

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 13 July 2022**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 5 July 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 13 July 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 25th May 2022 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 8)
- 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 (Pages 9 - 10)

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 7 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 8 Questions Time

- a Public Questions

(time limit 30 Minutes)

- b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

(time limit 30 minutes)

- c Questions on Cabinet Minutes (Pages 11 - 50)

(time limit 15 minutes)

17th February 2022

28th February 2022

21st March 2022

9 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Taylor to MOVE and Councillor Goodwin to SECOND:

New Deal for Workers

Throughout the pandemic, workers in insecure jobs without any protected employment rights have kept the country running. They have worked on the front line, caring for our most vulnerable residents, keeping essential services running and keeping food on shop shelves.

The Living Wage Foundation estimates that over a million key workers are in insecure work, lacking basic rights and protections, and 3.8 million people are in insecure work across the economy as a whole.

At the same time, incomes have stagnated and many workers have experienced real term pay decline. The North West region has some of the highest levels of low pay, but in-work poverty is increasing nationally, with one in six working households now falling below the poverty line.

This Council notes:

- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers were already ‘insecure’, meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero-hour contracts, agency workers and the bogus self-employed.
- Zero-hours contracts do not guarantee a minimum number of working hours each week. In the UK labour market, people on zero-hours contracts are more likely to be young, part-time, women, or in full-time education when compared with others in employment. Three quarters of those workers on zero-hour contracts lost shifts during the pandemic and the ‘Race on the Agenda’ (ROTA) report shows that a disproportionate number of Black and minority ethnic (BME) workers are on zero-hours contracts.
- 1 in 10 workers have experienced ‘fire and rehire’ and have been told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay and terms and conditions, or face the sack – with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers. Since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021) a quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay – since the pandemic began.
- That while the Prime Minister has called the practice of ‘fire and rehire’ “unacceptable” he has continually refused to take action to outlaw it, raising concerns that he will not intervene in the race to the bottom. An escalating number of employers across all sectors are using weak employment protections to force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, meaning many have to work longer hours for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Despite austerity, as a Labour led council we pay our employees the real living wage. It is important that working people have a decent wage and the council is an accredited Living Wage Employer and encourages others to become the same.

The council further notes, insecure work is bad for working people and bad for the economy, which is why we need a better settlement to support rights and provisions for

working people.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Work to ensure that local residents are protected against unscrupulous employers and ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister demanding an end to 'fire and rehire' and keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions, and to ask that all key workers get a pay rise at least equal to inflation.
- Not to use 'fire and rehire' as an employer and to discourage its use by council contractors and to continue to ensure the council's procurement practices certify that we use contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records.
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and wellbeing, by working with our anchor institutions, key partners and recognised trade unions, to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment.
- Encourage local businesses to support the Greater Manchester (GM) Good Employment Charter to improve employment standards across the Borough.
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

Motion 2

Councillor Munroe to MOVE and Councillor Moores to Second:

Early Years Funding

Well-established research continues to emphasize the importance of early childhood education as an essential building block of a child's future success. Early years education provides a strong base for future learning and it develops a child's cognitive and social development, ensuring that they are school ready.

Childcare is a fundamental building block of the economy and many working parents and parents who are undertaking education or training are dependent on childcare provision. If sufficient childcare places are not available it has a significant impact on businesses, the health service, education, and many other sectors of the economy. Yet over the last decade, early years services have been neglected by the Conservative Government.

Like all Local Authorities, Oldham has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient free childcare places to enable take-up of early years entitlements, and like many Local Authorities we are seeing settings closing due to problems recruiting and retaining staff.

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has warned, "Nurseries across the UK are being forced to close or reduce their services at an alarming rate because they are struggling to recruit and retain staff."

Without urgent action, this loss of provision will have a significant impact on children and families who are unable to access services they need and deserve.

This Council notes:

- There are areas in some parts of the borough that have insufficient places available to meet demand.
- Official data from Ofsted shows nurseries are closing at a higher rate in poor and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Early Years providers are struggling financially, because cost of living is rising above the most recent increase in Funded Early Learning (FEL).

- That the recruitment and retention of Nursery staff is a cause of concern.
- That there is pressure on the system due to rising numbers of SEND and vulnerable children.

This Council:

- Is concerned that the sector has been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and believes that, although early years providers were relied upon to enable key workers to continue to work during the pandemic, they received insufficient financial protection.
- Is concerned that the historical underfunding, increasing costs and impact of Covid-19, means that early years' providers across the childcare sector will be faced with financial sustainability issues.
- Is concerned that this lack of adequate funding is making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff due to the early years providers' inability to pay competitive rates.
- Notes that Oldham continues to be underfunded as compared to other local authorities, with the disparity in Oldham's hourly Funded Early Learning (FEL). Funding for both 2-year-old entitlement and 3 – 4-year-old entitlement is considerably lower than the national average, the GM average and our statistical neighbours.

Type of funding	National average	Statistical neighbour average	GM average	Oldham average
2-year-old entitlement	£5.47	£5.34	£5.30	£5.19
3- & 4-year-old entitlement	£4.81	£5.05	£4.48	£4.24

This Council resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive to write to [the Secretary](#) of State for Education outlining our concerns and asking for swift action to: address this disparity and provide Oldham Metropolitan Borough with a fair funding deal in addition to the additional investment needed to ensure every child can recover the learning and social development lost in the pandemic and has the chance to reach their full potential.

10 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Kenyon to MOVE and Councillor H Gloster to SECOND:

Making Fairer Decisions

The administration, councillors and council officers are collectively making thousands of decisions each year, some large, many small, but all collectively have an effect on the health, wealth and welfare of the people who live and work in Oldham, Shaw, Crompton, Saddleworth, Royton, Failsworth, Lees, Chadderton and the surrounding areas.

Making our borough safer for children and young people is a key aim shared by everyone in the council chamber.

Making our borough wealthier by directing more of this Authority's spending to local jobs and businesses is also a key aim shared by all in this chamber.

When making a decision, officers and councillors are careful to consider the full implications of that decision. The different options and the implication of the decision are weighed against specific criteria; financial, legal, the co-operative agenda, human resources, risks, IT, property, procurement, environmental and health & safety, equality, community cohesion & crime, children & young people. An equality impact assessment is also completed.

This Council believes that:

Councillors and officers should be explicitly considering the implications of making a decision on the safety of children and on Authority spending into the local economy.

Council therefore resolves to:

Direct the Chief Executive to amend the standard assessment criteria within the decision-making reports and records to include a requirement to consider the implications of the decision on:

- 1) The potential to increase the risk of harm to children (a context assessment). This to be included on the section dealing with Implications for Children and Young People.
- 2) Authority spending into the local economy. This to be included in the section on Co-Operative Agenda.
- 3) Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.

Motion 2

Councillor Hobin to MOVE and Councillor Wilkinson to SECOND:

Independent Public Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Historical & Present) within Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC), including the actions and knowledge of Council Members and Officers.

Council notes that:

The Newsome and Ridgway review into historic Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham was published on Monday 20th June 2022. The review found that some children had been failed by agencies that were meant to protect them and that there were serious failings in the handling of some cases.

The review was discussed at an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on Mon 27 June 2022. The public were invited to submit questions to a panel that included the Council Leader and Greater Manchester Mayor. Councillors from all political parties were also invited to ask questions or make statements.

While questions were asked, sadly many were left unanswered, and some wholly ignored. Unfortunately, questions remain. We as a council, and as such member herein, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure that failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

It is very clear there is significant dissatisfaction from the public and opposition parties with the contents of the report and that this has been further evidenced in the press and on social media. There is a significant groundswell of opinion that a fully

independent public inquiry is needed to address the issue of CSE in Oldham, both historically and in the present.

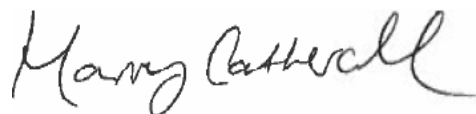
This issue is above any party-political leanings. Together we need to eradicate this corruption which lies within our society.

Council resolves that;

- The Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary and the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on behalf of the council requesting that they instigate a fully independent and broad ranging public inquiry as soon as is practically possible.
- That the Terms of Reference for the inquiry are set independently of the Greater Manchester and OMBC administrations, by Government and that all relevant documentation including those relating to the recent assurance review are made available to the inquiry.
- That a cross party steering group is established to work alongside the inquiry which will report to the council and the public on a regular basis and will function as a conduit between the inquiry team, council officers and elected representatives.

- 11 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 51 - 72)
- 12 Revision to Financial Procedure Rules (Pages 73 - 162)
- 13 Revision to the Contract Procedure Rules (Pages 163 - 228)
- 14 Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference (Pages 229 - 240)
- 15 Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 (Pages 241 - 256)

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



**Harry Catherall
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT

