

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 2 November 2022**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 25 October 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 2 November 2022 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Item of Condolence - The late, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 7th September 2022 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 44)
- 4 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 5 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 6 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 7 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

- 8 Leaders Annual Statement
- 9 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

Holiday Activities and Food sessions provide the 13,000 young people in Oldham who access free school meals a warm meal and fun activities during the school holidays. However, the cost of living crisis is a national problem for all households in the UK. Obviously, this crisis is impacting those who can claim free school meals but many others earning less than the National median of £31,000 will begin to struggle with the rise in cost of energy, fuel, and food. Indeed, research carried out by Loughborough University for the End Child Poverty coalition, showed 39.3% of children in Oldham were living below the poverty line in 2020/21. This figure would show that many more than those identified as eligible for free school meals require help during holiday times. Celebrities such as Marcus Ratchford and Jamie Oliver are also supporting campaigns that would like to see an increase in the numbers of young people eligible for free school meals by a further 800,000. This increase is to support all young people living in households that claim universal credit not just those who household income is less than £7,400.

A major barrier to accessing the HAF sessions is the stigma. If sessions are only accessed by those on free school meals, it identifies those young people as some of

the poorest families in the town.

Holiday sessions also help with young people's mental health. Worries about jobs, the cost of living crisis and COVID recovery, more than ever all young people need support with their mental health. The HAF sessions tick all boxes for the 5 ways to wellbeing; sessions allow young people to connect with others, allow them to be physically active, allow them to learn new skills, to participate in social and community life and to help to them take notice, savouring 'the moment'. In allowing all young people to access the HAF sessions we feel the value for money not only comes in feeding those who need it but also tackles mental health issues as well as providing young people with access to informal learning opportunities that help them develop skills for life.

In summary, while we applaud the HAF programmes aims and its ambition to support children and young people who need it most, we feel that given the current crisis around cost of living the programme doesn't go far enough. Opening the Holiday Activities and Food programme to all young people will reach more vulnerable families, people who need support but perhaps not quite eligible. It will be an effective and quick way for the government to support more families with the cost-of-living crisis.

We propose that Oldham Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP; The Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP, Secretary of State for Education; The Rt Hon Bridget Philipson MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, and to our Oldham Members of Parliament; the Rt Hon Jim McMahon MP, the Rt Hon Debbie Abrahams MP and the Rt Hon Angela Raynor MP to ask them to lobby parliament to extend the offer of the Holiday Activities and Food programme to all young people not just those on free school meals to support all those impacted by the current cost of living crisis.

10 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 45 - 60)

(time limit 15 minutes)

22nd August 2022

21st September 2022

11 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor K Phythian to MOVE and Councillor Chadderton to SECOND:

Housing policy

This Council notes the complete confusion that now surrounds housing and planning

policy following the collapse of the mini-budget, sacking of Kwasi Kwarteng as Chancellor and resignation of Prime Minister Liz Truss and subsequent Leadership election.

The status of proposals in the Levelling Up White Paper is in question and rumours about 'supply side reforms' abound.

This Council further notes the impact of Conservative Government policies on Oldham including:

1. The rise in households in housing need in Oldham - up a quarter in the past year – there are now over 7,000 households on the Housing Register waiting for a social home
2. Government refusal to fund general needs social homes in Oldham
3. Affordability issues in private developments meaning the target of 10% affordable homes on developments over 10 homes are often not met
4. Policy uncertainty leading to reluctance of developers to commit to new schemes
5. A hike in mortgage interest payments threatening many residents' ability to pay and keep their home, making it harder for first time buyers and raising private tenants' rents
6. Continued insecurity for private renters as no date is set for the abolition of Section 21 evictions despite a 2019 manifesto commitment

This Council believes that the best solution to Oldham's Housing crisis is a Labour Government committed to: a reformed Private Rented Sector that works for renters and good landlords; helping Councils build good quality social homes at rents people can afford to pay; and help for first time buyers and home owners including abolishing leasehold as a tenure.

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to ask for urgent clarification of the Government's Housing and Planning policies and seeking assurance that

1. Section 21 evictions will be abolished in this session of Parliament
2. Any reforms of the Planning system will ensure local democratic control of the planning process and fund Councils to provide an efficient and effective service
3. Homes England will be directed to support all Councils to build homes for social rent
4. Requirements on developers to provide Affordable Homes will not be further watered down
5. Action will be taken to end land banking by developers
6. Help will be put in place to support mortgage payers who are threatened with losing their home because of Tory mismanagement of the economy

Motion 2

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Brownridge to SECOND

Cost-of-living; Pension Credits

Older people in Oldham face a harsh winter this year, with the cost-of-living crisis affecting older people disproportionately. The government's support schemes haven't gone far enough to support vulnerable older people, and the new chancellor's announcements have done little to give people confidence or stability in the coming months.

Over three million households in the UK are eligible to claim pension credits, however over 800,000 of these households don't claim it. In Greater Manchester this means that

£70m in benefits went unclaimed last year, with over £6m in Oldham alone.

The Labour administration has pledged to ensure that residents in the town will have access to all support that they are entitled to, as people cannot rely on the government to support them when they are unable to support their own policies.

With energy bills, food, fuel and household essential prices rising, many older people in Oldham are forced to choose between staying warm or eating. Whilst government policy is ever changing, the Prime Minister cannot be trusted to help our older people, Oldham Council has taken action to support those who are most vulnerable during this cost-of-living crisis with our £3m We Can Help Campaign.

This Council notes:

- That during the Tory cost of living crisis, £6m in pension credits went unclaimed in Oldham last year, preventing those who are eligible to receive them using this money to support themselves during these difficult times.
- Last year Oldham's Welfare Rights Team supported residents by helping them access over £1.8m worth of social security support.
- The government has failed to provide the necessary support and guidance to eligible pension credit recipients.
- As a local authority we are committed to ensuring that our vulnerable residents can access all the support they are eligible to receive.
- The work that the council are undertaking across all departments to ensure that the most vulnerable residents are supported.

This Council resolves to:

- Ensure that the council continues its joined up approach to supporting residents during the cost-of-living crisis, working across all areas to ensure that no resident suffers hardship due to their financial situation.
- Continue to support residents to access all the benefits they are entitled to access, through the Council's Welfare Rights Team.
- Commit to working alongside Age UK to identify how the council can support older people during the cost-of-living crisis, including ensuring that everyone has access to food and heating.

This Council further resolves to:

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, asking them to make changes to the benefits system to ensure that eligible residents receive benefits automatically, rather than having to claim them; asking them to commit to raising all social security benefits in line with inflation.
- Work alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Ageing Hub to identify more avenues of support for older people in the borough.

12 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Al-Hamdani to MOVE and Councillor Kenyon to SECOND:

No Confidence in Andy Burnham's management of Greater Manchester Police

This Council notes that:

1. There have been no crime figures published for Oldham from July 2019 onwards. Residents are unable to download and compare crime, stop, and

search, and outcome statistics in their local areas unlike, for example, in London.

2. Newsam & Ridgway's review into CSE in Oldham, commissioned by Andy Burnham, notes the following (p40/2.17): the review started in January 2020 yet it took until November 2021 to agree a data processing agreement with GMP (for comparison, a complete data processing agreement with Oldham Council was agreed in April 2020). This data processing agreement with GMP only covered two of the 11 cases investigated – Shabir Ahmed and 'Sophie'. Newsam and Ridgway further note that the lack of an agreement affected the quality of assurance that they could give about the quality of the conduct of GMP.
3. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMICFRS) reported that GMP was failing victims of domestic abuse in 2017, 2019, 2020 and 2021. GMP was placed into special measures in December 2020
4. From 2016, all chief officers at GMP have been replaced. The only two senior posts that have remained unchanged throughout this entire period are the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Deputy Mayor for Policing, Crime, Criminal Justice, and Fire – Andy Burnham and, his appointee, Baroness Beverley Hughes.
5. GMP's failings reflect a national trend of defunding of Police by this Conservative government. Police are solving just 7% of recorded crimes.
6. The highest ever number of rape cases in the UK was recorded in 2022 – 70,330, of which just 2,223 cases resulted in charges being brought. An estimated four out of five rape cases are not reported. Rape investigations currently take an average of 465 days from being reported to someone being charged.
7. There is a backlog of nearly 59,000 cases at the crown court, and over 358,000 cases to the magistrate's court. The backlog increased by 23% in the year prior to the COVID pandemic and has increased further since.

This Council believes that:

Victims of crime in the borough of Oldham, and across Greater Manchester, are being failed. Andy Burnham has failed and the Conservative government's approach to policing and criminal justice has failed.

This Council resolves to:

Direct the Chief Executive to write to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester to inform them of Council's lack of confidence in their ability to effectively manage GMP.

Motion 2

Councillor Quigg to MOVE and Councillor Arnott to SECOND:

Oldham Council like others who provide local services needs to strike the right balance when it comes to spending public money and how they deliver those local services. Plans made today soon age and become historic in the changing world we live in and as quickly as circumstances around them change the need to change and adapt those plans grows stronger. Housing, transport, and local services are not purely a numbers issue, they are in fact a social, economic, and political issue. Building cohesive communities that last and that have good access to key transport infrastructure in the long term means people will want to live in those communities. That means growth and

prosperity.

Sadly, Oldham has poor transport links, not helped by the fact that unlike neighbouring Rochdale which maintained its five train stations, and introduced the Metrolink, Oldham ripped out its rail links for the Metrolink, with Greenfield station officially being Oldham's sole station.

Despite the Borough being the gateway to the Pennines Oldham has failed to capitalise on that unique position leaving us overly dependent on the economic tides of Manchester rather than opening opportunities to West Yorkshire and beyond.

As the Council focuses its regeneration projects on Oldham Town Centre, there is considerable disquiet in the districts where they feel abandoned and neglected. Given many of these districts are net contributors to the Council budget and are the growth areas for people, businesses, and housing it is not unreasonable for people who live there to ask why the Council isn't treating them equally and invest in those districts as well.

Coupled with high levels of immigration into the United Kingdom, there has been a significant strain put on public services and community cohesion due to levels being far too high for far too long. It is why a balance must be struck with those already living here as well as maintaining a sustainable supply of housing and need. That is why we need to deliver the quality homes we need, the quality services we need whilst being aware of the genuine and legitimate concerns of residents already living in our Borough.

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and its subsequent replacement, the Places for Everyone plan was and is so unpalatable to so many people in the Borough due to its use of Green Belt land. The Office of National Statistics published the 2021 census relating to household growth. Their findings clearly indicate that projected household growth across Greater Manchester has been severely over-estimated over the preceding ten years (actual growth of 50,000 households as opposed to the projection of 101,000).

Oldham's household growth was consistent with the general pattern (actual growth of 3,400 households in contrast to the projected 6,900). The Government's stance is reasonable, and it is the Government's expectation for councils to proceed cautiously, to meet provision within an area.

However, now that we have hard data available to us in the form of the Census, we believe that the severely erroneous projections that underpin the housing targets—and therefore the Green Belt release—would qualify under the provision set by the Government that a deviation from the standard methodology would be justified in "exceptional circumstances". If the GMCA and the councils are to maintain an evidence-based approach to planning, then the evidence needs to be correct. The evidence needs to change.

This Council resolves that:

- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to adjust the Places for Everyone Plan under the provision set out by the Government that the housing figures meet the request for a deviation from the standard methodology using the "exceptional circumstances" criteria.
- Brownfield sites be prioritised over Green Belt development.
- Shovel ready projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and that they are included in the overall housing figures in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.
- Oldham Council look to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and

practicable.

- Local communities can access neighbourhood plans and referenda in order to sustainably build homes in their area in order to secure local support rather than through top-down targets.
- The Council confirms homeownership as being a fundamental tenant of building stronger communities.
- The Council devolve further competencies both politically and budgetary to the districts.
- That the Council look beyond funding just Oldham Town Centre and apply for funding in any future grant rounds to improve our district town centres.
- Will restrict the number HMO's in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough area and using the Article 4 direction across the Borough, which removes permitted development rights.
- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with neighbouring authorities on a bilateral basis and looks to maximise the potential economic benefits of maximising the opening of new road and rail links between Oldham and West Yorkshire.

The Council further resolves:

- That the Chief Executive will write to the government to:
 - i. Seek a meeting with the Department of Transport and relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to seek extra funding for improved transport in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham.
 - ii. Explore the options of reopening existing railway stations such as those at the Middleton Junction in Chadderton, Diggle in Saddleworth or a new Oldham line which connects to Oldham, Manchester and West Yorkshire for both freight and passenger services which can service the Borough more widely.
 - iii. Support the government's plans to control immigration and deter illegal immigration into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Motion 3

Councillor Rea to MOVE and Councillor Hindle to SECOND:

Regulation of HMO's

With an ever growing number of HMO's popping up across the borough, all Councillors must be aware of the increased frustration caused to neighbouring residents and the place they live. We are aware of the extra congestion these properties cause and that good, essential family homes are being removed from the current market. Currently in Failsworth we have an historic area being swamped with such developments and the character and appeal to this historic place is being lost on a rapid scale.

It can only be seen as a positive thing that we have residents who look upon their community favourably and want certain standards to be upheld where they live. They do after all pay a high premium with their council tax for the pleasure of living in this Borough. It's to the detriment of local residents that the adverse impacts of the HMO's saturating areas causing doctors, dentists and other services to be strained. We are not increasing services to cope with the increased number of residents we are allowing to reside, at a fraction of the cost to those who live in family homes. We want more for the areas we live. We want our residents to remain proud of where they live.

Typically, HMO residents aren't taking part in community life, we want to encourage to build on existing communities and see the next generation grow where their parents intended them to.

This Council Notes

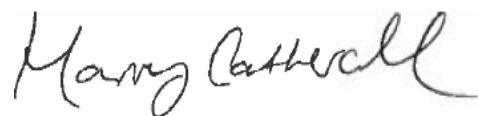
- Council tax is per property and does not reflect the number of adults in each HMO property
- HMO's cause the loss of affordable family homes and this council recognises the need to keep decent family homes available to the market for families to purchase
- HMO's cause the loss of S106 monies on houses that are not being built to meet the demand of areas in the borough

This Council resolves to:

- Gather the evidence to monitor the situation, paying attention to minimise any potential negative impacts HMO's are having on areas. Also, to work with Councillors and residents to protect the interests of the residents, in the future development of HMO's.
- That automatic development rights are removed for HMO's of up to six occupants and that they are to seek planning permission for a HMO of any size. Enforcing an Article 4 direction
- Limit the number of HMO's in the Borough and certain areas within it
- A consultation takes place with neighbouring residents, when development opportunities are sought by landlords to develop HMO's
- Write to the Secretary of State for levelling up, housing & Communities, requesting changes to the current HMO legislation, to enable local authorities to have more control.

13 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 61 - 76)

14 Appointment of Independent Chair of Audit Committee (Pages 77 - 78)



Harry Catherall
Chief Executive

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



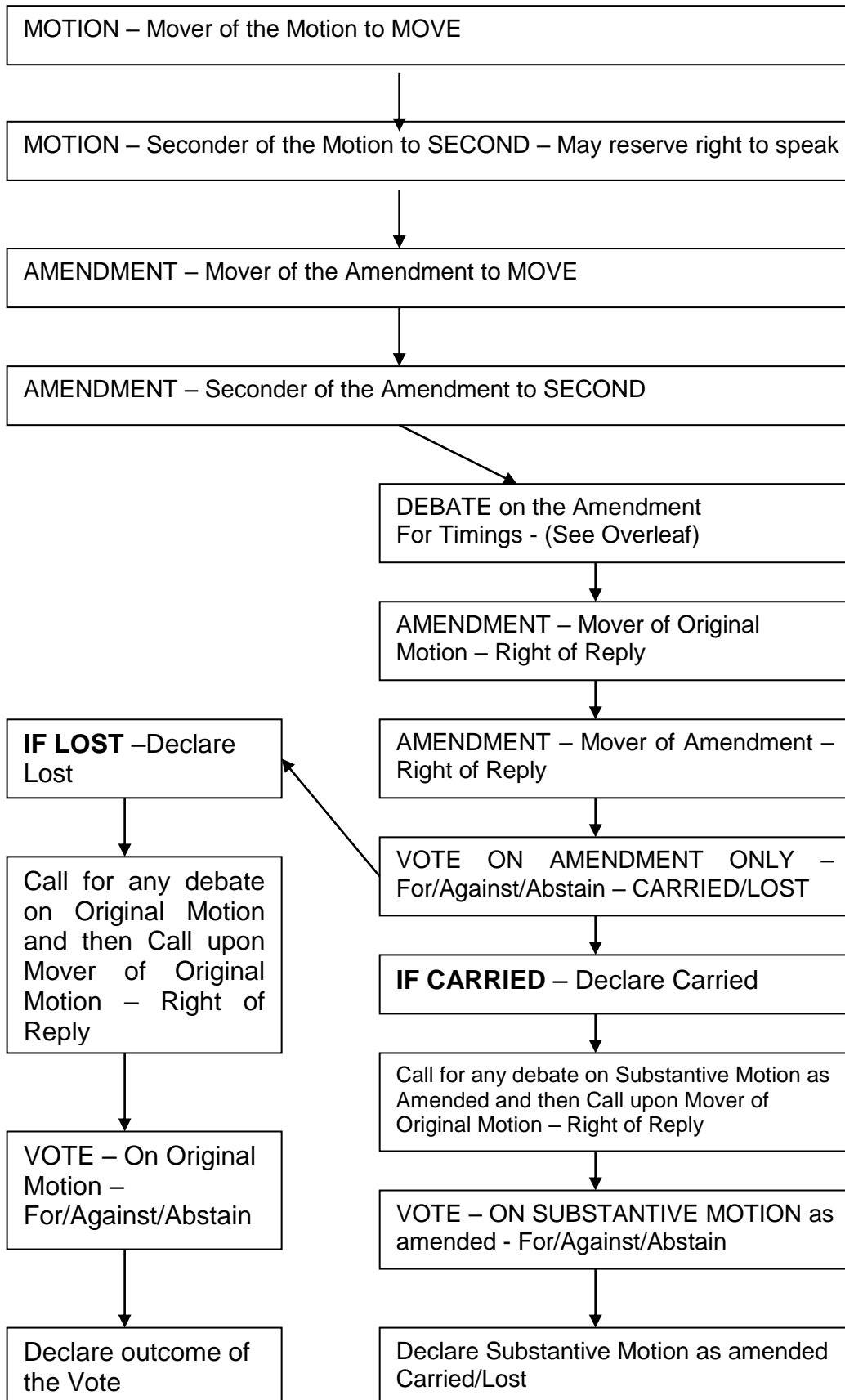
Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT





COUNCIL
07/09/2022 at 6.00 pm

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, Cosgrove, Dean, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harrison, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, A Hussain, F Hussain, S Hussain, Ibrahim, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Marland, McLaren, McManus, Moores, Munroe, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, C. Phythian, K Phythian, Quigg, Rea, Salamat, Sharp, Stretton, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chauhan, Iqbal, Islam, Sheldon and Shuttleworth.

2 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2022 AND 13TH JULY 2022 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

Council considered the Minutes of the meetings held 27th June and 13th July 2022.

Further to Minute 9 (Public Questions) of the meeting held 13th July 2022, a Member referred to Question 8, submitted by Warren Bates and questioned the accuracy, stating that the printed minutes had excluded a debate thereon that had ensued involving the Deputy Mayor.

Further to Minute 13 (Notice of Opposition Business), a Member referred to Motion 2 (Independent Public Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation), stating that the printed minutes of that meeting had omitted a challenge and comments that the Leader of the Council had made regarding another Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation that had been conducted into widespread abuse that had occurred in Telford.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council meetings held on 27th June and 13th July 2022 be approved as correct records.

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

Members of the Council declared interest as follows:

- a. The Mayor informed the meeting that a dispensation was in place to allow all Members to vote on agenda item 14: 'Members Allowance Scheme'. All members present declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in this item, but the dispensation was applicable which allowed members to participate and vote on agenda item 14.
- b. Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

- c. Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.
- d. Councillor Garry declared a disclosable interest by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.
- e. Councillor Williamson declared a disclosable interest by virtue of her partner's employment with Greater Manchester Police.
- f. Councillor Murphy declared a disclosable interest by virtue of his employment with Greater Manchester Police.
- g. Councillor Hazel Gloster declared a disclosable interest by virtue of her husband's occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police

Although the individual Members declared their interests above (b – g), following advice previously given by the Director of Legal Services their interests were not non-registerable interests or pecuniary and therefore did not need to have been 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 address Council regarding the removal of recordings of public meetings from the Council's website.

The Leader stated that recordings of public meetings were removed from the website on a temporary basis whilst a review of conduct at those meetings was undertaken by Officers of the Council. The Leader of the Council confirmed that all recordings were now back online for residents and the media to access.

The Leader added that the Council was reaffirming its commitment to live stream full council meetings, and that past meetings were to remain online for people to catch-up on.

The Leader of the Council added that she wanted to lead a Council that was responsive to Oldham's residents, and which operated in an open and transparent way. In this regard the Council Leader reminded members that under her leadership public question time at Council meetings had been extended to allow those who live and work in the Borough to ask a question.

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

8 **QUESTIONS TIME**

9 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question submitted by Matthew Smith

'In the last local election, I didn't vote for anyone, as I've been extremely disappointed in the way parties have behaved in council meetings and also lost all trust in local councillors for a number of reasons. I decided to watch the last council meeting (July) in the hope that, with a new leader, things may have changed. How wrong could I be?

I would like to say how disappointing it was to see the mayor lose complete control of the meeting and councillors behaving worse than school children. We had Councillor Steve Bashford using the lords' name in vain and then shouting out in reply 'I use any one I want' when challenged. There would be uproar if other religious figures had been mentioned in the same way, yet this was totally ignored by the mayor, who seemed more upset over Councillor Barnes' not sitting down. I do not condone Councillor Barnes' behaviour in refusing to sit down either. I was also shocked to hear Councillor Phythian describe the suggestion of a government-appointed enquiry as a waste of money, despite the comments of victims; total disregard for the victims. The chamber should be ashamed of themselves. Labour's stubbornness around a government-appointed enquiry is clearly an issue which won't go away, as there appears to be a growing demand for one. Therefore, is there no way the Oldham public could be consulted on this to determine whether it is something we want? The reason around cost shouldn't never be used, like Councillor Phythian tried. This council has and continues to waste hundreds of thousands of pounds on vanity projects or just clear wastage, so maybe if cost is such an issue then may be look into this? In addition, what do you intend to do regarding the behaviour of your colleagues in the Labour party in how they conducted themselves in the chamber, like Councillor Bashford's comments? By saying nothing, you're condoning this behaviour. And finally, as leader do you intend to have any meetings with other party leaders to tone down this bad behaviour from your own party and that of other parties?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration replied as follows: 'I'm glad you raised this issue. Behaviour at the last two Council meetings, from a small number of those in the public gallery and – disappointingly – a number of elected members, has been reprehensible.

The taxpayers of Oldham have a right to expect Council business to be carried out safely, fairly, and in accordance with the law. The Council has taken swift action following the last full Council meeting, setting out clearly what we expect from all

those attending our meetings, and telling a small number of those who caused the worst disruption – including throwing missiles, unplugging equipment and tampering with fire alarms – that they are banned from our public meetings for a period of time.

You also mention a public enquiry into CSE in Oldham – which I understand was ruled out by Government yesterday.

We have already had an independent review, from the very best people in the business. These are the people the Government have appointed to review responses to CSE in other authorities – and they have already spent more than two and a half years examining thousands of pieces of evidence here in Oldham.

I have never ruled out a further enquiry into CSE in Oldham. But what I have been clear on is that we must focus on the survivors of the CSE and listening to what they want.

That's why we are working with Keeping Our Girls Safe (KOGS) to create an independent victim support advisory group, to ensure the voice of local survivors shapes our work. That's why we're providing funding for independent – fully independent – legal advice so survivors can get the legal support they need. And that's why we've set up a cross-party group with councillors from all parties to provide direction and scrutiny as we further improve our safeguarding services.

Finally, I have already spoken to elected members from all parties about the horrendous behaviour at the last Council meeting, and asked that we work together, as representatives of the people of Oldham, to give people the fair, informed and respectful representation they deserve.

Thank you'.

2. Question from Hannah Roberts

The Local Plan, together with Places for Everyone when approved and any completed Neighbourhood Plans, will help to shape housing, infrastructure and the local economy for the next 10 years. When finalised, the Local Plan will also be a material consideration in any decisions made on individual Planning Application and will have a big impact of the lives of many Oldham residents. The Issues and Options consulted on last year also contained ground-breaking proposals for making a Green Oldham and helping us to get to net zero. Can the Leader of the Council confirm both the timetable for consultation on the draft Local Plan and how that consultation process will be carried out so that as many residents as possible are aware of what will be in the Local Plan and have the chance to state their views?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration replied as follows: 'thank you for your question. An updated Local Development Scheme, which includes the timetable for preparing a new Local Plan for

Oldham, will be considered later this month and, if approved, published on the Council's website shortly after. When the draft Local Plan is published for public consultation, all residents of the borough, and any other interested parties, will be able to view and comment on the various proposed policies. How to do this, and any other details of how to engage in the public consultation, will be publicised closer to the time of the actual consultation.'

3. Question from Stephen Ingram

Inconsiderate parking outside schools is a problem across the Borough. Other Local Authorities in Greater Manchester have implemented trials of "school streets" to combat this. This is where cars are prohibited from accessing the streets that schools are on to improve safety for children during pick up and drop off times. Are there any plans to trial any such schemes in Oldham?

Councillor Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied as follows: 'thank you for your question. Parking outside schools is a national problem and something we have been reviewing following the escalation of concerns from both schools, parents and our local communities. Oldham will be trialling a School Streets programme with a number of schools across the borough. In November, the Council will be consulting the schools involved, parents, pupils, residents and local businesses to gain their views on the proposed schemes. All of the schemes will be implemented using an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order which means that ongoing consultation and engagement will be taking place to measure the effectiveness of the schemes and if they can be improved in any way.'

4. Question from Alison Shore

'The failure of the government to reduce our reliance on natural gas for energy has left people in Oldham vulnerable to the volatility of the price of natural gas. This has already seen energy prices rise by around £600 per year for the average household when the price cap was last reviewed in April. One estimate suggests that there could be a further increase of £1200 for the average household when the cap is reviewed again in October.

Other local authorities around the country are proposing "warm banks" - warm places for people to go during the winter to reduce how much energy is used keeping their homes warm. Does Oldham have any plans for "warm banks" in the Borough?'

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied as follows: 'thank you for your question - as a Council, we are committed to ensuring that support is available to help Oldhamers get through the coming winter months. We are looking at a range of different measures that we can take to meet this challenge, including setting up warm banks for people to access, and will be releasing our plans soon.'

5. Question from David Barter

'Government has made money available to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions of public sector buildings as part of the "Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme" (PSDS). £1.425 billion has reportedly been made available as part of the third phase of the scheme, with more having been awarded in previous phases.

Has Oldham Council benefitted from previous phases of the PSDS and if so, what has this money been spent on and what are the estimated Carbon emission reductions from any investment that has taken place? Does Oldham Council intend to submit a bid to phase 3b of the scheme, for which applications were intended to open this month (September)?'

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied as follows: 'thank you for your question - I can confirm that the Council has benefitted from previous rounds of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, securing around £290K in round 1 (via a direct application to Salix) for Air Source Heat Pumps at Alexandra Park Depot, and around £100K for a project to upgrade the lighting at Oldham Leisure Centre to LED lighting (via a GMCA consortium bid).

The estimated carbon emissions reduction from these two projects is 30.47tCO₂/annum for Alexandra Park Eco-Centre and 15.94tCO₂/annum for Oldham Leisure Centre.

The Council does intend to submit an application to the latest bidding round for this fund when it opens later this month – details of the application are still under development'.

6. Question from Brian Kelly

'Daycare provision has been closing across Oldham including Stepping Stones Nursery in Uppermill and Hillside Nursery in Sholver. We know that good quality nursery education is important for children to get off to a good start and how difficult it is for them to catch up once they fall behind. Can the Cabinet Member for Children tell us how many other day nurseries and childminders have had to close in the past two years and what the impact is on communities like Sholver and Derker in St James Ward? What can the Council do to support day care provision and to encourage every family to use the free early education offer for two-to-four-year-olds?'

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied as follows: 'between March 2020 and the end of June this year we have seen the closure of 57 early years settings across Oldham. The breakdown includes 4-day nurseries, 2 playgroups and 42 childminders. The remainder are holiday schemes and out of school clubs.

However, over the same period we have seen new provision starting up, which means little change to the net supply of early years places across the borough:

Period Number of registered providers Breakdown
March 2020 239 154 x childminders
85 group settings
June 2022 240 154 childminders
86 settings

The closure of one day nursery and 3 childminders in St James ward has contributed to the most recent childcare sufficiency rating for the ward (Spring term 2022) showing a RAG rating of red for 2-year-old places. This means a shortage of places if all eligible children were to access their free entitlement within the ward where they live.

There is no current evidence of unmet need. This can be explained by the fact that some cross-ward boundary movement is common.

The RAG rating for 3 and 4 year olds places is green.

The Council is working pro-actively with partners delivering front-line services, to raise awareness of the free early education entitlements and to support parents through the eligibility-checking process.

Most recent comparative data from the DfE (published June 2022) shows uptake of the 2-year-old entitlement in Oldham in the January Early Years census at 72% was the same as the national average and slightly ahead of statistical neighbours (71%)

For 3 and 4 year olds, Oldham recorded 95% uptake compared to 92% nationally and a 93% average among statistical neighbour LA's.'

7. Question from Megan Birchall

'Oldham Council has previously announced a project to harness latent heat from mineshafts in the Borough to use to heat buildings in Oldham Town Centre via a District Heat Network. In March 2022 it was reported that the project had been awarded £160,000 from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy for feasibility works.

Can Councillors confirm the status of this project?"

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied as follows: 'thank you for your question – I can confirm that the Council is in the process of appointing external technical and project management consultants to develop the Outline Business Case for the project. Once appointed it is expected that this work will take around 12 months to complete. The Council continues to be in regular discussions with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy around the potential for additional capital grant funding from the Green Heat Network Fund to help develop the project.

8. Question from Dion Linton:
What can be done to stop pubs, family homes and shops being converted into HMOs?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration replied as follows: 'Planning permission is not needed to convert buildings into a House of Multiple Occupation for up to 6 people: all larger properties require a full planning application to be considered. The Council are exploring whether there is the evidence to justify removing such permitted development rights, so that we have visibility on all HMO proposals, but it is not something encouraged under national planning policy.'

9. Question from Josh Charters
There's been another big reorganisation in the NHS with the creation of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership replacing the CCGs across Greater Manchester including Oldham's.

CCGs were set up by the Coalition's Lansley reforms so it is interesting the Government doesn't think this worked and has carried out yet another reorganisation.

Can the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care explain how the new structure will work, who represents Oldham and tell us if she thinks this will help reduce health inequalities and improve delivery of NHS services.

Would she agree with me that the NHS is not safe in the hands of this Government?'

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social care replied as follows: 'Integrated care systems (ICSs) are partnerships of health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined-up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in their area.

Following several years of locally-led development, and based on the recommendations of NHS England and NHS Improvement, the government set out plans to put ICSs on a statutory footing. They exist to achieve four aims:

- improve outcomes in population health and healthcare
- tackle inequalities in outcomes, experience and access
- enhance productivity and value for money
- help the NHS support broader social and economic development.

All relevant clinical commissioning group (CCG) functions and duties transferred to the ICS NHS body on 1 July 2022 when they were established, along with all CCG assets and liabilities, including their commissioning responsibilities and contracts.

Under the Health & Care Bill, a statutory ICS will be led by two related entities operating at system level – an ‘ICS NHS body’ and an ‘ICS health and care partnership’ – together, these are referred to as the ICS.

Each ICS partnership is responsible for agreeing an integrated care strategy for improving health care, social care and public health across their whole population, using the best insights from data available, built bottom-up up from local assessments of needs and assets identified at place level and focusing on reducing inequalities and addressing the consequences of the pandemic for communities. The ICS partnership is expected to be established locally and jointly by the relevant local authorities and the ICS NHS body, evolving from existing arrangements and with mutual agreement on its terms of reference, membership, ways of operating and administration. Local authorities that provide social care services in the ICS area and NHS organisations must be included. Beyond this, members may be from health and wellbeing boards, other statutory organisations, VCSE sector partners, social care providers and organisations with a relevant wider interest such as employers, housing and education providers. The membership may change as the priorities of the partnership evolve.

By comparison, each ICS NHS body is the employer and recipient of the national allocation and as an example, is responsible for:

- Developing a plan to meet the health needs of the population
- Allocating resources to deliver the plan by deciding how its national allocation will be spent across the system.
- Establishing joint working arrangements with partners that embed collaboration as the basis for delivery of joint priorities.
- Arranging for the provision of health services in line with the allocated resources across the ICS footprint through a range of collaborative leadership activities, including: putting contracts and agreements in place to secure delivery of its plan by providers; convening and supporting providers to lead major service transformation programmes; and putting in place personalised care.
- Working alongside councils to invest in local community organisations and infrastructure and, through joint working between health, social care and other partners including police, education, housing, safeguarding partnerships, employment and welfare services, ensuring that the NHS plays a full part in social and economic development and environmental sustainability.

As part of these new arrangements, Oldham has established an Integrated Health and Care Partnership. This brings together all parts of the health service with local government and voluntary sector. The year ahead will be a transition year for the new arrangements to be bed in. The Oldham Integrated Care Partnership is led by a Chief Officer, Mike Barker, and overseen by a Board which is chaired by myself as the Cabinet Member and includes Chief Executives from the Council and local NHS providers including the Royal Oldham and Pennine Care.



And, yes I do agree our NHS is NOT safe in the hands of this Government.

Under their leadership:

- a record number of people are now waiting longer than at any time in the history of the NHS. And that was a fact prior to the start of the pandemic.
- Life expectancy is lessening – people are dying earlier.
- Hospitals are opening foodbanks to support their own staff.
- This Government promised 6,000 more GPs, there has not been a single additional GP given to Oldham

And before my opposition colleagues try to deflect attention away from this appalling track record, let me head some things off at the pass.

- Whilst we are seeing the development of a new GP facility in Shaw it is our Integrated Care Partnership that is making this happen – it was at one point at risk until our Integrated Care Partnership Chief Officer stepped in and he and I are both grateful for the support from local Ward Members including those from the Liberal Democrats.
- And, it is good we are seeing new building works to upgrade parts of the Royal Oldham but this is a long way short of what is needed. That pretty much confirms Rishi Sunak's boast that he is proud to have taken money away from deprived urban areas in order to give it to wealthy Tory heartlands like Tunbridge Wells.

So, our NHS is NOT safe in the hands of this Tory Government. But under my leadership I am determined that we will continue to fight for it as long as that fight is needed.'

10. Question from Chris Morris

'It is reported that Cllr Montaz Ali Azad had an outstanding liability of over £50,000 following his failed legal action against the council. Can the council confirm that this has been settled in full and the taxpayers of Oldham are not left out of pocket?'

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services replied as follows: 'I can confirm that Oldham Council Taxpayers are not out of pocket. There is no financial liability outstanding to the Council.'

11. Question from Lynne Kovacs

'Will the relevant Council Officer please clarify the Council's involvement with Frank Rothwell:-

1. Confirm what contracts it has awarded to him or any firm associated with him over the last 5 year?
2. Clarify the Council's role in The Mills, Hollinwood project and confirm what financial and in-kind support it has provided to this venture?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied as follows: 'the only current business with Mr Rothwell personally 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. The Council were delighted to hear about the decision Mr Rothwell and his family made to buy Oldham Athletic Football Club, but this decision and transactional process had no Council involvement.'

With regards to the specific questions –

- i) The Council has no contracts with Mr Rothwell's businesses, and over the last 5 years there has been a total of £7,144.40 paid to Manchester Cabins for itemised goods / services.
- ii) The Council has no role or involvement with The Mills, Hollinswood and there has been no financial or in-kind support provided to this venture.'

12. Question from Tony Birchall

'Will the council be continuing its plan to clean up alleyways in Oldham and will it take further enforcement action against landlords and businesses who undermine those efforts to keep our town clean by illegally dumping their waste across the borough?'

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods relied as follows: 'I can confirm that the Council is reviewing the success and next steps for the 'Don't Trash Oldham' initiative and this will be reported and discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 19th September. Enforcement Officers continue to investigate and take enforcement action on anyone who can be proven to have fly-tipped and I would like to repeat my request that all incidents of fly-tipping are reported to the Council.'

13. Question from Mahaira Afshaan

'It is fantastic news that Oldham Council is taking action to protect historic buildings on Union Street. I am pleased that a compulsory purchase order for the Prudential Assurance Building has been issued and that the Old Library building will be brought back in to use for a range of purposes, including a space for community groups to meet.'

There are several other grand historic buildings along the Union Street corridor which are disused including the old Masonic Hall and half of the Lyceum. Does the Council have any plans to try and bring these back in to use too?'

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration replied as follows: 'Union Street forms a key part of the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area. It is an area of special architectural and historic interest and is underpinned by the Conservation Management Plan which addresses key issues and challenges and, in turn, provides guidance and policy on how these can be

addressed. These policies include the reuse of vacant heritage assets, design guidance, and potential avenues the Council can take in terms of enforcement and funding.



Officers are making progress with the private sector owner of the Masonic Hall to establish a way forward for its future use. The Lyceum is partly occupied at present by the Music Service and we looking into options to bring the remaining empty space back into use. As result both the Masonic Hall and Lyceum formed part of the Council's submission for the Levelling Up Fund.'

14. Question from Eesa Hussain

'Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham has announced that single bus fares could be capped at £2 and day tickets £5 from September as part of fast-tracked plans to reform the fragmented bus network.

Currently TfGM's "get me there" mobile app only enables passengers to buy tickets for Metrolink. As part of the plans coming forward in September could bus tickets also be made available on this app so that passengers can pay for their travel before leaving the house and is there any threat to this welcome reform because of the renewed legal action being taken by the bus operator Rotala?'

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration replied as follows: 'I am pleased to advise that since you contacted us with your question, Rotala lost their court appeal, which was the last legal challenge standing in the way of the ambitious plans to franchise bus services across Greater Manchester.

Currently you can use the GetMeThere app to purchase adult 'AnyBus & Tram' combined tickets in advance (you need to touch-in using a smart reader at a tram stop, before using your smart card on a bus.) . You can also buy many types of saver tickets in advance that give you several journeys in a day, or season tickets on bus company websites like Arriva, Diamond First Bus or Stagecoach.

As buses get bought into public control then it would make sense that all GM bus tickets could also be made available to purchase in advance on the GetMeThere app, and Oldham officers will liaise with TfGM to see how early this can be introduced as franchising is phased in.'

Several questions, submitted by members of the public, remained unanswered at the end of the allotted 30 minutes period for this matter. The Mayor advised that the unanswered questions would be published to the Council's web site, with written answers, in due course.

Question 1: Cost of Living Crisis

The cost-of-living crisis is leaving many families across the borough of Oldham facing real hardship and in terms of free school meals the government has effectively reduced the Council's budget by £212,000, in real terms. No child, in this Borough should go hungry – if a child is hungry how can they be expected to study? What is Oldham Council going to do to plug this funding gap in its free school meals budget, which has been brought about because of cuts that have been imposed by the Conservative Government. Will the Leader of the Council write to the new Secretary of State for Education calling on him to reverse the cuts.

Councillor Chadderton replied that she shared agreed with everything that Councillor Sykes had said and that it was disgusting that residents of the Borough were faced with the choice of heating and eating.

Question 2: Transport

Councillor Sykes stated that he welcomed the revised plans for a non-charging Clean Air Zone in Greater Manchester, though this was subject to government approval. A key aim of a Clean Air Zone should be the encouragement of the use of electric vehicles although the current infrastructure to support this was not adequate, as there was not enough charging points in the Borough or across the wider Greater Manchester Region. Also more needed to be done to encourage the use of public transport and to remove the uncertainty that currently existed some bus routes in the Borough that were facing either a reduced service or removal.

The Leader of the Council replied that the Mayor and the other Council Leaders across Greater Manchester had made it clear that they were opposed to any sort of charges for a Clean Air Zone. Oldham Council was presently making bids to external funding sources that would assist in the roll-out of electric vehicle usage and that the Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham, had committed to the roll-out and greater use of electric powered buses.

Councillor Lancaster Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group

Question 1: Whit Friday Events in Saddleworth

Whilst it was encouraging to see the Leader of the Council enjoying the traditional Whit Friday event in Saddleworth earlier in the year, the long-term future of this occasion is in some doubt. Whit Friday brings in much needed tourism revenue to the Saddleworth area and is greatly enjoyable by local residents and by those attending from beyond the borough's boundaries. There is presently a funding shortfall of the Whit Friday event of £11,000 that has to be found by the nine Saddleworth and Lees Ward Councillors. A previous Leader of the Council had committed to finding the £11,000 funding shortfall.

Councillor Chadderton replied that she did indeed enjoy the Whit Friday event but was unaware of the funding commitment made by a previous Leader of the Council. Councillor Chadderton did however undertake to investigate this matter further and encouraged Councillor Lancaster to forward to her, any relevant information that he may have regarding this issue.



Question 2: Openness and Transparency

Councillor Lancaster stated that the Council had for some time been treating the residents of the Borough with indifference, denial and occasional hostility. To emphasise his point he cited examples of videos of Council meetings being removed from the website, only to be quickly reinstated, short fallings in the Council's dealings with victims of child sexual exploitation and rising crime levels without holding the Mayor of Greater Manchester to account. He asked who was making decisions in Oldham and if it was the case that the Leader 'was in office but not in power?'

Councillor Chadderton replied denying Councillor Lancaster's question.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party

The minutes of Council meetings should be an accurate and record of their proceedings and he expressed his concerns that this was not currently the case, referencing remarks thereon that Councillors Hindle and Wilkinson had made earlier in the meeting. Councillor Hobin also expressed concerns at the limited number of people in the public gallery that were viewing this meeting and how they had been allowed in in 'bits and pieces' meaning some members of the public had missed most of the first hour of the meeting. He asked who has issued the 'ASBO's' banning some members of the public from attending certain Council buildings, adding that some of those who had received an 'ASBO' did not deserve to do so.

Councillor Chadderton replied that the issue of the Council minutes had been dealt with earlier in the meeting. Regarding the 'ASBI's', a small number of people had been banned from attending Council and civic buildings for the specific reasons that were outlined on the letters that each of the individuals would have received. Those people, that have been the subject of an 'ASBI' did have the right to appeal the decision.

Question from Councillor Birch:

'Could the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods please give an update on the 'Don't Trash Oldham' initiative and outline the next steps moving forward?'

Councillor Stretton Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied : Officers have prepared a report which is to be presented to Cabinet on the 19th September which will explain in full our plans for the next phase of the successful Don't Trash Oldham campaign.

Which has so far resulted in:-

- 3,496 streets cleaned
- 662 alleyways cleaned.
- 284 tons of waste removed.
- 381 fixed penalty notices issued, where evidence was discovered;
- 44 individuals prosecuted at the Magistrates Courts resulting in fines and associated costs of £26,000 being awarded with a further 77 case files pending court consideration;
- 62,000 conversations on the doorstep with residents highlighting the campaign.

Oldham is now a far cleaner place than when we started the campaign and we do not intend to rest on our laurels with more targeted interventions where people continue to flout the law, but also support given to those communities that do play their part to ensure the borough reflects what the majority of our residents expect.

Question from Councillor McLaren:

Can the relevant Cabinet Member please tell us how many households have received the Council Tax energy Rebate payments and whether there are any plans to help households in the future with the increasing cost of energy?’

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied The Council has issued payments of £150 to 87,846 households in Oldham. Of these 58,140 were paid directly into bank accounts and 29,706 were issued using a voucher cashable at the Post Office. Only 84.6% of the vouchers have been cashed and so those households who haven’t cashed the voucher will receive a refund to their Council Tax accounts of £150.

In addition a further 21,559 Council Tax energy rebate discretionary payments have been made to households topped by funding from the Household Support Fund. Of these, 7,639 have been paid directly into a bank account and 13,920 via a voucher cashable at the Post Office.

The Council will provide extra support for households but the nature of that support will be shaped by the expected announcement from the New Prime Minister.

Question from Councillor Ibrahim:

I’ve had lots of casework regarding blocked gullies to the point where they have become waterlogged and have caused flooding into the highways.

This is also an issue across the borough as I know colleagues have had similar casework issues across the borough and we have all seen videos and photos of these cases on social media. Therefore can the relevant cabinet member please advise how often gullies are cleaned throughout the borough?

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that subject to access we aim to inspect all roadside gullies a minimum of once per year and in accordance with a scheduled programme.

By working to the scheduled programme the Council is able to work efficiently and ensure that every gully gets visited as quickly as possible.

If a blocked gully is putting a residents property at risk of flooding, please let us know and we will inspect and arrange for it to be cleared if necessary.

Question from Councillor Lancaster

This Meeting falls some two months prior to Remembrance, and I am sure many communities across the various towns and villages in our Borough are presently making plans for their own local acts of Remembrance. With that in mind, my Question concerns the Borough Council's preparedness for Remembrance this year.

In the Civil Parish of Saddleworth, several hundred people gather at Pots & Pans every Remembrance Sunday to observe and participate in the service held there. The Pots & Pans war memorial, which is a Grade II Listed structure, is in a poor state, with the plaques on its sides particularly worse for wear and many names of fallen heroes now having faded away. With the centenary of the laying of the foundation stone being next May, it seems appropriate for restorative action to be taken in the very near future.

I understand from my Group colleague, Councillor. Dave Arnott, that in the Township of Royton, he too is working on a local war memorial issue.

Can the Administration please offer the Council's resource to addressing these two specific cases, and also report on the Council's work in preparing the Borough for Remembrance this year?

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that preparations for Remembrance Sunday are underway for the seven services throughout the Borough in conjunction with the Royal British Legion.

As far as the question over Pots and Pans the answer is as follows.

Officers are aware of the potential issues that have been brought to the council's attention regarding the plaques and stonework at the Pots and Pans war memorial and with this in mind a specialist has been appointed. They will present them with an updated report to identify what needs to be done to ensure the long-term appearance, safety and features on such an iconic memorial in the Saddleworth District are met. Once the report has been completed, I have asked officers to bring this to my portfolio meeting to discuss in detail the cost, work requirements and any timescales for work to be undertaken. I trust that this answers the question and reassures you that we do take the maintenance of our war memorials seriously to ensure that they do not fall into a state of disrepair.

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani

Given the current increase in energy prices in the UK, how much is the additional cost to residents of heating their homes compared to the what the cost would be under the mine water heating scheme? How many residents in Oldham have been

and will be affected by the failure to deliver the scheme? What impact would the scheme – which the Liberal Democrats first proposed in 2012 – have on the town's commitment to a zero-carbon future, and what economic benefits would it bring by placing the town at the forefront of this emerging technology?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that The Council is in the process of appointing consultants to prepare the Outline Business Case for the mine water district heat network scheme. This piece of work is expected to take around 12 months and will model both the costs of the scheme and the end prices to business and residential customers. As such, no information is available yet on how much the end users of the heat will pay.

As the Town Centre residential properties being modelled for connection to the mine water district heat network have not yet been built, no existing residents have been affected by the fact that the scheme has not yet been developed. It is expected that 2,000 new residential properties will be served by the proposed district heat network.

The heat network, once built, is expected to save around 2,639 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. It is hoped that the OBC will confirm that residents and businesses connected to the heat network will benefit from relatively lower energy bills, supporting town centre jobs and providing affordable warmth.

Question from Councillor Goodwin:

What help is available to residents in relation to accessing the social security support they are entitled to and deserve?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care replied that help is available in a number of ways:

- Residents claiming Council Tax Reduction from the Council, are advised in their entitlement letters of any state benefits they have not yet claimed
- Residents calling into Access Oldham requiring assistance to claim state benefits (eg universal credit) and/or Council Tax Reduction are assisted in this by our Do It Online team
- Residents calling with regards to Council Tax or other debts or concerns, either through the Council Tax line or Helpline routes, are provided with advice and guidance as to what is available, and if appropriate, signposted to the Support and Inclusion team who can assist with claims
- The Council's Welfare Rights team also assist residents in identifying potential entitlement to, and making claims to benefits and supporting appeals against refusals of claims for state benefits for residents requiring help
- The Council also supports the Citizens Advice organisation to provide benefit entitlement advice amongst other support.

Question from Councillor Steven Bashforth:

Work is now progressing well on the refurbishment of Royton Town Hall and mindful of its iconic and historic status; all

through the process the Royton Labour Councillors have worked closely with the Royton Local History Society to ensure its original features have been retained and restored and that the works are of a very high quality so the building can be passed on for future generations of Royton. To further enhance Royton Town Hall's standing and to give it the recognition it deserves, it now would be fitting to see this well-loved building given listed status. Would the relevant cabinet member help us in this by assigning officers to assist us in our application to Historic England?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council replied that We do not believe that the building fits the listed building criteria, so our suggestion is that Royton Town Hall is a key community asset and I am pleased that this is recognised within the context of our Place Based Programme. Officers have undertaken an initial high-level assessment of the building and unfortunately it is believed that the asset does not meet the national criteria for listed building status. However, I am pleased to confirm that over the coming weeks, officers will undertake a more formal assessment and the position of eligibility will be reviewed through the Corporate Property Board.

Question from Councillor Chris McManus

The Conservative Group's Researcher had been asked to find out how much Council Tax had been generated in his Ward, Saddleworth South. This information he was advised was not available but apparently was in 2016. The Portfolio Holder was asked how much Council Tax was raised per Ward, per year and how much of that revenue that was raised was reinvested in the individual Ward and would the Council commit to publish this information on an annual basis?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that the collection of Council Tax in the Borough could not be recorded on a Ward by Ward basis and that it would be inappropriate to do so as it would not be an accurate reflection of the Council's statutory financial responsibilities.

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 June 2022 and 25th July 2022 were submitted.

Members asked the following questions: -

a. Question from Councillor Woodvine:

Further to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held 25th July 2022, Councillor Woodvine asked: where the civic offices will be in the Spindles Development and whether Oldham's 'Coat of Arms' can be displayed rather than the Borough Council's logo.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied that the civic functions, meaning office space for Councillors and meeting's venues, would be based in the old Library Building on Union Street, Oldham rather than in the Spindles shopping centre area. The Leader added that designs for the development at the Old Library were still under development so there should be space for the coat of arms.

b. Question from Councillor C. Gloster:

Further to the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held 17th June 2022, Councillor C. Gloster asked: 'A decision was taken to award a contract for provision of water and wastewater services. It was noted that the council was paying 'out of contract' rates, and that the decision to award the contract would save £51,000 a year. How long had the council been paying out of contract rates for, and why was a proposal not put forward before the Council went out of contract, and started paying those additional fees?'

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that the water services industry in England was deregulated on 01/04/2017. Oldham Council has been paying deemed rates since 01/04/2017 when the supplier changed to Water Plus. Consequently, all of Oldham Council's commercial supplies were placed with Water Plus on deemed out of contract rates and conditions.

At the point of deregulation in England, United Utilities were instructed to transfer all non-domestic water accounts to a new supply company (Water Plus). The water industry was in some disarray at the start of deregulation with multiple new supply companies being created to take advantage of the new market. At this time consensus in the industry and advice given by the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) was not to enter a contract and to wait until the water industry had settled down and reliable suppliers had been established. Part of the reason for this advice was that any potential cost savings would be minimal in view of the potential risks associated with entering a bad contract. Most costs for water (circa 93%) are set by United Utilities, only circa 7% are subject to competition because of the selected supplier (de-regulation).

In 2020 the water market had stabilised. At this time Manchester City Council carried out a procurement exercise. On completion they offered to extend access (framework) to other local authorities. The opportunity was discussed at an AGMA group Energy Managers meeting and the Council has taken the decision to move forward with the procurement.

c. Question from Councillor Kenyon:

Further to the Cabinet meeting held 25th July 2022 (Creating a Better Place update: Spindles redevelopment), Councillor Kenyon asked:

'The demolition of the former TJ Hughes site, one of the first phases of development, was expected to start in July, but was delayed. Given the ongoing cost increases in energy and construction materials and the expected future rates of inflation

and therefore cost of borrowing, could the cabinet member responsible please details the impacts this delay will have on costs for the development? Given that the development has started with a delay, what guarantees can the cabinet member offer that there will be no further delays, and what provision has been made for cost increases from further delays? No one would want a prime location in the centre of Oldham to be delivered over-budget and late.'

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied as follows: 'thank you for your question Cllr Kenyon, however while the physical demolition of the external façade has been delayed while plans to divert the electricity cable have been confirmed with Electricity North West, the demolition has commenced inside with internal decommissioning, the stripping out and the removal of internal walls. The programme included periods of flexibility and parallel activities to allow for slippage and acceleration across the different elements of the redevelopment. The impact of inflation and other financial matters post covid – post Brexit etc were considered at a very early stage by the project team, and therefore the project continues to be within the budget allocation. There is monthly monitoring of this high profile project, with updates reported back to the Cabinet at key milestones, and there was also a detailed discussion and debate at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting recently which included risks and mitigation for inflation, material availability and construction insurance which are national issues impacting on the construction industry at this time.'

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 17th June 2022 and 25th July 2022 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided thereon be noted.

12

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Cost of Living Crisis

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following Motion: Cost of Living Crisis.

Oldhamers are facing an unprecedented Cost-of-Living crisis, according to the Office for National Statistics, 88% of adults in the Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living in May 2022, due to a range of factors including rising inflation, increases in energy and fuel prices, government tax rises and rising food prices – all the while the Government sit by and refuse to act.

Oldham Council recently hosted a Cost-of-Living summit, commissioned by the Labour leadership, to look at how best to support our residents as inflation, energy, food and fuel prices continue to rise. The Council is now developing a comprehensive plan to tackle the crisis and delivering real tangible help for those who need it, no one should be making the choice between heating or eating this winter.

With energy bills set to rise to more than £3000 next month, and possibly rising to above £4000 in January; inflation predicted to hit 18.6% by investment bank Citi; average petrol prices up 30%

at their peak compared to the beginning of the year many families in Oldham are struggling, we are seeing too many people now being pushed into poverty. The time for action is now, we are declaring a cost-of-living emergency and calling on the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to step up to the crease and help those who need it.

This Council notes:

- That the Cost-of-Living emergency is a key issue for us as a local authority, against a backdrop of financial factors at national and international level.
- In these increasingly difficult times, there is a need for us as a local authority to ensure advice and appropriate support is available to all residents.
- The disproportionate impact of the crisis on low-income households, which will spend a larger proportion of their income than average on energy and food and will therefore be more affected by price increases and tax rises that result in reduced disposable income.
- That over 15% of households in Oldham are currently experiencing fuel poverty, with this number likely to rise over the coming winter; that the number of food parcels given out by the Oldham foodbank has more than doubled compared to previous years; that in 2021 36% of children in Oldham were in relative poverty – the highest of Greater Manchester's 10 Local Authorities; that the unemployment rate in Oldham remains above the national average; that 23% of Oldhamers are paid below the Real Living Wage (as of 2021)
- The work the Council are currently undertaking across all departments to support the most vulnerable residents, including offering help with benefits and money advice, signposting residents in the direction of further support, the programme of support provided by the Household Support Fund, our ambitious Holiday Activities and Food programme and the recent cost-of-living summit which brought council services, partners and community representatives to develop ideas.
- That, while many of the economic factors causing the current cost of living crisis are outside of our control as a local authority, it is essential that we focus our efforts on providing the assistance we do have at our disposal to those residents struggling the most.

This Council resolves to:

- Ensure that we continue to take a coordinated approach towards addressing the cost-of-living emergency, alongside working with our partners.
- Ensure that council decisions are not disproportionately impacting on residents who are struggling the most, through considering socio-economic impacts in all our equality impact assessments by adopting the socio-economic duty of the Equality Act 2010.



- Continue campaigning for and championing a real living wage for workers in our Borough, especially working closely with employers.
- Commit to working with others to ensure that we can harness the good will in our borough to benefit all our residents.

This Council further resolves to:

- Declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency and instruct the Chief Executive to write to the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand they offer more support to residents, particularly:
 - for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter
 - for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever
 - to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and increase the support offered to local authorities so those of us who knew our communities best can make the most difference here on the ground.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Sharp SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Oldhamers are facing an unprecedented Cost-of-Living crisis, according to the Office for National Statistics, 88% of adults in the Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living in May 2022, due to a range of factors including the Russian Federation invading the Republic of Ukraine, and repeated lockdowns that resulted in the disruption to supply chains, rising inflation, increases in energy and fuel prices, government tax rises and rising food prices. – all the while the Government sit by and refuse to act.

Oldham Council recently hosted a Cost-of-Living summit, commissioned by the Labour leadership, to look at how best to support our residents as inflation, energy, food and fuel prices continue to rise. The Council is now developing a comprehensive plan to tackle the crisis and delivering real tangible help for those who need it, no one should be making the choice between heating or eating this winter. Things however have not been helped by this Council:

- Consistently increasing Council tax.
- The levying of a Mayoral precept by the Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham who has added an extra burden on taxpayers by increasing it.
- Support for un-costed “green” schemes and “green” taxes such as the disastrous Clean Air Zone ‘tax’ and other projects which have failed to deliver enough energy at a low cost without millions of pounds in subsidies through higher taxes.

With energy bills set to rise to more than £3000 next month, and possibly rising to above £4000 in January; inflation predicted to hit 18.6% by investment bank Citi; average petrol prices up 30%

at their peak compared to the beginning of the year many families in Oldham are struggling, we are seeing too many people now being pushed into poverty.

The fact the Russian Federation decided to invade the Ukraine and blockade as well as cut off grain, oil and gas supplies has seen commodities prices rise exponentially, where in less than two weeks following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, futures prices for crude oil and wheat rose 23% and 36%, respectively.

The Russian Federation is the world's third largest producer of crude oil and second largest producer of natural gas, accounting for 11% of global oil production and almost 18% of natural gas production. Russia and Ukraine produce and export large quantities of agricultural products, such as wheat and corn. In fact, Russia and Ukraine combined are the second largest producers of wheat in the world (after China) and export more wheat globally than any other country, accounting for about 29% of global wheat exports.

Countries with direct trade exposures to Russia and Ukraine have experienced the most substantial increases in prices in the immediate aftermath of the invasion. For example, gas prices in the European Union have increased 665% from the previous year in March, whereas U.S. natural gas prices have increased about 85%. Although natural gas production is distributed across the globe, markets are primarily regional. For example, more than 70% of Russian gas exports go to Europe. In addition, 90% of Russian wheat exports and about 55% of wheat exports from Ukraine are typically destined for countries in Africa, the Middle East, or Europe.

Combined with the opposition to securing domestic energy supplies whether through hydraulic fracturing, nuclear power, opening of oil and gas fields in the North Sea and the opening of domestic coal mines has resulted in an over reliance on foreign imports from unstable and dangerous regimes such as the Russian Federation.

This has left the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and our continental European neighbours vulnerable to fluctuations in commodities prices which has impacted on us all. The failure by the Bank of England to manage monetary supply and act quickly enough to tackle rising inflation post the Covid-19 pandemic has allowed inflation to rise rapidly also.

The time for action is now, we are declaring a cost-of-living emergency and calling on the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to step up to the crease and help those who need it. The Council calls for action in the Emergency Budget of the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to deliver a package of help but to also act on delivering BRITISH ENERGY INDEPENDENCE by securing our domestic energy supplies.

This Council notes:

- That the Cost-of-Living emergency is a key issue for us as a local authority, against a backdrop of financial factors at national and international level.
- In these increasingly difficult times, there is a need for us as a local authority to ensure advice and appropriate support is available to all residents.

- The disproportionate impact of the crisis on low-income households, which will spend a larger proportion of their income than average on energy and food and will therefore be more affected by price increases and tax rises that result in reduced disposable income.
- That over 15% of households in Oldham are currently experiencing fuel poverty, with this number likely to rise over the coming winter; that the number of food parcels given out by the Oldham foodbank has more than doubled compared to previous years; that in 2021 36% of children in Oldham were in relative poverty – due to the decades of failure by the Labour administration at Oldham Council which now ranks the highest of Greater Manchester's 10 Local Authorities; that the unemployment rate in Oldham remains above the national average due to the failure of the Labour administration at Oldham Council and the failure to attract inward investment as well as large overspends in capital projects; that 23% of Oldhamers are paid below the Real Living Wage (as of 2021) due to this Labour administration at Oldham Council failing to attract employers, improve educational outcomes and boasting about Oldham being a low wage economy.
- The work the Council are currently undertaking across all departments to support the most vulnerable residents, including offering help with benefits and money advice, signposting residents in the direction of further support, the programme of support provided by the Household Support Fund, our ambitious Holiday Activities and Food programme and the recent cost-of-living summit which brought council services, partners and community representatives to develop ideas.
- That, while many of the economic factors causing the current cost of living crisis are outside of our control as a local authority, it is essential that we focus our efforts on providing the assistance we do have at our disposal to those residents struggling the most.
- Notes the help provided so by the government so far with;
- £400 granted to households through their energy suppliers over six months from October.
- The £650 one-off Cost of Living Payment for those on means-tested benefits. With the Department of Work & Pensions making two lump sum payments in July and later in the autumn to people on a range of benefits.
- The one-off £300 Pensioner Cost of Living Payment for households that receive the Winter Fuel Payment, who will get this on top of any other support they're entitled to. This tax-free payment won't affect any other entitlements. For most people this will be paid by direct debit.
- £150 Disability Cost of Living Payment which is a one-off, tax-free payment which will be made in September to people who receive the following benefits: Disability Living Allowance, Personal Independence Payment, Attendance Allowance, Armed Forces Independence Payment, Constant Attendance Allowance, War Pension Mobility Supplement.

This Council resolves to:

- Ensure that we continue to take a coordinated approach towards addressing the cost-of-living emergency, alongside working with our partners.
- Ensure that council decisions are not disproportionately impacting on residents who are struggling the most, through considering socio-economic impacts in all our equality impact assessments by adopting the socio-economic duty of the Equality Act 2010.
- Continue campaigning for and championing a real living wage for workers in our Borough, especially working closely with employers.
- Commit to working with others to ensure that we can harness the good will in our borough to benefit all our residents.
- Deliver on the Labour administrations local election promise to pay each household £600 to help with energy bills.
- Not increase Council tax.
- Back British energy and secure our own domestic energy supply and sourcing our oil, gas, coal and renewables from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and not from unstable regimes abroad.
- That the Chief Executive spearhead a campaign to make sure those eligible pupils in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham take up the free school meals they are entitled to.
- Buy British where it can in order to help support local producers.

This Council further resolves to:

Declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency and TO TAKE ACTION THIS DAY and instruct the Chief Executive to write to the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand they offer more support to residents in their Emergency Budget, particularly:

- for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter or for other measures which help reduce the costs of energy this winter
- Support cutting income tax and national insurance for working people
- Support the suspension of green levies on energy bills
- Support the Government in sourcing more of our own domestic energy supplies, whether coal, oil, gas, nuclear, or renewables and not from foreign or unstable regimes abroad and back calls for the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in becoming energy independent
- for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever
- to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and increase the support offered to local authorities so those of us who knew our communities best can make the most difference here on the ground.

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

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

RESOLVED that Oldham Council:

1. Ensure that we continue to take a coordinated approach towards addressing the cost-of-living emergency, alongside working with our partners.
2. Ensure that council decisions are not disproportionately impacting on residents who are struggling the most, through considering socio-economic impacts in all our equality impact assessments by adopting the socio-economic duty of the Equality Act 2010.
3. Continue campaigning for and championing a real living wage for workers in our Borough, especially working closely with employers.
4. Commit to working with others to ensure that we can harness the good will in our borough to benefit all our residents.

This Council further resolves to:

5. Declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency and instruct the Chief Executive to write to the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand they offer more support to residents, particularly:
 - a. for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter
 - b. for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever
 - c. to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and
6. increase the support offered to local authorities so those of us who knew our communities best can make the most difference here on the ground.

MOTION 2 – Fireworks

Councillor S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor Nasheen SECONDED the following Motion: Fireworks

Many of us will have received, or be aware of, complaints about fireworks being used in an anti-social way late at night and early hours of the morning. This is not a new problem but seems to have increased recently to the point where they can be heard almost every night of the week disturbing people's sleep and frightening pets.

Fireworks now seem to be used at times of celebration throughout the year, whatever the occasion. When kept safe, sensible and considerate they can be well received and people generally share in the happiness of the occasion. However a small minority selfishly abuse the good will in our neighbourhoods and resort to letting off fireworks at anti-social hours. This is unacceptable. We are appealing to all our communities and residents to help us to raise awareness and prevent this sort of anti-social behaviour. We are doing everything we can to address the issues in Partnership with the Police and Fire Service.

As a Council we are aware of the law that sets a minimum age for buying fireworks, limits the times and places fireworks can be

used, categorises fireworks and limits the dates fireworks for private use can be purchased.

It's clear that these laws are not working, for example a quick search on the internet reveals many suppliers will sell fireworks online at any time without, it seems, any credible way of checking the buyer's age or intended use. And the very reason this motion is being put to council, after public concern over the apparent illegal and anti-social use of fireworks proves this. When kept safe, sensible, considerate and responsibly organised, firework displays can bring joy and excitement. Therefore we want to propose the following conditions in this motion that will help target the issues that we feel will help us and our communities to have more assurance. We may have differing opinions on whether fireworks should be banned completely but we can all agree that if they are used, this should be done responsibly. This motion sets out to propose some measures to allow licensed, controlled and safe fireworks displays, whilst tackling the anti-social use of fireworks.

This Council notes:

- That there has been a rise in the misuse of fireworks including the use of larger multiple firework launchers and the increased availability of fireworks through online sales, which encourage the illegal use of fireworks during anti-social hours.
- The short-lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or council officers to pinpoint locations and take action.
- The RSPCA believes the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.
- A review of the licensing for all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

To write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to:

- Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- To review current laws on the sale and use of fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used.
- To strengthen national restrictions governing how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, and in what volume per transaction including online sales.
- Restrict firework sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks associated with 'pop up' sellers who appear for short periods.

This Council further resolves to:

- Write to all local events venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring them to be registered/licenced for the use of fireworks.
- Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.
- Require all public firework displays including those at an events venue within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people

1st AMENDMENT

AMENDMENT To the Motion to be MOVED by Councillor Woodvine and SECONDED by Councillor McManus was WITHDRAWN.

2nd AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Many of us will have received, or be aware of, complaints about fireworks being used in an anti-social way late at night and early hours of the morning. This is not a new problem but seems to have increased recently to the point where they can be heard almost every night of the week disturbing people's sleep and frightening pets. Things are not getting better as there is now an arms race on who has the biggest and loudest fireworks at their wedding.

Oldham Council officers and Greater Manchester Police are failing to tackle the issue with each passing the buck to the other. As such co-ordinated action must be taken by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Greater Manchester Fire Service and Greater Manchester Police.

The laws of the land are not being enforced and the Council needs to act where it has the power to as do the Police and Fire Service. Under the local government act 1972, section 235; Power of councils to make byelaws for good rule and government and suppression of nuisances, we propose that the licensing committee look to formulate a byelaw which restricts the use and sale of fireworks in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham outside of Bonfire night, New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year.

Fireworks now seem to be used at times of celebration throughout the year, whatever the occasion. When kept safe, sensible and considerate they can be well received and people generally share in the happiness of the occasion. However, a small minority selfishly abuse the good will in our neighbourhoods and resort to letting off fireworks at anti-social hours. This is unacceptable. We are appealing to all our communities and residents to help us to raise awareness and prevent this sort of anti-social behaviour. We are doing everything we can to address the issues in Partnership with the Police and Fire Service.

As a Council we are aware of the law that sets a minimum age

for buying fireworks, limits the times and places fireworks can be used, categorises fireworks and limits the dates fireworks for private use can be purchased.

It's clear these laws are not working need updating for the 21st Century, for example a quick search on the internet reveals many suppliers will sell fireworks online at any time without, it seems, any credible way of checking the buyer's age or intended use. And the very reason this motion is being put to council, after public concern over the apparent illegal and anti-social use of fireworks proves this.

When kept safe, sensible, considerate and responsibly organised, firework displays can bring joy and excitement. Therefore we want to propose the following conditions in this motion that will help target the issues that we feel will help us and our communities to have more assurance. We may have differing opinions on whether fireworks should be banned completely but we can all agree that if they are used, this should be done responsibly. This motion sets out to propose some measures to allow licensed, controlled and safe fireworks displays, whilst tacking the anti-social use of fireworks.

This Council notes:

- That there has been a rise in the misuse of fireworks including the use of larger multiple firework launchers and the increased availability of fireworks through online sales, which encourage the illegal use of fireworks during anti-social hours.
- The short-lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or council officers to pinpoint locations and take action.
- The RSPCA believes the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.
- A review of the licensing for all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

To write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to:

- Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- To review current laws on the sale and use of fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used.
- To strengthen national restrictions governing how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, and in what volume per transaction including online sales.
- Restrict firework sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks associated with 'pop up' sellers who appear for short periods.

This Council further resolves to:

- Write to all local events venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring them to be registered/licenced for the use of fireworks.
- Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.

- Require all public firework displays including those at an events venue within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- Instruct the licensing committee to formulate a byelaw which restricts the use and sale of fireworks in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham outside of Bonfire night, New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year.
- For a campaign of co-ordinated action, with Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Greater Manchester Fire Service and Greater Manchester Police forming a joint operation targeting and enforcing the law as well as using all the tools available to them to deal with the issue.

A vote was then taken on this AMENDMENT, which was declared LOST.

3rd AMENDMENT

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor H. Gloster seconded the following Motion.

Many of us will have received, or be aware of, complaints about fireworks being used in an anti-social way late at night and early hours of the morning. This is not a new problem but seems to have increased recently to the point where they can be heard almost every night of the week disturbing people's sleep and frightening pets.

Fireworks now seem to be used at times of celebration throughout the year, whatever the occasion. When kept safe, sensible and considerate they can be well received and people generally share in the happiness of the occasion. However a small minority selfishly abuse the good will in our neighbourhoods and resort to letting off fireworks at anti-social hours. This is unacceptable. We are appealing to all our communities and residents to help us to raise awareness and prevent this sort of anti-social behaviour. We are doing everything we can to address the issues in Partnership with the Police and Fire Service.

As a Council we are aware of the law that sets a minimum age for buying fireworks, limits the times and places fireworks can be used, categorises fireworks and limits the dates fireworks for private use can be purchased.

It's clear that these laws are not working, for example a quick search on the internet reveals many suppliers will sell fireworks online at any time without, it seems, any credible way of checking the buyer's age or intended use. And the very reason this motion is being put to council, after public concern over the apparent illegal and anti-social use of fireworks proves this.

When kept safe, sensible, considerate and responsibly organised, firework displays can bring joy and excitement. Therefore we want to propose the following conditions in this motion that will help target the issues that we feel will help us and our communities to have more assurance. We may have differing opinions on whether fireworks should be banned completely but we can all agree that if they are used, this should

be done responsibly. This motion sets out to propose some measures to allow licensed, controlled and safe fireworks displays, whilst tackling the anti-social use of fireworks.

This Council notes:

- That there has been a rise in the misuse of fireworks including the use of larger multiple firework launchers and the increased availability of fireworks through online sales, which encourage the illegal use of fireworks during anti-social hours.
- The short-lived nature of firework noise can make it difficult for the police or council officers to pinpoint locations and take action.
- The RSPCA believes the law is failing as it does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.
- A review of the licensing for all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

To write to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to:

- Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- To review current laws on the sale and use of fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used.
- To strengthen national restrictions governing how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, and in what volume per transaction including online sales.
- Restrict firework sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks associated with 'pop up' sellers who appear for short periods.

This Council further resolves to:

- Write to all local events venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring them to be registered/licenced for the use of fireworks and encouraging them to separate 'quieter' fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind.
- Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.
- Require all public firework displays including those at an events venue within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
- Applying Challenge 25 legislation to the sale of fireworks in Oldham Borough. Challenge 25 is a scheme that encourages anyone who is over 18 but looks under 25 to carry acceptable ID when they want to buy alcohol. With the danger that Fireworks carry, the same policy should be applied for people who want to possess fireworks.

On being put to the vote the MOTION as amended was

CARRIED.



RESOLVED that

1. The Council writes to the Government urging them to introduce legislation to:
 - a. Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
 - b. To review current laws on the sale and use of fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used.
 - c. To strengthen national restrictions governing how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, and in what volume per transaction including online sales.
 - d. Restrict firework sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks associated with 'pop up' sellers who appear for short periods.

The Council further resolves to:

2. Write to all local events venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring them to be registered/licenced for the use of fireworks and encouraging them to separate 'quieter' fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind.
3. Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.
4. Require all public firework displays including those at an events venue within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
5. Applying Challenge 25 legislation to the sale of fireworks in Oldham Borough. Challenge 25 is a scheme that encourages anyone who is over 18 but looks under 25 to carry acceptable ID when they want to buy alcohol. With the danger that Fireworks carry, the same policy should be applied for people who want to possess fireworks.

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NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion1 – Can this Council Dare to be Brave

Councillor Byrne MOVED and Councillor WOODVINE seconded the following Motion:

This Council notes that it has the Power to act on the Reduction of Speed on Country Roads from the national Speed limit of 50/60mph which has remained in place from 1977.

Council notes The Dangers of Rural Driving are that 10 times more people die on Rural Roads than on Motorways.

It is twice as likely for Motorcyclists to be killed on a rural road than an urban one.

It is Three times more likely for cyclists to be killed on a rural road than an urban one.

Last year 66 horses died and 129 were injured the British Horse Society said.

The Council recognises that Local Authorities have the power to change the speed limit but until now they have done this piecemeal in response to traffic accidents.

That the 60mph default limit is inappropriate for most minor rural roads and those attempting to speed on narrow and winding lanes at this speed is reckless.

British Cycling, the sport's governing body urged the Government to cut the speed limit on thousands of miles of road without white centre markings.

Council recognise as more houses are built in Oldham for families many in semi-rural areas on Brown Field sites the Safety for children who need to navigate these roads to school and buses.

A petition was recently presented to Democratic Services for just this in my Saddleworth North Ward.

Council resolves to exercise its power to change these particular speed limits to more realistic speeds for the time we now live in.

AMENDMENT

Councillor S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor C. Phythian SECONDED the following amendment:

More and more Oldham residents are frustrated with the lack of due care some motorists have for their fellow Oldhamers, across the Borough the number of residents voicing their frustrations over speeding and reckless driving is growing.

This Council Notes:

- That 10 times more people die on Rural Roads than on Motorways.
- It is twice as likely for motorcyclists to be killed on a rural road than an urban one.
- It is three times more likely for cyclists to be killed on a rural road than an urban one - British Cycling, the sport's governing body urged the Government to cut the speed limit on thousands of miles of road without white centre markings.
- Last year 66 horses died and 129 were injured the British Horse Society said.
 - That Council has in the past changed speed limits on roads in the borough in recognition of public safety concerns.
 - i. In recent months there have been a concerning number of high-profile incidents related to speeding on roads in the Borough.
 - ii. Speed limits are not set in isolation but as part of a package with other measures to manage vehicle speeds across the local roads and improve road safety.
 - iii. Where residents have immediate concerns around a speed limit being regularly breached, they should contact the police in the first instance.
 - iv. That the 60mph default limit is not always appropriate for minor rural roads and those attempting to speed on narrow and winding lanes at this speed are reckless.

- v. That as part of Operation Avro in March 2022, Greater Manchester Police investigated a total of 240 traffic offences, with 99 of them related to speeding.
- vi. That the Council follows the Government's speed limit framework guidance for setting national speed limits for different road types
- vii. And that speed limits are a maximum speed not a target speed.

This Council recognises:

- That as we continue to build homes for Oldham families following the Councils brownfield first approach to housing development that the concentration of road users in urban and semi-rural areas is likely to go up.
- That any new speed limit will be set with support from the local community and public consultation with those affected must take place.
- That we should encourage as many people as possible to use public transport for the sake of the environment
 - But Council also recognises that for many people this hasn't been a viable option because of the cost and inefficiency of certain modes
 - That the Mayor of Greater Manchester and TfGM have brought in measures to cap the cost of bus travel in Greater Manchester this week.

Therefore, this council resolves:

To exercise its power to change speed limits on roads responsibly and ensure speed limits on roads across Oldham are appropriate and realistic for their surroundings and the times we now live in.

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

RESOLVED that:

The Council agrees to exercise its power to change speed limits on roads responsibly and ensure speed limits on roads across Oldham are appropriate and realistic for their surroundings and the times we now live in.

MOTION 2 - Meeting the Human Needs for Food and Warmth

Councillor Hamblett MOVED and Councillor Marland SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes that the pandemic has highlighted the significant health, well-being, and economic inequalities in our society.

More than one in three children in Oldham borough live in poverty – far higher than the national average of one in five. The Government has no current plans to address the massive increases in energy costs that have already occurred and are planned, but that the Liberal Democrats' policy on energy costs

have now been adopted wholesale by the Labour party which is welcomed.

This year, schools in Oldham will face a real terms reduction in funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals of £212,797 because of decisions made by this Conservative government. Those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit as incomes are squeezed by double digit inflation and increased taxation. The Government ended the uplift in Universal Credit, removing means for families to offset rising food and fuel costs. A poll in April this year found that 5.3 million households were already having to choose between heating and food. If you cannot afford food or heating, you have no disposable income which exponentially reduces the amount of money spent, creating a vicious economic cycle.

That this Council also notes that increasingly, Greater Manchester Local Authorities are developing 'Library Plus' or 'Warm Bank' schemes, to give residents a place to stay warm and keep the cost of bills at home down after school and during evenings and weekends. Oldham Foodbank have issued 8,048 three-day emergency food supplies in the last year. Whilst the need for food banks in the fifth richest economy in the world is a mark of great shame, local food banks do a brilliant job and are a lifeline for many residents of our borough.

This Council believes that no one should go cold or hungry in Oldham borough. Fuel and food poverty in the United Kingdom are disgraceful and shaming indictments of the policies of the Conservative government. It is time to enshrine the human right to food into law.

This Council resolves:

That Oldham Council will develop a plan for the use of 'Warm Banks' across the borough. This will include later opening for Libraries, Community Centres, and other suitable buildings where possible.

That Oldham Council will write to the three MPs for Oldham, asking them to confirm their commitment to action to cut the costs of energy for residents.

That Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Energy to demand investment into the Oldham Mine Water Heat Network, which would provide an alternative way of delivering a secure heating source for hundreds of homes in the borough and commits to finding funding for this project at the soonest possible opportunity.

That the Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that damaging cuts to Free School Meals are reversed.

That the Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Chancellor, urging him to reinstate the uplift for Universal Credit and extend Free School Meals to all families on Universal Credit.

To work closely with food banks and charitable organisations across Oldham Borough to identify initiatives to alleviate food and fuel poverty that can be supported by this council.



Councillor Alyas MOVED and Councillor Birch SECONDED the following Amendment:

This Council notes that:

The pandemic has highlighted the significant health, well-being, and economic inequalities in our society. More than one in three children in Oldham borough live in poverty – far higher than the national average of one in five.

The Government has no current plans to address the massive increases in energy costs that have already occurred and are planned, but that the Liberal Democrats' policy on energy costs have now been adopted wholesale by the Labour party which is welcomed.

This year, schools in Oldham will face a real terms reduction in funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals of £212,797 because of decisions made by this Conservative government. Those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit as incomes are squeezed by double digit inflation and increased taxation. The Government ended the uplift in Universal Credit, removing means for families to offset rising food and fuel costs.

A poll in April this year found that 5.3 million households were already having to choose between heating and food. If you cannot afford food or heating, you have no disposable income which exponentially reduces the amount of money spent, creating a vicious economic cycle.

That this Council also notes that:

Increasingly, Greater Manchester Local Authorities, including Oldham, are developing 'Library Plus' or 'Warm Bank' schemes, to give residents a place to stay warm and keep the cost of bills at home down after school and during evenings and weekends. Oldham Foodbank have issued 8,048 three-day emergency food supplies in the last year. Whilst the need for food banks in the fifth richest economy in the world is a mark of great shame, local food banks do a brilliant job and are a lifeline for many residents of our borough.

This Council believes that no one should go cold or hungry in Oldham borough. Fuel and food poverty in the United Kingdom are disgraceful and shaming indictments of the policies of the Conservative government. It is time to enshrine the human right to food into law.

This Council resolves:

1. That Oldham Council will write to the three MPs for Oldham, asking them to confirm their commitment to action to cut the costs of energy for residents.
2. That Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Energy to demand investment into the Oldham Mine Water Heat Network, which would provide an alternative way of delivering a secure heating source for hundreds of homes in the borough and commits to finding funding for this project at the soonest possible opportunity.
3. That the Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that damaging cuts to Free School Meals are reversed.
4. That the Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Chancellor, urging them to reinstate the uplift for Universal

Credit and extend Free School Meals to all families on Universal Credit.

5. To work closely with food banks and charitable organisations across Oldham Borough to identify initiatives to alleviate food and fuel poverty that can be supported by this council.



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

RESOLVED that:

1. That Oldham Council will write to the three MPs for Oldham, asking them to confirm their commitment to action to cut the costs of energy for residents.
2. That Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Energy to demand investment into the Oldham Mine Water Heat Network, which would provide an alternative way of delivering a secure heating source for hundreds of homes in the borough and commits to finding funding for this project at the soonest possible opportunity.
3. That the Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that damaging cuts to Free School Meals are reversed.
4. That the Chief Executive of the Council will write to the Chancellor, urging them to reinstate the uplift for Universal Credit and extend Free School Meals to all families on Universal Credit.
5. To work closely with food banks and charitable organisations across Oldham Borough to identify initiatives to alleviate food and fuel poverty that can be supported by this council.

Motion 3 – 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:

The Newsam 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.

We acknowledge that Operation Sherwood, which has been set up by GMP, will look into the criminal activity and hopefully bring convictions on the perpetrators of these heinous crimes against children and the vulnerable in our Borough.

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 the cross-party steering group works 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.

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Ahmad Riaz	AGAINST	Iqbal Javid	APOLOGIES
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Islam Nazrul Mohammed	APOLOGIES
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Alyas Mohammed	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Arnott Dave	FOR	Marland Alicia	FOR
Azad Ali Montaz	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	FOR	McManus Chris	FOR
Barnes Robert	FOR	Moores Eddie	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Munroe Leanne	AGAINST
Bashforth Steven	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	FOR	Phythian Clint	AGAINST

Chadderton Amanda	AGAINST	Phythian Kyle	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid (DEPUTY MAYOR)	APOLOGIES	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Rea Lucia	FOR
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Salamat Aqeel Ali	AGAINST
Gloster Chris	FOR	Sharp Beth	FOR
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Sheldon Graham	APOLOGIES
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	APOLOGIES
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Stretton Jean	AGAINST
Harrison Jenny	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hobin Brian	FOR	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hulme George	AGAINST	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Williams Steve	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Sajed	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	FOR
Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINDT	Garry Elaine (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 24 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RESOLUTION with 31 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The RESOLUTION was therefore **LOST**.

14

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Lancaster SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 13th July 2022.

RESOLVED - That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 13th July 2022 be noted.

15

CORPORATE PLAN 2022-27 AND OUR FUTURE OLDHAM: A SHARED VISION FOR 2030

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Assistant Chief Executive that sought approval of the Corporate Plan 2022-2027 and 'Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision for 2030'.

Oldham Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 described how the Council intended to maximise the impact of efforts and resources to improve the lives of residents in the borough over the next five years. The plan, which aligned with the Oldham Partnership's vision document (*Our Future Oldham*), focused specifically on the impact of the authority's work on children and young people. It acknowledges the present and future

challenges created by the cost of living crisis and described how services across the Council would be improved for residents.



The plan sets out five policy priorities: Healthy, safe and well supported residents; A great start and skills for life; Better jobs and dynamic businesses; Quality homes for everyone; A clean and green future. The Council's four operational priorities were to be: Residents first; Place-based working; Digital; Working with communities to reduce need.

Our Future Oldham outlined the vision for the future of the borough shared by the Oldham Partnership and was informed by the views and priorities of residents. The document established a set of aims – the core elements of a good life in Oldham, that it was believed every resident should expect. These ranged from basics like a good education and a home that meets needs to things that contribute to creating a richer life and place, like opportunities to get together with neighbours and community pride.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council notes the contents of the Corporate Plan 2022-27 and the outcomes it commits the Council to delivering over the next three years.
2. That Council approves the Corporate Plan 2022-27 for adoption.
3. That Council notes the contents of the draft Our Future Oldham document, the vision it sets for the borough in 2030 and the governance arrangements it commits the Council to participating in as part of the Oldham Partnership.
4. That Council approves 'Our Future Oldham' for consideration and adoption by the Oldham Partnership.

16

LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth, which sought to amend the Council's Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation (which was last approved on 14th September 2011), to bring the Council's decision making processes up to date and to reflect recent legislative changes.

The report set out the levels of decision-making required for documents prepared as part of, and in support of, the Local Plan to: reflect legislative changes and operational experience since it was last amended in 2011; and to set out the processes for dealing appropriately with the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan, should one be proposed and the Brownfield Land Register.

RESOLVED:

That Council approves and adopts the revised Local Planning Scheme of Delegation.

17

MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services that sought Council's consideration and approval for the Members Allowance Scheme 2023/24, that had been proposed by the Independent Remuneration Panel.



Council was advised that there were a number of matters that were arising from Members Allowances Scheme 2022/23

The Members Allowance scheme for 2022/23 provided an annual increase in accordance with the local government pay award. This has historically been a percentage figure, but this year it is proposed to be a specified amount to all officers. It was proposed that the amount be the percentage applicable to Spinal Column Point 49 for Officers which was line with a number of other Greater Manchester authorities and which had been recommended by the Independent Remuneration Panel. Also, for the 2022/23 scheme, an Additional Special Responsibility Allowance was available to cover significant additional responsibilities, that arose 'in-year' and which required equal or greater time and effort as would be required of any other Special Responsibility Allowance activities. A request had been received that a Council Member be granted an allowance for activity undertaken relating to Greater Manchester, regional, national wide issues, including health and cost of living issues and that a further member be granted an allowance as an opposition lead on equality, inclusion and diversity. Council was asked to consider these requests.

RESOLVED:

1. That the basic allowance, for Members of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, for 2023/24, shall remain unchanged (pay award not included as linked to officer pay which has not been determined yet).
2. Special Responsibility Allowances, for 2023/24:
 - a. That the Assistant to Cabinet Member allowance be discontinued
 - b. That the Shadow Executive members/shadow deputy allowance be discontinued
 - c. That the Unity Chair allowance be discontinued
 - d. That the Additional SRA allowance be discontinued
 - e. That the other SRAs continue at the level in the current scheme (as outlined at Page 1 of the report to Agenda Item 14)
 - f. That no Member should be entitled to more than one SRA where it relates to internal Council business
3. That no changes be made to the Travel and Subsistence allowance, Dependent Carers Allowance and co-opted allowances
4. That for 2023/24, the annual increase should be the percentage increase for Local Government Officers at SCP 49.
5. Agree the matters referred to in the report for the 2022/23 scheme.

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Chadderton SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance concerning the Treasury Management review 2021/22. Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22. The submitted report of the Director of Finance met the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2021/22 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports: An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved by Council on 4 March 2021); a mid-year treasury update report (which was approved by the Council on 15th December 2021); and an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report) The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report was therefore important in that respect, as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approves the actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the Director of Finance's report.
2. That Council approves the annual treasury management review report for 2021/22.

19

ELECTED MEMBER STEERING GROUP ON CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: TERMS OF REFERENCE

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Chadderton SECONDED a report of the Statutory Director of Children's Services seeking approval of the terms of reference for an Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation.

At the previous Council meeting, held 13th July 2022, Members considered a Motion in response to the Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice in Oldham. The Director of Children's Services' report provided Council with an update on an Elected Member Workshop held in August 2022 by way of an action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation and sets out draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group for approval.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council notes the report.
2. That, by way of receiving the action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation, Council notes the priority areas of action and progress against the resolution agreed by Full

Council on 13th July 2022; including the dedicated additional support to the work of Operation Sherwood led by Greater Manchester Police, the Council's response to ongoing support to survivors of CSE including access to independent support, the establishment of a Child Sexual Exploitation survivors steering/advisory group and the establishment of an Elected Member Steering Group, as set out in full at Appendix 1 of the Statutory Director of Children's Services report.

3. That Council agrees the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation, as set out in appendix 2 of the Statutory Director of Children's Services report.
4. That Council notes the authority's response is to support victims, seek justice and provide assurance about current practice as set out within the Council's action plan.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.35pm.

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Present: Councillor Chadderton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Ali, Chadderton, Jabbar, Moores, Mushtaq,
Stretton and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brownridge.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Leader of the Council read out the following statement.
“I have been notified of only one piece of urgent business to make Cabinet aware of, regarding a Delegated Executive Decision on the delivery of the National Careers Service Contract by Get Oldham Working.

For the last 5 years the Get Oldham Working programme has been delivered the NCS contract as a subcontractor of the GM Growth Company, with the Council delivering 50% of the contract via Get Oldham Working and GM Growth Company delivering 50%.

In June 2022 the Council was notified that the then prime contractor (GM Growth Company had lost the contract and the education and skills funding agency had chosen Seetec, an employee-owned public sector service provider as the new prime contractor for the North West.

Seetec offered Get Oldham Working the opportunity to deliver 100% of the Oldham NCS contract as a sub-contractor. The Council believes this exclusivity is likely to provide better outcomes for our residents and partners as the service is already embedded in Oldham and highly regarded by residents across the Borough.

The Delegated Executive Decision was taken to comply with signing the contract as soon as possible, otherwise we risked jeopardising Oldham Council and Get Oldham Working being the preferred delivery provider for Oldham.”

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 25TH JULY 2022**

RESOLVED – That the amended minutes as circulated of the Cabinet meeting held on 25th July 2022 be approved.

CORPORATE PLAN 2022-2027

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which provided details of the Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2027.

Oldham Council's last Corporate Plan expired in 2020, being replaced by a Covid Recovery Strategy to focus the Council's resources as the borough responded to the pandemic. As the Council now looked to the future, a new Corporate Plan enabled the strategic use of resources to support the policy and operational priorities of the administration. The new Corporate Plan 2022-27 sets out these priorities for the next five years, with specific deliverables for the next three years.

Oldham Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 described how the Council would maximise the impact of our efforts and resource to improve the lives of residents in the borough over the next five years. The plan, which aligned with the Oldham Partnership's vision document (*Our Future Oldham*), focused specifically on the impact of our work on children and young people. It acknowledged the present and future challenges created by the cost of living crisis, and described how services across the Council would be improved for residents.

The plan set out five policy priorities: healthy, safe and well supported residents; A great start and skills for life; Better jobs and dynamic businesses; Quality homes for everyone; A clean and green future. The Council's four operational priorities are: Resident focus; Place-based working; Digital; Working with communities to reduce need.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - Approve the Corporate Plan 2022-27 and allow it to proceed to Full Council for consideration.

This option was recommended as it would allow the Council to proceed most efficiently and effectively, delivering on the Administration's priorities and focusing on the needs of residents, whilst contributing to the overall vision for Oldham set out in *Our Future Oldham*.

Option 2 - Reject the Corporate Plan 2022-27 as drafted, proceeding without a Corporate Plan until amendments can be made.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The contents of the Corporate Plan 2022-27 and the outcomes it commits the Council to delivering over the next three years be noted.
2. The Corporate Plan 2022-27 be approved and recommended to Council on 7th September 2022 or consideration.

AMENDMENTS TO THE LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council which amended the Council's Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation to ensure the decision making process was up to date and to reflect recent legislative changes.

The current Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation was adopted 14 September 2011 to reflect changes in the procedures to be followed in relation to the production of development plan documents, following amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.

Since the Scheme of Delegation was last updated legislative changes have taken place, including:

- The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended;
- The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; and
- The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017

As such, changes needed to be made to the existing Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation in relation to the following in particular:

- Terminology (such as replacing references to the Local Development Framework);
- References to regulation stages within the decision-making procedures; and
- Decision making processes for Neighbourhood Planning.

There may be further changes as a result of the recently announced Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Any changes needed to the Scheme of Delegation would be considered at the appropriate time once further guidance and legislation has been published.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve and adopt the revised levels of decision-making in respect of local planning. This would reflect the latest terminology and regulations and provide greater clarity when making decisions in respect of local planning.

Option 2 – Not to approve and adopt the revised levels of decision-making in respect of local planning. This would result in the continued use of an out-of-date scheme of delegation and a lack of clarity.

RESOLVED - That the revised Local Planning Scheme of Delegation be approved and adopted.

8

TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2021/22

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Cabinet details of the Treasury Management Review 2021/22.

The Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22. This report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).

During 2021/22 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports:

- an annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 4th March 2021)
- a mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (approved 15th December 2021)
- an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report)

The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report was therefore important in that respect, as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

The Council confirmed that it had complied with the requirements under the Code to give prior scrutiny to the treasury strategy and the mid-year update. The Audit Committee was charged with the scrutiny of treasury management activities in Oldham and reviewed the content of this annual report at its meeting of 21 June 2022 prior to its consideration by Cabinet. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet (to ensure full compliance with the Code for 2020/212).

RESOLVED – That-

1. The actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators presented in this report be approved.
2. The annual treasury management report for 2021/22 be approved.
3. The report be commended to Council.

9

REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 QUARTER 1 – JUNE 2022

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided Cabinet with an update on the Council's 2022/23 forecast revenue budget position at Annex 1 and the financial position of the capital programme as at 30 June 2022 (Quarter 1) together with the revised capital programme 2022/23 to 2026/27, as outlined in section two of the report at Annex 2.

The current forecast outturn position for 2022/23 was a projected deficit variance of £5.833m after allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from reserves. The position included additional costs and pressures that have been identified by the Authority in this financial year as a direct result of the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are two areas which continued to endure significant pressures attributed to the ongoing impact of the Pandemic; Community Health & Adult Social Care was reporting an adverse variance of £7.582m and Children's Social Care was recording £4.137m.

These pressures were being offset against a corporate provision of £12.000m COVID-19 Legacy funding which was set aside during the 2022/23 budget setting process.

An update on the major issues driving the projections was detailed at Annex 1 to the report.

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2022/23 to 2026/27 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2022/23 was £88.075m at the

close of Quarter 1, a net increase of £2.073m from the original budget of £78.695m. Actual expenditure to 30 June 2020 was £6.787m (8.62% of the forecast outturn). Without doubt the forecast position would continue to change throughout the year with additional re-profiling into future years.

RESOLVED – That:

1. Forecast revenue outturn for 2022/23 at Quarter 1 being a £5.833m adverse variance having regard to the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.
2. Forecast positions for both the Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund be approved
3. Use of reserves as detailed in Appendix 1 to Annex 1 be approved.
4. Revised capital programme for 2022/2027 as at Quarter 1 be approved.

10 **APPROVAL TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE EARLY PAYMENT SCHEME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive which sought approval of the award of a call off contract to deliver the Council's Early Payment Scheme. The Council had offered an early payment scheme to suppliers since 2012. The scheme allowed invoices to be paid earlier than the standard 30 days payment terms in exchange for a percentage rebate of the total invoice.

The scheme had 375 signed suppliers and earnings of the financial year 201/22 were £211,603 averaging out at £17,663 per month.

The current contract with Oxygen Finance was due for renewal and a desk top exercise was carried out to identify potential solutions.

Option 1 – To engage Oxygen Finance Ltd in a 5 year call off contract under the NEPO Early Payment Services Framework.

Option 2 – To undertake an open tender process further exploring the other option within the market.

Option 3 – Cease the Early Payment Scheme.

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

11 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

12 **APPROVAL TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE DELIVERY OF THE EARLY PAYMENT SCHEME**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 - Approval to Award the Contract for the Delivery of the Early Payment Scheme.

RESOLVED - That a call off contract with Oxygen Finance Ltd for a period of 5 years under the NEPO Early Payment Services framework be awarded and approved.

The meeting started at 5.00pm and finished at 5.11pm



Present: Councillor Chadderton (Chair)
Councillors Akhtar, Ali, Brownridge, Jabbar, Mushtaq and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

A minute silence was held following the death of the late, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

A minute silence was held following the death of Councillor Jean Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and former Leader of the Council.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Moores.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions received.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 22ND AUGUST 2022**

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd August 2022 be approved.

6 **OLDHAM'S COST OF LIVING RESPONSE**

The Cabinet gave consideration a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought to outline proposals to be introduced by the Council in response to the ongoing cost of living crisis. It was reported that in Oldham, some of parts of the Borough have the highest rates of deprivation in the country and that many residents would face hardships over the coming months with more people than ever facing some form of financial crisis. As a result, Oldham Council was predicting a significant increase in demand for financial assistance, advice and support in the coming months with a need to increase investment in those services.

In response to the Council the Council were proposing a £3 million investment in services, support and funding to help reduce the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on all Oldham households but also to widen the safety net for those residents most vulnerable to financial crisis.

On the 27th of July 2022, Oldham Council held the Cost of Living Summit, bringing together residents, partners and voluntary organisations to discuss and plan for how to collectively respond to the crisis. The summit's objective was to focus on the practical actions we could take locally to best support residents over the winter months.

The proposals outlined in the report reflected Oldham Council's response to the Cost of Living Summit, providing a comprehensive package of support for our residents this winter. Members welcomed the report and endorsed the support and interventions outlined.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the interventions outlined in the report.

Option 2 – Not to approve the interventions outlined in the report.

RESOLVED – That the interventions outlined in the report, committing to providing a £3 million package of support to Oldham's residents during the cost-of-living crisis be approved.

7

TOMMYFIELD MARKET - LEASE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought approval of new lease agreements for and renewal of the lease model for traders existing and new of Tommyfield Market.

It was reported that Tommyfield Market was moving into the Shopping Centre and there were plans to redevelop the current market site when it was vacated. The proposals were for existing tenants to relocate into the heart of the Town Centre as requested at previous trader engagement meetings.

In readiness for this relocation, this report sought approval to review existing tenancy arrangements to provide consistency and to ensure vacant possession could be obtained in a timely manner as soon as the opportunity arose.

Engagement sessions were continuing with tenants to help clarify their relocation requirements and to help map out their business plans.

In addition, this report sought approvals to respond to market traders ask for financial assistance as they continued to report that the current trading situation was difficult.

This was due to a slow recovery from the Covid pandemic, and the challenges associated with the current market site: traders had asked for assistance to aid their sustainability during these currently challenging times and, ensure market continuation ahead of moving across to the new market site.

Options/alternatives considered

The options considered were mapped out in the report at Item 15 of the agenda. The options considered aid the future vacation of the Market site for its redevelopment and would help tenants in their ability to plan for the future.

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

8

DON'T TRASH OLDHAM CAMPAIGN: YEAR END REVIEW AND NEXT STEPS

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought approval to roll out further activities over the next twelve months in support of the continuation of the

Don't Trash Oldham campaign, utilising funding commitments from earlier in the year

It was reported that clean streets and tackling issues of fly tipping and littering that blight Oldham's communities remained a priority for Oldham residents and for the Council. The Don't Trash Oldham (DTO) campaign commenced in September 2021, following Cabinet approval, which focused on community engagement, and confirmed the investment and resources required in order to strengthen current street cleaning and enforcement activity.

This report provided an end of year report and detailed the outcomes and achievements over the last twelve months; it examined the lessons learnt (what has worked and what could be improved) and proposed some new measures / targeted interventions for the next twelve months, following announcements earlier this year about a further financial commitment.

Members welcomed the report and the achievements of the campaign and asked that a vote of thanks be recorded for all the staff involved in the Campaign and the benefits it has achieved.

Option /alternatives considered

Option1 - Continue with the current approach and extend the campaign by revisiting the areas on rotation for one month in line with Appendix 1 of the report with enhanced visibility.

Option 2 -Target known hotspot locations with enforcement, engagement and dedicated clean up to induce behaviour change, and introduce a boroughwide 'betterment' plan to enhance all local communities / establish a DTO legacy.

Option 3 - Do nothing and bring the campaign to a close with the year end report, and convert the funds to support in-year funding pressures.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The achievements of the Don't Trash Oldham Campaign across the borough over the last twelve months be noted.
2. The proposals to roll out further activities over the next twelve months in support of the continuation of the DTO campaign, utilising funding commitments from earlier in the year be noted.
3. Option 2 as outlined in the report be approved for a focused and targeted delivery campaign to significantly improve the living conditions for our local communities, and to ensure a sustainable legacy is created with the available funding.
4. A vote of thanks be given to all staff involved in the Don't Trash Oldham Campaign.

9

GRANT ACCEPTANCE: MAYORS CHALLENGE FUND (MCF) - BEE NETWORK CROSSINGS

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which confirmed the value of the grant available to Oldham Council from the Mayoral Challenge Fund and the intention to add this additional resource to the Council's Transport Programme.

It was reported that the Council had secured additional funding for scheme delivery, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), via the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF). The Greater Manchester Mayor established a £160M Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund for cycling and walking infrastructure to kick-start delivery of the Greater Manchester Bee Network in June 2018.

The fund was being used to deliver the first phase of the walking and cycling elements of the wider Bee Network, which will transform Greater Manchester's transport system. This network, once completed, would cover circa 1,800 miles and be the longest, integrated, planned network in the country connecting every neighbourhood of Greater Manchester.

Transport for Greater Manchester successfully bid to MCF Tranche 6 in November 2019 for the Greater Manchester Bee Network Crossings scheme.

The scheme represented a rolling programme of highway crossing interventions across all districts in Greater Manchester, designed to reduce severance for walkers and cyclists. Phase 1 is currently delivering a package of crossings in Bury and Manchester.

Phase 2 of the GM Bee Network Crossings scheme would deliver new and upgraded crossing facilities to overcome highway severance at 7 sites located throughout Bolton, Oldham, Stockport, and Wigan.

This Phase 2 package of works had been developed in collaboration with Local Authority partners. The release of the funding for Phase 2 delivery was approved at GMCA on 29th July 2022.

Option 1 - Accept the grant offer, enter into the delivery agreement with TfGM for the proposed Oldham schemes and progress the delivery of all schemes in the appropriate timescales.

Option 2 - Do not accept the grant offer and do not enter into the delivery agreement with TfGM to deliver the schemes

RESOLVED – That:

1. The grant offer from the Mayor's Challenge Fund (MCF) for delivery of the Bee Network Crossings scheme in Oldham be accepted.
2. The Council enter into a Delivery Agreement with Transport for Greater Manchester for the proposed scheme.
3. The intention to bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2022/23 and complete delivery of the schemes in the appropriate timescales be noted.

10

HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXI) FARE INCREASE

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought to review and approve a request made by Hackney Carriage trade representatives for an increase in Hackney Carriage (taxi) fares.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to set the maximum costs and fares that drivers may charge the public for journeys taken in a taxi.

In setting taxi fares, the Council must balance any increase of taxi fares against the needs of the travelling public. A review of taxi fares last took place in 2012.

It was reported that Taxi fares have remained static since 2012, despite the increase in the cost of living.

The trade had seen an increase in costs associated with licensing, maintaining, and running a taxi over the previous 10 years, and were now requesting the Council review the fares they are permitted to charge in order to mitigate those costs. The existing and proposed fares were detailed at Appendix 1 to the report.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1: Approve the request

Option 2: Do not approve the request

RESOLVED – That:

1. The request to increase Hackney Carriage Taxi fares as detailed at appendix 1 to the report be approved.
2. Any objections to the statutory notices issued following approval of this report are delegated to the Leader of the Council.

11

FAIR COST OF CARE EXERCISE AND LIVING WAGE FOUNDATION NATIONAL LIVING WAGE IMPLEMENTATION

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought approval for the arrangements for the implementation of the Living Wage, following the commitment included in the 2022/23 Revenue Budget report (approved 2 March 2022) to implemented by October 2022. It was reported that due to the timescales for the submission to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) of the Fair Cost of Care proposals by the 14 October 2022, approval was sought to delegate authority to sign off the report submission to the Director of Adult Social Care, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care. An update report would then follow to Cabinet to note the decisions made. This report provided an overview of the Fair Cost of Care (FCoC) exercise which the Council was required to submit to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), including the timeline and approval process required. Additionally, the paper confirmed the implementation plan for the Living Wage Foundation National Living Wage (FLW).

Option/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Delegate authority to the Director of Adult Social Care to sign off the report submissions.

Option 2 – Require a Cabinet Decision on the Fair Cost of Care Submissions. Due to the internal approval process if this option is chosen it would not be possible to achieve the submission deadline of the 14 October, which risks not only the reputation of the council but also may affect the funding received in year and expected in future years.

Options in relation to Foundation Living Wage.

Option 3 – Pay the Foundation Living Wage at the Current rate of £9.90 effective from 1 October, with implementation by the end of October 2022.

Option 4– Implement the Foundation Living Wage at the September announced level by the end of October 2022.

Option 5 – Not to implement the Foundation Living Wage.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed delegation of authority for the submissions required by 14 October 2022 to the Department of Health and Social Care.. A Cabinet report to follow to note the decision made and costs and models agreed.
2. The implementation the Foundation Living Wage by the end of October 2022 be approved at the current rate and from the first of April 2023 move to the rate announced in September 2022 (which was announced with six months to implement) at an estimated cost of £1M from October 2022 - March 2023.This would include an increase in the fees paid to providers and contract variations to ensure the increase is passed on to social care staff.

12

DAY SERVICES CONTRACT PROVIDED BY AGE UK OLDHAM.

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought approval for a proposed 12 month interim funding arrangement for day services and to re-engage Age UK Oldham to deliver a service during that period. It was reported that it was important to support the continuation of day care delivery in the short term and to support the ongoing relationship that Age UK Oldham, as a respected strategic partner have developed with the community in Oldham. Age UK Oldham were proactive in redefining their local offer throughout 2020 as the Covid Pandemic emerged and had continued to provide valued and relevant services to local residents.

Option/alternatives considered

The options were considered at Item 17 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 17 of the agenda.

13

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of the appropriate budget to proceed with identified prioritised work within the Property Management Programme.

This report provided a review of a 3-year plan of Backlog Maintenance agreed in 2021.as detailed at appendix A to the report

It was stressed that several schemes previously identified had already been delivered. All schemes had been reviewed and some reprioritised based upon site knowledge of technical officers and risk analysis. Several schemes were currently in

progress therefore already committed as proposed delivery for 2022/2023.

A detailed review of known current maintenance and investment schemes had been completed and included a review of outstanding schemes previously captured in a report by the 'Head of Strategic Assets & Facilities' from April 2021 along with additional schemes that had been identified in recent months. A collaborative meeting was held on 6th May 2022 to collectively review and agree the property management programme based on priority assessment, asset strategy, budget availability and procurement considerations. Technical officers in collaboration with colleagues in finance, procurement, highways, estate management and education had confirmed the specific schemes which were required in either 2022/2023, 2023/2024 or 2024/2025.

The review had included revision to previous budget cost of each scheme to reflect the current scope of works whilst also considering the current commercial procurement market. It was considered that the current contractor market was volatile resulting in tender return increases. Consequently, budget cost had been reviewed to avoid future budget increases. Where possible, schemes had been re-prioritised with a view to doing essential works only thus affording further time to realign with wider considerations such as Decarbonisation and Disposal programmes

Specific schemes had been identified as being beyond the realms of maintenance due to scale, complexity, and cost. It was considered that these such schemes are more appropriately addressed in alternative programmes.

Options/Alternatives

Option 1 - Do nothing, which was not considered viable as the schemes identified are considered as priority maintenance works that were required necessary either to maintain the full operational use of the buildings, to mitigate legal risks, are of a health and safety issue, or are considered needed to meet statutory legislation requirements.

Option 2 – To approve the budget and to commission the required works in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. This would assist to maintain and facilitate improved functional use of the corporate assets, whilst mitigating relevant operational and health and safety risks.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information as detailed at Item 16 of the agenda before making a decision.

14

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

15

TOMMYFIELD MARKET - LEASE MANAGEMENT

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 - Tommyfield Market - Lease Management.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The offer of a new lease agreement to existing tenants of Tommyfield Market as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be approved.
2. The new lease arrangements be offered to all new tenants for fairness and equality during this financial period of trading in this existing location.
3. The rental model though the new lease arrangements be reviewed which would provide a rent reduction on full price charges through the new lease agreement providing the tenant is in compliance with their existing tenancy agreement and have no rental arrears as detailed with options in the commercially sensitive report.
4. Further engagement takes place with tenants as detailed within the commercially sensitive report.
5. Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth to finalise the terms and conclude the new tenancy agreements, together with any ancillary documentation.
6. Authority to be delegated to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representative to sign and affix the Common Seal of the Council to all contractual documentation necessary to give effect to the above authorisations and delegations.

16

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 13 - Property Management Programme Update.

RESOLVED – That the budget as detailed in the report be approved to enable commission of the required works in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. This would assist to maintain and facilitate improved functional use of the Council's Corporate assets, whilst mitigating relevant operational and health and safety risks.

17

DAY SERVICES CONTRACT PROVIDED BY AGE UK OLDHAM.

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 12 - Day services contract provided by Age UK Oldham.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed interim funding arrangements as detailed within the commercially sensitive report for the day services for 12 months be approved.
2. The re-engagement of AGE UK to deliver a service during that 12 months be approved.
3. All further detail in the recommendation within the commercially sensitive report be approved.

The meeting started at 4.30pm and finished at 5.05pm



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COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Democratic Services
Ext. 4705

2nd November 2022

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from the previous Council meetings.

Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 7th September 2022.

Recommendations

Council are asked to agree the action taken and note no correspondence has been received regarding some motions agreed at the previous Council meeting.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 This report sets out the actions officers have taken on notice of motions approved at the Council meeting held on 7th September 2022.

2 Current Position

2.1 The current position from actions because of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One. One letter from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy is attached, in response to the Food and Warmth Motion approved by Council on 7th September.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 N/A

4 Preferred Option

4.1 N/A

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 N/A

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 N/A

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 N/A

11 IT Implications

11.1 N/A

12 Property Implications

12.1 N/A

13	Procurement Implications
13.1	N/A
14	Environmental and Health & Safety Implications
14.1	N/A
15	Equality, community cohesion and crime implications
15.1	None
16	Equality Impact Assessment Completed?
16.1	No
17	Key Decision
17.1	No
18	Key Decision Reference
18.1	N/A
19	Background Papers
19.1	<p>The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held 7th September 2022 are available online at: http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails
20	Appendices
20.1	Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 7 th September 2022.
20.2	Appendix 2 – Letters and other information received in response to actions approved at previous Council meetings.

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Appendix 1

Actions from Council - 7th September 2022

ACTION	ISSUE/RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Administration Motion 1: Cost of Living Crisis	<p>That letters be sent to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer demanding that they 'offer more support to residents, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter b. for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever c. to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and d. increase the support offered to local authorities so those of us who knew our communities best can make the most 	Chief Executive	9 th September 2022

Appendix 1

	difference here on the ground		
Administration Motion 2: Fireworks	<p>That a Letter be sent to the Government (Secretary of State for Business, Energy and industrial Strategy) urging them to introduce legislation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays. b. To review current laws on the sale and use of fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used. c. To strengthen national restrictions governing how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, and in what volume per transaction including online sales. d. Restrict firework sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks associated with 'pop up' sellers who appear for short periods. 	Chief Executive	9 th September 2022
Opposition Motion 1: Can the Council Dare to be Brave	To exercise its power to change speed limits on roads responsibly and ensure speed limits on roads	Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth	9 th September 2022

Appendix 1

	<p>across Oldham are appropriate and realistic for their surroundings and the times we now live in.</p>		
<p>Opposition Motion 2: Meeting the Human Needs for Food and Warmth</p>	<p>That letters be forwarded, on behalf of Oldham Council as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oldham Council will write to the three MPs representing Oldham Borough, asking them to confirm their commitment to action to cut the costs of energy for residents. 2. Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Energy to demand investment into the Oldham Mine Water Heat Network, which would provide an alternative way of delivering a secure heating source for hundreds of homes in the borough and commits to finding funding for this project at the soonest possible opportunity. 3. Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that damaging cuts to Free School Meals are reversed. 4. Oldham Council will write to 	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>9th September 2022</p>

Appendix 1

	the Chancellor of the Exchequer, urging him to reinstate the uplift for Universal Credit and extend Free School Meals to all families on Universal Credit.		
Update on Actions from Council	RESOLVED - that the actions regarding Motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 13 th July 2022 be noted	Director of Legal Services	Update on Actions from Council
Corporate Plan 2022-27 and Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision For 2030	<p>RESOLVED - That Council</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the contents of the Corporate Plan 2022-27 and the outcomes it commits the Council to delivering over the next three years. 2. Approves the Corporate Plan 2022-27 for adoption. 3. Notes the contents of the draft Our Future Oldham document, the vision it sets for the borough in 2030 and the governance arrangements it commits the Council to participating in as part of the Oldham Partnership. 4. Approves 'Our Future Oldham' for consideration and adoption by the Oldham Partnership. 	Chief Executive and the Executive Leadership Team	Council approved the report on 7 th September 2022

Appendix 1

Local Planning Scheme of Delegation	RESOLVED - that Council approves and adopts the revised Local Planning Scheme of Delegation.	Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth	Council approved the report on 7 th September 2022
Members Allowance Scheme	<p>RESOLVED –</p> <p>1. That the basic allowance, for Members of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, shall remain unchanged (pay award not included as linked to officer pay which has not been determined yet).</p> <p>2. Special Responsibility Allowances -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the Assistant to Cabinet Member allowance be discontinued b. That the Shadow Executive members/shadow deputy allowance be discontinued c. That the Unity Chair allowance be discontinued d. That the Additional SRA allowance be discontinued e. That the other SRAs continue at the level in the current scheme (as outlined at Page 1 of the report to Agenda Item 14) f. That no Member should be entitled to more than one SRA 	Director of Legal Services/Director of Finance	Council approved the report on 7 th September 2022

Appendix 1

	<p>where it relates to internal Council business</p> <p>3. That no changes be made to the Travel and Subsistence allowance, Dependent Carers Allowance and co-opted allowances</p> <p>4. That for 2023/24, the annual increase should be the percentage increase for Local Government Officers at SCP 49.</p>		
Treasury Management Review 2021/22	<p>RESOLVED –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council approves the actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the Director of Finance’s report. 2. That Council approves the annual treasury management review report for 2021/22 	Director of Finance	Council approved the report on 7 th September 2022
Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation: Terms of Reference	<p>RESOLVED –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That Council notes the report. 2. That, by way of receiving the action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation, Council notes the priority areas of action and progress against the resolution agreed by Full 	Chief Executive/Managing Director, Children and Young People/Director of Legal Services	Council approved the report on 7th September 2022

Appendix 1

	<p>Council on 13th July 2022; including the dedicated additional support to the work of Operation Sherwood led by Greater Manchester Police, the Council's response to ongoing support to survivors of CSE including access to independent support, the establishment of a Child Sexual Exploitation survivors steering/advisory group and the establishment of an Elected Member Steering Group, as set out in full at Appendix 1 of the Statutory Director of Children's Services report.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="678 911 1111 1201">3. That Council agrees the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation, as set out in appendix 2 of the Statutory Director of Children's Services report.<li data-bbox="678 1206 1140 1460">4. That Council notes the authority's response is to support victims, seek justice and provide assurance about current practice as set out within the Council's action plan.		
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Appendix 1



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Lord Callanan
Minister for Business, Energy and
Corporate Responsibility

**Department for Business,
Energy & Industrial Strategy**
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

www.gov.uk

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
Oldham Council
Oldham MBC
Level 3 Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Our ref: MCB2022/22757
Your ref: food and warmth motion - 07/09/22

17 October 2022

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter dated 9 September, to the Secretary of State, Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg MP, regarding action to address high energy bills, support for general cost of living pressures, and the Oldham Mine Water Heat Network. The Secretary of State has asked me to respond.

As part of the outcomes of your 7 September meeting, I note you have written separately to the Secretary of State at the Department of Education (DfE) regarding considerations on free school meals. This will be a matter for DfE to respond to. With respect to concerns on energy bills, the Government understands the scale of the challenge households and businesses face and since you wrote, it has taken decisive action to support energy users.

On 8 September, the Government announced that it would introduce the 'Energy Price Guarantee' (EPG). The EPG will ensure that a typical household in Great Britain pays an average £2,500 a year on their energy bill, for the next 2 years, from 1 October 2022 that will save the average household at least £1,000 a year based on current energy prices from October. The EPG comes in addition to the £1,200 of support for the eight million most vulnerable households to help with the cost of living, with all domestic electricity customers receiving at least £400 through the Energy Bills Support Scheme.

On Universal Credit, the Department for Work and Pensions advises that the Government has always been clear that the £20 increase was a temporary measure to support households affected by the economic shock of Covid-19. As a result, Universal Credit Claimant Assessment Periods that ended on or after 6 October 2021 have not included the additional £20 per week. Further, the Government has already given nearly 1.7 million families an extra £1,000 a year, on average, through changes to the Universal Credit taper and work allowances. It has also raised the National Insurance threshold to £12,570 from 6 July 2022, which is a saving of over £330 for a typical employee.

Finally on Oldham Council's second resolution, the Department has been providing support to Oldham Council to develop the Oldham Town Centre minewater project through funding and guidance from the Heat Network Delivery Unit (HNDU) team. We have provided this support through funding for Techno-Economic Feasibility stage works (£61,300, January 2020), and more recently for Detailed Project Development (DPD), external project management and stakeholder engagement (£160,600, March 2022). The DPD stage will deliver an Outline Business Case for the proposed Oldham minewater heat network, including outputs that will support an application to the Green Heat Network Fund. We have recently supported Oldham Council officers in developing specifications for procurement of external consultants and will continue to provide guidance throughout the project DPD delivery.

Thank you for writing. I trust this information will be useful.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Callan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Lord Callanan



2022-0029860KTPO

Kelly Tolhurst MP
Minister of State for Schools and Childhood

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/df

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive, Oldham Council
By email: harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk

Your ref: Speed Cameras - 20220316

12 October 2022

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter of 25 July, addressed to the former Secretary of State, about early years funding. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area and I apologise for the delay in responding.

We know the early years sector is facing economic challenges, similar to the challenges being faced across the economy. We have already announced additional funding of £160 million in 2022 to 2023, £180 million in 2023 to 2024 and £170 million in 2024 to 2025, compared to the 2021 to 2022 financial year, for local authorities (LAs) to increase hourly rates paid to childcare providers. Improving the cost, choice and availability of high-quality childcare and early education remains a key priority for this government.

For 2022 to 2023, the department has increased the hourly funding rates for all LAs by 21p an hour for the 2-year-old entitlement and, for the vast majority of areas, by 17p an hour for the 3- and 4-year-old entitlement. This means that for 2022 to 2023, hourly funding rates for Oldham Council increased to £5.67 and £4.66 for the 2-year-old and 3- and 4-year-old entitlements respectively.

Since 2017, early years funding formulae have been at the heart of allocating our record investment in early years entitlement funding fairly and transparently across the country. In each of the last three years, we have spent over £3.5 billion on these entitlements.

Over the summer, the department consulted on proposals to update next year's 2-year-old and 3- and 4-year-old formulae with the most recent data available and to continue doing that each year going forward. This will ensure that the funding system remains fair, effective and responsive to changing levels of need across different areas. This consultation ended on 16 September and we will be publishing the findings in due course.

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we provided unprecedented support to the early years sector. For example, we continued to fund LAs with entitlements funding even where early years settings were closed. Furthermore nurseries, childminders and pre-schools could claim for a wide range of business support, including a business rates holiday, business rates nurseries discount, the recovery loan scheme, the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, and the Self Employment Income Support Scheme.

We recognise that recruitment and retention are key issues for the early years sector. Supporting this workforce continues to be a priority for the department, and we are working with the sector to build our understanding of the situation and how we might support early years providers in this area. That is why the department is investing up to £180 million of recovery support in the early years sector. This investment will support the workforce, enabling settings to deliver high-quality teaching and helping to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the youngest children, particularly those in the most disadvantaged areas. This £180 million investment includes up to £153 million which will provide the opportunity for evidence-based professional development for early years practitioners, including through new programmes focusing on key areas such as speech and language development for the youngest children.

The £180 million investment also includes £27 million to support children's early language development in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is comprised of up to £17 million for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention programme, which two thirds of primary schools have signed up for, and up to £10 million for a second phase of the early years professional development programme in the academic year 2021 to 2022, which is targeted at early years staff who work with disadvantaged children.

The department is developing new early years training routes to boost recruitment in the early years sector. Free level 3 early years qualifications are available through the Lifetime Skills Guarantee for adults without a level 3 or higher qualification, and, from April 2022, eligibility was expanded to include adults who are unemployed or earning below the National Living Wage annually (£18,525), regardless of any other qualifications held. Employer trailblazer groups have also developed level 2 and 3 apprenticeships, and, in August 2021, we launched a level 5 apprenticeship.

We would encourage all early years settings to continue to raise workforce issues with their LA, as LAs report to the department on early years provider workforce and sufficiency matters, including closures.

We continue to engage with early years sector stakeholders and LAs to monitor dynamics within local markets, parents' access to the government's childcare entitlements and the childcare they require, as well as the sustainability of the early years sector.

Thank you for writing on this important matter. I hope that you find this reply useful.

Yours sincerely



Kelly Tolhurst MP
Minister of State for Schools and Childhood

Council

Appointment of Independent Chair of the Audit Committee

Report of Head of Democratic Services

2nd November 2022

Officer contact: Elizabeth Drogan

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council have undertaken a process via an advert and then an interview to appoint an independent Chair to the Audit Committee. Previous efforts to appoint the Chair have not proved to be successful.
- 1.2 It is recommended that Grenville Page who has extensive experience in a Senior Role within the public sector in Finance roles. In addition, Grenville is also an independent member of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Audit Committee.
- 1.3 The recommendation from the panel to Council is to appoint both to serve for a 4 year term ending at the end of the municipal year 2027

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Council are recommended to make the appointment as detailed in paragraph 1.3 of the report.

Background papers

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information.

- Membership of Audit Committee

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