

POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Agenda

Date Thursday 20 January 2022

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Constitutional Services Tel. 0161 770 5151 or email constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk
 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Monday, 17 January 2022.
 4. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

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MEMBERSHIP OF THE POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Councillors Alyas, Brownridge, Curley, Hobin, McLaren (Chair), K Phythian, Surjan and Williamson

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

3 Declarations of Interest

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5 Minutes of Previous Meeting (Pages 1 - 4)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2021 are attached for approval.

6 Covid Update

Presentation only.

7 The Digital sector: Developing a workshop to review apprenticeships across Oldham and the offering of digital apprenticeships by the Council.

Report to follow.

8 Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2021/22 (Pages 5 - 12)



Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Brownridge, Hobin, Islam (Substitute) and Surjan

Also in Attendance:

Chris Bowen	Greater Manchester Police
Anna DaSilva	Project Director
Chris Lewis	Lead Youth Worker
Youth Council	
Kaidy McCann	Constitutional Services

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Curley, Councillor Williamson and Councillor K Phythian.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Brownridge declared a non-registerable interest at item 7 by virtue of being a Member of the Northern Roots Board.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2021 be approved as a correct record.

6 **POLICING IN OLDHAM**

Consideration was given to a presentation from the Chief Superintendent of Oldham which advised Members on Policing in Oldham.

Members were informed of the purpose of the Police which was to fight, prevent and reduce crime, keep people safe and care for victims. It was explained how those goals would be met underpinned by their values. It was explained that all Councillors would be receiving quarterly updates from Greater Manchester Police which would be area specific.

Members were advised that crime in Oldham had massively increased as reported in the end of year report following criticism that crimes were not being reported. There had been an increase in stalking, domestic abuse and coercion. It was noted that although incidents could have around four crimes associated, the majority of the time involved one victim. Logs

were now being looked at on a weekly basis and the number of crimes recorded had significantly increased. It was explained that no locality would record 100% of all crimes however, Oldham was recording a high 80%. Crime numbers were being compared to the 2019/20 year to get a more accurate representation due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members were provided a breakdown of call and the grading system. For grade 1, Officers were expected to be at the scene within 15 minutes. Oldham had reached a target of 64.1% which was inadequate compared to the target rate of 90%. A new grading system was being introduced in February 2022 which would ensure crimes were given the correct grades. For those that would be considered grade 3, victims would be given a mutually convenient appointment time. This would solve the issues of discouragement from callers in reporting crimes.

Members were informed of the recent operation Vortex which had the following outcomes:

- Arrests – 17 prisoners for an array of offences.
- Weapon seizures – 3 x knives, 1 x machete and 1 x axe
- Drugs seizures – Significant quantities of cannabis along with quantities of cocaine, heroin and crack cocaine (values not known at this time).
- 2 x Cannabis street warnings issued.
- 16 vehicles seized (13 for no insurance and or license and 3 stolen motor vehicles originally taken from different areas of Greater Manchester.
- 17 individuals summonsed to court for driving offences
- 5 Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency prohibition notices issued.

Members asked for and received clarification on the following:

- How crimes were being handled with not enough Officers on the streets. It was explained that two major reviews were in process that would look at both patrols and neighbourhood teams. It was hoped for a net gain for Oldham however, this had not yet been confirmed.
- The length of time to respond to Elected Member queries. It was noted that there was no data available on this however, queries would be responded to as quickly as possible. Members would also be given a direct number for the inspectorate team to help speed up the process.

RESOLVED that:

1. The presentation be noted.
2. An update be provided to the Committee in March 2022.
- 3.

7

NORTHERN ROOTS UPDATE

Consideration was given to a presentation on the Northern Roots (NR) project.

Members were informed of the three goals of Northern Roots which were:

1. Create jobs, training and business opportunities for local people.
2. Preserve and enhance biodiversity and the environment at Northern Roots 160-acre site.
3. Improve the health and wellbeing of local residents and communities.

Members were advised that the project had been instigated by Oldham Council following 3 years of feasibility, consultation and planning. The NR Charity had recently been established and a small base had been set up on site. £7 million of external funding had been received to date with another Million being bid for. The project had received 100% fund success rate which had never been seen before. There had been a lot of engagement with the public and other organisations including four groups helping to clear the site of litter.

To take the project further a design team had been appointed and it was expected for the planning application to be submitted in February 2022 with the aim to start the build in spring 2022 with phase 1 of the build commencing in Autumn 2022.

Members asked for and received clarification on the following:

- Did the project have any business sponsors. It was confirmed that some businesses including Park Cakes, United Utilities and Manchester Cabins had become sponsors as grant funding could not be relied upon on its own.
- Site visit for Members. It was noted that a visit would be arranged for Members.

RESOLVED that the content of the presentation be noted.

8

YOUTH SERVICE UPDATE

Consideration was given to a verbal update which advised Members on the work of the Youth Council.

Members were advised of the Make Your Mark ballot held every year for the UK Youth Parliament. Make Your Mark was an opportunity for 11-18 year olds across the UK to have their say and begin their democratic journey by voting on the policies they want to introduce or change. Due to Covid-19 the ballot was missed for a year, the next ballot would be taking place between the 1st - 28th February 2022. Members were advised that the topics for the ballot would be sent to members.

Members were also informed of the need of a workshop to help young people gain employment opportunities. It was felt that there was not enough opportunities for young people to show the skills gained from the online world and where these skills could be used. It was also felt that advice was an issue for young people especially for on experience in the working world.

RESOLVED that:

1. The update be noted.

2. An update be provided in March 2022
3. A workshop be set up between the Youth Service, Employability and the Committee to look at employment opportunities for young people.



9 **POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

RESOLVED that the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme be noted.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 7.50 pm

POLICY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

<p>Tues 15th June 2021</p> <p>As a result of guidance indicating that the number of people who gather indoors should be restricted and noting current Covid infection rates, the expiry of Regulations which removed the legal requirement for meetings to be held in person, and the nature of the programmed business, the programmed business was considered in an informal setting.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council had given</p>	Green New Deal Strategy and Generation Oldham	To receive an update on the Strategy and Funding.	Portfolio – Finance and Low Carbon. Strategic Director – Communities and Reform. Andy Hunt, Programme Manager – Community Wealth Building	Item requested by Overview and Scrutiny (O&S) Board, December 2020.
	Minimum Licensing Standards for Taxis and Private Hire	To scrutinize final proposals prior to decision making at both GM and local level.	Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon. Deputy Chief Executive. Carol Brown, Director of Environmental Management; Neil Crabtree, Head of Public Protection; Jon Garforth, Licensing Manager	The intention to bring a further report prior to decisions being taken in the summer was advised to the O&S Board, March 2021.
	Covid-19 Recovery Strategy	To scrutinize the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy prior to consideration by Cabinet and Council.	Leader of the Council. Strategic Director – Communities and Reform. Jonathon Downs, Corporate Policy Lead	The O&S Board was consulted on the proposal in January 2021 and requested further sight of the Strategy prior to approval. Policy Framework item.
	GM 2040 Transport Strategy – Update and draft sub-strategies	To receive an update on the strategy and be briefed/ scutinise a number of draft GM 2040 Sub-Strategies prior to submission to	Leader of the Council. Deputy Chief Executive. Joanne Betts, Principal Officer Transport and Highways Policy.	Update report requested by the O&S Board, November 2020.

assurance that any recommendations made in respect of items to be considered at the Cabinet would be reported to and considered by the Cabinet.		Cabinet (for endorsement) and GMCA (for approval)		
	Equalities Strategy	To scrutinize the proposed Equalities Strategy	Leader of the Council. Strategic Director – Communities and Reform. Jonathon Downs, Corporate Policy Lead.	
Weds 21 st July 2021 Special Meeting	Joint Places for Everyone Development Plan Document (DPD) and related Statement of Community Involvement and revised Local Development Scheme	To scrutinize a proposal to develop a DPD for jobs, new homes and sustainable growth, and related matters, prior to their consideration by Council and/or Cabinet.	Portfolio – Housing. Director of Economy. Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Team Leader – Strategic Planning.	Scheduling related to Cabinet/Council/GMCA scheduling. Policy Framework item.
	Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan	To scrutinize final proposals in relation to the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan.	Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon. Deputy Chief Executive. Carol Brown, Director of Environmental Management; Neil Crabtree, Head of Public Protection.	Provisional scheduling - The intention to bring a further report prior to decisions being taken in the summer was advised to the O&S Board, March 2021.
Tuesday 27 th July 2021	Covid-19 Recovery Strategy	Committee to receive an update.	Portfolio Holder: Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for	Item requested by Policy Overview & Scrutiny Committee 15 th June 2021

			<p>Economic and Social Reform</p> <p>Officer Contact: Rebekah Sutcliffe, Strategic Director of Communities & Reform Shelley Kipling, Assistant Director Communications, Strategy and Performance</p> <p>Report Author: Matt Drogan</p>	
	Outturn Work Programmes 2021-22		Lead Officer: Liz Drogan	Annual Report
	Policy Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2021-22		Lead Officer: Liz Drogan	Standard Agenda Item
Weds 1 st September 2021 Special Meeting	GM 2040 Transport Strategy – Update and draft sub-strategies	To be briefed on/scrutinise draft GM 2040 Sub-Strategies prior to submission to Cabinet and the GMCA.	Leader of the Council. Deputy Chief Executive. Joanne Betts, Principal Officer Transport and Highways Policy.	Provisional scheduling.
Tues 21 st September 2021	Delivery of low carbon infrastructure in the borough.	Scrutiny of the potential to secure a strategic commercial partner to deliver required infrastructure	Portfolio – Finance and Low Carbon. Strategic Director – Communities and Reform.	Consideration agreed by Committee, June 2021

			Andy Hunt, Programme Manager – Community Wealth Building.	
	Youth Justice Plan	To scrutinise the Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22	Portfolio - Children and Young People. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Paul Axon, Director – Young People’s Services, Positive Steps.	Policy Framework item.
	Northern Care Alliance (NCA) NHS Group - employment support, local recruitment, and ongoing items.	Update on employment and training issues related to the Royal Oldham Hospital/NCA NHS Group, including T Levels, post-Covid/Covid compliant plan, and apprenticeships.	Donna McLaughlin, Director of Social Value Creation, Northern Care Alliance NHS Group	Part of the Employment, Work and Training – ‘themed’/significant issue consideration.
	Homelessness Strategy	To further consider the Homelessness Strategy	Portfolio – Housing. Deputy Chief Executive. Bryn Cooke, Head of Housing.	O&S Board in January 2021 called for a further update report on the Strategy.
Tues 9 th November 2021	Gambling Act 2005 Policy - refresh	To scrutinize proposed revisions to the Policy.	Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon. Deputy Chief Executive. John Garforth, Licensing Manager.	
	Creating a Better Place and Spindles Shopping Centre	To receive updates one year after adoption of Creating a Better Place and acquisition of the Shopping Centre.	Leader / Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon and Deputy Leader. Deputy Chief Executive.	

			Emma Barton, Director of Economy.	
	GM Taxi Standards – Vehicle recommendations	To consider the GM tax Standards for Vehicle recommendations	Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon. Deputy Chief Executive. John Garforth, Licensing Manager	Update from Policy O&S in June 2021
	Youth Justice Plan	To scrutinise the Youth Justice Plan for 2021/22	Portfolio - Children and Young People. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Paul Axon, Director – Young People’s Services, Positive Steps.	Policy Framework item.
Thurs 11 th November 2021 (if required)	Admin Budget, tranche 1	To consider any initial budget proposals that may be presented by the Administration	Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon and Deputy Leader. Anne Ryans, Director of Finance.	
Tues 23 rd November 2021 (if required)	Opposition Budget, tranche 1	To consider any initial budget proposals that may be presented by the Lead Opposition Group	Opposition Finance Spokesperson(s). Mark Stenson, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management.	
Tues 14 th December 2021				

Thurs 20 th January 2022	Economic Recovery Plan	To be consulted/scrutinize the draft Economic Recovery Plan which will encapsulate the Work and Skills Strategy with the Business Growth and Investment Strategy into one document and which will include a key focus on youth unemployment, with Care Leavers also featuring as part of the action plan.	Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Jon Bloor, Head of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Skills Service	Part of the Employment, Work and Training – ‘themed’/significant issue consideration.
Thurs 27 th January 2022	Administration Budget Proposals and related Matters	Council Tax Reduction Scheme; Revenue Budget 2022/23 and Medium Term Financial Strategy; Housing Revenue Account Estimates and Proposed Outturn for 2021/22; Capital Programme and Capital Strategy; Treasury Management Strategy Statement; Section 151 Officer Report	Portfolio - Finance and Low Carbon and Deputy Leader. Anne Ryans, Director of Finance.	
Tues 8 th February	Opposition Budget Proposals	To consider budget proposals presented by the Lead Opposition Group	Opposition Finance Spokesperson(s). Mark Stenson, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management.	

Tues 22 nd March	Place Based Model	To receive an update on the development of the Place Based Model	Portfolio - HR and Corporate Reform. Strategic Director – Communities and Reform.	Item requested by O&S Board, March 2021.
	Young People Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)	To receive an update on participation and NEET rates and on activities looking to ensure appropriate opportunities for 16-18 year olds.	Portfolio – Education and Skills. Managing Director – Children and Young People. Donna Lewis, Head of Inclusion and Post 16.	Part of the Employment, Work and Training – ‘themed’/significant issue consideration

PENDING ISSUES

	Oldham Plan	Review of the Oldham Plan (formerly the ‘sustainable community strategy’)	Rebekah Sutcliffe, Strategic Director – Communities and Reform	To be refreshed following approval of the Covid-19 Recovery Strategy; timetable to be determined (provisionally January or March 2022)
	Northern Roots	To receive an update on progress on the Northern roots project	Anna DaSilva Project Director	O&S Board requested a further report when charitable status was established.
	Youth/Young People - ‘themed’/significant issue consideration.	Annual report on the British Youth Council ‘Make Your Mark’ ballot	Jodie Barber Head of Service (Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education Service); Chris Lewis	

			Lead Youth Worker working with the Youth Council	
	Poverty	Task and Finish Group		The O&S Board in January 2021 referred a report arising from a task and finish group exercise to the Cabinet for consideration.
	Selective Licensing Scheme	To scrutinise proposals	Portfolio – Housing. Deputy Chief Executive. Neil Crabtree, Head of Public Protection.	Consideration noted as delayed on the O&S Board 2020/21 Work Programme

OTHER ACTIVITY

<p>Meeting to be arranged between the three O&S Committee Chairs and the Youth Council to assist in the appreciation of young people's concerns and to assist in looking to ensure that the interests of young people are reflected in matters coming before the O&S Committees.</p> <p>It has also been proposed that this meeting give initial consideration to a proposals for a workshop involving Committee Members, the Youth Council and relevant officers (as agreed by the O&S Board in September 2020, to address issues relating to the development of the digital sector in the town, the review of apprenticeships across Oldham and the offering of digital apprenticeships by the Council, as raised in a Youth Council Motion to Council.</p>	<p>Head of Service (Youth Service and Outdoor and Environmental Education Service). Chris Lewis, Lead Youth Worker working directly with the Youth Council.</p> <p>John Bloor, Head of Lifelong Learning, Employment and Skills Service. Donna Lewis, Head of Inclusion and Post 16. Inputs from HR/OD, Colleges and others as required.</p>	<p>Consideration would relate to both the Employment, Work and Training and the Youth/Young People 'themed'/significant issue considerations. As noted previously in an earlier work programme, the workshop session had not been convened to date due to Covid-19 related issues.</p>
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