

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 14 December 2022

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 6 December 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 2.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Greater Manchester Policing Plan Update
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2nd November 2022 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 42)
- 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 Youth Council
(time limit 20 minutes)

Over the past 3 years, young people have told us that the environment is one of the biggest issues that they feel needs to be dealt with. In make your mark, since 2018, of the 29,792 votes cast, nearly a quarter have been for environmental issues. In October of this year we attended the Greater Manchester Green Summit, opened by our very own Youth Mayor, at the Lowry. This event highlighted the urgency and importance presented to us by the climate crisis. Speakers talked about the levels of pollution and C O 2 in Greater Manchester, how we have already used most of our carbon budget and how we were falling behind the targets set. Our Youth Councillors also attended the Net Zero Conference where lecturers from Salford University and the Royal Horticultural Society, demonstrated how we can use green, blue and brown roofs, as well as living walls to help the environment. With the information from both these events, we felt that we should bring this to your attention so Oldham can take action.

So what is a green roof? Simply, it is the roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and growing medium planted over a waterproof barrier. A variety of this type of roof is the brown roof, which is where the plants self-seed from windblown and bird lime seed dispersal. A blue roof is quite simply a roof designed for

the retention of rainwater and can be combined with green or brown roofs so that the captured water can irrigate the plants. Finally, if we take a green roof, turn it vertically and put it on the side of a building then it becomes a living wall.

We know that the installation of these types of roofs and living walls can be as much as 75% more expensive than conventional roof and wall types, especially if the roof or wall is being retro fitted. However, in Germany where green roofs are common, a green roof can be expected to experience double or even triple the life of a standard roof, saving money in the future. Savings also come from the reduction in operational and maintenance costs. The 'Investing in green roofs for climate adaptation' report by the ignition project, showed this measure comprises of low operational costs and reduction in bills. It showed a 13% saving in wastewater charges and savings of 5% on energy costs for apartments in Salford. That same report showed that a brown roof on the Unicorn Grocery, Manchester, had an 18% saving on energy costs and a maintenance saving of 20%.

Use of green, brown and blue roofs is also fundamentally a perfect idea for a business's reputation. The report asserted that by being more environmental conscious maintained or even increased the reputation of a business. This reputation also helped uplift the property and rental costs of their buildings.

But this motion is not about saving money it is about saving our planet. As we mentioned earlier, we are not meeting our targets in Greater Manchester, and we feel this intervention will help with that, while making our town a nicer, cleaner, and greener place to live and work.

The 'Investing in a Green Greater Manchester report' showed that for every square metre of a green roof or living wall it produces 1.7Kg of Oxygen per year while other studies have shown that living walls and roofs could capture 84g of carbon in the atmosphere. The report also showed that buildings with a green roof, on average, use 6.7% less energy to heat or cool the building and reduce noise pollution by up to 11db. A living wall on the other hand can reduce energy use by 8%, remove 18-35% of CO₂ from surrounding areas and remove 200g of air born particles every year for every square metre. With this in mind, green roofs and living walls are ideally placed in high traffic, busy urban areas such as town centres.

With the number of hills in Oldham, flooding is perhaps not a major issue but with the amount of rain we have our drainage system must be under a lot of strain. With interventions such as living walls and roofs the amount of water runoff is significantly reduced, with the vegetation and substrate retaining up to 75% of water that is dropped on to it. This would help ease the pressure on our drainage and reduce the need for water treatment companies to process it. Again this would indirectly mean less energy is consumed.

As well as helping the environment having greenery in built-up areas also helps with residents' mental health. It's well known that endorphin levels increase when you feel calmer within nature. Greenery helps lower stress levels and generate lots of positive emotions. In placing Green Roofs and Green walls in place of brick and concrete it will impact on Oldham residents' wellbeing and maybe even entice them to visit these places more often.

We have thought about where these roofs and walls could be placed. The new development of a green space in Oldham town centre would be an ideal start. Any businesses or flats built in this space could be designed with these specialist roofs and walls already fitted, saving on having to add them later. However, we also felt that roofs and living walls would be ideal retro fittings for buildings in parks, such as cafes,

so that they fit better into the natural environment already there. Schools and colleges could be another space that have living walls which will not only reduce costs for already stretched budgets but will help teach young people about caring for the environment. Our favourite idea though is to add green or brown roofs and living walls to public transport stops and stations. These could be seeded with bee friendly plants and of course we could all call them...

...BUZZ Stops.

When we talk colleagues from other youth councils, through the GMYCA, Oldham always appears to be at the forefront of eco innovation. We are proud to discuss schemes such as Northern roots, how we are looking to install solar farms or how far our thinking outside the box is when we think to flood old mine shafts to heat local businesses. When we have looked at plans and development of the town centre and when we talk with Council officers there is no mention of living roofs and walls. We don't believe that they have been discounted but perhaps over looked.

This Council resolves to:

- Investigate the feasibility of installing green roofs and living walls on buildings in Oldham;
- Consider supporting businesses and schools that wish to install green roofs and walls and;
- That Green Roofs and Walls are considered as part of the Council's approach to climate change adaptation and resilience.

9 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 43 - 48)

(time limit 15 minutes)

17th October 2022

10 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor to Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Taylor to SECOND:

Don't Take It Out on Us; Properly Funded Public Services

Council Services cannot take any more cuts imposed by central government. Since 2010 Oldham has had 45% of its funding from central government cut, and since 2010 successive Conservative Governments have forced local authorities to raise council tax in an attempt to meet this shortfall.

For over a decade Conservative Governments have forced councils – of every political persuasion – to raise council tax in order to run necessary services, leading to an

abhorrent situation where the council runs less services despite increasing Council Tax. This is not sustainable.

We cannot afford more cuts, adult social care and children's services are the two biggest items in the Council's budgets. Cuts to these services would be hugely regressive and frankly put our residents across the Borough in danger.

Councils across the country are struggling to meet contractual inflationary pressures brought on by inflation of over 10%, and current estimates mean this Council's budget will not be able to cover these costs without further cuts.

The National Audit Office estimates that between 2010/11 and 2020-21 government funded spending power in Oldham reduced by 53.7% in real terms, that in 2019-20 social care accounted for 53.6% of all service spend for Oldham Council, and that in 2010-11 central government funding to Oldham's revenue budget equated to £203m and in 2019-20 that figure was £39.5m.

This Council notes:

- Local Government in England is responsible for delivering more services than any other tier of government.
- Local Authorities across the country are struggling as a result of a decade of austerity, the impact of Brexit, the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the cost-of-living crisis and the market reaction to the catastrophic September Mini-Budget left a huge hole in public finances.
- The Autumn Statement did not provide Local Authorities with the assurance they need and Oldham Council faces huge inflationary pressures in the coming year.
- That this administration has an ambitious £3m We Can Help cost-of-living support package for Oldham residents
- That the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities acknowledged last month that Council Tax is regressive
- The provisional local government finance settlement will not be delivered until the week commencing 21st December and the full settlement will not be known until February 2023.
- Oldhamers cannot afford to pay for the mistakes of this government.

This Council resolves:

- To aid the LGA's Don't Take It Out on Us Campaign, and highlight the extent of cuts of local government financing in Oldham
- Ask the Borough's MPs to join our calls for properly funded local government and social care
- To work collaboratively and cross-party with colleagues in Oldham, Greater Manchester and nationally to lobby for fair funding for local government and social care.

This Council further resolves:

- Continue to work with our partners across Oldham to provide good quality and cost-effective public services for Oldhamers.
- To invite all Group Leaders to write jointly to the Government to ask them to properly and fairly fund local government and social care so that local authorities aren't forced to hike Council Tax and invite Oldham residents to sign the letter
- To call for multi-year financial settlements to enable local authorities to plan properly and deliver the best services for our residents

- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him to expedite the review into Council Tax so our residents aren't continually hammered by this regressive tax

Motion 2

Councillor Moores to MOVE and Councillor Chadderton to SECOND:

Investing in Children's Social Workers

The crisis in social care does not just impact adults social care and care homes, children's social care is experiencing a huge shortage of qualified social workers. This is in part due to the number of social workers opting to follow the agency route rather than having a permanent base at a local authority as part of the children's social care team.

In May 2022 the Independent Review of Children's Social Care was published and it recommended a number of regulatory reforms such as requiring newly qualified social workers to have completed two years of the propose early career framework before they can take up agency positions, to establish 'locum staff banks' run by local authorities on a not-for-profit basis so they could turn to them when demand calls for it. The shortage of social workers is a national problem that requires national solutions, here in Oldham we are working to try and do our bit, including investing in making Oldham an attractive place to be a social worker, and working with our colleagues across Greater Manchester to limit private businesses' profiteering.

This Council notes:

- The Northern Ireland Department of Health has announced that from June 2023 they will no longer be using agency social workers.
- Private businesses are profiteering of the back of the crisis in children's social care, with the ADCS warning of the increased cost pressures and concerns of quality.
- That agency social workers have their place within the system and for some it is the optimum career path.
- A stable workforce leads to the best possible service for Oldham's children. Those in the system want to stick with the same social worker.
- In July of this year the President of the Association of Directors of Children's Services called for an outright ban on agency workers.

This Council Resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education:

- To ask them follow in Northern Ireland's footsteps and impose a ban or a quota on Agency Social Workers.
- To publish its response to the Independent Review of Children's Social Care as soon as possible and establish further regulation on agency social work as recommended.
- To establish a fund for local authorities to set up not-for-profit staff banks to be the first port of call for temporary workers.

This Council further resolves to:

- To instruct the DCS to work with colleagues across Greater Manchester, and potentially the North West, to work together to attempt to reduce the reliance on agency social workers.
- To invest in Children's Services in order to recruit, retain and train the best social workers available and make Oldham an attractive place to be a social worker.

11 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Woodvine to MOVE and Councillor Byrne to SECOND:

Supporting our Armed Forces community

The Royal British Legion (TRBL) have conducted a series of successful campaigns with the aim of improving the provision of public services for the Armed Forces community across the United Kingdom and promoting their entitlement and access to those services.

In November 2022, a new Armed Forces Covenant Duty came into force, as introduced by His Majesty's Government. This means legal obligations have been placed on the Metropolitan Borough Council of Oldham to show due regard to the principles of the Covenant, particularly in the policy areas of healthcare, housing, and education.

Regarding TRBL's '*Making the Benefits System Fit for Service*' campaign this Council are already meeting most of the asks, which is positive, but there is more to do for the 5,941 veterans currently living in the Borough of Oldham.

This Council does disregard as income all payments made under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme (2005), the War Pension Scheme, and Service Attributable Pensions in assessments for Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support / Reduction, Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants.

This Council also disregards as income all payments of Service Invaliding Pensions (SIPs) in Discretionary Housing Payments and Disabled Facilities Grants, however, it does regard SIPs as occupational pensions and does not disregard them in assessments for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support / Reduction.

TRBL believes that Local Authorities should ensure that veterans are not forced to give up their military compensation to pay for the same support to which their civilian counterparts are entitled. Military compensation is awarded to veterans, and sometimes their families, in recognition of the pain and loss of amenity brought about by injury and illness that was caused in Service. Military compensation is not income, and therefore should not be treated as such.

According to the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP), there are only four practices who possess the 'veterans friendly' accreditation in the Borough of Oldham – those being Hill Top Surgery, Medlock Medical Practice, Royton Medical Centre and Saddleworth Medical Practice.

A University of Chester evaluation found that 84% of accredited practices said that they feel they have a better understanding of veterans' needs after becoming accredited.

With respect to education, all state schools, academies, and free schools in England, which have children of service families in school years Reception to Year 11, can receive Service Pupil Premium (SPP) funding. SPP recognises the specific challenges children from Service families face, and the funding can be used to offer pastoral support and help mitigate the negative impact on Service children of family mobility and parental deployment.

This Council resolves to act upon the two primary recommendations contained within TRBL's '*Unpaid carers in the Armed Forces community*' report, released in September 2021, by:

- Writing to all statutory bodies and those delivering statutory services in the Borough to ensure they routinely ask and record whether their patients and clients are a member of the Armed Forces community and if they have caring responsibilities.
- Urgently acting upon NHS England's recommendation to consider how carers from the Armed Forces can be supported in local carers' strategies, including how they can be encouraged to access support and take up a carer's assessment.

In addition, this Council resolves that:

- The Leader of the Council and Chief Executive Officer shall immediately suspend the Council policy which considers SIPs as a source of income in assessments for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support / Reductions.
- The Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care shall write to all GP service providers in the Borough, that are not currently accredited, and encourage them to seek the 'veterans friendly' accreditation. And, add to Oldham's carers' strategy ways in which to better serve and support our Armed Forces community – something it currently does not do.
- The Cabinet Member for Education & Skills shall write to education providers in the Borough to strongly encourage parents, who are Service Personnel, to notify the schools, colleges, et cetera of their unique status in order that they qualify for SPP.
- The Leader of the Council shall present the contents of this proposal to representatives on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and promote the positive impact the resolutions will have if acted upon by their respective Councils for the 68,037 veterans living across the GMCA area.

In relation to housing, this Council supports TRBL's responses to Local Government consultations concerning this policy area, and resolves to meet their requests for this Council to:

- Ensure that all residents approaching housing services are asked a question that will identify their membership of the Armed Forces community.
- Regularly review staff training processes to ensure that all relevant staff are aware of the housing policies specific to the Armed Forces community.
- Use discretion in waiving the five-year limit and allow veterans to access housing support with an exemption from the local connection requirement regardless of the time elapsed since they left Service.
- Apply the local connection exemption to divorced or separated spouses or partners of Service Personnel who are separating or have done so, in the five years preceding their application.

Motion 2

Free school meals and winter care packages

Councillor H Gloster to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

Council notes that:

Britain is currently experiencing a severe squeeze on living standards, with unprecedented pressures on household income coupled with rising prices of goods and fuel – all of which are causing hardship across every income bracket in every community.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine; Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic have all put pressures on trade, leading to empty shelves in our shops and increased fuel prices.

Decisions made by the Conservative government have resulted in panic in the stock-markets, causing the pound to plummet to its lowest ever value against the US dollar since the dollar was introduced in 1792.

We face national and international problems that require national and international solutions.

Nevertheless, this Council believes that:

- Local government can drive ambitious and impactful changes that makes a real difference in people's everyday lives.
- This coming winter will be extremely difficult for many of our residents. There is a need for Oldham Council to do more, by offering practical support for those who need it.
- The administration's £3m cost-of-living response package is welcome, however, with only £1.2m committed to be spent this calendar year it represents a missed opportunity to offer more real and meaningful support this winter.

This Council notes:

Free school meal provision helps improve the mental and physical health of children, whilst tackling childhood obesity, malnourishment, and driving up educational achievement. A healthy meal at lunchtime allows children to concentrate in the afternoon, promotes the benefits of healthier eating; and makes a huge impact in tackling health inequalities.

Winter care packages - delivered to the vulnerable - would make a real difference to many who need support from this Council the most. The Council should explore opportunities for funding and submit robust bids where there is funding available. Every effort should be made to fund a winter care pack scheme for residents this winter, stocked with warm clothing, household essentials and information about key support services offered by the Council and other organisations.

This council resolves to:

Explore opportunities to support Oldham's primary schools with free school meal budget pressures as part of this Council's cost-of-living support package and emerging priorities fund. Especially seeking to ensure that the positive impact of free school meal provision is not offset by the Conservative government's real terms cuts to school budgets in our Borough.

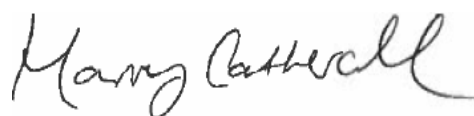
Develop a winter care package scheme for vulnerable households this winter – offering warm clothing, household essentials, useful information about council services and support offered by other organisations; and a friendly knock on the door to our most vulnerable residents.

Explore opportunities to tackle digital isolation and loneliness in Oldham Borough – ensuring that staff/volunteers at libraries, community spaces and warm hubs are resourced to assist people who may not have access to the internet, need help to access the internet, and need help to access Council and other agencies services.

- 12 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 49 - 64)
- 13 Polling District Review (Pages 65 - 96)
- 14 Clean Air Scrutiny Proposals (Pages 97 - 104)

- 15 Municipal Calendar 2023/24 (Pages 105 - 122)
- 16 Civic Appreciation Nominations 2023 (Pages 123 - 124)
- 17 Treasury Management Mid Year Review 2022/23 (Pages 125 - 146)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Harry Catherall". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Harry Catherall
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT

