

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Garry (in the Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, Azad, Ball, Barnes, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Birch, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, C. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harrison, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, F Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Marland, McLaren, Moores, Munroe, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, C. Phythian, Quigg, Rea, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H. Gloster, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, McManus, K. Phythian, Salamat, Sharp and Sykes.

2 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH MAY 2022 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25th May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

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

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Garry declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Williamson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of her partner's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Murphy declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Although the Members declared the interests above, following advice given by the Director of Legal Services their interests were not non-registerable interests or pecuniary and therefore did not need to be declared.

4 **TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR**



CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

5

TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor permitted the Leader of the Council, Councillor Chadderton, to make a statement which updated the Council's reply to the publication of the Child Sexual Exploitation Assurance Review, undertaken on behalf of the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

The Council's reply was based on to be based on four key points. Firstly, to seek justice for victims. Secondly to give full support to victims and survivors. Thirdly to seek to restore trust and confidence in the Borough's social care services. Fourthly to use the review to highlight the issue of child abuse; through education – enabling people (parents, relatives, carers etc) to spot the signs of abuse.

The Council will also work with Greater Manchester Police offering support wherever possible with Operation Sherwood an inquiry into historic cases of child sexual exploitation in the Borough.

6

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

Council received a report of the Head of Democratic Services which asked Members to note three petitions that had been received by the Council in accordance with the Petitions Protocol. The Petitions related to:

- i. Reference 2022-01: Petition requesting Saddleworth Health Centre received 9th March 2022 with 264 signatures.
- ii. Reference 2022-02: Petition requesting Queen Jubilee Party Stoneleigh Park received 3rd May 2022 with 56 signatures.
- iii. Reference 2022-03: Petition requesting Reduce Speed Limits Along Denshaw and Delph Road received 1st June 2022 with 514 signatures.

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

7

YOUTH COUNCIL

There were no items of Youth Council Business for this meeting of Council to consider.

8

QUESTIONS TIME

9

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question submitted by Megan Birchall
With Oldham Pride being held next weekend, Could the relevant cabinet member update the council on what steps Oldham Council is taking to support LGBT+ people in the borough?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure replied ...'thank you so much for this question. Oldham Council is proud to be supporting Oldham Pride this year and we're looking forward to celebrating with our LGBT plus community next weekend.

The Council is helping to financially support this year's event as well as supporting the event management too.

We want to make sure it is a huge success, Oldham's labour councillors will be there to take part in the celebrations and we'd urge as many Oldhamers as possible to get out and support the event.

In addition to this we work closely with LGBT plus groups across the borough in our work to tackle hate crime and improve hate crime reporting. We also work across schools, colleges and our partners to promote tolerance and celebrate our borough's amazing diversity.

Through our equality advisory group we seek the views of the community on policies and current issues to make sure we're making decisions that fit the needs of everyone in the borough.

We are always keen to do more if we can. If there are any suggestions you have for how we can be more supportive, more inclusive please do let us know.'

2. Question submitted by Chris Charters

With Oldham Athletic relegated out of the football league last season, we have seen the consequences of football's failure to regulate club ownership. Will the council work with Oldham Athletic fans to explore options to help save the club and ensure its legacy as a founding member of the Premier League is preserved for future generations?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'the Council have remained consistent in its approach to ensuring the future success of Oldham Athletic Football Club for the benefit of the residents and fans across the borough.

We are delighted to hear the news of a new ownership for Oldham Athletic Football Club - this is really good news for the club, its supporters, and the whole borough after the despair and heartache of recent years.

We're looking forward to working with the new owner and understanding more about their plans to take the club forward.

The club continue to have our full support and we wish them well for the coming season, while we keenly await confirmation about new arrangements to allow the Council and the various fan groups to support and enhance the future of the club

We all want to see Latics back in the football league - it'll give the whole town a boost'

3. Question submitted by Lynne Kelly

It is now 1 year since the ex-leader of Oldham Council (Arooj Shah) had her car firebombed. There is clear CCTV footage of the attack that has been shared across the world as have the news stories portraying Oldhamers as racists. Even our own Council has contributed to this allegation via its social media pages.

If someone in a position as high as the ex-leader of Oldham Council can be attacked in this way and with the police failing to prosecute anyone, especially with the CCTV footage as proof. Then doesn't it send out a clear signal that it is open season for other criminals to do the same to any of our residents. Hence perhaps why there has recently been a huge rise in arson attacks throughout our borough. More of GMP's failures to stop this.

Will the new leader of Oldham Council now write to Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen - Oldham District Commander demanding he issues an update on their progress in investigating the firebombing of Arooj Shah's car? It is not right that we, the townsfolk, are portrayed as racists when the CCTV footage clearly shows quite different?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'thanks for your question, I'm unaware of any news stories relating to that horrendous attack on a councillor's car that portrayed Oldhamers as racist. What the reports may have referenced is the undeniable scale of racist abuse suffered by the former leader – both online and in 'real life'.

It is not for me to determine whether this was related to that offence – it is for GMP to thoroughly investigate the arson attack and bring those responsible to justice.

If anyone has information that may help secure that justice it is imperative that they share it with the police as soon as possible. I'm sure your analysis of the CCTV footage will be of significant use to their investigation and will hopefully lead to a quicker outcome to the case.

Might I suggest you ask Greater Manchester Police for an update yourself as clearly this is of significant interest to you.'

4. Question submitted by Lynn Kovacs

As an Oldhamer I am super proud that a member of the LGBT+ community is now our council leader. It should send a clear message out to those elsewhere who think that we are all prejudiced in Oldham.

We are definitely not!

We believe in equality for all.

Therefore, will the leader of Oldham Council please clarify whether a woman can have a penis?

Also will her Council protect the rights of women to access exclusive safe spaces including toilets and changing rooms for those that were born female rather than have to share these spaces with individuals that have self-identified as women?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'it's an interesting question. Put simply no, I don't believe that biological women can have a penis. I believe there is a clear difference between sex and gender and that we shouldn't mix up the two. Women should be protected, as per the Equality Act, on the basis of their sex.

Transwomen should also be protected on the basis of their gender identity which society should both support and respect.

There is absolutely a way to debate and negotiate the rights of cis-women and trans women in a respectful and tolerant way but that tone has been sadly lacking in the debate around these issue recently.

I need to be clear that I don't believe the people of Oldham are prejudiced – I believe them to be fair minded and reasonable. However, I worry that you have asked this question to sow division in the LGBT community as you have sought to do among other communities in the past.

In fact, just a few weeks ago at the local elections you were witnessed delivering racist and misogynistic election material that sought to convince people of the author's overarching conspiracy theory that this town was in the grip of a shadowy 'Asian cartel'.

I note that as you now have an LGBT Leader of the council the tone of your questions has moved away from divisions based on race to one of divisions based on identity.

I hope that this is merely a coincidence and not the start of a pattern of behaviour aimed at dividing people in this town.'

5. Question has been submitted by Gary Tarbuck

In the lead up to the election, the businessman Frank Rothwell distributed a leaflet in Chadderton South promoting Arooj Shah. Whilst many may consider this unbecoming behaviour of someone who has become Freeman of the Borough, will the Council please confirm how much it has paid Mr Rothwell's various businesses in contracts and what the Council's current business interests are with him?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that...the Council has no contracts with Mr Rothwell's businesses, and there has only been one payment to Manchester Cabins for £678.00 for a 20 ft Storage Container in the last year.

The only current business with Mr Rothwell personally since retirement, is that he is the Leader's Business Ambassador, which is an unpaid position, to help champion economic recovery, business support and business networking opportunities for the benefit of local businesses.

6. Question submitted by Denise Leach

A worrying petition online suggest that Oldham Council is involved in Operation Hexagon and that this is a joint Council and GMP operation that is targeting whistleblowers who have exposed the now proven cover up of the grooming and gang rape of our town's children.

Will the new leader of Oldham Council please confirm if OMBC is involved Operation Hexagon? And if so, as an open and transparent council, is the Leader prepared to order the release of all the paperwork involving Operation Hexagon?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'that Operation Hexagon was a Greater Manchester Police initiative examining the community impact of historic Child Sexual Exploitation being made online. Oldham Council supports this initiative by Greater

Manchester Police. Any request for the sight of paperwork connected with Operation Hexagon would have to be made to Greater Manchester Police.'



7. Question submitted by Julie Heywood

Previous to becoming leader of Oldham Council, Amanda Chadderton held the portfolio for schools whilst Jim McMahon was Leader of Oldham Council. Will she now confirm that during her role in charge of schools, that White Working-Class girls were safe and there was no grooming at the school gates?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied that...'Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership are not aware of any safeguarding issues relating to girls being groomed at the school gates during the period specified. The Partnership has a dedicated Training Officer for Children & Young people who visits schools to deliver healthy relationship work, online sexual harassment and consent. This takes place at primary, secondary and further Education Establishments and also links vulnerability to harmful sexualised behaviours, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and grooming. This officer also delivers awareness raising sessions to staff sexual abuse and sexual harassment in schools. Further details of these activities are available on request'.

8. Question submitted by Warren Bates

At the last full Council meeting, the Labour Leader, Cllr Amanda Chadderton, nominated Dr Chauhan to be deputy mayor in 2022/23. The council went through the normal sham of voting him in. I choose the word sham speaking as an ex-councillor, the reason being, that the Doctors had already announced his appointment as deputy mayor, at a meeting held in Mirpur Pakistan the week previous.

Will the Leader remind fellow labour Cllrs that policy decisions about our town should not be mentioned anywhere, especially in another country, until our full council has debated them before a democratic decision is agreed?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'that nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23 were undertaken in line with the agreed procedures for making such appointments and these were consequently formally approved at the Annual Council meeting on 25th May 2022.'

9. Question submitted by Philida Shipp

With energy costs at an all-time high, how is Oldham Council leading the way on green energy that is affordable, and what support is the government giving to the council to expand this?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that...the Council knows that the cost of energy is a key concern for Oldham residents and businesses, especially at this time. The award-

winning Warm Homes Oldham programme to insulate the homes of low-income families is continuing.

Additionally, the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy was adopted in March 2020, which sets out the Council's ambition to create a Local Energy Market for Oldham to supply locally generated green energy to residents and businesses at affordable prices. An update on Oldham's Green New Deal was presented to the Council's Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2022, which included the completion of a Local Area Energy Plan for Oldham borough. This work is complex but includes market engagement with providers interested in joining a Delivery Partnership to build large-scale renewable energy generation across the borough.

The Council is supported in this work by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Local Energy Market project, and the Government has indicated that it may be prepared to look at reforming the national energy market to allow 'locational pricing' which would support the Council's work. The energy market regulator Ofgem includes 'locational pricing' in its forward work programme.

Finally, the Council is looking to develop a number of energy infrastructure projects including the proposed Minewater District Heat Network for Oldham Town Centre, which if successful could supply town centre businesses and residents with affordable green energy for years to come.

10. Question submitted by Jeffery Smith

The dual carriageway leading from Manchester roundabout to Westwood/Featherstall Road North roundabout, on both sides of the dual carriageway is a mess, why can't it all be cleaned up? I'd do it myself but I'm not allowed and I've been asking councillors for years. Thanks.

Councillor Stretton Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied... 'thank you for your question, Oldham Way is mechanically swept on a weekly basis, through the summer months all verges are litter picked and cleaned monthly as part of the grass cutting and bed maintenance programme. The most recent cut and clean was on Wednesday, 13th July. If there is a section you think is being missed, please advise further and the teams will ensure this is picked up.'

11. Question submitted by Amanda Cawdron

Cllr Chadderton in her new position as Leader of the Council agreed that there had been previous failings and that it is now time to get things right. The CSE report found Oldham Council had been 'more concerned about covering up their failures' than acknowledging they failed to take action.

Is Cllr Chadderton prepared to take action to remove the council of those officers and councillors that we're responsible for these failures and cover ups?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ... 'the report was clear that there had been no 'cover up' of the issue of child sexual exploitation in Oldham or the complexities in tackling it.

It provides evidence of work carried out to communicate the risk of CSE to school children and their parents and cites this as good practice for the time.

However, as Ms Cawdron identifies it does rightly highlight poor responses that the council sent to an adult victim of abuse where we clearly were not open and transparent in our past failings. In that case we did not readily accept our past failings and potentially caused further distress to someone who we had also failed as a child. I'm clear this cannot happen again. I have asked for a thorough review of this victim's contact with the council as an adult so we can understand how that happened and make sure it doesn't happen again. That review will also look at staff conduct and whether disciplinary action is appropriate.'

12. Question submitted by Lord Christopher Badderly

I would like to know the name of the person who supplied Shabir Ahmed, convicted of CSE in Rochdale, with a character reference. I have been informed that the person responsible is a current Labour Councillor. Is this correct?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'that there is no record of anyone from Oldham Council providing Shabir Ahmed with a reference'.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon also addressed the Council on this point and rebutted allegations, which had been made online and elsewhere, that he personally had provided Shabir Ahmed with a reference.

13. Question submitted by Karl Bardsley

In a statement from Andy Burnham on Friday 1st July he states "Operation Sherwood will investigate the historic cases identified by the review team to bring any perpetrators to justice." My question is what is being done about the victims that were not in the review, like the lady that was subjected to abuse in 1981?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'thank you for this question. I can confirm that Operation Sherwood will investigate all historic cases of CSE from any time-period. It will start with those in the review but will also pick up any others that are brought forward to the team. We will work with GMP to promote Operation Sherwood and encourage historic victims to come forward. We will also make sure they are given the support they need as they bravely seek justice for their past abuse.'

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

Councillor C. Gloster, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group:

Question 1: Greater Manchester Police

The current staffing structure of Greater Manchester Police is having a detrimental impact on the provision of community policing in the Borough of Oldham. Traditionally each of Oldham's 20 Wards have had a dedicated community police officer but this is no longer the case despite assurances to the contrary provided by both Greater Manchester Police's Chief Constable and by the Mayor of Greater Manchester. Will the Leader therefore raise the issue of the police's staffing resources with Greater Manchester Police?

Councillor Chadderton undertook to raise these staffing issues, reported by Councillor C. Gloster, during her regular meetings with Chief Superintendent Bowen.

Question 2: Anti-Social Behaviour on the Metrolink Network
Safety on trams is becoming an increasing concern for commuters across Greater Manchester but especially so for those passengers that used Metrolink services on the section of track between Oldham and Rochdale, which continues to see frequent occurrences of anti-social behaviour – more so than any other part of the network. It was welcome that announcements were recently made regarding the installation of new security cameras but what most be most helpful would be to see conductors on the tram network providing a visual deterrent to would-be miscreants and reassurance to most of the paying public?

Councillor Chadderton replied that she shared the concerns expressed regarding violence and anti-social behaviour of the Metrolink network. This should be continually monitored but that if current initiatives failed to solve the problems, then the deployment of Conductors on the Network should be examined.

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:

Question1 – Manchester Airport

Passenger travelling to and from Manchester Airport have in recent weeks and months had to endure extremely lengthy delays to their journeys and disruption to their travel arrangements due to staffing shortages. Please could the Leader of the Council take up these issues with the Chief Executive of Manchester Airport Group and also raise the issue of the dividends from the Airport Shareholdings that are owed to the Council?

Councillor Chadderton replied that she shared Councillor Sheldon's concerns regarding the recent scenes of delays and disruption witnessed at Manchester Airport. In this regard she undertook to write to the Chief Executive of Manchester Airport Group to request that the issues relating to the delays at the airport and the matters ascertaining to the dividends are addressed.

Question 2 – Extreme Weather Conditions

Councillor Sheldon referred to the weather forecast which was forecasting temperatures to be more than 35 degrees centigrade

in the Borough in the days ahead. In this regard Councillor Sheldon expressed his concerns for public safety and for the safety of wildlife arising from outdoor activities such as swimming in open water and having barbeques on moorlands for instance?



Councillor Chadderton replied expressing her concern at these activities and the attendant possibility of death and serious injury that are associated with them. In this regard she would instruct the Council's Communications Team to issue press and news releases highlighting the dangers that can arise as a result of undertaking certain outdoor activities in very hot weather.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party:

"Recently there had been reports that seven underperforming schools had been identified as needing intervention in Oldham. I'd like to know why the situation has reached this stage and what actions the council hasn't been undertaking, as this, to me, looks like the council is failing the children of this borough yet again. The government say that they are investing in this area, I'd like to know what the council is doing to ensure other schools aren't going to fall into special measures? In the same week that that report came out, a head teacher was complaining that for almost a decade he had been asking the council to attend to leaking buildings and flooding issues. Children shouldn't have to work in that kind of environment. The head teacher said that the council had been dodging the matter and dodging accountability so when will somebody from this administration take responsibility and help this headmaster to provide good school for these children or I'm going to have to have a word with the headmaster and that in the school holidays perhaps say that the classrooms are empty retail spaces and put a sign outside saying it's 'Spindles two' and only then will the council spend some money?"

Councillor Chadderton replied that in terms of the seven underperforming schools, she didn't know which schools they were. The Leader had read that same report and had asked for the council's education service to prepare her a report thereon. Presently it was unclear as to whether they were local authority schools or academy schools?

Question received from Councillor McLaren
Councillors throughout the borough are receiving complaints about residential properties that have been left empty for extended periods. These properties are privately owned, they become a blight on the neighbourhood and they can take up a large amount of Elected Member and Officer time which could be put to better use. Could the relevant Cabinet Member, please tell us what powers the Council have to bring such properties back into use?

Councillor Chadderton replied that the Council had limited powers with regards to tackling privately owned long-term empty properties within borough. For the Council's enforcement teams

to take action properties have to be causing a direct nuisance to prescribed members of the public. The most common type of enforcement is serving a statutory notice for action regarding open access, defective guttering/damp to neighbouring properties and pest waste issues. In most cases this results in the owner taking steps to make the property safe, but it rarely resolves the long-term vacant issue and put an end to reoccurring complaints.

Other Powers available to Local Authorities, each with its own barriers and challenges and used as last resort included:

- Enforces Sale Procedure – the Council is in the final stages of successfully completing its first ESP with a view to doing more in the coming months.
- Compulsory Purchase Order – Was the main tool used in Housing Market Renewal over a decade ago, mostly used to regenerate streets and rows of housing
- Empty Dwelling Management Orders – not currently used in Oldham but Officers are reviewing the process to determine how it can be effectively used in Oldham

The Council is also working with Homes England within scope of its Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026 to launch a refreshed empty homes scheme using the learning from the Empty Homes Pilot that took place in 2019-21. We will be looking to launch the new Empty Homes Scheme late autumn.

Question received from Councillor Birch:

Children and young people are the future of our borough, but over many years we have seen youth services cut and facilities close. Young people are also having to face increased challenge and pressure that are brought about by a variety of issues including the pandemic, exams, the cost of living and peer pressure. Could the Cabinet member for Children and Young People, please tell us what the Youth Service are doing to support our young people?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet member for Children and Young People's Services replied outlining a range of positive initiatives that the Council's Children's Services was undertaking to support the Borough's young people in such challenging circumstances.

Question received from Councillor Al-Hamdani

Greater Manchester has been in special measures since December 2020. Since the creation of the Greater Manchester Mayoralty, the political responsibility for the region's policing has rested with Mayor Andy Burnham.

An average of 220 crimes per day went unrecorded during 2019 and 2020. Earlier this year iOPS was scrapped but no one has taken responsibility for its failed implementation.

In March 2021 it emerged that Greater Manchester Police had only managed to act on 8.5% of reported crime. That is the second worst figure across England and Wales and it's far lower than the 14.4% average.

More needs to be done to increase GMP's capacity to act on crime, and it is particularly concerning that HMIC still has

significant concerns over how Greater Manchester Police identify and support victims of serious crime
Political accountability has been lacking throughout the period of GMP being in special measures. Will the Leader of the Council write to Mayor Burnham asking him to come to Oldham to field questions from councillors – as he has done elsewhere in Greater Manchester – on the ongoing situation affecting Greater Manchester Police?

Councillor Chadderton replied: that she would be happy to invite Mayor Andy Burnham to attend Oldham and to field questions from councillors about the performance of Greater Manchester Police, as has happened in other authorities across Greater Manchester. However, she added that she hoped that there would be more councillors present, at such a meeting than on a previous occasion when the Mayor Andy Burnham spoke on this matter to Oldham Councillors, in late November 2021. On that occasion only a handful of Oldham Councillors were in attendance, with most of the audience being made up of Councillors from outside of Oldham.

Question received from Councillor Alyas:
What are the plans for the outdoor market once the indoor market is relocated into the Spindles?

Councillor Chadderton replied that the Council is passionate about ensuring that the Tommyfield market and the indoor and outdoor traders have a thriving future. There were a number of options being explored for the outdoor market traders to use building on the feedback from the trader engagement sessions. The Council continues to welcome all traders to engage with the Market management team to ensure all views and ideas are captured, ahead of the options being finalised and discussed with traders, shoppers and visitors to inform the final decisions.

Question received from Councillor S. Bashforth:
Further to the publishing of the independent assurance review into historic child sexual exploitation in Oldham, and the subsequent Adjournment debate in Parliament, where Racheal Maclean, the Conservative Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department thanked local MPs Jim McMahon and Debbie Abrahams - in the Minister's words - "for setting out their strong commitment to securing justice for those victims, which is what we all want to see?"
The Minister further said, " In that, he will have the full support of Conservative Members and the full force of the Home Office—the Home Secretary, and every single Home Office Minister ".
Rachel Maclean, the Conservative Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, also stated "... I can say from my position as a home Office minister that to call into question the integrity of the law enforcement professionals who dedicate their lives and careers to investigating these incredibly disgusting and abhorrent crimes is outrageous. It is completely wrong, and anyone who thinks that there is any question about their professionalism needs to take a good, long, hard look at themselves".

My question is this: in the light of these strong and unequivocal messages of support from a senior Government Minister, spoken in Parliament, has this council had any other comments, positive or negative about the report from the Government? And in the light of continued calls for further reviews and or inquiries from some members of this council, will the Leader and Chief Executive formally write to the Government asking them if they feel this ought to be the case?

Councillor Chadderton replied that she welcomed the debate in parliament and the commitment of Oldham's Members of Parliament to publicly address this issue and raise it for debate with ministers.

Rachael Maclean's support for the work of the independent review team and other review teams was unequivocal and much welcome. It was clear that the government had absolute confidence in the purpose and objectives of their work, just as Oldham MBC does.

The Council is in active conversation with the Department for Education and the Home Office about the review findings and our response to it – both to see how they can help us drive improvements to services and how they can help us share learning from our review across the sector.

The work with DfE and Home Office is ongoing, and I know they are supportive of the work that the Council is doing and are seeking to help us.

Should anyone else wish to write to the Home Office, Department for Education or Ofsted about the review they would be welcome to do so.

Question received from Councillor Nasheen:

I have had some residents contact me asking when they will get their £150 energy rebate. Can the relevant cabinet member provide and update on how many people have received their rebate and when everyone else will?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that The Council has issued payments to 85,840 out of the 88,292 households eligible to receive the Council Tax Energy Rebate.

Of these 57,951 payments were made by Direct Debit with 27,889 made by the Post Office who are currently administering these payments.

Question received from Councillor Harrison:

Too many Oldham families are struggling with the rising cost of living. Energy, fuel and food have gone through the roof, and this is only going to get worse with rising levels of inflation and another fuel rise on the horizon. Can the relevant Cabinet Member tell us what the council are doing to help struggling families?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that, the Council has provided

support to struggling households via the Energy Rebate and Household Support Funding.

So far on the Energy Rebate the Council has issued payments to 85,840 out of the 88,292 households eligible to receive this support.

Of these 57,951 payments were made by Direct Debit with 27,789 made by the Post Office who are currently administering these payments.

Via the Household Support Fund, a further £2.419m is to be provided which includes:

- Support to working age in receipt of council tax reduction of £25 to further support fuel costs
- Support to pensioners of £110 in receipt of council tax reduction to further support fuel costs.
- Vouchers for those in emergency need to replace boilers.
- Working together with Action Together to support the most vulnerable
- Food Support for eligible children for the Spring Bank and Summer Holidays

Question received from Councillor Shuttleworth:

It is pleasing to know that Oldham residents have been coming forward offering to host individuals and families fleeing the atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine. Sadly, many will have arrived in this country with few personal belongings and many of them will also have a limited knowledge of our culture and language.

Could the relevant Cabinet Member, advise as to how many refugees from the Ukraine have been provided with accommodation in our Borough? What systems the Council have in place to ensure a placement is safe and secure?

And what support hosts and guests receive to ensure that the placement is a successful one?

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that a total of 53 Ukrainian refugees have been provided with accommodation, in the Oldham Borough, through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

When the Council receives notification of a Visa application being approved by the Home Office, DBS checks are undertaken for all sponsors in a household aged 16 years and over. Checks are also made with Social Care and Greater Manchester Police.

In addition, inspections of all sponsor properties are undertaken by Environmental Health colleagues in advance of the Ukrainian refugee's arrival. Once the refugees have arrived, Social Care colleagues undertake a welfare visit to the sponsor household to meet with the guest.

If the DBS or property inspection is failed, the Council will look to rematch any Ukrainian refugees to another household.

Regular dialogue takes place with sponsors/guests and the Council has a dedicated officer to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Support is provided by a range of partners including Education, Get Oldham Working, Access Oldham, Housing, Libraries and other providers to support their integration.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired. The Council was advised that all unanswered questions would receive a written reply.

RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

11

QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the undermentioned dates, to receive questions on any items within the minutes from members of the Council that are not members of the Cabinet and to receive appropriate responses from Cabinet members. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 17th February 2022, 28th February 2022 and 17th March 2022 were submitted.

Members asked the following questions: -

Question from Councillor Hamblett:

I would like to ask a question regarding the very serious issue regarding the recent IT failures affecting Oldham Royal Hospital and indeed the wider Northern Care Alliance across Oldham, Bury and Rochdale.

IT systems began to fail on Wednesday, 18th May, causing significant disruptions to outpatient services as well as diagnostic tests and scans. The Chief Medical Officer of Northern Care Alliance, Dr Chris Brookes said that the IT failures represented a “critical incident”.

Nine days into this critical incident - and with IT systems still causing delays to patient care – it was announced that experts from abroad were being flown in but that there was still no end in sight. Hospital staff had said that they were unable to keep track of patients or report the results of tests back to patients. Our residents rely on many of the services affected by the recent IT failures across north Manchester. A&E departments and surgical theatres experienced protracted and costly delays. So, I ask the Leader, what work has the administration undertaken to investigate these IT failures and will there be a full impact report on the incident so that the full extent of the damage and the efforts to prevent a recurrence can be put before the public?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adult Care replied that ‘at approximately 00:00 on Wednesday, 18th May 2022, the Trust started to experience disruption and instability issues in some of its digital clinical systems. From that point the Trust’s digital team started investigating the issues with the relevant technology providers to investigate and resolve this. At that point the Trust also declared an internal Business Continuity Incident. On the evening of Sunday 22nd May further degradation of the IT systems with critical memory loss resulted in new instability across the core clinical systems further impacting clinical services with greater loss of key activity such as outpatients, diagnostics and planned care and handover of care communications with primary care colleagues. In line with the

recognised NHS national emergency preparedness Policy and National Framework, the NCA escalated from a Business Continuity to Critical Incident status. This decision was taken 13:00 on 23rd May 2022.

Over 400 clinical and administrative systems were affected and were not available to hospital, community and primary care colleagues.

Systems and processes have been developed to capture, assess and respond to potential patient harms. Audits are being undertaken for assurance purposes to identify safe systems for onwards referrals from ED, e-outcomes from OPD and clinical elements such as VTE assessments. Datix systems remain live but are being supplemented with floor walkers to discuss safety and harms with staff and capturing any incidents on paper systems. Incident trends and analysis will be completed. Safe migration back into clinical and administrative system is well underway with supporting audits to ensure risks are controlled. Throughout this incident regular updates have been provided to officers of the Council, GP practices, Commissioners and local system partners. The Trust recognises more communications could have been done with some stakeholders and further work is being done to ensure that local MPs and are kept up to date with events in a timely manner. The CQC, and NHS England have been fully briefed and kept updated and the Trust has updated its messages for patients and public.

Now the major aspects of the IT outage have been dealt with, the Trust is of course turning to a lessons learned exercise and has committed to work with partners on that piece of work. As the relevant Cabinet Member, I have asked our newly jointly appointed officer responsible for health and care integration as part of the current NHS reorganisation to lead a piece of work and report back to the relevant meetings with the outcomes of that work on behalf of the Administration.

Question received from Councillor Lancaster:

Further to the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held 28th February 2022, Councillor Lancaster requested an update on the Clock Tower at Diggle.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, updated the Council on work that was being undertaken in this regard.

Question received from Councillor Kenyon:

Further to the Cabinet meeting held 17th February 2022, Councillor Kenyon requested an update on the 'Creating a Better Place' initiative.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, updated the meeting on this matter and reported that further details thereon would be reported to the appropriate bodies of the Council in due course.

Question received from Councillor Woodvine:

Further to the Cabinet meetings held 17th and 28th February 2022, Councillor Woodvine sought clarification on the heritage value of historic buildings in the Borough, especially those that

were situated in the Saddleworth wards. In addition, he asked when the 'street bins' would arrive.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, undertook to pursue these issues and write to Councillor Woodvine thereon.



Question received from Councillor Surjan:

"We know of the incident of the young man that took place on 21st June and unrest that have been subsequently taking place in Coldhurst and other wards after the emergence of the video. Whilst the community have acknowledged the increase in police presence, local residents and myself as a ward Councillor want to know why it took GMP almost two weeks to inform and appeal to the public for information? This is not acceptable. Please can I request, the Cabinet team and Council Executives arrange a community meeting, which is open to all members of the public as previous ones were behind closed doors.

We know of the incident on the young man that took place on 21st June and unrest that have been subsequently taking place in Coldhurst and other wards after the emergence of the video. Whilst the community have acknowledged the increase in police presence, local residents and myself as a ward Councillor want to know why it took GMP almost two weeks to inform and appeal to the public for information? This is not acceptable.

And can I request, the Cabinet team and Council Execs arrange a community meeting, which is open to all members of the public as previous ones were behind closed doors?

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that Officers attended the report of an assault on the 21st June 2022 in an alleyway off Featherstall Road North immediately and a full and thorough investigation was launched, although there were no known suspects. It was not appropriate at the time due to conflicting accounts for this matter to progress to a public appeal for information. Specialist officers continued to work with the victim. When the video was posted and suspect details were provided, officers moved quickly to make arrests. A total of four arrests had been made and further arrests were anticipated.

There was a public meeting that was held on Sunday, 3rd July and was attended by police, council representative and elected members. Police and partners worked closely with the local community to mitigate rumour and speculation that was being circulated, which led to a meeting of elected members and community leaders being held. This meeting was to brief key individuals who hold influence in the community to provide clarity on the current situation and how they could help dispel rumours and speculation circulating in the community. This meeting was held on Thursday, 7th July.

At that meeting the council made a commitment to ensure that those in attendance would be updated of any significant developments in the case and therefore further meetings may follow due course.

Question received from Councillor Alyas:

We would all agree that Don't Trash Oldham has been an overwhelming success and I know it made a huge difference in my own ward, Medlock Vale. However, I did have some complaints that not all alleyways were cleared. Can the Cabinet Member provide an explanation and let me know if these will be done in the future?



Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that as far as she had been made aware all the alleys within the Medlock Vale Ward have received a clearance as part of the DTO campaign that was undertaken in December. It has been noted however that despite this clearance residents in some areas over the last 6 months are continuing to dump waste inappropriately and with this in mind we continue to issue fixed penalties and where they remained unpaid, we will prosecute. If a list of alleys that have been perceived to have been missed can be emailed to the Council, officers will endeavour to ascertain the current situation and if for any reason they have been genuinely missed, the street cleansing team will pay them a return visit.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 17th February 2022, 28th February 2022 and 17th March 2022 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided thereon be noted.

12

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – New Deal for Workers

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Goodwin SECONDED the following MOTION: 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'.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:



Throughout the pandemic, workers in all types of employment 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. We agree more must be done to tackle this, but according to the Office of National Statistics, the unemployment rate had generally been falling since late 2013 up until the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in December 2019 to February 2020. It has now returned to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels.

However more must be done to keep money in people's pockets by having more secure employment and reducing the tax burden on the wages people earn. We note with concern, that where incomes have stagnated that many workers have experienced real term pay decline. The North West region has some of the highest levels of low pay, in-work poverty is increasing nationally, with one in six working households now falling below the poverty line. This is due to policies by local authorities like Oldham Council which actively encouraged low paid jobs and boasted that "The average wage rate in Oldham is 16% lower than the UK average, representing a significant cost saving for businesses" (OMBC Investment activity brochure, 2013).

Sadly, unscrupulous employers have used cheaper labour from abroad and places like the European Union, whilst failing to invest in upskilling and retraining a more than capable domestic workforce. To tackle low pay, we support employers and local authorities who invest in upskilling and retraining their workforce and the government's plan to control migration levels. We also reject Britain ever re-joining the European Union (EU), European Economic Area, EU Customs Union or EU Single Market which helped stagnate working peoples pay.

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.
- We oppose the actions of employers across all sectors that force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, meaning they may have to work longer hours for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- That Oldham Council pays its 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 Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions requesting if legislation will be tabled to end ‘fire and rehire’ and protect residents employment terms and conditions, and to ask that workers get a pay rise at least equal to inflation where financially possible, with low paid workers being given priority.
- That Oldham Council will not use ‘fire and rehire’ as an employer and will not sign contracts with contractors who use them and will continue to ensure the council’s procurement practices certify that we use contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records.
- Welcome the increasing number of 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.
- Confirm when Oldham Council will meet the full objectives of the TUC campaign for a ‘New Deal for Working People’.
- Welcome the Conservative government increasing the National Living Wage which has increased to £9.50 from 1 April 2022 – which equates to an extra £1,000 a year for a full-time worker.
- Welcome the Conservative government increasing the tax-free personal allowance to £12,570 since 2010 and welcome the £6 billion tax cut that will see the level at which people start paying National Insurance rise to £12,570 – lifting 2.2 million people out of paying any personal tax and ensuring people get to keep more of the money they earn.
- REJECT Britain ever re-joining the European Union (EU), European Economic Area, EU Customs Union or EU Single Market which helped stagnate working peoples pay.

• Write to Oldham's three MP's seeking to confirm that they and the Labour Party will REJECT Britain ever re-joining the European Union (EU), European Economic Area, EU Customs Union or EU Single Market which helped stagnate working peoples pay.



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

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

RESOLVED that Oldham Council:

1. Works 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Encourage local businesses to support the Greater Manchester (GM) Good Employment Charter to improve employment standards across the Borough.
5. Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

Motion 2 – Early Years Funding

Councillor Munroe MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following MOTION: 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.



AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Red: Strike out Green: Replace with/add.

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 due to a failure by this Council to plan.
- Official data from Ofsted The Guardian Newspaper has claimed shows nurseries are closing at a higher rate in poor and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- The data shows that there has been a 3.8% increase for 2-year-old free early education entitlement in Oldham and in the Greater Manchester authorities to £5.67 as per the data set from the Department of Education for 2022/23.
- The data shows that there has been a 3.7% increase for 3 to 4-year-old free early education entitlements in Oldham and in the Greater Manchester authorities. With Oldham now receiving £4.66 as per the data set from the Department of Education for 2022/23.

- The government has already announced up to £180m to provide better training and support for staff working with preschool children.



Oldham

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

- It is concerning that some 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 may 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.

- 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.
- That the Council Leader of Oldham Council will instruct the Cabinet member for Finance to direct the appropriate funding to this vital service.

- To contact local employers and make sure that their employees are aware of the free hours of childcare available and to take up the provision where their employees are not aware.

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

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

RESOLVED

Council requests that 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.

13

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Making Fairer Decisions

Councillor Kenyon MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes that:

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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Stretton
SECONDED the following amendment:

Paragraph 4

Insert – currently

Paragraph 6

Insert – that in developing a new approach to impact assessments for council decisions the standard assessment criteria

Delete – amend the standard assessment criteria within the decision-making reports and records to and insert – should
Paragraph 7

Insert – impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on

Delete – (a context assessment). This to be included on the section detailing with implications for Children and Young People

Paragraph 8

Delete – This to be included in the section on the Co-Operative Agenda.

Paragraph 9

Insert – in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments.

Amendment to Motion to read

This Council Notes that:

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 currently 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 that in developing a new approach to impact assessments for council decisions the standard assessment criteria should include a requirement to consider the implications of the decision on:

- 1) The potential impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on the risk of harm to children.
- 2) Authority spending into the local economy.
- 3) Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes, in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments, within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.

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

RESOLVED that:

Council therefore resolves to direct the Chief Executive that in developing a new approach to impact assessments for council decisions the standard assessment criteria should include a requirement to consider the implications of the decision on:

- 1) The potential impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on the risk of harm to children.
- 2) Authority spending into the local economy.
- 3) Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes, in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments, 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 – 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

Councillor Hobin MOVED and Councillor Wilkinson SECONDED the following Motion:

This 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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following amendment:

Paragraph 1.

Insert – Response to the

Delete – Independent Public Enquiry

Insert – Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice

Delete – (OMBC) including the actions and knowledge of Council Members and Officers

Paragraph 4.

Delete – wholly ignored. Unfortunately questions

Delete – and as

Delete – The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure the failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

Insert – We must move forward ensuring we have acknowledged past failing, sought to make amends to those we have failed and ensuring current practice never repeats any of those mistakes. We must also seek justice for those still awaiting it.

Delete Paragraph 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9



Insert

- Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
- Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.
- to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.
- That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

Amended motion to read:

Response to the Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice within Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

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 Monday 27th 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 remain. We as a council, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. We must move forward ensuring we have acknowledged past failing, sought to make amends to those who we failed and ensuring current practice never repeats any of those mistakes. We must also seek justice for those still awaiting it.



Council resolves that:

- Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
- Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.
- to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.
- That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION, as AMENDED, should be adopted as the formal MOTION, as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Ahmad Riaz	FOR	Iqbal Javid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Islam Nazrul Mohammed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST
Alyas Mohammed	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	AGAINST

Azad Ali Montaz	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	McManus Chris	APOLOGIES
Barnes Robert	AGAINST	Moores Eddie	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Munroe Leanne	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	Phythian Clint	FOR
Chadderton Amanda	FOR	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Dean Peter	FOR	Salamat Aqeel Ali	APOLOGIES
Gloster Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	APOLOGIES
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Stretton Jean	FOR
Harrison Jenny	FOR	Surjan Ruji	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	APOLOGIES
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hulme George	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Williams Steve	FOR
Hussain Fida	FOR	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Sajed	APOLOGIES	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES	Garry Elaine (MAYOR)	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 32 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RESOLUTION with 20 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The RESOLUTION was therefore **CARRIED**.

On adoption as the substantive Motion a further recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION, AS AMENDED, as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Ahmad Riaz	FOR	Iqbal Javid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Islam Nazrul Mohammed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST

Alyas Mohammed	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Azad Ali Montaz	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	McManus Chris	APOLOGIES
Barnes Robert	AGAINST	Moore Eddie	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Munroe Leanne	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	Phythian Clint	FOR
Chadderton Amanda	FOR	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Dean Peter	FOR	Salamat Aqeel Ali	APOLOGIES
Gloster Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	APOLOGIES
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Stretton Jean	FOR
Harrison Jenny	FOR	Surjan Ruji	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	APOLOGIES
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hulme George	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Williams Steve	FOR
Hussain Fida	FOR	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Sajed	APOLOGIES	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES	Garry Elaine (MAYOR)	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 32 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RESOLUTION with 20 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The RESOLUTION AS AMENDED was therefore **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED that:

1. Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
2. Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our

Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.

3. to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.
4. That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

14 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 16th March 2022.

RESOLVED that the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 16th March 2022 be noted.

15 **REVISION TO FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which advised that there was a requirement to review the authority's Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs) on a regular basis. Such a review had recently concluded and the consequent revised FPRs were therefore presented to Council for consideration.

A detailed review of FPRs has been undertaken by officers from the Council's Finance, Internal Audit and Constitutional Services teams. This has resulted in a range of proposed changes to improve the FPRs so that they would better reflect the current operating arrangements of the Council and current best practice.

RESOLVED That Council approves the revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules.

16 **REVISION TO THE CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services which advised that a review of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) had been undertaken to ensure the Rules were up to date and fit for purpose. The consequent revised CPRs were therefore presented for consideration.

Because of the review of the CPRs, a revision to Article 15.4.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution was proposed to align Article 15.4.2 with the revised CPRs.

A comprehensive review of the CPRs had been undertaken by officers from Legal Services, the Commercial Procurement Unit, Finance and Internal Audit. This had resulted in a range of proposed changes to improve the CPRs so that they would better reflect updated legislation, the current operating arrangements of the Council and current best practice.



RESOLVED That Council approves the proposed revisions to Article 15.4.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution and to the Contract Procedure Rules in Part 4G of the Constitution.

17

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Head of Democratic Services that presented Council with proposed revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board, determined in response to the introduction of Integrated Care Systems arising from the Health and Care Act 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Council is confirms the revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board and agree to the amendment of the Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution accordingly.

18

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Ahmad SECONDED a report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer that provided Council with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the 2021/22 Municipal Year as required by the Council's Constitution at Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.1.

The report outlined the statutory role of overview and scrutiny; the roles and responsibilities of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee in 2021/22; and a summary of the considerations and work undertaken by the three bodies during 2021/22.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22, be noted.
2. Council notes and supports 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 2021/22.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.10pm