relation to Fees and Charges and detailed the Council's Pay Policy Statement (as required by Sections 38 to 43 of the Localism Act 2011).

Members of the public and stakeholders had been consulted on the budget proposals and invited to submit their feedback. A proactive approach to communications was taken, with a multi-channel communications strategy incorporating digital, social and traditional media, ensuring that residents and businesses across Oldham were aware of the budget proposals and were able to have their say. This strategy included issuing press releases, videos, newsletters, and social media posts across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

The Revenue Budget 2022/23 was presented to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 27 January 2022. The Committee considered in detail the Administration's 53 budget reduction proposals for 2022/23 and were content to commend to Cabinet 52 of the 53 proposals at a value of £6.206m.

The Committee requested that Cabinet review and consider the delivery of one remaining proposal, REF-BR1-526: Get Oldham Growing at a value of £0.062m. The Committee's view was that progressing the proposal in its current form would have a negative impact on residents in the community that currently accessed this service.

The Committee was content with all other aspects of the report and therefore commended it to Cabinet.

Cabinet considered the Revenue Budget 2022/23 at its meeting on 14 February 2022 and, whilst recognising

the Policy Overview and Scrutiny's concerns in regard to proposal REFBR1-526: Get Oldham Growing, agreed that it would not withdraw the proposal and was content to commend the report in full to Council, including all 53 of the 2022/23 budget reduction proposals at a total value of £6.268m.



Members spoke on the item:

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the amendment to the budget as circulated and detailed in the Council Summons. Councillor C. Gloster expressed his thanks to staff who had assisted in the preparation of the report.

Councillors Kenyon and Al-Hamdani spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillors Lancaster and Jabbar spoke against the Amendment.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

Councillor C. Gloster exercised his right of reply.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Abid, Sahr	AGAINST	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	AGAINST	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Alexander, Ginny	AGAINST	Jabbar, Abdul	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani, Sam	FOR	Kenyon, Mark	FOR
Ali, Mohon	AGAINST	Lancaster, Luke	AGAINST
Alyas, Mohammed	AGAINST	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	AGAINST	Malik, Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth, Marie	AGAINST	McLaren, Colin	AGAINST
Bashforth, Steven	AGAINST	Moore, Eddie	AGAINST
Birch, Ros	AGAINST	Murphy, Dave	FOR
Briggs, Norman	AGAINST	Mushtaq, Shaid	AGAINST
Brownridge, Barbara	AGAINST	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	AGAINST	Phythian, Kyle	AGAINST
Chadderton, Amanda	AGAINST	Roberts, Hannah	AGAINST
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Cosgrove, Angela	AGAINST	Shah, Arooj	AGAINST

Curley, Jamie	AGAINST	Sharp, Beth	AGAINST
Davis, Peter	AGAINST	Sheldon, Graham	AGAINST
Dean, Peter	AGAINST	Shuttleworth, Graham	AGAINST
Garry, Elaine	AGAINST	Stretton, Jean	AGAINST
Gloster, Chris	FOR	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Gloster, Hazel	FOR	Sykes MBE, Howard	FOR
Goodwin, Chris	AGAINST	Taylor, Elaine	AGAINST
Hamblett, Louie	FOR	Toor, Yasmin	AGAINST
Hindle, Neil	AGAINST	Wilkinson, Mark	AGAINST
Hobin, Brian	AGAINST	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	AGAINST
Hussain, Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine, Max	AGAINST
Hussain, Fida	AGAINST	Harrison Jenny	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 7 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 44 VOTES cast AGAINST and 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Arnott MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED the amendment to the budget as circulated and detailed in the Council Summons. Councillor Arnott expressed his thanks to staff who had assisted in the preparation of the report.

Councillor Sharp spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillors Murphy, Mushtaq, S Bashforth, Shuttleworth, C Gloster, Jabbar, Al-Hamdani, Roberts, and Hamblett spoke against the Amendment.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Arnott exercised his right of reply.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Abid, Sahr	FOR	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	AGAINST	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Alexander, Ginny	AGAINST	Jabbar, Abdul	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani, Sam	ABSTAIN	Kenyon, Mark	ABSTAIN
Ali, Mohon	AGAINST	Lancaster, Luke	FOR
Alyas, Mohammed	AGAINST	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	FOR	Malik, Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth, Marie	AGAINST	McLaren, Colin	AGAINST

Bashforth, Steven	AGAINST	Moores, Eddie	AGAINST
Birch, Ros	AGAINST	Murphy, Dave	ABSTAIN
Briggs, Norman	AGAINST	Mushtaq, Shaid	AGAINST
Brownridge, Barbara	AGAINST	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	FOR	Phythian, Kyle	AGAINST
Chadderton, Amanda	AGAINST	Roberts, Hannah	AGAINST
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Cosgrove, Angela	AGAINST	Shah, Arooj	AGAINST
Curley, Jamie	FOR	Sharp, Beth	FOR
Davis, Peter	AGAINST	Sheldon, Graham	FOR
Dean, Peter	AGAINST	Shuttleworth, Graham	AGAINST
Garry, Elaine	AGAINST	Stretton, Jean	AGAINST
Gloster, Chris	ABSTAIN	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Gloster, Hazel	ABSTAIN	Sykes MBE, Howard	ABSTAIN
Goodwin, Chris	AGAINST	Taylor, Elaine	AGAINST
Hamblett, Louie	ABSTAIN	Toor, Yasmin	AGAINST
Hindle, Neil	AGAINST	Wilkinson, Mark	AGAINST
Hobin, Brian	AGAINST	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	AGAINST
Hussain, Aftab	ABSENT	Woodvine, Max	FOR
Hussain, Fida	AGAINST	Harrison Jenny	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 8 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 36 VOTES cast AGAINST and 7 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Hobin MOVED and Councillor Wilkinson SECONDED the amendment to the budget as circulated and detailed in the Council Summons. Councillor Arnott expressed his thanks to staff who had assisted in the preparation of the report.

Councillors Jabbar and Murphy spoke against the Amendment.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Hobin exercised his right of reply.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Abid, Sahr	AGAINST	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	AGAINST	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed	AGAINST

		Nazrul	
Alexander, Ginny	AGAINST	Jabbar, Abdul	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani, Sam	ABSTAIN	Kenyon, Mark	ABSTAIN
Ali, Mohon	AGAINST	Lancaster, Luke	AGAINST
Alyas, Mohammed	AGAINST	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	AGAINST	Malik, Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth, Marie	AGAINST	McLaren, Colin	AGAINST
Bashforth, Steven	AGAINST	Moore, Eddie	AGAINST
Birch, Ros	AGAINST	Murphy, Dave	ABSTAIN
Briggs, Norman	AGAINST	Mushtaq, Shaid	AGAINST
Brownridge, Barbara	AGAINST	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	AGAINST	Phythian, Kyle	AGAINST
Chadderton, Amanda	AGAINST	Roberts, Hannah	AGAINST
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Cosgrove, Angela	AGAINST	Shah, Arooj	AGAINST
Curley, Jamie	AGAINST	Sharp, Beth	AGAINST
Davis, Peter	AGAINST	Sheldon, Graham	AGAINST
Dean, Peter	AGAINST	Shuttleworth, Graham	AGAINST
Garry, Elaine	AGAINST	Stretton, Jean	AGAINST
Gloster, Chris	ABSTAIN	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Gloster, Hazel	ABSTAIN	Sykes MBE, Howard	ABSTAIN
Goodwin, Chris	AGAINST	Taylor, Elaine	AGAINST
Hamblett, Louie	ABSTAIN	Toor, Yasmin	AGAINST
Hindle, Neil	FOR	Wilkinson, Mark	FOR
Hobin, Brian	FOR	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	AGAINST
Hussain, Aftab	ABSENT	Woodvine, Max	AGAINST
Hussain, Fida	AGAINST	Harrison Jenny	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 3 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 41 VOTES cast AGAINST and 7 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

The following Councillors then spoke on the ORIGINAL MOTION:

Councillors Chadderton, S Bashforth and Roberts spoke in support of the Original Motion.

Councillors Woodvine, Sharp, Hamblett, Sykes, Al-Hamdani and Hobin spoke against the Original Motion.

Councillor Byrne spoke on the Original Motion.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.



A recorded VOTE, in line with regulations was then taken on the ORIGINAL MOTION as follows:



**Oldham**  
Council

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Abid, Sahr	AGAINST	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	FOR	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Alexander, Ginny	FOR	Jabbar, Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani, Sam	ABSTAIN	Kenyon, Mark	ABSTAIN
Ali, Mohon	FOR	Lancaster, Luke	AGAINST
Alyas, Mohammed	FOR	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	AGAINST	Malik, Abdul	FOR
Bashforth, Marie	FOR	McLaren, Colin	FOR
Bashforth, Steven	FOR	Moores, Eddie	FOR
Birch, Ros	FOR	Murphy, Dave	ABSTAIN
Briggs, Norman	FOR	Mushtaq, Shaid	FOR
Brownridge, Barbara	FOR	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	AGAINST	Phythian, Kyle	FOR
Chadderton, Amanda	FOR	Roberts, Hannah	FOR
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	FOR
Cosgrove, Angela	FOR	Shah, Arooj	FOR
Curley, Jamie	AGAINST	Sharp, Beth	AGAINST
Davis, Peter	FOR	Sheldon, Graham	AGAINST
Dean, Peter	FOR	Shuttleworth, Graham	FOR
Garry, Elaine	FOR	Stretton, Jean	FOR
Gloster, Chris	ABSTAIN	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster, Hazel	ABSTAIN	Sykes MBE, Howard	ABSTAIN
Goodwin, Chris	FOR	Taylor, Elaine	FOR
Hamblett, Louie	ABSTAIN	Toor, Yasmin	FOR
Hindle, Neil	AGAINST	Wilkinson, Mark	AGAINST
Hobin, Brian	AGAINST	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	FOR
Hussain, Aftab	ABSENT	Woodvine, Max	AGAINST
Hussain, Fida	FOR	Harrison Jenny	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken, 33 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 11 VOTES cast AGAINST and 7 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

Resolutions 1 and 2 related to the Council Tax Base for the Financial Year 2021/2022 as approved by the Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and the Council Tax Requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2022/2023

No members who spoke on this item.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations, was then taken on the Resolutions as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Abid, Sahr	FOR	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	FOR	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Alexander, Ginny	FOR	Jabbar, Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani, Sam	FOR	Kenyon, Mark	FOR
Ali, Mohon	FOR	Lancaster, Luke	FOR
Alyas, Mohammed	FOR	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	FOR	Malik, Abdul	FOR
Bashforth, Marie	FOR	McLaren, Colin	FOR
Bashforth, Steven	FOR	Moores, Eddie	FOR
Birch, Ros	FOR	Murphy, Dave	FOR
Briggs, Norman	FOR	Mushtaq, Shaid	FOR
Brownridge, Barbara	FOR	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	FOR	Phythian, Kyle	FOR
Chadderton, Amanda	FOR	Roberts, Hannah	FOR
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	FOR
Cosgrove, Angela	FOR	Shah, Arooj	FOR
Curley, Jamie	FOR	Sharp, Beth	FOR
Davis, Peter	FOR	Sheldon, Graham	FOR
Dean, Peter	FOR	Shuttleworth, Graham	FOR
Garry, Elaine	FOR	Stretton, Jean	FOR
Gloster, Chris	FOR	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster, Hazel	FOR	Sykes MBE, Howard	FOR
Goodwin, Chris	FOR	Taylor, Elaine	FOR
Hamblett, Louie	FOR	Toor, Yasmin	FOR
Hindle, Neil	FOR	Wilkinson, Mark	FOR
Hobin, Brian	ABSENT	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	FOR
Hussain, Aftab	ABSENT	Woodvine, Max	AGAINST FOR
Hussain, Fida	FOR	Harrison Jenny	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken, the RESOLUTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Resolution 3 related to the amounts calculated by the Council for the year 2022/2023 in accordance with Sections 31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992

No members who spoke on the item.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations, was then taken on the RESOLUTION as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Abid, Sahr	FOR	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	FOR	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Alexander, Ginny	FOR	Jabbar, Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani, Sam	FOR	Kenyon, Mark	FOR
Ali, Mohon	FOR	Lancaster, Luke	FOR
Alyas, Mohammed	FOR	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	FOR	Malik, Abdul	FOR
Bashforth, Marie	FOR	McLaren, Colin	FOR
Bashforth, Steven	FOR	Moores, Eddie	FOR
Birch, Ros	FOR	Murphy, Dave	FOR
Briggs, Norman	FOR	Mushtaq, Shaid	FOR
Brownridge, Barbara	FOR	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	FOR	Phythian, Kyle	FOR
Chadderton, Amanda	FOR	Roberts, Hannah	FOR
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	FOR
Cosgrove, Angela	FOR	Shah, Arooj	FOR
Curley, Jamie	FOR	Sharp, Beth	FOR
Davis, Peter	FOR	Sheldon, Graham	FOR
Dean, Peter	FOR	Shuttleworth, Graham	FOR
Garry, Elaine	FOR	Stretton, Jean	FOR
Gloster, Chris	FOR	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster, Hazel	FOR	Sykes MBE, Howard	FOR
Goodwin, Chris	FOR	Taylor, Elaine	FOR
Hamblett, Louie	FOR	Toor, Yasmin	FOR
Hindle, Neil	FOR	Wilkinson, Mark	FOR
Hobin, Brian	FOR	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	FOR
Hussain, Aftab	ABSENT	Woodvine, Max	AGAINST FOR
Hussain, Fida	FOR	Harrison Jenny	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken, the RESOLUTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2022/23 in accordance with the Sections

31A to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be approved as follows:



**Oldham**  
Council

a)	£636,570,589	Being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account any Precepts for the Saddleworth and Shaw & Crompton Parish areas
b)	£533,324,589	Being the aggregate for the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
c)	£103,246,000	Being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act, as its Council Tax Requirement for the year (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act)
d)	£1,797.15	Being the amount at 3(c) above, all divided by Item T(1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
e)	£313,984	Being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act, being the Saddleworth and Shaw & Crompton Parish precepts.
f)	£1,791.68	Being the amount at 3(d) above less the result given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount by Item T(1(a) above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its council tax for the year for dwellings on those parts of its area to which no special item related.
g)	£1,815.99	Saddleworth Parish Area Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special item or items related to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items related.
h)	£1,809.57	Being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the

		special item or items related to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned at 3(e) above divided by the amount at 1(c) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its council tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items related.
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Resolution 4 – Relating to the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayor General Precept (including Fire Services)

Councillors Al-Hamdani and Hobin spoke on this item.

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

**RESOLVED** that for the year 2022/23 the Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept and the Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services) for Greater Manchester had been issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below be noted.

NOTE: Councillor Garry declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item and did not take part in the discussion or vote thereon.

Resolution 5 – Relating to the Setting of the Council Tax for 2021/2022

No members who spoke on this item.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations, was then taken on the RESOLUTION as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Abid, Sahr	FOR	Ibrahim, Nyla	ABSENT
Ahmad, Riaz	FOR	Iqbal, Javid	ABSENT
Akhtar, Shoab	ABSENT	Islam, Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Alexander, Ginny	FOR	Jabbar, Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani, Sam	FOR	Kenyon, Mark	FOR
Ali, Mohon	FOR	Lancaster, Luke	FOR
Alyas, Mohammed	FOR	Leach, Valerie	ABSENT
Arnott, Dave	FOR	Malik, Abdul	FOR
Bashforth, Marie	FOR	McLaren, Colin	FOR
Bashforth, Steven	FOR	Moores, Eddie	FOR
Birch, Ros	FOR	Murphy, Dave	FOR
Briggs, Norman	FOR	Mushtaq, Shaid	FOR

Brownridge, Barbara	FOR	Phythian, Clint	ABSENT
Byrne, Pam	FOR	Phythian, Kyle	FOR
Chadderton, Amanda	FOR	Roberts, Hannah	FOR
Chauhan, Zahid	ABSENT	Salamat, Ali Aqeel	FOR
Cosgrove, Angela	FOR	Shah, Arooj	FOR
Curley, Jamie	FOR	Sharp, Beth	FOR
Davis, Peter	FOR	Sheldon, Graham	FOR
Dean, Peter	FOR	Shuttleworth, Graham	FOR
Garry, Elaine	FOR	Stretton, Jean	FOR
Gloster, Chris	FOR	Surjan, Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster, Hazel	FOR	Sykes MBE, Howard	FOR
Goodwin, Chris	FOR	Taylor, Elaine	FOR
Hamblett, Louie	FOR	Toor, Yasmin	FOR
Hindle, Neil	FOR	Wilkinson, Mark	FOR
Hobin, Brian	FOR	Williamson, Diane	ABSENT
Hulme, George	ABSENT	Williams, Steve	FOR
Hussain, Aftab	ABSENT	Woodvine, Max	AGAINST FOR
Hussain, Fida	FOR	Harrison Jenny	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken, the RESOLUTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2022/23 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

Authority/Parish	Council Tax Bands (£)							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Oldham Council	1,194.45	1,393.52	1,592.60	1,791.68	2,189.83	2,587.98	2,986.13	3,583.36
Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner Precept	152.20	177.56	202.93	228.30	279.03	329.76	380.50	456.60
Mayoral General Precept (including Fire Services)	68.63	80.07	91.51	102.95	125.82	148.70	171.58	205.90
Saddleworth Parish Precept	16.20	18.90	21.60	24.31	29.71	35.11	40.51	48.62
Shaw and Crompton Parish Precept	11.92	13.91	15.90	17.89	21.86	25.84	29.81	35.78

Authority/Parish	Council Tax Bands (£)							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Saddleworth Parish Area	1,431.48	1,670.05	1,908.64	2,147.24	2,624.39	3,101.55	3,578.72	4,294.48
Shaw & Crompton Parish Area	1,427.20	1,665.06	1,902.94	2,140.82	2,616.54	3,092.28	3,568.02	4,281.64
All other parts of the Council's Area	1,415.28	1,651.15	1,887.04	2,122.93	2,594.68	3,066.44	3,538.21	4,245.86



The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.30 pm



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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akhtar and Moores.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 18TH OCTOBER 2021**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

6 **OLDHAM COUNCIL CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE : ACTION PLAN**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which provided details of the Oldham Council Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan.

Oldham Council undertook a voluntary Corporate Peer Challenge between 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> January 2020 which was facilitated by the Local Government Association and undertaken by senior elected members and Chief Officers across Local Government and the Voluntary Sector.

The Action plan at appendix 1 to the report set out the Council's response to the recommendations contained within the feedback.

Options/alternatives

Option 1 – The Council committed to publishing an action plan in response to the Peer Challenge and Cabinet were asked to agree the plan

Option 2 – Not to agree the Action Plan.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted and the Oldham Council Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan as detailed at appendix 1 to the report be agreed.

7 **FINAL ACCOUNTS 2020-21**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Cabinet with the approved 2020/21 audited

Statement of Accounts and External Auditor (Mazzars LLP)  
Audit Completion report (ACR).

The report presented the Council's Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2020/21 as considered by the Audit Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2021. Delegated Authority was given to the Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee after consultation with the Director of Finance to approve the accounts, pending the completion of the outstanding work on the Council's group accounts, IT audit and the receipt, by the external auditor of assurances with regard to the audit of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund.

The accounts were subsequently approved on the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 within the statutory deadline.

Options/alternatives considered

No option was presented to Cabinet, other than to note the final accounts position 2020/21.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Council's final accounts position for 2020/21, the audited Statement of Accounts, the draft Audit Completion Report and subsequent letter entitled Completion of Pending Matters – Audit Completion Report be noted.
2. The audit of the accounts for 2020/21 by the External Auditors Mazars LLP could only be finalised once the Value for Money (VFM) opinion was provided and Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) audit was completed and that a further report outlining the VFM and WGA final positions would be presented. This report and Statement of Accounts be commended to Council

8

## **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW 2021/22**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2021/22 and a comparison of performance against the 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

The Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. This report set out the key Treasury Management issue for Members information and review and outlined:

An economic update for the first six months of 2021/22;

- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2021/22;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2021/22;
- Why there has been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2021/22; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2021/22.

#### Option/alternatives considered

In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Code of Practice of Treasury Management the Council has no other option but to consider and approve the contents of the report.

#### RESOLVED – That:

1. That Cabinet approves and commends to Council the:
2. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2021/22 and the projected outturn position be approved and commended to Council.
3. Amendments to both Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved and commended to Council.
4. Amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at section 2.4.5 of the report be approved and commended to Council.

9

#### **REFRESH OF GREATER MANCHESTER VCSE ACCORD**

Consideration was given to a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Reform which provided details of a tri-partite agreement with Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and the Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VSCE) Leadership Group on behalf of the VSCE sector in Greater Manchester.

The agreement has an implication for the relationship of all Local Authorities with their local voluntary organisations, community groups and social enterprises. The success of the accord and the shared commitments that it contains will rely on their recognition, adoption and actions at a locality and neighbourhood level. The Combined Authority authorised the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Greater Manchester Portfolio lead for Community, Co-operatives, Voluntary Sector and Inclusion and the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority to sign the Accord agreement on their behalf and all the Leaders present at the Combined Authority also signed a copy of the Accord following the meeting.

The Leader expressed thanks to the Voluntary Sector for the support and assistance during the pandemic and advised this was an excellent example of the Council's commitment to the accord.

#### Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve and endorse the GM VCSE Accord.

Option 2 – Not to approve the GM VSCE Accord.

#### RESOLVED – That:

1. The new Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord as presented in the report and the implications and the commitments it contains will have on working with VCSE sector in Oldham be noted.
2. The new Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Accord be approved and endorsed,

noting the work already being undertaken in Oldham to deliver on the commitments contained within.



10 **OLDHAM PERFORMANCE SPACE: DESIGN TEAM APPOINTMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Public Health and Director of Economy which sought approval of a decision of the appointment of an architect led multi-disciplinary design team, for the Oldham Performance Space project and sought delegation for the appointment of external advisors in the required configuration to support the Council in the delivery of the project.

The Council completed a feasibility exercise for a new theatre and [performance space based within a re-developed Oldham Post Office and former Quaker meeting house at 84 Union Street and have been successful in obtaining a Towns Fund Grant towards the capital project. The funding was subject to successfully completing Phase 2 of the Towns Fund process and submitting a project business case by June 2022.

In order to progress into the next phase of the project development, the Council would need to commission a multi-disciplinary design team to develop the design through RIBA stages 2 and 3 and submission of the Planning and Listed Building consent applications.

A fully compliant mini competition tender process had been carried to enable the next phase of design to commence in October 2021.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Proceed to the next phase of the development

Option 2 – Do not appoint the Performance Space design team

**RESOLVED** – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 12 of the agenda before making a decision.

11 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

12 **OLDHAM PERFORMANCE SPACE: DESIGN TEAM APPOINTMENT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 Oldham Performance Space: Design Team appointment.

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

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.16pm





**Oldham**  
Council

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillor Chauhan.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 15TH  
NOVEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on  
the 15<sup>th</sup> November be agreed.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT  
PROGRAMME 2021/22 QUARTER 2 – SEPTEMBER 2021**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance  
which provided the Cabinet with an update on the Council's  
2021/22 forecast revenue budget position at Annex 1 and the  
financial position of the capital programme as at 30 September  
2021 (Quarter 2) together with the revised capital programme  
2021/22 to 2025/26, as outlined in section two of the report at  
Annex 2.

Revenue Position

It was reported that the current forecast outturn position for  
2021/22 was a projected surplus variance of £2.413m after  
allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from  
reserves.

The position included additional costs and pressures that had  
been identified by the Authority in this financial year as a direct  
result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional pressures  
included forecasts of both income shortfalls and additional  
expenditure that had impacted on the Authority's budgets. It was  
noted that following a realignment of Portfolios, the Finance  
Service was now incorporated within the Chief Executive  
Portfolio, leaving Procurement as the sole service within the  
Commissioning Portfolio.

The pandemic was continuing to affect nearly all aspects of  
Council service delivery; the most significant areas of concern  
remained the People and Place, Children's Services and  
Community Health & Adult Social Care Portfolios. Action was  
being taken and would continue for the remainder of the

financial year to address variances and take mitigating action as detailed in the report.

The overall corporate position was partly being offset by the application of £7.737m general COVID support grant and £0.352m from the quarter 1 compensation claim for lost income in relation to sales fees and charges (SFC); in total £8.089m, all of which was received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC); formerly the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). In Appendix 1 to the report, the un-ringfenced Government support was presented as a single sum so that it highlighted the level of variation across all Council budgets, given that there was insufficient resource to offset the adverse COVID related variance. However, this summary report presented the position after applying the Government grant across Portfolio areas. An update on the major issues driving the revenue projections are detailed within Annex 1, Section 2.

The current projected position, after adjustment for reserves and, as outlined above, receipt of all additional Government funding to support COVID pressures that the Authority was expecting to receive, was showing, for the first time a net underspend, hopefully demonstrating the impact of the service and corporate actions that had been initiated across all service areas to review and challenge planned expenditure and to maximise income. Action would continue with the aim of, at the very least, maintaining this position to the end of the financial year.

Information on the Quarter 2 position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Collection Fund was also outlined in the report. 2022/23). projected deficit in 2021/22. Action is being taken with the aim of reducing the cumulative deficit and bringing the DSG towards a balanced position.

### Capital Position

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2021/22 to 2025/26 for approved schemes. It was reported that the revised capital programme budget for 2021/22 is £53.043m at the close of Quarter 2, a net decrease of £32.959m from the original budget of £86.002m. Actual expenditure to 30 September 2020 was £13.592m (25.62% of the forecast outturn).

The forecast position would continue to change throughout the year with additional re-profiling into future years.

### Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the report including proposed changes.

Option 2 – To approve some of the forecasts and changes included in the report.

Option 3 – Not to approve any of the forecasts and changes included in the report.

### RESOLVED – That:

1. The Forecast revenue outturn for 2021/22 at Quarter 2 being a £2.413m favourable variance having regard to

the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.

2. The Forecast positions for both the Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund be approved.
3. The use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 of the report be approved.
4. The revised capital programme for 2021/2026 as at Quarter 2 be approved.

7

## **SCHOOLS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided detail regarding the resources available for School Funding for 2022/23 and required the Cabinet to consider how the funding for Schools and Academies should be distributed in 2022/23.

This report provided detail of the level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2022/23 together with its allocation across the three funding blocks for which information was currently available. The funding was based on October 2020 pupil numbers and would be subject to change once calculations have been updated to reflect October 2021 pupil numbers. The report also provided information about the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools, the High Needs Blocks for Oldham and also presented a recommended approach for the distribution of the Schools Funding Block of the DSG to Schools and Academies for 2022/23.

In addition, the report presented the proposed option (Model 1 as detailed in Appendix 1) to move to the 2021/22 NFF cash values in full except for the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) where it was proposed that the factor applied in Oldham was initially reduced from 1.00546 to 1.00000. However, Members were advised that if there are any resources available once funding allocations based on updated pupil numbers are received, then this additional funding will be allocated through an increase to the ACA.

The indicative Schools block allocations to Local Authorities were funded by multiplying a Primary Unit of Funding (PUF's) and Secondary Units of Funding (SUF's) cash value by each pupil. The PUF's and SUF's for 2022/23 have been calculated based on school and pupil characteristics data from the 2021/22 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) data which was based on October 2020 census information. They would not be updated for any characteristic changes to the October 2021 census until 2023/24. If there was a significant change in characteristics such as eligibility for free school meals, the factor values in the local formulae would be adjusted as necessary to meet any affordability pressures. Page 2 of 14 Schools Funding Formula 13th December 2021

It was also proposed that there was up to a 0.5% movement of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block in order to manage the DSG (which was currently in a deficit position) so that the DSG was brought back into a balanced position by the end of 2023/24 as required by the Department for Education. Following the Government's Spending Review and the announcement that there would be £1.6bn in additional funding

for 2022/23 budgets, on top of the year-on-year increase already confirmed, the proposed transfer would be reviewed to see if there was a requirement for a 0.5% transfer from the Schools Block once detailed funding was known.

#### Options/alternatives considered

There was a requirement for the 2022/23 funding formula to be agreed by the Schools Forum. The report set out the funding formula agreed unanimously by Schools Forum members at their meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021. In view of the Schools Forum decision. Members are not therefore presented with an alternative approach.

#### RESOLVED – That:

1. The model outlined in the report which was a move to the 2022/23 NFF cash values in full except for the Area Cost Adjustment factor, which was reduced to 1.00000 but with the opportunity to adjust the ACA if there were any resources available once actual 2022/23 funding allocations are received be approved.
2. The adjustment of the model if there was a significant change in characteristics such as eligibility for free school meals to meet any affordability pressures be approved.
3. Up to a 0.5% transfer of funding between the Schools and the High Needs Blocks subject to the receipt of detailed additional funding information (arising from the Spending Review announcement) which would determine if the transfer is still required once details of the additional funding for 2022/23 are available be approved.

8

#### **APPROVAL OF HEADS OF TERMS FOR A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOFS AND FREE SCHOOL TRUST FOR THE FORMER NORTH CHADDERTON LOWER SCHOOL SITE, OLDHAM, OL9 0JY (ASSET L00183)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economy which sought approval of the Head of Terms attached to this report, which would trigger the Department for Education (DfE) to undertake feasibility and site investigations on the above site. It was reported the asset comprised the site of the former North Chadderton Lower School; together with an adjoining area of landscaped land. The site could be accessed off junction 21 of the M60 and was located fronting Broadway; close to the A627M. The facilities formerly provided by the school had been replaced on the North Chadderton Upper School site, and consequently the lower school site was cleared and surplus to the Council's requirements.

The site was surrounded by Chadderton Cemetery to the west; areas of open space to the north and south, and the fire station to the east; across Broadway. In 2017, the Council, in accordance with statutory procedures, advertised its intention to dispose of the public open space at the south of the school site (formerly asset L00701 and now incorporated within L00183). One objection was received from the Ramblers Association, but formal Council approval was given for the disposal of the whole site in November 2017.



Since then, the site had been considered for the development of a new primary school for Chadderton. The Council received confirmation on the 5th February 2021, that the Secretary of State for Education (SofS), had decided that the application made for 'Chadderton Primary Academy: Mainstream, non-faith mixed primary school with nursery provision in Oldham' at this site should proceed to the next stage of the process, the pre-opening phase. It was proposed that this land will be the permanent site for a new free school, Chadderton Primary Academy.

#### Options/Alternatives

Option 1 - The Council could choose to do nothing and not approve the Heads of Terms. The Council would not benefit from a new primary school to be paid for by the Department for Education. The Council would need to pay for a new school to be able to accommodate the primary school places.

Option 2 - Approve the Heads of Terms. This option would provide the borough with a new primary school, paid for by the Department of Education, and meet the need for additional school places.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 13 of the agenda before making a decision.

9

#### **LAND AT SALMON FIELDS, ROYTON, OLDHAM**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Economy which sought to approve a grant of a 50 year lease of land at Salmon Fields Royton, to the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group for use as a Community Diagnostic and Healthcare Facility.

It was reported that In January 2021 the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) appointed consultants to determine the preferred site for a new Community Diagnostics Hub in the Oldham area.

The Community Diagnostics Hub (CDH) would provide radiology services in a community setting. The precise nature of the scanning services is yet to be confirmed, however, it could include MRI, PET CT, X-Ray, Mammography and Ultrasound. The NCA had requested that the site be flexible to accommodate the future expansion of services. The preferred site for the CDH was the former industrial site at Salmon Fields in Royton.

The NCA intend to spend funds on improving the ground conditions and providing an improved access into the site from Salmon Fields Road.

The site was considered suitable for a range of industrial and commercial uses and discussions have taken place with planning officers regarding use of the site for a CDH.

A planning application had been submitted for the first phase of the CDH.

Options/alternatives considered.

Option One - Grant the NCA a 50-year lease of the land at Salmon Fields, Royton.

Option Two - Do not grant the NCA a 50-year lease of the land at Salmon Fields, Royton  
Option Three – Do nothing.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 14 of the agenda before making a decision.

10

### **OLDHAM PERFORMANCE SPACE: DESIGN TEAM APPOINTMENT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Public Health and Director of Economy which sought approval of the appointment of an Architect led multi-disciplinary design team for Oldham Performance Space for the next steps in design development for the Oldham Performance Space project; and to authorise further delegation(s) for the appointment of external advisors (for the provision of professional services), in the required configuration, to support the Council in delivery of the project

The Council completed the feasibility exercise for a new theatre and performance space, based within a redeveloped Old Post Office and former Quaker Meeting House at 84 Union Street and had been successful in obtaining a Towns Fund grant towards the capital project. This funding was subject to successfully completing Phase 2 of the Towns Fund process and submitting a project (full) business case by June 2022.

In order to progress into the next phase of the project development, the Council needed to commission a multi-disciplinary design team to develop the design through RIBA stages 2 and 3 and submission of the Planning and Listed Building Consent applications.

A fully compliant mini competition tender process had been carried out which will enable the next phase of design to commence in October 2021.

Further professional service contracts would be required for cost consultancy, project management and net zero carbon advice, to support delivery.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Proceed to the next stage of the development

Option 2 – Do not appoint the Performance Space design team.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 15 of the agenda before making a decision.

11

### **APPROVAL TO DELEGATE THE DECISION TO AWARD CSC INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING SERVICES CONTRACT FROM 1ST APRIL 2022**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years which sought approval to delegate a decision to award a contract for CSC Integrated Commissioning Services Contract ensure statutory services continue to be delivered from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 following a full and robust procurement and commissioning process.

Oldham Council was seeking to commission a comprehensive, fully integrated children and young people's offer covering a range of CSC services to be awarded as one distinct contract. This would enable children, young people and families/carers to access high-quality information, advice and support across a range of services. It would also enable Oldham Council to continue to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

A range of SEND and CSC services are currently out to tender via The Chest as part of our integrated commissioning approach.

Decision to award would be via a robust evaluation process following on from an open, transparent commissioning and procurement exercise which commenced via The Chest on 18 October 2021. This followed a Meet the Market event held in August 2021 and feedback from young people and parent/carers to further develop service specifications.

A Project Board had been in place meeting fortnightly including service area experts, commissioning, legal, procurement and finance colleagues. The Project Board had ensured progress is maintained, provided due diligence and has overseen development of all procurement documents including service specifications. The Project Board would continue to support evaluations of tenders, award recommendations and implementation planning to ensure Oldham continues to provide statutory high-quality services for our most vulnerable children, young people and families/carers.

Contract award would be from 1 April 2022 for an initial period of five years up until 31 March 2027 with an option to extend for up to a maximum of two years based on performance, achievement of key performance indicators, continued funding and local need. The services within scope and the annual funding envelope were: CSC covering Advocacy/Independent Visitors, Regulation 44 Visits and Mental Health Support for Children Looked after and their support network.

These services all provided support for some of the most vulnerable and at-risk children, young people and families/carers in Oldham.

The CSC services in scope were currently published as a live tender on the Chest. This became live on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and will close on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021. Following this the project board, including children and young people, will form an evaluation and moderation panel. The panel would recommend award of contract to the successful bidder. Procurement corporate rules will be followed in terms of stand-still and subsequent move to award. Services outlined above are currently delivered entirely independently by a variety of providers whose contracts all end on 31 March 2022. There is no provision to further extend these contracts. The integrated approach seeks to bring services together with a more consistent and holistic approach to delivery therefore being better able to flexibly meet the current and emerging needs of our families/carers.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 -Approval is given to authorise a delegated decision to be made by the Managing Director, Children and Young People,

Gerard Jones to award the contract to be operational from 1 April 2022. This would be subject to a robust evaluation process following on from an open, transparent commissioning and procurement exercise which commenced via The Chest on 18 October 2021 following 'meet the market' events.

Option 2 - The decision to award sits with Cabinet. Given timescales this would mean we will not be in a position to award and operationalise the implementation plan by 1 April 2022.

There would be the risk of a gap in services for vulnerable young people within the District. There would also be a reputational risk to the Council

RESOLVED – The Cabinet would considered the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 16 before making a decision.

12 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

13 **APPROVAL OF HEADS OF TERMS FOR A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOFS AND FREE SCHOOL TRUST FOR THE FORMER NORTH CHADDERTON LOWER SCHOOL SITE, OLDHAM, OL9 0JY (ASSET L00183)**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 8 -Approval of Heads of Terms for a lease agreement with the SofS and free school trust for the former North Chadderton Lower School site, Oldham, OL9 0JY (Asset L00183).

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained within the commercially sensitive report be agreed.

14 **LAND AT SALMON FIELDS**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 - Land at Salmon Fields

RESOLVED – That the recommendations contained within the commercially sensitive report be agreed.

15 **OLDHAM PERFORMANCE SPACE: DESIGN TEAM APPOINTMENT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 - Oldham Performance Space: Design Team appointment.

RESOLVED – That the recommendations as contained within the commercially sensitive report be agreed.

16 **APPROVAL TO DELEGATE THE DECISION TO AWARD CSC INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING SERVICES**

**CONTRACT FROM 1ST APRIL 2022**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 11- Approval to delegate the decision to award CSC integrated commissioning services contract from 1st April 2022.



RESOLVED – That the recommendations as contained within the commercially sensitive report be agreed.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.16pm.

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

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Moores.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed to consider an Item of business – COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required as the approach detailed within the report would help provide an agreement to support the strict timescales being imposed by Central Government.

Approval had been given under Rule 14 of the Council's constitution by the Chair of Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee to action this report as an urgent item. The report was considered at Item 10 of the agenda.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Jabbar declared an other registerable interest at Item 6 of the agenda - Review of the Council's Wholly Owned Company: Unity Partnership Limited due the Council appointment as a Board Member. Councillor Jabbar took no part in the debate or vote thereon.

Councillor Roberts declared an other registerable interest at Item 8 Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3 by virtue of her Council appointment to the Board of Positive Steps. Councillor Roberts took no part in the debate or vote thereon.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5           **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 13TH  
DECEMBER 2021**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021 be approved.

6           **REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S WHOLLY OWNED  
COMPANY: UNITY PARTNERSHIP LIMITED**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which provided the Cabinet with details of an Annual Review undertaken in September 2021 to determine the viability of the company, confirm whether it is fit for purpose in terms of service delivery and value for money for Oldham residents and the Oldham pound and that the ambitions of the company align to those of the Administration as set out and endorsed at Full Council in May 2021.

In February 2018 Cabinet agreed to the reshaping of Unity Partnership Limited (UPL). To support the Cabinet in making this decision, the Council had undertaken an options appraisal of the arrangements between UPL and Kier Partnership Limited. The outcome of that appraisal saw UPL become wholly owned by the Council. At the time, the intended purpose of UPL was to assure the sustainability and performance of services provided to the Council to increase the likelihood of the sustainability of UPL and deliver efficiencies.

As part of UPL becoming wholly owned by the Council a Partnership Agreement was entered into and this confirmed that annual reviews of the arrangements would be undertaken. The Agreement provided details of the services provided by UPL on behalf of the Council and consisted of:

- Highways
- Property Services
- Revenues and Benefits (Exchequer Services)
- Contact Centre
- ICT
- Payroll (including Recruitment)
- Consultancy (Business Change Services)

An updated Agreement from September 2019 was due to expire at the end of the initial term on 31 August 2020, but a Deed of Variation was entered into to extend the Agreement for a further period of five years, subject to annual review.

Due diligence in respect of all options had been undertaken by a team of council officers representing the key relevant areas; the outcomes of which are set out in various sections in this report. This review was now complete, and the report set out the outcome and recommended approach going forward for the Council.

Members spoke upon and welcomed the report.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Continue as is. For the reasons set out earlier in this paper – this option is not recommended.

Option 2 – mixed model of delivery. A mixed model of services provided by the Council and UPL could be developed where either additional Council Services transfer to UPL and/or more services transfer back to the Council. Again, for reasons set out in this paper – this option is not recommended.

Option 3 – Transfer services back to the Council and retain UPL as a wholly owned company for a minimum period of 12 months whilst the Council considers its delivery vehicle for Traded Services.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The position outlined in this report in relation to the review and the subsequent options arising from this be noted.
2. The options set out for the direction of travel and future model for services currently provided by UPL to the Council were considered and noted.
3. The Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Finance, Director of Legal and Director of Workforce and Organisational Design be given delegation to undertake appropriate consultation with all staff, Trade Unions and

Partners setting out the view to transition staff and services provided by Unity Partnership Limited to the Council under TUPE arrangements.

4. The Partnership Agreement between the Council and UPL be terminated and in doing so, the Director of Legal Services or their nominated representative be authorised to sign all appropriate documentation necessary for the purpose of implementing the recommended option.
5. The Unity Partnership Limited Company would continue to trade for a minimum period of 12 months whilst a review of how the Council delivered Traded Services was undertaken. It was expected this review would be presented for consideration before January 2023.
6. The Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of the Council be appointed the Council's Shareholder representative of Unity Partnership Limited whilst it continued to trade.

7

## **COUNCIL TAX TAX BASE AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES TAX BASE FORECAST 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Cabinet with the Council Tax Tax Base and provisional Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Tax Base forecast for 2022/23 which would underpin the forthcoming Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy scheduled for consideration at Budget Council on 2nd March 2022.

The report also sought delegated authority to finalise the 2022/23 Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) forecast in order to reflect up to date Non-Domestic Rates details to be submitted to Central Government via the annual NNDR 1 return by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2022.

The report set out information on the Council Tax Tax Base for 2022/23 using the most up to date valuation list and all other information and estimates available.

The total number of chargeable properties included in the Council Tax Tax Base calculation in Oldham for 2022/23 was 95,640. This figure was reduced to 86,700.8 after allowing for discounts and exemptions and translates to the equivalent of 68,910.7 Band D properties. After applying adjustments for the Local Council Tax Support scheme offset by the additional charging for empty properties and an anticipated increase in the number of properties to be included in the valuation list over the forthcoming year, the number of Band D equivalent properties reduced to 59,379.8. The final Tax Base after the application of the anticipated collection rate of 96.75% was 57,450 which was an increase of 250 when compared to the Council Tax Tax Base for 2021/22 of 57,200.

The 2022/23 Tax Bases for Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils of 8,833 and 5,548 respectively, were been calculated using the same methodology.

Statute required local billing authorities to prepare and submit to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) a locally determined and approved Business Rates forecast through the NNDR 1 return by 31 January each year. This forecast would be used to determine the 2022/23 "demand" and payment schedule for Business Rates between Oldham

Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. Being a participant in the Greater Manchester 100% Rates Retention Pilot Scheme which was confirmed for the financial year 2022/23 in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement announced on 16 December 2021 meant the Council no longer paid a share of Business Rates to Central Government. Instead, Oldham currently retained 99% of the income with 1% being paid to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for Fire and Rescue services.

The estimated rating income for 2022/23 attributable to Oldham Council was currently £48.605m which was a decrease of £2.014m compared to 2021/22. This was due to Business Rates reliefs being announced thus reducing the sum billed with the Council receiving compensating grant instead.

Delegation was sought to enable the Business Rates forecast to be updated to take account of up to date Non-Domestic Rates information, enabling the submission to Central Government of the annual NNDR 1 return by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2022.

As the 100% Business Rates retention regime was continuing, the Council had assumed a benefit of approximately £2.720m from the pilot scheme for 2022/23. The Council could retain 50% of this benefit with the balance attributable to the GMCA. The Council's share, £1.360m would be made available to support the 2022/23 budget whilst the GMCA share would be transferred to a reserve to be paid to the GMCA once the final position had been agreed. These figures would only be confirmed at the end of 2022/23.

The preparation of Council Tax and Business Rates taxbases was being undertaken during a period of unprecedented uncertainty and volatility.

The COVID-19 pandemic and recent Government announcements relating to extended retail relief had continued to reduce both the Council Tax and Business Rates income collected in 2021/22 to the extent that an income deficit of £7.741m was projected for the Council at the end of 2021/22 (this is initially accounted for in the Collection Fund). However as Central Government is providing grants in lieu of business rates, specifically for the provision of Extended Retail Relief, current estimates are that there will be grant received of £9.045m which removes the deficit and allows the use of £1.304m of additional resources to support the 2022/23 budget.

#### Options/alternatives considered

The Council has little discretion in the calculation of the number of properties incorporated into the Council Tax Tax Base given the legislative framework that is in place. However, there is some discretion in estimating the number of new properties that will be included on the Council Tax register during 2022/23 and the change to the number of claimants of Council Tax Reduction. A prudent view has been taken in this regard. The main area for an alternative approach is over the level of assumed collection rate. An increase in the collection rate would boost the anticipated Council Tax income and a decrease in the rate would decrease income. The Council has chosen to maintain its 2021/22 collection rate at 96.75%. This decision had

been influenced by prevailing economic circumstances and current trends in collection rates.

The NNDR1 return generated the figures upon which the Business Rates Tax Base was prepared. It is not therefore appropriate to consider an alternative approach. However, as the figures included on the NNDR1 return on 31 January 2022 may vary from the estimated level, delegation was sought to allow the opportunity to revise the Business Rates forecast and approve a revised and more accurate position for budget setting.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Council Tax Tax Base for 2022/23 at 57,450 Band D equivalent properties be approved.
2. The latest estimate for 2022/23 Business Rates revenue that was attributable to Oldham Council as being £48.605m be approved
3. The drawing down from the Collection Fund of £2.720m of Business Rates retention gains anticipated for 2022/23, of which the Council would utilise £1.360m (50%) be approved.
4. The Tax Bases for Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils of 8,833 and 5,548 respectively be noted.
5. The decision to vary the final Business Rates forecast and hence the Business Rates Tax Base, if required, be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon.

8

### **POSITIVE STEPS CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT LOTS 2 AND 3**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years which sought approval to exercise an existing option to extend the contract for targeted Youth Support Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps.

It was reported that the Council commissioned Positive Steps to deliver a range of services to support Oldham's young people under the overarching banner of Targeted Youth Services.

These included support services for young carers; delivery of missing from home return interviews; careers information advice and guidance as well as the Council's Youth Justice Service.

The current contracts would end on 31 March 2022 with an option to extend for up to a further twelve months up until 31 March 2023.

Permissions was sought for Cabinet to exercise the existing option to extend the contract for Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps for up to a further 12 months from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. This was within the scope of the initial contract award and therefore is within Council Contract Procedure rules.

Options/alternatives considered

Option One - TYS Lots 2 and 3 be extended for a maximum period of twelve months up until 31 March 2023. This would be within the intent of the current contract award and is within corporate procurement rules

Option Two- Notice be given to cease either or both contracts on 31 March 2022.



RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 12 before making a decision.

9

### **TEMPORARY STAFFING SUPPLY CONTRACT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Workforce which sought approval for the Council to re-contract for a Temporary Staffing Supply provider from the 29 January 2022 as part of an GM HR collaboration for the reasons outlined below.

It was reported that the Council was part of a Greater Manchester HR/OD Collaboration, established in 2008 and comprised the 10 Greater Manchester Local Authorities plus partners. The collaboration jointly procured a number of services one of which was the temporary staffing service.

The joint contract had been in place for 12 years and had been held by several suppliers in this time. The current supplier was REED Employment Agency. Following a stringent procurement process via the YPO Framework the contract was awarded to REED in January of 2016 for a 4-year term. In light of the pandemic and given the size of the contract and the amount of work that would be involved in a retender process, it was agreed that the contract would be extended for a further year utilising the COVID PPN which to January 2022. This provided the authorities with the ability to keep staff focused on priority COVID work and not having to deploy staff to an intensive retender process.

The report set out how the collaboration, which now consisted of Blackpool Council, Blackburn with Darwen Council, Bolton Council, Bury Council, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (including Fire Services), Oldham Council, Rochdale MBC, Salford City Council, Stockport MBC, Trafford Council, Warrington Borough Council and Wigan Council, had retendered the contract and selected a preferred supplier.

Option 1 – Do nothing. This was not an option and would result in the expiration of the Council's current service provision and lead to the loss of essential services to the Council.

Option 2 - Run a separate procurement process independently This would likely result in a more costly services and negate the benefits outlined in this report. This would also result in a period of service withdrawal given the timescales in which a new provider is required.

Option 3 - Join the GM HR Collaboration To contract the services of REED for the full contract period of three years (with option for a one-year extension). This would give the Council the operating model required to continue to engage temporary workers where required whilst working to reduce the reliance on agency staffing and consider alternative options.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 13 of the agenda.

10

### **URGENT ITEM -COVID-19 ADDITIONAL RELIEF FUND**



Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval on the proposed approach to the administration of the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund. It was reported that the Government had introduced a new temporary Business Rates Discretionary Relief Scheme, the COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund (CARF) and guidance for Local Authorities was issued on 15 December 2021. Oldham's allocation of the fund was £4,203,655. The scheme has been established to support those businesses impacted by the COVID- 19 pandemic and unable to adequately adapt to that impact. It was only available to reduce liability for Business Rates for the 2021/22 financial year and for those businesses who have not already received support via other relief schemes. This excluded businesses in the Retail, Leisure and Hospitality sectors and those who had received Nursery Discount. Local Authorities were required to devise a local discretionary scheme to administer this relief using existing powers under section 47 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The Government would re-imburse Local Authorities through Section 31 grants for expenditure properly incurred up to the funding allocation. The Government had requested that Local Authorities prioritise delivery of this support to businesses as soon as possible.

The Cabinet considered this as an urgent item due to the timeline required for implementation.

The criteria for applying for the business rate relief would be published on the Council's website.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 -To approve the proposed approach to the administration and delivery of the COVID- 19 Additional Relief Fund in Oldham

To delegate further decision making on the scheme, including the final allocation of the funding to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon.

Option 2 This option would entail not utilising the Government funding available to support Oldham businesses impacted by COVID-19.

**RESOLVED – That:**

1. The proposed approach to the administration and delivery of the COVID- 19 Additional Relief Fund in Oldham be approved.
2. Further decision making on the scheme, including the final allocation of the funding, be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon be approved.

11

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraphs 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

12           **POSITIVE STEPS CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR  
TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT LOTS 2 AND 3.**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 8 Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3.

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

13           **TEMPORARY STAFFING CONTRACT**

Consideration was given tot the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 - Temporary Staffing Contract.

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

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.29pm

**COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
**21/10/2021 at 1.00 pm**



**Oldham**  
Council

**Present:** Councillor Chauhan (Chair)  
Councillors Moores and Shah  
Kate Ridgen, Chief Finance Officer CCG, Dr. Ian Milnes Deputy  
Chief Clinical officer, Mike Barker, Accountable Officer

Also in Attendance:

Mark Warren- Managing Director  
Community Health and Adult Social  
Care  
Rebekah Sutcliffe Strategic Director,  
Communities and Reform  
Anne Ryans - Director of Finance  
OMBC

1           **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED – That Councillor Chauhan be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Majid Hussain, Gerard Jones, Claire Smith, Dr John Patterson, Dr Shelley Grumbridge and Councillor Chadderton.

Mike Barker attended as a substitute for Majid Hussain.

3           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

5           **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Commissioning Partnership Board held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2021 be approved as a correct record.

6           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

7           **NATIONAL & REGIONAL UPDATES**

The Board gave consideration to a report of the CCG Accountable Officer and Strategic Director of Commissioning, Oldham Council which contained summaries of local and national policies, strategies, and relevant news to ensure the Board remained up to date on the latest developments relevant to the Council.

An update was provided on the Greater Manchester Integrated Commissioning System (ICS), which would come into place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022. The ICS would include the creation of a statutory Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), which would be a joint Board,

and an Integrated Care Board (ICB) (previously referred to as the ICS NHS body/board).



Members were reminded that in Greater Manchester, under the Devolution Agreement, we had been working as 'more than an ICS' for the last five years, with strong working partnerships between health and social care and the voluntary sector. The creation of a statutory Integrated Care Partnership and Integrated Care Board would formalise those arrangements. The new statutory nature of an ICS would enable building on the ambitious and groundbreaking ways of working over the last five years and evolution to deliver even better health and care for the people of Greater Manchester.

The GM ICS would operate on three levels to deliver a new five-year vision and plan:

- Neighbourhood
- Locality
- Greater Manchester

The Board was informed that a GM Statutory ICS Transition Programme had been established, led by a Board meeting fortnightly, to oversee the transition to the new ICS arrangements. The Board was made up of representatives from all organisations which would become part of the new NHS body, as well as NHS providers and local authorities. The intention was for the GM ICS, including localities to operate with shadow arrangements ahead of the statutory change on 1 April 2022.

The Oldham transitional arrangements would be overseen by a Governing Body which would oversee the two core work areas that would work in tandem with the GM approach:

- HR and transfer of people
- CCG closedown and transfer of data and statutory duties

Locality system developments would focus on:

- Set-up of the new Oldham Health and Care System Board (including placebased responsibilities, shift of some commissioning oversight, and also oversight of strategic planning functions)
- Development of a new provider 'collaborative'
- System finances and use of resources

In relation to the National Employment Board, Members noted the majority of Oldham CCG would be covered by an employment commitment to continuity of terms and conditions. For those not covered by this commitment, guidance had set out the support that they would receive during the HR process to be followed. There was an expectation that all CCG employees would 'lift and shift' into the GM ICS on 1 April 2022, with any remaining work to determine exact roles and structures continuing after that date.

The Board noted the appointment of Amanda Doyle as the new Regional Director for the North West.



**Oldham**  
Council

The Board noted the guidance and publications recently issued.

Options/alternatives

1. Note the updates.
2. Challenge the updates

RESOLVED - That the National and Regional Updates be noted.

8

## **SECTION 75 2020-21 YEAR END POSITION MONITORING REPORT**

The Board gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance, Oldham Council and the Chief Finance Officer, Oldham CCG which asked for consideration of the Oldham Cares Section 75 pooled budget year end position for 2020/21.

The Board was reminded that the agreement for 2020/21, including the CCG's increased contribution to the wider Oldham healthcare economy of £16.3m, had been considered and approved at the Commissioning Partnership Board on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Section 75 monitoring reports had been presented at months 6, and 8 and 9 during the 2020/21 financial year.

The report set out the Oldham Cares Section 75 (S.75) pooled budget monitoring position as at the end of the 2020/21 financial year. It showed expenditure of £176.63m, compared to a budget of £176.96m, resulting in an underspend of £0.33m. Adverse variances relating to Oldham Council services were substantially offset by favourable variances within Oldham CCG.

Options/alternatives

1. Note the contents of the report
2. Challenge the contents and recommendations in the report

RESOLVED - That the outturn position for the budgets within the S75 Agreement for 2020/21 be noted.

9

## **HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION RESERVE**

The Board gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance, Oldham Council and the Chief Finance Officer, Oldham CCG which sought approval for the proposed use of funds held in reserves following increased flexibilities of S75 contributions within 2020/21.

The report provided the Board with an update on proposals to fund transformational activity, which would begin to address the c£90m recurrent system gap across the Oldham system.

During 2020/21 the Oldham Directors of Finance had worked together to set out the system-wide financial challenge being faced. Based on the financial plans developed by each

organisation at the start of 2020/21 the underlying gap was £87.8m for the Oldham system, before savings plans and use of reserves. Whilst there had been some movement in the elements and drivers of this position due to Covid, the year-end position still showed an underlying financial gap of approximately £90m at the end of 2020/21.

The CCG had significant scope to contribute additional funds into the pooled budget and, at its meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021, the Board agreed that these funds would be used to support the creation of a reserve totalling £10.3m in OMBC accounts, to support what would be an extremely challenging financial position in 2021/22 and subsequent years.

The report set out the following proposals for the use of reserves in 2021-2022:-

- Funding additional capacity for the next 12 months to speed up work on children's integration - £0.08m
- Contribution towards the Delivering a Sustainable Future programme of transformational change - £0.15m
- Additional contribution to the pool in response to the non-recurrent NHS system pressures as referenced in the paper of March 2021. - £5.0m with delegation, jointly, to the OMBC Director of Finance and the CCG Chief Finance Officer to finalise the technical requirements in order to utilise the funds and confirm phasing arrangements

It was proposed that a further £5.07m would remain available for future use as a Transformation Fund, to enable the requisite closing of the underlying gap within Oldham.

It was proposed that the use of the remaining £5.07m reserve be delegated to the new Oldham Health and Care System Board, with bids being reviewed and proposed by the Place Lead for Oldham, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officers of the CCG and the Council, to provide assurance as to the financial benefits and to ensure compliance with the Oldham System Financial Framework. The Board noted the use of the funds must align to the legislative and local financial frameworks applicable to Oldham Council, as the £5.07m was held in the accounts of the Council.

#### Options/alternatives

1. Approve the proposals in full.
2. Approve the proposals in part.
3. Do not approve the proposals

#### RESOLVED- That:

1. The strong history of joint working and funding arrangements in Health and Social Care in Oldham be noted.
2. The request for use of funds in 2021/22 totalling £5.23m as detailed in the report be approved.



3. Delegation jointly to the OMBC Director of Finance and the CCG Chief Finance Officer to finalise the technical requirements in order to utilise the £5m of the funds and confirm phasing arrangements be approved.
4. That approval would also be sought for changes arising from this paper through Council governance routes regarding the Use of Reserves Policy be noted.



The meeting started at 1.00 pm and finished at 1.30pm

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**COMMISSIONING PARTNERSHIP BOARD**  
**27/01/2022 at 1.00pm**



**Present:** Councillor Chadderton, Councillor Shah, Mr Majid Hussain, Dr I. Milnes, Dr J. Patterson and Ms. K. Rigden

Also in Attendance:

Mike Barker - Strategic Director of Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer

Graham Foulkes - Lay Member for Patient and Public Involvement

Anne Ryans - Director of Finance

Claire Smith - Director of Nursing and Quality

Mark Warren - Managing Director Community Health and Adult Social Care

Peter Thompson – Constitutional Services

1           **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Resolved:

That Mr Majid Hussain be elected Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chauhan, Councillor Moores and Gerard Jones.

3           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

5           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions to be considered at this meeting.

6           **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Commissioning Partnership Board, held 21<sup>st</sup> October 2021, be approved as a correct record.

7           **APPROVAL OF SECTION 75 LEGAL AGREEMENT**

The Board considered a joint report of the Director of Finance (Oldham Council) and the Chief Finance Officer (Oldham CCG) that sought approval for the final version of the 2021/22 Oldham Section 75 legal document and financial contributions of the Oldham CCG and Oldham Council. The report also updated the Commissioning Partnership Board on proposals for the final version of the Section 75 legal agreement.

The Board were advised that section 75 (S.75) agreements existed between Local Authorities and the NHS nationally for the pooling of budgets to facilitate closer working. Oldham Council and Oldham CCG had been entered into such an agreement for some years. Originally the S.75 agreement covered expenditure funded by the Better Care Fund. The agreement was initially expanded to include the Improved Better Care Fund and the Winter Resilience Grant. The Council and the CCG had subsequently chosen to further widen the scope of the agreement to incorporate several areas where services were commissioned jointly. The main purpose was to facilitate a whole system approach to deliver care where and how it can be best delivered to the citizens of Oldham.

The report emphasised that Oldham system had a strong history of joint working and of different organisations providing support where flexibility allowed.

Contributions for the Council and CCG had been updated based on 2021/22 budgets, as reported, and agreed by each organisation separately. The Council's contribution was based on the same principles and services that were incorporated into the 2020/21 agreement.

The CCG's contribution to the S.75 agreement had been enhanced for 2021/22 as part of an increase to the "Pooled Aligned" budget. This changed the scope of the agreement so that the CCG's contribution was expanded from set items, to broadly include all items which could be legally included in the pooled fund. However, this only represented the production of further items of expenditure into the view of the Council; it did not create new expenditure or create a new risk for the Council.

It was reported that both parties potentially had the scope to vary their contributions over the course of the financial year. Both Oldham Council and Oldham CCG requested approval to delegate jointly to the Council's Director of Finance and to Oldham CCG's Chief Financial Officer to agree the management of 'year-end' flexibilities.

Resolved:

1. That the Board notes the strong history of joint working and funding arrangements in Health and Social Care in Oldham.
2. That the Board approves the continuation of the Scheme for Hospital Discharge Programme funding as described below and included as "Scheme D" in the Section 75 documentation.
3. That the Board notes the significant challenges in Oldham Council's long term financial position and specifically the increases in funding that it has provided to Adult Social Care over the past several years.
4. That the Board approves the Section 75 Agreement as attached at Appendix 1, of the submitted report, and

specifically the intention to adopt a flexible approach to contributions to support delivery of the best services for Oldham residents.

5. That the Board authorises Oldham Council's Director of Legal Services to sign the Section 75 Agreement on behalf of Oldham Council.
6. That the Board delegates approval jointly to Oldham Council's Director of Finance and to Oldham CCG's Chief Finance Officer to finalise the financial expenditure and contribution figures included at Schedule 8 of Appendix 1, of the submitted report, as part of the year-end processes.



The meeting started at 1.00pm and ended at 1.40pm.

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**HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD**  
**16/11/2021 at 9.00 am**



**Present:** Councillor M Bashforth (Chair)  
Councillors Moores and Sykes

Also in Attendance:

Mike Barker	Strategic Director of Commissioning/Chief Operating Officer
Harry Catherall	Chief Executive
Dr Henri Giller	Independent Chair
Stuart Lockwood	OCLL
Kaidy McCann	Constitutional Services
Dr. John Patterson	Clinical Commissioning Group
Joanne Sloan	Dr Kershaw's
Katrina Stephens	Director of Public Health
Mark Warren	Director, Adult Social Care
Simon Watts	Public Health
Laura Windsor-Welsh	Action Together

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Birch, Councillor Leach, Dr Keith Jeffery, David Jago and Donna Cezair.

2           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5           **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

6           **OLDHAM SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP  
ANNUAL REPORT**

Consideration was given to the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report. The Board was informed that The Oldham Strategic Safeguarding Partnership had been developed by Oldham Council, Greater Manchester Police, and the Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure that all children and young people in the area get the safeguarding and protection they needed in order to help them to thrive.

The Board was advised that the business year 2020-21 had proven to be a challenging one for the Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership, in particular, the challenge of Covid-19 which had tested the strength of Partnership bonds that had only been in their second year of reformulation. It was noted that the impact of Covid on children and families in Oldham had been disproportionate due to the levels of poverty and inequality that affect the Borough. The partnership had responded well to the challenge of the pandemic by:

- Identifying and responding to new levels of safeguarding demand – particularly with respect to harm to infants, increased levels of domestic abuse affecting children and meeting children’s mental health and well-being needs.
- Enhancing the arrangements to enable reflection and learning of good safeguarding practice on a co-ordinated cross-agency basis.
- Examining current safeguarding processes and asking how they could better meet the needs of children and young people. Transitioning from children’s services to adult services being a particular point of focus for this.
- Engaging with children and young people so to ensure that the Partnership identifies and responds to their priorities and concerns.

The Board was advised of the six strategic aims which were as followed:

- Excellent practice is the norm across all practitioners in Oldham
- Partner agencies hold one another to account effectively
- There is early identification of new safeguarding issues
- Learning is promoted and embedded
- Information is shared effectively
- The public feel confident that children are protected

The Board was informed that three areas of safeguarding risk had been identified as priority areas of focus which were as followed:

- Injuries to under 2-year-olds - During both periods of national lockdown Children’s Services saw an increase in the number of children under the age of two years who were experiencing accidental and non-accidental injuries. Whilst the majority of these incidents were as a result of lack of supervision or sibling mishandling the circumstances highlighted the additional stresses and pressures that were being faced by parents of new and young children in the context of isolation and reduced support as a result of the pandemic.
- Significant increases in the number of high-risk domestic abuse incidents - Oldham saw a significant increase in high risk domestic abuse cases in Oldham during the Covid-19 pandemic, with a 92% rise in serious domestic abuse incidents affecting women and children. In the first week of February 2021 alone the Local Authority recorded 58 serious incidents of domestic abuse, compared to 43 in the whole month of February last year.



Many of the families had not previously been known the Children's Services but the severity of the incidents being reported were of significant concern.

- Increased concerns for children's mental health - Oldham Healthy Young Minds saw a large reduction in referrals in Q1 and Q2 of 2020-21 as the Country entered the first COVID-19 lockdown. Despite the reduction in routine referrals there was a notable increase in crisis referrals. Similar increases had been noted in the incidences of self-harm amongst young people which had risen each quarter since the start of the pandemic. Those areas were supported by a Partnership action and communications plans to ensure a coordinated response and awareness raising of the need and the available support for professionals and local communities.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 7 **DEVELOPING A HEALTH INEQUALITIES PLAN FOR OLDHAM**

Consideration was given to a report which outlined a proposal for how a Health Inequalities Plan would be produced for Oldham with key timelines and the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in overseeing the work.

The Board was advised that a development session themed around health inequalities had been held in September 2021 following a discussion by the Director of Public Health on the two reports which made a series of recommendations for reducing health inequalities across Greater Manchester. The first report was from the GM Independent Health Inequalities Commission, titled *The Next Level: Good Lives for All in Greater Manchester*. The second report was from Michael Marmot's team at The Institute for Health Equity, titled *Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester: Health Equity and Dignified Lives*.

The presentation and discussion highlighted the following:

- Health inequalities had existed and had been known about for a number of years, however Covid had exacerbated them, resulting in worse health and social outcomes for those who were already most disadvantaged.
- Oldham residents in particular were badly impacted by those inequalities given the low levels of income in the borough and the higher proportion of residents from minority ethnic groups.
- Recent reports from the GM Independent Health Inequalities Commission and the Institute for Health Equity were an opportunity for action in the borough. A document had been circulated which summarised system wide initiatives which were aligned with the recommendations made by Michael Marmot's team. This highlighted a number of areas where the Oldham system

was very much fulfilling the recommendations, as well as gaps where more work was needed.

- It was agreed that following the development session a plan would start to be developed for tackling health inequalities in Oldham, which would draw on the findings from those two reports.

The Board was advised that it had been proposed that a Health Inequalities Plan for Oldham would be developed by completing the following:

- Establishing a time limited task and finish group to steer the development of the plan.
- Producing an overview of evidence linked to health inequalities in Oldham, highlighting key areas of concerns. This would be drawn from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Engaging with key system partners and residents to understand key issues. Summarise priorities raised linked to health inequalities from discussions.
- Meet with relevant system partners to understand existing programmes of work and governance and how they interact with the health inequalities agenda; summarise which priorities identified are already being progressed (e.g. by the Equality Plan, Anti-Poverty Plan).
- Develop a detailed action plan for the priorities which weren't already being progressed by other workstreams. Named individuals assigned to each action with timelines.
- Outline proposed governance to support implementation of the action plan above, emphasising the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in driving delivery.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The process and timeline outlined in the report be agreed.
2. The work be engaged with as appropriate as the plan is being developed.

8

## **SUPPORTING PATIENTS WITH LONG COVID, CHRONIC PAIN AND FATIGUE**

Consideration was given to a report which advised the Board on the services available for patients with long Covid, and how those related to provisions for patients with chronic pain and fatigue.

The Board was advised that, according to research undertaken by the Office of National Statistics, around 1 in 10 people testing positive for Covid-19 exhibited symptoms for a period of 12 weeks or longer. 67% of GPs surveyed nationally reported that they were looking after patients with Covid-19 symptoms lasting longer than 12 weeks. A study by the Lancet published on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 which looked at the long-term health consequences of Covid-19 patients discharged from hospital, identified that at 6 months after acute infection, Covid-19 survivors were mainly troubled with fatigue or muscle weakness,

sleep difficulties, and anxiety or depression. Patients who were more severely ill during their hospital stay had more severely impaired pulmonary diffusion capacities and abnormal chest imaging manifestation and were the main target population for intervention of long-term recovery. The Lancet report added to the growing body of evidence that long Covid syndrome should be considered serious and is a long-term condition.

The Board noted that there was increased evidence that Covid-19 had a disproportionate impact on those in deprived populations and people in black and ethnic minority groups, exacerbating existing health inequalities. Of those people with persistent symptoms at 20 weeks, the current evidence suggested that the most common symptoms were fatigue (98%), breathlessness (87%), persistent cough (74%), headache (83%), fever (75%), chest pain (73%), muscle ache (88%) and joint pain (78%). However, a wide range of other symptoms were reported, affecting almost all body systems. It was noted that people with persistent symptoms often reported multiple different symptoms, which could relapse and remit over time.

The Board were advised that Long COVID Virtual assessment clinics covering Tier 3 assessment were set up at the end of January 2021. The Tier 4 service was in the process of being fully stood up across Greater Manchester. However, Oldham's Tier 3 services have been able to access this since the end of September 2021. Under the pathway development, Tier 1 would cover self-management. Patients would be directed to the Your Covid recovery website and the GP Peer Support Group. Tier 2 covered all GP practices that had signed up to deliver the NHS Direct Enhances Services for Long Covid which included guidance on identification, assessment and appropriate investigations prior to referral. Tier 3 would cover the development of a post-acute Covid assessment clinic.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

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#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the date and time of the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board be noted.

The meeting started at 9.00 am and ended at 10.34 am

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER  
AUTHORITIES EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 25 JUNE 2021**

**PRESENT:**

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Police, Crime & Fire	
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	Councillor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Rochdale	Councillor Nazia Rehman
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**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA - Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bury	Lynne Risdale
Oldham	Helen Lockwood
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Pam Smith
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Steve Wilson
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	James Killin
TfGM	Simon Warburton

<b>BOLTON</b>	<b>MANCHESTER</b>	<b>ROCHDALE</b>	<b>STOCKPORT</b>	<b>TRAFFORD</b>
<b>BURY</b>	<b>OLDHAM</b>	<b>SALFORD</b>	<b>TAMESIDE</b>	<b>WIGAN</b>

**AGMA 07/21 APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED /-**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor David Greenhalgh (Councillor Martyn Cox attending), Carolyn Wilkins (Helen Lockwood attending) and Geoff Little (Lynne Risdale attending).

**AGMA 08/21 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2021/22**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the GM Mayor, Andy Burnham be appointed as Chair of the AGMA Executive Board under Section 9.2 of the AGMA Constitution.

**AGMA 09/21 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS TO THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2021/22**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of Councillor Richard Leese Deputy Mayor, as a Vice Chair, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be agreed.
2. That the appointment of Councillor David Greenhalgh as a Vice Chair, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be agreed.
3. That the appointment of Councillor Brenda Warrington as a Vice Chair, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be agreed.

**AGMA 10/21 AGMA CONSTITUTION**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the AGMA Constitution be noted.

**AGMA 11/21 AGMA APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS**

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the AGMA Executive Board for 2021/22 be noted as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
<b>GMCA</b>	Andy Burnham - GM Mayor	
<b>Bolton</b>	David Greenhalgh (Con)	Martyn Cox (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)	Andrea Simpson (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Richard Leese (Lab)	Bev Craig (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Arooj Shah (Lab)	Amanda Chadderton (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Neil Emmott (Lab)	Dalaat Ali (Lab)

<b>Salford</b>	Paul Dennett (Lab)	John Merry (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Elise Wilson (Lab)	Tom McGee (Lab)
<b>Tameside</b>	Brenda Warrington (Lab)	Bill Fairfoull (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Andrew Western (Lab)	Catherine Hynes (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	David Molyneux (Lab)	Keith Cunliffe (Lab)

2. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the Police, Fire and Crime Panel 2021/22 be noted as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Nadim Muslim (Con)	Adele Warren (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Richard Gold (Lab)	Ummrana Farooq (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Steve Williams (Lab)	Amanda Chadderton (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	David Lancaster (Lab)	Tracey Kelly (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Amanda Peers (Lab)	Tom McGee (Lab)
<b>Tameside</b>	Alison Gwynne (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Trafford</b>	Graham Whitham (Lab)	Mike Freeman (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Kevin Anderson (Lab)	Paula Wakefield (Lab)

3. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the Police Crime Steering a Group 2021/22 be noted as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Nadim Muslim (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Richard Gold (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Steve Williams (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	David Lancaster (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Tameside</b>	Alison Gwynne (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Graham Whittam (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Kevin Anderson (Lab)

4. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the GM Health Scrutiny Committee 2021/22 be noted as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Andrea Taylor-Burke (Con)	Mudasir Dean (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Trevor Holt (Lab)	Joan Grimshaw (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Shazia Butt (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Yasmin Toor (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Rochdale</b>	Ray Dutton (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Tanya Burch (Lab)	Sammie Bellamy (Lab)

<b>Stockport</b>	Keith Holloway (Lib Dem)	Dickie Davies (Lab)
<b>Tameside</b>	Stephen Homer (Lab)	Teresa Smith (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Sophie Taylor (Lab)	Barry Winstanley (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	John O'Brien (Lab)	Ron Conway (Lab)

5. That the appointment of 10 members, nominated by the GM Local Authorities plus the GMCA Planning and Housing Portfolio Lead, to the Planning and Housing Commission for 2021/22 be approved as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>GMCA Portfolio Lead</b>	Paul Dennett (Lab)
<b>Bolton</b>	Toby Hewitt (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Clare Cummings (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Hannah Roberts (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Linda Robinson (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Mike McCusker (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Tameside</b>	Ged Cooney (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	James Wright (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Susan Gambles (Lab)

6. That the nominations by GM Local Authorities to the Statutory Functions Committee 2021/22 be agreed as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Martyn Cox (Con)	Stuart Haslam (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Charlotte Morris (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Manchester</b>	Tim Whiston (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Norman Briggs (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)	Susan Smith (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Stephen Coen (Lab)	Anne- Marie Humphreys (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	To be confirmed	To be confirmed
<b>Tameside</b>	Leanne Feeley (Lab)	Mike Smith (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Liz Patel (Lab)	Mike Freeman (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Joanne Marshall (Lab)

7. That the appointment of 9 members, nominated by the GM Local Authorities to the GM Pensions Fund Management Panel for 2021/22 be approved as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Samantha Connor (Con)
<b>Bury</b>	Joan Grimshaw (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Peter Joinson (Lab)

<b>Salford</b>	Michele Barnes (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	John Taylor (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Alan Mitchell (Con)
<b>Wigan</b>	Keith Cunliffe (Lab)

8. That it be noted that Tameside MBC as the Lead Authority managing the GM Pensions Fund will appoint its own member.
9. That the appointment of Councillor Janet Emsley (Rochdale) to the Halle Board for 2021/22 be approved.
10. That the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to the Halle Board for 2021/22 as shown in para 8.2 of the report be approved.
11. That the appointment of Councillor Rob Sharpe (Salford) to the People's History Museum Board for 2021/22 be approved.
12. That it be noted that Councillor Eddie Moores (Oldham) was appointed to the Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust – Council of Governors in 2019/20 for a three-year term of office.
13. That three members to the North West Flood and Coastal Committee for 2021/22 be appointed as follows:

<b>District</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Bury</b>	Alan Quinn (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Sara Rowbotham (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	David Mellor (Lab)

14. That subject to any further changes the GMCA may wish to make, all appointments to made up to the AGMA Annual Meeting in June 2022.

#### **AGMA 12/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

##### **RESOLVED /-**

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

#### **AGMA 13/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2021**

##### **RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board held on 12 February 2021 be approved.

#### **AGMA 14/21 REVENUE OUTTURN REPORT 2020/21**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Leader for Resources introduced a report which set out the final outturn for the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) 2020/21.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the report and the AGMA final revenue outturn for 2020/21 be noted.
2. That the position of reserves in 2020/21 as detailed in the report be noted.



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSPORT COMMITTEE  
HELD ON FRIDAY 15 OCTOBER 2021 AT EXCHANGE HALL,  
MANCHESTER CENTRAL CONFERENCE CENTRE**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Mark Aldred (in the Chair)	Wigan Council
Councillor Mohammed Ayub	Bolton Council
Councillor Stuart Hartigan	Bolton Council
Councillor Jackie Harris	Bury Council
Councillor Kevin Peel	Bury Council
Councillor Naeem Hassan	Manchester City Council
Councillor John Leech	Manchester City Council
Councillor Howard Sykes	Oldham Council
Councillor Norman Briggs	Oldham Council
Councillor Phil Burke	Rochdale MBC
Councillor Shah Wazir	Rochdale MBC
Councillor Roger Jones	Salford Council
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport MBC
Councillor David Mellor	Stockport MBC
Councillor Warren Bray	Tameside MBC
Councillor Doreen Dickenson	Tameside MBC
Councillor Steve Adshead	Trafford Council
Councillor Paul Prescott	Wigan Council

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Bob Morris	TfGM
Peter Boulton	TfGM
Ian Palmer	TfGM
Stephen Rhodes	TfGM
Lucy Kennon	TfGM
Emma Flinn	TfGM
Eamonn Boylan	Chief Executive, GMCA/TfGM
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Chief Inspector Ronnie Neilson	GMP Safer Transport Team
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance Officer, GMCA

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor Susan Emmott	Rochdale Council
Guillaume Chanussot	KeolisAmey Metrolink
Owain Roberts	Northern

**GMTC 46/21 APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillors Barry Warner, Emma Taylor, Dzidra Noor, Stuart Haslam, Nathan Evans, Joanne Marshall and Andrew Western. Apologies were also received from GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Daniel Coles (Network Rail), Chris

Jackson (Northern) and Nicola Ward (GMCA).

### **GMTC 47/21 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair advised that unfortunately the GM Transport Commissioner was unable to attend the meeting but did wish to update the Committee through the Chair on activities that had taken place around the Conservative Party Conference.

The Conference had provided the opportunity to put a spotlight on plans to deliver the Bee Network. The GM Mayor held an event showcasing the vision for the Network and how it would connect all modes for a seamless customer experience. An example Bee Network bus was on-site at St Peters Square and provided a multi-functional meeting space and following the Conference, would be used to tour GM and communicate the vision of Destination Bee Network around the region.

Over the course of the conference, the GM Transport Commissioner was involved in meetings with officials and ministers from Number 10 and the Department for Transport (DfT) on how the vision could be delivered at a greater pace with the right backing.

However, the vision for HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail was not being matched by government, and work would take place to continue to press for changes as the legislation developed.

Big changes could also be expected in terms of how roads were used, with road pricing on the table and prohibition of pavement parking under serious consideration within government. GM showed it was leading the way for enhanced priority for pedestrians with the visionary side road zebra crossing project nearly completed, with DfT ministers showing a lot of interest in this initiative.

#### **Resolved /-**

That the update provided by the GM Transport Commissioner on activities that had taken place around the Conservative Party Conference be received by the Committee.

### **GMTC 48/21 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **Resolved /-**

That it be noted that Councillor Phil Burke declared a personal interest by virtue of being an employee of Metrolink.

### **GMTC 49/21 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 20 AUGUST 2021**

#### **Resolved /-**

That the minutes of the GM Transport Committee meeting held 20 August 2021 be approved as a correct record.

## **GMTC 50/21 MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Resolved /-**

That the minutes of the GMTC Sub Committees as below be noted.

- Metrolink & Rail Sub Committee – 17 September 2021
- Bus Services Sub Committee – 1 October 2021

## **GMTC 51/21 NETWORK PERFORMANCE**

Bob Morris (Chief Operating Officer, TfGM) provided the Committee with an update on transport network performance within Greater Manchester.

The last week in September had seen an estimated total of 52.7m trips taken. This was significant as it was 2% up on pre-pandemic averages. Returns to education and an increasing return to the workplace were considered to have played a significant role in the numbers being seen. There had also been a large number of events that had been deferred from the summer to take place in September.

Over the last seven days, in comparison with pre-pandemic numbers, buses were experiencing patronage levels of 92%, Metrolink at 60%, rail 63%, highways 97%, cycling 95%, and walking was at 116%, which was particularly good news in terms of the encouragement of active travel.

Members referenced ASB issues across the network. Questions were raised around the possibility of GMP's Transport Unit having a constant monitoring presence across the whole Metrolink network. It was advised that a short-term action plan had been prepared to address some of the immediate items of concern. In the meantime, meetings had also taken place with the GM Mayor, the new Chief Constable & Deputy Chief Constable of GMP and the Transport Commissioner, about the restructure of the GMP Transport Unit, both for road policing and for public transport. The GM Mayor had set a deadline of six weeks for the Deputy Chief Constable to come back with a proposal on this.

Members noted the significant decrease in Network Rail delay minutes and asked how much the decrease was expected to relate to the reductions in services being run. It was advised that in the main the reductions in delays did relate to the reduced network offer. It was agreed that officers would look to produce train network performance figures that were normalised in percentage terms to allow like for like comparisons with pre-pandemic network performance.

### **Resolved /-**

1. That the Network Performance update be noted; and
2. That TfGM Officers be asked to provide train network performance figures normalised in percentage terms to allow like for like comparisons with pre-pandemic network performance.

## **GMTC 52/21 GMP TRANSPORT UNIT UPDATE**

Chief Inspector Ronnie Neilson (Head of the GMP Transport Unit Safer Transport Team) was invited to give a presentation to the Committee highlighting recent issues faced on the network and the next steps being taken. Points highlighted included:

- The Unit covered all aspects of the full transport network, including road, tram, bus, walking and cycling. It also provided assistance to Operation Custodian (the weekend night-time economy operation).
- Throughout the pandemic, staff within the Unit had also been required to support the management of excess community deaths and supporting the Operational Communications Branch with call handling demand. There had also been reduced resources due to staff sickness and isolation requirements.
- Further challenges faced by the Unit included relatively small staff numbers for a significant area of responsibility; emerging issues around the usage of e-scooters; balancing the competing needs of each transport mode; the need to traverse a wide network, with Metrolink for example accounting for 10% of mode usage but requiring 60% of patrols; and dealing with the perceptions of post-covid activity.
- 12 months of outcomes were highlighted. These included 150 drug driver arrests which was seen as an increasing problem across the network. 2135 incidents in total had been attended, with 450 arrests having taken place.
- Project Servator was referenced. This involved Transport Unit staff being trained to better detect and combat adverse behaviours as part of deterrent work on the network. Also referenced was Operation Sycamore, for which Home Office funding had been secured for directed patrols in violence hotspots.
- Anecdotally it had been found that there were high levels of public satisfaction with the Unit's work and presence.
- The issues of acute and chronic demand in relation to youth ASB were highlighted. This accounted for 50% of all ASB on the networks. Therefore, considerable work had been put into understanding this as part of a GM wide issue so that it could be approached in a holistic and collaborative way.
- Next steps being taken included the development of a Road Danger Reduction Plan to support the growth in active travel; increasing staffing on the Roads Policing Unit to allow the Transport Unit to focus more on ASB/Crime on other modes; continued working with the TravelSafe Partnership; further development and improvement of relationships with district teams; supporting the roll-out of LiveChat to encourage incidence reporting; and the development and investigation of resources to allow for more complex issues to be dealt with in a more timely manner.

Lucy Kennon (Head of Resilience & Business Continuity, TfGM) then updated the Committee on the TravelSafe Forward Plan. Reference was made to the weekly 'TravelSafe Specialist Operations' – which would be ramped up with a refreshed menu of tactics – and would be complemented by a raft of other wraparound work, such as prevention, intervention, deterrents and providing information. Local based plans for each of the 'hotspot' areas were also being developed.

Members highlighted a number of concerns around the increasing usage of e-scooters. Members were aware that accident figures were known to be high on this mode of transport and asked if figures were available for this. It was noted that a consultation on e-scooters was taking place in relation to trials in various parts of GM. Would GMP be feeding into this consultation? And would it be possible for the Committee to receive a report following the conclusion of the trial to be able to take a view on the pros and cons of this mode of transport.

It was confirmed that figures available around accidents on e-scooters would be made available to the Committee. GMP would be willing to provide information it had collated with national colleagues to any consultation work. Members agreed that they wished to see a further report brought to the Committee on e-scooters once the information accrued from the trial was completed.

Members also referenced the need to ensure that young people were educated on the potential dangers of e-scooters. Was it possible to incorporate this into school educational programmes?

It was advised that during 2019 the TravelSafe Partnership had delivered educational engagement programmes to schools, covering around 30,000 of the region's children. During 2020 and its pandemic related issues, the Partnership was unable to deliver programmes on such a scale. However, the educational engagement programme had now been fully re-established and also now included a virtual offer to complement it. Officers would look at the incorporation of e-scooter safety messages within the package.

Members asked if breakdowns of the outcomes such as arrests were available broken down by each GM district. It was advised that these figures could be made available.

Members expressed concern about the level of criminal damage being seen across the network and enquired about the number of arrests made in relation to this, and the numbers who subsequently faced criminal damage charges. Equally, there were concerns about assaults on staff across the Metrolink network, about which Councillor Burke had received a promise he would be kept personally informed. Were the assaults being fully investigated by the TravelSafe Partnership?

It was advised that numbers around criminal damage arrests and charging would be fed back to the Committee. Arrangements would be made for Inspector Griffin to contact Councillor Burke.

Members expressed concern about the levels of anti-social behaviour impacting the commuter confidence of local residents right now – and whilst the plans being shaped by the Deputy Chief Constable and the GM Mayor were welcomed, there needed to be some immediate actions taken to reassure residents.

Members noted that the GM Transport Unit was referenced as a relatively small team. How short of human resource were they to deal with the scale of the problem with confidence? It was advised that an exact number could not be provided, but it was hoped that a doubling of numbers currently in the Road Policing Unit would allow the Transport Unit freedom to commit more to other modes.

Further queries were raised on staffing numbers. Were shortages in staff tied to the pandemic or was there a general shortage of officers available to the Unit. It was advised

that more 'boots on the ground' would always be welcome, however, current issues such as youth ASB levels would not be solved by the number of officers within the GM Transport Unit. These were deep rooted issues that had built up and therefore it was vital to prioritise work on early interventions. Helping young people into gainful employment for example, had been proven as one of the best ways to combat ASB.

Members noted that 150 drug drivers had been convicted, a question was raised about the level of testing undertaken to reach that figure. It was advised that the testing numbers had increased, and were revealing what was an increasing, and concerning issue. Testing numbers would be fed back to the Committee.

Concerns were raised around the growing push for removal of A-Frames on cycle pathways. Whilst the removal was understandable from the point of view of equalities legislation issues, these had originally been put in place due to issues with the paths being used by mopeds/motocross bikes and the inability of pedestrians to use the pathways safely. If this was to become an issue again, it was hoped that resourcing would be in place to deal with it.

Members referenced Community Speed Watch schemes – and how these were easier to access and establish in some areas than others, was guidance available on how to organise these?

GMP was more than happy to support the inauguration of any Community Speed Watch Schemes. It had been found that this often commenced following a serious accident within an area, with an immediate groundswell of support that did tend to fade over time. GMP was in the process of looking at how Speed Watch schemes can be reenergised or relaunched when this happens.

Members noted that 23 incidents per million passengers happened on the bus network, whilst 101 incidents per million took place on the Metrolink network. Would guards on the trams help to combat this?

It was advised that the first step in combatting this issue was a diagnosis of the issues. This work had found that the journeys themselves rarely resulted in issues, but rather the bulk of the problem was at interchanges, where groups of young people were gathering following lockdown periods and causing ASB issues resulting in recordable incidents. This ASB required a holistic approach to combat at the earliest possible opportunity.

Members accepted this, and asked if that was the case, then why could there not be a police/enforcement presence at all the interchanges. Members also asked if figures specific to crimes at interchanges could be made available.

It was advised that the short-term action plan highlighted that the top four hotspot locations were all interchanges, so it was very clear that activity needed to be centred in those locations as much as possible. The work taking place to combat this was a combined effort comprising GMP, transport operators, local authorities and youth diversionary teams. Free travel was offered on Metrolink to youth detach teams to help in getting to the crux of some of the problems.

Members expressed concern about the significant rise in percentage terms of incidents on Metrolink from 2019 to 2020. It was advised that there needed to be care in directly comparing figures between those years as patronage levels had been at such record lows during parts of 2020 that this had a significant impact on incident rates when measured

against patronage levels. Overall, the number of incidents was broadly similar between 2019 and 2020, and there had been a fall in the number of serious incidents, however the level of youth ASB, as referenced, had spiked at previously unseen levels.

Members agreed that given the seriousness of some recent incidents, the TravelSafe Partnership would be asked to bring updates on a 6 monthly basis, rather than the yearly updates brought previously.

Members enquired as to the level of GMP officer deployment on the overall network, including bus and Metrolink in addition to the interchanges. It was advised that officers would look to feedback officer deployment arrangement information to the Committee. It was also confirmed that the Action Plan contained a tactical focus on both static and agile deployments, acknowledging that issues could take place when taking trams between differing interchange hotspots.

Members sought reassurance that areas within the region that did not have existing hotspots and Metrolink connections still received an appropriate level of cover from the Transport Unit. It was advised that the resource deployment of the Unit was directed where analysts dictated their presence was most required, as a general rule however, the Unit did look to ensure an equitable spread across the region.

#### **Resolved /-**

1. That the update from the GMP Transport Unit be noted;
2. That the GMP e-scooter analysis and any figures available on serious incidents involving e-scooters be fed back to the Committee;
3. That arrangements be made for Inspector Griffin to update Councillor Burke on Metrolink staff assault figures;
4. That officer deployment arrangements on the bus and Metrolink networks be fed back to the Committee;
5. That figures detailing criminal prosecutions following damage to bus and Metrolink networks be circulated to the Committee by GMP;
6. That figures on the number of drug drivers tested that resulted in 150 positive drivers be fed back to the Committee by GMP;
7. That, following the current trials taking place on e-scooters, a paper outlining the outcomes be brought to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration;
8. That member concerns regarding the removal of 'A Frames' on cycle paths be noted;
9. That the committee requests updates from the TravelSafe Partnership be moved from yearly to every six months; and
10. That e-scooter safety messages be added to the TravelSafe Partnership's educational engagement programme with schools.



## **GMTC 53/21 BUS REFORM AND GREATER MANCHESTER'S BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

A report was presented by Eamonn Boylan (Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM), Stephen Rhodes (Customer Director and Head of Bus, TfGM) and Ian Palmer (Head of Modelling & Analysis, TfGM) that updated the Committee on the plans to implement bus reform within Greater Manchester and included a summary of the plan to franchise the bus network. The report set out the level of ambition needed to ensure the improvement of the offer to customers, how the ambition would be delivered, and the support required from others to ensure the realisation of this ambition. Points highlighted included:

- The Bus Services Improvement Plan (BSIP) had to be delivered by TfGM and all other transport authorities to central government by the end of October. These had to be produced in a very short timescale following the publication of the National Bus Strategy in the spring of 2021.
- It was important to view the BSIP as part of the wider picture of the GMCA's pitch to government for a level up deal, and as part of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, submitted by all mayoral authorities in September 2021.
- At the heart of this was the development of a London style public transport system as part of the Bee Network. GM was in a unique position to do this due to where it was at in terms of franchising at present.
- Nationally it had been indicated that there was a pot of £3 billion available for BSIPs. Which sounded quite a lot, but when carved up between the 79 local transport authorities it would not go quite so far.
- This was an opportunity to build upon great work that had already been taking place in relation to the improvement of the region's bus services (for example the Guided Busway and the starting of investment into electric buses to comply with clean air zone requirements).
- The ambition for bus services was summarised into seven thematic areas: Customer Experience; Services; Infrastructure; Information; Fares and Ticketing; Fleet; and Network Management.
- One of the key ambitions was Services. This required stabilising the current variable patterns of patronage and then strengthening services and routes to ensure better and consistent frequencies across all times of day.
- Another key ambition was that of Fares and Ticketing. This meant more affordable journeys, attractively priced and a simplified structure echoing that of Transport for London.
- The third ambition highlighted was Fleet. There was a big ask on reaching a target of 50% of the fleet being zero emission within the next five years.
- Members were updated on the current position in terms of Bus Franchising. Two operators had challenged the GM Mayor's decision taken in March 2021 to introduce a bus franchising scheme in the entire GMCA area via judicial review. The hearing had been held in May 2021 and the outcome of the process was still being awaited.

This risked impacting up the delivery timescales for the implementation of the Scheme. However, officers were progressing where they could, including initiating formal procurement arrangements.

Members referenced the potential delays to Bus Franchising. Following his re-election, the GM Mayor stated that he sought to accelerate the programme beyond the initial timetable as much as possible – what was being done to achieve this ambition?

It was advised that officers were working closely with the Department for Transport to push them to undertake the work required of them to allow the Mayor's ambition to be realised. The ambition being for franchising to be in place now by 2024. Within current legislation, any changes to the scheme as consulted would require a change to regulation, and this was currently under discussion with DfT.

Members asked if the outcome of the judicial review would be subject to an appeal process – and if accelerating the programme would open another possible avenue of appeal to slow down the process?

It was advised that an appeal of the judicial review would largely depend upon the judgement decision which was unknown at this stage. There was the potential for further challenges down the line, though clear grounds for this would need to be established.

Members sought assurances that smaller communities in the region were not left out of plans, and that services to schools or on residential estates would not be cut. It was advised that the wider plans went well beyond the main transport corridors, and that the services ask included local areas, town centres and feeder services. The ambition was very much about scaling up not down.

Members asked if there were alternative plans should the funding received not allow for the original ambitions. It was advised that a wide range of scenarios was not being planned for. There had been advice as to the likely direction of the bid. It was very ambitious, but if all funding hoped for was not received, then officers would come back to the Committee for advice on how to make best use of what had been granted.

Members raised that they had been receiving a lot of questions from residents as to the status of bus franchising. It was therefore requested that the report be circulated to the Chief Executives in each GM local authority, with a covering note from Eamonn Boylan summarising the points raised at this meeting. The Chief Executives could then disseminate this to their councillors.

### **Resolved /-**

1. That the current position in respect to Bus Franchising in Greater Manchester be noted by the Committee;
2. That the Committee endorses the level of ambition and proposals being put forward as part of Greater Manchester's Bus Service Improvement Plan which will be presented to GMCA on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and submitted to government shortly thereafter; and
3. That the chief executives in each GM local authority be asked to circulate the report to all their councillors together with a covering note from Eamonn Boylan.

## **GMTC 54/21 ROAD SAFETY UPDATE**

Peter Boulton (Head of Highways, TfGM) was invited to provide a road safety update to Members. Points highlighted included:

- Firm figures had now been produced on the numbers killed or serious injured on the roads in GM. There had been a decrease of around 25% - down from 683 in 2019 to 512 in 2020. This compared to an overall 22% decrease nationally. This was largely as a result of pandemic related reductions in traffic during 2020, with an estimated 21% less traffic on the roads during the year as a whole.
- Unfortunately, the number of fatalities alone had risen by 6% (67 in 2020, 63 in 2019), this was even more disappointing when accounting for the already high numbers seen in 2019, which had resulted in a 26% rise on 2018 numbers.
- Because traffic had been more free flowing during 2020, it had been found that instances of speeding had notably increased. With speeding being a key risk factor in serious injuries in the event of a collision.
- A new system (The DfT Collision Reporting and Sharing System (CRaSH)) had been introduced by GMP that could have an impact of improving the identification of serious injury collisions.
- The Fatal Collision Research Project had commenced. This would form an in-depth study into the root causes of fatal road traffic collisions in GM using the full police investigation files.
- The Road Danger Reduction Action Plan was highlighted. The Plan reflected all concerns raised about road safety and the perceptions/actualities of road safety that formed barriers for some people engaging in active travel. It also reflected and complemented the 2040 Transport Strategy intentions around safety.
- A number of current safety and speed management initiatives were highlighted, such as Safe Drive Stay Alive, Older Drivers – Safer Driving for Longer, and GMP BikeSafe.
- There were also a number of important initiatives at the national level, such as a DfT review of the documentation used to assess new safety camera requests, and TfGM had made a representation to government on the next stages for DfT's Road Safety Strategy.

Members expressed concerns about the number of speed cameras in the region that were currently non-functional. Was a programme in place for the digitalisation of all existing speed cameras?

It was confirmed that funding had been received for the digitalisation of the speed camera estate. The procurement process was about to commence, and ongoing conversations were taking place with district colleagues on how best to maintain the cameras during the period before digitalisation takes effect. It was hoped that the procurement process would conclude by April 2022 with a 12-month process for full rollout.

Members sought further information about the discussions with district colleagues. Would

the full burden of maintenance be placed upon the districts?

It was explained that presently the districts owned the housings of the cameras and Safer Roads GM maintained them. The intention was that these would be fully owned and maintained by Safer Roads GM going forward. The discussions with districts were centred on the removal of the assets they own and about putting new assets in place.

Members highlighted their increasing concerns around speeding, expressing the need for more cameras in the region. Who had responsibility for these decisions and how were they paid for?

It was advised that there was a specific criterion that determined the instalment, which was currently under review by DfT. Statistics had to show a high number of injuries/casualties, and before the installing of a camera the relevant local authority had to look at the possibilities around other traffic calming measures. The cost of instalment of the cameras had to be covered by the local authority.

Reference was made to legacy partnership road safety schemes. There was concern that where the most money had been invested, had often resulted in the least impactful results – however there were also some particularly impressive results seen at locations such as Sevenways Roundabout in Stretford. Was information on the most successful/least successful schemes being shared amongst all the GM LA's?

It was advised that the only place that the whole picture was shared at present was through the Transport Committee. It would therefore be best to share these schemes through the Road Safety Partnership with the ask that they be explicitly shared with all authorities.

Concerns were raised about the burden placed upon smaller authorities, and the inability to fund cameras for speeding/bus lanes.

In relation to bus lane cameras, it was advised that there were traffic regulation violations that had been decriminalised, and so local authorities were able to take fines from this as an income stream. In terms of speeding cameras, TfGM did not receive funding either to help support the installation of these.

#### **Resolved /-**

1. That the contents of the Road Safety Update be noted by the Committee; and
2. That information pertaining to successful road safety schemes throughout the totality of Greater Manchester be shared with all local authorities via the Road Safety Partnership.

#### **GMTC 55/21 DESTINATION BEE NETWORK**

Emma Flinn (Head of Consultations & Engagement, TfGM) and Stephen Rhodes (Customer Director & Head of Bus, TfGM) were invited to introduce a report which provided an overview of the development of the Bee Network, including how customer experience, brand, inclusion and social value would underpin the delivery of GM's integrated transport network.

For the Bee Network to be inclusive, TfGM needed to develop and deliver on a network that put people and places at its heart – informed by a deep understanding of communities and

their differing transport needs.

Activities currently underway included the GM Inequalities Audit; ongoing delivery of social value and the exploration of further approaches to building upon and strengthening this; the Destination Bee Network Customer Journey Map that would utilise customer insight and feedback; and the Destination Bee Network Conversation, that would gather views and feedback from residents, communities, businesses and other stakeholders throughout the autumn.

The supporting work by the Centre for Local Economic Strategy (CLES) in developing an independent review of social value was highlighted. Members welcomed the report and emphasised the good work of CLES in developing plans around social value.

**Resolved /-**

1. That the Committee notes the approach outlined to public engagement, customer experience and social value activities; and
2. That the Committee notes the recommendations made by the Centre of Local Economic Strategies (CLES) on how Transport for Greater Manchester can further embed delivery of social value.

**GMTC 56/21 GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

Members were given the opportunity to review the forthcoming work programme for the Committee.

**Resolved /-**

That the Committee's Work Programme be noted.

**GMTC 57/21 DATES AND TIMES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

**Resolved /-**

That the Committee notes that it next meet on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021 AT OLDHAM CIVIC CENTRE, WEST STREET,  
OLDHAM**

**PRESENT:**

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Greater Manchester Deputy Mayor	Baroness Bev Hughes
Police Crime & Fire	
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Richard Leese
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Daalat Ali
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Police, Fire & Crime Panel Chair	Councillor Janet Emsley
Manchester Council Deputy Leader	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham Council Deputy Leader	Councillor Amanda Chadderton

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA – Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA – Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynn Risdale
Manchester	Joanne Roney
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Debbie Brown
Stockport	Pam Smith
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Saleh
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Julie Connor
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
TfGM	Steve Warrener
TfGM	Simon Warburton
TfGM	Kate Brown

**GMCA 206/21      APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED/-**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Neil Emmott (Councillor Daalat Ali attending), Councillor David Molyneux, Cllr Nazia Rehman, Tom Stannard and Tony Oakman.

**GMCA 207/21      CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, noted that the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) and Union Connectivity Review had both been published.

Manchester remained a core part of the North-South HS2 network but there were concerns around East-West connectivity. The East-West proposals would disrupt the Manchester-Leeds rail corridor, have knock-on disruptive effects for the rest of the North, and would not deliver sufficient capacity uplift. A meeting of Transport for the North had been unanimous that the proposals would not have the transformative effect that was desired, and it had been agreed that the GM Mayor, along with other Metro Mayors, would ask the Government to enter into a mediation process to consider alternative options, including land value capture.

The Union Connectivity Review had recommended that options to connect to the West Coast Mainline south of Preston should be taken forward. Previous proposals had centred around Wigan, which would have carried major benefits for Wigan and the surrounding areas. There were concerns that the new proposals would carry less economic benefit for the whole of the North.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That it be noted that the recent publication of the Integrated Rail Plan (IRP) did not include proposals that would deliver the required capacity uplifts nor the intra-city connectivity that would allow for levelling up in the North of England.
2. That the proposal for the GM Mayor to address Government, along with other Metro Mayors to call for a mediation process that would enable an opportunity for land value



capture proposals to be considered and alternative IRP options to be developed be endorsed.

3. That it be noted that the Wigan Council Leader and GM Mayor would be sharing their concerns with Government regarding the missed potential for a Wigan transport hub as a result of the extension of the HS2 West Coast mainline to Preston, given the impact of the decision would likely reduce the economic return for Greater Manchester.
4. That the GMCA would continue to actively represent residents of Greater Manchester at all opportunities, urging for a convening of the Convention of the North to formally make representations to Government.

**GMCA 208/21          DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

That it be noted that Councillor Andrew Western declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in relation to agenda item 14, GMP Site – Chester Road – Trafford.

**GMCA 209/21          MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 29 OCTOBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 29 October 2021 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 210/21          MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP BOARD HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership Board meeting held on 16 November 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 211/21            MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE ISSUES & REFORM OVERVIEW &  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 16 NOVEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the Corporate Issues & Reform Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 16 November 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 212/21            GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS**

The GMCA Monitoring Officer updated appointment changes received from GM Local Authorities in relation to GMCA Committees.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of Councillor Daalat Ali to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority as substitute member for Rochdale Council be noted.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Shah Wazir to the Clean Air Charging Authorities and Air Quality Administration Committees as substitute member for Rochdale Council be noted.

**GMCA 213/21            TFGM EXECUTIVE BOARD – RECRUITMENT OUTCOMES**

GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Portfolio Lead for Transport, introduced a report to confirm the outcome of the recruitment process for the appointment of a new Non-Executive Director of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), whereby a candidate was recommended for appointment.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of Mike Blackburn as Non-Executive Director of TfGM be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to formalise the terms of the appointment.

## **GMCA 214/21 HOMELESS FAMILIES REVIEW – PROGRESS UPDATE**

City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, provided an update on the progress of the Homeless Families Review.

Four workstreams had been identified by the GM Homeless Families Task and Finish group that had stood down in July 2021. Since then, work had been ongoing and the group intended to reconvene in January. The report updated Members on progress in each area, including new minimum quality standards for hotel accommodation used as homelessness provision.

City Mayor Paul Dennett provided a further update on the outcome of the annual rough sleeper count, which had taken place the previous night. There had been 89 people identified during the count, which represented a 29% reduction on the previous year, and a 67% reduction since 2017. Members were pleased with the progress that had been made but noted that that 89 people was still too many. Concerns were raised around the growing cost of living crisis, which would place many people in a precarious position. Thanks were given to colleagues who had worked to reduce rough sleeping in Greater Manchester, including council colleagues, faith communities, and the VCSE sector, among others.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the progress being made be noted and that the GMCA would continue its support.
2. That further exploration of actions relating specifically to joint commissioning opportunities, data sharing, and early help standards be supported.

**GMCA 215/21      GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DASHBOARD AND  
ECONOMY PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy & Business, took Members through the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and provided an overview of activity related to the Economy portfolio, including the implementation of the Greater Manchester Industrial Strategy.

The furlough scheme had ended and the claimant count in Manchester had continued to fall throughout October. The Office for National Statistics had published inflation figures for the month of October and there had been a 0.9% rise, resulting in an inflation rate of 3.8%. The Office for Budget Responsibility forecasts published alongside the Budget suggested that inflation was likely to rise to 4.4% in 2022 and could potentially reach 5%. There were growing pressures on businesses, including a rise in minimum wages and National Insurance. Some businesses had been asked to begin repaying loans that had been granted during the height of the pandemic. Despite these pressures, businesses remained resilient.

The Government's Spending Review had been assessed and contained commitments to industries that were growing in Greater Manchester, with research and development, net zero, internationalisation and Industry 4.0 high on the agenda. The Levelling Up White Paper was still awaited but anticipated to provide further details on initiatives

An event had taken place to launch Greater Manchester as a Living Wage City-Region and Bury had been credited for its commitment to paying the real living wage to care workers, with nearly 4000 workers due to benefit in the borough. The Local Enterprise Partnership had continued its focus on place by holding its meetings across Greater Manchester. The Growth Company had been providing assistance to businesses in accessing USA markets, low carbon funding, and preparing for the implementation of Greater Manchester's Clean Air Zone. Marketing Manchester had celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> year by launching campaigns to support Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED /-**

That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision, be noted.

**GMCA 216/21      GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE 2021/2022 – QUARTER 2**

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer, presented an update in relation to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority 2021/22 capital expenditure programme.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the current 2021/22 forecast of £625.7 million compared to the 2021/22 quarter 1 capital forecast of £681.7 million be noted.
2. That the additional funding secured of £3.4 million for the Clean Bus Fund from the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU) as outlined in para 8.1 of the report be noted.
3. That the addition to the Capital Programme of Clean Air Plan Electric Vehicle Taxi Infrastructure (part of the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan) be approved with a current forecast of £0.9 million in 2021/22, £1.3 million in 2022/23 and £0.8 million in 2023/24.
4. That the grant of £0.1m to Greater Manchester FOF Limited Partnership be approved and that it be noted that this will be funded by a corresponding sum distributed to the GMCA from Evergreen Holding Fund.

**GMCA 217/21      GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 2 – 2021/22**

Steve Wilson, GMCA Treasurer, presented a report to inform the GMCA of the 2021/22 financial position at the end of September 2021 (quarter 2) and forecast revenue outturn position for the 2021/22 financial year.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £535k to be funded from reserves, as set out in Section 2 of the report, be approved.
2. That an increase to the GMCA general budget of £13.746m, fully funded from additional income and use of reserves, as set out in Section 3 of the report, be approved.
3. That the use of the revenue reserves earmarked for the capital programme to increase the TfGM revenue budget for costs relating to two approved capital schemes that cannot be capitalised, be approved. That it be noted that the transfer would be offset by a commensurate reduction in the capital programme.
  - £0.730m to fund the Mayors Challenge Fund programme.
  - £0.800m of revenue costs relating to the temporary Metrolink Park and Ride facility at Whitefield.

### **GMCA 218/21 THE MAYOR'S CYCLING AND WALKING CHALLENGE FUND AND SIDE ROAD ZEBRA STUDY**

GM Mayor Andy Burnham, Portfolio Lead for Transport, took Members through a report which sought approval of the funding requirements for the Stockport Hazel Grove Phase 1 scheme, and noted the study updates set out in the report, in order to ensure the continued delivery of the GM Active Travel Capital Programme.

Members heard about the positive impacts of the side road zebra trials in Tameside. Residents had quickly become accustomed to the markings and they became popular with motorists and pedestrians alike. The markings were removed at the end of the trial period and Tameside Council had received messages from residents asking for their return, which highlighted the popularity of the scheme. Roads had been notably safer for pedestrians and there had been no increases in dangerous incidents with motorists, who had instead slowed down and given way to pedestrians more often.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the release of up to £532,000 of MCF funding for the Stockport Hazel Grove Phase 1 scheme, as set out in section 2 of the report be approved, in order to secure full approval and enable signing of the necessary legal agreements.
2. That TfGM be requested to seek regulatory approval from the Department for Transport to allow further long-term side road zebra trials as recommended in section 3 of the report.

## **GMCA 219/21 GMP SITE, CHESTER ROAD, TRAFFORD**

GM Deputy Mayor Baroness Bev Hughes, Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, took members through a report which sought the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's approval to enter into a Joint Venture with Trafford Council and a Developer Partner and its agreement to the disposal of the current use of the Chester Road site.

The Chester Road site had been identified as surplus to GMP's requirements and there had been proposals to turn the site into a residential-led mixed-use site. The proposal was compliant with social housing and net zero policies and there had already been interest in the site. The site itself would not be sold off and capital would be returned to GMP in time.

Members noted that the proposal would contribute to Greater Manchester's commitment to build 30,000 net zero social homes and could act as an exemplar in the disposal of public land.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the disposal of the GMP Chester Road site be approved.
2. That the Joint Venture between the GMCA, Trafford Council and a Developer Partner, on terms to be agreed, be approved.



3. That the £642,500 of funding needed to appoint a development partner and obtain detailed planning consent for the scheme be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, and GMCA Treasurer to commence the procurement process and appoint a development partner.
5. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, and GMCA Treasurer to agree appropriate legal agreement with Trafford Council.
6. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer acting in conjunction with the GMCA Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

**GMCA 220/21            GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND –  
INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Salford City Mayor Paul Dennett, Portfolio Leader for Housing, Homelessness and Infrastructure, took Members through a report which sought the CA’s approval for one loan to the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund. The site had been granted planning permission in September 2021 for five homes, which would be built on brownfield land.

**RESOLVED /-**

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

<b>BORROWER</b>	<b>SCHEME</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>LOAN</b>
Corbar Ltd	Aldersgate Rd, Great Moor	Stockport	£1.464m

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

**GMCA 221/21      SIR RICHARD LEESE**

The GM Mayor made a presentation to Sir Richard Leese following his resignation as Deputy Mayor of the GMCA and recognised his long service as a member in particular his leadership in rebuilding of the city centre following the IRA bomb in 1996 and the transformation that has taken place thereafter. His legacy could be seen through the fundamental way that lives had been changed throughout his 25 years of service as Leader of Manchester City Council and in the foundations for devolution that he had laid, upon which the future of Greater Manchester could continue to grow.

**GMCA 222/21      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED /-**

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**GMCA 223/21      GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS FUND –  
INVESTMENT APPROVAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of agenda (Minute GMCA 220/21 above refers).

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair:

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2021 AT ROCHDALE COUNCIL OFFICES,  
NO.1 RIVERSIDE, ROCHDALE**

**PRESENT:**

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Bolton	Councillor Martyn Cox
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	Councillor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Tom McGee
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

GMCA – Chief Executive	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA – Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
Bolton	Tony Oakman
Bury	Lynne Risdale
Manchester	Rebecca Heron
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Tom Stannard
Stockport	Holly Rae
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Saleh
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan

Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Ross Macrae
GMCA	James Killan
TfGM	Steve Warrener
TfGM	Simon Warburton

**GMCA 224/21      APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED/-**

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Elise Wilson (Councillor Tom McGee attending), Councillor David Molyneux (Councillor Nazia Rehman attending), Deputy Mayor for Police, Fire and Crime Bev Hughes, Geoff Little (Lynne Risdale attending), Pam Smith (Holly Rae attending), and Joanne Roney (Rebecca Heron attending).

**GMCA 225/21      CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, opened the meeting with an update on the outcome of an inspection from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services that had assessed Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue's (GMFRS) effectiveness, efficiency and workforce support. The report had concluded that the service had made improvements since its last inspection, especially in its workforce management, and that its response to fires was good. However, further improvement was still required in some areas, and it was noted that work had been underway preceding the inspection to address some of the issues contained within the report, particularly around the service's ability to respond to marauding terrorist attacks.

Updates relating to the Greater Manchester Gender Based Violence Strategy were also provided. The strategy had been created following the tragic high-profile deaths of Sarah Everard and Sabina Nessa and it sought to enhance women and girls' safety. The first meeting of Greater Manchester's Gender Based Violence Board had taken place and had

brought together a range of stakeholders who would work to support survivors of gender-based violence. A new #IsThisOk campaign video had been launched and had received over a million views in the 24 hours following its publication, receiving widespread praise for focusing on the harmful attitudes and behaviours that led to gender-based violence. Members welcomed the campaign, noting that the focus on preventing perpetrators from committing gender-based violence was a positive change from the usual focus on the steps that women and girls could take to protect themselves from it.

The campaign video was played for Members.

It was noted that this was Pam Smith's last meeting as a member of the GMCA and she would be commencing a new role as Chief Executive of Newcastle City Council at the start of 2022. Members reflected upon the great work that she had undertaken and the positive contributions that she had made to Stockport and Greater Manchester. Members gave their thanks to Pam and wished her well in her new role.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the recently published HMC report on Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service be noted, and recognition given that although improvements have been made, further work was required to ensure that the service could deliver strongly against all its performance measures.
2. That the GMCA's campaign #isthisok? to address gender-based violence, specifically in relation to the safety of women and girls be endorsed, noting the overdue conversation with all boys, lads and men to call out unacceptable behaviour and promote changing attitudes.
3. That Leaders and Chief Executives be requested to actively promote the #isthisok? campaign across their own Local Authorities and networks.
4. That thanks be recorded to Pam Smith, who was moving on from her position as Chief Executive of Stockport Council, for all her work on behalf of Greater Manchester recognising that GM was a different place as a result.

**GMCA 226/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**RESOLVED /-**

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

**GMCA 227/21      MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 26 November 2021 be approved.

**GMCA 228/21      MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 30  
NOVEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 30 November 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 229/21      MINUTES OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
MEETINGS IN DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 9 December 2021, and the minutes of the Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 10 December 2021 be noted.



**GMCA 230/21      MINUTES OF THE GM TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD ON 10  
DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GM Transport Committee meeting held on 10 December 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 231/21      GMCA APPOINTMENTS UPDATE**

The GMCA Monitoring Officer took members through a report which updated several appointment changes received from GM Local Authorities in relation to GMCA Committees.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the appointment of Cllr Bev Craig, Manchester, as a member of the GMCA be noted.
2. That the appointment of Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, by the GM Mayor, as the Deputy Mayor of the GMCA be noted and that it be noted that the Deputy Mayor was automatically appointed as a Vice Chair, under Part 5A, section 4, of the Constitution.
3. That the revised appointments made by the GM Mayor and Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to Portfolios for 2021/22 as below be noted.

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>Lead Chief Executive</b>
Safe & Strong Communities (Police and Fire)	Bev Hughes (GMCA)	Alison Mckenzie-Folan (Wigan)
Green City Region  Waste	Neil Emmott (Rochdale)	Harry Catherall (Oldham)  Eamonn Boylan (GMCA)

Economy & Business	Elise Wilson (Stockport)	Joanne Roney (Manchester) Mark Hughes (Growth Co)
Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure	Paul Dennett (Salford)	Steve Rumbelow (Rochdale)
Resources & Investment	David Molyneux (Wigan)	Steve Wilson (GMCA)
Equalities, Inclusion & Cohesion	Arooj Shah	Sara Todd (Trafford)
Policy & Reform, Transport	Andy Burnham (GMCA)	Eamonn Boylan (GMCA) – Policy & Transport  Tony Oakman (Bolton) - Reform
Clean Air Zone  Communities & Co-operatives	Andrew Western (Trafford)	Eamonn Boylan (GMCA) & Simon Warburton (TfGM)  Andrew Lightfoot (GMCA)
Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships  Digital	Bev Craig (Manchester)	Tom Stannard (Salford) -
Young People	Eamonn O'Brien (Bury)	Steven Pleasant (Tameside)

Culture	Martyn Cox (Bolton)	Alison McKenzie-Folan (Wigan)
Healthy Lives & Quality Care	Brenda Warrington (Tameside)	Geoff Little (Bury)

4. That Cllr Andrew Western be appointed to the GMCA Resources Committee.
5. That Cllr Bev Craig be appointed to the GM Local Enterprise Partnership Board.
6. That the appointment of Cllr George Hulme, Oldham, replacing Cllr Steve Williams, as the substitute member on the Air Quality Administration Committee, be noted.
7. That the appointment of Cllr George Hulme, Oldham, replacing Cllr Steve Williams, as the substitute member on the Air Quality Charging Authorities Committee, be noted.

## **GMCA 232/21      GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY REFRESH**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided the GMCA with the final draft of the Greater Manchester Strategy for comment and approval. The report also contained the proposed performance framework approach, targets and metrics to be used, alongside an initial Delivery Plan with process for approval for the further development of the Delivery Plan and implementation process.

The refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy had been based on learning from the pandemic and the recommendations of the Greater Manchester Independent Inequalities Commission. The central aim of the strategy was to build a greener, fairer and more prosperous era in Greater Manchester. Addressing the climate challenge would help to reduce inequalities across the city region by reducing rates of fuel poverty, improving health outcomes for residents, and creating high quality jobs. A launch event was planned for early 2022, which would officially launch the strategy as a future-shaping tool to improve Greater Manchester over the next ten years.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the final draft Strategy text be approved.
2. That the draft performance framework, targets and approaches be approved.
3. That the initial Delivery Plan be noted and that the establishment of a multiagency Delivery Support Group be approved for its further iteration, development and implementation.

## **GMCA 233/21 INTEGRATED RAIL PLAN FOR THE NORTH AND THE MIDLANDS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided members with an update on the latest TfGM analysis of the Integrated Rail Plan for the North and the Midlands ('the IRP').

The analysis confirmed that the IRP fell substantially short of expectations in terms of connectivity and that the alterations to the original vision for improved rail services were detrimental to the economic potential of the north. The proposal to have a surface station at Manchester Piccadilly was sub-optimal and would sever communities living in the vicinity of the station. It was noted that if Bradford, Sheffield, and Leeds were poorly connected, the plan would not allow for connections between these cities themselves and to Manchester to be strengthened. Additionally, there would be significant disruption to services by merging with an already congested Huddersfield line and proposed works to the TransPennine line.

Northern leaders have been working on proposals to increase potential funding using land value capture and this work would continue in order to pursue a proposal that would better meet the needs of the north of England

Members agreed that the IRP was not suitable for the Greater Manchester, especially in relation to proposed plans for a surface station at Piccadilly. The IRP had missed an opportunity to create an underground station that would contribute to the local, regional and national economy by increasing capacity and productivity. Members were also concerned

that opportunities on the wider network across the north had been missed and that the effects on communities had not been properly analysed. Transport for the North had agreed that active travel should be integrated with all rail and road infrastructure, which addressed some concerns from Members.

The GMCA agreed that building the wrong infrastructure now would mean accepting an economic downgrade for Greater Manchester and would cause problems for future generations. Consequently, Members agreed that they would work to respond to the HS2 Bill and petition against it if it proposed a surface level station at Piccadilly.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the early TfGM analysis of the Integrated Rail Plan be noted and that it also be noted that it fell substantially short of expectations in terms of connectivity through HS2 on both the east and western side of the country and linked by a high speed east & west (HS3/Northern Powerhouse Rail) service.
2. That it be noted that Manchester City Council would be bringing forward further evidence of the detrimental economic and wider regenerative impact as a consequence of the proposed overground station development proposals for Manchester Piccadilly.
3. That it be noted that there were ongoing strategic discussions underway with Trafford Council regarding the wider impact of the proposals, noting the scope for similar discussions across GM regarding the wider impact and opportunities including active travel solutions that may potentially arrive from HS2 that the opportunities be raised with Government continuously.
4. That it be noted that the GM Mayor would relay these concerns through the Transport for the North Board.
5. That it be noted collectively the Northern Leaders were considering options, including proposals for land value capture along the original proposed new line from Liverpool through Warrington to Manchester Airport and Bradford/Leeds, as an alternative proposal for submission to Government.

6. That it be noted work was underway to respond to the HS2 Bill, including petitioning specifically against the Bill if it included the surface level Piccadilly Rail Station.

**GMCA 234/21            GMCA RESPONSE TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON  
DECEMBER 2022 TIMETABLE OPTION TO IMPROVE RAIL  
PERFORMANCE IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which set out the proposed approach in response to the consultation on the timetable options to improve rail performance in the north of England. The timetable that had been proposed would have the effect of reducing rail services due to current inadequate rail infrastructure. As a consequence of the proposals, Wigan and Stockport in particular would be negatively impacted. The GM Mayor had attended a meeting of Transport for the North and had proposed a formal objection to the consultation unless a timetable for infrastructure upgrades was also provided.

Members highlighted the challenges that their own districts would face as a result of the proposals. Whilst recognising that Stockport has more rail lines than most, the proposals drastically reduce opportunities and access to culture and leisure facilities across the conurbation; in Wigan, there would be no direct lines to Manchester Airport and Piccadilly; in Oldham, the Greenfield and Mosley service proposals would drastically impact on employment opportunities.

Timetabling was raised as a wider issue as services in some districts were not evenly spaced within the hour which disincentivised passengers from using the network. The removal of weekend services would be detrimental to Greater Manchester's aspirations of increasing leisure patronage which had begun to see some recovery. The rail network was also important at evenings to provide transport to and from the conurbation's sporting grounds.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That it be noted that the proposals for rail timetable improvements for December 2022 included a reduction in the current service levels in the north of England, given limitations of the current infrastructure.

2. That it be agreed that the GMCA formally object to the new timetable proposals, unless a timetable for the required infrastructure improvements be provided.
3. That it be noted that the analysis undertaken by TfGM has suggested that the network could support 2 trains per hour, throughout the day, on the Greenfield and Mosley line from May 2022 and that the proposal would be included in the formal response to the timetable proposals.
4. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to approve and submit a response to the consultation on behalf of GMCA.

#### **GMCA 235/21      YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PATHFINDER**

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure, introduced a report which provided members with an update on the Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathfinder (2021) and the plans for a Youth Homelessness Prevention Social Outcomes Contract (2022-24).

The pathfinder intended to reduce demand at the crisis stage and improve resilience against homelessness. It had been co-produced with individuals who had lived experience of homelessness and carried this experience at its heart. It was hoped that the Youth Homelessness Prevention Social Outcomes Contract would result in further positive outcomes for around 1500 young people.

Members noted that the pandemic had exacerbated youth homelessness and more needed to be done to prevent young people from becoming homeless. Higher risk groups have been identified and a partnership approach was proposed to ensure that these groups were fully supported into proper housing.

Members were reminded that the Housing First scheme had successfully supported 300 clients to date, however it was disappointing that there had been no confirmation from Government regarding the continuation funding support for the scheme.



## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the update in relation to the Youth Homelessness Prevention Pathfinder 2020/21 be noted.
2. That the contract award be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer.
3. That funding for the contract from the Reform Investment Fund (£2.5m) and 2019/20 Business Rates (£2.5m) contribution totalling £5m for years 2022-2024 be approved.

## **GMCA 236/21 GM MOVING IN ACTION – GM MOVING STRATEGY 2021-31**

GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which provided the members with the final draft of the GM Moving in Action Strategy.

The campaign video was played for Members and thanks were given to the GM Moving team for their hard work.

Members highlighted the importance of physical activity for both physical and mental health and made reference to the positive impacts of exercise evidenced especially during the pandemic. As recovery from the pandemic continued, physical activity would provide a lifeline to residents who had experienced social isolation by bringing them together with others and it was recognised that there were lots of outdoor activities available for those who wanted to limit COVID-19 transmission. Greater Manchester could be a leader in this space by using social prescribing to drive change and build happier and healthier communities. Members highlighted that investments were being made into leisure facilities in districts which would further support the GM Moving Strategy.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Strategy and the approach set out be endorsed for local authorities and other partners across the system to enact.

2. That it be recommended that senior leaders from across Greater Manchester agencies continue to provide visible strategic leadership on this agenda at the highest level.
3. That it be recommended that Local Authority senior leaders provide ongoing support to their district integrated locality teams and local networks, supporting culture change, system change and behaviour change.
4. That it be recommended that Local Authorities facilitate a meeting of key strategic leaders across the integrated system in each district in 2022.

**GMCA 237/21      DEVOLVED ADULT EDUCATION BUDGET – PROPOSED  
PRIORITIES AND APPROACH FOR 2022/2023 ONWARDS**

Councillor Bev Craig, Portfolio Lead for Digital, Education, Skills, Work & Apprenticeships introduced a report which provided an overview of progress against the planned priorities of the Adult Education Programme since its inception in August 2019. The report outlined the proposed process for continuing plan-led grant funding agreements and extensions to the procured contracts for 2022/23 (academic year), in addition to providing an outline of the proposed refreshed objectives for the Adult Education Programme, in preparation for implementation from 2022/23.

The programme had funded over 200 level three courses and provided support to key sectors during the pandemic. The flexibility of the programme was crucial to its success and had provided courses to 1200 people to create key workers, including HGV drivers. Members praised the programme's progress and highlighted its importance in helping residents to take advantage of gaps in the labour market at pace.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the progress against the planned priorities be noted.
2. That the proposed process for continuing plan-led grant funding agreements and extension to the procured contracts for 2022/2023 academic year be agreed.

3. That the proposed refreshed objectives for the Adult Education Programme, in preparation for implementation from 2022/23 academic year be agreed.

## **GMCA 238/21      GREATER MANCHESTER GROWTH LOCATIONS UPDATE**

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure, introduced a report which set out the six Growth Locations identified within the updated Greater Manchester Strategy and the work that was progressing to support the development of the Growth Locations.

The six Growth Locations presented a unique opportunity to respond to the needs of the conurbation and level up Greater Manchester by helping it to meet its ambitious targets across several strategies. The identified locations would support employment, education and housing with a focus on inclusive growth.

Members were pleased with the plans and noted the chance to make a real difference for residents who lived and worked within the Growth Locations. The longevity of each area would require strong forward planning, including good transport infrastructure which would be essential to each location's ongoing development.

### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the six GM Growth Locations as set out in section 2 of the report be endorsed.
2. That the work plan and progress update and next steps be noted.
3. That it be noted that further details on each of the Growth Locations would be shared at the 'A new era for Greater Manchester – Greener, Fairer and more Prosperous' event in January 2022.

**GMCA 239/21      DELIVERING NET ZERO CARBON SOCIAL RENTED HOMES – A  
WHOLE SYSTEM CHALLENGE FOR GREATER MANCHESTER**

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Portfolio Lead for Housing, Homelessness & Infrastructure, introduced a report which sought approval for a proposed approach to the delivery of net zero carbon social rented homes. The report also provided an initial interim report on the development of a robust delivery plan, which would be forthcoming in early 2022.

Members were reminded that the strategy was a critical element to addressing homelessness and rough sleeping in Greater Manchester. Research from the National Housing Federation highlights some of the challenges being faced, with 2M children Christmas in housing that was overcrowded, unaffordable or unsuitable. The research also highlighted the underfunding for social rent, together with the fact that larger homes were deemed more expensive to build leading to an acute shortage of family sized social homes.

In Greater Manchester there were currently there were over 1000 people living in emergency accommodation, 4000 households were also in in temporary accommodation at the end of June 2021, compared to 3535 in 2020, representing a 13% increase.

Since 1980, over 95,000 homes have been purchased under right to buy schemes, with over 40% of those homes moving into the private rented sector and many of those homes not replaced. Right to buy and right to acquire schemes continued to operate despite the chronic undersupply of truly affordable housing. Greater Manchester has committed to building 30,000 social rented or affordable homes within 'Places for Everyone' Plan as part of the overall commitment to deliver 50,000 affordable homes during the period of the Plan. The Plan also commits to any new homes being carbon free from 2028.

The Affordable Homes Programme which would be in operation until 2026 with 50% for affordable home ownership and 50% for affordable rent and not exclusively for social rent. Five Greater Manchester Authorities were not eligible to apply for social rent grant due to constraints of the scheme, which was exacerbating the housing crisis. Members called on Government to work with Greater Manchester to support those who were currently ineligible and to match Greater Manchester's ambitions to provide good-quality net zero carbon social rented homes.

The strategy was more than just homes and was integral to inclusive growth, employment and the required infrastructure to deliver.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That a further report detailing a robust Delivery Plan will be submitted to the GMCA in the New Year.
2. That the GMCA support the call for more support from Central Government to enable Greater Manchester to reach its ambition and specifically for a change in the criteria to enable all GM Local Authorities to access the Affordable Homes Grant.
3. That the ambitions set out in the GM Mayor's manifesto to achieve delivery of 30,000 net zero carbon social rented homes by 2038 be endorsed.
4. That the adoption of the whole system challenge approach to delivery of these ambitions set out in the paper and the commencement of the work outlined be agreed.
5. That it be noted that significant support will be required from Government to achieve substantial and sustained progress toward our ambitions.

**GMCA 240/21      GREATER MANCHESTER GO NEUTRAL SMART ENERGY  
FRAMEWORK**

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, introduced a report which updated members on the establishment of the Go Neutral Smart Energy call-off framework to support the city region's public bodies in optimising renewable energy generation and storage on their estates and assets. The Go Neutral Framework aimed to accelerate the delivery of up to 300MW of renewable energy generation across the conurbation over the next 3 years through the creation of portfolios of smart energy opportunities.

The acceleration of the move to net zero carbon would place a strain on the electricity grid and the Go Neutral Framework was designed to reduce the strain. It would support the creation of local jobs and would mark a key milestone in decarbonising Greater Manchester.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the establishment of a Smart Energy call-off framework be approved.
2. That a call-off framework fee structure be approved.
3. That it be noted that if viable projects were achieved, GMCA partners may require additional support to access funds to further develop and deliver the projects.
4. That it be noted that the environmental outcome was to substantially reduce the carbon emissions of Greater Manchester's public estate, through new and additional renewable energy generation and storage capacity.

**GMCA 241/21      GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DASHBOARD AND  
ECONOMY PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, updated Members on the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and an overview of activity related to the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and Economy portfolio.

Members heard about the effects of the Government's latest COVID-19 guidance on businesses and the economy. The suggestion to minimise socialising without the Government providing additional financial support was having an adverse impact for many businesses across the city region as the Christmas and New Year period was a crucial time of year that made up for the quieter winter months. There had been reports that over 80% of businesses were experiencing significant cancellations as a result of the Government's advice and concerns around the new COVID-19 variant. Members called on the Government to provide additional financial support to businesses and employees who relied on in-person trade and whose incomes would suffer as a result of the new variant and the guidance around it.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GMCA request the Chancellor to provide support and assistance for all the business sectors and individuals who will be affected by the introduction of the new guidance in response to the next phase of the pandemic and that action is taken immediately.
2. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response be noted, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision.

## **GMCA 242/21 LOCAL GROWTH DEAL PROGRAMME UPDATE**

GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which updated members on the progress made on the Local Growth Deal Programmes (tranches 1, 2, and 3) and sought expenditure approvals for the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration scheme. The report also provided an update on the health check of the Stockport Mixed Use scheme and sought expenditure approval of the Mayors Challenge Fund contribution to this scheme.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the progress made in relation to the Growth Deal Transport schemes as set out in section 3 and 4 of the report be noted.
2. That the progress made in relation to the Non-Transport Skills Capital and Economic Development and Regeneration (ED&R) programmes as set out in section 6 of the report, be noted.
3. In relation to the Stockport Mixed Use scheme:
  - that it be noted that the Full Business Case health check has recently been undertaken

- that it be noted that GM Chief Executives have (in line with agreed governance) agreed the allocation of Growth Deal programme contingency allowance to the scheme
  - that the remaining contribution of £8.845 million from the Mayors Challenge Fund (MCF) to provide the full, overall, contribution to the scheme from the MCF of £11.263 million be approved
  - that Final Full Approval to the scheme be granted to enable a contract for the main construction works to be awarded and for the scheme to progress.
4. That the expenditure approval of Growth Deal funding for the remaining two packages of the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration works as set out in Section 5 of the report be agreed, subject to confirmation of the funding and approval by the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM.

**GMCA 243/21            GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK,  
CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which sought approval for an investment into My First Five Years Ltd and approval for follow-on investments into Immersify Education Limited and Tootoot Limited. Members were informed that the investments would be made from recycled funds.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That an investment into My First Five Years Ltd of up to £750k be approved.
2. That a follow-on investment into Immersify Education Ltd of up to £200k be approved.
3. That a follow-on investment into Tootoot Limited of up to £100k be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above Fund, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the



overall detailed commercial terms of investment, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals, and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investment noted above.

**GMCA 244/21      EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED /-**

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

**GMCA 245/21      GM INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK, CONDITIONAL PROJECT  
APPROVAL**

**Clerk's Note:** This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of agenda (Minute GMCA 243/21 above refers).

**RESOLVED /-**

That the report be noted.

Signed by the Chair:

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY  
HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2022 AT LEIGH SPORTS VILLAGE, WIGAN**

**PRESENT:**

Greater Manchester Mayor	Andy Burnham (In the Chair)
Bolton	Councillor Hilary Fairclough
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	Councillor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Elise Wilson
Tameside	Councillor Brenda Warrington
Trafford	Councillor Andrew Western
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Liz Treacy
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
GMFRS	Dave Russel
GMP	Wasim Chaudhury
Bolton	Bernie Brown
Bury	Paul Lakin
Manchester	Carol Culley
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow
Salford	Debbie Brown
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Steven Pleasant
Trafford	Sara Saleh
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan

Office of the GM Mayor  
GMCA  
GMCA  
GMCA  
TfGM

Kevin Lee  
Julie Connor  
Nicola Ward  
James Killan  
Steve Warrener

**GMCA 246/21      APOLOGIES**

**RESOLVED/-**

That apologies be received and noted from Deputy Mayor Bev Hughes, Councillor Martyn Cox (Hilary Fairclough attending), Councillor David Molyneux (Councillor Nadia Rehman attending), Joanne Roney (Carol Culley attending), Tom Stannard (Debbie Brown attending), and Tony Oakman (Bernie Brown attending).

**GMCA 247/21      CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham reflected on recent events held across Greater Manchester to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, particularly a service held at the GMCA Office led by Rabi Walker, where it had been a privilege to hear the experience of a Manchester-based holocaust survivor.

An update was provided on the Clean Air Zone for Greater Manchester, the CA were reminded that the legal direction was given to Local Authorities in March 2020 to implement a clean air zone in order to address long-term annual standards for harmful nitrogen dioxide air pollution. During 2021 TfGM gathered evidence to express to Government concerns that the current scheme may not be successful in achieving compliance by 2024, but in fact would cause real hardship to many businesses in Greater Manchester as a result of recent changes to the supply chain and cost inflation. This information prompted the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee to request the Government to suspend the funding for phase two and fundamentally review the situation. Following this, the GM Mayor had met with the Secretary of State this week, at which he was asked to consider all options in particular to lift the Government's legal direction on all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to provide more time to achieve compliance.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That Members of the GMCA welcomed the opportunity to take part in events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January 2022 and that it be a further reminder that there will never be room for racism, hate or discrimination in Greater Manchester.
2. That it be noted that the GM Mayor met with the Secretary of State on the 26 January 2022 as only he can enable a review, variation or withdrawal of the Clean Air Scheme. The Secretary of State had been requested to consider all options, in particular to lift the Government's legal direction on all ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities to provide more time for compliance to be achieved.
3. That it be noted that Members of the GMCA were committed to improving air quality and the health of residents but also recognised that major changes were needed to the current scheme. The request made to the Secretary of State followed previous articulations regarding the fear that the current scheme may not be successful in achieving compliance by 2024 but would cause real hardship to many businesses in Greater Manchester as a result of recent changes to the supply chain and cost of inflation.
4. That it be noted that there would be further engagement regarding the proposed Clean Air Zone in 7-10 days' time and an update provided at the next meeting of the GMCA.

## **GMCA 248/21      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **RESOLVED /-**

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

## **GMCA 249/21      MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 17 DECEMBER 2021**

### **RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 17 December 2021 be approved.

**GMCA 250/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON 17  
DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 17 December 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 251/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA STANDARDS COMMITTEE HELD ON 17  
DECEMBER 2021**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Standards Committee meeting held on 17 December 2021 be noted.

**GMCA 252/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21  
JANUARY 2022**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 21 January 2022 be noted.

**GMCA 253/21            MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEES –  
JANUARY 2022**

**RESOLVED /-**

That the minutes of the GMCA Housing, Planning & Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 11 January 2022, and the minutes of the GMCA Economy, Business Growth & Skills Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 14 January 2022 be noted.

## **GMCA 254/21      MAYORAL GENERAL BUDGET & PRECEPT PROPOSALS**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, introduced a report which set out the proposal for the Mayoral General Budget and precept for 2022-23 for consideration by the members of the GMCA. The proposed precept increase would equate to £7 per year for a Band D property for the Mayoral General Budget and £5 per year for the Fire Service element, resulting in an increase of less than £10 a year for the majority of Greater Manchester residents.

The Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) had been through a transition period following the Programme for Change and had made improvements in recent years. It had responded well to significant incidents and the proposals sought to maintain a minimum level of cover that the GMCA found acceptable, whereby 50 pumps should remain in operation across the city region, with five firefighters per pump at a single-pump fire station and four firefighters per pump at a double-pump fire station.

An additional potential funding pressure had been identified in relation to marauding terrorist attack (MTA) training. Many firefighters had not been trained to respond to MTAs when they began their careers. A proposal to train all firefighters had been agreed in principle with the Fire Brigade Union but was still subject to ballot, which was expected to conclude in February 2022. It had been proposed that firefighters who underwent the training would receive additional pay to reflect the responsibility of undertaking the training and being available to respond to an MTA.

The increase to the Mayoral General Budget element of the proposal had been minimised as much as possible as the cost of living pressures on residents across Greater Manchester were recognised. However, the proposed increase would ensure that schemes like Our Pass and A Bed Every Night would be sustained and could continue to provide support to vulnerable residents in the city region. The increase would also contribute to Greater Manchester's bus franchising scheme, which would enable the transformation of the bus

system across the conurbation. National funding for bus services through the Bus Back Better strategy and Bus Service Improvement Plan had recently been scaled back and plans within Greater Manchester had been adapted to ensure that the bus franchising scheme could proceed.

Members generally agreed with the proposals and reiterated the need to provide a minimum level of cover at fire stations, as well as the need to reward firefighters appropriately if they undertook the MTA training. GMFRS was praised, particularly in relation to its work on the High Rise and Building Safety Taskforce, which had addressed fire safety in high rise buildings across the city region following the tragic Grenfell tower fire in 2017.

It was noted that Government had committed to an extension of the 100% business rate retention pilot within Greater Manchester for one year and Members called on Government to extend the scheme for a longer period so that Local Authorities could engage in medium to long-term financial planning. It was also reiterated that a local government fair funding review was still urgently needed.

In summary, although it was clear that the proposed precept increases were essential to ensure the delivery of local services, Members were clear that this approach resulted in regressive forms of taxation that could be avoided if Government were to properly finance their ambition to level up all areas of the UK.

#### **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the GM Mayor's proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept to £102.95 (Band D) comprising of £71.20 for functions previous covered by the Fire and Rescue Authority precept and £31.75 for other Mayoral General functions be considered.
2. That it be noted that the proposal for the Mayoral General Precept for 2022/23 is part of a multi-year strategy for setting the Mayoral precept baseline which will be adjusted in future years as further Mayoral functions are covered by the funding raised.
3. That the following be noted:
  - i. the overall budget proposed for the Fire and Rescue Service,

- ii. the use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2021 are adequate,
  - iii. the proposed Fire Service capital programme and proposals for funding,
  - iv. the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service covered by the Mayoral precept.
4. That the detailed budget proposals for other Mayoral functions be noted.
5. That the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
6. That Members of the GMCE be asked to consider whether they would wish to submit any written comments to the Mayor in line with the legal process and timetable described in this report.
7. That it be noted that at its meeting on 11 February 2022 there will be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final Revenue Support Grant settlement.

## **GMCA 255/21      GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE & CRIME PLAN**

The GM Mayor, Andy Burnham, updated Members on the refresh of the pPolice and Crime Plan, Standing Together for Greater Manchester (2022-2025). The report set out the approach that had been taken to refresh the plan and included the key issues that had arisen from consultation and engagement with community safety partnerships, Greater Manchester Police (GMP), wider partners, and the public.

The refreshed Plan had retained the three key pillars from the previous plan: keeping people safe, reducing harm and offending, and strengthening communities and places. These pillars had resonated with the public and would remain the top priorities for GMP. Two additional themes had been added, which sought to address and strengthen the response to the report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate, particularly around support for victims and tackling inequalities. Community safety partnerships would be supported at Local Authority level so that locally led initiatives could be created and maintained.



GMP would be recruiting 325 additional police officers, which represented a total increase of 1000 officers since 2017. It was noted that this represented half of the officers lost between 2010 and 2017 but was nevertheless good progress.

An update was provided on the #IsThisOK campaign video that had been released in December 2021, which focused upon the daily abuse, harassment, and discrimination that women and girls experienced. The video had received over 5 million views which reflected the importance of the campaign. Women and girls' safety would remain a priority within Greater Manchester and the refreshed Plan would help to support ongoing work around gender-based violence.

Assistant Chief Constable, Wasim Chaudhury, emphasised the progress that GMP had made in the previous year. There had been improvements in crime recording, crime investigation, and contact management. District Commanders had taken the opportunity to connect with local communities and there had been increased accountability within the force as a result. GMP had improved the 101 service and would continue to develop its contact services for the public's benefit. Work had been underway at a regional and national level to address serious organised crime, including county line drugs offences and terrorism. Neighbourhood policing had been prioritised, with a focus on making public spaces and transport networks safer for all. GMP was keen to engage with the GMCA and the public on an ongoing basis, with regular police accountability meetings due to take place throughout the year.

Members welcomed the Plan and praised its focus on victims and accountability. GMP's Operation AVRO had already been impactful, and it would continue to be rolled out throughout the conurbation. The 101 service was highlighted as a particular area for improvement and Members welcomed the plans to further improve the service.

The GM Police and Crime Panel at their meeting on the 30 January would be asked to approve the proposed precept increase of £10 a year per Band D property. This proposal reflected confidence in the senior leadership of GMP to deliver the objectives set out in the Plan, with GMP strongly held to account on the delivery of the commitments, including significant improvement to the 101 service.

In summary, the GM Mayor reflected that there had been clear progress within GMP over the past few months, with further considerable steps to be taken throughout 2022 to ensure that the Police Force was positioned to meet the needs of local residents.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the draft Standing Together plan be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GM Police & Crime Panel would be given the opportunity to review and sign off the Plan at their meeting on the 31 January 2022.

**GMCA 256/21      GREATER MANCHESTER RETROFIT ACTION PLAN**

Councillor Neil Emmott, Portfolio Lead for Green City Region, introduced a report which sought approval of the Greater Manchester Retrofit Action Plan, which had been produced by the Mayoral Retrofit Task Force.

The report highlighted that Greater Manchester would need to significantly prioritise the decarbonisation of heat if it were to achieve its carbon neutrality target of 2038. There would be a need to move towards zero-emissions heating solutions in place of fossil fuels, however zero-emissions solutions required homes to be well-insulated to operate effectively. Many homes were not sufficiently insulated to make the most of new heating technologies, although could be retrofitted to make the necessary improvements. Financial support was required to enable people to achieve this, especially the most vulnerable, noting the concerning data that showed that 15% of Greater Manchester residents were currently living in fuel poverty.

The Greater Manchester Retrofit Task Force had been established to examine retrofitting and it had identified three main challenges: insufficiently skilled operatives, a lack of innovative funding models and solutions to support residents willing to retrofit, and a lack of local information for residents about retrofit. The Retrofit Action Plan identified actions that could be taken with partners over the next three years to accelerate the renovation of properties. The culmination of the Plan would be the deployment of an integrated delivery proposition that evidenced that there would be a requirement of £3-5b investment to enable 20% of homes in Greater Manchester to become carbon neutral.

Members highlighted the global energy crisis and noted that retrofit would be a key mechanism for addressing energy supply and demand in the future, enabling the delivery of low carbon affordable homes and further supporting Greater Manchester in its ambition to be a leading green city region.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Greater Manchester Retrofit Action Plan and its contents be noted.
2. That the Greater Manchester Retrofit Action Plan be approved for design & publication (attached at Annex 1 to the report).

**GMCA 257/21      GREATER MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY 2022 TO 2025**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy, took members through a report which provided an overview of the draft Greater Manchester International Strategy and the process that had been taken to refresh the Strategy. The report also contained details about the approach taken for the development of the Delivery Plan.

The International Strategy had been launched in 2017 and had been refreshed for one year in 2020 to account for uncertainties that had arisen from the pandemic. The new refreshed strategy would last for three years from 2022 to 2025 and had been based upon an extensive update of the evidence base, international priorities, and impacts on various sectors in the city region. The process had involved significant consultation with a wide group of stakeholders. The strategy would build upon the Greater Manchester Strategy and reflected the vision of becoming a leading city region in the UK and globally, with particular influence in the green and digital sectors. Internationalisation could further support the Local Industrial Strategy and the Greater Manchester Economic Vision through increased trade, investment, and research and development. Greater Manchester had a transformational role in supporting Government to deliver on its global Britain priorities. The new Strategy had adopted the same strategic framework as the 2020 Refreshed Strategy and it would strengthen the work that

was already underway across partner organisations in the city region to improve its international links.

Members reflected on the role of city regional diplomacy and the importance of global collaboration, as well as international trade. Greater Manchester's role in giving back to international communities was also highlighted, with particular reference to the waste management support that had been given to Sylhet in Bangladesh following an earlier delegation to the area.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the new Greater Manchester International Strategy be approved.
2. That the approach to developing the Greater Manchester International Strategy Delivery Plan be noted.

**GMCA 258/21      GREATER MANCHESTER INFORMATION STRATEGY AND GMA EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP**

Alison McKenzie-Folan, Chief Executive of Wigan Council, introduced a report containing the Greater Manchester Information Strategy for comment and approval, and to agree a Combined Authority Member and Chief Executive to lead and oversee its implementation.

28 January 2022 was Data Protection Day and the importance of promoting privacy and data protection was emphasised. The strategy had been developed by the Greater Manchester Information Board which had many partners across the city region. It had taken a whole system approach to data and would enable collaborative working whilst protecting the rights of data subjects. During the Covid-19 pandemic, effective data sharing had played a key part in helping the city region to tackle the challenges that it had faced. The Strategy focused on public trust and helping residents to find accurate and reliable information when they needed it. It also addressed the use of algorithms, which had faced criticism in the GCSE and A Level awarding processes during the pandemic. The strategy would further assist organisations to work better collectively and develop consistency across shared priorities, continuing to enable Greater Manchester's strong track record of work in this area

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That the Greater Manchester Information Strategy be approved.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA Member (Cllr Martyn Cox) and Chief Executive (Alison McKenzie-Folan) would lead and oversee implementation of the Greater Manchester Information Strategy.

## **GMCA 259/21 CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT DRAFT PROGRAMME CASE**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which updated Members on the process to secure a City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for Greater Manchester, and requested delegation of the consideration, approval and submission to Government of the draft CRSTS Programme Case to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM in consultation with the GM Mayor.

Greater Manchester had been given £1.07bn from Government for Greater Manchester's sustainable transport settlement. However, it had since been instructed to reprioritise the funding under the assumption that it would receive no further capital funding within the Bus Service Improvement Plan process. A process of reprogramming had been conducted which had taken Local Authorities priorities into account and the constrictions of other funding opportunities.

## **RESOLVED /-**

1. That it be noted that the GMCA, as requested by Government on 20 July 2021, had prepared and submitted to the Government's City Region Sustainable Transport Fund in early September, as part of the process to secure up to £1.19 billion of capital funding for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.
2. That it be noted that on 22 November 2021, the Secretary of State wrote to the Greater Manchester Mayor to say that GMCA had been awarded an indicative

allocation of £1.07 billion of capital funding conditional on the submission of a programme business case by the end of January 2022.

3. That the key planning assumptions that the draft Programme Case was based upon as set out in section 3 of the report be noted.
4. That the approval of the draft Programme Case be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor and for submission to Government.
5. That it be noted that, following further review by Government and the announcement of the final award from Government, the final Programme Case would come to GMCA for approval.

**GMCA 260/21      BID TO THE ZERO EMISSION BUS REGIONAL AREAS (ZEBRA)  
FUND**

Eamonn Boylan, Chief Executive, GMCA & TfGM, introduced a report which sought approval for the submission of the GMCA ZEBRA fund bid. A proposal had been developed with Stockport and Stagecoach Group Plc (Stagecoach) to bid for funding that would provide zero emission buses. The funding would help to meet the city region's ambition to decarbonise and improve public transport. It would also contribute to Stockport's ambitions within the Mayoral Development Corporation.

Members emphasised the significance of the funding and the improvements that it would make to the bus fleet and bus depot in Stockport.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That approval be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the GM Mayor and the Chief Executive of Stockport MBC, to approve the GMCA ZEBRA fund bid that had been produced in combination with Stockport MBC and Stagecoach Group Plc (Stagecoach). The bid seeks DfT funds of £36.9m alongside Stagecoach investment of approx. £37.2m and a GMCA

contribution of £12.5m to support the introduction of 170 Zero Emission Buses in the south of Greater Manchester by 2024.

2. That the conditions and details for this submission as set out in section 1 of the report be noted.
3. That the GMCA final contribution of £12.5m be provisionally approved, that will be financed by prudential borrowings, noting that the borrowings will be repaid to GMCA over the lifetime of the assets through a subsidy control clawback mechanism; and that it be further noted that in the event that the submission is successful, final approval will be sought once costs have been confirmed.
4. That it be noted that any assets created through this fund would be available for the future franchised Greater Manchester bus network.

**GMCA 261/21      GREATER MANCHESTER ECONOMIC DASHBOARD AND  
ECONOMY PORTFOLIO UPDATE**

Councillor Elise Wilson, Portfolio Lead for Economy and Business, updated Members on the latest version of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and an overview of activity related to the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and Economy portfolio.

Consumer Price Inflation had reached its highest rate in ten years, at 4.8% in December 2021 and was expected to rise to 6% by Spring 2022. The Resolution Foundation's latest labour market outlook had indicated that the cost of living crisis would significantly affect households due to the increase in National Insurance contributions, the freeze on the income tax threshold and rising energy prices. The UK Consumer Confidence Index had decreased in December 2021 which reflected concerns about the cost of living.

The Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter had welcomed new members since the last meeting of the GMCA. There were also now 422 accredited real living wage employers which represented a significant step towards Greater Manchester becoming a real living wage city region.

Members reflected on the importance of Local Authorities becoming Good Employment Charter members so that they could lead by example as one of the biggest employers in each Local Authority. It was recognised that by becoming a real living wage city region with high levels of Good Employment Charter membership, Greater Manchester would demonstrate its position as a good place to live and work.

**RESOLVED /-**

1. That the latest update of the Greater Manchester Economic Resilience Dashboard and response be noted, including delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester Economic Vision.
2. That the Leader of Bury Council, Eamonn O'Brien, expressed his gratitude for the recent Good Employment Charter accreditation and urged other Greater Manchester Authorities to lead by example and make the pledge.

Signed by the Chair:



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

**Minutes of the Board of Directors' Meeting**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

**Via MS Teams 10am**

**Commercial in Confidence**

<b>Present:</b>	<b>Board Members</b> Peter White – Deputy Chair, Non-Executive Board Member (PW) Cllr Steven Bashforth (Cllr SB) – Chair Jeff Jones – Non-Executive Board Member (JJ) Karl Dean – Managing Director (KD)	<b>In attendance</b> Val Perrins – Associate Director (VP) Mark Warren – Shareholder’s Advisor & DASS (MW) Danny Jackson – Finance Manager (DJ) Karen Wilson – Business Support Manager (Minutes)
<b>Apologies</b>	Cllr Zahid Chauhan (Cllr ZC) Cllr Louie Hamblett (Cllr LH) Cathy Butterworth – Non-Executive Board Member (CB)	Colin Brittain – Oldham Council Assistant Borough Solicitor (CBr)

No	Agenda Item	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Confidential – Board Members Only</b> There were no items of business discussed.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Welcome, Introduction, attendees and apologies</b> Apologies were noted. KD advised as the Chair was unavoidably detained the Deputy Chair (PW) would Chair the start of the meeting. PW welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> There were no declarations of interest noted.	
<b>For Information</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b> a) The confidential minutes of the last Board meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record. b) The public minutes of the last Board meeting held on 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record. c) The Board action log was discussed and updated accordingly. d) The minutes of the last Operations Committee held on 17 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record. e) The minutes of the last Finance, Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee held on 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 were agreed as a true and accurate record.	
<b>For Discussion</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Budget Savings Options Update</b> Cllr Bashforth joined the meeting and PW continued to Chair	

	<p>KD gave a presentation to Board members that provided details of the initial response to Oldham Council's savings challenge and the potential impact on the MioCare Group. This included the background and context, potential options to reduce costs in current service delivery models as well as options to grow income. The presentation was welcomed, and discussion followed.</p> <p>JJ observed that a short to medium term plan would be required to reflect managing current pressures as this develops further and PW stressed the need to maintain staff and service user safety throughout the process. It was agreed that this be further explored at the next FAR committee meeting, with a particular focus on 'growth'.</p> <p>KD was thanked for the presentation.</p> <p><b>Action: KD to include a budget savings options update for discussion at the next FAR committee meeting</b></p>	
6	<p><b>Committee Updates – Key Matters</b></p> <p>As Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, JJ referred members to the full minutes of the meeting in the Board papers and highlighted the main areas of discussion as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The financial position, which is currently favourable</li> <li>– The appointment of external auditors for next year, which is still to be confirmed</li> <li>– Sustainable Futures project which was subject to detailed discussion at the meeting</li> <li>– A discussion regarding risk methodology; JJ stated he would welcome welcomed input from others to this</li> <li>– A deep dive of the Supported Living service was presented by the service managers</li> </ul> <p>As Chair of the Operations Committee, PW referred members to the full minutes of the meeting in the Board papers and highlighted the main areas of discussion as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Operational performance reporting and further developments proposed in this area</li> <li>– The impact of COVID, testing and the mandatory vaccine consultation</li> <li>– Concerns in relation to recruitment and retention and the wider workforce, in line with issues throughout the sector nationally and the MioCare response to this</li> <li>– A proposal for a series of 'deep dives' to feature at Committee regarding the impact the wider system has on MioCare.</li> </ul> <p>Thanks was offered to both JJ and PW for the updates.</p>	
7	<p><b>MD Update</b></p> <p>KD referred members to the paper previously circulated. An update was provided on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Care Reform</li> <li>• Mandatory COVID Vaccines consultation</li> <li>• MioCare Group Objectives</li> <li>• Health and Care Governance</li> <li>• Discharge and Enablement Hub Funding</li> <li>• New appointments within the Council and MioCare</li> <li>• Progress regarding positive behaviour management training</li> <li>• The rescheduled AGM</li> <li>• The External Audit</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital Care Planning and Procurement</li> </ul> <p>JJ enquired if the MioCare mandatory vaccination policy is in line with Government policy and what the risks are in relation to this position. KD responded that MioCare follows legislation which means that vaccination is not yet required in all settings and that the risk is the same as experienced by the NHS and all other providers nationally.</p> <p>KD was offered thanks for the report.</p>	
8	<p><b>Assurance Report</b></p> <p>VP presented the consolidated assurance report including a summary of updates on matters previously presented to the FAR and Operations Committees.</p> <p>VP offered thanks for report and a discussion took place about annual reports to Committees.</p> <p><b>Action: Equality and Diversity training updates to be included in annual reporting to the Operations Committee.</b></p>	VP
9	<p><b>Management Accounts Period 5</b></p> <p>DJ informed members that at Month 5 the surplus across all 3 companies is £86k against a projected budget surplus of £27k with a projected year end surplus of £184k. A concise breakdown of the individual companies was provided.</p> <p>JJ enquired about potential challenges next year in light of budget savings and KD confirmed that an initial draft budget will be presented to Board in January for review and discussion.</p> <p>Thanks, was offered to DJ for the report.</p> <p><b>Action: Draft budget to be presented at January Board.</b></p>	KD
<b>For Decision</b>		
10	<p><b>Revised Articles of Association</b></p> <p>KD referred members to the report previously circulated and informed this item sets out the special resolution required to formalise the minor amendments to the governance arrangements for MioCare Group which involve the adoption of new Articles of Association, previously approved by the Shareholder at July 2021 Board meeting. KD added up to date Terms of Reference (ToR) will be required to reflect the Articles of Association.</p> <p>KD stated the Board are asked to resolve that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the articles of association attached to this written resolution be approved and, for the purpose of identification initialled by a director of the Company, that such be adopted as the Company's articles of association in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the Company's existing articles of association.</li> <li>That a copy of the Resolution together with a copy of the New Articles be filed at Companies House.</li> </ul> <p><b>Decision: Board members agree to formally adopt, as a Board, the Article of Association.</b></p>	
11	<p><b>Adoption of Oldham Council Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Developing a MioCare EDI Delivery Plan</b></p> <p>KD referred members to the paper previously circulated. In September the Council</p>	

	<p>published the EDI Strategy 2021-25, which as part of Team Oldham, MioCare had been involved in. A brief update of the strategy and 4 equality objectives was provided. KD recommended to members that MioCare Group adopt the Council EDI Strategy and contribute to the development of a MioCare Group Equality Plan ahead of it being signed off in January 2022.</p> <p>PW stated he found this a very interesting and up to date strategy and as Chair of Operations Committee he believes this is the correct place to discuss it further.</p> <p><b>Decision: Board members unanimously agreed to the adoption of Oldham Council Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and to assist in developing a MioCare EDI Delivery Plan.</b></p>	
12	<p><b>AOB and Close</b></p> <p>KD reviewed CB's comments provided upon receiving the Board papers. KD agreed with the recommendation to update on the CQC approach to inspection and quality to be presented at the next Operations Committee meeting.</p> <p>CllrSB offered sincere apologies for his unavoidable delay in joining the meeting and offered thanks to PW for Chairing the meeting at short notice.</p> <p><b>Actions: KD to ensure an update regarding the CQC approach to inspection and quality is provided to the Operations committee.</b></p>	KD
	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 10am – 12.00</p> <p>Ena Hughes</p>	

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## MINUTES

Meeting:	<b>National Park Authority</b>
Date:	Friday 12 November 2021 at 10.00 am
Venue:	The Octagon, Pavilion Gardens, St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 6BE
Chair:	Cllr A McCloy
Present:	Mr J W Berresford, Cllr P Brady, Cllr D Chapman, Cllr C Farrell, Cllr C Furness, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Cllr A Hart, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr D Murphy, Cllr V Priestley, Miss L Slack, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping and Ms Y Witter.
Apologies for absence:	Cllr W Armitage, Cllr C Greaves, Ms A Harling, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Cllr K Richardson, Cllr S. Saeed, Cllr D Taylor, Mrs C Waller, Cllr J Wharmby and Cllr B Woods.

### **72/21 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

#### **Item 7**

Members had received several emails in support of the Foolow Community and declared an interest as the Peak District National Park Authority owned the land which was the subject of the report.

#### **Item 13**

Cllr McLaren, Mr Hamid and Cllr McCloy declared a prejudicial interest as Trustees of the Peak District National Park Foundation and would leave the room during this item.

### **73/21 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2021**

The minutes of the last meeting of the National Park Authority meeting on 3 September 2021 were approved as a correct record.

### **74/21 URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

### **75/21 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Five members of the public had registered to speak to the Authority Meeting.

## **76/21 AUTHORITY CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair provided a verbal update to the Authority. COP26 and Climate Change is very much in the news and the Chair highlighted the Chief Executive's report and an email sent to Members by the Chair in October 2021. The 15 UK National Parks have issued a climate emergency response statement which had been circulated. National Parks and protected areas around the world have joined together to issue a joint statement on the climate change and biodiversity crisis which had also been circulated to Members, with the work highlighting opportunities as well as risks posed by the current issues.

COP26 has also been used as an opportunity to launch Net Zero with Nature, an initiative involving all 15 UK National Parks, links had been shared to the National Parks UK website. Government have shown interest in the initiative and this may enable National Parks to potentially realise their ambition with this support.

The Chair updated the meeting on an anticipated delay to Defra's consultation response to the Landscape Review, which is now not likely until the end of the year. A discussion with Members will take place as soon as possible after it is available.

### **RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

## **77/21 CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (SLF)**

The Chief Executive's report gave updates on the following:

- Actions following COP26 – UK National Parks net zero with nature initiatives launched including Climate Leadership, Revere investing in natural capital and collaborative restoration projects
- Local Nature Recovery Strategy consultation
- Festival 2022
- Return to the workplace

### **RESOLVED:**

**To note the report.**

## **78/21 BROSTERFIELD - REPORT ON THE GATEWAY REVIEW UNDERTAKEN ON 1ST NOVEMBER 2021 (CBM)**

The report was introduced by the Head of Asset Management. A brief summary of the Authority's previous decisions in relation to the site was given including the decision on 21 February 2021 to sell the land to the community provided they passed two gateways before 1 November 2021, these gateways were:

1. A robust business plan showing how the community would raise the agreed purchase price
2. Evidence that funding was in place to purchase the site by 1 November 2021

Full details of these gateways were set out in the report.

Although Gateway 1 had been met in May 2021 unfortunately Gateway 2 had not been met by the November deadline and therefore the report updated Members on the current position. Only 23% of the agreed purchase price had been pledged. As the second gateway set out in resolution 7/21 had therefore not been passed the report recommended the disposal of the undeveloped site on the open market with the benefit of planning permission for a touring caravan and camping site.

The following spoke under the Authority's Public Participation at meetings scheme:

- Mrs Katie Edwards on behalf of Foolow Wildwood Project Team
- Mr Geoff Nancolas, speaking as an individual
- Ms Lindsay Price, speaking as a resident
- Mr John Youatt, speaking as an individual
- Mr Simon Wills, Chair of Foolow Parish Meeting

The recommendation as set out in the report was moved and seconded.

A proposal to give the community an additional 12 months was put forward and included that a 'spade be put in the ground' to extend the planning permission. It was noted that minor works on the site were being planned as part of the recommendation.

Clarification was sought if the proposal for an extension of time was an amendment to the current motion however as its effect was to negate the motion as moved and seconded this would be required to be voted on. Consideration of the recommendation of the report would take place before considering if this was an amendment.

Members congratulated the Foolow Community on what they had achieved and noted that they would be able to bid for the site on the open market.

Members congratulated Officers on the report and asked how quickly the site was likely to be put on the open market, it was highlighted that the disposal toolkit previously approved by the Authority (and attached as an appendix to the report) needed to be followed.

The Chief Executive reminded Members of the two purposes of the National Park Authority and to take these into consideration when making a decision regarding the recommendation.

The motion, which had been moved and seconded, was voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That there is not sufficient evidence that funding is in place for the Foolow Community to purchase the Authority's site at Brosterfield. The second gateway set out in resolution 7/21 has therefore not been passed and the Authority shall proceed to dispose the undeveloped site on the open market with the benefit of planning permission for a touring caravan and camping site.**
- 2. To discharge the planning pre-conditions, carry out a material operation and proceed with the 'discontinuance order' in the context of the disposal.**



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*The meeting adjourned for a short break at 11.00am and resumed at 11.15am.*

**79/21 EXTERNAL AUDIT 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT**

The report was introduced by Tom Greensill of Mazars, the Authority's External Auditors, who thanked the Head of Finance and her team for the work and assistance during the Audit process. James Sutton of Mazars was also present.

It was explained that there was a delay in the final opinion due to extra work around Value for Money (VFM) and fixed assets, the pandemic and general delays to the audit, the level of scrutiny required and resources. However the External Auditor expects to give an unqualified audit opinion on the Authority's 2020/21 financial statements and will also report that the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 complies with guidance and anticipates issuing an unqualified VFM conclusion.

It was noted that the increase in fees was due to the increased work required for VFM, as standards have changed, and there was also an increased level of scrutiny required by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC).

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To note the External Auditor's report as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. To note the letter of management representation at Appendix A within Appendix 1 of the report which needed to be signed by the Chief Finance Officer.**

**80/21 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2020/21 (JW)**

The report, which sought approval for the audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/21, was introduced by the Head of Finance who confirmed that the audit had been completed by our External Auditors as reported elsewhere on the agenda.

A revised Appendix 2 was tabled by the Head of Finance who advised that it listed the amendments made to the draft Accounts following audit recommendations and that these amendments have all been incorporated into the final version of the Accounts which included the reclassification of cycles from Inventories to Property, Plant and Equipment.

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the audited Statement of Accounts for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report and that the amendments made to the draft accounts, itemised in Appendix 2 of the report, be noted.**

**81/21 2020/21 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT (AMC)**

The report was introduced by the Head of Law who confirmed that no issues had been highlighted by the External Auditors in relation to their assessment of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which involved a review of the effectiveness of the Authority's governance arrangements including the systems of internal control. As part of the Authority's continuous improvement approach to governance arrangements issues were identified in the attached action plan which were to be addressed over the coming 12 months.

An amendment was made to recommendation 1 by adding the words “following receipt of the External Auditors Management Representation letter” at the end of the recommendation.

During a routine review of Standing Orders it had been identified that a deputy was required as a matter of good practice for Cllr Huddlestone who represents the Authority on the Peak District Local Access Forum (PDLAF). It was agreed to appoint a deputy Member.

It was also noted that the Authority had an Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee but no Members had been appointed to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting. It was proposed to appoint the six Members required, three Secretary of State and three Local Authority Members, to the Committee. Members of the Committee needed to be different Members than those already appointed to the Appeals Panel.

Cllr C Furness had expressed an interest in the PDLAF Deputy role; no further expressions of interest were made so Cllr Furness was agreed as the deputy Member.

Cllr Murphy, Cllr Gregory, Miss Slack, Ms Witter, Cllr Tapping and Cllr Mrs Heath all expressed interest in being Members of the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee. It was agreed to appoint these Members to the Committee.

The recommendation set out in the report with the agreed amendment and the two extra recommendations, to appoint a deputy to the PDLAF and to appoint 6 Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee, were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve the audited Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 for sign off by the Chief Executive Officer and the Chair of the Authority following receipt of the External Auditor’s Management Representation letter.**
- 2. To appoint Cllr C Furness as Deputy Member representing the Authority at the Peak District Local Access Forum until the annual Authority meeting in July 2022.**
- 3. To appoint the following Members to the Investigatory and Disciplinary Committee: Cllr A Gregory, Cllr Mrs G Heath, Cllr D Murphy, Miss L Slack, Cllr P Tapping and Ms Y Witter until the annual Authority meeting in July 2022.**

**82/21 ARRANGEMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITOR (JW)**

The Head of Finance introduced the report which gave details of the three options open to the Authority for the future appointment of external auditors and requested Members to approve the preferred option, which was the most cost effective, to opt into the national audit appointment arrangements of Public Sector Audit Appointments for the financial years from 1 April 2023.

The recommendation was moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

**To approve the Peak District National Park Authority opting into the national audit appointment arrangements of Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) for appointment of the Authority's external auditors for five financial years from 1 April 2023 onwards (2023/24 Accounts).**

*Cllr Huddleston left the meeting room at 11.45am.*

**83/21 2021-2022 RESERVE ALLOCATIONS (JW)**

The Head of Finance introduced the report which followed on from the 2020/21 outturn report approved by the Authority on the 21 May 2021 (Minute number 35/21), and proposes a reallocation of current cash Reserves that were set aside to finance the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The reallocations would be as follows:

- a) Retain the Covid Reserve at the lower value of £683k;
- b) Re-allocate £275k from the Covid Reserve to the Restructuring Reserve as was approved in principle by Members in the Authority report of 4 September 2020 (Minute number 64/20).
- c) Re-allocate £130k back to the General Reserve to return the balance to £350k.

The Chair congratulated the Finance Team on the care they had taken to keep the Authority in a good place but there were still external uncertainties such as the future Defra settlement and the Landscapes Review.

The recommendation, as set out in the report, was moved, seconded put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That £275k of the Covid Reserve is to be re-allocated to the Restructuring Reserve as approved at the Authority meeting on 4 September 2020.**
- 2. That £130k of the Covid Reserve be re-allocated to the General Reserve to return the balance to a minimum of £350k.**

**84/21 PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION GRANT AGREEMENT AND MOU 1 YEAR EXTENSION (SS)**

Cllr A McCloy, Cllr C McLaren and Mr Z Hamid left the meeting during discussion of this item due to a prejudicial interest as Trustees of the Foundation.

The Deputy Chair, Mr Berresford, took the Chair.

The report seeks approval to continue the partnership with the Peak District National Park Foundation, extending the grant agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the Peak District National Park Authority and the Peak District National Park Foundation for a further year.

The Fundraising Development Manager introduced the report which sought approval to continue support for the Foundation at the same level (£58,700) for the financial year 2022/23 covered by the existing fundraising budget in appendix 1 of the report. This was made up of £45,000 of staff time in kind and £13,700 cash contribution available in a PDNPA cost centre. It was anticipated that a further report would be made within 12 months' time seeking a longer-term partnership with the Foundation for the benefit of the

Peak District National Park. This would allow time for development work to take place on the fundraising strategy and culture, embedding the Foundation as the fundraising vehicle to develop support for the National Park Management Plan outcomes and consider the resources required to do this.

Cllr A Gregory declared an interest in the item as he had been appointed as a reserve trustee by the Authority.

In response to Members' queries the Chief Executive stated that over the next 6 months Officers would be reviewing the whole level of support from the Authority to the Foundation including looking at the whole fundraising strategy and how the Foundation fits into this, so it was recommended to approve for only one year extension at present.

The recommendations, as set out in the report, were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To approve a one-year extension to the grant agreement and Memorandum of Understanding to March 2023, providing staff resources to manage and develop the charity, embedding the Foundation across the Authority to support Management Plan outcomes.**
- 2. To note the fundraising strategy development and the key role of the Foundation as the brand and vehicle for delivering the strategy.**
- 3. To note the progress of the Peak District National Park Foundation in its first two years.**

*Cllr McCloy, Cllr McLaren and Mr Hamid re-joined the meeting and Cllr McCloy retook the Chair.*

**85/21 ANNUAL REPORT ON MEMBER LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (JC/RC)**

The Democratic Services Manager introduced the report which set out the Member Learning and Development Framework and the proposals for the next annual programme of Member learning and development events for January to December 2022.

In response to Members' queries Officers responded as follows:

- There would be more engagement of Members in the development of the Local Plan and there would be a discussion on the Local Plan at the Members' Forum on 26 November 2021. It was also being considered how best to share the minutes of the Local Plan Steering Group with all Members.
- The ELMS learning system had been launched with Members and all Members were encouraged to complete the Equality and Diversity training module as this would also help ensure the system worked for them.
- Members were encouraged to have a personal development plan and as they are individual and personal they will highlight different issues and learning opportunities for different Members. It was agreed that the Chair would look at the current personal development plan process with the Member Champion for Learning and Development.

The recommendations, as set out in the report, were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To agree the Member Learning and Development Framework (Appendix 1 of the report) and the events programme for January to December 2022 as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.**
- 2. To continue to record Member learning and development activities in terms of hours and include personal learning and development by Members outside of events organised by the Authority, with the target of 20 hours per Member in every 12 months.**

**86/21 2021/22 QUARTER 2 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT (A91941/HW)**

As the Head of Information and Performance Management was unable to attend the meeting the Chief Executive introduced the report. The report provided Members with monitoring information for the end of Quarter 2 2021/22 (July to September 2020) to review performance against the third year of the Authority's 2019-24 Corporate Strategy. The next report would be made at the end of Quarter 4.

Members' comments and concerns regarding KPI 2b were noted and it was also noted that National Park Management Plan & Corporate Strategy Working Group were looking at simplifying commentary in the next Corporate Strategy.

The Chair thanked Miss Slack and Ms Witter for their input into the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, it was much appreciated.

It was noted that the Asset Management Plan was to be aligned with the timescale for the Medium Term Financial Plan so further action would be in the next financial year – 2022/23.

The recommendations as set out in the report were moved, seconded, put to the vote and carried.

Cllr Hart and Professor Haddock-Fraser left the meeting during consideration of this matter and on their return did not take part in the discussion or voting.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. To review the Quarter 2 performance report, given in Appendix 1 of the report, and any actions to address issues agreed.**
- 2. To review the Quarter 2 corporate risk register given in Appendix 2 of the report and the status of risks accepted.**
- 3. To note the status of complaints, Freedom of Information and Environmental Information Regulations requests, given in Appendix 3 of the report.**

**87/21 EXEMPT INFORMATION S100(A) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RESOLVED:**

**That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item 18 to avoid the disclosure of Exempt Information under S100 (A) (4) Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, paragraph 3 'information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information).**

**88/21 EXEMPT MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD SEPTEMBER 2021**

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2021 were approved as a correct record.

The meeting ended at 12.45pm.

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## MINUTES

Meeting: **National Park Authority**

Date: Friday 7 January 2022 at 10.00 am

Venue: The Palace Hotel, Buxton

Chair: Cllr A McCloy

Present: Cllr P Brady, Cllr A Gregory, Prof J Haddock-Fraser, Mr Z Hamid, Mr R Helliwell, Cllr I Huddleston, Cllr C McLaren, Cllr D Murphy, Cllr Mrs K Potter, Mr K Smith, Cllr P Tapping and Ms Y Witter

Apologies for absence: Mr J W Berresford, Cllr W Armitage, Cllr C Furness, Cllr C Greaves, Ms A Harling, Cllr A Hart, Cllr V Priestley, Miss L Slack, Cllr D Taylor, Mrs C Waller, Cllr J Wharmby and Cllr B Woods.

### **1/22 ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS PRESENT, APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2/22 AUTHORITY CHAIR'S REPORT**

The Chair reported that he would be attending a meeting with Lord Benyon on 12 January with regard to the Government's consultation on their response to the Landscapes Review. A Member Forum meeting had been arranged for Friday 28 January to consider the information and the report will be circulated in advance.

### **3/22 RECRUITMENT TO POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (SF)**

The Chief Executive introduced the report which requested agreement of the proposed recruitment process, the appointment of a Member recruitment panel and agreement of the proposed interim arrangements between the current Chief Executive leaving and a new Chief Executive starting. She proposed an amendment to recommendation 5.2 so that the authority delegated to the current Head of Paid Service would be in consultation with the Chair of the Authority. This was agreed.

The Chief Executive reported that a response had been received from Natural England confirming that they would be part of the recruitment process and be involved in the short listing and the assessment panel. The Chief Executive of the Lake District National Park Authority had also confirmed that he would be available to take part in the recruitment process.



The appointments to the Member Recruitment Panel were discussed and the following expressions of interest noted:

Secretary of State Members:

Cllr A McCloy, Chair of Authority  
Mr J Berresford  
Ms Y Witter  
Cllr G Priestley  
Miss L Slack

Local Authority Members:

Cllr J Wharmby  
Cllr D Murphy  
Cllr D Chapman  
Cllr G Heath  
Cllr W Armitage  
Cllr A Gregory  
Cllr D Taylor  
Cllr C McLaren

The expressions of interest were considered with regard to the required split between Secretary of State Members and Local Authority Members and gender balance. It was emphasised that commitment to the dates for Panel meetings and assessment days was required by those appointed. It was noted that knowledge of the Authority, experience and length of service was considered by Members to be more important than to ensure a gender balance on the Panel. It was also agreed to increase the number of Members on the Panel from the suggested 6 to 8 with 2 reserve Members.

The membership of the Panel was agreed as follows:

Secretary of State Members:

Cllr A McCloy, Chair of Authority  
Mr J Berresford  
Cllr G Priestley  
Ms Y Witter  
Reserve: Miss L Slack

Local Authority Members:

1 Derbyshire County Council Member  
Cllr D Chapman  
Cllr A Gregory  
Cllr G Heath  
Reserve: 1 Derbyshire County Council Member

The first meeting of the Member Recruitment Panel will take place on either 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> January. The Derbyshire County Council (DCC) Members will be agreed between the 3 DCC Members who expressed interests and notified to the Chair of the Authority before 13<sup>th</sup> January.

With regard to the interim arrangements for the Chief Executive it was noted that there would be a financial uplift for the Head of Law whilst acting as interim Chief Executive.

The Chair will keep all Members informed of the recruitment process as it progresses.

The proposed job description for the new Chief Executive was discussed and areas for amendment noted. The Chair asked those Members who had suggestions for amendments to supply their proposed wording to him by the end of the following week.

The Head of Law requested an amendment to recommendation 4 of the report to state attendances at meetings of the Panel were an approved duty for Members and where they were in person meetings travel and subsistence could be claimed.

The recommendations as set out in the report and as amended, with the Members of the Recruitment Panel as set out above, were moved, seconded, voted on and carried.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1. That the Authority proceeds, having noted the resignation of the current postholder, to appoint to the full-time post of Chief Executive (on an updated job description and person specification); Head of Paid Service and National Park Officer, at the existing salary grade (£88,985 - £94,456).**
- 2. That the updated job description and person specification at Appendix 1 of the report be approved subject to any minor changes being delegated to Head of People Management (PM) in consultation with the Chair of the Authority**
- 3. That the recruitment process as set out in the report and already started under delegated powers be agreed.**
- 4. That a Members' recruitment panel of 8 Members be appointed with 2 reserve Members (5 Secretary of State and 5 Constituent Authorities Members) and chaired by the Chair of the Authority – with the terms of reference to undertake the roles of the panel as set out in the report and to recommend to the Authority a Chief Executive appointment, noting that the appointment is subject to approval by the Authority meeting.**

**4.1 The following Members are appointed to the Panel**

**Secretary of State Members:**

**Cllr A McCloy, Chair of Authority  
Mr J Berresford  
Cllr G Priestley  
Ms Y Witter  
Reserve: Miss L Slack**

**Local Authority Members:**

**1 Derbyshire County Council Member  
Cllr D Chapman  
Cllr A Gregory  
Cllr G Heath  
Reserve: 1 Derbyshire County Council Member**

**4.2 To confirm that attendance at meetings of the CEO Member Recruitment Panel is an approved duty for the purpose of claiming travel and subsistence allowances.**

- 5. That the appointments for the statutory roles of Head of Paid Service and National Park Officer and the role of Interim Chief Executive (based on the current job description) and Deputy Chief Executive be as follows: -**
  - 5.1 The current Deputy Chief Executive, Andrea McCaskie, Head of Law becomes the Interim Chief Executive, Head of Paid Service and National Park Officer for the period beginning with the last working day of service of the current Chief Executive Sarah Fowler until the starting working day of the new Chief Executive.**
  - 5.2 That an interim Deputy Chief Executive be appointed for the same period, and for that purpose authority is delegated to the current Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Chair of the Authority. At the expiry of this period the interim post holder, Andrea McCaskie, under 5.1 above shall revert to the role of**

**Deputy Chief Executive for a period of 6 months to support the familiarisation and induction of the new Chief Executive.**

**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 22 OCTOBER 2021 AT THE TOOTAL BUILDING,  
MANCHESTER**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley, Rochdale Council (Chair)  
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar, Manchester City Council  
Councillor Kevin Anderson, Wigan Council  
Councillor Lisa Boyle, Tameside Borough Council  
Councillor David Lancaster, Salford Council  
Councillor Amanda Peers, Stockport Council  
Councillor Graham Whitham, Trafford Council  
Councillor Steve Williams, Oldham Council (Vice-Chair)  
Angela Lawrence, Independent Member

**Also in attendance:** Baroness Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor.

**Officers Present:**

Assistant Chief Constable Chris Sykes, GMP  
Steve Wilson, Treasurer, GMCA  
Clare Monaghan, Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA  
Steve Annette, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA

**PCFP/32/21            APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Richard Gold, Bury Council  
Majid Hussain, Independent Member, and Jeanette Staley, GM Police & Crime Policy  
Lead, Salford City Council.

**PCFP/33/21            CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair informed the Panel that a request had been received from GMP to provide a verbal update regarding the HMICFRS engagement, including accelerated cause for concern. The Panel agreed to receive the update following consideration of the Police and Crime Plan refresh update.

**PCFP/34/21            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**PCFP/35/21            MINUTES OF THE PANEL HELD ON 22 JULY 2021**

Members were asked to note and agree the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 22 July 2021.

It was noted that proposals in relation to the proposed extended balanced appointments to the Panel had been lodged with the Home Office and a formal response was awaited, in the meantime nominations had been requested from the Districts.

The Chair advised the Panel that an update report on iOPS would be considered at the next ordinary meeting as planned.

## **RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021 be agreed by the Panel.

### **PCFP/36/21 POLICE AND CRIME PLAN REFRESH**

Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor, introduced a report and the Standing Together - The GM Police and Crime Plan, highlighting the key issues that had arisen from consultation and engagement with district community partnerships, GMP and other partners, and the proposed next steps and key dates.

The report set out in some detail the extensive consultation that had been undertaken on the Plan, and also outlined some key changes that now needed to be included and taken account of in the Plan. The GM Mayor had set out a number of priorities in his 2021 election manifesto including measures to improve public accountability and to focus on community policing and improved communication between the public and the Police through collaborative partnerships, and the responsiveness of the Police Force on a range of fronts. The Plan further set out key strategies in relation to public safety, supporting victims, enforcement, hate crime and on-line crime, and placed these in the post-Covid and overall resource context.

In discussion members highlighted –

- the wide-ranging ambitions and challenges set out in the report, and whilst accepting that an over-arching strategy was essential, the special needs of districts and partnerships must continue to find proper focus and balanced expression within it;
- the importance of benchmarking with other Forces was highlighted and a member sought clarification about the extent to which this had already found expression in the refreshed Plan, accepting that there will be significant variability between Forces depending on the areas of focus dominant in different regions;
- the importance of community partnership working and of early interventions with vulnerable people and groups needing additional targeted support;
- the importance of emphasising that the focus on support to victims of crime represents an important step-change in the Force's approach;
- that the gender-based crime and racial crime elements of the Plan refresh are necessarily ambitious and challenging and will involve significant levels of support and resources, and
- the need to look afresh at the ways of engaging with minority communities to overcome historical mistrust issues and to embed action to redress racial disparities in mainstream policing practice.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. To note progress made towards the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan.

2. To note the comments above, the emerging priorities and plan structure, together with the next steps and milestones.

## **PFCP/38/21                    HMICFRS ENGAGEMENT**

ACC Chris Sykes, GMP provided a verbal update in relation to HMICRFS engagement, including accelerated cause for concern. He reported that in addition to the three causes for concern identified initially by HMI, the most recent was in relation to (a) failures to respond appropriately to vulnerable/at risk people in terms of call-handling response times, and (b) response to requests (2000) for action awaiting responses (figure now reduced to 1250)

He outlined the need to recruit more call handling staff and to accelerate training and refine job descriptions. Newly appointed Superintendent now taking responsibility for this area of work. Replacement of the vehicle fleet has resulted in some improvements in response times due to increased reliability. Graded response policy needs to be reviewed and simplified with greater use of scheduled appointments with victims, either face to face, telephone or Zoom, together with changes to the local policing model to improve responsiveness.

Members accepted that these figures and the depleted morale of front-line call staffs directly reflected the past reductions in police officers and back-office staffs and elegantly highlighted the false economies that those resource reductions represented.

Officers were also asked if they had the necessary resources and expertise to respond to this reported cause for concern. In response ACC Sykes that a lot of work remained to be done but the streamlined organisation of business side of the Force and the performance measures in place was beginning to make an impact, but a 'quick fix' was not the answer, and morale and welfare will best be lifted by strategies that deliver sustainable improvements and where the staff themselves know that they are increasingly capable of delivering the services and responses that the public need

### **RESOLVED/-**

To note the update and next steps.

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**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2022 AT THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, MANCHESTER TOWN HALL**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley, Rochdale Council (Chair)  
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar, Manchester City Council  
Councillor Kevin Anderson, Wigan Council  
Councillor Richard Gold, Bury Council  
Councillor Mudasir Dean, Bolton Council  
Councillor Allison Gwynne, Tameside Borough Council  
Councillor David Lancaster, Salford Council  
Councillor Tom McGee, Stockport Council  
Councillor Graham Whitham, Trafford Council  
Councillor Steve Williams, Oldham Council (Vice-Chair)  
Majid Hussain, Independent Member  
Angela Lawrence, Independent Member

**Also in attendance:** Baroness Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor.

**Officers Present:**

Paul Fearnhead, Area Manager, Frontline Service Delivery, GMFRS  
Lisa Lees, Strategic Planning Manager, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA  
Carlos Meakin, Assistant Chief Fire Officer, GMFRS  
Clare Monaghan, Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA  
CFO Dave Russel, Chief Fire Officer, GMFRS  
Vicky Sugars, Community & Policing Principal, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice & Fire, GMCA  
Lee Teasdale, Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA  
Gwynne Williams, Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA  
Steve Wilson, Treasurer, GMCA

**PFCP/01/22            APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Jeanette Staley and Councillor Amanda Peers (Stockport). Councillor Tom McGee attended the meeting as Stockport's nominated substitute.

Following his recent retirement, members expressed their thanks to Governance Officer Steve Annette for his support to the Panel over the past few years, wishing him all the best for the future.

**PFCP/02/22            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.



Members were asked to note and agree the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 22 October 2021.

The Chair highlighted that PFCP/35/21 requested that an update on IOPS be brought to the next ordinary meeting of the Panel. Members were reminded that this meeting, and the Precept meeting at the end of January were extraordinary meetings of the Panel, and therefore this update would be brought to the next meeting considering the regular business of the Panel.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 October 2021 be agreed by the Panel.

The Chair invited Beverley Hughes, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester to introduce the refresh of the Police and Crime Plan.

Members were advised that the refreshed plan still retained the 'Standing Together' title but now also contained a supplementary strapline which highlighted the plan for a new era of accountable and people centred policing, community safety and criminal justice services for Greater Manchester. This strapline reflected developments in recent times and the response to this, particularly following the HMICFRS report.

The refresh had needed to consider a number of new elements since the development of the original plan. This included promises highlighted as part of the GM Mayor's manifesto following his re-election in 2021; extensive consultation with all the region's community safety partnerships; consultation with GMP; and consultation with the region's partner organisations in the voluntary sector. It was emphasised that connection with the voluntary sector was important, as the Plan was not just about police activity, but very much about partnership and joint enterprise across the region.

The Plan contained the three pillars that featured in the original plan, though these had been further developed. Reflecting further on the context since the original plan, two further fundamental underlying themes had been added. These were:

- Theme for Action 1: Tackling inequality and injustice in all its forms including Gender Based Violence.
- Theme for Action 2: Delivering with victims, communities and partnerships.

There was a much stronger emphasis on victims within the Plan now based on public and partner feedback. There was also a clear read across to the GMP Improvement Plan, whilst also recognising that the scope of this Plan was much broader than just GMP.

In terms of Priority 1 (Keeping People Safe and Supporting Victims), strong public feedback had been received on improved access to/visibility of policing; improved services to victims, particularly those experiencing sexual violence and abuse; and improvements around mental health support.

On Priority 2 (Reducing Harm and Offending), there was a conscious attempt to seek a balance between protecting people, enforcement, and rehabilitation of offenders.

On Priority 3 (Strengthening Communities and Places), there had been more recognition of elements such as roads policing being an issue; reducing anti-social behaviour and neighbourhood inequalities. Also highlighted was the improving of carbon credentials and linking into the Greater Manchester Strategy on this.

### **Comments and Questions**

- Members welcomed the steps now being taken by GMP to engage more directly with the public. With a recent public engagement session at Oldham Council being highlighted as a strong example, with a sense that some of the issues raised in that forum had gone towards helping shape revisions to the Plan. The Deputy Mayor agreed, stating that the engagement seen at the meeting was qualitatively different to what had been seen previously, and that this was a welcome introduction to an improved culture around transparency and willingness to engage.
- Members questioned whether further detail was available around best practice, and how comparator work had been undertaken on this with other police authorities. It was advised that the Chair would liaise with the Deputy Mayor and relevant officers on how best to take this forward.
- Members expressed concern that labelling the priorities as 1,2 & 3 may lead to a public misunderstanding that these were in order of importance. The Deputy Mayor welcomed the observation and confirmed that these were to be seen as three equal pillars with no intention of hierarchy, but rather they were in alphabetical order. Care would be taken to make it clear to the public that the three pillars were all of equal importance.
- Members referenced each borough having its own self-contained community safety plan, asking if there were any difficulties in integrating these with the wider plans. The Deputy Mayor advised that it worked well in practice, with GMP now moving towards strengthened local leadership with the introduction of a cadre of new senior officers in each borough, developing close relationships with leaders and community safety partnerships in each area. There was also a considerable level of overlap between the local and the overarching plans
- Members asked about the possibility of increasing resources around local community safety teams. The Deputy Mayor stated that where possible there was a conscious effort to devolve to the localised level. Examples of this included grants for voluntary organisations, which previously had been administered centrally, but had now been devolved to the local level to allow for more informed decision making on which voluntary organisations would be best served by this.
- The Chair drew the item to a close, commending the work of officers in drawing the Plan together and reporting that the Panel accepted the Plan without the requirement for further amendment.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the process undertaken to refresh the Police and Crime Plan be noted;

2. That the key points highlighted through consultation be noted;
3. That the Panel provide the GM Mayor with its report on the draft plan in order to fulfil statutory requirements; and
4. That the next steps be noted.
5. That the Chair be asked to liaise with the GM Deputy Mayor and relevant officers on how best to present information pertaining to comparator figure analysis with other police authorities.

## **PFCP/05/22            FIRE SERVICE PRESENTATION**

CFO Dave Russell, ACFO Carlos Meakin and Area Manager of Front-Line Service Delivery Paul Fearnhead, introduced a presentation to the Panel, which sought to build a further understanding of the GMFRS services, functions and performance.

Points highlighted included:

- Attention was drawn to the work undertaken around identifying and assessing all foreseeable risk within GM, and much of the work undertaken by the service on a day-to-day basis included the prevention and mitigation of such risks.
- There were 41 fire stations strategically located across GM, based on level of risk evaluated through the risk planning process.
- The Fire Plan 2021-2025 had been recently published, and this was underpinned by a robust and comprehensive Annual Strategic Assessment for Risk (SAoR). Also informing this were yearly Annual Delivery Plans, which were more specific in terms of what the service sought to achieve within that window.
- The importance of developing local risk management knowledge was highlighted. The Community Risk Management Model provided a process that enabled a greater understanding of the specific risks each community faced.
- Local station managers and watch teams were tasked with identifying local risks and priorities in the form of Station Action Plans. Group Managers then reviewed and extracted the highest risks from across all these stations to develop Area Action Plans. These were then shared with Community Safety Partners for feedback.
- A prevention team was in place to provide strategic direction, policy, guidance, and specific resources to deliver on the strategic policy focussing upon helping people to reduce the risk of fires and other emergencies. The Head of Prevention was the strategic lead for home safety, education, campaigns, community safety and volunteering.
- A protection team was also in place to provide strategic direction, policy guidance and support to enable the service to deliver on its strategic policy to help protect the built environment. The Head of Protection was responsible for fire investigation, fire engineering, petroleum and explosives, operational intelligence, technical fire protection and enforcement.

- Investigations undertaken by HMICFRS were highlighted. A first inspection had been undertaken in November 2018 and graded the service as 'requires improvement' in a number of areas, therefore considerable work had gone into ensuring the improvements required in these areas were scaled up. A second inspection had taken place in June 2021, the recently released outcome from this and had found that two areas (efficiency and effectiveness) still required some improvement, but that there had been substantial moves forward in improving the service, particularly in terms of leadership.
- It was noted that there had been a rise in hostilities towards fire fighters during Q2 of 2021 (53% rise totalling 9 extra incidents), which was a concern.

## Comments and Questions

- Members sought more information about the Community Risk Model and where the local knowledge was acquired from. It was advised that this came from a number of areas, crews out in the community on a day-to-day basis may identify risks or areas that could be improved but were not captured in more strategic assessments. Engagement also took place with local authority partners, GMP, community safety partnerships and others through formal meetings and informal discussions.
- Members noted that there was a lack of KPIs on prevention work at present and asked if these were being developed further. It was stated that following on from the Programme for Change for Greater Manchester, provision for prevention was altered to a new model looking at national campaigns and linking with the national police chiefs' model to ensure a broader all age curriculum. A new governance model had been put in place around prevention which would involve closer scrutiny of activity and the prevention KPIs which would be developed further this year and go wider and broader in terms of education. A new prevention strategy was also about to be launched.
- Members stated that they would welcome sight of the improvement plans to address HMICFRS concerns around efficiency and effectiveness. Officers stated that they would be happy to bring the HMICFRS report inclusive of the future plans to a meeting of the Panel in due course.
- Members emphasised the importance of taking full responsibility in terms of the duty they now had to scrutinise the fire service, including invites to Borough Commanders. The Deputy Mayor welcomed the level of engagement shown and assured the Panel that regular update reports would be made available.
- Members further enquired about the steps being taken to address the continued concerns raised in the recent inspection and sought assurances that the public could be assured of community safety. Members were assured that a full set of plans were in place to address the findings, and updates on these would be brought to future meetings. Recent work that had taken place on safety was addressed, this included a refresh of the Home Fire Safety Assessment; specific targeting work with those most at risk in the community; the drafting of new prevention and protection strategies; the restructuring of the protection function to be more agile; and also seeking to recruit more staff to support the protection function.

- The Chief Fire Officer (CFO) further addressed the issues highlighted by the HMICFRS report. The service was clearly now on a strong direction of travel, but there was significant work that was still required, specifically in terms of capability around MTAs (Marauding Terrorist Attacks). The CFO had made this a personal priority item, when he joined the service 15 months ago it did not have this capability, but it was now in place, and work was taking place with fire service unions to further improve the resilience of this capability. Updates on this would also be brought back to a future meeting.
- The Deputy Mayor referenced the development of Integrated Place Based Working, and the important role the fire service would play as part of this. There was a great deal of latent potential in the fire service to be leaders in the problem-solving place-based approach that was being developed across GM.
- Members referenced the new government legislation on building cladding. Were there any plans on communicating with residents on how this would impact them? It was advised that discussions had taken place with the Head of Protection regarding this, and it was understood that further information would be made available from government around March 2022, and that engagement would take place following this. It was planned that all affected residents would be written to about this in the next two weeks updating them on expected timelines, and the High-Rise Taskforce continued to liaise with residents on a regular basis.
- Members raised questions around workforce equality and inclusion for underrepresented groups. Clearly good progress was being made and more detail on numbers was requested. It was noted that KPIs did not appear to have a specific target. It was advised that there was significant work taking place to make further improvements, as whilst this was going in the right direction, percentage figures in terms of female and minority ethnic firefighters still remained in high single percentage figures which was still nowhere near good enough. The service had recently recruited in the region of 170 firefighters, which had presented opportunities to increase representation from underrepresented groups. One recent group of recruits had included just over 40% female, and this agenda would remain front and centre going forward. The Chair asked that the statistics on the numbers be forwarded to the Panel in due course.
- The Chair welcomed the invitation to Panel Members to undertake site visits during 2022, and for the presentation and improvements taking place throughout the service. The service had also clearly coped admirably with the many challenges posed by COVID-19 and the continued work with the Princes Trust was also commended.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the information contained in the presentation be noted.
2. That future reports be provided to Members updating them on the continued development of plans in response to the HMICFRS report.
3. That statistics pertaining to the number of firefighters at GMFRS from underrepresented groups be forwarded to Members when available.

4. That the opportunity to undertake site visits during 2022 be welcomed by Members.

## **PFCP/06/22            PRECEPT PROCESS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PANEL**

Steve Wilson (Treasurer, GMCA) presented a report setting out the process being followed ahead of the Precept being received at the next meeting.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the statutory duties of the Police, Fire and Crime Panel in relation to the setting of the police precept be noted.
2. That the timetable for the setting of the 2022/23 police precept and the need for a meeting by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to consider this, be noted.

## **PFCP/07/22            LEGAL REPORTS**

### **Complaints Process and the Proposed Changes in Relation to Police Reviews**

Gwynne Williams (Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA) presented a report which recommended a change to the complaints procedure. This arose from the transfer of a statutory function from GMP to the GM Mayor in relation to the handling of statutory complaint reviews.

If a member of the public has a complaint about policing, they make it in the first instance to GMP, and then, if dissatisfied with the outcome, they can ask for a review by the Police and Crime Commissioner, the only avenue of challenge if still dissatisfied, is then by way of judicial review. The amendments make clear that the Police, Fire & Crime Panel is not an available avenue for pursuing operational policing complaints.

### **Contingency Planning for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

It was advised that in the event of a vacancy in the office of GM Mayor or incapacity of the GM Mayor, legislation automatically provided for the GM Deputy Mayor (currently the Mayor of the City of Salford Paul Dennett) to assume these police and crime commissioner functions.

In the event of suspension, the legislation provided for the Police, Fire & Crime Panel to appoint an acting commissioner who could either be the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, or an officer of the GMCA who works wholly or partly within police and crime functions. A small amendment was proposed to identify a small pool of officers (by position title).

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the revised complaints procedure be approved.
2. That the statutory framework applicable in Greater Manchester be noted.

3. That the revisions to the Panel's Rules of Procedure be approved.

## **PFCP/08/22            ANNUAL REPORT**

Lisa Lees (Strategic Planning Manager, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA) presented the Annual Report to the Panel, which outlined the functions, activity and progress made in meeting the police and crime objectives within the Police and Crime Plan.

Work had taken place to make the report more interactive this year, with links to other documents and videos where available in the community. Once agreed the report would be made available as a PDF document on the GMCA website.

Member's attention was drawn to section 4 of the report 'Investing in Communities'. This section of the report had been written jointly in conjunction with the heads of the Community Safety in each district. It contained a broad range of themes with examples/case studies of work with the community within each district where funding had been provided through the Deputy Mayor's delegated funding pot.

### **Comments and Questions**

- Members referenced the finances, noting that £12.7m had been transferred from reserves last year, and £28.1m to the reserves. Members enquired about the level of reserves held, and whether these were earmarked for improvement programmes. The GMCA Treasurer confirmed that the majority of reserves used had been earmarked for specific purposes. This question would be taken away and a more detailed overview looking backwards at previous funds used and forwards at future earmarked projects provided with the budget reports over the next few months.
- Members made reference to 'Programme Challenger' the partnership approach to challenging serious crimes in all its forms. There had been a lot of media attention around issues in Cheetham Hill and specifically the Bury New Road corridor over the last few months as an area increasingly blighted by serious organised crime. Was there a specific plan in place to address this? It was confirmed that the issues around Bury New Road were under constant review, and close liaison was taking place with GMP to develop further plans to address this, developing further upon operations that had taken place in recent months. Damian Dallimore (Programme Manager for Programme Challenger) would be asked to contact Cllr Akbar to provide him with further details.
- Members noted that on referrals to onwards services, 10,609 individuals had been offered, but between 40-50% of people had turned down these referrals. There was concern that this would put pressures on services further down the line. Therefore, how was this being addressed? It was advised that the contract had just been re-let with a commitment to liaison diversion services. Meetings would be taking place with all community safety partnerships and liaison diversion services to establish whether the current model was the best one going forward in terms of maximising service uptake.
- Members expressed a wish to see more of the partnership voices clearly coming out of the report. The Deputy Mayor stated that by necessity this was pitched as a high-level report, and could only broach so many voices within it, however efforts

had been made to ensure that links contained within the report provided access to more detail and case studies pertaining to work with partners. This was a way to tell these stories more effectively than a high-level report could contain. However, these comments would be taken on-board to ensure that the voice of partners was clear throughout.

- Members highlighted concerns that work around equalities only appeared explicitly within a small section of the annual report. The Deputy Mayor advised that towards the back of the report there was further detail on the work taking place at district level to address issues around disadvantaged backgrounds. Officers would look at the report to ensure that equalities work came out clearly.

## **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the information contained within the report be received.
2. That the receipt of a further presentation on the Annual Report be agreed for the January 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 meeting.
3. That the GMCA Treasurer be asked to ensure that detail on the use of reserves, both previously and planned for future, is highlighted within forthcoming budget reports.
4. That Damian Dallimore be asked to liaise with Cllr Akbar on the work taking place to address issues around Bury New Road as part of Programme Challenger.
5. That officers be asked to ensure that the Annual Report highlights the partnership voices within it.
6. That officers be asked to ensure that work taking place around addressing inequalities is highlighted clearly within the Annual Report.



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**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2022 AT EXCHANGE ROOMS 8-10,  
MANCHESTER CENTRAL CONVENTION COMPLEX**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley,	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar,	Manchester City Council
Councillor Richard Gold,	Bury Council
Councillor Mudasir Dean,	Bolton Council
Councillor Laura Boyle,	Tameside Borough Council
Councillor Amanda Peers,	Stockport Council
Councillor Graham Whitham,	Trafford Council
Councillor Steve Williams,	Oldham Council (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Tom Morrison,	Stockport Council (following item 4)
Councillor Dylan Butt,	Trafford Council (following item 4)
Councillor Russell Bernstein,	Bury Council (following item 4)
Councillor Rabiya Jiva,	Bolton Council (following item 4)

**Also in attendance:** Andy Burnham, GM Mayor.

**Officers Present:**

Ch. Supt. Rick Jackson	GMP
Lisa Lees	Strategic Planning Manager, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA
Clare Monaghan	Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA
Jeanette Staley	Head of Community Safety, Resilience & Neighbourhoods, Salford CC
ACC Chris Sykes	GMP
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA
CC Stephen Watson	Chief Constable, GMP
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Steve Wilson	Treasurer, GMCA

**PFCP/09/22            APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Kevin Anderson, Councillor Alison Gwynne, Councillor David Lancaster, Deputy Mayor Beverly Hughes and Independent Members Angela Lawrence and Majid Hussain. Councillor Laura Boyle attended the meeting as Tameside's nominated substitute.

**PFCP/10/22            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**PFCP/11/22            MINUTES OF THE PANEL HELD ON 14 JANUARY 2022**

Members were asked to note and agree the minutes of the Panel meeting held on 14 January 2022.

The Chair advised that information had been received from GMFRS on the diversity of their firefighter intake following a request at the previous meeting. This would be forwarded to members by email. It was also confirmed that initial arrangements were being made around fire service site visits.

**RESOLVED/-**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2022 be agreed by the Panel.

**PFCP/12/22            APPOINTMENT OF CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Gwynne Williams (Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA) introduced a report that informed the Panel of the Secretary of State's formal agreement to the Panel co-opting five local authority members, It was advised that four proposed new members had been put forward. The fifth proposed member would join the Panel once the chosen co-optee was confirmed by the Labour Party. The proposed new members were:

Councillor Russell Bernstein (Conservative) (Bury Council)

Councillor Dylan Butt (Conservative) (Trafford Council)  
Councillor Rabiya Jiva (Labour) (Bolton Council)  
Councillor Tom Morrison (Liberal Democrat) (Stockport Council)  
To Be Confirmed (Labour)

### **Comments and Questions**

Members noted that a significant gender imbalance remained on the Panel despite previous requests to consider this issue. It was advised that whilst it had been made clear that better gender balance was sought, it was a matter for the political groups to decide in terms of their nominated members. However, a full review of the PFCP membership was due to take place in June 2022.

Members enquired as to how it was decided in terms of which boroughs would receive extra representation. It was advised that again this was at the discretion of the political groups.

Members stated that they wished it to be made explicitly clear within the minutes that all matters related to gender balance and borough representation was a matter for the nominating party.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the Secretary of State's agreement to the appointment of five local authority co-opted members be agreed.
2. That a resolution be passed to co-opt the following local authority members to the Panel:  
Councillor Russell Bernstein (Conservative) (Bury Council)  
Councillor Dylan Butt (Conservative) (Trafford Council)  
Councillor Rabiya Jiva (Labour) (Bolton Council)  
Councillor Tom Morrison (Liberal Democrat) (Stockport Council)  
To be confirmed (Labour)
3. That the fifth member join the Panel following confirmation of nomination from the Labour party.

4. That it be noted that all issues related to gender balance on the Panel as well as level of borough representation, are a matter for the nominating party.

**PFCP/13/22                    2022/23 PCC BUDGET AND PCC COMPONENT OF THE  
MAYORAL PRECEPT**

The GM Mayor Andy Burnham was invited to report to the Panel on the proposed PCC budget for 2022/23, including the latest expected budget numbers for Greater Manchester Police (GMP), and sought from the Panel a report on the Mayor's proposals for the PCC component of the mayoral precept for 2022/23.

The GM Mayor highlighted the following:

- This was a pivotally important moment for GMP, having come through recent challenges and with a new Chief Constable in position to lead the force forward and a Plan in place that had already garnered a strong level of public support.
- The Proposal was for a full £10 increase in the precept, though in practice most people would not pay the full £10. For example, it would be £7.78 a year for Band B and £6.67 a year for Band A. This decision was not taken lightly as there was an acute consciousness of the increasing financial pressures being placed upon all GM residents at present. It was also highlighted that last year the precept had not risen by the full amount allowed for.
- The GM Mayor expressed confidence that the new leadership team at GMP was making the changes required to ensure a fit for purpose force going forward. The Mayor stated that if Panel Members were to back the request, then numerous improvements would be seen over the calendar year. The 101 service was highlighted as a major requirement that it was asked that GMP address. There was also an ambition to double the number of arrests currently made by GMP to a level in line with comparator city regions.
- It was highlighted that the increased precept would aid in the funding of:

- The transformation of the GMP Contact Centre for 101 and 999 services.
  - 438 new front line police officers, with 60 of these to be dedicated to improving road safety.
  - Extra staffing in the Travel Safety Team would allow for an increased focus on safety on public transport.
  - Continuation of 'Operation AVRO' days of action. Four boroughs had seen these days of actions so far, and they had been very well received.
  - The establishment of a Community Messaging System for neighbourhood policing, that would allow for increased engagement between residents and neighbourhood teams.
- It was advised that even with the increased precept, this would not cover all required funding, which would result in the need for savings elsewhere and a prudent use of reserves.
  - It was noted that of the 20 police authorities across the country that had recently been consulting on a police precept increase – 18 of these had recommended the full £10 amount allowable, and the 2 that did not go with £10 had increased by £9.99.
  - It was acknowledged that the consultation process had been shorter than it ideally would have. Just over 1000 residents had responded to the consultation, with 23% in favour of the increase. However, this needed to be placed within the context of the challenges around support for any form of increase at the current time.
  - If the precept increase was to be agreed, GM would remain an area of the country with one of the lowest precepts in terms of the tax base. There were good reasons for this in terms of the average income of residents in the region, but it did highlight the prudence shown over the years and the work undertaken elsewhere to relieve pressures.

## **Comments and Questions**

The Chair thanked the GM Mayor for his report and invited comments and questions from Panel Members.

- Members referenced the consultation process, stating that it would be remiss of the Panel not to acknowledge that 77% were not in favour of an increase. Also noting that this was likely due to the general cost of living notably increasing across the region, rather than a lack of support for the work of GMP. The GM Mayor emphasised that the consultation results were strongly taken into account, which was evidenced by a decision not to increase by as much as proposed in 2021 following on from comments within the consultation.
- Members noted the GMP projects that the precept would help support but stated that these would have likely proceeded via government funding regardless. Therefore, it was important to quantify exactly what the precept increase would support. The GM Mayor stated that cuts to officers had seen officers pulled away from road traffic policing and the consequential impacts of that. The precept monies were a key part of funding the increase of 60 officers for this. Equally, the 101 service could not be given the priority it needs without the increase.
- Members highlighted that following conversations with officers in their localities there had been a notable increase in morale due to the new changes being implemented by the leadership. Operation AVRO was also highlight as a positive means of engagement between residents, elected members and local GMP representatives. The GM Mayor welcomed the comments, stating that every GM borough would benefit from the increased policing numbers. It was noted that approximated 50% of front-line officers had less than three years' experience, and it was important for them to further develop as officers in a positive forward-looking environment. Also highlighted was how policing recruitment was now a much more reflective representation of the wider GM community.
- Members noted the important of clear communications in terms of how the increases would impact the majority of residents in Bands A & B.

***At this point in the meeting, in accordance with 27.1 & 27.2 of the Rules of Procedure, the Chair suspended the meeting for 15 minutes due to a public disturbance. The meeting resumed once the disturbance was resolved.***

- Members noted that only 53% of the views from the consultation had been included within the report (those for 23% and against 30%) and sought more clarity on the outstanding views. More detail was provided: 4% had responded with “Don’t know”; 4% were willing to pay a different amount (with varying views on how much); and 34% felt there should be an overall reduction in the precept.
- Members enquired further about the recruitment of 438 new officers. Asking about the confidence that the full recruitment will take place, and how it would be ensured the numbers would not be ‘double counted’ into the government’s national target. The GM Mayor welcomed these comments and agreed that with the pots of local and government funding, there was a risk of double counting that would need to be tracked.
- Members discussed the need for the precept increase to provide value for money for GM residents and asked about how they as a Panel could best hold the GM Mayor and GMP to account on this. The GM Mayor stated that improving the flow of information was vital to ensure that all could hold GMP appropriately to account. There were very clear commitments being made with very specific numbers in terms of recruitment. The GM Mayor committed to providing the Panel with all the information it needed to monitor these commitments.
- Members welcomed the engagement and transparency shown to date by the new Chief Constable and noted the clear ‘green shoots’ of progress being seen. However, there was concern that these green shoots were not always clear to all residents who did not necessarily benefit from some of the work being undertaken such as Metrolink policing. The GM Mayor welcomed the comments and understood that whilst Members who had access to the figures may be able to clearly see the progress being made, it would take time for residents to truly feel the difference.
- Members sought more confirmation around what a ‘prudent’ use of reserves meant in reality. A concern was also raised around the £8.5m of efficiency savings required. Where was this likely to impact, and was it possible that it could be increased further? It was advised that the £8.5m would actually be a mix of savings and reserves. The City Treasurer confirmed that he was comfortable with the



reserves usage proposed, which would see a drawdown of £5m as part of the third year of the use of infrastructure reserves established at the start of the current recruitment exercise. A further £5m was due to be drawn down next year from the same reserves pot. It was advised that close work would take place with GMP to identify any potential around further savings, and that these would be reported back to the Panel.

- Members referenced Community Safety Partnerships (CSP's), expressing concern that they were too restrictive at the current time, not allowing localities much freedom in how they chose to spend the funding pots. The GM Mayor advised that the new Police & Crime Plan proposed a greater degree of devolution to CSP's, as this had come out strongly in consultation on the plan. It was advised that a report on the future fund utilisation on CSP's would be brought to the Steering Group.

The Chair thanked Members for their contributions and advised them of the options open to them in a vote on the precept, these were:

- To propose that the precept level sought could be issued.
- Or, to veto the proposed precept and ask that the GM Mayor submit a revised proposed precept.

A proposal was received that the precept increase sought by the GM Mayor be accepted. This proposal was then seconded.

The Panel then went to a vote on the proposal. The Panel unanimously voted to **accept** the GM Mayor's proposed precept increase.

The Chair closed the item by stating that the Panel had shown belief in the GM Mayor and the Chief Constable's plans by backing the proposal. The Panel was under no illusion that the cuts in the past had left GMP under resourced, and that this burden was placed upon the taxpayer to a greater or lesser degree. The Priority of the Panel was to keep the community safe, and that by passing the precept proposal at this time, this priority would be further supported.

## RESOLVED/-

1. That the Panel accepts the GM Mayor's proposed increase of the police precept by £10 per year for a Band D property (£7.78 for a Band B property) with effect from 1 April 2022.
2. That the budget assumptions relating to the budgets for 2022/23, including the proposals for the Community Safety Fund, be noted by the Panel.

## PFCP/14/22            GMP UPDATES ON AREAS OF FOCUS

### iOPS Update

Chief Supt. Rick Jackson (GMP) was invited to provide members with an update on the progress made with the continuing development of GMP's integrated operational policing system (iOPS) technology. The report covered progress on each element of the iOPS project as follows:

- **iOPS PoliceWorks records management system:** This element of the system continued to pose the most issues. Investment continued in terms of upgrades to make the system more serviceable. On 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022 the latest patch had been installed (with further patches in the pipeline) this had resulted in improved stability and performance. However, the system was still not where it needed to be, and work would continue with three major downloads throughout the course of the year. The common platform in PoliceWorks that allowed it to connect to the courts system was not bespoke to GMP and was managed at the national level. The system was due to go live next month and would provide communications that would allow for greater efficiencies amongst related services.
- **iOPS ControlWorks command and control system:** ControlWorks was a system used by multiple forces across the country and was separate to PoliceWorks. There had been a jump from Version9 to Version17 on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, and this had provided usability, stability and flexibility, particularly for staff in the force control room. This had been enabled by a move towards Windows 10. The force contact centre continued to leverage the advancements with the implementation of improved business processes, such as changes to the grading of incidents and the

ways in which these were managed, which would result in an improved response time to grade one and two calls.

- **iOPS Mobile:** The platform continued to be stable and had transitioned to a new digital platform. The mobile system was being praised for 'cutting the cord' in connections between officers and stations, and as full rollout was achieved it would allow officers far more ability to remain visible. There had also been a large-scale exercise to incorporate other blue light services into the use of the AtHoc text alert system.
- **iOPS Dashboard:** The Dashboard had been upgraded to reflect the different business areas and districts in GM – drilling down to specific data that the individual district and branch commanders could access for a full picture of their performance.
- **iOPS Cognos management information, data warehouse and reporting solutions:** One of HMIC's major criticisms had been the lack of data returns, issues around GDPR and the inability to send accurate data to the Home Office. Many of these issues had now been resolved.

## Comments and Questions

The Chair thanked Chief Supt. Jackson for the update and welcomed comments and questions from members.

- Members made reference the telephone system, particularly the 101 service and performance enhancement. It was advised that 999 call answering times had now been brought down to an average of 16 seconds (the top quartile in the UK), and that the improvements due would reduce this further. An Integrated Voice Recognition pilot had also commenced that would allow for a far more efficient management of calls. 101 service call response times had now reduced to an average of 2mins 53secs, this was now achieving within the internal target of under 3 minutes.
- Members asked for more clarity around the commissioning of PoliceWorks 3.3. It was advised that there would need to be confidence initially that patches 3.1/3.2

were delivering as required before setting dates that could not necessarily be stuck to.

- Members asked about the determining factors that would establish whether to commit to PoliceWorks or proceed with alternative solutions. CC Watson responded, stating that the overriding determination was whether the package provided 'what it says on the tin' in terms of what officers needed to best undertake their roles. There was an absolute commitment to the full review of PoliceWorks, which would determine whether the system's current issues can be fixed and therefore it should be retained, or if not, what are the alternatives in terms of a replacement. Most of the review process had now been completed, with a technical review of the recovery plan finished, as well as a subsequent independent review of the technical review. This and all supporting review work, conversations with suppliers and options appraisals were being packaged up over the coming days and weeks for the consideration of the GM Mayor and Deputy Mayor. It was hoped that a public statement could be made soon on the actions being taken to draw the issues to a close.

## **Performance Update**

Chief Supt. Jackson was then invited to provide members with a performance update, highlighting the following:

- Reference was made to the work undertaken to address the significant issues that had been raised by HMICFRS in relation to data integrity and crimes not being recorded, being only 77% compliant at the time. A recent Peel inspection had assessed this area closely and found that it was now in excess of 90% compliant.
- The speed of response to incidents was highlighted. There had been significant progress made, with Grade 1 attendance being within 17 minutes, with five GM districts being sub 15 minutes.
- The week ending 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2021 had seen 701 people arrested. The same week in January 2022 had seen 850 arrests. Showing the promised increase in the numbers of people arrested and brought to justice beginning to take effect.

- The overall 'outcome rate' (or solved rate) remained as an overall percentage the same as previous. However, given that many more crimes were now being recorded, the reality was that approximately 2900 more crimes had been solved than last year.
- In terms of 'no further actions' – the 52-week average in January 2021 had been 165 cases with no actionable outcome, the same week this year had seen just 91 cases.

### **Comments and Questions**

- Members asked if the Chief Constable had faced difficulties in facing immediate judgement for the performance issues faced by GMP. It was acknowledged that this did present frustrations. For example, HMICFRS would shortly be publishing a further report on summer 2021, which highlight remaining concerns, however this would likely be reported as speaking to a contemporaneous picture rather than a look back at over six months previously. However, the Chief Constable welcomed that a 'baseline' was now populated and that important green shoots could now be seen springing from these and helped to quantify confidence that the force was notably improving.
- Members welcomed the improvements being seen in relation to domestic abuse and violence, with a significant increase having been seen in this area over the Christmas period. This was directly linked to the 'Think Victim' training that staff had undertaken, the ways in which calls were taken, the ways in which the crimes were recorded, and changes in how victims were subsequently supported.

### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the update on iOPS be received by the Panel.
2. That the GMP performance update be received by the Panel.

The Panel was asked to consider consideration of the remaining reports by email due to time constraints at the meeting. The remaining reports being:

- The Annual Report of the Deputy Mayor April 2020 – March 2021
- Decisions Taken by the Deputy Mayor
- Police, Fire and Crime Panel Steering Group Joint Workplan Review.

**RESOLVED/-**

1. That the above noted items be agreed for consideration and agreement by email.

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**GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL  
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE  
BOARDROOM, GMCA OFFICES**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Janet Emsley	Rochdale Council (Chair)
Councillor Rabnawaz Akbar	Manchester City Council
Councillor Russell Bernstein	Bury Council
Councillor Dylan Butt	Trafford Council
Councillor Richard Gold	Bury Council
Councillor Rabiya Jiva	Bolton Council
Councillor David Lancaster	Salford Council
Councillor Tom McGee	Stockport Council
Councillor Tom Morrison	Stockport Council
Councillor Adele Warren	Bolton Council
Councillor Graham Whitham	Trafford Council
Councillor Steve Williams	Oldham Council (Vice-Chair)
Majid Hussain	Independent Member

**Also in attendance:** Dame Beverley Hughes, GM Deputy Mayor

**Officers Present:**

Clare Monaghan	Director, Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire, GMCA
CFO Dave Russel	GMFRS
Jeanette Staley	Head of Community Safety, Resilience & Neighbourhoods, Salford CC
Lee Teasdale	Senior Governance & Scrutiny Officer, Governance and Scrutiny, GMCA
Gwynne Williams	Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA
Steve Wilson	Treasurer, GMCA



**PFCP/16/22            APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Alison Gwynne, Councillor Kevin Anderson, Councillor Amanda Peers and Councillor Mudasir Dean.

Councillor Tom McGee attended the meeting as Stockport Council's nominated substitute. Councillor Adele Warren attended as Bolton Council's nominated substitute.

**PFCP/17/22            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**PFCP/18/22            GREATER MANCHESTER FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE  
REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET 2022/23**

The Chair invited Baroness Beverly Hughes (Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester) to introduce the report, which informed Panel members of the proposed budget for Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS) for 2022/23 and the updated medium term financial plan (MTFP). The precept proposals would form part of the Mayoral general budget and the precept proposals report due to be presented to the GMCA on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

The Panel were advised that the provisional Local Government Settlement had been published in December 2021 and the MTFP had been updated based on this. As part of the Spending Review in December 2021, the Chancellor announced a one-year settlement as part of the three-year government spending review. For Fire & Rescue Services this would cover the following:

- A 4.7% increase in core spending power.
- A £24m share of an £822m Services Grant
- Flexibility on council tax precept for the lowest quartile Fire Services of £5 for a one-year period.
- Pension Grant to be paid at current rate.

As part of the above, GM had received a one-off service grant of £2.2m. Whilst this could not be factored into subsequent years, it had made a considerable difference in terms of balancing the budget. This was helpful in the short-term but was a concern in regard to medium term planning.

The Programme for Change was highlighted. Whilst the Programme had completed, there was still a focus upon continued improvement and efficiencies. As such, a savings target of £1.5m had been put forward across two financial years.

It was advised that a process was ongoing with regard to embedding the capability to cope with marauding terrorist attacks. The Fire Brigades Union had balloted on this, the outcome of which was not yet known. If successful, £1.3m had been earmarked in the budget to allow for that capability.

In terms of overall training. A full-scale review of the Training Needs Assessment, and the capacity to deliver and associated external costs had recently been undertaken. This had been costed and raised a budget pressure of £751,000.

In terms of capital funding. No funding was provided by government for this, so provision had to be made from the revenue budget. The Deputy Mayor had approved phase 1 of a long-term Estates Strategy for the refurbishment and modernisation of the GMFRS estate. Phase 1 would address the most pressing issues within the estate, this included works underway at the Bury Training and Safety Centre.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Mayor for the introduction and invited the GMCA Treasurer to provide further detail.

The proposed precept increase was for £5 per year in Band D properties, and £3 per year in Band A properties (which made up 47% of GM properties).

In addition to the works highlighted by the deputy mayor, this would also take into account the budget pressures arising due to pay awards for 2021/22 and 2022/23.

It was confirmed that the budget did not propose any changes in the role of firefighters, or the number of firefighters, stations or pumps.

## **Comments and Questions**

- Members queried if there was an indication of how increased costs would be covered in future years if the Services Grant was a one-off. It was advised that the understanding was funding would be provided to the Home Office in future, and there would be a need to monitor how that developed as a funding stream in 2023/24. Continued national lobbying on certainty around this took place. If the funding did not materialise, there would be a need to provide cover through either further efficiencies or a review of the precept.
- Members sought clarity on the capital financing charges. Noting that another £30m of capital spend was planned for up to 2027/28 and pointing out that the era of low interest rates was ending. It was advised that the revenue budget reflected the increased revenue cost of capital and was factored into the programme with an assumption of external borrowing. The budget included the latest forecasts for interest rates. It was agreed that the GMCA Treasurer would feedback further detail on the figures post 2024/25.
- Members referenced the Programme for Change and asked for confirmation around the cost of implementation. It was advised that there had been costs related to this in previous years via reserves, but investment was not required in 2022/23. This historic information would be fed back.
- Members sought further clarity around capability to respond to a marauding attack requiring the agreement of the Fire Brigades Union. CFO Dave Russel explained that GMFRS did not have this capability at the time of his appointment, and work had taken place to provide this across a small number of stations in GM. However, this was a short-term position, and work had been taking place with the Fire Brigades Union to negotiate and agree a way forward that would establish a full ability to respond to any attack across the region, as there was disagreement as to whether this activity was within the role of a regular firefighter. Both GM and the London Fire Brigade had been working in tandem to advance this, and a proposal had been made that GM firefighters receive a skills-based payment supplement of 2% to be trained to

respond to a marauding terrorist attack. It was hoped that this would be confirmed by the ballot and that training could commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

- Members asked if government contributions to the pension fund were expected to be ongoing. It was advised that this was expected to be rolled into baseline funding from next year onwards.
- Members referenced the McCloud/Sargeant Remedy and asked if this had implications in terms of retrospective financial judgements. It was advised that it was hard to predict future judgements on this front, as this was an area that was subject to ongoing potential impacts from individual case law.
- Members welcomed the commitment to training and development, but asked for further detail on transformation, integration and prevention. There was an increased focus on boroughs working together across GM, and delivering in a different way – was this being factored in? The Deputy Mayor advised that arising from the Fire Plan were four detailed strategies that would sit underneath. The fourth of these was focussed on integrated place-based working, that it was planned that all GM services would move towards. There was enormous latent potential in the Fire Service to support this, and there had already been some good practice seen on this front. CFO Russel confirmed that blue light collaboration was a key priority.
- Panel Members stated that they would welcome comparators with other authorities beyond GM, in terms of monitoring good performance and the development of best practice. It was agreed that such information would be woven into future reports where appropriate.
- Members asked if there was confidence that the savings target would be delivered, and if there were contingencies in place if not. It was advised that there was a high level of confidence that the savings would be delivered. If they were not able to be covered, in the short-term it would require the use of

reserves, in the longer term it would require a further review of savings and/or the precept.

- Members expressed their admiration that GM had managed to maintain 41 fire stations throughout the region in the face of significant austerity. However, there was a concern that a reduction in the now 50 pumps could be seen in future. CFO Russel advised that the maintaining of the existing 50 pumps was important, as the city region was increasing exponentially and pressures upon the service would only increase going forward.
- Members referenced pay awards and wished it to be noted that despite the pay increases, given the current state of inflation, this still made for a real terms pay cut. It was therefore imperative that all public sector employers ensure their staff maintain financial wellbeing and are able to access support and financial advice where needed.

The Chair thanked the Panel for their contributions, highlighted the committee recommendations and drew the item to a close.

#### **RESOLVED/-**

1. That the overall budget proposed for GMFRS be noted by the Panel.
2. That the use of reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets be noted by the Panel.
3. That the proposed fire service capital programme and proposals for funding be noted by the Panel.
4. That the medium-term financial position for GMFRS covered by the Mayoral precept be noted by the Panel.
5. That the GMCA Treasurer feed back information to members providing further detail on capital financing post 2024/25 and historic implementation costs of the Programme for Change.
6. That comparator information with other Fire Authorities be incorporated into future GMFRS reports where appropriate.



**Report to: Council**

**Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service**

**Officer Contact: Julia Veall, Director of Workforce and Organisational Design**

**Date: 16th March, 2022**

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## **Purpose of Report**

For Council to consider the recommendation of the Council's Appointments Committee to appoint Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service on a three year fixed term contract starting 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

## **Recommendation**

That Council considers the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to appoint Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service on a three year fixed term contract commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

## **Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall that the decision was made to appoint a Chief Executive and Head of Paid on an interim basis in August, 2021. Since that time it has become evident that the organisation needs stability in the senior officer team in order to provide assurance to both external stakeholders (residents and partners within Oldham and beyond ) as well as the workforce in delivering the Council's ambitions.
- 1.2. The Appointments Committee agreed at its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to proceed to recruit to the post of Chief Executive on a longer term appointment on the basis of a three year fixed term contract. The post was subsequently advertised and the Appointments Committee met to agree a shortlist and then to conduct the final selection in January. This process led to Harry Catherall being recommended to Council as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service on the basis of a three year contract, starting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

## **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 The appointment of Mr Catherall to the post on this basis would incur a saving of c. £71k per annum based on a salary of £160k per annum (pay award pending) for the duration of the contract as a consequence of lower national insurance contributions and no pension contribution. The substantive salary package for the post, will however, remain as previously agreed in order to maintain the differentials across the senior team in a way that recognises the complexity and seniority of roles and when the role becomes vacant at the end of the contract the remuneration package will be reviewed to ensure it reflects the Council's needs and market conditions at that time.

## **Legal Services Comments**

- 3.1 The Council is required to designate a Head of Paid Service who is usually the Chief Executive. The Head of Paid Service is required to be approved by full Council.

## **Human Resources Comments**

- 4.1 The Human Resources comments are contained within the body of this paper

## **Risk Assessments**

- 5.1 N/A

## **IT Implications**

- 6.1 N/A

## **Property Implications**

- 7.1 N/A

## **Procurement Implications**

8.1 N/A

**Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

9.1 N/A

**Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

10.1 N/A

**Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

11.1 N/A

**Key Decision**

12.1 No

**Key Decision Reference**

13.1 N/A

**Background Papers**

14.1 None



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## Report to COUNCIL

# Oldham's COVID-19 Response - Update

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr. Zahid Chauhan, Health and Social Care

### **Officer Contact:**

Katrina Stephens, Director of Public Health

### **Report Author:**

Jonathan Downs (Corporate Policy Lead)

**16.03.2022**

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### **Reason for Decision**

This report provides an update on how the Council and its partners continue to monitor and manage the impact of COVID-19 in Oldham.

### **Executive Summary**

COVID-19 is still circulating across the UK and we continue to see new cases in Oldham every day, though rates are now significantly lower than at the start of the year. This report summarises our activity, demonstrating how we will collectively manage and prevent the spread of COVID-19 across our communities.

### **Recommendations**

To note the content of the report.

## 1 Background and national context

1.1 From 24 February all remaining COVID-19 legal restrictions in England have been removed, while still trying to protect the most vulnerable and maintain resilience across public services. This government's "Living with Covid" plan sets out the change in rules, which includes:

- people with Covid are no longer legally required to self-isolate
- however, guidance recommends that those who test positive stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least five full days
- self-isolation support payments of £500 for those on low incomes have stopped
- routine contact tracing has ended - people in contact with someone with Covid will no longer be directly advised to self-isolate or take daily tests
- workers are not required to tell their employer if they need to self-isolate
- masks are no longer legally required in most public spaces - although they are still recommended in some situations
- face coverings are not mandatory on Transport for London's tubes, trains or buses, but they are still "strongly encouraged"

From 1 April:

- PCR and lateral flow Covid tests will no longer be free for most people
- Covid passports will no longer be recommended, except for international travel
- employers will no longer have to consider Covid as a separate risk when working out how to keep employees safe

1.2 Over-75s and people with a weakened immune system are also being offered an extra Covid booster jab this spring, six months after their previous dose.

1.3 Although most of the free testing system is being dismantled in England, the government insists that the UK will continue to do detailed checks and surveillance to look for resurgences of Covid and any concerning new variants which might emerge.

1.4 Across the UK more than 52 million people have had a first vaccine dose - some 92% of over-12s. Almost 49 million - 85% of over-12s - have had both doses. While uptake of first and second doses dropped off late last year, there was a steep rise in people having boosters. However, booster numbers dipped over the Christmas holiday period and remain low, with around 38 million booster doses administered across the UK so far.

1.5 Cases, hospitalisations and deaths have fallen since the vaccination programme started. Between 24<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, 236,334 people have tested positive for

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COVID-19 in England, showing a **decrease** of 18.4% compared to the previous 7 days. Between 20<sup>th</sup> February and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 7,799 people were admitted to hospital with coronavirus, showing a decrease of 6.4% compared to the previous 7 days. Between 24<sup>th</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022, there were 651 deaths within 28 days of a positive coronavirus test, showing a decrease of 30.8% compared to the previous 7 days.

## 2 **COVID-19 in Oldham**

2.1 Most remaining Covid restrictions were lifted on the 24<sup>th</sup> February. Although we welcome the sense of 'getting back to normal', Coronavirus is still with us, and still circulating in our community and workplaces. Given Oldham's experience of COVID-19 to date our response is well established and wide in scope and as such we are well placed to be able to adapt as needed.

2.2 As of 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 there have been 73,654 cases of COVID-19 identified in Oldham; the weekly infection rates are currently running at around 136 cases per 100,000 people. This is currently the lowest rate in England. However, changes in testing policy mean that recorded case rates are likely to under report the true level of infection. In understanding case rates we should also note that testing rates in Oldham are lower than the national average.

2.3 In the seven days ending 3<sup>rd</sup> March White/White British was the ethnicity with the highest case rate. Over the same period Saddleworth South was the ward with the highest case rate (339.2 per 100,000 population) and Coldhurst had the lowest (44.8 per 100,000).

2.4 There have been 900 Covid-19 related deaths in Oldham (up to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022). The number of deaths from Covid-19 has slowed significantly since the start of the vaccination programme, with 1 Covid-19 death in the last seven days (up to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022).

## 3 **Vaccination Programme Update**

3.1 Increasing vaccination uptake remains the primary focus of our local response. Over 168,000 Oldham residents have received their first doses (77.2% of Oldham's eligible population) and over 156,000 have received second doses (71.7% of Oldham's eligible population), with an additional 110,370 booster shots or third doses delivered (54.4% of Oldham's eligible population).

3.2 As the vaccination programme has evolved in Oldham the number and range of settings where vaccination clinics are provided has widened substantially, informed by feedback from residents. Vaccinations have been delivered in GP surgeries, pharmacies, the hospital and community venues. In addition, vaccinations for 12-17 year-olds have been offered in education settings.

3.3 Children aged 5-11 are also now being offered vaccination. It will be possible for this age group to book appointments for vaccination from the end of this month.

3.4 The vaccination programme has been supported by local communications and engagement plans, including the Community Champions Programme and Equality Advisory Group, in order to encourage uptake and dispel vaccination myths.

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## 4 Testing Update

- 4.1 Oldham has had a wide-ranging testing offer, including lateral flow testing for people who do not have symptoms, and PCR tests for people with symptoms and those who have been close contacts of a confirmed case.
- 4.2 Lateral flow testing kits have been available from nationally commissioned testing routes such as home delivery and pharmacy collect, and these routes have been supplemented through a local offer which includes libraries and leisure centres. PCR and LFT testing continue to be freely available until the end of March which enables residents to undertake regular asymptomatic testing, or symptomatic testing, to understand if they have COVID and act to reduce transmission. From 1<sup>st</sup> April, Government policy is that tests for the majority of the population will only be available through commercial routes.
- 4.3 There are four PCR local testing sites (LTS) within the borough, with the aim of ensuring good access and minimising travel time. In addition to the static sites, mobile testing units (MTUs) are routinely used around the borough to ensure that wards with greatest travel distance or barriers in accessing an LTS have access to the MTU. These testing sites will all be stood down at the end of March.
- 4.4 Oldham continues to advocate, individually and alongside other GM areas, for an approach to testing to be maintained which reduces inequalities, provides access for the most vulnerable and supports early identification of cases in high risk settings. We are awaiting further detail from Government of the testing offer for vulnerable settings and social care staff.

## 5 Communications & engagement

- 5.1 A multi-channel communications and engagement plan is in place to support the COVID-19 response, including social and digital media, print and out of home advertising, video and direct mail/newsletters to specific groups.
- 5.2 The current focus of communications activity is on increasing vaccination uptake and reminding residents that “Covid is still here”, meaning that standard infection, prevention and control measures are still important.
- 5.3 Communications activity ranges from boroughwide communications, such as high-profile videos, billboards and media activity, through to targeted communications with key audiences in hotspot areas, communities and age groups.
- 5.4 The Door to door engagement team have been supporting communities in Oldham in dealing with the impacts of COVID, and providing advice and information, since the early months of the pandemic. This team continues to support residents on COVID, and a wider range of health, wellbeing and welfare issues.
- 5.5 Alongside this a community engagement network has been developed through Community Champions with VCFSE organisations delivering Covid19 engagement work within communities most impacted. The community champions programme has provided support and training to community groups and individuals to be able to have conversations and support communications about COVID within their networks.

## 6 Maintaining resilience

- 6.1 There is much uncertainty about the future direction of the pandemic. There are likely to be further waves of infection, due to waning immunity and/or new variants emerging. A future Variant of Concern could be more or less transmissible, and more or less dangerous than

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those experienced to date. These waves of new variants are likely to continue until a very much higher percentage of the world's population has been vaccinated.

- 6.2 In Oldham, we are taking steps to ensure that key elements of our COVID response can be re-mobilised and scaled back up when needed. This includes maintaining capacity in the public health team to respond to outbreaks, and continuing our focus on engagement and working with residents to respond to COVID, reduce inequalities and improve overall health and wellbeing.

## 7 **Consultation**

- 7.1 N/A

## 8 **Financial Implications**

- 8.1 The primary funding stream supporting the local COVID-19 response is the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF). Total COMF funding available to the borough in 2021/22 is c£8.33m; a combination of funding carried forward from 2020/21 and a new allocation for 2021/22. The Government has advised that any unspent grant at the end of 2021/22 may be carried forward into 2022/23, although it is expected that most will have been committed by the end of this financial year.

- 8.2 The short-term nature of this funding presents a risk in being able to maintain all elements of the current COVID response into 2022. Alongside other areas Oldham has been making the case to central government for additional funding to support COVID response beyond the end of March 2022. (Anne Ryans)

## 9 **Legal Services Comments**

- 9.1 There are no direct legal issues arising from the report, however, Central Government has issued emergency legislation and guidance in relation to many functions affected by the pandemic and it is important that such functions comply with or have regard to such provisions or guidance to ensure that the Council is acting lawfully. Further, the Council is required to maintain its decision-making processes, ensure good governance and that appropriate health and safety risk assessments are in place and operational to avoid legal challenge. (Colin Brittain)

## 10 **Co-operative Agenda**

- 10.1 As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to tackling the impact of COVID-19, protecting our most vulnerable residents and communities. We are putting the voice of the resident at the heart of our response, ensuring the voice of lived experience and the people impacted by COVID-19 shapes our approach to mitigation and recover. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead)

## 11 **Human Resources Comments**

- 11.1 N/A

## 12 **Risk Assessments**

- 12.1 N/A

## 13 **IT Implications**

- 13.1 N/A

- 
- 14      **Property Implications**
- 14.1    N/A
- 15      **Procurement Implications**
- 15.1    N/A
- 16      **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 16.1    N/A
- 17      **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 17.1    The response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and the emergency legislation powers introduced to tackle it, has had a significant impact on Oldham’s communities.
- 17.2    In Oldham we are committed to minimising the impact of COVID-19 across our communities. The steps we are taking to tackle the pandemic and the subsequent recovery planning, aim to support people, especially those groups with protected characteristics who are often most impacted.
- 17.3    To support this approach we have established an Advisory Group, made up of council, community and partnership representatives, to support Oldham Council and the wider partnership with its commitment to integrate Equality and Diversity throughout its Covid-19 response and subsequent recovery planning. (Jonathan Downs – Corporate Policy Lead).
- 18      **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 18.1    Yes
- 19      **Key Decision**
- 19.1    No
- 20      **Key Decision Reference**
- 20.1    N/A
- 21      **Background Papers**
- 21.1    Council Report – COVID-19 Response – June 2020
- 21.2    Council Report – COVID-19 Response – July 2020
- 21.3    Council Report – COVID-19 Response Update – November 2020
- 21.4    Council Report – Covid-19 Response Update – December 2020
- 21.5    Council Report – Covid-19 Response Update – March 2021
- 21.6    Council Report – Covid-19 Response Update – November 2021
- 21.7    Council Report – Covid-19 Response Update – December 2021
-

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22     **Appendices**

22.1    N/A

**DELETE THE SIGNATURE BOX IF THE REPORT IS A CABINET DECISION**

Signed _____ Cabinet Member (specify whom)	Dated _____
Signed _____ Strategic Director/Deputy Chief Executive	Dated _____



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## COUNCIL

# Update on Actions from Council

**Portfolio Holder:** Various

**Officer Contact:** Director of Legal Services

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Frier, Head of Democratic Services  
**Ext.** 4705

**16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

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

### Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
2. This report also provides feedback on other issues raised at that meeting and previous meetings.

### Recommendations

Council are asked to agree the action taken and correspondence received regarding motions and actions agreed at previous Council meetings.

**Update on Actions from Council**

**1 Background**

1.1 The report sets out the actions officers have taken on motions of outstanding business and notice of motions approved at the Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

**2 Current Position**

2.1 The current position from actions as a result of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One. Letters are attached at Appendix Two in response to the actions approved at Council.

**3 Options/Alternatives**

3.1 N/A

**4 Preferred Option**

4.1 N/A

**5 Consultation**

5.1 N/A

**6 Financial Implications**

6.1 N/A

**7 Legal Services Comments**

7.1 N/A

**8. Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 N/A

**9 Human Resources Comments**

9.1 N/A

**10 Risk Assessments**

10.1 N/A

**11 IT Implications**

11.1 N/A

**12 Property Implications**

12.1 N/A

**13 Procurement Implications**

- 
- 13.1 N/A
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:
- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021 are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021.
- 20.2 Appendix 2 – Letters and other information received in response to actions approved at previous Council meetings.

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Actions from Council 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

ACTION	ISSUE/RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Administration Motion 1: Violence Against Women and Girls	Letter to be sent to Chief Constable Stephen Watson  The Council to work cross-party to promote the consultation on Oldham's Domestic Abuse Strategy, which was published this week.	Chief Executive  All Councillors	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021  Ongoing
Administration Motion 2: COP26	Letter to be sent to Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities	Chief Executive	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Opposition Motion 1: Save Our Rivers	Letter to be sent to the Environment Minister  Letter to be sent to the Chief Executive of United Utilities  Letter to be sent to the Regional Director of the National Farmers' Union  Letter to be sent to River Action  Letter to be sent to Oldham's three MPs	Chief Executive  Chief Executive  Chief Executive  Chief Executive  Chief Executive	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021  4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021  4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021  4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021  4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021
Opposition Motion 2: South Pennines National Park	The Council to work with the Local Authorities, any other key	Council	Ongoing

	<p>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</p> <p>The Council to 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</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Opposition Motion 3: Future proofing our properties from flooding</p>	<p>Letter to be sent to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</p> <p>Letter to be sent to the three local MPs, the Greater Manchester Mayor and the Clerks of the Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Director of Economy</p>	<p>4th November 2021</p> <p>4th November 2021</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

	Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils to do the same.		
Covid-19 Response Update	<b>RESOLVED</b> that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The content of the report be noted.</li> <li>2. Questions be submitted and responded to in writing.</li> </ol>	Council	Council approved the report on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021.
Update on the Actions from Council	<b>RESOLVED</b> that the actions taken regarding motions and actions from previous Council meetings be agreed and correspondence and updates received be noted.	Council	Council approved the report on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021.
District Leads 2021-22	<b>RESOLVED</b> that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>3. The following Members be appointed as District Leads and Deputy District Leads:                      Central District Lead – Councillor Salamat</li> </ol>	Council	Council approved the report on 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2021.



	<p>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</p>		
<p>Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020/21</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020/21 be noted.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Council</p>	<p>Council approved the report on 3rd November 2021.</p>
<p>Organisational Framework</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> that the recommendations as detailed in the report be agreed.</p>	<p>Council</p>	<p>Council approved the report on 3rd November 2021.</p>

**From:** [abrahamsd@parliament.uk](mailto:abrahamsd@parliament.uk) <[abrahamsd@parliament.uk](mailto:abrahamsd@parliament.uk)>

**Sent:** 12 January 2022 11:41

**To:** Harry Catherall <[Harry.Catherall@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Harry.Catherall@oldham.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** OMBC Resolutions (Case Ref: DA44530)

Dear Harry

Thank you for your recent letters, received 8<sup>th</sup> December, making me aware of the OMBC resolutions passed on flood prevention and the save our rivers campaign.

I very much appreciate you taking the time to share these resolutions with me. Please do let me know if there are any points you would like me to pursue when you receive responses from the Environment Secretary, United Utilities, the NFU and River Action.

With best wishes

Debbie

**Debbie Abrahams FFPH**  
**Member of Parliament**  
**Oldham East and Saddleworth**

**Parliamentary Office:**  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Oldham Office:**  
9 Church Lane  
Oldham  
OL1 3AN

Tel: 0161 624 4248 (Oldham) 0207 219 1041 (London)

Email: [abrahamsd@parliament.uk](mailto:abrahamsd@parliament.uk)

Website: [www.debbieabrahams.org.uk](http://www.debbieabrahams.org.uk)

Twitter: [Debbie\\_abrahams](https://twitter.com/Debbie_abrahams)

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Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

**Lord Callanan**  
Minister for Business, Energy and Corporate  
Responsibility

**Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy**  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Email: [harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk)

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Our ref: MCB2022/00323  
Your ref: 20211215

26 January 2022

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December to the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, regarding the Warm Home Discount. I am responding on behalf of the Department as this matter falls under my Ministerial portfolio.

I was pleased that Oldham Council recognised the value of the Warm Home Discount scheme in helping to tackle fuel poverty. The Warm Home Discount is a key policy in Government's programme to support low income and vulnerable households with their energy costs, and this year we expect that around 2.2 million households across Great Britain will receive a £140 rebate on their energy bill. In addition to that, a wide range of support for fuel poor households is provided through Warm Home Discount Industry Initiatives, including measures such as debt write-off, energy efficiency improvements and financial assistance payments. A total of over £3 billion of direct assistance has been provided in the eleven years since the scheme began.

The Warm Home Discount scheme is funded by energy suppliers, who generally recoup the costs from customer energy bills. However, the Government sets the spending target for each year. For this year, 2021/22, the overall scheme spending target is £354 million. Having a spending target is necessary to balance providing significant rebates to as many households as possible, while minimising the impact on consumers' bills. Any increase in the rebate amount would therefore reduce the number of households receiving support. This is something we particularly wanted to avoid at this time, as the number of eligible households has increased as a result of COVID-19. Given this, and following a consultation on this scheme year, we decided to keep the rebate amount at £140 for the 2021/22 scheme year.

As outlined in the Energy White Paper<sup>1</sup>, we will be expanding the spending envelope to £475 million (in 2020 prices) per year from 2022/23. We estimate that the policy cost of the expanded scheme will increase dual fuel customer bills by a further £5 compared to the current scheme. However, this increase will enable the scheme to reach around 3 million households each year, which is 780,000 more households than at present. Combined with the reforms to the eligibility criteria and expansion of data matching that the Government consulted on last summer<sup>2</sup>, we expect that the scheme will also be much better targeted towards fuel poverty than at present, with 560,000 more fuel poor households receiving a rebate. The consultation also included a

<sup>1</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/energy-white-paper-powering-our-net-zero-future)

<sup>2</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-better-targeted-support-from-2022](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/warm-home-discount-better-targeted-support-from-2022)

proposal to increase the rebate amount to £150 from the 2022/23 scheme year, and a proposal to reduce the energy supplier participation thresholds, which will obligate more suppliers to deliver the scheme and ensure that more customers will be with participating energy suppliers. We will publish the Government's response to the consultation in the coming months, with the reforms taking effect from winter 2022/23.

I want to reassure you that the Government recognises that some households may need immediate support this winter. Nobody should be cold in their own homes, which is why, to help vulnerable energy customers during the pandemic, BEIS negotiated a Voluntary Agreement with energy suppliers in March 2020, which remains in force. Through this, energy suppliers agreed to a set of principles to support customers impacted by COVID-19 who may be struggling with their energy bills and help to keep them on supply.

The Government also operates a number of other schemes which help vulnerable households with their winter energy costs. These include Cold Weather Payments<sup>3</sup> which are paid to vulnerable claimants on qualifying benefits for every week of severe cold weather over the winter period. Between 1 November 2020 and 31 March 2021, the Government made £98.8 million in payments to those in need. In addition, eligible pensioners receiving a state pension will automatically receive the Winter Fuel Payment<sup>4</sup> with recipients receiving between £100 and £300 towards heating bills.

In addition, vulnerable households can access a £500 million support fund to help them with essentials. The Household Support Fund<sup>5</sup> will provide £421 million to help vulnerable people in England with the cost of food, utilities, and wider essentials. The Barnett Formula will apply in the usual way, with the Devolved Administrations receiving almost £80 million (£41 million for the Scottish Government, £25 million for the Welsh Government and £14 million for the Northern Ireland Executive), for a total of £500 million.

I also note that you asked about public awareness of the Warm Home Discount scheme and ways to promote it further. In the 2021/22 scheme year, all low-income pensioners who are potentially eligible for a rebate under the Warm Home Discount Core Group will have received a letter from the Government by mid-December. Most will receive the rebate automatically, with around 95% of Core Group recipients having received their rebates automatically in the 2020/21 scheme year. In addition, the Warm Home Discount website at: [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme) is widely signposted and used by consumer groups, charities, and energy comparison websites to maximise uptake. Meanwhile, energy suppliers are responsible for administering their Broader Group rebates, including setting their eligibility criteria and providing the rebates to eligible households. Suppliers make their customers aware of the scheme and are usually over-subscribed with applications.

As outlined in the Government's consultation last summer, we have proposed reforms to the scheme which will mean that from winter 2022/23 the vast majority of all Warm Home Discount rebates would be provided automatically through data matching, without customers having to take any action.

Thank you for writing to highlight Oldham Council's concerns. I trust this information will be useful.

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<sup>3</sup> [www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment](http://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment)

<sup>4</sup> [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-support-fund-guidance-for-local-councils)

*Martin Call*

**Lord Callanan**

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**Chris Bowen  
Chief Superintendent  
Oldham District Commander**



Date: 14/02/2022

Dear Harry,

**Re: Oldham's Roads Are Not Racetracks For Criminals**

Thank you for your letter dated the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2021 in relation to the councils concerns around some of the driving and criminality on Oldham's roads.

Greater Manchester Police is committed to making all the roads in Greater Manchester safe for everyone to use. The Chief Constable Mr Watson is on record stating that under investment in roads policing is an issue for Greater Manchester Police. This is being rectified and we are currently undergoing a recruitment campaign to increase the road policing offer we have.

Greater Manchester Police Safer Transport Teams regularly carry out targeted operational activity to enforce speed limits, respond to anti-social vehicle behaviour and criminal behaviour across Greater Manchester, including in Oldham.

The force works in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester and the local authorities to target areas of concern identified by data or that the public have highlighted via social media, online reporting tools and interactions with local policing teams. These areas are then risk assessed and patrolled by roads policing officers on a regular basis.

Over the past few months, Roads Policing Officers have increased this activity and have been out in communities engaging, educating, and where appropriate enforcing inappropriate driving.

In January this year, officers from the Safer Transport Teams worked with Oldham district, on a day of action, as part of our enforcement campaign and saw some excellent results:

- 10 vehicles were seized for driving without a licence or insurance.
- 1 stolen vehicle was recovered
- 2 persons were arrested, 1 for disqualified driving and 1 for drug driving.
- 1 vehicle was prohibited from the roads.
- 35 traffic offence reports were issued
- 10 vehicle defect rectification orders were issued

In relation to your specific questions:

1. Greater Manchester Police proactively challenge any driving that can be classed as anti-social, which could include dangerous driving. On the first occasion officers will issue both the vehicle and driver with a section 59 warning. A marker is placed on the person and vehicle on the police computer and should either be involved in similar



driving the vehicle is seized. We also regularly seize vehicles for no insurance, no licence or used in crime, unfortunately we cannot easily obtain an exact figure for Oldham.

2. Greater Manchester Police works within the law and guidance in relation to the seizure and disposal of vehicles. Where the law allows, we do everything possible to ensure these vehicles do not end up back in the hands of those same individuals who were using them to cause a danger to others.
3. Oldham District regularly receives support through the Greater Manchester Police processes to request specialist support. This support is given when we can show an evidence base for the assistance requested. When not deployed in hot spot areas, officers from Roads Policing provide 24/7 coverage across the whole of Greater Manchester.
4. I am not able to put a figure on the amount of money and resource is spent on tackling speeding and dangerous driving in Oldham. Oldham is served by local district resources, specialist resources including roads policing staff and speed camera detection vans. The amount they are deployed varies daily, in line with the threats and risks across the whole of GM.

Roads Policing within Greater Manchester Police is set to see some significant investment over the next couple of years, which will hopefully see the support offered to local districts improve across GM.

The safety of road users remains a priority for Greater Manchester Police and in particular officers based here in Oldham, where my officers continue to work hard to meet the needs of all our communities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bowen', with a date '17 Sept.' written below it.

Chris Bowen  
District Commander



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council

Email: [harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk)

**The Rt Hon Greg Hands MP**  
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth  
and Climate Change

**Department for Business, Energy &  
Industrial Strategy**  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

T +44 (0) 20 7215 5000  
E [enquiries@beis.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@beis.gov.uk)  
W [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Our ref: MCB2022/01033

28 February 2022

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December, to the Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, regarding your Green New Deal plans. The Secretary of State has asked me to respond. I sincerely apologise for the delay in response, your letter has only recently been brought to my attention.

I am grateful to you for sharing the Resolutions from your meeting of 15 December. The Government recognises that Local Authorities can, and do, play an essential role in driving local climate action, with significant influence in many of the national priorities across energy, housing, and transport, which will be needed to achieve net zero. Across the UK, many of our Local Authorities have already made great strides towards our net zero future and throughout the UK there are brilliant examples of local action, innovation, and excellence. I was delighted to read about the work that your Council has resolved to undertake in this area.

The Government is proud to lead the world in ending our contribution to climate change, not just because it is the right thing to do, but because we are determined to seize the unprecedented economic opportunity it brings. We want to build back better from the pandemic by building back greener and levelling up our country with new high skilled, high wage, sustainable jobs in every part of our United Kingdom.

The transition to net zero also presents a real opportunity to support communities impacted by climate change and drive levelling up across the country. We are working closely with other Government departments and local partners to ensure that local places benefit from the economic growth opportunities generated by the transition to a low carbon economy and that communities across the country can adapt to the impacts of climate change and build back greener with the skills needed for new green jobs.

The Government's Net Zero Strategy outlined our intention to continue the Local Net Zero Programme. Almost £19 million has been invested in the programme to date for local places to build capacity and capability to deliver on net zero. This includes provisions to continue the Local Net Zero Hubs to support all areas of England to reach net zero, supporting Local Authorities to develop net zero projects attracting commercial investment and increased knowledge sharing to demonstrate successful net zero system solutions.

We also recognise that longer-term and more co-ordinated funding streams can enhance innovation and investment, reduce bureaucracy, and encourage more efficient decision making. The Net Zero strategy outlines the Government's intention to explore how

we could simplify and consolidate funds which target net zero initiatives at the local level. We will also work across departments to explore how we can give certainty to investment in longer-term programmes supported by regeneration initiatives.

As announced in the strategy, we also intend to establish a Local Net Zero Forum. Chaired by BEIS, the forum will be cross departmental and bring together national and local government senior officials on a regular basis to discuss policy and delivery options on net zero. It will support the establishment of clearer roles for local government and provide a single engagement route into HM Government in a coordinated and coherent way.

As you may be aware, the Government has agreed a short pause to implementing the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone. This is to provide Greater Manchester authorities the opportunity to provide revised proposals by 1 July 2022 to ensure nitrogen dioxide compliance is achieved as soon as possible.

The Secretary of State is grateful for your invitation but regrets that he is unable to accept as his diary is heavily committed for the foreseeable future.

Thank you again for writing. I hope you will find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Hands', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**THE RT HON GREG HANDS MP**  
Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change



## Report to Council

# Annual Reports 2021/22

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Frier, Head of Democratic Services  
**Ext.** 4705

**16th March 2021**

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### Reason for Decision

As part of strengthened accountability, every Councillor is required to produce a report each year. The reports are published on the Oldham Council web-site on the Councillors page ([www.oldham.gov.uk/councillors](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/councillors)).

### Recommendations

That Council note the attached annual reports.

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**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Adoption of the Public Health Act 1925 Concerning Naming of Streets**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor A Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

**Officer Contact:** John Lamb, Director of Environmental Services

**Report Author:** Gary Sutcliffe

**Ext.** 3046

**16 March 2022**

**Reason for Decision**

To seek the adoption by the Council of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough.

**Recommendation**

Council is recommended to adopt sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough with effect from 1 May 2022.

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## **Adoption of the Public Health Act 1925 Concerning Naming of Streets**

### **1 Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall that a report concerning the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 was considered at the Council meeting on 15 December 2021. A copy of the report is attached as Appendix 1. Council agreed to commence the process for adopting sections 17 and 19 of the Act.
- 1.2 To adopt sections 17 and 19, the Council is required to publish a notice for 2 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in their area of the intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 and 19. The date the resolution is to take effect is not earlier than one month from the date of the resolution.
- 1.3 Notice of the intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 with effect from 1 May 2022 was published in the Manchester Evening News on 7 March and will also be published in the Manchester Evening News on 14 March 2022.

### **2 Options/Alternatives**

- 2.1 Adopting sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 will provide certainty that the Council can use these powers, in the event of any legal challenge. Section 17 in particular enables the Council to prevent inappropriate street names being suggested or streets being named with disregard to current street naming conventions in relation to the Local and National Street Gazetteers. If the section was not adopted, conflicts could be hard to resolve where developers and Ward Councillors and/or other consultees fail to reach agreement on a mutually acceptable street name.

### **3 Preferred Option**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Council adopt sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 with effect from 1 May 2022 to ensure that the Council has the legal power to operate a street naming policy.

### **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 Any responses received by the Council as a result of the press notices will be reported verbally to Council.

### **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 See previous report

### **6 Legal Services Comments**

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6.1 Paragraph 23 of Part II of Schedule 14 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that the provisions of the Public Health Acts 1875 to 1925 extended throughout England and Wales, whether or not they so extended immediately before 1 April 1974 (which was when the current local authority structure in Greater Manchester was introduced). However paragraph 23 did not apply to sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act 1925, which only applied to those areas where they applied immediately before 1 April 1974. Under paragraph 25 of Schedule 14, a local authority could after giving the requisite notice resolve that sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 should apply throughout their area. The requisite notice is one published for 2 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in their area of the local authority's intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 to 19. A copy of the notice must also be served on any parish councils within the local authority's area. Under paragraph 25(7) of Schedule 14, a copy of the resolution of the local authority certified in writing to be a true copy by the proper officer of the authority shall in all legal proceedings be received as evidence of the resolution having been passed by the authority. (A Evans)

## **7 Co-operative Agenda**

7.1 See previous report

## **8 Human Resources Comments**

8.1 None.

## **9 Risk Assessments**

9.1 None.

## **10 IT Implications**

10.1 None.

## **11 Property Implications**

11.1 None.

## **12 Procurement Implications**

12.1 None.

## **13 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

13.1 Energy – Nil.

13.2 Transport – Nil.

13.3 Pollution – Nil.

13.4 Consumption and Use of Resources – Nil.



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13.5 Built Environment – Nil.

13.6 Natural Environment – Nil.

13.7 Health and Safety – Nil.

14 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

14.1 None.

15 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

15.1 No.

16 **Key Decision**

16.1 No.

17 **Key Decision Reference**

17.1 Not applicable.

18 **Background Papers**

18.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act :

None.

19 **Appendices**

19.1 Report to Council 15 December 2021



**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Adoption of the Public Health Act 1925 Concerning Naming of Streets**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor A Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

**Officer Contact:** John Lamb, Director of Environmental Services

**Report Author:** Gary Sutcliffe

**Ext.** 3046

**15<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**Reason for Decision**

To seek the adoption by the Council of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough.

**Recommendation**

Council is recommended to commence the process for adopting sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough and that a further report to adopt the sections be submitted to the next Council meeting after public notice has been given in accordance with Schedule 14 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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**Adoption of the Public Health Act 1925 Concerning Naming of Streets****1 Background**

- 1.1 The naming of streets is covered by legislation contained in sections 17 – 19 of the Public Health Act 1925.
- 1.2 Section 17 of the Act requires that before any street is given a name, notice of the proposed name shall be given to the Council which has one month to object to the proposed name. It is not lawful to set up in any street its proposed name until the one month objection period has passed and if the Council has objected to the proposed name, the objection has been considered by the Magistrates' court.
- 1.3 Section 18 of the Act enables the Council to alter the name of any street or part of a street or assign a name to a street or part of a street to which a name has not been given, by making an order. Not less than one month before making the order, notices advertising the intended order shall be posted at each end of the street to inform the public of the proposal, including details of how an objection can be lodged at the Magistrates' Court. An objection to the Magistrates must be submitted within 21 days after the posting of the notice.
- 1.4 Section 19 of the Act requires the Council to cause the name of every street to be painted or otherwise marked in a conspicuous position on any house, building or erection in or near the street and shall from time to time alter or renew such inscription of the name of any street, if and when the name of the street is altered or the inscription becomes illegible.
- 1.5 The Public Health Act 1925 was an adoptive Act and its provisions would only apply if they were specifically adopted by the local authority. Under the Local Government Act 1972, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council was created in 1974 from a merger of 7 existing local authorities – Oldham County Borough Council and Chadderton, Crompton, Failsworth, Lees, Royton and Saddleworth Urban District Councils. Oldham County Borough Council had specific powers contained in section 48 of the Oldham Borough Improvement Act 1865 concerning the naming of streets in Oldham and it is likely that each of the other pre 1974 Councils adopted the provisions of the Public Health Act 1925 concerning street naming for their areas but no record of the adoptions has been retained.
- 1.6 The provisions of the Oldham Borough Improvement Act 1865 expired in 1981. Subsequently section 18 of the Public Health Act 1925 concerning the renaming of streets throughout the whole Borough was adopted by resolution of the Council in February 1983 with effect from June 1983 and is the legal power the Council has been using in relation to street naming.
- 1.7 In addition, the Council has no formal policy document for street naming, which could lead to inappropriate street names being suggested or streets being named with disregard to current street naming conventions in relation to the Local and National Street Gazetteers.

**2 Current Position**

- 2.1 Unity Partnership are reviewing the Council's policy on street naming and it has been identified that no record of the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 has been retained by the Council. For the avoidance of doubt and to provide greater flexibility to the process of naming of streets it is therefore requested that the Council approve the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 for the whole

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Borough. The updated street naming policy will then be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods for approval.

- 2.2 To adopt the provisions the Council is required to publish a notice for 2 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in their area of the intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 and 19. The date the resolution is to take effect is not earlier than one month from the date of the resolution.

### 3 **Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 Adopting sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 will provide certainty that the Council can use these powers, in the event of any legal challenge. Section 17 in particular enables the Council to prevent inappropriate street names being suggested or streets being named with disregard to current street naming conventions in relation to the Local and National Street Gazetteers. If the section was not adopted, conflicts could be hard to resolve where developers and Ward Councillors and/or other consultees fail to reach agreement on a mutually acceptable street name.

### 4 **Preferred Option**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Council adopt sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 to ensure that the Council has the legal power to operate a street naming policy.

### 5 **Consultation**

- 5.1 [Give details of all relevant parties consulted, their views and the Council's response]

### 6 **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The requirement to advertise the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 in a local newspaper will cost approximately £1.2k. This will be funded from the existing revenue budget for Highways Operations – Unity.

(Nigel Howard)

### 7 **Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 Paragraph 23 of Part II of Schedule 14 of the Local Government Act 1972 provided that the provisions of the Public Health Acts 1875 to 1925 extended throughout England and Wales, whether or not they so extended immediately before 1 April 1974 (which was when the current local authority structure in Greater Manchester was introduced). However paragraph 23 did not apply to sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act 1925, which only applied to those areas where they applied immediately before 1 April 1974. Under paragraph 25 of Schedule 14, a local authority could after giving the requisite notice resolve that sections 17 to 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 should apply throughout their area. The requisite notice is one published for 2 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper circulating in their area of the local authority's intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 to 19. A copy of the notice must also be served on any parish councils within the local authority's area. Under paragraph 25(7) of Schedule 14, a copy of the resolution of the local authority certified in writing to be a true copy by the proper officer of the authority shall in all legal proceedings be received as evidence of the resolution having been passed by the authority. (A Evans)

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**8 Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 In respect of the Council's Street Naming Policy there has been particular consideration given to its impact on community cohesion, where service users and Ward Councillors can have a positive impact on choosing appropriate street names by involving community groups, school children and local residents in naming the streets in their local area, this might be a particular Value contained in the Co-operative Charter for example or an opportunity to involve service users in developing a proposal.

**9 Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None.

**10 Risk Assessments**

10.1 None.

**11 IT Implications**

11.1 None.

**12 Property Implications**

12.1 None.

**13 Procurement Implications**

13.1 None.

**14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 Energy – Nil.

14.2 Transport – Nil.

14.3 Pollution – Nil.

14.4 Consumption and Use of Resources – Nil.

14.5 Built Environment – Nil.

14.6 Natural Environment – Nil.

14.7 Health and Safety – Nil.

**15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None.

**16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No.

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17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No.

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 Not applicable.

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act :

None.

20 **Appendices**

20.1 None

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