

# 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 CO<sub>2</sub> 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)*

17<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

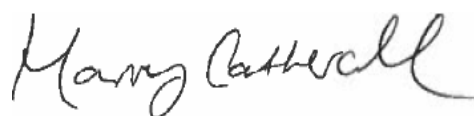
Develop a winter care package scheme for vulnerable households this winter – offering warm clothing, household essentials, useful information about council services and support offered by other organisations; and a friendly knock on the door to our most vulnerable residents.

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



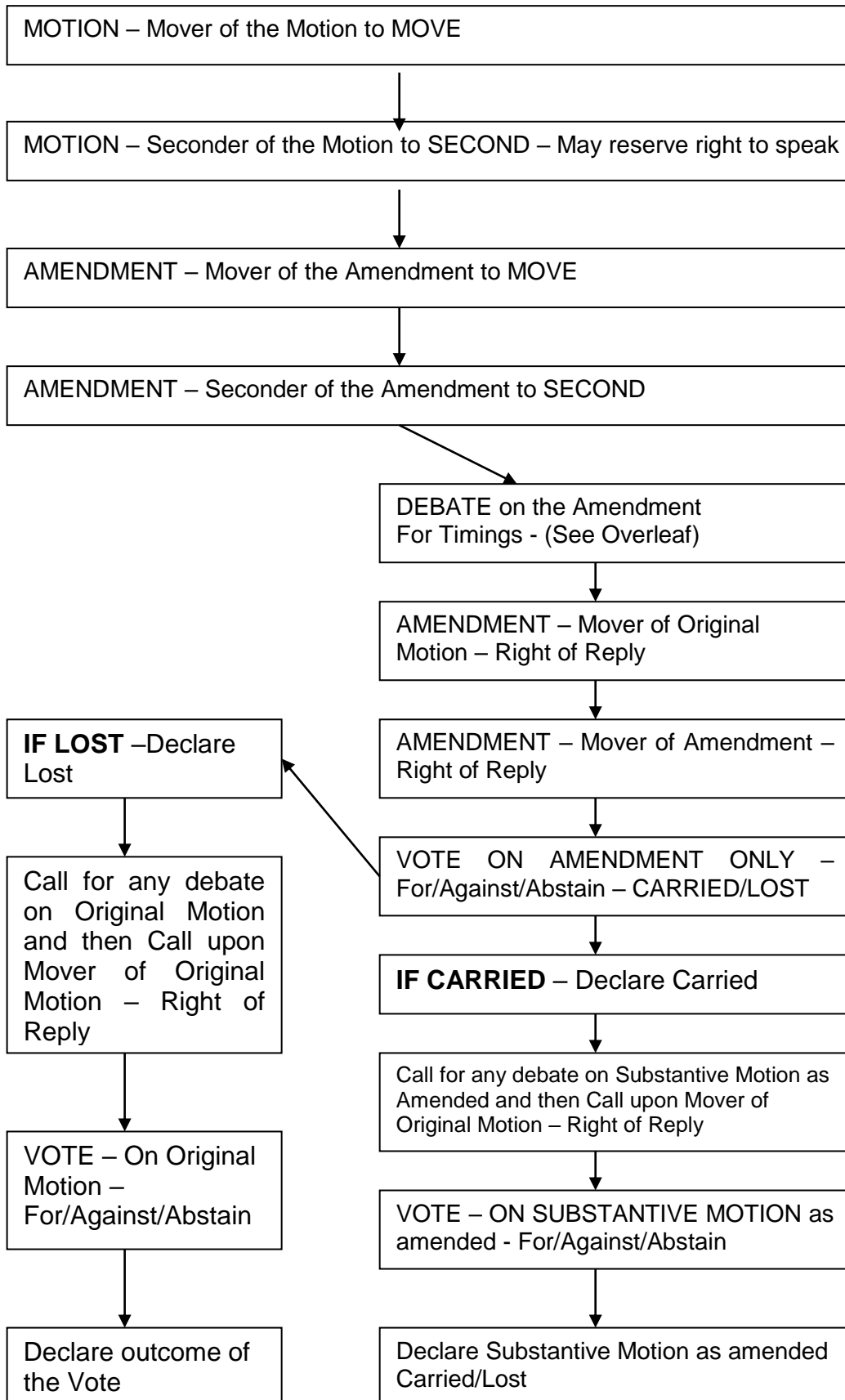
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**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



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**COUNCIL**  
**02/11/2022 at 5.30 pm**

**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Garry In the Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, C. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harrison, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, A Hussain, F Hussain, Ibrahim, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Marland, McLaren, McManus, Moores, Munroe, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, C. Phythian, K Phythian, Quigg, Rea, Salamat, Sharp, Sheldon, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine.

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Birch, Hazel Gloster, Iqbal and Shuttleworth.

2 **ITEM OF CONDOLENCE - THE LATE, HER MAJESTY, QUEEN ELIZABETH II**

As this was the first meeting of Council, since the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who died on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022, the Mayor permitted Members of the Council to pay their individual condolences and tributes to her late Majesty. Accordingly, Councillors Chadderton, Jabbar, Lancaster, Arnott, Hobin, Sykes and Hamblett addressed Council.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH SEPTEMBER 2022 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment to minute 12 (Notice of Administration Business – Motion 2 Fireworks), page 30 ‘3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment’ the word ‘Motion’ be replaced by ‘Amendment’.

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

Members of the Council declared interest as follows:

- a. Councillor Surjan a pecuniary interest in agenda item 9 (Youth Council).
- b. Councillor Murphy declared a disclosable interest by virtue of his employment with Greater Manchester Police, insofar as it affected the agenda item 12 (Notice of Opposition Business – Motion 1, entitled: ‘No Confidence in Andy Burnham’s management of Greater Manchester Police). Councillor Murphy withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of this Motion.

- c. Councillor Williamson declared an interest by virtue of her partner's employment with Greater Manchester Police.
- d. Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police

Although the individual Members declared their interests above, following advice previously given by the Director of Legal Services and at the meeting their interests were neither non-registerable nor pecuniary and therefore did not need to have been declared.

5 **TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business for this meeting of Council to consider.

6 **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor referred to the recent death of Councillor Jean Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and a former Leader of the Council and she permitted Members of the Council to pay their individual condolences and tributes. Accordingly, Councillors Chadderton, Williams, Sheldon, Hobin and Sykes addressed Council.

The Mayor also referred to the recent death of former Councillor David Joynes. Accordingly, Councillors Sykes and Ahmad addressed Council paying their individual condolences and tributes.

Council held a minute's silence in memory of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Councillor Stretton and former Councillor Joynes.

The Mayor permitted Councillor Barnes to address the meeting, who offered a full apology for his behaviour and comments made at the meetings of the Council held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

8 **LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Amanda Chadderton, delivered her first Annual Statement.

The Leader reminded the Council of her priorities, as set out in May 2022, when she assumed office and highlighted work that had been done and was being done to improve Oldham.

- a. Regeneration of Oldham town centre: including a 50% rent reduction for market traders and the restoration of buildings that were of cultural and historic significance



that had fallen into disrepair – a prime example of this being the Old Library on Union Street. Generally steering the town’s economic recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic – supporting local businesses, creating jobs and attracting investment and funding.

- b. Similarly extensive regeneration schemes were underway in Chadderton, Royton and Failsworth, with many other future schemes in the pipeline.
- c. Investing in cleaning up streets, taking action on littering and fly-tipping and restoring a sense of pride in neighbourhoods.
- d. Children and Young People – a key priority was to give all of the Borough’s children a good start in life. This meant the provision of good quality housing, schools and parks. The Leader reminded Council that the Council’s Children’s Social Care Services were aware of approximately 3,000 children in the Borough that required assistance and/or intervention.
- e. Improvements to the Council’s communications networks. This was to enable the Council to get its messages across to as many people in the Borough as possible and to make it easier for residents to contact key officers/services within the Council. This was part of a general plan to reconnect with local people, to acknowledge that many residents felt distant from the decisions made about their area and from how their local services were run, and to do something to put that right.
- f. The Leader highlighted that there was still much to do to tackle the inequalities and injustices that continued to shame society. She was determined to use her time as leader to make a difference for those who experienced discrimination and unfairness on a daily basis, building on the work of the previous Leader, Councillor Shah. A programme with local businesses to create jobs for people who have been in the criminal justice system or are at risk of becoming involved in crime had been launched.
- g. Cost of Living Crisis. A number of initiatives were being undertaken to ease the burden of the Borough’s most vulnerable residents at these most difficult of times. Initiatives included using libraries as ‘warm banks’, offering additional help to those on low incomes, working with the Borough’s food banks, assisting people with their Council Tax payments, assisting people with utility bills

The Leader pledged to continue to support the most vulnerable and to drive out inequality and unfairness wherever it existed. The scale of the challenges that Oldham and its people faced and the role of elected members in addressing those challenges was acknowledged.

**RESOLVED** – that the Leader’s Annual Statement be noted.

#### **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council **PROPOSED** the following **MOTION**:

## **Holiday Activities and Food Sessions**

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 Rashford 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 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 Rishi Sunak MP; The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan 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 Rayner 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.

Councillor Munroe spoke in support of the Motion  
Councillor Hamblett spoke in support of the Motion  
Councillor Williams spoke in support of the Motion  
Councillor Moores spoke in support of the Motion  
Councillor Barnes spoke in support of the Motion



Councillor Munroe MOVED and Councillor Hamblett  
SECONDED the MOTION as presented by the Youth Council.

**RESOLVED** that:

Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP; The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education; The Rt Hon Bridget Philipson MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, and the three Members of Parliament representing the Oldham Borough; Jim McMahan MP, Debbie Abrahams MP and Angela Rayner 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**

11

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question submitted by Jeffrey Smith

These old council street litter bins I've asked council coordinators councillors etc to get one for my community to help reduce litter as it's a spot where fly tipping and litter is rife, so I was wondering if I could acquire one for my area Royton Hall Walk Royton as the area would benefit a litter bin, most are going to be scrapped anyway, I also run Oldham Wombles community litter picking group so please consider me for a single bin. if I ever acquired one would be kept clean and not over-flowing so no complaints.

Councillor Chadderton Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question, Mr Smith - I understand you have been in direct discussion with officers on this matter, who have confirmed that we are unable to provide a Council branded bin directly to you as there is liability involved for which you are not covered.

I am aware that the location for the bin is owned by the Guinness Housing Association and we're keen to work in partnership with them to support the work you are doing in the area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you personally for all the work that you do to assist us in keeping our streets and open spaces clear of litter. Hope more of the community can get involved when Don't Trash Oldham comes to your area again.

2. Question submitted by Hannah Roberts

The former Dog and Partridge pub on Middleton Road in Royton has been under development for some time. I know that the

developer has had to reapply for planning permission to change the scheme because the building was in such a poor structural state which caused some delay. I also know that the Council has previously taken action to ensure that the site is cleaned up and the building is made secure. I can see though that the site is again covered in rubbish and the building is no longer sealed up. Work also seems to have stopped. Can the Council take any action to make the owner keep the site clear and to ensure that it is secured against trespassers? And does the Council have any information about the timetable for the building work?

Councillor Chadderton Leader of the Council replied thank you for your question – I am aware that we have written to the landowner advising them to secure the site and recommended that they resume construction to resolve the challenges with maintaining the site.

If no positive actions are taken by the landowner, then the Council will investigate whether enforcement action would be appropriate under section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

The Council does not have a current position from the landowner on the timetable for the building work – however we will continue to chase updates.

### 3. Question submitted by Mick Harwood

Can I have an update on the work on Royton Town Hall and Library, is there space for the local community to use and is work on schedule and has the opening date been confirmed?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied, thank you for your question Mr. Harwood. The Victorian styled Royton Town Hall and Library buildings are planned to undergo major alterations and refurbishment works to ensure these buildings of local heritage importance are retained and improved.

The project includes various improvements for the benefit of the local community including a refurbished library and bring the Town Hall Meeting Room back in to use for the Community, Voluntary and Faith sectors.

We have already completed some work on the Town Hall building including demolition of the rear extension and the necessary repairs to the clock tower, clock faces and mechanisms.

We are currently within the procurement phase of a contractor for further works and will be able to advise on completion of all the works in due course.

### 4. Question submitted by Shazia Aktar

It is good to see that the Get Oldham Working Jobs Fair is being held again this September. Please can we have an update at the next council meeting of how many employers, job seekers and students attended? It would also be good to know how many people find a job, an apprenticeship or new career as a result.

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise, replied thank you for your question. I can confirm

that attendance comprised - 61 employers and 1,143 members of the public. The opportunities available at the event included - 678 Jobs, 152 apprenticeships and 120 Work experience / Volunteering positions.

Officers are currently tracking the outcomes of the Jobs Fair with employers, but at this time, we know that 60 attendees have found employment, and there are many interviews scheduled for the coming week/s now half term has passed.

Case Study - NHS Professionals feedback:

We spoke to over 100 candidates on the day and have applications from over 60 prospective candidates for our bank and flexible positions across Care, Estates and Facilities, Domestic and Clerical to work within our client Northern Care Alliance.

A great success story from the day was meeting Catherine, an experienced Catering Assistant. Catherine sent us her CV whilst chatting with our Consultant Alex, Alex sent her CV immediately to the Catering Manager at Royal Oldham Hospital and an interview was confirmed within the hour. After a second interview today, Monday, Catherine has now been offered a full-time position within the department to start on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. This offers Catherine flexibility, a long-term contract and has provided the NHS with a fantastic member of staff within a very short-staffed team. – She started yesterday.

#### 5. Question submitted by Andrew Holt

Given the looming energy crisis and the broader issue of climate change, what plans do the Council have for sustainability across the borough?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied, thank you for your question Mr Holt. The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy was adopted in March 2020 and is available on the Council's website. This plan sets out the Council's approach to energy for the borough which aims to secure large-scale inward investment in low carbon infrastructure for the borough to cut carbon emissions and stabilise energy bills.

A key initiative to achieve this is our ongoing work to develop an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership, building on key Greater Manchester level initiatives such as the GM Local Energy Market project.

We also aim to make sure that Oldham's local Green Technology and Services supply chain companies are involved as much as possible in delivering low carbon infrastructure in the borough, bringing new opportunities for jobs and training opportunities in this growing sector.

#### 6. Question submitted by Larry Patrick

I am really pleased that Oldham's Labour Council has worked with the CCG to find a way to build a long-awaited new Health Centre in Shaw which will deliver modern health services for local residents and improve part of Shaw centre. Does the Council know what the timetable is for delivering the new Health Centre and when it will be open to patients?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care replied. thank you for your question, we are delighted that the residents of Shaw and Crompton are on track to have access to a modern and fit-for-purpose local healthcare facility. Subject to planning approval and the completion of site purchase, preparatory work will begin early in January, with contractors on-site the following month. Handover of the building is scheduled for March 2024, with the new SHAW CROMPTON MEDICAL CENTRE opening to patients as soon as possible after that. The Council is working closely with the NHS to support and facilitate this much needed project, which is currently on plan with no delays envisaged.

7. Question submitted by Dawn Stewart

It has been well publicised in the press that a vote by Conservative MPs has allowed vast quantities of raw sewage to be pumped into Britain's rivers and onto Britain's beaches. Has the council itself incurred any costs of clean up and if so, will it be seeking to reclaim these costs from the profiteering privatised water companies?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied thank you for your question regarding sewage contamination of the Country's rivers and beaches. I can confirm that Oldham Council has not incurred any costs relating to actions required within the borough. The Environment Agency will take action and ensure compliance for any matters relating to contamination of rivers and seas.

8. Question submitted by Syed Maruf Ali

What is the NEET figure for Oldham? Which Wards have the highest and lowest number of NEETS? What help and support are available to help young people get into education, employment or training? How many young people from Werneth Ward between 16 to 25 are NEET? Can you please break this down by age, gender and ethnicity?

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied that the current NEET rate for Oldham (September 2022) is 2.12%. This covers Year 12 and Year 13 and as per our statutory duty to report to the DfE.

The most recent comparator data available by ward is June 2022. At that point, Hollinwood had the highest number of young people who were NEET, and Saddleworth West and Lees had the lowest.

The council commissions a trusted and skilled partner, Positive Steps, to work with our young people to provide support, advice and career guidance during their participation age (Year 12 and 13). They offer appointments to Year 12 and 13 NEET young people in person, over the phone or online.

Positive Steps also hold drop-in sessions every week, working with various other providers and Connect to Your Future mentors to ensure those young people have access to more intensive mentoring support where necessary.

In addition, 'Connect to your Future' provides engagement, mentoring and transition support, utilising Positive Steps to

deliver support for 15 – 18-year-olds and Ingeous for the 19+ age group.

Northern Roots continues empowering young people and connects them with growth opportunities in the green sector. Get Oldham Working (GOW) Youth continues to develop, initially supporting Care Leavers to become EET via the Youth Hub model.

GOW Working Wardrobe supports young people to access interview clothing to alleviate some of the barriers to employment.

Oldham Council has committed to 20 apprenticeships across council services to support young people to achieve qualifications, work experience and establish careers.

We have introduced a NEET survey, directed at young people to understand better the barriers to engagement.

We have also introduced a padlet (an online platform that houses posts from multiple sources all in one place) showing opportunities for engagement, education and training for young people.

Events have been targeted at School leavers over the summer with education, training and engagement providers to support with understanding the range of options available to them.

There are also a variety of pre-employment and engagement programmes available through providers such as Groundworks and the Princes Trust.

The most recent comparator data available by ward is June 2022. The Oldham NEET rate was 3.9% (16–18-year-olds). Of the 3.9%, twenty-one young people who were NEET resided in the Werneth ward. This equates to 4.2% of the June NEET population.

Of the 9.1% Oldham Youth Unemployment (18 – 24-year-olds) population, 12% resided in the Werneth Ward.

We are unable to report any further in relation to age, gender and ethnicity.

#### 9. Question submitted by the Sholver Travel Futures Group

We are a group of residents who are concerned about safe, more direct pedestrian and cycle access down Bullcote Lane, particularly for pupils of Royton and Crompton School. Will the Council put forward a scheme which separates walkers and cyclists from cars in the next round of Mayor's Challenge Fund bidding?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied thank you for submitting this question - we are currently using the Greater Manchester Mayor's Challenge 'Capability' Funding to identify gaps in our walking and cycling network to inform a delivery pipeline to improve access for walking, cycling and wheeling in Oldham.

We have applied for additional funding to review Active Travel and Road Safety requirements around our schools. The outcomes of these studies, plus requests like yours are used to prioritise locations and develop schemes that we put forward in the next round of funding bids.

#### 10. Question submitted by Norma Taylor

The Tories cost of living crisis is having a terrible effect on many Oldham households and businesses. It's not just the cost of petrol, gas and electricity, but also food and many other goods. Inflation must be affecting our Council's budget too. Could the Cabinet member for Finance explain what is happening and how the Council is dealing with it?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Cabinet, replied. thank you for your question, we know how tough things are for many of our residents right now, and sadly it looks as if things could get even harder this winter, especially as the cost of many household essentials continues to rise.

To help those who need it most, we have invested more than £3 million to provide funding for energy, food and childcare, as well as extending the range of existing support available such as the Citizens' Advice service and community engagement teams, who go door-to-door checking on people's welfare and helping them access the support they are entitled to.

We are opening 'warm banks' in every District, open to anyone who needs a warm, inviting space through the colder months. We are working with local partners to identify local spaces that can provide warm spaces free of charge for residents. These includes our libraries and local community centres.

We are also providing an additional £1.95m of food vouchers to households in receipt of free school meals during the October, Christmas, February and Easter holidays, easing the financial burden that many parents are facing.

When it comes to the Council's budget, it's clearly a very challenging time. We have faced over a decade of austerity, responded to a pandemic and are now doing everything we can to help during the cost-of-living crisis. However, we are responding to this challenge proactively, delivering a wide-ranging transformation plan to improve our residents experience of council services, reduce demand and drive long-term efficiencies.

#### 11. Question submitted by Pete Grubb

In view of increasing fuel costs, and the need to improve health by encouraging exercise could the leader of the council indicate what plans are in place to provide safe and contiguous cycle routes and secure cycle storage at schools, shopping areas, council workplaces and public transport interchanges?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied, thank you for your question. We are currently finalising a new Transport Strategy, which sets out actions to increase access to key destinations across the borough and promote Active Travel (walking, cycling and the use of public transport).

This will significantly help contribute to improving the health of our residents and communities.

To date, we have successfully bid for funding via Transport for Greater Manchester to connect the gaps in our walking and cycling routes. We are also working with developers to contribute to highways improvements.



As we develop our new Local Plan we are also including parking guidance to ensure all developments and transport interchanges include safe and secure cycle parking for residents, business use and visitors.



12. Question submitted by Ceridwen Short

I understand that the reason the Council could not go ahead with the Wrigley Head Solar Farm was because the income generated by the sale of electricity was too low to make it cost effective. Given the extraordinary hike in unit cost of electricity since this decision was made, is it being looked at again as the cost-benefit ratio must now be more favourable?

Using solar panels to produce electricity must also be better than carbon-based options like fracking or extracting more gas from the North Sea.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied, thank you for your question. The Wrigley Head Solar Farm project is currently under review following the rises in energy prices – and with fossil fuels becoming more difficult, risky and costly to produce as the easy-to-access reserves become depleted.

Low carbon energy generation options such as solar panels are not only a relatively cleaner way of generating the energy we need, they provide secure, local supplies and are also one of the cheapest ways of generating energy.

13. Question submitted by Hayley Wood

We write to you as Oldham Foster Carer's Working Group, we are a group of foster carers who's aim it is to be bring improvements to the lives of Oldham local authority foster carers and their children & young people.

Sadly, the group are finding themselves having to follow this route to get our elected leaders to listen to our plight and to take seriously our concerns with regards to the Cost of Living & Energy Crisis and the ongoing pressure and effects it is having on carers and the children in their care.

Carers cannot continue to care for the children and young people to statutory requirements without adequate resources that are needed to meet them. Whilst the 4% uplift which was applied to the child's allowance earlier this year & the £250 one off payment was welcome it does not meet the extra cost to what is needed to carry out our roles and to give the young people in our care the experiences they should be having. It is a sad fact that carers are now having to make decisions resulting in children missing out on activities, day trips etc as carers simply do not have the funds to allow them to do them, carers are also now using their savings to enable them to live and to subsidise the shortfall they are experiencing due to the inadequate funds they are being given to them to carry out their roles.

We feel we need to remind the Council that you are the Corporate Parent and it is your duty to ensure that we are given enough to care for the children you are responsible for, no foster carer should be out of pocket in the fostering role yet all foster

carers are out of pocket and no concern or regard is being shown by either the Council or the Fostering Service. Mention should also be given to the foster-carers skills payments review which is currently taking place, it is very disappointing that this review has not been completed as yet and carer's are being fobbed off with non sensical answers which only serve to insult our intelligence.

The local authority needs to start looking after existing carers or their recruitment programme is a waste of time as we are unwilling to recommend anyone to foster for Oldham under the present conditions plus carers are tired of not being listened to and leave.

Oldham Foster Carer Working Group with respect ask that the Council act now to ensure that the children and young people and their carers have what they need to meet the national minimum standards set out by the DfE.

We need extra finances to meet our obligations and we need it is a matter of urgency.

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People replied, thank you for your question. For information, please note that payments to carers are divided into 2 categories as follows

**Fostering allowances:** These are paid to cover the daily costs of caring for a child or Young Person and other payments made to cover costs they incur.

**Skills based payments:** These are fee payments, paid to carers recognising their skills, experiences in caring for children and young people based on their assessment.

**Fostering allowances (weekly rates) in light of the cost of living crisis were agreed and paid to Foster Carers 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 above National minimum standards by the Government as set out below:**

We reviewed our financial support to foster carers due to this increased financial pressure and enable our Looked After Children and Young People to have their basic needs met and have continued opportunities to experience activities within the community.

Supplementary payments were also raised to the same rates as above from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

Birthday allowances – equivalent of one weeks fostering allowance at new rate

Festival allowances -equivalent of one weeks fostering allowance at new rate

Holiday allowance -equivalent of 2 weeks fostering allowance at new rate.

In addition, mileage was increased to 45p per mile from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

We also provided a £250 payment for each fostering household to support with an increase in energy costs, we agreed to review again in October 22 but due to the financial support offered by the Government to households we have agreed to review a further energy payment early next year when we have further details from the Government on support packages.

We worked with identified foster carers by the forum in increasing the basic allowance package for furniture starter kit-

includes, beds, cots, prams, baby monitors etc dependant on the needs. We agreed the increases suggested by the foster carers and implemented early this year.

There is discretionary arrangements for educational field trips, spectacles, passports and school photographs

In addition to we continue to support allowances with an initial clothing payment at the discretion of the Team Manager and HOS of **up to** the following amounts within the first 6 months of a child Looked After and up to £175 to assist towards the purchase of a school uniform.

**Skills Payment:** We at OMBC are committed to reviewing the skills payment which we said would be reviewed in the Autumn, we have agreed at the forum that we would present our initial ideas in a special meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> November for consultation with those who would want to attend.

It is likely that a finalised version of the plans will not be submitted to DMT until early next year so there will be some delay.

The issue for foster carers are that they require an uplift on skills payments, as a Local Authority we would want to link training and skills with rewards/incentives for carers who are able to provide stability for complex, harder to place children and young people.

In addition to the fostering allowances skills paid per child  
Group 1 – (carers with no relevant skills and experience and less than 6 months fostering/relevant experience do not get a skills payment

Group 2 – basic allowance plus £79.38 per week skills payment per child (more than 6 months experience and agreed to attend core training)

Group 3 – basic allowance plus £158.76 per week skills payment per child

Group 4 - basic allowance plus £237.23 per week skills payment per child

Group 5 - basic allowance plus £340.76 per week skills payment per child (e.g meet criteria for group 4 and able to support most complex children and young people)

If you, for example, are a carer with one child aged 10 and one aged 4 as a group 3 carer - weekly income is £626.40.

#### 14. Question submitted by Simon Wynn

Does Oldham Council have any financial involvement in the recent purchase of boundary park by the new owners of Oldham Athletic? and by financial involvement I mean have you provided a loan? Or become joint owners of Boundary Park?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied, that the Council had no financial involvement in the recent purchase of Boundary Park by the new owners of Oldham Athletic. The Council is not a joint owner of Boundary Park, nor does it have an outstanding loan with Oldham Athletic.

#### 15. Question submitted by Jason Pape-Jones

I recently spent nearly two hours waiting on hold to get through to the Council Tax team, and it's taken weeks to make progress

with my issue. Can the council not do something to make it easier when residents have an issue with services?



Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied, thank you for your question. I am sorry that you had to wait such a long period to get through to the Council Tax team. However, Council Tax is an area of understandably high demand. The average call length for Council Tax is 10 minutes, and the average wait time is 22 minutes. At peak periods, unfortunately, this waiting time can increase.

Residents are able to manage their Council Tax account using "My Account" and are able to sign up using the links on the website. The Council is expanding digital self-serve options so that residents can access and request services at a time that suits them without having to wait in call queues. Information about this is on our website.

The Council is looking to improve its performance in this area and I will work with the Director responsible for the Contact Centre in this regard.

#### 16. Question submitted by Anita Lowe

During my attendance at one of the 'Big Conversation' events held by Oldham Council at East Methodist Church, with the Chief Executive, Harry Catherall and the previous Council Leader, Arooj Shah, leading the event.

Ms Shah made a statement after questions were raised and I quote -: "we have a nice surprise for something happening at Mumps Princess Gate and have decided to divulge the news this evening, to confirm the agreement of a new build of a hotel and supermarket on the site at Mumps"

The Chief Executive agreed and said it was great news for the area. Please can the Chief Executive confirm any further news regarding this information that was spoken at this meeting regarding the hotel and supermarket plans. As these plans go back to November 2018 when 60 million pounds was allocated for The Princess Gate Masterplan as stated in The Oldham Times by a local democracy reporter and by another previous council leader.

Of course, we observe the housing - development taking place nearby on the Oldham - by - pass - which in effect will no longer be a by-pass with traffic light restrictions for access to the development.

But my question for you is when is the Hotel and Supermarket ever going to appear? Or are these all-fake statements and false promises?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied, thank you for your question Anita. The development plans at Mumps are not fake statements - the Council entered into a legal agreement in 2019, which would see a new supermarket and hotel built by the purchaser.

During the covid pandemic - the original planning and development timescales were delayed by the developer. However, the lack of progress is noted by the Council and is frustrating given the legal contract in place. However, the local

economy is seeing unprecedented situations with the combination of effects from Brexit, the pandemic and the ongoing crisis in the Ukraine.

We can understand why our local communities are frustrated - we share that frustration and the Council are in continued dialogue with the developer to chase progress.



17. Question submitted by Mark Birchall

With the spectre of HMOs springing up at great pace in Oldham and some actually being two bedrooms small terraced being converted into 4-bedroom bedsits with no living accommodation. Residents are in fear of one turning up on their doorstep devaluing their property overnight and bringing the well documented issues along with them. Many families are in B&B awaiting a home how can this be allowed to happen in this borough, we are creating a looming problem with this rise. Interestingly you have been talking! about this for over a year as a council alongside our local MP Jim McMahon. Are these just platitudes you want residents to hear or are they actual discussions to implement something. It surprises me that Liverpool council in their wisdom only took two months from discussion to implementation to stop this problem, yourselves as the council along with our MP have been doing this for over a year. When will you actually do something is the answer, we are all waiting for?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied, thank you for your question Mr Birchall. The Council do monitor HMOs, however there is no evidence that would justify the removal of permitted development rights for the conversion of a home to a 3-6 bed HMO through an Article 4 Direction.

There has to be a cumulative impact which is proven to harm the local area – but this does not apply in any community in Oldham, and there is no evidence of an increase in upheld complaints against HMO properties or their occupiers as causing harm through their presence / actions to other residents. All other HMO proposals already require planning permission. The comparison to Liverpool is not appropriate, as the challenge with HMOs in parts of Liverpool is far greater due to the high demand for student HMOs coupled with non-student HMOs in certain areas of the city creating significant clusters of HMOs in those areas. The number of HMOs being created in Oldham is far smaller and is not clustered in any particular area(s).

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 website, with written answers, in due course.

12

**QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET**

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group

Question 1: Street Cleaning and Gulley Cleaning Services

Data from the Council's Highways Service was no longer available for Members of the Council to view, including data for

street cleaning and gulley cleaning services. Therefore clarification was sought regarding whether the Council's cleaning teams were having difficulty attending parts of the Borough and because information was not being provided to Members they were unable to determine if the annual cleaning rotas were still being undertaken?

The Leader of the Council replied stating that she would investigate the issues raised by Councillor Sheldon and forward him a written answer thereon at the earliest opportunity.

**Question 2: Town Square Redevelopment**

Recent survey work of Oldham's Town Square area had discovered the existence of a disused mine shaft, why was this not picked up during earlier surveyance work? What will be the cost to the Council to rectify the issues raised consequently? Who carried out the survey work? Who signed off the contract?

The Leader of the Council replied stating that she would investigate the issues raised by Councillor Sheldon and forward him a written answer thereon at the earliest opportunity.

**Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

**Question 1: Mumps Princess Gate**

What impact has inflation had on the regeneration and other works being carried out at Mumps Princess Gate. It appears that no work is currently happening at this location, why is this the case? What will the impact of a 10% inflation rate on Oldham Council's regeneration plans?

The Leader of the Council replied that the Council was dependent upon private contractors to help deliver regeneration projects. From time-to-time external factors have an affect over which the Council has no control, for instance a change of the business model by Marks and Spencer led to the closure of their Food Hall in the town. The Leader assured the meeting that the Council was in constant dialogue with developers and prospective developers.

**Question 2: Schools**

Schools across the Borough were facing severe challenges because of the Cost-of-Living crisis. Some schools were warning that they are close to running out of money. Therefore, what cost of living support will the Council be able to offer the Borough's schools?

The Leader of the Council replied that she shared Councillor Sykes' concerns in this regard. The Council was in constant dialogue with the Borough's school's but the funding issues were largely outside of the Council's control.

**Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party**

In terms of the Cost-of-Living how many enquiries had been received by specialist helplines? Will the Council agree to a freeze on Council Tax for the next two years?



The Leader of the Council replied that the Council would be unable to offer a freeze on Council Tax unless the government increased funding to local authorities. The Leader of the Council stated that the Council was working on a dashboard that would assist in determining the numbers of enquiries received.

Question from Councillor C. Phythian

Park house on Sandy Lane in Royton was due to be redeveloped into flats. Due to the developers going into liquidation this plan has not come into fruition. Subsequently the building has fallen into more disrepair and youths are constantly breaking in and causing problems for residents. Can the relevant cabinet member find out if the council can step in and compulsory purchase this fantastic historical building?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question. It is recognised how much impact buildings of this nature can have within local communities. The priority of the Council in the first instance is around facilitating a commercial development of the site coming forward and CPO action must be a last resort. We will therefore work flexibly with any interested party in order to facilitate the original plans coming to fruition.

In the meantime, we are taking a number of actions in respect of the poor condition of the building. This included: Officers within Environment Health working to ensure that the building is secure and safe. Legal Officers have formally written to the landowner clarifying their responsibility in respect of the property and formally requesting that they take all relevant action to ensure that the building remains secure and safe.

Question from Councillor Alyas

With hoardings going up across the town centre and residents starting to notice that work is underway on Creating a Better Place, can the relevant Cabinet Member provide an update on the Labour administration's ambitious plans for the regeneration of Oldham Town Centre?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council replied, that it is great news that our residents recognise the progress in delivering our plans for a thriving town centre with various schemes moving from design into delivery, this is evidenced by the hoardings now visible at the Spindles as progress continues, but also the cranes and scaffolding at locations across the borough.

Regeneration plans are not just about investment in new and existing buildings, but it is about creating real and meaningful change for our residents and business within Oldham. Our ambitious plans for a thriving Town Centre will unlock millions of pounds worth of investment to create more than 2,000 new homes in Oldham town centre, 1,000 new jobs and 100 apprenticeship opportunities. The Programme has already

successfully secured millions of pounds of external funding including the Towns Fund, Future High Street Fund and we continue to seek out and apply for further funding opportunities to complement and reduce the demand on public funds. There are too many projects in flight to provide you with a complete update this evening, but we are committed to delivery as there has been years of discussions and approvals, and our communities deserve to see the plans delivered and operational as soon as reasonably possible to ensure they have a thriving town centre, new homes to live and new opportunities for work. We are equally conscious of ensuring our residents, local businesses and local communities benefit from the regeneration plans, and we are monitoring progress closely, ensuring value for money and social value is embedded in every project, with an annual progress report being discussed recently at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Question from Councillor Harrison:

I congratulate Oldham students who worked really hard in difficult circumstances to achieve their GCSE, BTEC, A and T Level results. However, does the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills agree with Labour's Shadow Education Minister that twelve years of Conservative Government have left a legacy of unequal outcomes that are holding back our kids and communities?

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied, first of all I want to say a massive well done for all the efforts made by young people undertaking GCSE, BTEC, A and T Level this year in Oldham.

The past few years have been incredibly tough on young people. Having to learn and take exams throughout the Covid pandemic made an already difficult time just that bit harder. I hope that all achieved what they needed to continue studies or take-up work-related opportunities.

This year 5000 Oldhamers took the first set of exams since the pandemic and then collected their GCSE, BTEC, A and T Level results from schools and colleges. GCSE and A-level grade rates improved across the board compared with the last exams in 2019. Results for Oldham's children looked after, including those in foster and care homes, were positive, with many getting what they need to get to progress to college and university or begin apprenticeships and employment.

I'm incredibly proud of what our young people achieved in Oldham, especially under sometimes difficult circumstances.

Question from Councillor Murphy:

Ambulances queued outside, beds filling the corridors of A&E, staff running around and parking carnage - likened to a scene from a disaster film, but this is Oldham Royal Hospital A&E on a daily basis.

I find it mind blowing that there are beds and privacy curtains in corridors; and staff waiting to walk past while nurses and doctors treat patients who have no privacy. Yet this has become the norm.





This is not a criticism of the staff who work extremely hard in very challenging circumstances. It is easy to see why we love our NHS.

This is a criticism of the situation they find themselves in. Why are outside contractors being used to prop up the ambulance service by providing staff and ambulances? Repairing the failure of primary care services must be the answer to relieving the pressures of A&E and the ambulance service. Will the Leader and relevant Cabinet member commit to making services at Oldham Royal Hospital one of their top priorities, so things like curtains can remain on walls not on A&E corridors?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet member for Health and Social Care replied, that first and foremost, as Cabinet Member I am delighted that with our officers I have managed to secure an additional £1.9m investment to help improve our capacity during what is likely to be a very difficult winter for all parts of the health and care system. That funding is about to go into helping tackle some of the issues in our system to help keep patients flowing through our system. That will include some new service initiatives both in the A&E department and also within the care community outside of the hospital to help prevent people from needing to use A&E.

All that said, I think we all need to accept that this Government has shown its true colours when it comes to the NHS – they clap when it suits their PR image but in reality they are starving the service of the resources it needs. Not one single new GP out of the 6,000 promised by this Government has arrived in Oldham, as just one example of what I am talking about. Make no mistake this winter is going to be tough and challenging. It is busy now and it is not yet even cold. On top of a winter fuel crisis we have a health and care crisis of the Government's own making. I want to thank now all those doctors and nurses for all their hard work now and in the future. And of course, this administration in Oldham will always fight for the NHS as long as the NHS needs us to fight for it. So yes, we will always see health and care as a priority – it's just a shame that the Government cannot do the same.

Question from Councillor Sharp:

Following a recent consultation with residents in Westwood and Chadderton, it would appear development proposals have been withdrawn. It is my understanding that contracts are about to be signed for major development on sites in Derker, however, there has been no consultation, despite this being promised with residents in the wider community. Could the Leader please explain why there are consultations in some areas and not all – or is this once again an example of St James being neglected?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question – consultation requirements come down to what is required by legislation or funding requirements as to whether a public consultation is necessary for any given proposal. However, in the case of the proposals to develop housing on brownfield sites in Derker, even though it is not required to have such consultation, the developer partner will be

holding community engagement sessions on the proposals. It is not a case of the Council neglecting a ward when confirming arrangements to undertake public consultation events.

Question from Councillor Dean:

After two very challenging years young people received their exam results earlier this year, this is a particularly challenging time for our looked after children who will be considering their options including further education and employment. Could the Cabinet Member for children and young people please tell us what support and guidance is available to young people who are making decisions that will impact on their future lives?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People replied, that statutory careers advice for all Children and Young People (CYP) is provided by schools and colleges. In addition, a wider partnership approach across education, CSC and wider agencies provides an enhanced offer for our CLA. Our Virtual School (VS) coordinates extra support and targeted activities for the young people in our care to assist them and those directly supporting them to make decisions that will impact on the rest of their lives. This is provided through dedicated Education Officers within the VS across the different education phases, including Post 16.

The VS deliver a range of and programmes to raise aspirations and participation, utilising information / data in Personal Education Plans (PEPs) with the young person's voice, wishes and aspirations at the centre.

As our children and young people move from one phase of education to another, the programmes offered include visits to colleges, universities, work-based placements and wider engagement programmes, including through the Success 4 Life programme.

Virtual School and Post 16 Service provides education and careers updates and support with raising aspirations to all those working with children looked after and engages fully with colleagues from GMCA to coordinate the offer across the city region.

The council also commissions a dedicated Careers Advisor to work with our CLA to provide support, advice and career guidance during Years 12 and 13 and to support them if they become NEET, working closely with the virtual school and social workers.

In summary, we recognise that care experienced young people experience multiple disadvantages and therefore ensure that there are a variety of education, training, and personal development support options available from a wide range of agencies.

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## **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 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 were submitted.



**Oldham**  
Council

Members asked the following questions: -

a. Question from Councillor Kenyon:

With reference to page 51, Cabinet Minutes of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022, Item 6 on Oldham's response to the cost of living - Would the Cabinet Member explain why the Council's cost-of-living response consistently mentions a budget of £3 million, happily inviting hard working families across the borough to believe that they will be receiving £3 million worth of help this year when in fact, the budget is less than half that, at £1.2 million.

Would the Cabinet Member also like to explain why the council's plan for warm banks (a liberal democrat amendment) involves keeping warm spaces like libraries, open for not one minute longer than their standard opening hours? The library in my own ward of Lees, remains open for the exact same number of hours in November, when it has been a so-called warm bank, as it did in September.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied that, we have committed over three million pounds of new funding to help Oldhamers through the cost-of-living crisis. We know that this crisis isn't going away anytime soon, so we have designed a package of support that will be there for residents over the next two years. This investment will help our communities to navigate a really challenging winter but will also provide longer-term help. We want to ensure that our most vulnerable residents don't fall into crisis and are accessing all the support they are entitled to. To do this we need to build support that helps people now and, in the future, not just over the next few months.

With regard to warm banks, it's laughable to suggest that that the Council only did this because of an opposition amendment. We have been planning for this since I called for a cost-of-living summit, which we held in July. Warm banks have always been at the heart of our response, providing a safe space that residents can visit in order to stay warm, without having to turn their heating on at home. In addition to this, residents will be able to get a warm drink, and a wrap-around offer is being put in place to ensure residents can either access information and advice directly or be sign-posted to where this is available. We are providing a comprehensive training offer to all staff, supporting them to talk to users to really understand their needs, so we can continue to shape the offer around our residents. The initial offer is based around the Council's Libraries and is up and running now. We are working with community groups and partners to develop a wider programme of spaces, including community centres, churches, Social Housing facilities and more, with an ambition to ensure there is a minimum of three locations available in every District. Our current offer provides good coverage both geographically and in terms of opening hours, though the offer will be reviewed on an ongoing basis with our staff actively monitoring usage, so we will know if we need to offer longer opening hours in the future.

b. Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani

On item 9, page 48: Community Health and Adult Management was reporting an "adverse variance" or overspend on budget of £7.582m; and Children's Social Care was recording £4.137m.

Oldham has some of the worst levels of poverty and its associated problems in Greater Manchester. This is a demand-led service, and levels of demand have continued at a high rate since the pandemic, showing no sign of slowing.

Third party providers out of borough for specialist care services are very expensive and provide a service in what is essentially a seller's market. Which of these was a surprise to the administration, and when will it commit to a more accurate forecasting that accounts for these factors?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied, that the adverse variances for both Community Health and Adult Social Care and Children's Services to which the question refers, relate to pressures associated with the legacy costs of COVID. Across the two services, this adverse variance is £11.989m. Although direct funding from Central Government to support the impact of COVID has not been extended into 2022/23, the pressures it has created have continued.

When the Council set its budget for 2022/23, an assessment was made of the likely on-going impact of COVID, based on the experience of 2021/22. A sum of £12m was held centrally, funded from the Council's own resources to offset any COVID legacy costs. This funding was not directly allocated to services as there was no certainty where the pressures would fall. Therefore, the adverse variance of £11.989m is completely offset by the £12m corporate resource and shows accuracy of forecasting.

It is true that Adult Social Care and Children's Services are demand led and financial pressures are being experienced, especially regarding external placements for children. This is the same for every Local Authority with such responsibilities. Every effort is made to set budgets accurately and manage the resources across the Council although there will inevitably be some variances especially at a time where there is so much volatility in the economy and demand in the system, much of which could not have been anticipated when the initial budget was set.

c. Question from Councillor Woodvine:

With reference to page 51, Cabinet Minutes of 21st September 2022, Item 6 on Oldham's response to the Cost-of-Living Crisis - Would the Leader of the Council be able to explain how much the booklet, referred to therein had cost to produce out of the £3million additional investment received from the government and given that the Council was forecast to record a £6million overspend, would the Leader agree that this money could have been better utilised elsewhere?

Councillor Chadderton, supported the allocation of funding and added that the cost of living crisis was so serious that it demanded even more additional funding to be made available to

alleviate some of the acute problems that the Borough was likely to face during the 2022/23 winter months.

d. Question from Councillor Hobin  
Further to the Leader's answer to question C above, could she explain how she has the support of the borough?



Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied that this had been determined as a result of direct feedback she and Cabinet members, had received as a result of conversations with people and groups and organisations across the Borough.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided thereon be noted.

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**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

**Motion 1 – Housing Policy**

Councillor Kyle Phythian MOVED and Councillor Chadderton SECONDED the following Motion: 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.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> AMENDMENT

Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Lancaster SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

This Council welcomes the Prime Minister-elect, Rishi Sunak, who has set out clear and concise but bold policies for Planning in this country with an emphasis placed on protecting our precious, green, open spaces – particularly the Green Belt. The 'Levelling Up' White Paper passing through Parliament and the grant funding received from the Conservative Government in its name has resulted in millions of extra pounds for this Metropolitan Borough Council.

This Council notes the impact of its own failing Labour Administration of the past decade, which has resulted in two of their consecutive Group Leaders losing their seats, has had on the Borough of Oldham, including:

1. Supporting and adopting into policy Mr. Burnham's 'Places for Everyone'

strategic plan for Greater Manchester which will destroy hundreds of hectares of Green Belt across the Borough of Oldham.

2. Supporting Mr. Burnham as he has led Greater Manchester Police into special measures with spiralling crime rates (including crimes committed in housing settings) resulting in the intervention of the Conservative Government to turn things around.

3. Increasing Council Tax every year, adding greater financial pressure on homeowners who also have other costs, e.g. mortgage repayments, while recklessly spending the people of Oldham's money on vanity projects, with Spindles set to make a loss in turnover totalling hundreds of thousands of pounds.

4. Not balancing the books and going over Budget with at least a projected

£6million overspend in this financial year alone, which adversely affects confidence in the Borough's economy, therefore diminishing the attractiveness to buy a home locally.

5. Approving Planning Applications in Oldham which are detrimental to the quality of life of the people living across our communities and contradict this Council's own Local Plan.

Therefore, this Council believes that the best solution to Oldham's so called 'housing crisis' is the premiership of Rishi Sunak. This Council is ready for Rishi and resolves to write to the Prime Minister and his Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities to:

a. Welcome them into their positions, wish them well and wish them every success as they deliver real change for the country and show real leadership.

b. Thank them for their generosity in investing £105.85 million into Oldham's business, (brownfield) housing, health and education developments – truly 'Levelling Up' our Borough.

c. Support the Ten Point Plan – as set out by Mr. Sunak – which will scrap VAT on energy bills, scrap all EU laws to boost the economy as it bounces back, tackle illegal immigration (which is itself causes unsustainable demand on domestic housing stock), and protect Green Belt.

4. Support the missions of the 'Levelling Up' White Paper including productivity, public investment, pride in place, public transport, and paths to home ownership, which represent the right priorities.

In addition, this Council will use its strategic powers in Planning to resolve to:

1. Promote democratic input into the Planning process, in developing the Local Plan and relevant associated policies, to ensure the confidence of the people of the Borough.
2. End any of its current land banking in the Borough of Oldham.
3. Prioritise housing for veterans and service personnel, to strengthen delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant, which this Council is a signatory of, and as set out in the Localism Act (2011).

4. Prioritise housing for local people, as permitted under the Localism Act, by using a residency test with a requirement of having worked or lived in Oldham's communities for 2+ years.

5. Condemn Mr. Burnham for his actions in causing undue distress to small/medium enterprises with his Clean Air Zone – which has so far wasted £60million of taxpayer's money – and welcome its scaling back.

A vote was taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> AMENDMENT, which was LOST

2<sup>nd</sup> AMENDMENT

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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
7. This Council believes and fund Councils to provide an efficient and effective service
8. Homes England will be directed to support all Councils to build homes for social rent
9. Requirements on developers to provide Affordable Homes will not be further watered down", or will be strengthened, including financial or legislative support to increase the proportion of affordable homes provided in areas of greater need
10. Action will be taken to end land banking by developers
11. Help will be put in place to support mortgage payers who are threatened with losing their home because of Tory mismanagement of the economy that the best solution to Oldham's Housing crisis is a 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.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

On being put to the Vote the MOTION as AMENDED was CARRIED.



## **RESOLVED:**

This Council resolves to request that the Chief Executive writes 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.

## **Motion 2 – Cost of Living Pension Credits**

Councillor Jabber MOVED and Councillor Brownridge SECONDED the following Motion: 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.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor McManus SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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 announcement 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.

The government's support schemes to support vulnerable older people in Oldham through this winter include:

- A £400 payment to all homes paid as £66 a month over winter.
- A £650 payment to those on benefits (half's already been paid).
- A £150 payment to those with disabilities.
- £300 cost of living payment to pensioners.
- As well as a removal of green levies on household bills, worth about £150 off bills.

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. However, £60m was wasted by the Labour Mayor of Greater Manchester on the Clean Air Zone Charge in Greater Manchester, which could have been better spent on helping older people in Greater Manchester.

With energy bills, food, fuel, and household essential prices rising, due to rising inflation and the War in the Ukraine, the US Federal Reserve has said that the war (in Ukraine) will reduce global GDP by about 1.5 percent and leading to a rise in global inflation of about 1.3 percentage points. Locally residents of all ages face higher Council tax bills something which this Council can remedy but chooses not to do so.

The Council has pledged to ensure that residents in the town will have access to all support that they are entitled to.

This Council notes:

- That £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.
- 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.
- The £3m 'We Can Help Campaign' to help local residents who need help.

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.
- Stop punishing people with higher Council tax bills and to commit to freezing those bills instead.

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.
- Condemn the £60m wasted by the Labour Mayor of Greater Manchester on the Clean Air Zone Charge in Greater Manchester, which could have been better spent on helping older people in Greater Manchester.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was LOST.

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

### **RESOLVED**

1. 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.
2. Continue to support residents to access all the benefits they are entitled to access, through the Council's Welfare Rights Team.
3. 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:

4. 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.
5. Work alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Ageing Hub to identify more avenues of support for older people in the borough.

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## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### **Motion 1 – No Confidence in Andy Burnham’s Management of Greater Manchester Police**

*N.B. Councillor Murphy, having declared an interest at Minute 4, above, left the room during the discussion and determination of this Motion.*

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Kenyon SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

A vote was taken on the MOTION which was LOST

## **Motion 2 – Provision of Local Services**

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Hulme MOVED and Councillor Goodwin SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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 thanks to funding cuts by successive Conservative Governments.

As the Borough of Oldham is the gateway to the Pennines, we are in a unique position to develop links between Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

As the Council focuses on delivering its ambitious plans for the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration, we continue to explore opportunities to carry regeneration projects in the districts such as the redevelopment of Royton Town Hall, Diggle Clock Tower, Chadderton Town Hall, Northern Roots, Foxdenton & Broadway Green, Hollinwood Junction and our focus on delivering services at a neighbourhood level.

Since the coalition government implemented austerity measures on local government, there has been a significant strain put on public services and community cohesion. 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 original GMSF was unpalatable to so many people in the Borough due to the number of allocations on Green Belt land, thanks to the hard work of the former Cabinet Member for Housing and Officers at Oldham Council, it's replacement Places for Everyone removes swathes of the Green Belt from the plan. Oldham Council continues to monitor Local Housing Need and recognises that Oldhamers want good quality affordable housing in the Borough.

The Conservative led Government cannot be both friends to developers who want to build on our greenbelt and blame local authorities for following their direction.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that in establishing Local Housing Need Local Authorities should use the 2014 based household projections as a starting point. The GMCA has already requested that more up to date figures be used but the Government refused to change the guidance.

This Council resolves that:

- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council continues to use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to monitor the Places for Everyone plan and ensure that Oldham's housing needs are met.
- That insofar as national planning policy allows, brownfield sites will continue to be prioritised over Green Belt development by the administration.
- To continue to ensure shovel ready projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and notes that they are included in the overall housing supply (SHLAA) in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.
- Oldham Council continues to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and practicable, including the regeneration of the civic centre site after the council moves into the Spindles Shopping centre.
- Local communities can access neighbourhood plans which need to be adopted by 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 one of the fundamental tenets of building stronger communities and regrets that due to the recent Conservative Government crashing the economy home-ownership is now unattainable by many Oldhamers.
- The Council continues to deliver its plans for Place Based Integration, as set out in the Oldham and Corporate Plans, to district and neighbourhood level.
- That the Council continues to look for funding beyond Oldham Town Centre and apply for funding in any future grant rounds to improve our district town centres.
- Regrets that the high evidence base for an Article 4 direction relating to HMO permitted development rights is not met.
- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with the GMCA, WYCA and both Mayors, 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:

The Chief Executive will write to the government to:

- i. Seek a meeting with the Department of Transport, TfGM, and the relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to restore public transport funding that has been cut by consecutive Conservative Governments.
- ii. Build on the initial work done by Oldham's Members of Parliaments regarding the option 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. Request that the government restore brownfield remediation funding to help make brownfield sites more attractive to developers, instead of insisting that Oldham meet its housing targets through developing on Greenbelt land.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

On being put to the Vote the MOTION as AMENDED was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

This Council resolves that:

- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council continues to use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to monitor the Places for Everyone plan and ensure that Oldham's housing needs are met.
- That insofar as national planning policy allows, brownfield sites will continue to be prioritised over Green Belt development by the administration.
- To continue to ensure shovel ready projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and notes that they are included in the overall housing supply (SHLAA) in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.
- Oldham Council continues to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and practicable, including the regeneration of the civic centre site after the council moves into the Spindles Shopping centre.
- Local communities can access neighbourhood plans which need to be adopted by 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 one of the fundamental tenets of building stronger communities and regrets that due to the recent Conservative Government crashing the economy home-ownership is now unattainable by many Oldhamers.
- The Council continues to deliver its plans for Place Based Integration, as set out in the Oldham and Corporate

- Plans, to district and neighbourhood level.
- That the Council continues to look for funding beyond Oldham Town Centre and apply for funding in any future grant rounds to improve our district town centres.
  - Regrets that the high evidence base for an Article 4 direction relating to HMO permitted development rights is not met.
  - The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with the GMCA, WYCA and both Mayors, 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:

The Chief Executive will write to the government to:

- iv. Seek a meeting with the Department of Transport, TfGM, and the relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to restore public transport funding that has been cut by consecutive Conservative Governments.
- v. Build on the initial work done by Oldham's Members of Parliaments regarding the option 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.
- vi. Request that the government restore brownfield remediation funding to help make brownfield sites more attractive to developers, instead of insisting that Oldham meet its housing targets through developing on Greenbelt land.

### **Motion 3 – Regulation of HMO's**

Councillor Rea MOVED and Councillor Hindle SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT

COUNCILLOR K. Phythian MOVED and Councillor Dean SECONDED the following amendment:

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 residents, concerns on the potential impact of HMOs.

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. Residents are rightly proud of where they live, and we all want the best for our neighbourhoods and key public services. We regret that public services have been decimated by austerity and that home ownership remains out of reach for many young Oldhamers. We want more for the areas we live. We want our residents to remain proud of where they live. We want to encourage Oldhamers to stay in the Borough and build their own families here as their parents did.

This Council Notes

- Council tax is per property and does not reflect the number of adults in each HMO property.
- HMO's can cause the loss of affordable family homes and this council recognises the need for decent and affordable homes available to the market for families to purchase.
- The burden of evidence to impose an Article 4 direction is too high, and that because of this more HMO's are created due to the government's decision when implementing the Town and Country Planning Order (General Permitted Development) (2015)

This Council resolves to:

- Continue 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 for HMOs of up to six occupants be removed IF and WHEN the threshold for an Article 4 Direction is met. So developers are required to seek planning permission for a HMO of any size.
- Recognise that when managed by good landlords HMO's meet the housing needs of some Oldhamers, but that residents have concerns around the number of inadequate landlords converting decent homes into HMOs solely for profit in particular neighbourhoods.
- Where HMOs are developed that require Planning Permission, the council will continue to consult with neighbouring residents, when development opportunities are sought by landlords to develop HMO's.
- That the Chief Executive will write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and request that the current planning regulations are reviewed and insist that local planning authorities are able to have more control over developments and changes of use in their boundaries.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> AMENDMENT

COUNCILLOR C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the following amendment:

- With an ever-growing number of HMOs 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

- That last year, the Liberal Democrat Group recommended the restriction of HMOs in their written submission to Oldham's Local Plan and additionally raised the issue at the full council meeting in November 2021 – outlining the need for action with regards to the proliferation of HMOs across the Borough;
- That there has been insufficient progress since the Liberal Democrat Group's intervention last year and the administration must now act to control HMOs;
- Council tax is per property and does not reflect the number of adults in each HMO property;
- HMOs 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;
  - HMOs can 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 HMOs are having on areas. Also, to work with Councillors and residents to protect the interests of the residents, in the future development of HMOs;
  - pursue the removal of automatic development rights from HMOs of up to six occupants, and to require planning permission for an HMO of any size (enforcing an Article 4 direction), and to seek to enforce HMO licensing on properties which are currently excluded as having too few residents;
  - limit the number of HMOs in the Borough, and each area within it;
  - conduct consultations with neighbouring residents when development opportunities are sought by landlords to develop HMOs, and afterwards should there be concerns about ASB introduced with the HMO;
  - 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.

On Being put to the Vote the 2<sup>nd</sup> AMENDMENT was LOST.

On being put to the Vote, the MOTION as AMENDED (1<sup>st</sup> Amendment) was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

This Council resolves to:

- Continue 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 for HMOs of up to six occupants be removed IF and WHEN the threshold for an Article 4 Direction is met. So developers are required to seek planning permission for a HMO of any size.
- Recognise that when managed by good landlords HMO's meet the housing needs of some Oldhamer's, but that residents have concerns around the number of inadequate landlords converting decent homes into HMOs solely for profit in particular neighbourhoods.
- Where HMOs are developed that require Planning Permission, the council will continue to consult with neighbouring residents, when development opportunities are sought by landlords to develop HMO's.
- That the Chief Executive will write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and request that the current planning regulations are reviewed and insist that local planning authorities are able to have more control over developments and changes of use in their boundaries.

16

**UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

In response to a question from Councillor Kenyon, the Mayor permitted the Chief executive to address Council, updating Members on the Motion that the Liberal Democrat Group had presented to Council on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 regarding Children's Services. The Chief Executive reported that he would be writing to all members of the Council on this matter imminently.

Councillor Al-Hamdani requested an update on a Motion that the Council had debated and passed in 2019/20 regarding the White Ribbon Campaign. The Leader of the Council replied to the issues that Councillor Al-Hamdani raised.

**RESOLVED** - That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 be noted.

17

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the head of Democratic Services seeking the appointment of an Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.



**Resolved**

That Mr Grenville Page be appointed Independent Chair of the Audit Committee for a 4 year term ending at the end of the 206/27 Municipal Year.

The meeting started at 5.30pm and ended at 9.15pm.





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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Akhtar.

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 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2022 be approved as a correct record.

6 **HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND (ROUND 3)**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval to allocate the Household Support Fund grant from the Department of Work and Pensions in the sum of £2,419,369 over the period 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The report set out the options for the allocation of the funding across several initiatives including food support for children and young people over the school holiday periods and help with costs of fuel and essential items for pensioners and vulnerable households.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - provides £1.95m of school vouchers and contributes £385,000 towards the Council's Response to the Cost of Living Crisis.

Option 2- is as per Option 1 but with an additional cash payment of £30 to support the purchase of school uniforms for parents with children who qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) at reception and year 7, based on £30 per child. This would cost £75,000 and reduce the contribution to the Response by the same amount.

Option 3- reduces the school voucher payment over the Christmas holiday to £15 and allocates £500,000 to fund a payment of £22.50 towards fuel costs to all residents currently receiving Council Tax Reduction benefits.

Option 4 - the Council could choose not to deliver a package of support to vulnerable residents over the April to September 2022 period. As the DWP funding is ringfenced, this would mean

returning the funding to the Government. This option can be quickly discounted.



**Oldham**  
Council

RESOLVED – That Cabinet approved Option 1 which utilised the Housing Support Fund grant funding in full.

- Food Support for children and young people at £15 per week for the October, February and Easter holidays and total payment of £20 per week per eligible child over the Christmas holiday 1,950,000.
- Additional Support for the Local Welfare Provision Scheme 25,000.
- Allocations to support the Council's response to the Cost of Living Crisis:
- Support for the Warm Homes Team to provide fuel vouchers for those in emergency need and the provision of a boiler repair/replacement service 1 00,000.
- Enlisting support in partnership with funding administered by Action Together, from the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector to provide support ) in the following areas, 220,000
  - warm clothing /bedding
  - support for those with no recourse to public funds
  - essential items for the elderly including food
- Provide additional funding for Age UK to support older people with fuel payments.50,000.
- Providing additional HUGGG vouchers to complement the Holiday Activity Fund. 15,000
- Administration costs 59,369
- Total £ 2,419,369

7

#### **GRANT ACCEPTANCE: CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT (CRSTS) - QUALITY BUS TRANSIT (QBT) CORRIDOR**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought to confirm the value of the grant available to Oldham via the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and to notify the Cabinet of the intention to bring this additional resource into the transport capital programme to commence development of the Quality Bus Transit Corridor Scheme.

The report provided details of the steps Oldham Council would need to take to procure the necessary support to develop the scheme in the appropriate timescales and to meet the funding requirement for both development and future delivery of the scheme.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To accept the grant, enter into a funding arrangement with Transport for Greater Manchester, approval for all procurement activity and tender be given.

Option 2 – Not to accept the grant funding.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Oldham section of the Rochdale – Oldham – Ashton Quality Bus Transit (QBT) Corridor, on behalf of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), be accepted.
2. Approval is granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
3. The intention to bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2022/23 and complete development of the scheme in the appropriate timescales be noted.
4. Approval to procure and make tender awards relating to the necessary external support required to develop the QBT scheme (examples listed in the report) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth.
5. Approval to use part of this resource to progress the development of and tender for a Strategic Partnership Agreement with a view to awarding the works packages to a single Contractor to meet the expectations and timescales of the funders be granted.
6. Approval to use part of this resource to appoint temporary agency support within the Highways Team to progress design options to secure further capital funding for Oldham be granted.

8

#### **FUTURE CONTRACTING TENDER ARRANGEMENTS FOR RESIDENTIAL AND DUAL REGISTERED CARE HOMES**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought to update the contract arrangements for residential and nursing home provision in the Borough and sought approval to conduct an open tendering exercise.

The current Oldham Council contract and service specification that was used when care home places were commissioned dated back to 2011 and a refreshed approach was needed. Pivotal changes such as the Health and Care Act 2022 and adult social care charging reforms needed to be reflected in the commissioning and contracting arrangements for the future. The intention was to implement revised contracting arrangements with market by April 2023 and the report set out the implementation plan. The proposed arrangements would be in place for a minimum of 5 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do nothing

Option 2 – Approval to go out to market with a revised contracting approach and provide delegated authority to the Director of Adult Social Care to award the contracts to compliant providers following the tender process.

**RESOLVED – That:**

1. The revised commissioning and contracting arrangements are put in place with the market reflecting those changes, including implementation of a revised

service specification referencing all legislative requirements.

2. Approval be given to undertake an open tender exercise for residential provision in the Borough.
3. Authority be delegated to the Director of Adult Social Care to award the contracts following the evaluation and moderation process being conducted.

9

### **ACCESSIBLE OLDHAM - HENSHAW STREET**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of recommendations relating to the Accessible Oldham Programme that would create an improved town centre pedestrian link and connectivity.

It was reported that the proposals would create an improved pedestrian access and connectivity in the Town Centre significantly improving the linkage on Henshaw Street, Albion Street and the proposed linear car park.

The costs would be financed from within existing external Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham Scheme.

A central focus of the programme included the redevelopment of the former Tommyfield Market which included a proposed linear car park and residential development.

Options /alternatives considered

The options were considered at Item 12 of the agenda.

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

10

### **POSITIVE STEPS CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT LOTS 2 AND 3.**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Education, Skill and Early Years, which sought approval of the utilisation of Regulation 72(1) (b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to enable a modification to the term of the existing contracts for Targeted Youth Support (TYS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps to allow a further extension of 12 months from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

This approach if approved would compliment and feed into the proposed early help, early intervention work, build on integrated commisising intentions and the development of a range of delivery options.

Option /alternatives considered

Option 1 – TYS lot 2 and 3 are modified and extended for a period of 12 months up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Option 2 – Services are tendered via The Chest.

Option 3 – Services are delivered in house from 1 April 2024.

RESOLVED -That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive formation as detailed at Item 13 of the agenda before making a 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 **ACCESSIBLE OLDHAM - HENSHAW STREET**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 Accessible Oldham - Henshaw Street.

**RESOLVED – That:**

1. Recommendations (i) (ii) (vi) be approved.
2. Delegated authority be given to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth to finalise the terms together with any ancillary documentation.
3. Delegated authority be given 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.
4. The costs could be financed from within the existing Future High Streets Fund allocation for the Accessible Oldham scheme.

13 **POSITIVE STEPS CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR TARGETED YOUTH SUPPORT LOTS 2 AND 3.**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 Positive Steps Contract Extension for Targeted Youth Support lots 2 and 3.

**RESOLVED – That** the utilisation of Regulation 72(1) (b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 be approved to enable a modification to the terms of the existing contracts for Targeted Youth Support (YTS) Lots 2 and 3 currently held by Positive Steps to allow for a further extension of 12 months from 1 April 2023 until 31 March 2024.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.24pm

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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

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from the previous Council meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> November and any matters outstanding from Council meetings from the commencement of the municipal year .

### Executive Summary

1. This report provides information to the Council on actions taken at the last Council meeting and outstanding matters during the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

### Recommendations

Council is asked to agree the actions taken and to note that 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 motions approved at the November Council meeting and informs members on the response position on outstanding matters for the Municipal Year 2022/2023 .

### **2 Current Position**

2.1 The current position on actions is set out in the table at Appendix One.

### **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**



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- 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 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:
- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022 and outstanding matters since the commencement of the municipal year.

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### Outstanding Actions from Council – Municipal Year 2022/23

ACTION	ISSUE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED	RESPONSE
Youth Council Motion – Holiday Activities and Food Sessions	The Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP; The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, Secretary of State for Education; The Rt Hon Bridget Philipson MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Education, and the three Members of Parliament representing the Oldham Borough; Jim McMahon MP, Debbie Abrahams MP and Angela Rayner 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.	Chief Executive	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	No response received to date.
Administration Motion 1: Housing Policy	The Chief Executive 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:	Chief Executive	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	No response received to date.

	<p>1. Section 21 evictions will be abolished in this session of Parliament.</p> <p>2. Any reforms of the Planning system will ensure local democratic control of the planning process</p>			
Administration Motion 2: Cost of Living Pension Credits	<p>1. To ensure that the council continues it's 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.</p> <p>2. Continue to support residents to access all the benefits they are entitled to access, through the Council's Welfare Rights Team.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. 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</p>	Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth and Director of Finance	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	No response received to date.

	<p>commit to raising all social security benefits in line with inflation.</p> <p>4. To work alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Ageing Hub to identify more avenues of support for older people in the borough.</p>			
<p>Opposition Motion 2: Provision of Local Services</p>	<p>The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council continues to use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to monitor the Places for Everyone plan and ensure that Oldham's housing needs are met. Brownfield sites to continue to be prioritised over Green Belt development by the administration.</p> <p>To continue to ensure 'shovel ready' projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and notes that they are included in the overall housing supply (SHLAA) in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.</p> <p>Oldham Council to continue to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and practicable, including the regeneration of the civic centre site after the council moves into</p>	<p>Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth</p>	<p>4<sup>th</sup> November 2022</p>	<p>No response received to date.</p>

	<p>the Spindles Shopping centre. The Council confirms that homeownership is one of the fundamental tenets of building stronger communities and regrets that due to the recent Conservative Government crashing the economy homeownership is now unattainable by many Oldhamers. The Council continues to deliver its plans for Place Based Integration, as set out in the Oldham and Corporate Plans, to district and neighbourhood level.</p> <p>The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with the GMCA, WYCA and both Mayors, to maximise the potential economic benefits of maximising the opening of new road and rail links between Oldham and West Yorkshire.</p> <p>The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Transport to:</p> <p>a. Seek a meeting with the</p>			
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	<p>Department of Transport, TfGM, and the relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to restore public transport funding that has been cut by consecutive Conservative Governments.</p> <p>b. Build on the initial work done by Oldham's Members of Parliaments regarding the option 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</p> <p>c. Request that the government restore brownfield remediation funding to help make brownfield sites more attractive to developers, instead of insisting that Oldham meet its housing targets</p>			
Opposition Motion 3: Regulation of HMO's	<p>The Council resolved to:</p> <p>a. Continue to gather the evidence to monitor the situation, paying attention to minimise any potential</p>	Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	No response received to date.

	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>b. That automatic development rights for HMOs of up to six occupants be removed IF and WHEN the threshold for an Article 4 Direction is met. So developers are required to seek planning permission for a HMO of any size.</li><li>c. Recognise that when managed by good landlords HMO's meet the housing needs of some Oldhamer's, but that residents have concerns around the number of inadequate landlords converting decent homes into HMOs solely for profit in particular neighbourhoods.</li><li>d. Where HMOs are developed that require Planning Permission, the council will continue to</li></ul>			
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	<p>consult with neighbouring residents, when development opportunities are sought by landlords to develop HMO's.</p> <p>e. That the Chief Executive will write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing &amp; Communities and request that the current planning regulations are reviewed and insist that local planning authorities are able to have more control over developments and changes of use in their boundaries.</p>			
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> <p>a. for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter</p> <p>b. for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up</p>	Chief Executive	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2022	No response received to date.

	<p>promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and</li> <li>d. 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</li> </ul>			
<p>Administration Motion 2: Fireworks</p>	<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"> <li>a. Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.</li> <li>b. To review current laws on the sale and use of</li> </ul>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>9<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p>	<p>No response received to date.</p>

	<p>fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used.</p> <p>c. To strengthen national restrictions governing how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, and in what volume per transaction including online sales.</p> <p>d. Restrict firework sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks associated with 'pop up' sellers who appear for short periods.</p>			
<p>Opposition Motion 1: Can the Council Dare to be Brave</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth</p>	<p>9<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p>	<p>A formal review has commenced and any identified changes will be recommended for implementation.</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"> <li>1. Oldham Council will write to the three MPs representing Oldham</li> </ol>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>9<sup>th</sup> September 2022</p>	<p>Response letter received from the relevant department and provided to Council on 2 November. Still awaiting response on Part 4 of the resolution .</p>

	<p>Borough, asking them to confirm their commitment to action to cut the costs of energy for residents.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>3. Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that damaging cuts to Free School Meals are reversed.</li> <li>4. Oldham Council will write to 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.</li> </ol>			
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Administration Motion 1: New Deal for Workers	Letter sent to the Prime Minister 'demanding an end to 'fire and rehire' and keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions, and to ask that all key workers get a pay-rise that is at least equal to inflation'	Chief Executive	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	No response received to date.
Opposition Motion 1: Making Fairer Decisions	Chief Executive to amend the standard assessment criteria within the decision-making reports and records to include a requirement to consider the implications of all decisions on: 1. The potential impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on the risk of harm to children. 2. Authority spending into the local economy. 3. Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes, in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments, within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.	Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team	Council approved the Motion on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  Impact Assessment developed and ready for use December Cabinet.	A verbal update was provided at the 2 November Council meeting. A written update on the progress made regarding the implementation of the Corporate Impact Assessment Tool was shared with all Members on the 7 November 2022. A presentation was also made at a Group Leaders meeting on 29 November 2022.





## Report to COUNCIL

**Title:** Polling District, Polling Places and stations Review

Report of the Chief Executive/(Acting) Returning Officer

**Officer Contact:** Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

**Report Author:** Jenna Madeley, Head of Elections and Land Charges

**Date:** 14 December 2022

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### 1 Background

1.1 In November 2021 the independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England published its final recommendations report for new electoral arrangements for Oldham Council.

Electoral reviews are carried out to see whether the boundaries of wards within a local authority need to be altered to ensure effective local government and electoral equality. Electoral equality is achieved when all councillors represent roughly the same number of electors.

Oldham Council had not previously been reviewed since 2003 and the Commission decided that it should review Oldham in advance of the elections in 2023.

The Commission has decided that Oldham should have 60 councillors representing 20 three-councillor wards across the borough. The boundaries of 17 wards have changed, while three wards will stay the same. This will be used for the May 2023 elections and onwards.

Based on the final recommendations Oldham Council have undertaken a review of polling districts and polling places in the area. The review takes place under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act 1983

#### Glossary of Terms

A polling district is defined as a geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency or ward into smaller parts.

A polling place is a designated area (eg: a designated building) for a polling district into which polling stations are located.

A polling station is the room or area within a polling place where voting is conducted.

## Current practice: Polling Places

The Returning Officer adopts a practice where, following each election, any issues in respect of the suitability of a polling place or a polling station is immediately addressed to ascertain whether there is a need to seek alternative accommodation. Polling places are therefore regularly reviewed and updated which reduces the number of issues that need to be addressed in polling place reviews.

## Guidelines

In undertaking the review, the authority ensured that: -

- All electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances
- In so far as is reasonable and practicable, that polling places are accessible to those who are disabled
- The accessibility needs of disabled persons had been considered.

Public notice of the review was given on **28 July** and information about the review was published on the Council's website. All members were also informed of the review and invited to submit comments and representations. Details on the current arrangements were also posted on the Council's website.

Having received comments and representations on the current polling arrangements, the Returning Officer published proposals for polling districts and polling places for future elections and sought comments on them during a second consultation period that began on **1 September**.

A number of principles were followed in determining the identification of suitable buildings for use as polling places. These included:

- Location and accessibility to electors within the polling district
- Size – can it accommodate more than one polling station if required
- Accessibility – is the building accessible to all those entitled to vote at the polling station
- Availability – is the building readily available in the event of an unscheduled election.
- Facilities available in the venue including parking, heating, lighting, toilet facilities and security
- Public buildings -the election rules allow the Returning Officer the free use of buildings maintained by the council including schools maintained by the authority and free schools. These will be identified in the first instance.
- Private buildings – in the absence of suitable public owned buildings, churches, clubs and other private sector buildings conveniently located and accessible to electors are considered for designation as the polling place



- Mobiles – in the absence of any suitable public or private building in or adjacent to the polling district a mobile will be considered for designation as a polling place. Given the difficulties of heating, lighting, security, comfort of staff and electors, the negative reaction from residents living close to the site of a mobile and the significantly higher cost of locating a mobile polling station, these are considered only as a last resort.
- The potential impact on election turnout of moving the polling station to a different location.

### **The outcome of the review**

The attached appendix contains details of the outcome of the review and relates to each of the authority's 20 wards. It includes: -

- the polling district
- the polling places and stations
- whether any change was made

The proposals for change are included in Appendix A . The representations received during the process are included in Appendix B

### **The main changes are as follows: -**

#### **Chadderton Central**

As part of the Boundary Review Chadderton Central has lost district CC1 to Chadderton North and CC3 to Chadderton South. The proposal is for the current CC1 to be renamed CN3 and CC3 to be renamed CS6, and the polling stations kept as they are currently. As part of the Boundary Review Chadderton Central gained districts CN4, CN5 and CN3. The proposal is for these districts to be renamed CC1, CC2 and CC3 and the polling stations kept the same. The proposal is for the current CC2 to be renamed CC4 to allow for these changes and the polling station kept the same. CC5 to remain unchanged and the current CC4 to be renamed CC6 and the polling station remain unchanged.

#### **Chadderton North**

As part of the Boundary Review Chadderton North has lost districts CN3, CN4 and CN5 to Chadderton Central. The proposal is for these districts to be renamed CC1, CC2 and CC3 and the polling stations kept the same. As part of the Boundary Review Chadderton North has gained district CC1. The proposal is for this to be renamed CN3 and the polling station to be kept the same. CN1 and CN2 remain unchanged, and we propose for CN6 to be renamed CN4 to allow for the districts lost to Chadderton Central and the polling station to remain unchanged.

#### **Chadderton South**

As part of the Boundary Review Chadderton South has gained CC3 from Chadderton Central. The proposal is for this to be renamed CS6 and the polling station kept the same. The current 5 polling districts in Chadderton South remain unchanged except a small section of district HO1 being absorbed by CS5.

## **Coldhurst**

As part of the Boundary Review Coldhurst has absorbed part of district SM1. The proposal is for this district to be split and absorbed by CO1 (to vote at Barker Street Tenants Hall) and CO7 (to vote at Trinity House). We propose to split CO4 between CO3 (to vote at OBA Millennium Centre) and the current CO6 (to vote at Coldhurst Lifelong Learning Centre). The proposal is then to rename CO6, CO7 and CO8 to CO5, CO6 and CO7, and keep the polling stations unchanged.

## **Medlock Vale**

As part of the Boundary Review Medlock Vale lost part of district MV3 to Hollinwood. Due to this change the proposal is to merge the remainder MV3 with MV4. The proposal is the rename the rest of the districts in this ward to allow for this change.

## **Alexandra**

The proposal is to use Glodwick Cricket Club for district AL2 and merge AL5 with AL6 as they have a combined electorate of under 1,000.

## **Crompton**

As part of the Boundary Review Crompton lost part of district CR2 to Royton North. The proposal is to split the remainder of CR2 between CR1 and CR3 and rename the districts accordingly. As a result, CR4 is dissolved.

## **St Marys**

The proposal is to combine the districts SM2 and SM5 so that all electors from both districts vote at Pakistani Community Centre as the electorate for both is under 2,000 and rename the districts to allow for this merge.

The proposals mean that we will reduce the number of polling stations from 122 to 119.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Council is requested to consider and if considered appropriate approve the new polling districts, polling places and polling stations in the attached appendix A

## **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The costs of elections will be managed within budgetary provision.

## **4. Legal Services Comments**

- 4.1 Included within the body of the report

## **5. Human Resources Comments**

- 5.1 N/A

## **6. Risk Assessments**

- 6.1 N/A
- 7. IT Implications**
- 7.1 N/A
- 8. Property Implications**
- 8.1 None
- 9. Procurement Implications**
- 9.1 N/A
- 10. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 10.1 N/A
- 11. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 11.1 N/A
- 12. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 12.1 N/A
- 13. Key Decision**
- 13.1 No
- 14. Key Decision Reference**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15. Background Papers**
- 15.1 The following is a list of background papers on which the report is based in accordance with the requirements of section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972  
Reviews of polling districts, polling places and polling stations.  
Officer name ; Jenna Madeley, Head of Elections and Land Charges , Civic Centre, Oldham . 0161770 4712
- 16 Appendices**
- 16.1 Appendix A – **Proposals for changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places 2022**  
Appendix B – **Representations Submitted – Polling District Review 2022**

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# APPENDIX A

## Oldham Council

### Proposals for changes to Polling Districts and Polling Places/ Stations 2022



**Oldham**  
Council

## Chadderton Central

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
1 & 2	CC1	Mills Hill Community Hall Mills Hill Road Chadderton Oldham M24 2FD	Burnley Brow Primary School Victoria Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0BY
3	CC2	Springbank Bowling Club Albion Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 9HT	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0EL
4	CC3	Chadderton Over 60s Centre 298A Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 9QU	St Mark's Church Vestry Milne Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0HR
5	CC4	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA	Springbank Bowling Club Albion Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 9HT
6	CC5	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA	No change
7	CC6	New district – No current station	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA

## Chadderton North

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
8	CN1	St Herberts Parish Centre 148 Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0JY	No change
9	CN2	Mobile Unit CN2 Near Toby Carvery Burnley Lane Oldham OL1 2QS	St Herberts Parish Centre 148 Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0JY
10 & 11	CN3	St Mark's Church Vestry Milne Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0HR	Mills Hill Community Hall Mills Hill Road Chadderton M24 2FD
12 & 13	CN4	Burnley Brow Primary School Victoria Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0BY	North Chadderton School Chadderton Hall Road Chadderton Oldham OL9 0BN
	CN5	North Chadderton Social and Bowling Club Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0EL	District dissolved – No station
	CN6 (dbl)	North Chadderton School Chadderton Hall Road Chadderton Oldham OL9 0BN	District dissolved – No station

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Chadderton South

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
14	CS1	Turf Lane Lifelong Learning Centre Turf Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 8HP	No change
15	CS2	Whitegate End Junior School Butterworth Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 8EB	No change
16	CS3	St Georges Ober 60's Club St Georges Square Chadderton Oldham OL9 9NU	No change
17	CS4	South Chadderton Youth Centre Lancaster Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 8LE	No change
18	CS5	Stanley Road Primary School Derby Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 7HX	No change
19	CS6	District created – No station	Chadderton Over 60's Centre 298a Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 9QU



## Coldhurst

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
20	CO1	Barker Street Tenants Hall Adj. Browbeck Car Park Off Eden Street Oldham OL1 2XA	No change
21	CO2	Mobile Unit on Channing Nursery Car Park Maygate Westwood Oldham OL9 6TR	No change
22	CO3	OBA Millennium Centre Featherstall Road North Oldham OL9 6QB	No change
23	CO4	Chadderton Community Church Garforth Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 6RW	No change
24	CO5	Mobile Unit CO2 Channing Nursery Car Park Maygate Oldham OL9 6TR	Coldhurst Lifelong Learning Centre Rochdale Road Oldham OL1 2HR
25	CO6	Coldhurst Lifelong Learning Centre Rochdale Road Oldham OL1 2HR	Aster House Booth Hill Lane Oldham OL1 2LA
26	CO7	Aster House Booth Hill Lane Oldham OL1 2LA	Trinity House Godson Street Oldham OL1 2XL

	CO8	Trinity House Godson Street Oldham OL1 2XL	District dissolved – No station
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(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Hollinwood

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
27	HO1	Canon George Community Hall St Margaret's Church Chapel Road Oldham OL8 4QQ	No change
28	HO2	Holy Family – Parish Room Holy Family RC Church Roman Road Limeside Oldham OL8 3PY	No change
29	HO3	Avenues & Hollins Residents & Tenants Association First Avenue Limeside Oldham OL8 3SH	No change
30	HO4	St Chads Centre Limegreen Parade Limehurst Village Oldham OL8 3HH	No change
31	HO5	Spring Brook Lower School Heron Street Oldham OL8 4JD	No change
32	HO6	Werneth Golf Club Side Entrance Green Lane Oldham OL8 3AZ	No change

33	HO7	Mobile Unit Vaal Street Hollinwood Oldham OL8 4NW	No change
34	HO8	Common Room, Clough Gate House Hollins Road Oldham OL8 3UX	No change

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Medlock Vale

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
35 & 36	MV1	Coppice Primary Academy Burlington Avenue Oldham OL8 1AP	No change
37	MV2	The Honeywell Centre Schofield Street Hathershaw Oldham OL8 3BP	No change
38	MV3	The Hathershaw College Bellfield Avenue Oldham OL8 3EP	No change
39	MV4	Holy Rosary R C Primary School Fir Tree Avenue Fitton Hill Oldham OL8 2SR	Medlock Valley Community School South Croft Oldham OL8 2LQ
40	MV5	Medlock Valley Community School South Croft Oldham OL8 2LQ	Newbridge Learning Centre St Martins Road Oldham OL8 2PZ
41	MV6	Newbridge Learning Centre St Martins Road Oldham OL8 2PZ	Methodist Sunday School Keb Lane Bardsley Oldham OL8 2TE
	MV7	Methodist Sunday School Keb Lane Bardsley Oldham OL8 2TE	District dissolved – No Station

## Royton North

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
42	RN1	Thornham St James Primary School Castleton Road Royton Oldham OL2 6XT	No change
43	RN2	Mobile Unit Corner of Oozewood Road and Kingston Drive Royton Oldham OL2 5XW	No change
44	RN3	Fir Bank Primary School Grasmere Road Royton Oldham OL2 6SJ	No change
45 & 46	RN4	St Paul's Parish Centre Church Street Royton Oldham OL2 5JS	No change
47	RN5	St Paul's Primary School Hindle Drive Royton Oldham OL2 5LU	No change

## Royton South

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
48	RS1	Royton Park Bowling Club Bleasdale Street Royton Oldham OL2 6QD	No change
49 & 50	RS2	St Anne's C E School Broadway Longsight Royton Oldham OL2 5DH	No change
51	RS3	Blackshaw Lane Primary School Blackshaw Lane Heyside Royton Oldham OL2 6NT	No change

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Werneth

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
52 & 53	WE1	Freehold Community School Sidmouth Street Oldham OL9 7RG	No change
54	WE2	Werneth Park Lifelong Learning Centre Frederick Street Oldham OL8 1RB	No change
55	WE3	Werneth Primary School Nursery Coppice Street Oldham OL8 4BL	No change
56	WE4	St Thomas Church Werneth St Thomas' Circle Werneth Oldham OL8 1SE	No change
57	WE5	Primrose Bank Community Centre Primrose Bank Werneth Oldham OL8 1HX	No change

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal



## Alexandra

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
58	AL1	Mobile Unit Land Opposite Pennine Pen Honeywell Lane Oldham OL8 2JP	No change
59	AL2	Hope Congregational Church Skipton Street Oldham OL8 2JF	Glodwick Cricket Club Swansea Street Off Warren Lane Oldham OL8 2JE
60	AL3	The Childrens Society 13/21 Brownedge Road Holts Village Oldham OL4 5QQ	No change
61	AL4	Alt Academy Alt Lane Oldham OL8 2EL	No change
62	AL5	St Paul's Church Community Room Ashton Road Oldham OL8 1LD	No change
	AL6	Evangelical Church 8-9 Eldon Precinct Oldham OL8 1NL	District dissolved – No station

## Crompton

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
63 & 64	CR1	Crompton Primary School Longfield Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7HD	No change
65	CR2	Fir Lane Methodist Church Fir Lane Royton Oldham OL2 6SS	St Mary's Church Rushcroft Road High Crompton Oldham OL2 7PP
66	CR3	St Marys Church Rushcroft Road High Crompton Oldham OL2 7PP	Rushcroft Primary School Trent Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7YL
	CR4	Rushcroft Primary School Trent Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7YL	District dissolved – No station

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Saddleworth North

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
67	SN1	Denshaw Village Hall Ripponden Road Denshaw Oldham OL3 5SH	No change
68	SN2	St Thomas Church Hall Church Street Delph Oldham OL3 5DR	No change
69	SN3	Diggle Band Club Huddersfield Road Diggle Oldham OL3 5PJ	No change
70	SN4	Holy Trinity Church Woods Lane Dobcross Oldham OL3 5AL	No change
71	SN5	Mobile Unit Three Crowns Car Park Huddersfield Road Oldham OL4 4AT	No change

## Saddleworth South

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
72	SS1	Uppermill Civic Hall Lee Street Uppermill Oldham OL3 6AE	No change
73	SS2	St Anne's School Cedar Lane Grasscroft Oldham OL4 4DS	No change
74	SS3	St Marys CE School Manchester Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7DW	No change
75	SS4	Christ Church Friezland Church Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7LQ	No change
76	SS5	Greenfield Methodist Church Chew Valley Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7JJ	No change

## Saddleworth West and Lees

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
77 & 77/1	SW1 & SW5	Springhead Football Club Off St. John Street Lees Oldham OL4 3DR	No change
78	SW2	Springhead Community Centre Ashes Lane Springhead Oldham OL4 4PF	No change
79	SW3	Springhead Children's Centre Cooper Street Springhead Oldham OL4 4QT	No change
80	SW4	The Pavillion Station Road Grotton Oldham OL4 5SF	No change
81	SW6	Zion Methodist Church Hall Chapel Street Oldham OL4 4NA	No change
82	SW7	Lees Library and Community Hub Thomas Street Lees Oldham OL4 5DA	No change

## St James

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
83	SJ1	Sholver Community Centre Sholver Lane Sholver Oldham OL1 4NT	No change
84	SJ2	Woodlands Primary School Broadbent Road Oldham OL1 4HU	No change
85	SJ3	Stoneleigh Park Community Cabin Buxted Road Oldham OL1 4LP	No change
86	SJ4	Mayfield Primary School Mayfield Road Derker Oldham OL1 4LG	No change
87	SJ5	Fresh Church 105 Coleridge Road Oldham OL1 4RJ	No change
88	SJ6	Moorside Cricket Pavillion Moorside Cricket & Bowling Turf Pit Lane Moorside Oldham OL4 2ND	No change

**St Mary's**

<b>Station Number</b>	<b>POLLING DISTRICT</b>	<b>CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION</b>	<b>PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION</b>
89	SM1	Saint Stephens & All Martyrs Church Thames Street Oldham OL1 3QU	No change
90	SM2	Mount Pleasant Mission Lees Road Oldham OL4 1JW	Al-Madina Jamia Masjid 230 Waterloo Street Oldham OL4 1ES
91	SM3	Al-Madina Jamia Masjid 230 Waterloo Street Oldham OL4 1ES	Greenhill Academy Harmony Street Glodwick Oldham OL4 1RR
92	SM4	Greenhill Academy Harmony Street Glodwick Oldham, OL4 1RR	Glodwick Infant and Nursery School Nursery Building Pitt Street Oldham OL4 1AJ
93	SM5	Glodwick Infant and Nursery School Nursery Building Pitt Street Oldham OL4 1AJ	Pakistani Community Centre Marlborough Street Glodwick Oldham OL4 1EG
94	SM6	Pakistani Community Centre Marlborough Street Glodwick Oldham OL4 1EG	Salvation Army Chatsworth Street Oldham OL4 5LF
	SM7	Salvation Army Chatsworth Street Oldham OL4 5LF	District dissolved – No station

## Shaw

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
95 & 96	SH1	St Saviours Church Crompton Fold Buckstones Road Shaw Oldham OL2 8DF	No change
97	SH2	St James Church St James Street Shaw Oldham OL2 7TE	No change
98	SH3	Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre High Street Shaw Oldham OL2 8TB	No change
99	SH4	Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre High Street Shaw Oldham OL2 8TB	No change

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal



## Waterhead

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
100	WA1	Waterhead Academy Sports Campus Counthill Road Moorside Oldham OL4 2PY	No change
101	WA2	Littlemoor Primary School Littlemoor Lane Oldham OL4 2RR	No change
102	WA3	Littlemoor Primary School Littlemoor Lane Oldham OL4 2RR	No change
103	WA4	Parish Hall, Waterhead Church Waterworks Road Oldham OL4 2JQ	No change
104	WA5	Elim Four Square Church Greenacres Road Greenacres Oldham OL4 2BA	No change
105	WA6	Greenacres Community Centre Galland Street Greenacres Oldham OL4 3EU	No change
106	WA7	St Barnabas Parish Hall Arundel Street Clarksfield Oldham OL4 1NL	No change

107	WA8	Sale Moravian Church Hall Lees Road Oldham OL4 3AJ	Air Training Corps 40 Wellyhole Street Oldham OL4 3BB
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(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Failsworth East

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
108	FE1	Woodhouses Cricket Club Medlock Road Woodhouses Failsworth M35 9WN	No change
109	FE2	The Childrens Centre, Higher Failsworth Primary School Stansfield Road Failsworth M35 9ED	No change
110	FE3	St John's Church Oldham Road Failsworth M35 0EH	No change
111 & 112	FE4	Macedonia United Reformed Church Holt Lane Failsworth M35 9QG	No change
113	FE5	Hope Methodist Church Oldham Road Failsworth M35 9AN	No change

(Acting) Returning Officer's Proposal

## Failsworth West

Station Number	POLLING DISTRICT	CURRENT POLLING PLACE/ STATION	PROPOSED POLLING PLACE/ STATION
114	FW1	Mather Street Primary School Mather Street Failsworth M35 0DT	No change
115	FW2	Failsworth Lifelong Learning Centre Failsworth Town Hall Oldham Road Failsworth M35 0FH	No change
116	FW3	Failsworth Home Guard Poplar Street Failsworth M35 0HY	No change
117	FW4	The Millgate Function Room Ashton Road West Failsworth M35 0ES	No change
118	FW5	Ridgefield Community Centre Ridgefield Street Failsworth M35 0HJ	No change
119	FW6	Canterbury Hall Holy Family Community Centre Lord Lane Failsworth M35 0GQ	No change

## APPENDIX B

### Representations Submitted – Polling District Review 2022



Proposed Polling Station	Responses Collected	General Comments
St Annes School	Consider using Lydgate Village Hall	The school has the facilities and size required for polling and is available.
Multiple	As part of your review of polling station locations can I register my opposition to using churches and other places of worship as polling stations? I find it totally unacceptable that I am expected to go into a Christian church in order to exercise my democratic rights. There should be a complete separation of church and state and we should not be forced to enter establishments so associated with historically abusive organisations.	Due to the size of the districts and lack of other suitable premises in some of those districts the recommendation is to continue using church halls, etc.
St Herberts Parish Centre	In regards to CN1 I would suggest that a mobile polling station is placed at the tract of land on the left hand side of the entrance of Cornwell Road, Chadderton. This would be again a more central point for this polling district rather than at the top bordering the ward.	The land suggested is not available due to building works and St Herberts is the only suitable premises in the area.





**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Clean Air Scrutiny Proposals**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member, Finance & Low Carbon

**Officer Contact:** Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

**Report Author:** Neil Crabtree, Head of Service, Public Protection

**14 December 2022**

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### **Reason for Decision**

To seek approval for accepting the proposal to establish a 'Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee' to scrutinise decisions of the 'Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee' and the 'Clean Air Administration Committee'.

### **Recommendations**

1. To approve establishment of a 'Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee' to scrutinise decisions of the 'Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee' and the 'Clean Air Administration Committee' and nominate a lead and deputy for the panel.

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## 1 Background

1.1 The ten Greater Manchester Districts and GMCA established the Clean Air Administration Committee in March 2021 and delegated to the committee -

- the GMCA's and the Constituent Authorities' functions under sections 82 to 84 of the Environment Act 1995
- the GMCA's functions in relation to the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan (including the taking of action likely to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of Greater Manchester in connection with it and the use of grants made by the Secretary of State under section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003 to implement that plan).
- the Constituent Authorities functions under the Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan including those under Part 3 of, and Schedule 12 to, the Transport Act 2000 and regulations made thereunder (excluding any decision thereunder that must be taken jointly by charging authorities) including, but not limited to:
  - action required under the Environment Act 1995 (Greater Manchester) Air Quality Direction 2020 (other than the making of the joint local charging scheme);
  - the exercise of their powers under sections 176, 177 and 192 of the Transport Act 2000;
  - the application of the Constituent Authorities' shares of any net proceeds of a joint local charging scheme made by them.

1.2. The discharge of such functions includes the doing of anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of those functions.

1.3. The Clean Air Charging Committee was established in October 2021 by the ten districts with the following functions:

1.4 The Committee shall have power to take all such decisions of the Constituent Authorities (as charging authorities) that must be taken jointly under Part 3 of, and Schedule 12 to, the Transport Act 2000 and any regulations made thereunder.

1.5 This includes, but is not limited to:

- Making and varying a joint local charging scheme order;
- Decisions of the charging authority under such a joint local charging scheme and the Road User Charging Schemes (Penalty charges, Adjudication and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2013.



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## 2 **Current Position**

- 2.1 Decisions of both committees are currently subject to Scrutiny by each District. However, as the Committees are jointly exercising the functions of the authorities, it is proposed that the Scrutiny arrangements are also exercised jointly. This will enable decisions to be scrutinised more effectively and efficiently and on a Greater Manchester basis and across both Committees.
- 2.2 Proposed Terms of Reference for the GM Scrutiny Committee are attached at **Appendix A** of this report.

## 3 **Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 Options with respect to the proposals are limited. As an authority, we either accept a joint scrutiny model for the air quality functions already taking place at a GM level or we refuse, and keep the scrutiny function within Oldham. If Oldham MBC accepts the joint scrutiny proposals, it will have to nominate a lead and deputy for the panel.
- 3.2 If Oldham decides to retain independent scrutiny, this could result in delayed decision making at a GM level and possible deviation from other authorities at a GM level.

## 4 **Preferred Option**

- 4.1 The recommendation is Option 1, that Oldham MBC supports the joint scrutiny approach proposed. As stated, it will expand on the existing committees that operate at GM level and allow for more expedient and efficient decision making at a GM level once direction is set at a national level while ensuring scrutiny representation from Oldham MBC.

## 5 **Consultation**

- 5.1 N/A

## 6 **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 No significant financial implications are expected. (John Edisbury – Accountant).

## 7 **Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 Legal issues are contained within the body of the report. The proposed recommendation is lawful. (Colin Brittain)

## 8. **Co-operative Agenda**

- 8.1 Oldham supports the establishment of the 'Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee' as the formation of the committee will foster a greater co-operative working culture with the ten GM authorities, to scrutinise key decisions (Mahmuda Khanom, Policy Support Officer).

## 9 **Human Resources Comments**

- 9.1 No direct HR implications.

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(Catherine Pearson, Strategic HR Lead)

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 There is a need for Clean Air proposals and operations to be subject to Scrutiny and the proposals set out in the report seem sensible to discharge this role ensuring appropriate accountability for decisions taken in this area at a City Region level.

Mark Stenson

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 N/A

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None. (Dan Cheetham)

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 Air pollution doesn't have boundaries so looking at issues through a GM approach would be a positive step.

14..2 There are no Health and Safety implications (Samantha Cox)

15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 N/A

16 **Implications for Children and Young People**

16.1 None

17 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision**

18.1 No

19 **Key Decision Reference**

19.1 N/A

20 **Background Papers**

20.1 None

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21 **Appendices**

21.1 Appendix A – Clean Air Scrutiny Committee – Terms of Reference

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## **Appendix A**

### **Clean Air Scrutiny Committee – Terms of Reference**

#### **General**

The Clean Air Scrutiny Committee (“the Scrutiny Committee”) is a joint committee created by the ten Greater Manchester local authorities (“the Constituent Authorities”) under section 101(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **Membership of the Scrutiny Committee**

The membership of the Scrutiny Committee shall consist of one member appointed by each of the Constituent Authorities and one member of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. The Constituent Authorities shall also each nominate a substitute member to attend and vote in their stead. Membership must reflect (as far as reasonably practicable) the political balance of the whole GM area.

#### **Role of the Committee**

The Scrutiny Committee’s role and function is as follows:

1. To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken by the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee, including decisions delegated by it to officers and sub-committees;
2. To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other actions taken, in relation to the Constituent Authorities’ functions, exercised by the Air Quality Administration Committee, including decisions delegated by it to officers and sub-committees;
3. To make reports or recommendations to the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee or the Air Quality Administration Committee concerning the discharge of their functions;
4. To Call-In decisions made by the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee, including decisions delegated by it to officers and sub-committees;
5. To Call-In decisions made, in relation to the Constituent Authorities’ functions, exercised by the Air Quality Administration Committee, including decisions delegated by it to officers and sub-committees;
6. Any three members of the Scrutiny Committee can call in a decision of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee or the Air Quality Administration Committee.
7. If the Scrutiny Committee does Call-In a decision it can:
  - (a) Direct that a decision is not to be implemented while it is under review or scrutiny by the Scrutiny Committee; and
  - (b) Recommend that the decision be reconsidered.
8. To establish formal sub committees or informal task and finish groups if they wish.
9. Attendance

- 
- Members of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee or the Air Quality Administration Committee;
  - Officers exercising delegated functions of the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee or the Air Quality Administration Committee;
- must attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee, if invited, to answer questions.
10. Other people may be invited to attend meetings of the Scrutiny Committee, but are not obliged to attend.

### **Operation of the Scrutiny Committee**

11. The Committee shall appoint a Chair at its first meeting.
12. The Quorum of the Committee shall be two thirds of its members (7 members).
13. Each member shall have one vote.
14. The Chair shall not have a casting vote.
15. Unless required by law, decisions shall be made by a simple majority.
16. The Committee will meet as often as required.

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## COUNCIL

### **Municipal Calendar 2023/24**

**Officer Contact:** Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

**Report Author:** Liz Droган, Head of Democratic Services  
**Ext.** 4705

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

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#### **Reason for Decision**

This report sets out the draft calendar of meetings for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

1. The current version of the Council's calendar of meetings for 2023/24 be approved, as set out at Appendix 1.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

**Council Calendar 2023/24**

**1 Background**

1.1 This report sets out the draft Calendar for the 2023/24 Municipal Year.

**2 Options/Alternatives**

2.1 The Council is entitled to amend any of the dates in the calendar, but should note it is required to approve a version of the calendar at its annual meeting.

**3 Preferred Option**

3.1 To approve the calendar as set out in Appendix 1.

**4 Consultation**

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and elected members.

**5 Financial Implications**

5.1 n/a

**6 Legal Services Comments**

6.1 There are no legal comments (Paul Entwistle).

**7 Human Resources Comments**

7.1 There are no human resources issues.

**8 Risk Assessments**

8.1 A risk assessment is not required.

**9 IT Implications**

9.1 There are no IT implications.

**10 Property Implications**

10.1 There are no property implications.

**11 Procurement Implications**

11.1 There are no procurement implications.

**12 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

12.1 There are no environmental or health and safety implications.

**13 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**



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13.1 There are no community cohesion implications.

14 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

14.1 No

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 n/a

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 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:

Council's calendar of meetings 2022/23

Liz Drogan tel: 0161 770 4705

Level 4 Civic Centre

Oldham

OL1 1UL

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Appendix 1 – Council Calendar 2023/24

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# **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS**

**1<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023 – 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2024**

<b>MAY, 2023</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b> Bank Holiday	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Elections	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b> Bank Holiday	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b> Bank Holiday Half term begins	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

<b>JUNE, 2023</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Half term ends
<b>5</b> 3.30pm Leadership 5.30pm Planning Committee Training (members and substitute members of Planning Committee)	<b>6</b> 9.30am Licensing Committee	<b>7</b> 9.30am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>8</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>14</b> 6.00pm Standards Committee	<b>15</b> 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>16</b>
<b>19</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>20</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>21</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>22</b> 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>23</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board 6.00pm Audit Committee (Draft Final Accounts)	<b>28</b> Eid Al Adha Youth Council – Mayor Making	<b>29</b> Eid Al Adha	<b>30</b>

**JULY, 2023**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> LGA Conference	<b>5</b> LGA Conference	<b>6</b> LGA Conference	<b>7</b>
<b>10</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>11</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>12</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>13</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (Development Session) 6.00pm Health Scrutiny Committee	<b>14</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC	<b>19</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>20</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board 6.00pm Audit Committee (Final Accounts)	<b>21</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>24</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee School holidays begin	<b>27</b> 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel	<b>28</b>
<b>31</b> Recess begins				

<b>AUGUST, 2023</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10	11
14	15	16	17	18 KDD & 28 Day Notice Recess ends
21 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	22	23 6.00pm Planning Committee	24	25
28 Bank Holiday	29	30	31 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	

## SEPTEMBER, 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				<b>1</b> School holiday ends
<b>4</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>5</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>6</b> 9.30am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Council	<b>7</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Health Scrutiny Committee	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>13</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>14</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>15</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>18</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 2.00pm Local NJC	<b>27</b> 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>28</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel	<b>29</b>



<b>OCTOBER, 2023</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>2</b> Conservative Conference 3.30pm Leadership	<b>3</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel Conservative Conference	<b>4</b> Conservative Conference	<b>5</b> 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b> Labour Conference	<b>10</b> Labour Conference	<b>11</b> Labour Conference	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>16</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>17</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>18</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>19</b> 6.00pm Health Scrutiny Committee	<b>20</b>
<b>23</b> Half term begins	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Half term ends
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9.30am Licensing Committee 6.00pm Audit Committee			

**NOVEMBER, 2023**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
		<b>1</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>2</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>8</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>13</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>14</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>15</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>16</b> 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>17</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>23</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel	<b>24</b>
<b>27</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Budget Cabinet	<b>28</b> 2.00pm Local NJC	<b>29</b> 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>30</b> 6.00pm Standards Committee	

<b>DECEMBER, 2023</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
				<b>1</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Health Scrutiny Committee	<b>6</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>7</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (Development Session)  Top Awards	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>12</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>13</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>14</b> 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>15</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b> Bank Holiday School holidays begin	<b>26</b> Bank Holiday	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>JANUARY, 2024</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b> Bank Holiday	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> School holiday ends
<b>8</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>9</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel	<b>12</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>15</b> 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>16</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Health Scrutiny Committee	<b>17</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>18</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>25</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Administration Budget)	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

<b>FEBRUARY, 2024</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b> 3.30pm Leadership (Budget)	<b>6</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6	<b>7</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Opposition Budget)	<b>8</b> 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Budget Cabinet	<b>13</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board	<b>16</b> KDD & 28 Day Notice
<b>19</b> Half term begins	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Mayor's Ball Half term ends
<b>26</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>27</b> 9.30am Licensing Committee	<b>28</b> 6.00pm Budget Council	<b>29</b>	

**MARCH, 2024**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
				<b>1</b>
<b>4</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>5</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>6</b> 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>7</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Health Scrutiny Committee	<b>8</b>
<b>11</b> Ramadan begins	<b>12</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC	<b>13</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>14</b> 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel 6.00pm Standards Committee	<b>15</b>
<b>18</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>19</b> 6.00pm Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>20</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>21</b> 6.00pm Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<b>22</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>28</b> 1.00pm Commissioning Partnership Board	<b>29</b> Good Friday School holiday begins

<b>APRIL, 2024</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b> Easter Monday	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel Ramadan ends	<b>10</b> Eid Al Fitr	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> School holiday ends
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9.30am Licensing Panel	<b>17</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>			

<b>MAY, 2024</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
		1	2 Elections	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	23	24
27 Half term begins	28	29	30	31 Half term ends





## Report to COUNCIL

# Civic Appreciation Nominations 2023

### Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of the Council

**Officer Contact:** Liz Drogan, Head of Democratic Services

**14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

The purpose of the report is to seek approval to the nominations of for Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah to receive the Civic Appreciation Award, in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community and the borough of Oldham.

### Executive Summary

Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah are being proposed for this award in recognition of their significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the local community and borough of Oldham.

#### Keira Arnold

After losing her father at an early age, Keira has been raising money via the Keira's Wishes fund for five years now and has raised a over £40k for Dr Kershaw's Hospice in Royton. The hospice cared for Keira's father and her sole aim has been to help patients and their families make memories.

The fund has been used for all manner of things, including buying smart-TVs for the hospices in-patient unit, funding final day trips, celebrations including early Christmas days and a wedding reception for a terminally ill patient. Keira also organised virtual markets during the pandemic as a way to continue fundraising for Dr Kershaw's.

Keira has continually been recognised here in Oldham, in Greater Manchester and nationally as a spectacular fundraiser for one of the most important charities in Oldham, and it is time a Civic Appreciation Award.

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### Ibrahim (Ibby) Yousef

Ibby's fundraising efforts over the last few years have been spectacular, he has raised thousands of pounds for a variety of charities, including Oldham Foodbank, Maggie's Oldham, Mahdlo, Dr Kershaw's, UKEFF, Street Angels, Team Hill, OACT and REEL CIC. He was recognised for his outstanding charity work by Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II when he became the youngest person in the country to be awarded a British Empire Medal in the 2019 New Years Honours list at just 13 years old, as well as the British Citizen Youth Award in July 2019.

Ibby, his family and his supporters have used social media to great effect to highlight his campaigns and bring others along with them, often encouraging others to take part in challenges and leading to increased fundraising.

As a young man suffering with his own poor health, Ibby has become an inspiration to many in Oldham and beyond.

### Hannah Miah

Hannah Miah's fundraising efforts are international, after watching a video about street children in Bangladesh Hannah was inspired to take action and attempt to make their lives better any way she could, after describing how fortunate she felt to have a family and a home.

Hannah, 10 years old, has raised over £15k for charity in just over a year, has shown that great things can be accomplished no matter what your age and that she is an inspiration to many.

In May 2022, Hannah walked 50km from Oldham to her grandfather's grave in Rawtenstall and climbed Snowdon in memory of her late grandfather and raised £8,500. Her fundraising efforts so far have helped to build two shelters for children in Bangladesh.

Hannah completes many of her fundraising activities with her father, Jewel Miah, who was awarded an MBE in 2016 for voluntary services and says him and her grandfather are huge inspirations to her. She says that doing charity work and fundraising walks with her family make it more fun.

The bulk of Hannah's efforts thus far have gone to The Muslim Charity, setup to help street children in Bangladesh (the UN estimate there are over 600,000 street children in Bangladesh often abandoned or trafficked), but Hannah has also raised money for Human Aid and other charities.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah be considered for the nomination for the Civic Appreciation Award 2023. If the Awards are approved, the Ceremony will take place prior to the Council meeting on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023



## Report to Council

# Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report 2022/23

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon

**Officer Contact:** Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

**Report Author:** Lee Walsh, Finance Manager (Capital & Treasury)  
**Ext.** 6608

**14 December 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

This report advises Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2022/23 and provides a comparison of performance against the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

### Executive Summary

The Council is required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021). This report therefore sets out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review and outlines:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2022/23;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy, and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
- Why there has been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2022/23; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23.

Members will be aware that one of the roles of the Audit Committee is to scrutinize all Treasury Management reports before approval. Therefore, a version of this report was presented to the Audit Committee on 1 November 2022 to enable it to have the opportunity to review and scrutinize the 2022/23 Treasury Management Mid- Year Review report prior to its presentation to Cabinet. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. The report was considered by Cabinet at its meeting of 14 November 2022. Cabinet was content to commend the report to Council.

### **Recommendation**

That Council approves the:

- a) Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2022/23 and the projected outturn position
- b) Amendments to both Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report.
- c) Amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at section 2.4.5

## Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2022/23

### 1 Background

1.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operations is to ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested with low risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment return.

1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending operations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.

1.3 As a consequence, treasury management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

1.4 In December 2017, the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, (CIPFA), issued revised Prudential and Treasury Management Codes. Within these new Codes as from 2020/21, all Local Authorities have been required to prepare a Capital Strategy which is to provide the following:

- a) a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of services;
- b) an overview of how the associated risk is managed;
- c) the implications for future financial sustainability.

This change in practice was confirmed by the 2021 revision to the Codes.

1.5 The Council has traditionally prepared a Capital Strategy, but the requirements of the Prudential and Treasury Management Codes required a revised format and content to ensure alignment with both Codes. A report incorporating the new requirements was presented to the 2022/23 Budget Cabinet and Budget Council meetings.

### 2 Current Position

#### 2.1 Requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice

2.1.1 Treasury Management reports must be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021).

2.1.2 The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- a) Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
- b) Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.

- c) Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a **Mid-year Review Report** (this report) and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year.
- d) Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions. In Oldham, this responsibility is delegated to the Director of Finance.
- e) Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. In Oldham, the delegated body is the Audit Committee.

2.1.3 This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2022/23;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;
- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy and prudential indicators;
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23;
- Why there has been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2022/23; and
- A review of the compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23;

## 2.2 **Economic Update for the First Six Months of the Financial Year**

2.2.1 There has been much turbulence in the economy during the first six months of 2022/23, particularly during September after the "fiscal event" introduced by the then Chancellor of the Exchequer. The second quarter of 2022/23 saw:

- Gross Domestic product (GDP) revised upwards in Q1 2022/23 to +0.2% quarter on quarter (q/q) from -0.1%, which meant the UK economy avoided recession;
- Signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell due to rising energy prices;
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation ease to 9.9% year on year (y/y) in August, having been 9.0% in April, but domestic price pressures show little sign of abating in the near-term;
- The unemployment rate fall to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to a large shortfall in labour supply;
- Bank Rate rise by 100 basis points (bps) over the quarter, taking Bank Rate to 2.25% with further rises expected in the coming months;
- Gilt yields surge and sterling fall following the "fiscal event" of the then Prime Minister and Chancellor on 23 September.

2.2.2 The UK economy grew by 0.2% q/q in Q1 2022/23, though revisions to historic data left it below pre-pandemic levels.

2.2.3 There are signs of higher energy prices creating more persistent downward effects in economic activity. Both industrial production (-0.3% month on month (m/m)) and construction output (-0.8% m/m) fell in July 2022 for a second month in a row. Although the fall was likely due to the heat wave in the summer months, manufacturing output fell in some of the most energy intensive sectors (e.g., chemicals), pointing to signs of higher energy prices weighing on production. With the drag on real activity from high inflation having grown in recent months, GDP is at risk of contracting through the autumn and winter months.

- 2.2.4 The fall in the composite Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) from 49.6 in August to a 20-month low preliminary reading of 48.4 in September pointed to a fall in GDP of around 0.2% q/q in Q3 and consumer confidence was at a record low. Retail sales volumes fell by 1.6% m/m in August, which was the ninth fall in 10 months. That left sales volumes in August just 0.5% above their pre-Covid level and 3.3% below their level at the start of the year. There were also signs that households are spending their excess savings in response to high prices. Indeed, cash in households' bank accounts rose by £3.2bn in August, which was below the £3.9bn rise in July and much smaller than the 2019 average monthly rate of £4.6bn.
- 2.2.5 The labour market remained exceptionally tight. Data for July and August provided further evidence that the weaker economy is leading to a cooling in labour demand. The Labour Force Survey (LFS) showed employment rose by 40,000 in the three months to July (the smallest rise since February). But a renewed rise in inactivity of 154,000 over the same period meant that the unemployment rate fell from 3.8% in June to a new 48-year low of 3.6%. The single-month data showed that inactivity rose by 354,000 in July itself and there were 904,000 more inactive people aged 16+ compared to before the pandemic in February 2020. The number of vacancies has started to level off from recent record highs but there have been few signs of a slowing in the upward momentum on wage growth. Indeed, in July, the 3 month y/y rate of average earnings growth rose from 5.2% in June to 5.5%.
- 2.2.6 Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August, though inflation had not peaked yet. The easing in August was mainly due to a decline in fuel prices reducing fuel inflation from 43.7% to 32.1%. With the oil price just below \$90 per barrel at the end of August, it is highly likely that fuel prices will fall further in the coming months.
- 2.2.7 However, utility price inflation was expected to add 0.7% to CPI inflation in October when the Ofgem unit price cap increases to, typically, £2,500 per household (prior to any benefit payments). At the end of September, the Government froze utility prices at that level for two years and it was expected that energy price inflation would fall sharply after October and have a big downward influence on CPI inflation. Members must note that following a change in the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Government freeze on utility prices has been reduced from an initial 2-year period and ends in April 2023.
- 2.2.8 Nonetheless, the rise in services CPI inflation from 5.7% y/y in July to a 30-year high of 5.9% y/y in August suggested that domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating. A lot of that is being driven by the tight labour market and strong wage growth. CPI inflation is expected to peak close to 10.4% in November and, with the supply of workers set to remain unusually low, the tight labour market will keep underlying inflationary pressures strong until early next year.
- 2.2.9 During 2022, there has been a change of both Prime Minister and Chancellor. At the end of September (as advised above) there was a step change in Government policy via the "fiscal event". The Government's huge fiscal loosening from its proposed significant tax cuts have added to existing domestic inflationary pressures and will potentially leave a legacy of higher interest rates and public debt. Most of the proposals in place at the end of September contributed to a destabilising of the economy resulting in further considerable change. Members must note that at the time of writing the report for the Audit Committee, both the Prime Minister Liz Truss and the Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng had both left office. The Chancellor had been replaced by Jeremy Hunt who reversed a significant portion of the announcement made in the "fiscal event" and the Prime Minister Liz Truss had resigned. Following a short leadership contest, on the 25 October 2022 Rishi Sunak became Prime Minister replacing Liz Truss.
- 2.2.10 Fears that the Government had no fiscal anchor on the back of these announcements meant that the pound weakened again, adding further upward pressure to interest rates. Whilst the pound fell to a record low of \$1.035 on the Monday following the Government's "fiscal event", it subsequently recovered to around \$1.12. That was due to hopes that the Bank of England would deliver a very big rise in interest rates at the next policy meeting on 3 November 2022

and the Government would lay out a credible medium-term plan in the near term. This was originally expected as part of the fiscal statement on 23 November but was subsequently moved forward to 31 October 2022. This was later moved to the 17 November 2022 and became the Autumn Statement 2022. Nevertheless, with concerns over a global recession growing, there are downside risks to the pound.

- 2.2.11 The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has now increased interest rates seven times in as many meetings in 2022 and has raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, coming after the Federal Reserve Board (Fed) and European Central Bank (ECB) raised rates by 75 basis points (bps) in their most recent meetings. The Bank of England's 50 basis points increase looks relatively dovish. However, the UK's status as a large importer of commodities, which have jumped in price, means that households in the UK are now facing a much larger squeeze on their real incomes.
- 2.2.12 After the fiscal event on 23 September 2022, markets expected the MPC to increase interest rates further and faster, from 2.25% currently to a peak of 5.00% in February 2023. The combination of the Government's fiscal loosening, the tight labour market and sticky inflation expectations meant the current forecasts were expecting the MPC to raise interest rates by 100 bps at the policy meetings in November (to 3.25%) and 75 bps in December (to 4%) followed by further 50 bps increases in February and March (to 5.00%). Members should note that at the MPC meeting held on 3 November 2022, the base rate was increased by 0.75% to 3%. Market expectations as to what the MPC will do are volatile. If Bank Rate climbs to these levels, the housing market looks very vulnerable, which is one reason why the peak in our treasury advisors forecast is lower than the peak of 5.50% - 5.75% priced into the financial markets at present.
- 2.2.13 Throughout 2022/23, gilt yields have been on an upward trend. They were initially caught up in the global surge in bond yields triggered by the surprisingly strong rise in CPI inflation in the US in May. The rises in two-year gilt yields (to a peak of 2.37% on 21 June 2022) and 10-year yields (to a peak of 2.62%) took them to their highest level since 2008 and 2014 respectively. However, the upward trend was exceptionally sharp at the end of September as investors demanded a higher risk premium and expected faster and higher interest rate rises to offset the Government's fiscal stimulus plans. The 30-year gilt yield rose from 3.60% to 5.10% following the "fiscal event", which threatened financial stability by forcing pension funds to sell assets into a falling market to meet cash collateral requirements. In response, the Bank of England did two things. Firstly, it postponed its plans to start selling some of its quantitative easing (QE) gilt holdings until 31 October. Secondly, it committed to buy up to £65bn of long-term gilts to "restore orderly market conditions" until 14 October 2022. In theory, the Bank is restarting QE, although for financial stability rather than monetary policy reasons.
- 2.2.14 Since the Bank's announcement on 28 September 2022, the 30-year gilt yield has fallen back from 5.10% to 3.83%. The 2-year gilt yield dropped from 4.70% to 4.30% and the 10-year yield fell back from 4.55% to 4.09%.
- 2.2.15 The Bank continued with QE at the long end beyond 14 October 2022 in order to maintain greater stability across gilt markets following the volatility in the aftermath of the "fiscal event" (Mini Budget). So far at least, investors seem to have taken the Bank at its word that this is not a change in the direction of monetary policy nor a step towards monetary financing of the government's deficit. But instead, that it is a temporary intervention with financial stability in mind.
- 2.2.16 After a shaky start to the year, the Standard and Poors (S&P) 500 and Financial Times Stock Exchange (FTSE) 100 climbed in the first half of Q2 2022/23 before falling to their lowest levels since November 2020 and July 2021 respectively. The S&P 500 was 7.2% below its level at the start of the quarter, whilst the FTSE 100 is 5.2% below it as the fall in the pound has boosted the value of overseas earnings in the index. The decline has, in part, been driven by the rise in global real yields and the resulting downward pressure on equity valuations as well as concerns over economic growth leading to a deterioration in investor risk appetite.



## 2.3 Interest Rate Forecast

- 2.3.1 The Council's treasury advisor, the Link Group, has provided the following forecast of interest rates (at the end of Q2) over the period from December 2022 to September 2025 together with Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) Rates which are presented at certainty rates (gilt yields plus 80 bps).

Link Group Interest Rate View 27.09.22												
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
<b>BANK RATE</b>	4.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.75	2.50
3 month ave earnings	4.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	2.80	2.80	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.70	5.20	5.10	5.00	4.60	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60
12 month ave earnings	5.30	5.30	5.20	5.00	4.70	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70
5 yr PWLB	5.00	4.90	4.70	4.50	4.20	3.90	3.70	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
10 yr PWLB	4.90	4.70	4.60	4.30	4.10	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20
25 yr PWLB	5.10	4.90	4.80	4.50	4.30	4.10	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.60	3.50	3.40
50 yr PWLB	4.80	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.00	3.80	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.30	3.20	3.10

- 2.3.2 The forecast on 27 September 2022 (the end of the half year) sets out a view that both short and long-dated interest rates will be elevated for some little while, as the Bank of England seeks to squeeze inflation out of the economy, whilst the Government is providing a package of fiscal loosening to try and protect households and businesses from ultra-high wholesale gas and electricity prices.

- 2.3.3 The increase in PWLB rates reflects a broad sell-off in sovereign bonds internationally but more so the disaffection investors have with the position of the UK public finances after September's "fiscal event". To that end, the MPC has tightened short-term interest rates with a view to trying to slow the economy sufficiently to keep the secondary effects of inflation – as measured by wage rises – under control. The coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings.

## 2.4 Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Update

- 2.4.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23 was approved at the Council meeting on 2 March 2022. The underlying TMSS approved previously now requires revision in the light of economic and operational movements during the year. The proposed changes and supporting detail for the changes are set out in the next sections of this report.
- 2.4.2 A decrease is required to both the overall Authorised Limit (the "affordable borrowing limit" required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 above which the Council does not have the power to borrow) and Operational Boundary (the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year) for external debt. This indicator is made up of external borrowing and other long-term liabilities, Private Finance Initiatives (PFI) and Finance Leases. The revision to the limits aligns to the reduction in the Capital Financing Requirement as outlined at paragraph 2.4.4 and 2.4.5 below.
- 2.4.3 The Council has the following PFI and Public Private Partnership (PPP) Schemes each contributing to the Other Long-Term Liabilities element of the Authorised Limit and the Operational Boundary, thus making them both higher than if the Council was not required to present PFI schemes in this way:

- Gallery Oldham and Library
- Sheltered Housing (PFI2)
- Radclyffe and Failsworth Secondary Schools
- Chadderton Health & Well Being Centre
- Street Lighting
- Housing (PFI4)
- Blessed John Henry Newman RC College (Building Schools for the Future)

2.4.4 It will be necessary to reduce the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) by £45.434m. Whilst approved capital expenditure / funding carry forwards from 2021/22 caused an initial increase, this is more than offset by estimated re-phasing and re-alignment and other anticipated adjustments in the 2022/23 capital programme resulting in the reduced CFR.

2.4.5 Members are therefore requested to comment on the key changes to the 2022/23 prudential indicators as set out in the table below which show the original and recommended revised figures:

Prudential Indicator 2022/23	Original £'000	Recommended Revised Prudential Indicator £'000
Authorised Limit	548,000	495,500
Operational Boundary	523,000	475,500
Capital Financing Requirement	520,247	474,813

## 2.5 The Council's Capital Position (Prudential Indicators)

2.5.1 This section of the report presents the Council's capital expenditure plans and their financing, the impact of the changes in the capital expenditure plans on the prudential indicators and the underlying need to borrow together with compliance with the limits in place for borrowing activity.

### Prudential Indicator for Capital Expenditure

2.5.2 The table below shows the anticipated half year position and the revised budget for capital expenditure. This was more fully explained in the Month 6 Financial Monitoring Report presented to Cabinet on 12 December 2022. It therefore highlights the changes that have taken place and are forecast since the capital programme was agreed at the Council meeting on 2 March 2022.

Capital Expenditure by Service	2022/23 Original Estimate £'000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £'000
Community Health and Adult Social Care	2,547	1,868
Children's Services	5,425	7,686
Communities	908	446
Place and Economic Growth	75,875	49,068
Housing Revenue Account	3,383	571
Corporate/ Information Technology	5,590	4,679
Capital, Treasury & Technical Accounting	4,000	4,000
Funding for Emerging Priorities	2,520	0
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>100,248</b>	<b>68,318</b>

2.5.3 The above table shows an anticipated decrease in the capital programme of £31.930m at month 6 compared to the March 2022 position, with current forecast spend of £68.318m. During the summer months the Council undertook the Annual Review of the Capital Programme in line with the practice of recent years. The review identified a requirement for significant re-profiling across a number of schemes. Most of the re-phasing moved into the years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Changes to the Financing of the Capital Programme

2.5.4 The table below draws together the main strategy elements of the capital expenditure plans (above) highlighting the original supported (£53.258m) and unsupported elements i.e., requiring borrowing (£46.990m), and the expected financing (revised position) arrangements of this capital expenditure. The borrowing need element of the table increases the underlying indebtedness of the Council by way of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), although this will be reduced in part by revenue charges for the repayment of debt (the Minimum Revenue Provision). This direct borrowing need may also be supplemented by maturing debt and other treasury requirements.

2.5.5 The overall net reduction in the capital programme has resulted in a change in the mix of funding sources required in 2022/23; a decrease in total financing and also reducing the forecast borrowing need by £23.259m from £46.990m to £23.731m.

Capital Expenditure	2022/23 Original Estimate £'000	2022/23 Forecast Position £'000
Total Capital Expenditure	100,248	68,318
Financed by:		
Capital receipts	(4,472)	(5,365)
Capital grants – Ringfenced	(33,787)	(24,677)
Capital grants – Un-ringfenced	(11,714)	(13,928)
Other Contributions	(2)	(92)
Revenue	0	(54)
HRA Revenue	(3,283)	(471)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(53,258)</b>	<b>(44,587)</b>
<b>Borrowing Need</b>	<b>46,990</b>	<b>23,731</b>

Changes to the Prudential Indicators for the Capital Financing Requirement, External Debt and the Operational Boundary

2.5.6 The table below shows the CFR, which is the underlying external need to incur borrowing for a capital purpose. As previously mentioned in paragraph 2.4.4, the CFR needs to decrease by £45.434m. It also shows the expected debt position over the period (the Operational Boundary). This indicator has decrease to reflect the revisions to the forecast year end position of the capital programme.

	2022/23 Original Estimate £'000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £'000
<b>Prudential Indicator – Capital Financing Requirement</b>		
CFR – non housing	520,247	474,813
CFR – housing	0	0
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>520,247</b>	<b>474,813</b>
<b>Net movement in CFR</b>		<b>(45,434)</b>
<b>Prudential Indicator – External Debt / the Operational Boundary</b>		
Borrowing	316,500	269,000
Other long-term liabilities	206,500	206,500
<b>Total debt 31 March</b>	<b>523,000</b>	<b>475,500</b>

#### Limits to Borrowing Activity

- 2.5.7 The first key control over the treasury activity is a prudential indicator to ensure that over the medium term, net borrowing (borrowings less investments) will only be for a capital purpose.
- 2.5.8 Gross external borrowing should not, except in the short term, exceed the total of CFR in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional CFR for 2022/23 and next two financial years. This allows some flexibility for limited early borrowing for future years. The Council has approved a policy for borrowing in advance of need which will be adhered to if this proves prudent.
- 2.5.9 The CFR calculation is shown in the table below and the Director of Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with this prudential indicator as there is £108.515m headroom between total debt and the CFR.

	2022/23 Original Estimate £'000	2022/23 Revised Estimate £'000
Gross borrowing	195,993	161,749
Plus: other long- term liabilities*	204,736	204,549
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>400,729</b>	<b>366,298</b>
CFR* (year-end position)	520,247	474,813
<b>Headroom</b>	<b>119,518</b>	<b>108,515</b>

\* - Includes on balance sheet PFI schemes and financeleases

- 2.5.10 A further prudential indicator controls the overall level of borrowing. This is the Authorised Limit which represents the limit beyond which borrowing is prohibited and needs to be set and revised by Members. It reflects the level of borrowing which, while not desired, could be afforded in the short term, but is not sustainable in the longer term. It is the expected maximum borrowing need with some headroom for unexpected movements. This is the statutory limit determined under Section 3 (1) of the Local Government Act 2003. Presented in the table below is the original and the revised Authorised Limit.

Authorised Limit for External Debt	2022/23 Original Indicator £'000	2022/23 Revised Indicator £'000
Borrowing	336,500	284,000
Other long-term liabilities*	211,500	211,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>548,000</b>	<b>495,500</b>

\* - Includes on balance sheet PFI schemes and finance leases.

2.5.11 The table above shows a reduction in the Authorised Limit of £52.5m due to the reduction in the capital programme and the associated financing.

## 2.6 **Borrowing**

2.6.1 It is proposed in this report that the Council's CFR for 2022/23 is revised to £474.813m and this denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions.

2.6.2 The table within paragraph 2.5.9 shows the Council has expected year end borrowings of £366.298m and will have utilised £108.515m of cash flow funds in lieu of borrowing. This is a prudent and cost-effective approach in the current economic climate but will require on-going monitoring in the event that upside risk to gilt yields prevails.

2.6.3 The capital programme is being kept under regular review due to the effects of inflationary pressures, shortages of materials and labour. The borrowing strategy will, therefore, also be regularly reviewed and then revised, if necessary, in order to achieve optimum value and risk exposure in the long-term.

2.6.4 At this point it is not anticipated that borrowing will be undertaken during this financial year.

2.6.5 The Council applied in September 2022 for the certainty rate reduction. This entitles the Council to receive a 20-basis point rate reduction on the prevailing rate of PWLB on any borrowing undertaken from 1 November 2022 to 31 October 2023.

2.6.6 Current PWLB certainty rates and gilt yields were on a rising trend between 1 April and 30 September.

2.6.7 The 50-year PWLB target certainty rate for new long-term borrowing started 2022/23 at 2.20% before increasing to 4.80% in September 2022. The PWLB rates are set out in the following table and show for a selection of maturity periods over the first half of 2022/23, the range (high and low points) in rates and the average rates over the period. In addition, Appendix 2 tracks the movement in the PWLB certainty rate over the period April to September 2022 across the same range of loan terms as is used in the table below.

<b>Maturity Rates</b>	<b>1 Year</b>	<b>5 Year</b>	<b>10 Year</b>	<b>25 Year</b>	<b>50 Year</b>
Low	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
Date	04/04/22	13/05/22	04/04/22	04/04/22	04/04/22
High	5.11%	5.44%	5.35%	5.80%	5.51%
Date	28/09/22	28/09/22	28/09/22	28/09/22	28/09/22
Average	2.81%	2.92%	3.13%	3.44%	3.17%
Spread	3.16%	3.26%	2.99%	3.28%	3.26%

## 2.7 Debt Rescheduling

- 2.7.1 Debt rescheduling opportunities have been very limited in the current economic climate and following the various increases in the margins added to gilt yields which have impacted PWLB new borrowing rates since October 2010. No debt rescheduling has therefore been undertaken to date in the current financial year.
- 2.7.2 However, now that the whole of the yield curve has shifted higher there may be better opportunities in the future, although only prudent and affordable debt rescheduling will be considered.

## 2.8 Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Indicators

- 2.8.1 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the affordable borrowing limits. During the half year ended 30 September 2022, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 and continues to manage its treasury affairs in a prudent manner. The Director of Finance reports that no difficulties are envisaged for the current or future years in complying with these indicators.
- 2.8.2 All treasury management operations have also been conducted in full compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.

## 2.9 Annual Investment Strategy

- 2.9.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2022/23, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the Council on 2 March 2022. In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity.
- 2.9.2 The Council will aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity and with the Council's risk appetite. In current economic climate as detailed in 2.3, it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term to cover cash flow needs, but also to seek out value available in periods up to 12 months with high credit rated financial institutions, using the Link suggested creditworthiness approach, including a minimum sovereign credit rating and Credit Default Swap (CDS) overlay information.

### Creditworthiness

- 2.9.3 Following the Governments fiscal event on 23 September 2022, both Standard and Poor's (S&P) and Fitch have placed the UK sovereign debt rating on a Negative Outlook reflecting a downside bias to the current ratings in light of expectations of weaker finances and the economic outlook.

### Investment Counterparty criteria

- 2.9.4 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.

### CDS Prices

- 2.6.13 It is noted that sentiment can easily shift, so it remains important to undertake continual monitoring of all aspects of risk and return in the current circumstances.

### Investment Balances

- 2.6.14 The Council held £107.700m of investments, including property funds as at 30 September 2022 (£105.300m at 31 March 2022). A full list of investments as at 30 September is included at Appendix 1. A summary of investments by type is included in the table below.

- 2.6.15 The Council ensures enough funds are kept in either instant access accounts and/ or on-call accounts to meet its short-term liquidity requirements. As at 30 September the Council held £42.700m in Money Market Funds. Rates on Money Markets are currently quite high compared to previous years therefore higher balances are currently invested whilst the market is volatile as these rates increase quickly.

Investment Type	Total at 30 September 2022 £'000
Property	15,000
Fixed (Term Deposits) Bank / Building Society	35,000
Certificates of Deposit (CD)	15,000
Money Market Fund (MMF)	42,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>107,700</b>

- 2.6.16 The Director of Finance confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during the first six months of 2022/23.

- 2.6.17 The Council's investment strategy looks to achieve a return on its investment of Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) plus a 5% mark up. The Council will maintain sufficient cash reserves to give it its necessary liquidity and may place investments up to 10 years if the cash flow forecast allows and the credit rating criteria is met. Performance against this benchmark was as follows:

Benchmark	Benchmark Return SONIA +5%	Investment Interest Earned £	Council Performance
7 days	1.25%	247,951	1.11%
1 month	1.17%	9,500	0.61%
3 months	0.96%	26,504	0.78%
6 months	0.70%	486,366	1.72%
<b>Total Interest</b>		<b>770,321</b>	
<b>Average Return first 6 months</b>	<b>1.02%</b>		<b>1.39%</b>

- 2.6.18 The Council's performance on its cash investments due to the current volatility in the market only exceeded its target in the 6 month period, but average return exceeded across all investment periods as can be seen in the table above. These investments have earned £0.770m to date.
- 2.6.19 The current investment counterparty criteria selection approved in the TMSS is meeting the requirement of the treasury management function.
- 2.6.20 The table below shows the bank rate and SONIA for a selection of maturity periods over the first half of 2022/23, the range (high and low points) in rates and the average rates over the period.

Maturity Rates	Bank Rate	SONIA	7 DAY SONIA	30 DAY SONIA	90 DAY SONIA	180 DAY SONIA
Low	0.75%	0.69%	0.69%	0.57%	0.39%	0.23%
Date	01/04/22	28/04/22	29/04/22	01/04/22	01/04/22	01/04/22
High	2.25%	2.19%	2.19%	1.82%	1.55%	1.22%
Date	22/09/22	30/09/22	30/09/22	30/09/22	30/09/22	30/09/22
Average	1.28%	1.22%	1.19%	1.11%	0.91%	0.67%
Spread	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.26%	1.16%	0.99%

#### Property Fund

- 2.6.21 In the first six months of the year the Councils investment within the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) property fund has generated a return of (3.18%).

#### 2.10 Other Key Issues

- 2.10.1 The Council has a number of Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans that have a call date within the next few months. The lender has the option to increase the interest rate when each loan reaches its call date.
- 2.10.2 These loans currently have an interest rate lower than the market rate. Due to the current volatility and increasing borrowing rates within the market, these loans could possibly have the interest rate increased at the call date. The Council would then have the option to accept the increased interest rate or could repay the loans. The treasury team will monitor this situation and report back to Members at a future date on any loans that have been repaid.
- 2.10.3 The Council repaid £6.600m of loan stock which had reached its maturity date at the end of September 2022, thus reducing its level of outstanding debt as this borrowing has not been replaced.

### 3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Cabinet has no option other than to consider and approve the contents of the report. Therefore, no options/alternatives have been presented.



## **4 Preferred Option**

4.1 The preferred option is that Council approves the recommendations in the Treasury Management Mid-Year Review Report.

## **5 Consultation**

5.1 Consultation has taken place with Link Asset Services (the Council's Treasury Management Advisors), and Senior Officers. The report was presented to the Audit Committee on 1 November 2022 for scrutiny prior to its consideration by Cabinet. All matters raised by Audit Committee Members were addressed at the meeting to the satisfaction of the Committee and the Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. At its meeting on 14 November 2022, Cabinet approved the report and commended it to Council.

## **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 All included within the report.

## **7 Legal Services Comments**

7.1 None.

## **8 Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 The Council ensures that any Treasury Management decisions comply as far as possible with the ethos of the Co-operative Council.

## **9 Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None.

## **10 Risk Assessments**

10.1 There are considerable risks to the security of the Authority's resources if appropriate treasury management strategies and policies are not adopted and followed. The Council has established good practice in relation to treasury management which has previously been acknowledged in both Internal and the External Auditors' reports presented to the Audit Committee.

## **11 IT Implications**

11.1 None.

## **12 Property Implications**

12.1 None.

## **13 Procurement Implications**

13.1 None.

## **14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None.

## **15 Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

15.1 None.

**16 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No.

**17 Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

**18 Key Decision Reference**

18.1 FLC-18-22

**19 Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of the 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 that Act.

File Ref: Background papers are contained with Appendices 1, 2A, 2B & 2C  
Officer Name: Lee Walsh/Talei Whitmore  
Contact No: 0161 770 6608 / 4424

**20 Appendices**

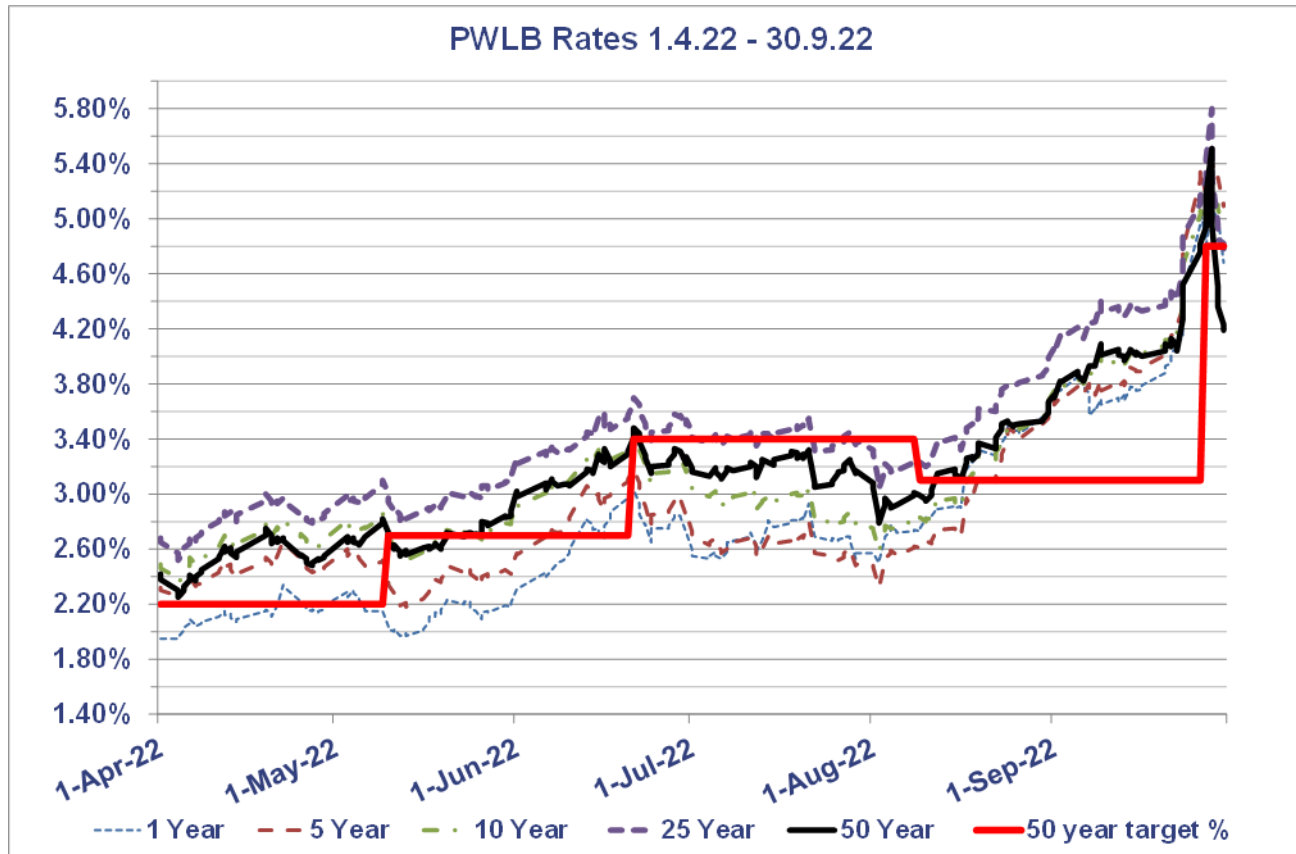
Appendix 1 Investments as at 30 September 2022  
Appendix 2A PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 2022/23  
Appendix 2B Comparison of Borrowing parameters to actual external borrowing - Table  
Appendix 2C Comparison of Borrowing parameters to actual external borrowing -Graph

Appendix 1 Investments as at 30 September 2022

Investments	Type	30th September 2022 £'000	Interest Rate	Date of Investment	Date of Maturity
CCLA Property Fund	Property	15,000	3.18%	Prior Years	open
<b>Total Property Fund</b>		<b>15,000</b>			
Nationwide Building Society	Fixed	5,000	1.22%	19-May-22	21-Nov-22
Close Brothers Ltd	Fixed	5,000	1.30%	25-May-22	25-Nov-22
SMBC	Fixed	5,000	1.97%	28-Jun-22	28-Dec-22
Close Brothers Ltd	Fixed	5,000	2.00%	29-Jun-22	29-Dec-22
Goldman Sachs	Fixed	5,000	2.28%	01-Aug-22	01-Feb-23
SMBC	Fixed	5,000	2.48%	12-Aug-22	13-Feb-23
Santander UK PLC	Fixed	5,000	3.08%	08-Sep-22	08-Mar-23
<b>Total Fixed Investments</b>		<b>35,000</b>			
Lloyds Bank PLC	CD	10,000	1.97%	08-Jul-22	06-Jan-23
Santander PLC	CD	5,000	1.99%	14-Jul-22	14-Dec-22
<b>Total Certificate of Deposit</b>		<b>15,000</b>			
Invesco MM Fund	MMF	20,000	2.01%	23-Sep-22	
Federated MM Fund	MMF	13,770	2.05%	29-Sep-22	
Aberdeen Standard MM Fund	MMF	8,930	2.10%	30-Sep-22	
<b>Total Money Market Fund</b>		<b>42,700</b>			
<b>Total</b>		<b>107,700</b>			

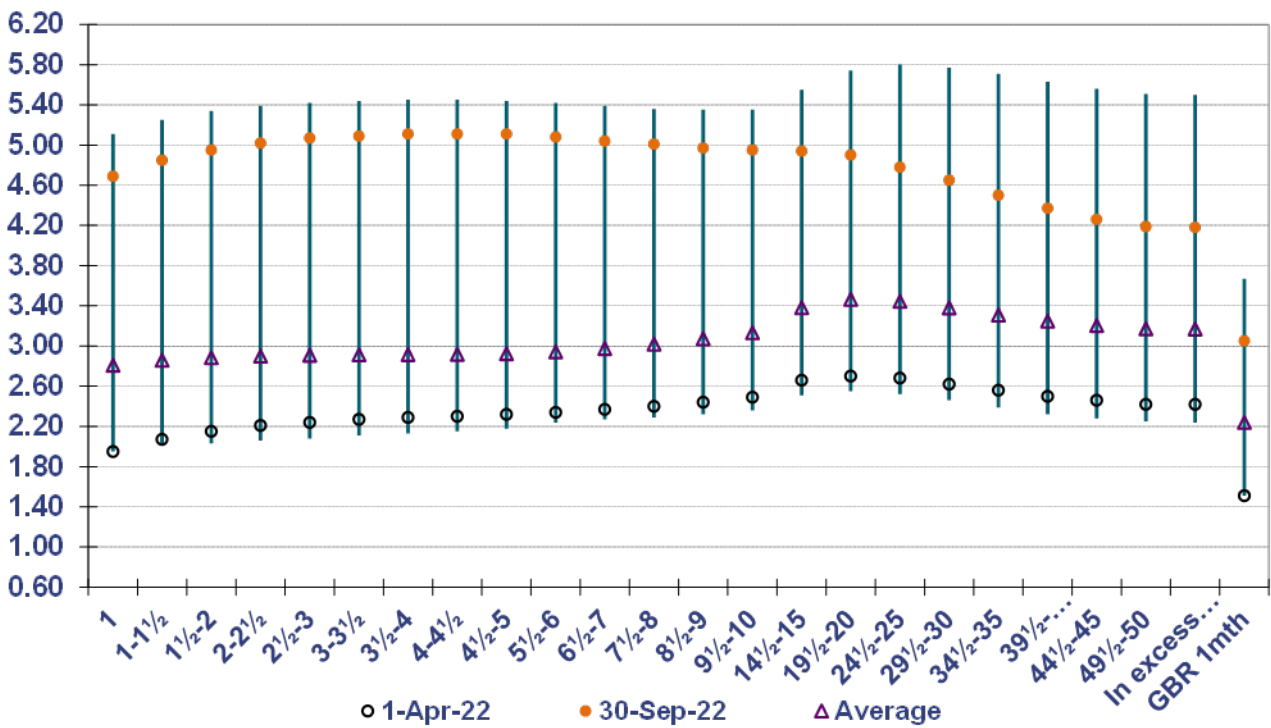
Appendix 2

2A) PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 2022/23



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
<b>Low</b>	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	2.25%
<b>Date</b>	01/04/2022	13/05/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022
<b>High</b>	5.11%	5.44%	5.35%	5.80%	5.51%
<b>Date</b>	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022
<b>Average</b>	2.81%	2.92%	3.13%	3.44%	3.17%
<b>Spread</b>	3.16%	3.26%	2.99%	3.28%	3.26%

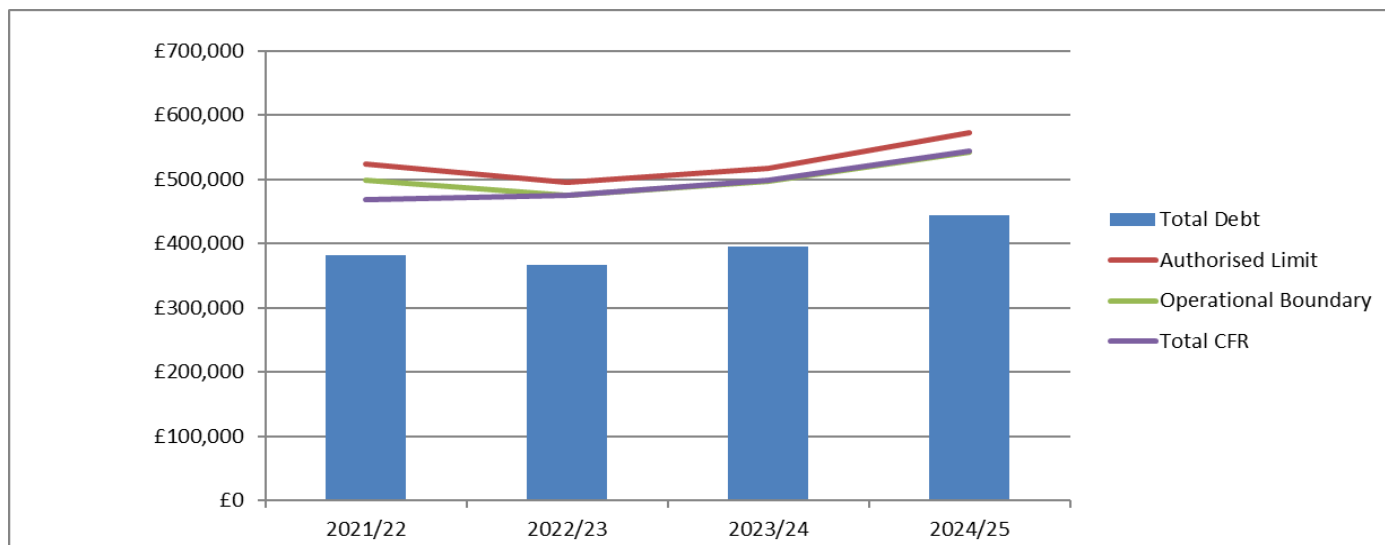
PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 1.4.22 to 30.9.22



## 2B) Comparison of borrowing parameters to actual external borrowing (Table)

CAPITAL FINANCING REQUIREMENTS					
	Actual	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	
	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>CFR (including PFI and finance leases)</b>					
GFCFR	£468,895	£474,813	£498,419	£543,327	
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>£468,895</b>	<b>£474,813</b>	<b>£498,419</b>	<b>£543,327</b>	
<b>CFR (excluding PFI and finance leases)</b>					
GFCFR	£255,259	£270,369	£304,646	£360,919	
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>£255,259</b>	<b>£270,369</b>	<b>£304,646</b>	<b>£360,919</b>	
<b>External Borrowing</b>	<b>£167,597</b>	<b>£161,749</b>	<b>£201,749</b>	<b>£261,749</b>	
<b>Deferred Liabilities</b>	<b>£213,448</b>	<b>£204,549</b>	<b>£193,773</b>	<b>£182,408</b>	
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>£381,045</b>	<b>£366,298</b>	<b>£395,522</b>	<b>£444,157</b>	
Authorised Limit	£523,000	£495,500	£517,500	£572,500	
Authorised Limit ex Deferred Liabilities	£303,000	£284,000	£318,000	£374,500	
Operational Boundary	£498,000	£475,500	£497,500	£542,500	
Operational Boundary ex Deferred Liabilities	£283,000	£269,000	£303,000	£359,500	

## 2C) Comparison of borrowing parameters to actual external borrowing (Graph)





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