

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 15 March 2023**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 7 March 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 Civic Appreciation Awards
Miss. Keira Louise Arnold, Miss.Hannah Miah, Mr.Ibrahim Yousaf BEM BCyA
- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 14th December 2023 and 1st March 2023 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 36)
Minutes of the meeting held on 1st March 2023 to follow.
- 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)

There is one Petition to note:

Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth
Petition in relation to the implementation of a parking scheme of three hour waiting outside the Salvation Army Citadel, Farrow Street, Shaw
(33 signatures)

- 8 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

Protected Characteristics for Care Experience

Many care experienced people face discrimination, stigma, and prejudice in their day to day lives. Public perceptions of care experience centre on the idea that we are irredeemably damaged and that can lead to discrimination and assumptions being made.

We do realise discrimination we face often comes from unbiased prejudice and what is reported about care experienced people. For instance, despite care experienced people making up around 1.4 per cent of the UK population, they account for 25 per

cent of homeless people in England and a quarter of the prison population. Nearly half of all under 21-year-olds in contact with the criminal justice system have been in care. When we look at the statistics like these it's easy to see why people make assumptions about the likely characteristics of children and adults that have care experience. Issues around school attainment, and behaviour within school of some in the care system will lead to the way care experience is discussed in schools, workplaces, and the media. However, we are not statistics, we are just young people struggling with everyday life like everyone else.

We feel that when things go wrong it is expected due to our circumstances, but if things go right, we succeed despite our circumstances. Care experienced young people don't want our care being mentioned or used as an excuse, as it makes people look at us differently. Comments like "You're smart - for a kid in care" and "it's understandable with what you deal with", make us want to pretend to be someone else.

When we talk with colleagues in schools and as part of the Children in Care Council, we have realised that the discrimination and unconscious bias, at its worst, can lead to care experienced people being refused employment, failing to succeed in education or facing unfair judgements about our ability to live independently or even to have families of their own. Designating care experience a protected characteristic would mean decision-makers would have to consider the needs of care experienced young people more seriously and have to consider how their decisions and policies affect people with care experience.

This discrimination, that they have experienced, is similar in nature to other groups that have a legally protected characteristic under the Equality Act (2010). So, while there may be ways that society can help reduce stigma and discrimination, including creating greater public consciousness on these issues, just as with other areas of equality, there is a case to go further. Therefore, the Council should make care experience a protected characteristic for Oldham.

We propose that the council notes:

- Care experienced people face significant barriers that impact them throughout their lives.
- Despite the resilience of many care experienced people, society too often does not take their needs into account and often face discrimination and stigma across housing, health, education, relationships, employment and in the criminal justice system;
- As corporate parents, councillors and officers have a collective responsibility for providing the best possible care and safeguarding for Oldham's children and young people who are looked after by the authority.
- All corporate parents should commit to acting as mentors, hearing the voices of looked after children and young people and to consider their needs in all aspects of council work.
- Councillors should be champions of the children in our care and challenge the negative attitudes and prejudice that exists in all aspects of society.

We propose that the Council therefore resolves:

- That it recognises that care experienced people are a group who are likely to face discrimination.
- That it recognises that Councils have a duty to put the needs of disadvantaged people at the heart of decision-making through co-production and collaboration.
- That future decision, services and policies made and adopted by the Council

should be assessed through Equality Impact Assessments to determine the impact of changes on people with care experience, alongside those who formally share a protected characteristic.

- That in the delivery of the Public Sector Equality Duty the Council includes care experience in the publication and review of Equality Objectives and the annual publication of information relating to people who share a protected characteristic in services and employment.
- That this Council will treat care experience as if it were a Protected Characteristic.
- To formally call upon all other bodies to treat care experience as a protected characteristic until such time as it may be introduced by legislation.
- For the council to continue proactively seeking out and listening to the voices of care experienced people when developing new policies based on their views.

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 and Urgent decisions taken (Pages 37 - 66)

(time limit 15 minutes)

14th November 2022

12th December 2022

23rd January 2023

Urgent Decisions

10 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Actions Not Ambitions – A Renewable Energy Future

Councillor Jabbar to MOVE and Councillor Akhtar to SECOND:

We have seen a significant increase in the cost of energy since the start of the War in Ukraine, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, meaning that residents and businesses in Oldham are facing energy bills almost twice what they were 18 months ago.

Next month, the Energy Price Guarantee will rise to around £3,000 a year for a typical household, this is an almost £2,000 rise from the Energy Price Cap set in August 2021 at £1,277. Lower and middle-income households in Oldham are struggling with this increase.

A survey by the Federation of Small Businesses in November 2022 found that 25% of their members had seen their energy costs double and 19% have seen their energy costs triple.

Whilst support from central Government has been welcomed by both households and businesses, it has not gone far enough. More than half the residents responding to the GM Residents survey say they are having difficulties paying their bills. Almost a quarter of businesses in the FSBs survey anticipate that with further energy bills rises coming in April they will have to close, downsize or radically restructure.

At a time where oil and gas supplies are restricted, investment in the UK's renewable energy sector is paramount to creating energy security and ensuring that people in towns like Oldham are not impacted by the effects of a conflict over a thousand miles away.

Oldham has ambitious targets to become the Greenest Borough in Greater Manchester and meet the goal of being a carbon neutral borough by 2030, with the council being carbon neutral by 2025.

In doing this we have invested in renewable energy schemes across Oldham, including our pioneering Mine Water Heat Network. To protect the people of Oldham from further shocks to the energy market, as well as to meet the council's ambitious climate targets, municipal investment in renewable energy is an innovative way of utilising council owned assets to add value and support the local economy.

Whilst Oldham is not known for its sunny weather, solar panels are able to be used in all weather, with rain and wind helping their efficiency by clearing away dust and debris that block light from reaching the panels. By installing solar panels at council assets and building a solar farm at Wrigley Head, Oldham Council can utilise renewable energy created here in Oldham to meet these targets and reduce our own energy bill in the process.

This Council notes:

- 57% of respondents to the GM Residents Survey say they are struggling to pay their energy bills.
- Since the We Can Help initiative was launched in September 2022, over £100,000 has gone to residents directly to help them with their energy bills, an increase of 200% compared to the same time period last year.
- That Oldham Council has been leading the way with innovative renewable energy solutions, including the continuing Oldham Mine Water Heat Network project, Wrigley Head Solar Farm and community energy schemes.
- This Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and became the first Green New Deal Local Authority in the country in 2020.
- As a local authority we are committed to exploring all options to help support residents and make sure that they are able to heat their homes by doubling funding to our Warm Homes programme.
- The work that the council is undertaking across all departments to ensure that our ambitious climate targets are met.
- That central government has backed our Greener Oldham plans with our successful £20m Levelling Up bid – one of only three successful bids in Greater Manchester.

This Council resolves to:

- Ensure that the council continues its ambitious plans for the council to be operating as a carbon neutral council by 2025.
- Continue to work towards a carbon neutral Oldham by 2030, and a carbon neutral Greater Manchester by 2038.
- Explore further options for renewable energy schemes across the Borough.
- Commit to re-evaluating all council owned assets for the viability of having solar

panels installed to maximise the renewable energy generated by the Council.

- Explore the creation of a Local Energy Market to sell excess energy generated by council renewable assets to residents at a reasonable price, independent of the main energy providers, and to support the development of privately owned renewable energy generation in Oldham which can also help residents and businesses to reduce their energy bills through schemes like the Oldham Energy Futures project - piloted in Sholver and Westwood – and the Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership.

This Council further resolves to:

Work alongside the partner agencies to identify more sites in the Borough which could potentially help Oldham reduce its reliance on fossil fuels.

Work alongside a future Labour government to support the creation of a national public energy company, where the income generated will be reinvested into the UK, rather than into the pockets of shareholders or other nations who own energy companies operating in the UK.

Motion 2

A Fit and Proper Healthy Start

Councillor Munroe to MOVE and Councillor Chadderton to SECOND:

Lower-income families in Oldham are missing out on thousands of pounds worth of Healthy Start vouchers which help feed babies and young children. The national Healthy Start scheme helps parents, carers and pregnant women pay for milk, formula, fruit and vegetables.

Pregnant women, parents and carers who have children aged three or under and in receipt of certain benefits are eligible for the scheme. It is estimated millions of pounds worth of Healthy Start Vouchers are unclaimed across the country. Families who are entitled to help face hardship because of complications in the system and delays in being accepted onto the scheme.

The campaign group Pregnant Then Screwed recently conducted research which found that three quarters of mothers who pay for childcare say that it doesn't make financial sense for them to work. A quarter of parents said that childcare costs equate to almost 75% of their pay packet. And half of parents say that they have had to reduce the number of hours they work because childcare has become unaffordable.

This Council Notes:

- That families in Oldham are struggling to pay expensive childcare bills, and that more often than not this leads to women not being able to work full time
- That the early years sector is struggling to make ends meet and that it requires fundamental urgent reform
- Despite collaborative effort the take up of Healthy Start Vouchers is only 67% of eligible families in Oldham
- The value of Healthy Start Vouchers has not changed since April 2021, despite research from the British Pregnancy Advisory Service showing that the price of some of the cheaper infant formula brands has increased by 22%. In addition, the rate of inflation has also been unequal across food groups with higher inflation on fresh produce meaning those receiving the benefit get less food for their money.

This Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Managing Director of Children and Young

People to organise a campaign to further increase take up of Healthy Start vouchers in the Borough

- Ask the Government to increase the value of the Healthy Start vouchers by at least 14% to match general food inflation to support residents with the cost-of-living crisis.
- Continue to push for reform to provide affordable childcare to all Oldhamers
- Ask the responsible Cabinet member(s) to explore whether any extra support can be provided to early years providers in the Borough
- Continue to work with schools on our poverty proofing audits – to make sure children from low income backgrounds can participate fully in all aspects of learning and reduce stigma attached to poverty
- Commit to use the newly developed Equality Impact Assessment Tool to determine the impact of council decisions on Children and Young People.

11 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Reputation of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council At An All Time Low

Councillor Sharp to MOVE and Councillor Arnott to SECOND:

Oldham is a town made up of decent hard-working people. There is an untapped potential which is yet to be unleashed. Sadly, the same cannot be said of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC).

OMBC is dragging our Borough down, due to poor leadership and mismanagement of our history, assets and services.

The failure of OMBC to deliver the best possible services that many residents rely on and pay for, is one of the key reasons why this administration is failing this Borough. It is not the hard-working frontline staff that are to blame, they have been dealt a bad hand, it is the lack of leadership and responsibility at the top. There is an iron law at the top of OMBC; which is that it is run in the interests of those who run it, instead of those who pay for it.

Driven by the next press release or headline, OMBC and this administration is failing to manage the numerous town centre focused projects properly, such as the thirty-two million pound overspend on the Cinema, the failed 'Hotel Future and Conference Centre' that was never built, two Coliseum theatre plans that were scrapped, Marks and Spencer's, Lidl and a 'Budget' Hotel at Princes' Gate scrapped and failing to materialise.

It is no wonder residents fear the costs of the Spindles/Town Centre project running over budget by tens of millions of pounds given the Councils track record.

The bunker mentality that exists within the administration and leadership of OMBC is damaging this Borough. The failure by the administration to attract the right investment and failure to deliver on existing projects is damaging the prospects of our Borough.

The failure to attract the right talent starts and ends with those at the top.

In 2012 Oldham Council was runner up in the prestigious most improved council award and in 2014 Oldham was 'highly commended' at the LGA Council of the Year Awards. Since that high water mark things have gone very wrong and it is clear radical

measures need to be taken to restore the confidence of our residents, our business community, and our workforce.

Now more than ever we need to restore pride in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham. It is clear this Council's strengths are; spending millions of pounds of resident's hard-earned money and throwing it away on failed scheme after failed scheme. It is clear this Council does not have the experience to manage the Borough's finances and is incapable of bringing regeneration schemes to fruition in Oldham.

If Oldham is to have any chance of rebuilding residents trust, incentivising people to stay or move into the area with their families and offering a full rounded living experience, then there needs to be massive change at this Council. Sadly this administration is not fit for purpose and nor is the leadership at the top of OMBC.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Admit that it is currently out of its depth and is incapable of building Oldham back up again without the necessary help and expertise.
- To write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, noting that Oldham needs to seek professional support from external bodies in writing achievable funding bids for future projects and to ask for Oldham to be provided with extra support and guidance on how to run a local authority.

Motion 2

Removing Oldham Borough from Places for Everyone

Councillor Al-Hamdani to MOVE and Councillor H Gloster to SECOND:

This council notes that:

In December 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities made a statement in the House of Commons in relation to an update on the Levelling up Bill.

This statement effectively represented a move away from top-down, mandatory housing targets.

The Secretary of State further added it will be up to Local Authorities, working with their communities, to determine how many homes can actually be built, taking into account what should be protected in each area, be that in our precious Green Belt or National Parks.

The Secretary of State further outlined how those local authorities with local plans at an advanced stage of preparation who will not benefit from these provisions can take advantage of transitional arrangements to produce plans that are compliant with the new guidance.

It has always been the position of Oldham Council that Places for Everyone (and the Green Belt development therein) was only necessary because of the top-down, mandatory housing targets that the government was imposing on local authorities.

This council believes that:

Although this Council is part of the Places for Everyone submission, we have no adopted local plan.

As such the housing need calculation made within Places for Everyone is now obsolete and not in line with national guidance.

Tackling the housing crisis is essential, in order to provide fairer futures for the next generation; and that a plan that works for all of Oldham Borough is best developed in Oldham Borough, by this Council and in consultation with the people we represent.

This council resolves to:

1. Withdraw Oldham Council from the Places for Everyone Plan as an immediate priority.
2. Develop a joint approach to calculating housing need through community consultation; with a reinforced brownfield first policy and a focus on ex-industrial clean up and repurposing of Oldham's industrial legacy buildings.
3. Reaffirm our commitment to the preservation of Green Belt and the places of natural beauty that make Oldham Borough unique.
4. Failing the above the Council seeks an urgent review of housing allocations in Places for Everyone Plan, to ensure the numbers are reduced and are reduced specifically on green sites in Oldham.
5. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to request a national brownfield first policy along with the funding to enable decisions to build the houses we need to be made, in the places we need with the infrastructure we need such as health services, schools and transport.

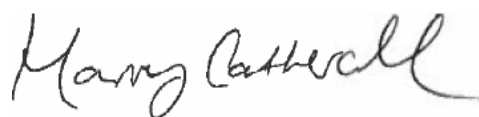
12 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 67 - 106)

13 Annual Reports 2022 (Pages 107 - 218)

Report to follow

14 Review of Special Responsibility Allowances for Members appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Pages 219 - 244)

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



**Harry Catherall
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



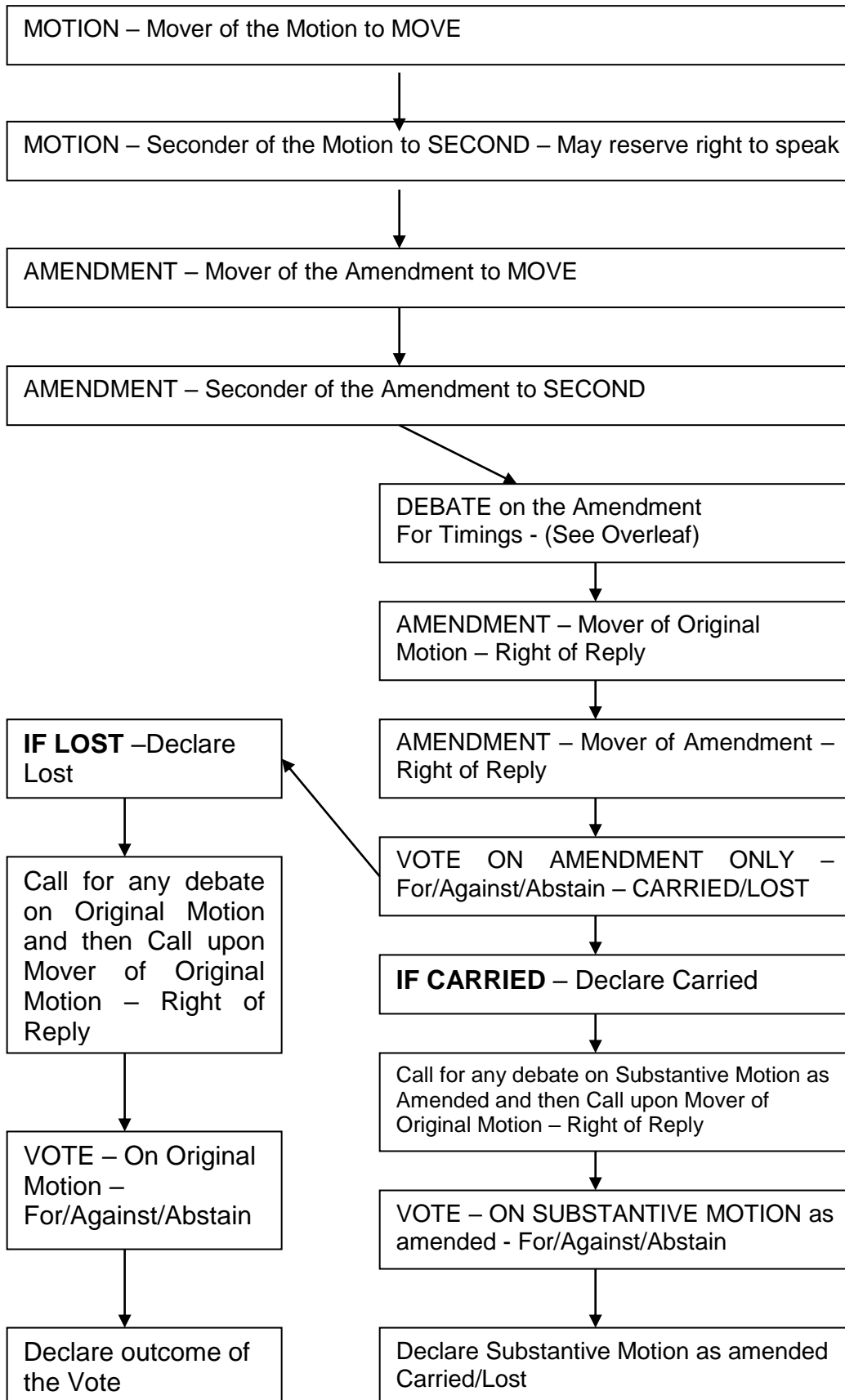
Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT





COUNCIL
14/12/2022 at 2.30 pm

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

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

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Alyas, Azad, S. Bashforth, Chauhan, Iqbal, Islam, Marland and Quigg.

2 GREATER MANCHESTER POLICING PLAN UPDATE

The Mayor welcomed Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen to the meeting, who addressed Members, updating Council on the Greater Manchester Policing Plan, further to his last attendance at Council (on 3rd November 2021, minute 6).

He reminded Council that Greater Manchester Police (GMP) had previously made five promises to the people of Greater Manchester, that were outlined in November 2021, namely: -

1. To respond to incidents and emergencies
2. To investigate and solve crime
3. To prevent, reduce crime, reduce harm and reduce anti-social behaviour
4. To deliver outstanding service
5. To build back public trust and confidence

Chief Superintendent Bowen added that statistically GMP was the most improved police force in the country. GMP was in the top 10% of forces for answering and reacting to 999 calls and their response rates to 101 calls were also good. The force was getting to over 85% of Grade 1 emergency calls within the required 15 minutes.

In Oldham arrests had risen by 51% and there had been significant progress made in the battle against domestic violence. Correspondingly there has been no increase in the numbers of complaints made against GMP, or its officers by members of the public.

Councillor Chadderton asked about progress relating to Operation Sherwood, further to the special meeting of the Council held on 27th June 2022. Chief Superintendent Bowen said that he could not comment on an ongoing investigation in detail.

Councillor C Phythian asked about plans that were in place to counter speeding motorists, which was an issue of particular concern in the Borough's Royton North ward. Chief

Superintendent Bowen replied that countering speeding traffic was a GMP priority and plans were in place to bring all traffic enforcement under one department, which would help to ensure more effective enforcement.

Councillor Sykes asked when the public would start to feel the benefits and the difference from the implementation of the Greater Manchester policing priorities and sought clarification on DBS checks. Chief Superintendent Bowen replied that Greater Manchester police were recruiting 120 new police officers every five weeks and the Oldham division would, receive a pro-rata number of new officers with each intake. Oldham was expected to receive an additional seven officers, in January 2023, as part of the pro-rat allocation. Regarding DBS checks Chief Superintendent Bowen undertook to write to the Council with an update.

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked if GMP were working towards each Ward having a 'named officer' which was a stated commitment of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Mayor. Chief Superintendent Bowen confirmed that there were two Wards in the Borough that were currently without a named officer and that, from March 2023, neighbourhood policing should be at full strength in the Borough. The secondment of Neighbourhood Officers would continue in the event of resourcing pressures.

Councillor Sheldon referred to numerous examples of dangerous driving occurring in Saddleworth and the dangers that such negligent activity posed to members of the public. He therefore asked if GMP were dealing adequately with dangerous and speeding drivers and whether the police had enough resources to tackle the problem? Chief Superintendent Bowen replied that addressing the issue of speeding and dangerous drivers was a priority for GMP and he outlined several measures that the force was taking to address this issue including the use of mobile speed cameras.

Councillor Arnott referred to an incident in 2021 when ex-Councillor Shah's motor vehicle was fire-bombed. Chief Superintendent Bowen replied that it would not be appropriate to comment on a live investigation.

Councillor Hobin asked about rotas for Police Constables and PCSOs. Chief Superintendent Bowen commented that these rotas are being combined to avoid over or under staffing as part of the Neighbourhood Policing review.

Councillor Rea referred to the 'CSE helpline that had been established and whether it had been of any assistance to GMP in their investigations. Chief Superintendent Bowen did not provide exact figures in relation to the uptake of the helpline.

The Mayor thanked Chief Superintendent Bowen for his attendance.

3

TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 2ND NOVEMBER 2022 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of Council, held on 2nd November 2022, be approved as a correct record.

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

Members of the Council declared interest as follows:

- a. Councillor Lancaster declared a pecuniary interest by virtue of his employment with the Royal British Legion, insofar as it affected the agenda item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business – Motion 1, entitled: ‘Supporting our Armed Forces Community’).
- b. Councillor Arnott declared a non-registerable interest by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension in respect of his service with the Armed Forces, insofar as it affected the agenda item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business – Motion 1, entitled: ‘Supporting our Armed Forces Community’).
- c. Councillor Birch declared an other registerable interest in agenda item 9c (Questions on Cabinet Minutes – 17th October 2022) insofar as they referred to Positive Steps an organisation of which she was a Trustee.
- d. Councillor Roberts declared an other registerable interest in agenda item 9c (Questions on Cabinet Minutes – 17th October 2022) insofar as they referred to Positive Steps an organisation of which she was a Trustee.
- e. Councillor Hamblett declared an other registerable interest in agenda item 9c (Questions on Cabinet Minutes – 17th October 2022) insofar as they referred to Positive Steps an organisation of which he was a Trustee.

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

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

TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor asked Members to note that Hannah Roberts was elected as a Member for the Hollinwood Ward, following the by-election that was held on Thursday, 17th November 2022. The Mayor permitted Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, to address the meeting. Councillor Chadderton referred to the recent sad news from Solihull, West Midlands where three young boys had tragically died in an accident and she also issued a statement in relation to Strep A, a winter virus that has resulted in fatalities across the country and which was adding to the pressures that were currently faced by the NHS. The Mayor informed Council that a former Member and Chairman of Chadderton Urban District Council, William (Bill) Fish has sadly passed away. Bill served as an Oldham Metropolitan Borough Councillor for Chadderton South from 1974 - 1978. Council observed a minute’s silence in his memory.

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

The Youth Council PROPOSED the following MOTION:

Green Roofs and Walls

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

So what is a green roof? Simply, it is the roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and growing medium planted over a waterproof barrier. A variety of this type of roof is the brown roof, which is where the plants self-seed from windblown and bird lime seed dispersal. A blue roof is quite simply a roof designed for the retention of rainwater and can be combined with green or brown roofs so that the captured water can irrigate the plants. Finally, if we take a green roof, turn it vertically and put it on the side of a building then it becomes a living wall.

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

Use of green, brown and blue roofs is also fundamentally a perfect idea for a business’s reputation. The report asserted that by being more environmental conscious maintained or even increased the reputation of a business. This reputation also helped uplift the property and rental costs of their buildings. But this motion is not about saving money it is about saving our planet. As we mentioned earlier, we are not meeting our targets in Greater Manchester, and we feel this intervention will help with that, while making our town a nicer, cleaner, and greener place to live and work.

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

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

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

We have thought about where these roofs and walls could be placed. The new development of a green space in Oldham town centre would be an ideal start. Any businesses or flats built in this space could be designed with these specialist roofs and walls already fitted, saving on having to add them later.

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

...BUZZ Stops.

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

We therefore propose that this Council resolves to:

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

Councillor Jabbar spoke in support of the Motion

Councillor Munroe spoke in support of the Motion

Councillor H. Gloster spoke in support of the Motion

Councillor Munroe MOVED and Councillor H. Gloster

SECONDED the MOTION as presented by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED:

1. The Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth be requested to investigate the feasibility of installing green roofs and living walls on buildings in Oldham.
2. That the Council agrees to support businesses and schools that wish to install green roofs and walls.
3. That Green Roofs and Walls be considered as part of the Council's approach to climate change adaptation and resilience.

9

QUESTIONS TIME

10

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question submitted by Andy Powell

A flagpole was recently installed and uninstalled at Dogford Park, Royton at a cost of over £2,000 under the Local Improvement Fund. A response to an FOI request states that the flagpole was requested by one or more councillors who appear to have circumvented the proper process and requested the flagpole even though it was not on the approved expenditure.

1. which councillor(s) requested and/or instigated this use of Royton tax payers money without authorisation?
2. what action has been taken in respect of those involved?
3. will the people of Royton get chance to recoup some on this 2k for much needed local improvements?
4. what has been put in place to stop it happening again?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that earlier this year a number of concerns were raised with the council, during a weekend of extremely high winds, about the safety of a flagpole which had been recently erected at Dogford Park. On investigating these concerns, it became clear that the flagpole had been installed, by council officers, outside of the proper processes and approvals for the local investment fund and, as a result, no risk assessment or safety assessment could be found in relation to the installation.

As a result, the decision was made to remove the pole as soon as possible while the circumstances and process of its

installation could be discovered. The pole was stored for reuse once a suitable local site could be identified.

The council staff involved in the purchase and installation have been reminded about the established processes for approval of Local Improvement Fund bids and our guidelines around approvals have been reviewed to try to avoid any further issues of this kind.

Happily, the pole has now found a fitting new home alongside the War Memorial Royton Park where it can be enjoyed by the park's many visitors.

2. Question submitted by Ben Ingham

I am writing to raise a concern around the parking on Lea View in Royton. The road is now effectively single carriage at times right up to the junction with Middleton Road, this coupled with the increase in traffic seemingly using this route as a cut through to Broadway is beginning to cause issue. Additionally, there is a lack of visibility, coupled with the reduction in road space, as you turn onto Middleton Road causes potentially hazardous situations. Could the council look into restrictions on parking around the junctions to ease this?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied: thank you for your question. We are aware that parking is problematic in many places across the borough, particularly in densely populated residential areas, where households own more than one vehicle and do not have off street parking provisions.

We are aware of the issues on Lea View, where parking narrows the available road width forcing motorists to operate a 'give and take' system around the parked vehicles.

The introduction of parking restrictions and yellow lines requires a legal Traffic Regulation order, which is subject to public consultation. As the some of the parking relates to residential vehicles, it is a challenge to balance where alternative parking locations would be located.

We are happy to investigate options to relief the parking concerns but given the low traffic volumes and potential for residents to object to the parking restrictions, we will need to review other options to help the local community.

3. Question submitted by Shaheen Akhtar

In September Andrew Clowes, the Head, Teacher at Hey with Zion wrote an article asking 'Where do I cut?' as his budget has to stretch to deal with rising prices, unfunded staff pay rises and the energy crisis. He said that his staff also had to cope with the rising cost of living and many of the families of his pupils were finding it hard to make ends meet. He wrote a long list of things the school already does to help and pointed out there is nothing left to cut to be able to make up for underfunding of schools. He did suggest that schools be given the money to pay for catch up tutoring rather than a poor value for money national programme and wondered what the new Secretary of State for Education would have to offer. He was right to suggest that there might be a few – Kit Malthouse has now been followed by Gillian Keegan. Does the Cabinet Member for Education have any information

about what this minister is doing to plug the funding gap in schools and to help Head Teachers like Mr Clowes balance the books for their schools and continue to provide good quality education for Oldham children? What does the November Statement have to offer Oldham Schools?



Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, replied that the Council has set its funding formula for schools for 2023/24, based on initial funding notified earlier this year. This formula determines the funding allocations to be received by individual schools. The Council expects to receive final Dedicated Schools Grant funding notifications around 21st December and this is likely to increase the grant available and therefore increase the funding for schools.

However, in addition to already notified funding, on 17th November 2022, the Autumn Statement was issued and this included an announcement that core schools budgets in England will receive an additional £2.3 billion of funding in 2023/24 and £2.3 billion in 2024/25. Clearly this is good news and will mean more funding for schools in Oldham. The detailed impact of this new money cannot thus far be determined and will only be available when the Dedicated Schools Grant funding information is received, which as previously indicated, is likely to be around 21st December.

The total funding increase and actual impact for individual schools can only be determined once all the detailed funding notifications have been received.

4. Question submitted by David Barker

As a resident who often travels on the Metrolink through the town centre in the evening, it is an all too frequent occurrence to have a tram brought to a halt on Union Street by a car stopped in the road obstructing the route of the tram.

With a high cluster of take away units on Union Street and George Street, and limited parking available, drivers using those premises often take to mounting kerbs or stopping in the middle of the road, completely ignoring road markings such as double yellow lines, and parking in an obstructive and often dangerous manner.

Part of the problem seems to be a lack of patrolling by either police or traffic wardens, which effectively encourages irresponsible and illegal parking with drivers confident they will not be held to account.

This a problem every day of the week and routinely causes problem for tram drivers and passengers travelling through the town centre. In fact, Councillors only need to take a short walk after this meeting to see the problem for themselves first-hand. Given that this has been a recurring problem for years, is the council able to come up with an effective solution to deal with this issue and make a major road in the town centre useable for public transport and pedestrians all hours of the day?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thank you for your question. We saw the parking problems on Union Street increase dramatically during the

Covid-19 pandemic and it has become worse following the growth in hot food and take away home delivery services. Parking Enforcement Officers patrol the route everyday but the drivers often tend to move the vehicles when they see the patrols approaching only to return later when they have left the area.

We are looking at options to change the nature of the town centre on Union Street to restrict the levels of parking currently being observed. We are exploring funding options for these works.

We are also aware that part of the issue is the number of unregistered vehicles being used for these delivery services – as parking tickets have been issued, but they do not get paid and some now have considerable debt without a registered owner or address on the national DVLA system. This issue has been escalated to the Safer Roads Partnership at a Greater Manchester level and to Greater Manchester Police as these issues are also being seen at a national level, and where possible, these vehicles are being removed from the road.

5. Question submitted by Connor Green

What preparations are Oldham Council making to deal with possible energy blackouts this winter? The Government has been 'war gaming' to find out how the country would deal with energy blackouts of up to a week this winter. Has the Government issued any guidance on how Oldham Council should keep services going for the most vulnerable or offered any money to help: e.g., care homes or children's homes? I agree with Debbie Abrahams MP that 'we mustn't forget that it was the Tories who have, over the last twelve years, cut investment in energy efficiency, stopped the construction of onshore wind farms, and closed gas storage facilities, meaning that we have lower levels of stored gas.' But given that we seem to be in a precarious position, what reassurance can the Council give about help if blackouts do happen?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied that the Council had recently received some guidance from our energy suppliers including from the National Grid, who are advising that they are no longer anticipating interruptions to energy supplies.

However, we are still planning support programmes in case we do see supply issues this winter – worst case scenario is when electricity supplies across the UK would be intermittently turned off in a "managed and controlled manner".

If this does occur – we are reviewing 'vulnerable sites' and registering them via Electricity Supply Emergency Code for Protected Site Status, which essentially provides priority energy to registered sites to allow services to continue. Beyond that we are also reviewing provisions for emergency generators to be commissioned.

Finally, we continue to work with the Greater Manchester Resilience team to review key sites and services to ensure the Council can respond to a power outage should it occur.

6. Question submitted by Azad Hussain

Oldham East MP Debbie Abrahams is the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Action Group (APPG) on dementia which has just published a report 'Workforce Matters: putting people with dementia at the heart of care'. Workforce Matters has been shaped by the voices of nearly 2,000 people affected by dementia through an APPG survey, as well as oral and written evidence. The goal was to discover how the social care workforce can enable people affected by dementia to live the lives they want. The main recommendation of the report is for the Government to bring forward a People Plan for social care that's centred around building a workforce that supports people with dementia to live with meaning, purpose, and connection. Other recommendations include more government support for local councils to commission more services to help people with dementia. Can the Cabinet Member for Adult & Social Care tell us what say people with dementia have in how Oldham's services are designed and delivered and ask Council Officers to read and consider the APPG report to see how it might help us to deliver better services?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, replied that a dementia strategy is in place in Oldham that was developed by engaging with all stakeholders in dementia services in both health and social care. People with dementia and their carers were at the centre of this engagement and were represented throughout. We wanted more representation of people from BAME communities and developed the role of a BAME Link Worker for dementia. The link worker accessed BAME communities and a whole section of the strategy relates to BAME access to services. Our link worker has worked with memory assessment services to ensure practice is culturally appropriate for patients and information / documents have been translated into several languages.

From findings within the strategy, we have re-shaped/developed several services and people with lived experience have been at the heart of development including our latest service, a dementia hub in Dr Kershaw's hospice. People with lived experience were present from the start in the planning group and were clear about what they wanted and were key in the design in the service This is a good model of partnership working between all dementia service providers and people who use services in Oldham.

We work closely with Springboard (peer support group for people with dementia and their carers) who regularly attend Oldham's Dementia Partnership Board and support us to develop person centred services.

Oldham were a key player in the development of the Digital Dementia Pathway which was developed by Dementia United. Oldham were part of GM wide engagement which reached over 300 people with lived experience and their views were embedded into the pathway standards and design.

This pathway supports people with dementia to live with meaning and purpose by giving information on services and groups they can access in their area. We also support living with purpose by the development of the dementia LGBT+ group to address issues related to people from the LGBT+ community

and a physical health trainer with Age UK Oldham to advise on diet and to plan exercise such as walking, exercise classes and group sessions as we know physical health and good diet slows the onset of dementia.

We continue to work towards meeting strategic objectives placing people with lived experience at the centre of development work to co-produce service design and operation. We are aware of the All-Party Parliamentary Action Group Report on Dementia and the findings will be considered in dementia service development.

7. Question submitted by Josh Charters

In the Borough's St. James Ward there has been a lot of antisocial behaviour and crime over the past few months, with people riding illegal dirt bikes at all hours in Derker and Sholver and cars being stolen regularly in Sholver. Is the council working with GMP to address this and how can we see what's been done?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that the use of off-road bikes and vehicle crime is a concern for us all, both in Sholver and Derker and across the borough.

Unfortunately, the specialist off-road bikes team is a very small force-wide resource which is in significant demand. This is a very dangerous activity and many riders do not wear headgear – this restricts the opportunities for pursuit and enforcement at the time, even by the specialist team.

Resolution of this issue requires a much wider long-term problem-solving approach and Council colleagues from across a variety of services are working with GMP's Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the new Neighbourhood Prevention Hub to address this as a key priority. It remains important that reports are made to GMP, with as much detail being provided as possible, such as vehicle details and registration numbers.

There are a number of legal powers which can be used, not just against those riding the bikes, but against those involved in the storage and transportation of them, due to the associated nuisance they cause and services will be working together to explore all options and opportunities. Intelligence regarding where vehicles are being stored and the vehicles which bring off-road bikes to a site is key to identifying the individuals involved and the potential seizure of the bikes, using the available legislation.

There is a robust response to serious acquisitive crime, which includes the theft of vehicles and this is also a local priority. Community Safety Services are working with the Neighbourhood Crime Team to act, including making applications for Criminal Behaviour Orders, against those identified as responsible for car thefts.

Community Safety Services is working with other partners in the District and will use all the powers available to tackle these types of behaviours. For example, they will share information and evidence with housing providers to enable tenancy enforcement action to be taken too, where it is appropriate to do so.

8. Question submitted by Paul Scoltock

I live in Derker and rely on the bus service to travel into Manchester. I used to be able to get the regular 83 Service to travel into Manchester in the morning, but now I must get a frequently delayed bus into Oldham and either change buses or get a tram to get there now. The 83 service only runs to Manchester from Sholver in the evening now. Can the Council liaise with TGFM and the operators to ensure that buses are running regularly from Sholver to ensure that residents are not cut off from the rest of the Town and City Region?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied that Oldham Council is in regular contact with Transport for Greater Manchester regarding bus services in Oldham and the performance of them.

The 82 service (daytime link to Oldham) and 83 service (evening link to Oldham & Manchester) are both provided by First Manchester. While TfGM have no direct control over these services, we've asked that the feedback relating to these services is raised at the next performance review meeting with the provider.

TfGM actively encourage residents and councillors to raise specific issues (on any service) via customer.relations@tfgm.com. This is really important as this register is used to log and monitor feedback from communities and provides a stronger position for challenging performance and service delivery.

As soon as the new bus franchising is rolled out for Oldham services, TfGM will be consulting on changes to bus routes to allow for better connected bus network from communities to key destinations, and it will also provide a much greater level of accountability from operators for higher levels of service standards.

The Bus Franchising programme will be rolled out across Oldham in 2024 and is expected to deliver simpler fares and ticketing, with the ability to enable more joined-up journey planning between bus and tram journeys.

9. Question submitted by Steve Croft

If you've seen my comments on our local forums, you'll know I'm no fan of fireworks. Last night we had the fireworks display after the switch-on and to my view they were more expansive than in previous years. That might be a subjective view based on the amount that they bothered us.

I have a question for the council: why are the council not setting some sort of example in either reducing the scale of the display or by using 'silent' fireworks?

This comes on the back of the council leader's comments recently that demonstrated the council are fully aware of the high number of people that find fireworks distressing.

Thanks in advance, and thanks for all the work you do for our area.

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied - Show duration: The display has gradually reduced from

an original 12 minutes to this year's 8 minutes so that the firework element is a finale to the main show which enables us to re-direct resources into working with local performers and artists and the development of the new style Switch On show. This also reduces the disturbance to the local community and elevates the overall impact whilst reducing the costs of delivering the display in line with the budget.

Show Size: The display this year substantially increased the use of quieter roman candle and lower-level effects and reduced the number of large aerial shells to fit with the music that was written for the show. This will have reduced the impact of noise over larger distances compared with previous years, but to reduce these levels further for the higher aerial effects in the future would have a significant effect on the view for audience members on the periphery of the event viewing areas, making the majority of the display hidden behind buildings etc.

Silent Show: 'Silent Fireworks' is not a term used by the pyrotechnic industry who prefer to use the term 'Quiet Fireworks'. This distinction is very important as anyone asking about 'silent' fireworks needs to understand that there is no such thing. Yes, there are quieter fireworks available which, while certainly quieter, are not silent. They are also less exciting, not only because noise is part of the visceral attraction of a fireworks display, but also because it is necessary for the propulsion and bursting of the highest-flying effects which are usually the most memorable and impressive parts of the display. Quieter fireworks result in a less impressive display that will be seen by less people and will cost more.

Noise levels: The display is not at full volume the whole time. It has its lulls as well as its climaxes. During those lulls, the noise is relatively modest. The fireworks are fired in conjunction with a soundtrack and if we have a prolonged section of quiet music to accommodate a prolonged section of quiet fireworks this would have a detrimental effect on the audience experience. To hear the full volume of the fireworks you would need to be very close to the Town centre firing zone as sound dissipates quickly the further away you are from it (Db levels reduce by approx. 6Db for every doubling of distance from a measured point. i.e., 120db at 15metres reduces to 114 at 30m). Wind direction also plays a big part. Noise is louder downwind than upwind of its source

Complaints: We did receive some feedback from residents that dislike fireworks but we also receive lots of positive feedback year on year from people who enjoy events that include firework displays and we have 8-10,000 people on average attend the 'Switch On' event which creates additional footfall for town centre businesses.

10. Question submitted by Stephen Ingham

It is great news that Council staff have started moving into the Spindles and that work has taken place to help businesses to relocate elsewhere in the shopping centre to allow this to happen.

I know that part of the point of locating Council staff in the Spindles is to put them closer to the shops and the new market and hopefully this will support these businesses to thrive. Can the council confirm how many staff are expected to work from

Spindles when the fit out for offices is complete and what the timetable is for this work?



Oldham
Council

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied: thank you for your question, Mr Ingham. We are currently finalising the floorplan which will ultimately determine the final number of staff that will occupy the new Spindles accommodation, at present we estimate between 800 and 1,000 staff will be in the Spindles at any one time with some officers working out in communities or at home from time to time depending on the nature of the services being provided.

One of the strategic drivers of the relocation is to ensure the ongoing sustainability of a thriving Town Centre recognised as a location with quality office space, accommodation, recreation and leisure opportunities.

11. Question submitted by Nicola Longshaw

I was pleased to see Oldham Council's cost of living package featured on BBC North West Tonight and referenced as the largest of its kind in Greater Manchester. At the last Council meeting the Leader referred to a dashboard to measure the demand for and impact of the 'We can help' campaign – can she give some further detail on what this dashboard shows us so far? Has the council received any government support to devise this package, or has it been put together solely from Oldham Council's own resources?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied that the Cost of Living dashboard allows us to compare demand on our key services to the same time last year, and also tracks more recent changes. It is clear that demand has increased significantly over the last year. We also ask each service to comment on capacity; it is clear from their input that recent officer appointments funded by the Cost-of-Living package have been vital in allowing them to cope with the increase in demand. The dashboard is part of a larger body of intelligence work that is being used to target our limited resources more effectively. Officers are continuing to review and improve the data that is used to provide the required intelligence as part of a long-term strategy to support our residents proactively and efficiently. We have committed £3 million of funding to support Oldham's cost-of-living response. The majority of this investment is coming from the Council's own resources, while the Household Support Fund – a grant paid by Central Government – is contributing £295,000 to the response.

12. Question submitted by Dee (Dorice) Johnson

Our current prime minister was caught on camera earlier this year, bragging about cutting funding from the least wealthy areas, so he could give more money to richer areas. His predecessor crashed the economy, costing the country billions. Please can someone advise how these actions have impacted on funding for Oldham?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied that it is not possible to directly assess the

impact of the Prime Minister's comments. However, the Government allocates general revenue grant funding to Councils by means of a funding formula. Changes to the formula can result in a redistribution of grant between Councils. There have been no major changes to the general funding formula recently, although such changes have been discussed for some time including the introduction of the outcome of the Fair Funding Review which would use more up to date indices for factors such as deprivation in determining grant allocations. The Government has repeatedly deferred the introduction of Fair Funding. If it had been introduced, it would undoubtedly have increased the funding received by Oldham and reduced funding for more affluent boroughs.

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 on the Council's website, with written answers, in due course.

11

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Question 1: Housing Targets

The government's recent 'U-turn' on housing targets is to be welcomed will the Labour administration use this opportunity to stop, pause and consider its housing options in the Borough and to protect green spaces and green belt land in the borough of Oldham.

The Leader of the Council also welcomed the government's change of policy adding that the Council's position was not to build on green space, or green belt, land and to always look to promote the development of brownfield land first.

Question 2: Northern Care Alliance

Councillor Sykes referred to the current provision of NHS services in the Borough and the great pressures that they were facing currently and during the coming winter months, with the Royal College of Nursing staff due to take industrial action on 15th December 2022, for the first time. Northern Care Alliance are struggling to cope with the current situation. Councillor Sykes called on the Council to consider establishing a Joint Scrutiny Committee that would not just challenge current service provision but seek to work with Northern Care Alliance to lobby government for additional resources and for the provision of better treatment and facilities for the borough's residents.

The Leader of the Council shared Councillor Sykes' concerns regarding the present situation faced by the Northern Care Alliance and undertook to consider further his request for the establishment of a Joint Scrutiny Committee to oversee the operations of Northern Care Alliance.

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative group

Question 1: Places for Everyone and Section 106 Agreements
Councillor Sheldon asked the Leader of the Council, if in the light of recent guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, would withdraw Oldham Council's involvement in the (Greater Manchester wide) Places for Everyone initiative. In addition Councillor Sheldon asked if processes could be established that would reduce the delays that often occurred, in the payment of Section 106 Agreement monies for common good, caused often as a result of detailed and lengthy discussions involving the Council's Planning Department.

The Leader of the Council replied that the Council had received the guidance from the Secretary of State but that the guidance was just that and was not yet enshrined in law and that as the Council's policy in this regard, was, as she had outlined earlier in her reply to Councillor Sykes, one of developing brownfield sites across the Borough first. In terms of Councillor Sheldon's remarks regarding Section 106 Agreement monies she felt that this wasn't a borough-wide problem, as she had not personally experienced any such delays in respect of the Ward that she represented, South Royton, for example. However, the Leader of the Council did commit to looking into any specific instances of delays of payment for Section 106 Agreement monies if Councillor Sheldon could forward to her details thereon.

Question 2: Salmon Fields Centre, Royton
Councillor Sheldon referred to a headline on the 'I Love Oldham' website on 29th November 2022, which announced the opening of new NHS community diagnostic centre at Salmon Fields, Royton. In welcoming this development, Councillor Sheldon noted that the new facility wouldn't have opened without extensive investment from the current Conservative government.

The Leader of the Council replied that she had nothing further to add to comments she had earlier made in relation to this matter.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party

Councillor Hobin referred to Oldham's large waiting list for housing, believed to be more than 7,000 people, asking if any of the borough's housing stock was being allocated to people from outside of the borough who had little, or no, connection to the borough and was any provision being made for ex-service personnel?

The Leader of the Council replied by committing to circulate to Members of the Council a briefing paper which outlined how homes were allocated in the Borough of Oldham.

Question from Councillor Ibrahim:
I would like to address the poor housing conditions that many residents are living in across the borough. These are houses owned by both private landlords and housing associations. I

speaking not only for myself but for other members in this chamber who receive case work on this matter daily.

We have recently seen the outcome of the coroner's report into the death of the young child Awaab Ishaak in Rochdale. The poor conditions and the refusal of the housing association to address issues has shocked the country, and I'm sure every person in this chamber's hearts go out to Awaab's parents as they continue to grieve for their son.

Could the relevant Cabinet member advise what actions are being taken against landlords where poor housing conditions such as mould and damp, are dangerous to the health of residents; and how quickly action will be taken to ensure that no more preventable deaths like Awaab Ishaak's will happen in the borough.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied Thank you for your question - I'm deeply saddened by the tragic death of Awaab Ishaak in Rochdale. On hearing the news at the beginning of this month I asked Harry Catherall, Chief Executive of the Council to launch a review of how we approach our housing stock to ensure we do not see a repeat of this sad event in Oldham.

Council-owned homes in Oldham are managed through our partners via a contractual arrangement which includes property repair and maintenance. Regular inspections are undertaken by the providers and there is also a lifecycle replacement programme for all of our properties.

Council officers have discussed the Rochdale case with these housing partners at the monitoring meetings and full reassurance has been provided.

More widely, all housing organisations have been asked to outline what existing measures are in place with regards to the current quality of homes, and to include details of mould, damp or water ingress. They've also been asked to report on what further measures, if any, need to be taken.

The council will hold the next meeting of the Strategic Housing Partnership in January where this issue will be a specific agenda item. All the registered social housing providers have been asked to bring with them an update from their organisation's perspective to offer reassurance for the council and our residents.

Our officers are undertaking daily inspections of temporary accommodation as part of welfare visits for the residents, and they are actively looking for signs of disrepair including mould and damp. Temporary accommodation providers are also being written to and asked to provide the same level of assurance as our other social housing partners.

Our social care teams are raising this issue and discussing it at their Safeguarding Boards and Partnership meetings to check on our supported accommodation.

Oldham Council also plans to refresh the Private Sector Stock Condition survey to ensure landlords of private accommodation improve and bring their homes up to a safe standard.

As a council we are doing everything we can to make sure no Oldham residents have to endure what Awaab and his family have.

Question from Councillor Nasheen

Residents have raised concerns about parking outside the First Choices Homes Depot on Primrose Bank for several years since it opened.

Ward Councillors have asked the council to install double yellow lines but for some reason no progress is being made.

Could the cabinet member please give us an update on the progress as we have had several near misses involving pedestrian and vehicles?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied, thank you for your question. The request for possible parking restrictions outside the First Choice Homes Depot on Primrose Bank is currently being considered by the Council's Traffic and Parking Teams. Ward Members are being consulted on the initial proposals for the scheme ahead of public consultation.

These proposals are being considered across a slightly wider area, including Magnolia Gardens, to ensure the overall result is effective and does not simply displace the issues to another community. This needs careful consideration with the existing parking restrictions in the area balanced with the needs of local residents'.

If supported by the local community, the proposed works could be delivered within the next 6 to 9 months, but this totally depends on the feedback from the local community.

Question from Councillor Cosgrove

Can the relevant cabinet member give an update on the work the council is doing to address antisocial behaviour and the use of off-road bikes in St James ward and the rest of the Borough?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, that the use of off-road bikes and vehicle crime is a concern for us all, both in the St. James Ward and across the borough.

Unfortunately, GMP have a very small and specialist off-road bike team which is in significant demand. This is a very dangerous activity and many riders do not wear headgear – this restricts the opportunities for pursuit and enforcement at the time, even by the specialist team.

Resolution of this issue requires a much wider long-term problem-solving approach and Council colleagues from across a variety of services are working with GMP's Neighbourhood Policing Teams and the new Neighbourhood Prevention Hub to address this as a key priority.

It remains important that reports are made to GMP, with as much detail being provided as possible, such as vehicle details and registration numbers. There are a number of legal powers which can be used, not just against those riding the bikes, but against those involved in the storage and transportation of them, due to the associated nuisance they cause and services will be working together to explore all options and opportunities.

Intelligence regarding where vehicles are being stored and the vehicles which bring off-road bikes to a site is key to identifying

the individuals involved and the potential seizure of the bikes, using the available legislation.

Community Safety Services is working with other partners in the District and will use all the powers available to tackle these types of behaviours. For example they will share information and evidence with housing providers to enable tenancy enforcement action to be taken too, where it is appropriate to do so.

Question from Councillor Lancaster

Knowing how important the issue is to my ward Constituents, I have raised road safety in this chamber several times already and have been proud to support effective Motions proposed by my Conservative colleagues, Councillors Arnott and Byrne, in this policy area.

I would like to ask a Question about the difficulties in securing road safety interventions from the Council's Highways Department, primarily because of overly stringent adherence to narrow criteria.

There have long been resident calls for speed cameras to be introduced to cover the crossroads in Denshaw village centre, which I would of course support. Despite the most recent survey recording speeds well in excess of twice the 30mph limit, these calls have been quashed by OMBC, who continually cite Department for Transport and Transport for Greater Manchester guidelines. Other local authorities, however, have managed to act of their own accord. A ward Constituent has highlighted to me the example of Leicestershire County Council, who have used the discretionary powers available to them through the Road Traffic Act 1991 to introduce seven average speed camera trials, and I would be happy to provide more detail of this example in writing following this Meeting.

At another location in my ward, The Sound/Rose Hill junction in Delph, visibility of oncoming traffic is poor, and motorists and pedestrians alike could be assisted by the erection of a street mirror. However, again, my requests have been refused on the basis that an insufficient majority of the six-point criteria specified by the Greater Manchester authorities cannot be met. My Question is this – can this Administration please have a serious rethink about road safety, adopt a proactive, common-sense approach for the betterment of the whole Borough, and in the spirit of Cllr. Byrne's Motion from the September Meeting, be brave enough to use its powers independently?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied, thank you for your question. In response to the complaints about vehicle speeds in Denshaw, automatic traffic counts were commissioned which provided evidence about the actual speeds of vehicles in the area, and this showed that speeds were not excessive. However, new surveys have been commissioned for early 2023 given recent concerns escalating once again.

However, as part of the response to these concerns, the Council has replaced the 30mph speed limit terminal signs with new highly visible signs and have also erected "Speed Toolkit" signs to ensure drivers are reminded of the speed limit.

I am advised that the old and faulty 30mph Vehicle Actuated Sign is due for replacement as part of a boroughwide replacement programme.

All safety cameras within Greater Manchester are deployed by Greater Manchester Police in partnership with the 10 Greater Manchester boroughs, and all costs associated with the effective running and enforcement of the cameras are shared and kept to the minimum.

Any decision to locate a fixed speed safety camera is based on the number of speed related collisions that have occurred within the immediate area. This criterion is set by the Department for Transport.

With regards to the request for a speed camera on the A672 Ripponden Road – the collision data shows that there have not been any serious speed related collisions recorded within the 30-mph speed limit through Denshaw, therefore it does not meet criteria.

Finally, with regards to installing mirrors on the highway to improve road safety, these are currently in a trial period to assess the impact of their introduction and reduction in road traffic collisions. Once the monitoring period has ended, a decision will be taken on whether mirrors provide the desired effect and should therefore be used at other sites across the borough.

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani

Oldham has very ambitious plans with regards to the achievements of a net zero target by 2030, Councillor Jabbar referred earlier to the 'Green New Deal' delivery plan, for which, I believe, the pre-procurement phase finished in October. However, what are we doing now is the question? Given that we are in a climate crisis, action needs to be taken now. Could the Cabinet Member responsible tell me what progress has already been made on those net zero targets? What actual reduction in carbon emissions has been achieved? What council buildings have already been refitted to be energy efficient? and what net zero programmes so far have already been completed?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied thank you Madam Mayor, thank you Councillor Al-Hamdani for your question and thank you for your continued interest in this issue. Councillor Jabbar undertook to give Councillor Al-Hamdani a full written answer on the specific issues that he raised but in terms of what Oldham is doing, there are targets to reduce carbon emissions by 2030 for the Borough. At this moment in time, the Council is developing a solar farm at Wrigley Head which hopefully will be installed mid-summer 2023. The Council is looking at developing a district heating system using the flooded water in disused Coal Mines. The Council has recently obtained £2.3 million from Greater Manchester Combined Authority to put in measures to reduce carbon emission and for energy saving measures at the Spindles shopping centre, part of which is being converted to working offices. The Council is also working with Northern Roots to put forward some initiatives, including the installation of Solar Farms to achieve carbon reduction by producing power locally

from renewable sources. Oldham Council is doing what it can and is one of the leading Authorities in the Greater Manchester region in this regard.



Oldham
Council

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QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on the undermentioned date, 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 meeting held on 17th October 2022 were submitted.

Members asked the following questions: -

a. Question from Councillor Hindle:

With reference to the Cabinet Minutes of the meeting held 17th October 2022, Councillor Hindle noted that a full agenda, including eight items of business was concluded in 24 minutes. He asked if there was ever any challenge to reports at Cabinet meetings or if these meetings were rubber-stamping exercises.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, replied that there was a robust process for dealing with reports at Cabinet meetings including input from members of the public and that reports which are presented to Cabinet meetings have often been amended, as a result of challenges since their first iteration.

b. Question from Councillor Sykes

With reference to Minute 8 of the Cabinet meeting held on 17th October 2022, Councillor Sykes, welcomed the proposal to update the contract arrangements for residential and nursing home provision in the Borough. The Cabinet member was asked if there were plans for more in-borough facilities to be built, including more care homes to help to care for an aging population.

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care that the Council was looking to reduce the number of people entering into a residential care setting and to support as many people as possible to live independently for as long as possible.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Minutes of Cabinet held on 17th October 2022 be noted.
2. That the questions and responses thereon be noted.

13

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Don't Take It Out On Us: Properly Funded Public Services

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Mushtaq SECONDED the following Motion:

Council Services cannot take any more cuts imposed by central government. Since 2010 Oldham has had 45% of its funding from central government cut, and since 2010 successive

Conservative Governments have forced local authorities to raise council tax in an attempt to meet this shortfall.

For over a decade Conservative Governments have forced councils – of every political persuasion – to raise council tax in order to run necessary services, leading to an abhorrent situation where the council runs less services despite increasing Council Tax. This is not sustainable.

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

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

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

This Council notes:

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

This Council resolves:

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

This Council further resolves:

- Continue to work with our partners across Oldham to provide good quality and cost-effective public services for Oldhamers.

- To invite all Group Leaders to write jointly to the Government to ask them to properly and fairly fund local government and social care so that local authorities aren't forced to hike Council Tax and invite Oldham residents to sign the letter
- To call for multi-year financial settlements to enable local authorities to plan properly and deliver the best services for our residents
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him to expedite the review into Council Tax so our residents aren't continually hammered by this regressive tax.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Arnott MOVED and Councillor McManus SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Councils are not forced to increase council tax by any government of whatever hue. Since the 2011 Localism Act was introduced by the Conservative led Coalition government there has been a cap on the amount Councils can raise in council tax. If Councils like Oldham wanted to increase Council tax beyond the cap then a referendum is held, giving the electorate the final say. The permissible amount however is not a mandatory amount it is down to each local authority.

This mechanism was introduced after a decade of inflation busting council tax rises under the last Labour government which failed to stop Councils from behaving like the Sheriff of Nottingham from the tale of Robin Hood, which as a result saw council tax double in under a decade. After more than a decade in power in Oldham, Labour is forcing residents to pay one of the highest council tax rates in the Country.

This Labour administration chooses to increase Council tax, taking money out of people's pockets in Oldham. This is down to the failure by this Council to plan and manage its finances properly. As such it is time the Council looked to help people in Oldham by reducing waste and spending public money wisely and instead of writing letters take direct action to help local people. That is why this Council should freeze council tax to help hard pressed taxpayers.

This Council notes:

- Local Government in England is responsible for delivering more services than any other tier of government.
- 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 Council has a £3m We Can Help cost-of-living support package for Oldham residents
- The provisional local government finance settlement will not be delivered until the week commencing 21st December and the full settlement will not be known until February 2023.
- Oldhamers cannot afford to pay for the mistakes of this government. poorly managed and badly led Labour Borough Council.

This Council resolves to:

- Ask when the Borough's MPs will use an opposition day debate or table a private members bill in Parliament with calls for properly funded local government and social care.
- To stop wasting taxpayer's money and 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:

- To work with our partners across Oldham to provide outstanding good quality and cost-effective public services for Oldhamers.
- For the relevant Cabinet member to write to the relevant Government Department/Minister and ask them to confirm if they will be looking to initiate a review which looks at the way adult social care is funded in England and look at ways it can be better funded.
- To call for multi-year financial settlements to enable local authorities to plan properly and deliver the best services for our residents
- To FREEZE council tax for the next financial year.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

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:

- a. Asks the Borough's MPs to join our calls for properly funded local government and social care.
- b. That the Council works 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:

- c. Continue to work with our partners across Oldham to provide good quality and cost-effective public services for Oldhamers.
- d. 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
- e. Calls for multi-year financial settlements to enable local authorities to plan properly and deliver the best services for our residents.
- f. Instructs 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 – Investing in Children's Social Workers

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Chadderton
SECONDED the following Motion:



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 Director of Children's Services (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.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

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

1. To ask them follow in Northern Ireland's footsteps and impose a ban or a quota on Agency Social Workers.
2. 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.
3. 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.

Council further resolves to:

4. 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.
5. 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.

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NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Supporting our Armed Forces Community

Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Byrne SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Chadderton SECONDED the following PROCEDURAL MOTION

That consideration of this Motion be referred to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, on the basis that the recommended actions, detailed above, are already being carried out by the Council. That the Policy Overview and Scrutiny be requested to investigate this matter and to submit a report thereon to Council in due course.

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

RESOLVED:

That consideration of this Motion be referred to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for examination and that Committee be requested to submit a report thereon to Council in due course.

Motion 2 – Free School Meals and Winter Care Packages

Councillor H. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Munroe MOVED and Councillor Ali SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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.
- Oldham Council has been a pioneering council in Greater Manchester, investing £3m over the next 2 years to offer practical and tangible support to those who need it across the borough"
- The administration's £3m cost-of-living response package is welcome and offers real and meaningful support this winter including providing vulnerable Oldhamers with Winter Warm Packs, with 436 requests for these within the first week of applications going live.

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.

The Labour Party's plan to introduce free breakfast clubs for every primary school as a first step towards a new modern childcare system is a welcome one and will help relieve pressures on families.

Providing necessary and essential items through the We Can Help package will make a real difference to many who need support from this Council the most. The Council should continue to explore opportunities for funding and continue to submit robust bids where funding is available. The Council will continue to work with partners to ensure that residents are able to access resources they need including warm clothing, food and household essentials, and are signposted to any and all support services offered by the council, government 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. And to continue the work of the administration in supporting all children eligible for Free School Meals, including ensuring that all eligible are claiming Free School Meals and that families claiming free school meals are signposted to other support packages as part of the administration's "We Can Help" campaign.

Children and families who are struggling should not be forced to struggle more due to the Conservative Government's economic mismanagement, and it is the administration's priority to support residents through this crisis.

Continue to work with partners to ensure that vulnerable households are prioritised 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.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

That this Council will:

1. 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.
2. To continue the work of the administration in supporting all children eligible for Free School Meals, including ensuring that all eligible are claiming Free School Meals and that families claiming free school meals are signposted to other support packages as part of the administration's "We Can Help" campaign. Children and families who are struggling should not be forced to struggle more due to the Conservative Government's economic mismanagement, and it is the administration's priority to support residents through this crisis.
3. Continue to work with partners to ensure that vulnerable households are prioritised 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.
4. 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.

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 2nd November 2022.



Since the publication of the agenda for this Council meeting, a response had been received from a government department on the Motion that related to the Regulation of Houses of Multiple Occupation, which had been circulated to all Council members.

RESOLVED - That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 2nd November 2022 be noted.

16

POLLING DISTRICT REVIEW

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Chief Executive/(Acting) Returning Officer which advised Council that 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 been reviewed since 2003 and the Commission decided that it should review Oldham in advance of the elections in 2023.

The Commission 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 would remain unaltered. This will be used for the May 2023 elections and onwards.

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

The details of the Polling District proposals including the maps of each Polling District were circulated to Members.

A revised list of the new polling districts, polling places and polling stations was attached at Appendix A to the report.

An AMENDMENT to the report's recommendations was MOVED by Councillor Jabbar and SECONDED by Councillor Chadderton and the Council agreed to suspend Procedure Rule 13.1 to permit the consideration of the amendment. The amended Motion rejected the proposal that district C05 be split between C03 and C06 and instead proposed that C05 be retained and the polling place (mobile on Broome Street) remain. The proposed revised list for the Coldhurst Ward was circulated for Council's information. This would mean that subsequent polling places in the Coldhurst ward will remain unchanged. All polling station numbers from Station 26 would therefore be re-numbered bring the total number of polling stations in the borough to 120.

RESOLVED:

That Council approve the new polling districts and polling places and the polling stations be determined by the Returning Officer, as detailed in Appendix A, of the submitted report, further to the final proposals circulated, subject to the inclusion of the amended proposals for the Coldhurst Ward (moved and seconded by Councillors Jabbar and Chadderton respectively) above.

17

CLEAN AIR SCRUTINY PROPOSALS

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Environment, that sought approval for accepting a 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'.

The Clean Air Charging Committee was established in October 2021 by the ten districts of Greater Manchester. 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. 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.

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

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

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

On a recorded VOTE being taken 27 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RESOLUTION with 13 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 6 ABSTENTIONS. The RESOLUTION was therefore **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council approves the establishment of a 'Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee' to scrutinise decisions of the 'Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee' and the 'Clean Air Administration Committee'
2. That the appointment of a Lead Member and a Deputy member for the Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee, be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council's Party Leaders.

18

MUNICIPAL CALENDAR 2023/24

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval of the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2023/2024 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

19

CIVIC APPRECIATION NOMINATIONS 2023

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED an amended report, that was circulated for member's consideration and which sought approval for the nominations of for Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousaf 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.

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.

RESOLVED:

That Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah be approved as recipients of the Civic Appreciation Award 2023, with the formal Ceremony to take place at the Council meeting on Wednesday, 15th March 2023.

20

TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID YEAR REVIEW 2022/23

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Chadderton SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance, which advised Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2022/23 and which also provided a comparison of performance against the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

The Council was asked 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). The submitted report therefore established the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review and outlines, namely: 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.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approves the Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2022/23 and the projected outturn position.
2. That Council approves 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.
3. That Council approves amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at section 2.4.5.

The meeting started at 2.30pm and ended at 5.55pm.

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, Establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Board as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required to enable the Council to have representation on the Integrated Care Partnership Board.

The Item was considered at Item 10 of the agenda.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Brownridge and Jabbar declared and other registerable interest in Items 8 and 12 by virtue of their Council appointment to the Northern Roots Board. They left the room for consideration of those items and did not take part in the discussion or voting thereon.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Two public questions were received from Syed Maruf Ali.

1. Have all the recommendations been implemented of The Oldham Education and Skills Commission report?

Will the officers revisit the report and evaluate what progress has been made?

Based on the data I have obtained the current admissions criteria for accessing good/outstanding attainment School favours the white British community and people from affluent area especially people with Cristian faith when the over subscription criteria is applied.

Can the cabinet members please discuss this and outline how this can be addressed?

Oldham council has built Saddleworth School, Royton and Crompton School and Crompton School.

Why can't OMBC build a School for Hathershaw?

This year Hathershaw School had one of the best results in Oldham.

2. Can the cabinet members analyse the data from Blue Coat School, Crompton House and Saddleworth School. What percentage of pupils are on Pupil Premium compared with Town Centre ward School?

Oldham council has giving grants and funding for Blue Coat School and Crompton House for them to expand and have new building. Has their PAN number increased since the expansion,

so more pupils from Oldham can access their School? What percentage of pupils from out of Oldham attends Blue Coat and Crompton House? Was there an equality assessment carried out when funding was allocated?

Oldham council has built Saddleworth School and Royton and Crompton School and given grants for other School to expand. Hathershaw School has good OFSTED report and this year it has got the second best results when it comes to progressing their pupils. Why are cabinet members and officers reluctant to find grants and funding and build a brand new school for Hathershaw? If a brand new School is built they can increase PAN and serve the community.

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Early responded;

I would like to thank Mr Maruf for his questions and thank officers for the written responses that they have provided to him on some of the matters raised.

The recommendations of the Oldham Education & Skills Commission were implemented from 2016-2021 by the Oldham Education Partnership. From 2017-2022 the borough also received investment as an Opportunity Area. A review of this programme by DfE is due to evaluate the progress that has been made. Both OEP and OA were influential in the formation of the Oldham Learning partnership which now has school leaders working alongside Council officers to implement sector-led approaches to education improvement.

Although there has been progress in improving Oldham pupils' achievement, we recognise that there is still a way to go until we achieve the ambition of closing the attainment gap to national averages. To this end, the council is supporting the sector to develop and deliver an Education Improvement Strategy to ensure that all pupils receive a great education.

Admissions criteria for state-funded schools do not have weighting that is determined by race or affluence; however faith schools are able to set criteria that are weighted towards faith such as Christianity. All secondary academies and schools in Oldham have trusts or governing bodies that set their own admissions criteria, except Saddleworth School which is set by Oldham Council. Council criteria gives pupils from disadvantaged families priority where possible; for both pupils living in the geographical priority area (GPA) and those living outside the GPA, if the pupil qualifies for Pupil Premium, they are in a higher criterion than their non-pupil premium equivalent. DfE holds the resource for school building and with Council support there was re- building at Saddleworth and Royton and Crompton Schools. Hathershaw is part of Pinnacle MAT, who nominated the school in the DfE rebuilding programme. Council officers visited Hathershaw to view the conditions and supported the nomination of the school.

We cannot find documentation about a condition that Blue Coat School must offer 10% of year 7 places to non-Christian faith, however officers have investigated and found that 18.4% of offers for Sept 22 were for non-Christian pupils.

GCSE pupil outcomes data will be validated in January 2023 and the information will be in the public domain soon thereafter.

In relation to the proportion of pupil premium for the schools requested, we can forward the detail to the requestor. However, in broad terms Crompton House and Blue Coat receive PPG for approximately 12 to 15 per cent of their school population. For town centre secondaries this varies between approximately 40 to 44 per cent.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2022**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17th October 2022 be approved.

6 **THE LOCAL IMPROVEMENT FUND 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Chief Executive which sought approval a review of the Local Improvement Fund (LIF) 2022/23 and update Cabinet on the proposals to provide £400,000 for larger capital projects in line with previous years and £100,000 revenue funding for smaller projects worth £500 to £3,500 responding to needs in local areas.

The Local improvement fund was established in 2019 with the aim of supporting districts to improve the quality of life in local areas, to improve community buildings, equipment and other facilities and engage with residents to prioritise schemes that matter to them.

It was proposed that for 2022/23 the LIF should be adapted to support the larger local capital projects and also boost funds for smaller interventions in wards to see improvements in the area quickly.

The £400,000 element of the fund would be distributed through a similar process as in previous years, through expressions of interest for projects over £10,000 and would be assessed by a cross party advisory panel, 2 Labour councillors, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Conservative councillor. Recommendations from the panel would be considered by the LIF Cabinet-Subcommittee for final approval.

The remaining £100,000 revenue funding will be available for buds of £500-£3,500 would be assessed at a monthly meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Do nothing.

Option 2 – Review the proposed approach and agree to proceed with the LIF

RESOLVED – That the proposals for the Local Improvement Fund 2022/23 and the process for allocating the funding be approved.

7 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2022/23**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided details of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2022/23 and a comparison of performance against the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

The Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management. This report set out the key Treasury Management issue for Members information and review and outlined:

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.

Option/alternatives considered

In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Code of Practice of Treasury Management the Council has no other option but to consider and approve the contents of the report.

RESOLVED – That:

1. That Cabinet approves and commends to Council the:
2. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2022/23 and the projected outturn position be approved and commended to Council.
3. 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 be approved and commended to Council.
4. Amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at section 2.4.5 of the report be approved and commended to Council.

8

NORTHERN ROOTS: VISITOR CENTRE, EXTERNAL WORKS & BIKE HUB

Councillor Brownridge and Jabbar declared an other registerable interest in this item, by virtue of their Council appointment to the Northern Roots Oldham Ltd board, left the room and took no part in the discussion and voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of the procurement approach for the next phase of the Northern Roots Visitor Centre and external works following completion of the stage 3 design.

It was reported that the proposals before Cabinet included, following successful procurement, a preconstruction services agreement would be awarded to the contactor submitting the most favourable bid, the extension of the existing appointment of JDDK Architects and sub-consultant team to complete Royal Institute of British Architects stage 4 design to provide construction and buildability advice to the eventual contactor

during the preconstruction services agreement and the preferred contractor, Bike Track Limited as the Council's preferred contractor for the specialist mountain bike and pump track.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Agree the approach and progress the Northern Roots visitor Centre external works and Bike Hub projects including the appointment of the consultant team set out in the report.

Option 2 – Do not agree the proposal in the report and reprofile the allocated funds from the Town Deal allocations.

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

9

FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Environment which sought approval to purchase new vehicles for the next three financial years (2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25).

A review of the Council's fleet was undertaken in May 2022 and this identified a number of amendments which were required to the agreed content of the last Cabinet approved Fleet Replacement report. The amendments detailed in the report before Members provided an accurate forecast of vehicle purchasing requirements for the remainder of 2022/23 and the next three financial years and if approved would supersede the last Fleet replacement Programme agreed in 2019.

The Fleet management service had identified the remaining spend on vehicles for 2022/23 and the total spend over the next three financial years.

The report also sought approval to design and implement appropriate procurement strategies for the sourcing of the required vehicles and sought authority for the purchases to be approved by the Director of Environment in consultation with the Commercial Procurement unit.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – to approve the purchase of new vehicles for the remainder of 2022/23 and the next three financial years (2023/24, 2024/25 & 2025/26) as detailed in this report and to delegate authority to design and implement appropriate procurement strategies for the sourcing of the required vehicles to the Director of Environment in consultation with the Commercial Procurement Unit so that the FMS can purchase vehicles over the next three financial years without referring back to Cabinet. On approval, the FMS will undertake all subsequent procurement and approval processes in line with the Council's Procurement Processes

Option 2 – to delay replacing vehicles within the fleet replacement programme. Whilst this may save money in terms of delaying initial purchasing costs, the potential risk of repair and breakdown costs must be factored in. Due to the nature of work and the large majority of the council's vehicle fleet (i.e., waste collection vehicles, highway repair), any vehicle that breaks down has the potential to require a hired vehicle

replacement. Hiring vehicles, to replace a current fleet vehicle, has a significant impact on service budgets as they are an additional and often unaccounted costs.

Option 3 – to look at other FRP models such as leasing and hiring. When the Council introduced its original FRP strategy in 2012/13, it was done to replace the leased and hired vehicle models which existed at the time. The current FRP strategy is based on the economical and management benefits gained from ownership of the vehicle. The FMS has worked to this strategy for the past ten years.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained in the report at Item 13 before making a decision.

10

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, Establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Boards a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required to enable the Council to have representation on the Integrated Care Partnership Board.

Consideration was given to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, which sought approval of the establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (GM ICP) as a joint committee and outlining the terms of reference for the GM ICP.

The ICP was one of two statutory components of an Integrated Care System, alongside the Integrated Care Board (ICB). ICPs have a statutory duty to create an integrated care strategy to address assessed needs, such as health and care needs of the population with the Integrated Care Board's area including determinants of health and wellbeing such as employment, environment and housing and to prepare an integrated care strategy.

The minimum core membership would consist of 10 representatives from the 10 districts and a member of the ICB.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – For Oldham not to agree to the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership.

Option 2 – To agree to the establishment of the Integrated Care Partnership as a Joint Committee and appoint member representation with a substitute.

RESOLVED- That;

1. Approval be given to the establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership as a joint committee of the Integrated Care Board and the ten Greater Manchester local authorities.
2. The Terms of Reference of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership be noted.

3. Councillor Barbara Brownridge be appointed as a member of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership and Councillor Amanda Chadderton as the substitute member.

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 **NORTHERN ROOTS: VISITOR CENTRE, EXTERNAL WORKS & BIKE HUB**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 8 Northern Roots: Visitor Centre, External Works & Bike Hub.

RESOLVED – That;

1. The approach to progress the Northern Roots Visitor Centre and external works project, including the appointment of the consultant team as set out in the report be approved.
2. Authority be delegated to the Director of Economy to develop, consult, procure and arrange for the execution by the Director of Legal Services of any relevant contracts and incidental and ancillary documentation with the Northern Roots projects to be funded by the Towns Fund and Sports England.

13 **FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 – Fleet Replacement Programme.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The purchase of new vehicles as detailed within the report for the next three financial years, 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25) be agreed.
2. Delegated authority be given to the Director of Environment to sign off and approve the resulting vehicle procurement process.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.17pm

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

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 14TH
NOVEMBER 2022**

RESOLVED – That the minute of the Cabinet meeting held on
14th November 2022 be approved.

6 **CHILDREN'S SERVICES INVESTMENT PROPOSALS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director,
Children and Young People, (DCS) which sought approval of the
proposed investment into children's services and the invest to
save strategy aligned with it

In May 2022, Annual Council adopted the Administration's
priorities for 2022/23. One priority area for the Council was to
have a relentless focus on children and young people to ensure
that they enjoy a happy, healthy and safe childhood. In
September 2022, the Council further declared children and
young people to be its number one priority, underpinning the
organisation's new five-year corporate plan.

As part of this focus the Council's Children's Social Care and
Early Help services had embarked upon a challenging "Getting
to Good" programme that would see the Council improve the
quality of its vital social work and safeguarding services and the
experiences and outcomes of those in need of them.

To support both our overall priority for children and young
people and the continuous improvement of our existing services
the Council was proposing a significant investment into services
that support and safeguard children, young people, and their
families.

The proposal Cabinet was being asked to approve was to invest
£14.7 million into vital children's social care and family support
services in the borough. This investment would;

- Provide better support for families, at an earlier stage, to
avoid the need for social care involvement, including:

- The targeting of £3 million of external funding to provide a greater range of services, support and activities at key children's centres
- The targeting of £2.7 million of external funding to target support for families currently struggling and needing less intensive support
- Extra work with schools, colleges and with voluntary, community and faith organisation's to improve the amount and level of support available for families in local communities
- Provide the very best care for Oldham's most vulnerable children and young people by:
 - Investing in additional capacity in the teams assessing and making-decisions on vulnerable children and young people's care and support needs
 - Increasing the teams, supporting fostering and special guardianship orders so that more children and young people have a home within a family setting
 - Increasing the amount of move-on accommodation available in Oldham to support those young people ready to leave care to live independently
 - Establishing a scheme to provide deposits and first month's rent and/or acting as guarantors for young people ready to move into independent accommodation and housing
 - Establishing a new council-run children's home for local children and young people with learning disabilities so fewer children need to be cared for outside of the borough
- Make Oldham one of the best places to be a social worker by:
 - Recruiting 50 more permanent social workers to ensure manageable caseloads and reduce the need for agency social workers as much as possible
 - Recruiting 17 new Social Work Support Officers to free up social workers for more time with children and families
 - Reviewing current pay and conditions for children's social work staff to ensure the Council was able to attract and retain the most talented social workers
- Recognise, reward and better support Oldham's Foster Carers by;
 - Increasing allowances and skills payments by 10%
 - Recruiting five highly trained specialist foster carers to offer additional training, support and advice to foster carers across the borough – focusing on supporting those who care for some of the most vulnerable children and young people to help them remain in foster care.

○
Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – Approve the investment as detailed within the report which aimed to improve services for children, young people and families and to support quality social work and reward foster carers.

Option 2 – Not to invest in the service as detailed within the report. This would removed the ability to tackle rising demand for support leading to spiralling costs to deliver quality children’s services.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed investment into children’s services and the invest to save strategy aligned with it as detailed within the report be approved.
2. The decisions resulting from the implementation of the invest to save strategy be delegated to the Managing Director of Children’s Services and the Director of Legal Services.

7

BUDGET FORECASTS FOR FINANCIAL YEARS 2023/24 AND 2024/25

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which sought approval of the updated forecast budget reduction requirement for 2023/24 and 2024/25, having regard to the financial position reported at Budget Council on 2 March 2022, the changing events which had impacted on the finances of the Council in the period leading up to 17 November 2022 when the Autumn Statement was announced by the Chancellor and the subsequent Government funding indications included in the Autumn Statement.

The Medium Term Financial Strategy covering the five year period 2022/23 to 2026/27 was agreed by Council on 2 March 2022. At that time, the financial outlook both globally and nationally was significantly different.

Since then there had been a wide range of developments which had impacted upon the financial forecasts presented to Council in March 2022.

On 17 October 2022, the Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered an Emergency Statement which reversed a number of the economic policy changes introduced by the previous Chancellor. This stabilised turbulence in the financial markets which had made financial planning difficult and which had resulted in a number of Local Authorities publicly declaring significant reductions in future financial resilience. The Chancellor also advised that there would be an Autumn Statement to follow shortly afterwards.

This was subsequently deferred until 17 November 2022.

The Autumn Statement has provided the Council with enough information to enable a review of its financial estimates in advance of the receipt of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement. As the Autumn Statement focussed on 2023/24 and 2024/25, it had enabled the financial forecasts for those years to be revised to give Members a more informed view of the financial position. This report therefore sets out the

updated estimates for 2023/24 and 2024/25 and details the assumptions supporting these projections.

Whilst the Autumn Statement confirmed Government departmental budgets would be maintained at the levels announced in the Spending Review of October 2021, it deferred an element of the planned adult social care reforms, whilst maintaining the level of funding previously announced for the implementation of the reform, thus easing some of the immediate financial concerns. The Government also announced extra support for adult social care and confirmed Local Government would be compensated for the freezing of the Business Rates multiplier. Whilst the exact financial impact will not be clear until the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement is announced, it has enabled the financial projections to be updated based on the assumptions set out in this report. These assumptions have also incorporated the current financial projections for the 2022/23 outturn as reported elsewhere on this agenda.

Given the financial pressures which had emerged such as increased energy costs, extraordinary inflationary increases and the exceptional on-going demand for Adults and Children's Social Care services, the budget reduction requirement for the Council had increased from the previously reported position of £16.711m as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy agreed at 2 March 2022 Budget Council to £27.975m.

The report set out how the Council was proposing to bridge the budget gap by its programme of transformational change which would include demand management, income maximisation, budget reductions and the potential use of one off sources of funding.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was not expected to be published until the week commencing 19 December 2022. This would give the Council better information to refine its estimates for the budget reduction requirement for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The updated position would be reported to Members in January 2023.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the updated financial projections as set in the report for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as at 12th December 2022.

Option 2 – To propose an alternative updated financial projection and revise the forecasts for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

RESOLVED - That the updated financial projections of the Council as set out in this report, identifying a budget reduction requirement of £27.975m for the financial year 2023/24 and £14.575m for the financial year 2024/25 be approved.

8

REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2022/23 QUARTER 2 - SEPTEMBER 2022

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

The current forecast outturn position for 2022/23 was a projected deficit variance of £4.452m after allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from reserves. An operational deficit of £6.172m reduced by £1.720m with the anticipated effect of management actions and strengthened restrictions in relation to expenditure and recruitment.

The position included additional costs and pressures that have been identified by the Authority in this financial year as a direct result of the lasting impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were two areas which continued to endure significant pressures attributed to the ongoing impact of the Pandemic; Community Health & Adult Social Care was reporting an adverse variance of £7.028m and Children's Social Care was recording £3.961m.

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

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

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2022/23 to 2026/27 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2022/23 was £68.318m at the close of Quarter 2, a net decrease of £31.930m from the original budget of £100.248m. Actual expenditure to 30 September 2022 was £18.842m (27.58% of the forecast outturn). Without doubt the forecast position would continue to change throughout the year with additional re-profiling into future years.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Forecast revenue outturn for 2022/23 at Quarter 2 being a £4.452m adverse variance having regard to the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.
2. The Forecast positions for both the Housing Revenue Account, Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund be approved
3. The Revised capital programme for 2022/2027 as at Quarter 2 be approved.

9

SCHOOLS NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided detail regarding the resources available for School Funding for 2023/24 and required the Cabinet to consider how the funding for Schools and Academies should be distributed in 2023/24.

This report provided detail of the level of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2023/24 together with its allocation across the three funding blocks for which information was currently available. The funding was based on October 2021 pupil numbers and would be subject to change once calculations have been updated to reflect October 2022 pupil numbers.

The report also provided information about the National Funding Formula (NFF) for Schools, the High Needs Blocks for Oldham and also presented a recommended approach for the distribution of the Schools Funding Block of the DSG to Schools and Academies for 2023/24.

In addition, the report presented the proposed option (Model 1 as detailed in Appendix 1) to move to the 2023/24 NFF cash values in full except for the Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) where it was proposed that the factor applied in Oldham was initially reduced from 1.00547 to 1.00000. However, Members were advised that if there are any resources available once funding allocations based on updated pupil numbers are received, then this additional funding will be allocated through an increase to the ACA.

The indicative Schools block allocations to Local Authorities were funded by multiplying a Primary Unit of Funding (PUF's) and Secondary Units of Funding (SUF's) cash value by each pupil. The PUF's and SUF's for 2023/24 have been calculated based on school and pupil characteristics data from the 2022/23 Authority Proforma Tool (APT) data which was based on October 2020 census information. They would not be updated for any characteristic changes to the October 2022 census until 2024/25. If there was a significant change in characteristics such as eligibility for free school meals, the factor values in the local formulae would be adjusted as necessary to meet any affordability pressures.

It was also proposed for the second year there was no movement of funding from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block as the DSG was forecast to be in surplus by the end of 2023/24 as required by the Department for Education.

Options/alternatives considered

In view of Oldham being at the National Funding Formula values and not proposing any change from the prior year funding, Members are not therefore presented with an alternative approach.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The model outlined in the report which reflected the 2023/24 NFF cash values in full except for the Area Cost Adjustment factor, which was reduced to 1.00000 be approved.
2. A reassessment of the allocation arrangements would take place once the actual 2023/24 funding allocations were received with a view to moving the full Area Cost Adjustment if sufficient resources were available.
3. A transfer of funding between the Higher Needs and Schools Blocks if this was required as a means of finding the Area Cost Adjustment be approved.
4. The adjustment of the model if there was a significant change in characteristics such as eligibility for free school meals to meet any affordability pressures be approved.

10

AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF SCHOOL SWIMMING TRANSPORT SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities which sought approval to award a contract for the provision of the School Swimming Transport services following a full tender process.

The School Swimming Service delivered high quality, safe and structured swimming lessons for Oldham schools. The school's

benefit from the qualified teaching staff delivering the service at the Leisure Centre's across the Borough including events and competitions. The service also offered a range of personal survival and water safety support. The service works in line with the National Curriculum guidelines and in partnership with Swim England to deliver physical activity, increase participation in school sport and develops key essential life & water safety skills. The service could be utilised by pupils in Primary, Senior and Special Schools. Pupils are transported over 190 school days per year. There was a huge benefit for the service to provide and coordinate the transport and work in close partnership with transport providers to establish a transport schedule weekly. All transport cost incurred are recharged to Schools via Service Level Agreements

An open tender exercise for the school swimming transport provision was started via The Chest portal on 14 June 2022. The tender submissions were evaluated by a panel consisting of the School Swimming Manager, School Swimming Business Support Officer, and the Sport Leisure & Wellbeing Service Manager with the support of the procurement team.

Option/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Extend the current transport contract for a further 12 months

but the previous Delegated Cabinet Member Decision form (December 2021) Option 2 - The contract to go out to tender for procurement so that the Council could provide value for money

RESOLVED – That following on from an open and competitive tendering process, a contract with Matthews Travel (K Matt Coaches) based in Oldham be awarded for the School Swimming Transport Provision in accordance with the results of the tendering exercise which has been carried out through a robust evaluation process (based on technical ability & quality, social value, and price) for three years, with an option to extend for a further two years.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.21pm

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Akhtar.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required to enable the Council to ensure the programme could start as soon as possible and the decision could not reasonably wait until the next Cabinet meeting.

The Item was considered at Item 13 of the agenda.

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 12TH
DECEMBER 2022**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 12th December 2022 be approved.

6 **SITE A - PRINCE'S GATE OLDHAM**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth, which sought to update the Cabinet on the present position of Site A Princes Gate, the current market conditions and future options.

The Council had received notification from Lidl that the changing market conditions in the hotel and leisure sector had resulted in them no longer being able to deliver the contracted agreement at the town centre site.

Subsequently, Lidl and the Council had agreed to progress a mutual surrender and termination of the existing agreement (between Oldham Council and Lidl UK GmbH dated 27th February 2019) reflecting the current market conditions.

Options/ alternatives considered

Option 1- Mutual surrender/termination of the agreement.

Option 2 - Unilateral termination by the Council.

Option 3 - Agree a variation of the existing contract. However, this was not

considered a viable option.

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

7

BULKY COLLECTIONS & LOCAL WELFARE PROVISION CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Environment which sought approval to award a new bulky waste collection and local welfare provision (LWP) contract to start 1st April 2023.

It was reported that the new contract was an attempt at combining two Council services, which were currently being operated under separate contracts.

The main aim of the new contract would be to develop financial and resource efficiencies whilst at the same time maximising the flow of bulky collected pre-loved furniture and white good items into the LWP scheme. The new contract would improve the Council's ability to help and support the needs of vulnerable residents (in furniture poverty) when trying to establish or maintain a home in the borough.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve a new combined bulky collection & LWP contract be entered into with FRC (Bulky Bob's).

Option 2 – To not award FRC a new contract and undertake a new procurement process with the aim of awarding two new separate contracts. There are no perceived operational benefits to this model.

Option 3 – To not award FRC with a new contract and continue as we are. This is not a viable option as both the current Bulky and LWP contracts require renewal and due to the costs associated, compliant contracts are required.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 16 before making a decision.

8

COUNCIL TAX TAX BASE AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES TAX BASE FORECAST 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which presented to the Cabinet the Council Tax Tax Base and provisional Non-Domestic Rates (NDR) Tax Base forecast for 2023/24 which would underpin the forthcoming Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy scheduled for consideration at Budget Council on 1 March 2023.

The report also sought delegated authority to finalise the 2023/24 Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) forecast to reflect up to date Non-Domestic Rates details to be submitted to Central Government via the annual NNDR 1 return by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2023.

The technical report provided information on the Council Tax Tax Base for 2023/24 using the most up to date valuation list and all other information and estimates available.

The total number of chargeable properties included in the Council Tax Tax Base calculation in Oldham for 2023/24 was

95,980. This figure was reduced to 87,000 after allowing for discounts and exemptions and translated to the equivalent of 69,175.3 Band D properties. After applying adjustments for the Local Council Tax Support scheme offset by the additional charging for empty properties and an anticipated increase in the number of properties to be included in the valuation list over the forthcoming year, the number of Band D equivalent properties reduced to 60,465.1. The final Tax Base after the application of the anticipated collection rate of 96.75% was 58,500 which was an increase of 1,050 when compared to the Council Tax Tax Base for 2022/23 of 57,450.

The 2023/24 Tax Bases for Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils of 8,952 and 5,615 respectively, had been calculated using the same methodology.

Statute requires local Billing Authorities to prepare and submit to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) a locally determined and approved Business Rates forecast through the NNDR 1 return by 31 January each year. This forecast would be used to determine the 2023/24 “demand” and payment schedule for Business Rates between Oldham Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). Being a participant in the Greater Manchester 100% Rates Retention Pilot Scheme which was confirmed for the financial year 2023/24 in the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS) which was announced on 19 December 2022 means the Council no longer pays a share of Business Rates to Central Government. Instead, Oldham currently retains 99% of the income with 1% being paid to the GMCA for Fire and Rescue services.

The estimated rating income for 2023/24 attributable to Oldham Council using the latest information which includes the Business Rates Revaluation was currently £48.499m which was a decrease of £0.106m compared to 2022/23. Delegation is sought to enable the Business Rates forecast to be updated to take account of up-to-date Non-Domestic Rates information, enabling the submission to Central Government of the annual NNDR 1 return by the statutory deadline of 31 January 2023. As the 100% Business Rates retention regime was continuing, the Council had assumed a benefit of £4.180m from the pilot scheme for 2023/24. The current arrangement was that the Council could retain 75% of this benefit with the balance attributable to GMCA. The Council’s share, £3.135m would be made available to support the 2023/24 budget whilst the GMCA share would be transferred to a reserve to be paid to the GMCA once the final position had been agreed. The figures will only be confirmed by the end of 2023/24.

It was important to highlight to Members that the preparation of Council Tax and Business Rates Tax Bases was being undertaken in a period of unprecedented uncertainty and volatility. The current economic climate including uncertain prospects for economic growth, Government changes in policy in year, the revaluation of Business Rates from 1 April 2023 and the economic impact of the conflict in Ukraine are amongst the issues which made forecasting challenging.

The Collection Fund had moved into a projected surplus position in 2022/23 providing the opportunity to use the surplus to

support the 2023/24. This was the result of the lifting of COVID-19 related restrictions during the year and consequent improved collection rates. It also reflected the level of Government support provided via Business Rate reliefs which has reduced any losses in collection.

Options/alternatives considered

The Council had little discretion in the calculation of the number of properties incorporated into the Council Tax Tax Base given the legislative framework that was in place. However, there was some discretion in estimating the number of new properties that would be included on the Council Tax register during 2023/24 and the change to the number of claimants of Council Tax Reduction. A prudent view had been taken in this regard. The main area for an alternative approach was over the level of assumed collection rate. An increase in the collection rate would boost the anticipated Council Tax income and a decrease in the rate would decrease income. The Council had chosen to maintain its 2023/24 collection rate at 96.75%. This decision had been influenced by prevailing economic circumstances and current trends in collection rates.

The NNDR1 return generated the figures upon which the Business Rates Tax Base is prepared. It was not, therefore appropriate to consider an alternative approach. However, as the figures included on the NNDR1 return on 31 January 2023 may vary from the estimated level, delegation was sought to allow the opportunity to revise the Business Rates forecast and approve a revised and more accurate position for budget setting.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The Council Tax Tax Base for 2023/24 at 58,500 Band D equivalent properties be approved.
2. The latest estimate for 2023/24 Business Rates revenue that was attributable to Oldham Council as being £48.499m be approved.
3. The drawing down from the Collection Fund of £4.180m of Business Rates retention gains anticipated for 2023/24, of which the Council would utilise £3.135m (75%) be approved.
4. The Tax Bases for Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils of 8,952 and 5,615 respectively be noted.
5. The decision to vary the final Business Rates forecast and hence the Business Rates Tax Base, if required, be delegated to the Director of Finance in consultation with to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon.

9

WRIGLEY HEAD SOLAR FARM - DELIVERY OPTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Environment which sought a decision on the preferred option for delivery of Wrigley Head Solar Farm.

The Solar Farm project was a 891kW ground mounted solar PV array at a Council-owned former industrial landfill site at Wrigley Head in Failsworth. The solar farm would improve the site, including in terms of biodiversity via wildflower planting and other measures, and would generate a significant amount of

renewable energy, potentially contributing to the Council's 2025 carbon neutrality target and / or the borough 2030 target. The project would save an average of 50 tonnes of CO₂ per annum over the lifetime of the scheme and cost around £1.1 million to develop. The specification of the project was set in 2019 when the original feasibility work was done it was possible that with improvements in technology, the scheme could achieve 1MW of generating capacity.

In spring 2020, the impact of the coronavirus pandemic and national lockdown on the economy meant that the long-term outlook for wholesale electricity prices was revised downwards. The change in this assumption underlying the financial model for the solar farm meant that with the new outlook, the solar farm no longer showed a viable business case.

As a consequence, the project was considered by Cabinet in the summer of 2020 in the context of the Creating A Better Place capital programme review. A decision was taken at that time to stop work on the project.

Before work on the project was paused, a fee was paid to Electricity North West to accept a grid connection offer. A further 'staged payment' of around £35K was due in 2020 but was not paid as a consequence of the Cabinet decision to pause work on the project. Electricity North West have confirmed that the grid connection offer was still valid and have provided updated details in terms of grid connection costs and timescales.

The solar farm scheme was dependent upon a cable easement across third party owned land. Two adjoining landowners have indicated a willingness to grant a cable easement across their land, however, no terms have been agreed. It is expected that the third-party landowner would want a payment or the transfer of the council's adjoining land for nil consideration for the grant of the easement.

In July 2019 at Full Council, a new 2025 carbon neutrality target for the Council was announced - to cover Council buildings and street lighting.

The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy (adopted in March 2020) confirmed the Council carbon neutrality target for 2025 and set an additional carbon neutrality target of 2030 for the borough as a whole.

According to methodology from Salix, it was estimated that Wrigley Head Solar Farm could save around 50 tonnes per annum of CO₂. The outline financial model also showed that the project could generate an IRR of between 3.5% and 7% from savings on the Council's energy bill. The expected lifetime of the solar farm is 30 years.

The project gained Planning Permission in December 2021, with a number of Planning Conditions attached relating to environmental surveys and the construction of a screening fence alongside the tram track, which was agreed with TfGM in order to remove their objection to the scheme.

Electricity North West have confirmed that the grid connection offer for the solar farm is still valid. ENWL are now waiting for the next 'staged payment' of around £35K for connection works already accepted (which was not made after the project was paused in 2020).

For the scheme to be taken forward, negotiations would need to resume with the third party landowners who own the land across which the cabling connecting the proposed solar farm to the ENWL grid connection point must pass. This will likely be done by ENWL as part of the grid connection works, rather than by the Council.

The GM Combined Authority recently set up a framework agreement for low carbon projects called the “Go Neutral” framework. This framework has a number of lots, including two lots relevant to the Wrigley Head solar farm project. Lot 4 is for Council-funded ground mounted solar and Lot 5 was for developer-led and funded hybrid low carbon projects on Council-owned land, which can include ground-mounted solar. The framework agreement was available to Oldham Council.

In September / October 2022, the Council tested the market for the Wrigley Head project by placing an Expression of Interest on both lots 4 and 5 of the Go Neutral framework. These EOIs were placed to attract market feedback in terms of the practical deliverability of the project (Lot 4) and the financial case for the project (Lot 5). The EOI process is now complete and attracted two returns on each of Lots 4 and 5.

One of the two respondents on Lot 4 stated that due to a rise in costs, the Council should increase the available budget for the scheme by 25%. This would mean that the estimated capital budget required to construct the solar farm will rise from £1,080,465 to £1,350,581. This is the most accurate estimate of project cost available at the time of writing. A final cost can only be established through a full procurement process – which is likely to take the form of a mini-competition on the GM Go Neutral framework.

It was estimated that a revenue budget of around £70K would be required to progress the scheme to construction stage. This figure comprised £35K for a ‘staged payment’ on the grid connection, and £35K for the procurement and appointment of an ‘owners engineer’ in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules to act as a ‘client side’ external Project Manager for the scheme, overseeing the ‘Engineer, Procure and Construct’ (design and build) contractor.

If the Council decided to proceed with the recommended option (Council to fund and own the solar farm), the next step would be a mini-competition on Lot 4 of the Go Neutral framework. This would give the Council formal bids from contractors on the framework, from which a successful bidder would be selected. As two contractors have expressed interest in the project, it was likely that the Council will receive bids from these two in a formal mini-competition.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Do nothing. Under this option, no further work would take place on the project, and no further expenditure would be incurred. However, the project would not generate a revenue income for the Council nor make any contribution to reducing carbon emissions in Oldham, GM nor generate electricity for a future Oldham Local Energy Market.

Option 2 - Proceed with a mini-competition under Lot 4 of the GM Go Neutral framework and procure the Owner’s Engineer.

Under this option, the Council would see a contractor to design, build and operate the solar farm, which would be funded and owned by the Council, with the Council receiving the electricity generated via a Power Purchase Agreement with the Council's main electricity supplier.

Option 3 - Proceed with a mini-competition under Lot 5 of the GM Go Neutral framework and procure the Owner's Engineer. Under this option, the Council would seek a contractor funded and operated model for delivery of the Wrigley Head solar farm, with the Council purchasing electricity from the developer via a Power Purchase Agreement at a rate yet to be determined.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The preferred delivery option to proceed with a mini-competition under Lot 4 of the GM Go Neutral framework and procure the Owner's Engineer. Under this option, the Council would see a contractor to design, build and operate the solar farm, which would be funded and owned by the Council, with the Council receiving the electricity generated via a Power Purchase Agreement with the Council's main electricity supplier be agreed and the allocation of £1,350,581 capital funding from the Creating a Better Place programme for construction of the project be approved.
2. The appointment of a contractor further to a mini-competition on the GM Go Neutral framework delegated to the Director of Economy and the appointment of an Owner's Engineer in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth, the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, the Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance and Legal Services.
3. The acceptance of any grant funding from the Unlocking Clean Energy in Greater Manchester project be delegated to the Director of Economy in consultation with the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth, the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, the Chief Executive and the Directors of Finance and Legal Services.

10

PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME PHASE 3A GRANT ACCEPTANCE - SPINDLES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Economy which sought approval to accept a grant of £2,153,354 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 3a for energy works at the Spindles, and to commence the works.

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme was a UK Government funded programme, administered by Salix.

The Council has previously bid for PSDS grant funding (via a GMCA consortium) to the PSDS3a funding round, for decarbonisation works at the Spindles, including the installation of roof and wall insulation, glazing, solar PV and heat pumps. The grant funding was not awarded at that time, due to the overall funding envelope being exceeded by the time Salix received Oldham's application (via GMCA)

However, in September 2022 Salix approached GMCA asking whether Oldham would still be looking for the funding, as the PSDS3 a programme was underspent after the first 12 months of operation.

The PSDS3a application form for Spindles had been updated to take into account changes to the proposed project over the past 12 months, and had now been approved by Salix, who have signed a Grant Agreement with GMCA for the grant funding. The actual grant amount received by GMCA from Salix will be £2,291,822. However, the GMCA will ‘top-slice’ this grant amount as a management fee (£138,468 or 6%) and the actual grant amount to be received from GMCA by Oldham will be £2,153,354.

The decarbonisation works at the Spindles would contribute to the carbon neutrality targets set out in the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy and would also support the “A Clean and Green Future” priority set out in the Corporate Plan. They are also forecast to save around £45K annually in energy costs at the complex.

The Spindles project had been offered £2,153,354 in grant funding against a total project value of £3,956,223, requiring a match funding element from the Council of £1,802,869. The grant funding has to be utilised by 31st March 2025.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Do not accept the grant. Under this option, the grant funding would not be accepted and the additional energy works proposed at the Spindles complex would not be implemented.

Option 2 - Accept the grant and commence works. Under this option, the Council will enter into a partnership agreement with GMCA for disbursement of the grant, and the works will be carried out by the Spindles project team already appointed for the wider renovation programme at the site.

RESOLVED -That the grant funding be accepted and the Council commence the works.

11

OLDHAM'S TRANSPORT STRATEGY, DELIVERY PLAN AND TOWN CENTRE PARKING STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council which sought approval and adoption of the Oldham Transport Strategy.

The Oldham Transport Strategy set out how Oldham would meet the ambitions set out in the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 and sub strategies, whilst ensuring investment was prioritised to ensure Oldham's Transport and Highways Network support a Healthy, Clean and Thriving borough.

The Vision for Oldham as set out in the strategy is to create a connected borough with increasing use of public transport and active travel that provides all people with safe and inclusive access to opportunities and healthy choices.

The Transport Strategy set out the council's transport and highways ambitions in relation to:

- A Healthy Oldham
- A Clean Oldham
- A Safe Oldham



- An Accessible Oldham
- A Connected Oldham and
- A Thriving Oldham

The Oldham Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan aligned with the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 'Right Mix' ambition for half of all journeys to be made by active and sustainable transport modes by 2040. The aim of Oldham's Transport Strategy was to reduce carbon emissions from transport, increase cycling, walking and public transport use and enable the borough to become an increasingly attractive place to live, work and visit.

The Delivery Plan set out transport interventions to be delivered over the following time periods:

- short term 0 - 5 years;
- medium term 5 -10 years;
- long term 10 – 20 years (up to 2040); and
- beyond 20 years - 2040 onwards.

The Transport Strategy also included the first proposed sub-strategy - an update to the Oldham Town Centre Parking Strategy. The refreshed Town Centre Parking Strategy was necessary to support the current regeneration proposals for the town centre.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - To adopt and publish the Transport Strategy, Delivery Plan and Town Centre Parking Strategy to support our framework to direct transport investment for all modes going forward to support sustainable growth and development to enable and ensure a healthy, clean, safe and connected.

Option 2 - To not adopt and publish the Transport Strategy, Delivery Plan and Town Centre Parking Strategy, which will weaken the case for transport investment in the borough, as there will not be clear direction on the need and justification for the investment, and links to how it meets the targets set out in the GM2040 Strategy.

RESOLVED – That the Oldham Transport Strategy including the Delivery Plan and Oldham Town Centre parking strategy be adopted to embed meeting the aims of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (GM2040) in the borough and ensure our transport and highways networks enable the building of homes and the creation of jobs.

12

LA POLICY ON ACADEMY CONVERSION AND GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director, Children and Young People which sought approval of a revised Local Academy Conversion Policy and Guidance and its application in all cases where maintained schools convert to academy status.

The original Local Authority Policy on Academy Conversion was agreed in 2016. In March 2022 the government released a new white paper 'Opportunity for All'. A key aim of the white paper was to enable the conversion of all maintained school to academies by 2030.

In September 2022 the Department of Education also published new guidance on schools causing concern. In effect this means that schools that are currently meet the Department for Education definition of 'coasting schools' would be required to convert to academy status. The guidance was also clear that this process would be accelerated in areas that are designated as EIA (Priority Education Investment Areas). Oldham is one of four such areas within GM (Greater Manchester)

Options/alternatives

There are no suggested alternatives.

Academy Conversion Policy and Guidance and its application in all cases where maintained schools convert to academy status. The original Local Authority Policy on Academy Conversion was agreed in 2016. In March 2022 the government released a new white paper 'Opportunity for All'. A key aim of the white paper is to enable the conversion of all maintained school to academies by 2030. In September 2022 the Department of Education also published new guidance on schools causing concern.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The attached Local Authority policy on Academy Conversion and Guidance for Schools be approved by Cabinet and distributed to all maintained schools within the borough.
2. Authority be given to the Director of Education and Early Years and the Cabinet Member for Education to authorise all associated agreements in respect of academy conversions and approve any changes to the policy resulting from changes to primary legislation.

13

URGENT BUSINESS - FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required to enable the Council to ensure the programme could start as soon as possible and the decision could not reasonably wait until the next Cabinet meeting.

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director, Children and Young People which sought approval of the receipt of funding from the Department for Education and Department of Social Care to support transition to a new model of care the principles and objectives of the Government's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.

Authorisation was also sought to delegate authority to agree all spending decisions related to the Family Hubs to the Director of Education and Early Years and the Director of Public Health after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People, noting the role of a new Early Years and Early Help strategic partnership and the Children's Transformation Board in this process.

Oldham was one of seventy-five local authorities pre-selected by the Department for Education (DfE) for the Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme. To enable the project Oldham Council was to receive an indicative allocation of £3.48 million over three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Oldham sign up form attached to this report detailed spending priorities identified for Oldham for this period.

A comprehensive delivery plan detailing indicative costings was completed with partners for submission to the DfE by the 31 December 2022 for final approval.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1- Approve the recommendations set out in the report
Approve the receipt of the Family Hubs and Start for Life funding to support the transition to more integrated and accessible services that provide support to parents and carers and contribute to a reduction in inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children and families

Option 2 - Do nothing. This will result in loss of funding for Oldham to deliver the Family Hub & Start for Life Programme

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 17 before making a decision.

14 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

15 **SITE A - PRINCE'S GATE OLDHAM**

Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 6 Site A – Prince's Gate Oldham.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The termination of the contract between Oldham Council and Lidl UK GmbH dated 27th February 2019, with each party responsible for their own costs be approved.
2. It be noted, subject to satisfactory termination of the Lidl contract, an options paper was being prepared to consider future uses for the sit, which included potential for more new homes as an alternative to retail, given wider Town Centre regeneration plans.

16 **BULKY COLLECTIONS & LWP CONTRACT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 of the agenda, Bulky Collections and LWP Contract.

RESOLVED – That the new bulky collection and Local Welfare Provision Contract be awarded to FRC group following the outcome of evaluation of bids as a result of the competitive tender process.

FAMILY HUBS AND START FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 15, Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme.

**RESOLVED – That:**

1. Approval be given to accept Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme funding from Government as indicated in para 2.5 of the report.
2. Authority to make all spending decisions relating to Family Hubs and the Start for Life Programme (including key decisions) be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years and the Director of Public Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children & Young People
3. Authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years and the Director of Public Health to award contracts stemming from a compliant procurement process and authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services to sign/seal such contracts and any necessary incidental and/or ancillary documents.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.22pm

Leader's Report on Urgent Decisions taken January 2022 – February 2023

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---------------|
| <p>Cabinet 27th February 2023 Rule 14</p> | <p>Investing In a New Theatre for Oldham</p> | <p>The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, New Theatre as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required to enable the Council to ensure the detail and approvals were considered as soon as possible and the decision could not reasonably wait until the next Cabinet meeting.</p> | <p>AGREED</p> |
| <p>Cabinet 23rd January 2023 Rule 14</p> | <p>Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme</p> | <p>The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required to enable the Council to ensure the programme could start as soon as possible and the decision could not reasonably wait until the next Cabinet meeting.</p> | <p>AGREED</p> |
| <p>Cabinet 14th November 2022</p> | <p>Establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Board</p> | <p>The Chair agreed to accept an Item of Business, Establishment of the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership Board as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was</p> | <p>AGREED</p> |

Leader's Report on Urgent Decisions taken January 2022 – February 2023

| | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--------|
| | | required to enable the Council to have representation on the Integrated Care Partnership Board. | |
| Cabinet 24 th January 2022 Rule 14 | COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund | The Chair agreed to consider an Item of business – COVID-19 Additional Relief Fund as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Cabinet approval was required as the approach detailed within the report would help provide an agreement to support the strict timescales being imposed by Central Government | AGREED |



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

15th March 2023

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from the previous Council meetings on 2nd November and 14th December 2022 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 note the actions taken and to note the correspondence has been received regarding some Motions agreed at previous Council meetings.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 This report sets out the actions officers have taken on motions approved at the November and December Council meetings 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

-
- 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 meetings held 2nd November and 14th December 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 2nd November and 14th December 2022 and outstanding matters since the commencement of the municipal year.

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Appendix 1

Actions from Council – 14th December 2022

| ACTION | ISSUE | WHO RESPONSIBLE | DATE COMPLETED | RESPONSE |
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| Youth Council Motion – Green Roofs and Walls | <p>The Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth be requested to investigate the feasibility of installing green roofs and living walls on buildings in Oldham.</p> <p>The Council agrees to support businesses and schools that wish to install green roofs and walls.</p> <p>That Green Roofs and Walls be considered as part of the Council's approach to climate change adaptation and resilience</p> | Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth | 16 th December 2022 | Work Ongoing with officers |
| Administration Motion 1: Don't Take It Out On Us: Properly Funded Public Services | <p>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:</p> <p>1. Asks the Borough's MPs to join our calls for properly funded local government and social care.</p> | Chief Executive | 16 th December 2022 | <p>Letter sent by CEX and Leader of the Council.</p> <p>No responses received to date.</p> <p>Work ongoing with collaboration.</p> |

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| | <p>2 That the Council works collaboratively and cross-party with colleagues in Oldham, Greater Manchester and nationally to lobby for fair funding for local government and social care.</p> <p>3. Continue to work with our partners across Oldham to provide good quality and cost-effective public services for Oldhamers.</p> <p>4. 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</p> <p>5. Calls for multi-year financial settlements to enable local authorities to plan properly and deliver the best services for our residents.</p> <p>6. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to urge him to</p> | | | |
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| | expedite the review into Council Tax so our residents aren't continually hammered by this regressive tax. | | | |
| Administration Motion 2: Investing in Children's Social Workers | <p>The Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ask them follow in Northern Ireland's footsteps and impose a ban or a quota on Agency Social Workers. 2. 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. 3. 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. Council further resolves to: 4. To instruct the DCS to work with colleagues across Greater Manchester, and potentially the North West, to work together to attempt to | Chief Executive | 16 th December 2022 | Response received 8 th February 2023 and attached |

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| | <p>reduce the reliance on agency social workers.</p> <p>5. 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</p> | | | |
| <p>Opposition Motion 1: Supporting our Armed Forces Community</p> | <p>That consideration of this Motion be referred to the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, for examination and that Committee be requested to submit a report thereon to Council in due course</p> | <p>Referred to Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> | <p>16th December 2022</p> | <p>Matter with Overview and Scrutiny for examination and included as part of the Work Programme.</p> |
| <p>Opposition Motion 2: Free School Meals and Winter Care Packages</p> | <p>The Council resolved to:</p> <p>1. 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</p> | <p>Managing Director for Children's Services and Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth</p> | <p>16th December 2022</p> | <p>No response received</p> <p>Work is continuing on cost of living support packages, the 'We can Help' campaign and digital isolation and loneliness through warm hubs and assisting people.</p> |

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| | <p>to school budgets in our Borough.</p> <p>2. To continue the work of the administration in supporting all children eligible for Free School Meals, including ensuring that all eligible are claiming Free School Meals and that families claiming free school meals are signposted to other support packages as part of the administration's "We Can Help" campaign. Children and families who are struggling should not be forced to struggle more due to the Conservative Government's economic mismanagement, and it is the administration's priority to support residents through this crisis.</p> <p>3. Continue to work with partners to ensure that vulnerable households are prioritised this winter – offering warm clothing, household essentials, useful information about council services and support offered by other organisations; and a</p> | | | |
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| | <p>friendly knock on the door to our most vulnerable residents.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> | | | |
| Polling District Review | <p>The Council received a report that reviewed Poling Districts in the Borough.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Council approve the new polling districts and polling places and the polling stations be determined by the Returning Officer, as detailed in Appendix A, of the submitted report, further to the final proposal circulated, subject to the inclusion of the amended proposals for the Coldhurst Ward (moved and</p> | Chief Executive/Director of Legal Services | Council approved the report on 14 th December 2022 | N/A |

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| | seconded by Councillors Jabbar and Chadderton respectively) above. | | | |
| Clean Air Scrutiny Proposals | <p>Council received a report regarding 'Clean Air' Scrutiny proposals for Greater Manchester.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. That the Council approves the establishment of a 'Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee' to scrutinise decisions of the 'Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee' and the 'Clean Air Administration Committee'</p> <p>2. That the appointment of a Lead Member and a Deputy member for the Greater Manchester Joint Scrutiny Committee, be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Council's Party Leaders.</p> | Chief Executive/Director of Legal Services | Council approved the report on 14 th December 2022 | N/A |
| Municipal Calendar | <p>Council received a report outlining a proposed calendar of meetings for 2023/24</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal</p> | Director of Legal Services/Head of Democratic Services | Council approved the report on 14 th December 2022 | N/A |

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| | <p>Year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.</p> <p>2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.</p> | | | |
| Civic Appreciation Nominations | <p>Council received a report nominating recipients for a Civic Appreciation Award.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Keira Arnold, Ibrahim Yousef and Hannah Miah be approved as recipients of the Civic Appreciation Award 2023, with the formal Ceremony to take place prior to the Council meeting on Wednesday, 15th March 2023.</p> | Chief Executive | Council approved the report on 14th December 2022 | Award ceremony to take place on 15 th March 2023 |
| Treasury Management Mid Year Review 2022/23 | <p>Council received a report regarding reviewing treasury management activity, thus far in 2022/23.</p> <p>RESOLVED: 1. That Council approves the Treasury Management activity for the first half of the</p> | Director of Finance | Council approved the report on 14th December 2022 | N/A |

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| | <p>financial year 2022/23 and the projected outturn position.</p> <p>2. That Council approves 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.</p> <p>That Council approves amendments to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at section 2.4.5.</p> | | | |
| <p>Youth Council Motion – Holiday Activities and Food Sessions</p> | <p>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</p> | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>4th November 2022</p> | <p>Response received 19th December 2022 attached</p> |

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| | school meals to support all those impacted by the current cost of living crisis. | | | |
| Administration Motion 1: Housing Policy | <p>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:</p> <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> | Chief Executive | 4 th November 2022 | Response received 15 th January 2023 and attached |
| 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> | Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth and Director of Finance | 4 th November 2022 | No response received to date. |

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| | <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 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</p> | | | |
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| | more avenues of support for older people in the borough. | | | |
| Opposition Motion 2: Provision of Local Services | <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.</p> <p>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</p> | Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth | 4 th November 2022 | No response received to date. |

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| | <p>site after the council moves into the Spindles Shopping centre.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | | | |
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| | <p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. 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.b. Build on the initial work done by Oldham's Members of Parliaments regarding the option of reopening existing | | | |
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| | <p>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> | | | |
| <p>Opposition Motion 3: Regulation of HMO's</p> | <p>The Council resolved to:</p> <p>a. Continue to gather the evidence to monitor the situation, paying attention to minimise any</p> | <p>Chief Executive and Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth</p> | <p>4th November 2022</p> | <p>No response received to date.</p> |

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| | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | | | |
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| | <p>landlords converting decent homes into HMOs solely for profit in particular neighbourhoods.</p> <p>d. 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.</p> <p>e. 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</p> | | | |
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| | changes of use in their boundaries. | | | |
| Administration Motion 1: Cost of Living Crisis | <p>That letters be sent to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer demanding that they 'offer more support to residents, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter b. for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever | Chief Executive | 9 th September 2022 | Response received 4 th January 2023 and attached. |

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| | <p>c. to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and</p> <p>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</p> | | | |
| <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> <p>a. Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to</p> | Chief Executive | 9 th September 2022 | No response received to date. |

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| | <p>the public for private displays.</p> <p>b. To review current laws on the sale and use of fireworks including a requirement for purchasers to state when how and where the fireworks would be used.</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> | | | |
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| <p>Opposition Motion 2: Meeting the Human Needs for Food and Warmth</p> | <p>That letters be forwarded, on behalf of Oldham Council as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Oldham Council will write to the three MPs representing Oldham Borough, asking them to confirm their commitment to action to cut the costs of energy for residents. 2. Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Energy to demand investment into the Oldham Mine Water Heat Network, which would provide an alternative way of delivering a secure heating source for hundreds of homes in the borough and commits to finding funding for this project at the soonest possible opportunity. | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>9th September 2022</p> | <p>Response letter received from the relevant department and provided to Council on 2 November.</p> <p>Still awaiting response on Part 4 of the resolution .</p> |
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| | <p>3. Oldham Council will write to the Secretary of State for Education to ask that damaging cuts to Free School Meals are reversed.</p> <p>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.</p> | | | |
| <p>Administration Motion 1: New Deal for Workers</p> | <p>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'</p> | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>26th July 2022</p> | <p>No response received to date.</p> |



2023-0001484CCPO

Claire Coutinho MP

Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing

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

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

8 February 2023

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 3 January, addressed to the Secretary of State, about the resolution passed by Oldham Council on 14 December on Investing in Children's Social Workers. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

I appreciate Oldham Council outlining its concerns regarding a shortage of qualified social workers and the role of agency within the social care sector and recognise many of the concerns raised.

The Independent Review of Children's Social Care was clear that current agency rates in children's social care are too high, and I support the case made by the Review for urgent and extensive system-wide reform.

On 2 February we published our 'Stable Homes, Built on Love' consultation, setting out our implementation strategy for children's social care and available at: tinyurl.com/56CK6TS7. This strategy is backed by investing £200 million by 2024-25 to address urgent issues facing children and families now, to lay the foundations for whole system reform, and set national direction for change. This is in addition to the £50 million funding each year for recruiting and developing child and family social workers to have the capacity, skills, and knowledge to support and protect vulnerable children.

Alongside our implementation strategy we have also launched a consultation on a range of proposals intended to increase social worker workforce stability and reduce agency use. This consultation invites views on a set of national rules on the engagement of agency social work resource and we would encourage your participation. Further information on the consultation is available at: tinyurl.com/44APY9V7.

With regard to the other points raised, departmental officials have spoken to their Northern Ireland counterparts to understand their plans in this space. We are keen to continue discussion and share learning while appreciating that Northern Ireland has a different reliance on agency resource and different scale to England.

With regard to staff banks, we are currently seed funding local approaches such as the North West staff bank to learn more about the model, and we will keep this recommendation under review.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Coutinho', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Claire Coutinho MP
Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing



2022-0045524CCPO

Claire Coutinho MP

Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing

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

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

19 December 2022

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, addressed to the Prime Minister, about Oldham Council's holiday activities and food (HAF) programme. I am replying as the minister responsible for this policy area.

May I begin by thanking you for writing to share your views on HAF provision and for all the work you do to support vulnerable young children.

We are investing over £200 million a year in our HAF programme to support families during the school holidays. This programme provides healthy meals, enriching activities, and free childcare places to children from low-income families, benefiting their health, wellbeing and learning and contributing to recovery from COVID-19.

While HAF provision is targeted at school aged children from reception to year 11 who receive benefits-related free school meals (FSM), local authorities (LAs) also have discretion to use up to 15% of their funding to provide holiday club places for other children who are not in receipt of benefits-related FSM but who the LA believe could benefit from the provision. In addition, LAs can also provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of FSM but who the LA believe could benefit from HAF provision.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire Coutinho', written over a horizontal line.

Claire Coutinho MP
Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing



2022-0042945NGPO

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister for Schools

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

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

Your ref: Holiday Activities & Food Sessions

26 January 2023

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 4 November, addressed to the Secretary of State, regarding the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. I am replying as the Minister for Schools.

The HAF programme is targeted at disadvantaged families on the lowest incomes. These children are less likely to access organised out of school activities. The programme is targeted primarily towards children who receive benefits related free school meals, which can include children from families where parents are working on low incomes and are in receipt of Universal Credit.

Local authorities also have discretion to provide free or subsidised holiday club places for children who are not in receipt of free school meals but who the local authority believe could benefit from the HAF provision. Many local authorities work with partners to bring in additional funding and to broaden the reach of the programme.

Under this Government, eligibility for free school meals has been extended several times and to more groups of children than any other Government over the past half a century. This includes the introduction of universal infant free school meals and further education free school meals.

There are currently 1.9 million pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals, saving families hundreds of pounds each year. Since 2014, a further 1.25 million children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have free meals through the Universal Infant Free School Meal programme. Together, that amounts to more than one third of all children receiving a free lunchtime meal. Free meals are also available to disadvantaged young people in further education.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister for Schools

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Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/dluhc

Our ref:22273463

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

5 January 2023

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP regarding housing in this country. I am replying as the Minister of State for Housing and Planning, and I will address each of the matters you raise in turn below.

Planning

You raise concerns about planning reforms in your letter. The Government is clear that communities must be at the heart of the planning process. We will reform the process for producing plans so that it is simpler, faster, and easier for communities to engage with. There will be clear opportunities to get involved at key stages of the process, and plans themselves will be shorter with more accessible documents.

It is also vital that we have well-resourced, efficient, and effective planning departments, capable of providing a planning service that local people and applicants expect and able to implement our planning reforms. Planning application fees provide essential income for local planning authorities. However, currently, the income from planning application fees does not cover the cost of processing those planning applications, leaving the taxpayer to make up the difference. As announced earlier this year, the Government intends to consult on proposals to increase planning fees so that they cover a greater proportion of the costs.

On the matter of land banking, we have been examining ways to incentivise the prompt build-out of permitted housing sites and to support councils to act against those who fail to meet these commitments. Through the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB), housing developers will be required to formally notify local authorities when they commence development, via a Development Commencement Notice (DCN), and provide a trajectory setting out annual rates of housing delivery to completion. We will also modernise and streamline existing powers for local authorities to serve completion notices.

To build on the clauses already in the LURB, the Government will introduce two further provisions. Firstly, we will require housing developers to report annually to local authorities on their actual delivery of housing, enabling local authorities to identify where sites are coming forward too slowly and help to inform decisions to sanction developers. Additionally, we will also allow local planning authorities to decline planning applications made by developers who fail to build out at a reasonable rate earlier permissions granted on the same land. The Government has been

exploring whether anything more can be done to support faster build, and any further announcements will be published in due course.

Private Rented Sector and Social Rented Sector

You also mention the Private Rented Sector in your letter. The Government has committed to the ban on section 21 'no fault' evictions to protect tenants and will introduce a Renters Reform Bill in this Parliament.

With regards to the Social Rented Sector, the Levelling Up White Paper set out the Government's commitment to increase the amount of social housing over time and build more genuinely affordable social housing. We want to see local authorities delivering the next generation of council housing, and we have given them a comprehensive range of tools to do so.

Our £11.5 billion Affordable Homes Programme, which councils are eligible to bid for, will leverage up to £35 billion of public and private finance to deliver tens of thousands of affordable homes right across the country. In addition to this, the Government abolished the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap in 2018, allowing councils to borrow for building more affordable homes. In March 2021, we also announced a package of reforms to give councils more freedom in how they spend the money they receive from Right to Buy sales on replacement homes.

Currently, most affordable housing is built by housing associations, but we know there is more ambition out there in untapped parts of the market. We welcome proposals from existing and new partners – housing associations, local authorities, developers, for-profit providers, community-led organisations, and others who have an ambition to deliver affordable homes, including those we haven't previously worked with. Additionally, throughout the summer of 2022, the Homes England Local Government Capacity Centre ran a series of events to help local authorities hone their development skills and capacity.

Regarding quality, social housing tenants deserve to live in decent homes, to be treated with fairness and respect and to have their problems quickly resolved. The Social Housing Regulation Bill is a critical part of the Government's strategy to address issues of quality in the social housing sector, as set out in the Social Housing White Paper. The Bill will support a new regulatory regime which will drive significant change in landlord behaviour to focus on the needs of their tenants and ensure landlords are held to account for their performance.

You also raise concerns around requirements on developers to deliver affordable homes. The LURB gives the Government powers to create a new Infrastructure Levy. This will aim to capture land value uplift at a higher level than the current developer contribution regime, allowing local authorities to use the proceeds for providing the affordable housing and infrastructure that communities need. The levy will be a mandatory, non-negotiable charge, set and collected locally, to largely replace the complex and discretionary Section 106 regime and CIL charge.

The Bill ensures that local authorities will take the desirability of delivering at least as much affordable housing into account when they set their rates. We will also set further mechanisms through regulations, including the 'right to require'. Crucially, developers will not be able to negotiate their affordable housing obligations downwards, which offers significant protection of affordable housing delivery compared to the present system. We will be consulting on the methods used to measure current levels of affordable housing delivery as we develop the regulations.

Home Ownership

Finally, you raise concerns about homeownership. The Government has taken a number of measures aimed at helping people to avoid repossession, including Support for Mortgage Interest loans for those in receipt of an income-related benefit, and protection in the courts through the

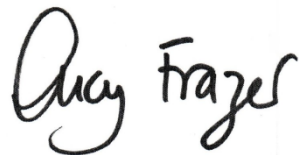
Pre-Action Protocol, which makes it clear that repossession must always be the last resort for lenders.

More broadly, the Government is committed to creating a fair and just housing system that works for everyone, including increasing first-time buyer numbers in all regions. We have already cut Stamp Duty Land Tax, doubling the threshold at which SDLT becomes due to £250,000 and expanding First Time Buyers Relief. We also have a range of programmes to help people into home ownership. Since spring 2010, over 800,000 households have been helped to purchase a home through Government-backed schemes, including Help to Buy and Right to Buy.

On the matter of leasehold, the Government has already implemented an end of new houses sold as leasehold through Help to Buy. We remain committed to bringing forward legislation to ban the granting of new residential long leases on houses, other than in exceptional circumstances. We also want to reinvigorate commonhold for flats so that it is a viable alternative to leasehold, ensuring people can enjoy the benefits of true homeownership from the outset. We are due to bring forward further leasehold reforms later in this Parliament, and details will be published in due course.

I hope this is helpful, and I thank you again for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RT HON LUCY FRAZER KC MP

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HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

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

Your ref: Cost-of-Living-COE
4 January 2023

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 8 September to the former Chancellor of the Exchequer enclosing correspondence on behalf of Oldham Council about the Energy Bills Support Scheme. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area. I am extremely sorry for the very late nature of this response. Unfortunately, as you will of course be aware, over the time period since this letter arrived, we saw significant change in policy and personnel that particularly affected this department. I hope this explains why a significant backlog of letters has accumulated that we are now working through, given the greater policy certainty and stability that now pertains.

The Government understands that people are worried about the cost of living. That is why decisive action has been taken to support households across the UK through the cost of living challenges ahead, whilst remaining fiscally responsible.

The Chancellor has announced further support for next year designed to target the most vulnerable households. This cost of living support is worth £26 billion in 2023-24, in addition to benefits uprating, which is worth £11 billion to working age households and people with disabilities.

This action taken by the Government means that over 8 million of the most vulnerable households across the UK will continue to be supported through next winter via additional Cost of Living Payments. And the Government is continuing to provide support to all households through the Energy Price Guarantee (EPG), which will save the average UK household £500 in 2023-24.

This support for 2023-24 is in addition to the generous support already in place to support households this winter. In addition to the EPG, worth £900 this winter for the typical household (according to the independent OBR), the Government has announced £37 billion of support for the cost of living in 2022-23. As part of this financial year's cost of living support millions of the most vulnerable households will receive £1,200 of support this year through the £400 Energy Bills Support Scheme, £150 Council Tax

rebate and one-off £650 Cost of Living Payment for those on means-tested benefits, with additional support for pensioners and those claiming disability benefits.

For households that are not eligible for one-off Cost of Living Payments or for families that need additional support, the Government has provided £1.5 billion total funding for the Household Support Fund and extended the fund's end date from October 2022 to March 2023.

We are continuing to keep the situation under review and focus support on the most vulnerable whilst ensuring we act in a fiscally responsible way.

More information on what the Government is doing to help consumers can be found online here: www.gov.uk/cost-of-living.

The Government also supports low-income and fuel poor households with their energy bills through the Warm Home Discount which provides eligible households with a £140 rebate on their winter energy bills. The Government will provide an extra £500 million for local authorities through the Household Support Fund to provide help to millions in need in challenging times. This is in addition to the £1bn already provided since October 2021.

Cold Weather Payments help vulnerable people in receipt of certain income-related benefits to meet the additional costs of heating during periods of unseasonably severe cold weather. This includes older people in receipt of Pension Credit, and those in receipt of an income-based benefit with a disability component or where there is a child aged under five in the household. Eligible households automatically receive £25 when the average temperature in their postcode district is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees centigrade (0°C) or below for seven consecutive days during the Cold Weather Payments season.

Please be reassured that the Government has committed to keeping the Winter Fuel Payment. This gives reassurance, particularly to poorer pensioners that they can keep warm during the winter months. We will continue to pay £200 for households with a member who has reached State Pension age and is under age 80 or £300 for households with somebody aged 80 and over. It is estimated we will pay around 11 million pensioners a Winter Fuel Payment this coming winter, at a cost to the taxpayer of £2 billion. A significant contribution to winter fuel bills.

In addition, a one-off payment of £300 will go to households across the UK that receive the Winter Fuel Payment and will be paid on top of any other one-off support a pensioner household is entitled to. This will be paid as a top-up to annual Winter Fuel Payments in November/December.

In addition to these schemes, elderly customers have added supply protection in the colder months. Ofgem rules require energy suppliers not to disconnect domestic premises in the winter if the customer is of pensionable age. Additionally, suppliers must take all reasonable steps to avoid disconnecting any premises if the occupants include a person who is of pensionable age.

It is important that elderly people initiate contact with their energy supplier if they are struggling to pay their energy bills. Customers may ask for pay breaks or reductions, more time to pay or get access to a hardship fund. If a customer cannot agree a way to pay with their supplier, they can seek help by calling the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

Thank you for taking the trouble to write to HM Treasury on such important issues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the left.

James Cartlidge MP
EXCHEQUER SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY



Report to COUNCIL

Members Annual Reports 2022-2023

Officer Contact Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Democratic Services

Report Author: Andrew Whitehead, Interim Civic & Political Support Manager

15 March 2023

Executive Summary

As part of the ongoing work to strengthen accountability to local people and their role as a Councillor in a co-operative borough, Elected Members are asked to produce an annual report presenting factual information of their work in the community over the last 12 months. Individual reports include ward priorities, work in the community and contact information. The Reports are also available under Councillors' section on the Oldham Council's website

Recommendation

Council are asked to note the reports

My Ward priorities

- Campaigning against littering
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Raising awareness of green issues and tackle climate change
- Supporting residents with cost of living crisis
- Supporting independent local Businesses



Training Completed

All statutory safeguarding training & attended Climate Changed Training

Work in the community

- Secured funding for resurfacing of Howarth Street, Crompton Street, Trinity Street.
- Sponsored a local improvement fund bid for creating a pocket park at Martha Street and Ripon Street, new streetlighting column on Bay Street, alley gates on Bamford Street and Chancery Street.
- Held number consultation meetings with residents and businesses on wide range of topics including on "Active Neighborhoods".
- Campaigning to increase take up of Covid-19 vaccine and a pop-up centre in Coldhurst.
- Promoted "Don't Trash Oldham" and campaigned strongly against litter dropping in various parts of Coldhurst.
- Worked with the Police and other partner agencies to tackle anti-social behavior in various locations and held number meetings with Coldhurst local Police Team.
- Campaigning to raise awareness on all green issues including using renewable technology to produce clean electricity.
- 100% attendance at Oldham Council meetings.
- Communicated with residents by telephone, email and Microsoft Teams / Zoom to tackle a range of problems.
- Supported residents and community organisations in Coldhurst to secure funding and "cost of living crisis" issues.
- Secured funding for resurfacing the back alleyway between Demark Street and Brierley Street.

Contact me

E: Abduljabbar@oldham.gov.uk

T: 0161 770 4031

Social Media

Facebook: [cllrabduljabbar](#)

Twitter: [cllrabduljabbar](#)

Surgeries

Face to face ward surgeries, see council website for full details. Please contact me via phone or email for any issues or problems.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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Cllr Ali Aqeel Salamat – St Mary's Ward

My Ward priorities

- Anti-social Behaviour
- Housing Issues
- Fly Tipping
- Youth Facilities
- Pot Holes

Training completed

- Safeguarding
- GDPR

Committees

- Chair of central district
- Audit
- TRO panel



Work in the community

Following relaxing of lockdown rules, I have been out and about in the community more than ever which was to be expected given the restrictions placed on all of us over the past two years. I have been working with community groups and individual residents across the ward.

Ward priorities are aligned with the Council priorities which are to make the ward clean, green and safe place for the residents.

With COVID 19, we have worked hard with the Council to ensure that the residents have access to good health and food provision, children's education is maintained and the Council services respond quickly to the changed circumstances.

I have been busy with the casework and my work is supported by the other councillors and the excellent District team who deal with the cases on almost immediate basis. Dealing with the casework is the most satisfying part of being a Councillor.

I and other ward councillors are continually working on clean ups in the areas where it is required, road safety and future planning.

As the ward councillor for St Marys over the past two years we have had two successful local improvement fund grants.

- £40,000 L.I.F grant for outdoors gym at the Meadows (behind Cranbrook st)
- £18,000 L.I.F grant for a bee park behind Orme st And this year L.I.F grant was applied for Bolton st kick pitch to re-surface the ground

Our councillor's budget has been spent on supporting the following services

- Citizens Advice bureau
- Environmental schemes
- Grit bins
- Footpaths and bridleways
- Food parcels for the needy
- Local clean ups

- I have concentrated on funding small first time projects and encouraged them to be self-sufficient in the future as we are a cooperative borough.

Contact me

E: a.a.salamat@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07812096583

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Cllr Alicia Marland – Saddleworth West and Lees Ward

My Ward priorities

- Tackling litter and fly tipping.
- Crime prevention and awareness.
- To introduce traffic calming measures and visibility improvements.
- Fighting to keep our green spaces.
- Reduce off road biking activities.
- Reduce loneliness and isolation particularly in elderly.
- Increase awareness and use of community groups and buildings.
- Increase defibrillator availability.
- CPR and defibrillator training.



Work in the community

- I led the Springhead community opposition to proposed new Openreach wooden poles on Bracken Close and Heywood Fold Road.
- I've been actively involved in stopping the many housing planning applications including Stonebreaks and Maltby and I continue to challenge the decision on Knowls Lane and the ongoing reserved matter applications.
- I organise bi monthly CPR and defibrillator training sessions for residents.
- Sourced funding to purchase four cabinets to relocate internal defibrillators to external locations where they are available for use by residents 24/7. Locations are: St Agnes school, Springhead AFC, St Johns Church, Cooper Street.
- Relocated defibrillator to external cabinet at Lido House, Grotton.
- Visibility improvement measures installed on Coverhill Road, Grotton.
- Grotton Whit Friday committee member.
- Grotton Residents Association – trustee and committee member.
- Lees, Springhead and Grotton litter heroes group – regular attendance at monthly litter collections in all villages, the annual “Spring clean up” event as well as many ad hoc litter collections when out and about.
- Group co-ordinator of the Oldham 2 Re-Engage charity and organise monthly tea parties for isolated and lonely elderly residents.

Ward Budget Spend

- External defibrillator cabinet purchased for Lido House.
- Skip hire for Spring clean up and clearance at the Pavilion, Grotton
- Other small, community focused projects.

Local improvement funding bids submitted January 2023 and those approved to date are for the following community organisations:

- Leesbrook Scout group
- Lees Eco hub
- RAF 2200 cadet squadron
- Ashes Lane playgroup

Contact me

E: Alicia.marland@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07766-107437

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/AliciaLibDem>

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Cllr Amanda Chadderton – Royton South

My Ward priorities

- Clean & Green Royton
- Supporting local businesses
- Improving our parks and district centre
- Creating opportunities for our children and young people
- Helping Roytoners with the cost-of-living crisis
- Building a town fit for the future



Being Leader of Oldham Council for the last 10 months and representing the place I grew up and went to school in is an immense pleasure and one I'll never take for granted.

I'm so pleased to have been the Cabinet Member who launched the Don't Trash Oldham initiative in my year as Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, in my view this was the beginning of our journey to getting back on track as a Council and organisation that puts residents first.

Over the last year we have seen our Borough deal with immense challenges, not only the ongoing fallout from the pandemic and the effects this has had on our businesses & economy, our young people's education and everybody's mental health. But we've also been dealing with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis – and the impact the war in Ukraine has had on energy bills for all of our residents – as well as other costs spiraling.

This is why we launched our £3m We Can Help initiative, we want Oldhamers to know that if they're struggling, We Can Help. It's a simple message and one I'm confident is effective – thousands of Oldhamers have received support through our cost-of-living response. Whether it's extra cash or vouchers, food and household essential parcels through our partners at the foodbank, advice and energy saving essentials from our Warm Homes Oldham Team, or long-term support and budgeting advice from our Support and Inclusion Team – Oldham Council is making a difference for Oldhamers.

We've also seen some tremendous strides with our town centre regeneration over the last year – work has begun converting the Egyptian Rooms into a modern food court with independent restaurants and a bar, our work at Spindles continues at pace – Council Officers are now working out of the upper mall and phase 2 is on track so that we can all leave the civic centre and unlock another key regeneration site in our town centre, work at the Old Library is well underway to bring that building back into public use and the demolition on the old TJ Hughes unit has begun meaning we're one step closer to building a brand new, state of the art market as a new home for our beloved Tommyfield Market.

I'm so proud of our town and I'm committed to making Royton and the rest of Oldham a better place in the time that I'm a custodian of our town.

Contact me

Email: Amanda.chadderton@oldham.gov.uk

Mobile: 07595201269

Twitter: [@CllrAmandaOL2](https://twitter.com/CllrAmandaOL2)

Facebook: [Councillor Amanda Chadderton](https://www.facebook.com/CouncillorAmandaChadderton)

LinkedIn: [Amanda Chadderton](https://www.linkedin.com/in/AmandaChadderton)

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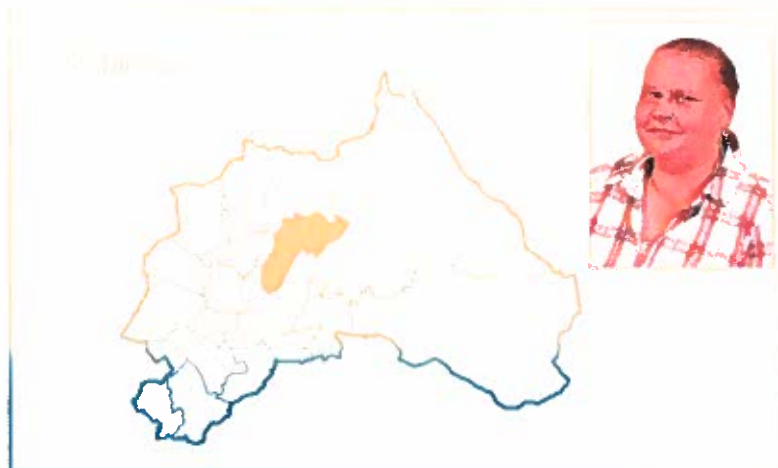
Cllr Angela Cosgrove – St James Ward

My Ward priorities

- Community engagement
- Parks and open spaces
- Environmental issues and enforcement
- ASB & Crime reduction
- Young people and family services
- Highways and Traffic concerns

Training completed

- Safeguarding
- Licensing safeguarding
- Enforcement



Work in the community

- District Lead for the East Cluster, Licensing committee, Licensing Driver Panel, Planning committee
- Secretary of The Friends of Stoneleigh Park, Member of Oldham's Poverty Action Group, Derker Community gardens and Stoneleigh Park bowling teams
- Campaigned and supported residents with St James planning concerns throughout the ward.
- Working with the Police, FCHO and community Safety on residents' concerns around ASB and crime
- I volunteer at Stoneleigh Parks growing hub, the twice weekly Brew and Natters which are warm spaces for residents. By being based daily at Stoneleigh Park Community cabin I am accessible to residents to help, support and signpost them to help with a range of issues.
- I volunteer each school holiday at the family sessions in Stoneleigh Park with food provision and activities. Providing help, signposting/referring, advice and support to local families
- I complete daily casework issues around the communities within the St James ward, so that issues can be raised and to engage with residents so I am aware of resident priorities. I have also worked with the door-to-door engagement teams out in the communities of my ward, supporting residents on the doorstep during my street surgeries as well as completing monthly surgeries and walkabouts with FCHO.
- I organise and volunteer on Monthly litter picks with community volunteers throughout the year weather permitting.
- My mobile phone is busy with residents calling for support/help/advice with everyday problems and issues. I manage several community FB pages as well as the St James Labour page to try and get information out to residents.
- This last year I have used my Councillor budget to fund several community groups throughout the ward as they provide essential service and activities for St James residents. Events and activities I have supported are:
 - Christmas light switch on at Moorside and refreshments at St Thomas Church afterwards
 - Derker Community Gardens project site clearance
 - Dirt Track bike track at Stoneleigh Park
 - Sholver and Moorside Flower show
 - Oldham Play action group activities near shops on Sholver
 - Christmas project throughout the ward
 - Pennine Cascades Dance Troupe
 - Quality sports at Stoneleigh Park
 - Sholver and Moorside Christmas raffle
 - Residents requests for drop Kerb marking
 - Memorial in memory of Rose Johnstone
 - Match funding for the LIF bids for Stoneleigh Park play area and Pearly Bank clean up

Contact me

E: angela.cosgrove@oldham.gov.uk

T: 0161 770 0000

M: 07515190476

Surgeries

Monthly street surgeries and joint monthly surgeries with FCHO and GMP.

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

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#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Community safety
- Environment
- Highway safety



Work in the community

- Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
 - Member of Pennine Care NHS Trust
 - Miocare Board
 - Health and Wellbeing Board
 - Integrated Care Partnership Board
 - Chair Oldham Locality Board and Learning Disability Partnership Board
 - Northern Roots Board
 - Co-operative Councils Innovation Network Executive Oversight Committee
 - Advisor to New Chadderton Partnership
-
- The long awaited traffic calming measures at Burnley lane will be installed soon and investigations are underway in relation to speeding on Middleton Rd and Chadderton Hall Rd
 - I continue to work with the police and the detached youth team regarding ASB. The situation at St Mark's Court is much improved but there are still issues in relation to Fitton Park
 - I have taken part in litter picks the most recent being at Clevedon Rd following approaches from a local resident.
 - My colleagues and I are re-introducing walking surgeries as well as the monthly surgeries that take place in the Wellbeing Centre
 - I supported a successful bid by the Yuvanis Foundation who will support young people in Chadderton. I also supported the bid for additional car parking at Chadderton Hall Park the decision on which is still waited.

Ward Budget Spend

Pooled budget: Planters at the precinct; Christmas lights; Citizens' Advice and mental health support for young people sessions

Personal budget; Support for Chadderton FC Juniors and International Women's Day Event. Money held in reserve as a contribution to the Park car park extension

Contact me

E: Barbarabrownridge@oldham.gov.uk

T: 0161 678 0752

Surgeries:

Every second Thursday, 3pm at the Wellbeing Centre

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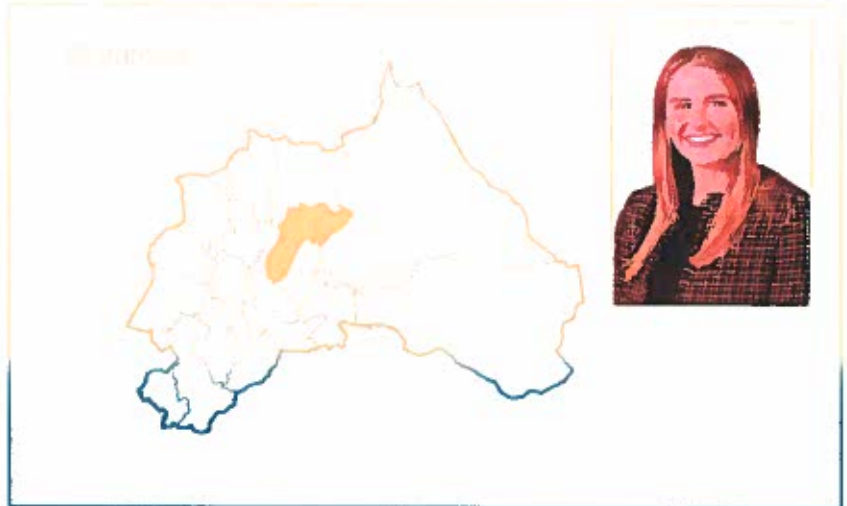
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My Ward priorities

As a resident of the St James' Ward I have seen firsthand the concerns resident face.

Since I was elected, I have been ensuring that the ward has a strong voice and I have been focusing on raising local issues which matter most for all residents, from protecting our green belt, to cleaning up our streets and road safety.



Work in the community

- I was elected to serve the St.James' ward as a Conservative Councillor in May 2021.
- Since my election I have spent time familiarising myself with the workings and procedures of the Council to help me better serve the ward.
- I have attended training on safeguarding.
- I have attended Planning Committee meetings and spoke on behalf of residents regarding applications in the ward.
- I deal with casework from residents across the ward and hold regular street surgeries and face to face surgeries which I advertise in advance. I also carry out ward walks and report any issues found to Council.
- I have regularly spoken in Council on matters relating to the ward and on opposition business relating to the Town Centre proposals and the budget, in an attempt to ensure funding allocated to Oldham Council through Central Government is used wisely and not wasted.
- I have met with officers in various departments regarding issues across the ward, such as the derelict sites in Derker. Following the millions of pounds provided by central government to support development on these sites, I was pleased that following my request, a public consultation was held with local residents to ensure residents concerns were heard and taken into account.
- I continue to work with residents concerned about anti-social behavior across the ward and I have organised two community meeting with residents and GMP. Following residents requests this also resulted in a further meeting with Home Watch to gain information on how a group would work.
- I have attended several community social events from coffee mornings, to jubilee parties, Christmas carol services and planting trees in memory of the late Queen. I have also used the community budget allocated to me to fund Christmas decorations for the three Care Homes across the ward, supporting events such as the Flower Show at Sholver Community Centre and summer activities for families in Stoneleigh Park.
- I will continue to work hard in the next municipal year to ensure that the concerns and need of St.James' residents are met and resolved without delay.

Ward Budget Spend

- Providing funding for residents within care homes to have a Christmas party and festive celebrations
- Fixing and repairing local amenities across the ward
- Supporting local organisations
- Memorial funding for a well respected and missed member of the community

Contact me

E: bethshap@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07811720873

Facebook : [sjamesconservative](#)team

Surgeries

I hold regular face to face sit down surgeries and regular street surgeries across the ward.

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My Ward priorities

- Continue to support residents and Businesses throughout Covid-19
- Support residents and businesses affected by increase in spiraling cost of living especially energy costs
- New Health Centre for Shaw
- Protecting Green Belt/Spaces
- Listening and engaging with residents
- Environmental Improvements
- Local Policing ASB/crime
- Bus and tram services
- Highways, footways and speeding
- Traffic



Training completed

- 15/02/2022 - Barnardo's Safeguarding training - Module 4
- 09/02/2022 - Safeguarding Refresher

Work in the community

2022 has finally brought normality back to the way of working, however the legacy of Covid still has a daily effect upon council business. What is particularly difficult is that some council departments and partners continue to work remotely which creates difficulties for councillors and residents to communicate directly with officers and other partners however both myself and my ward colleagues will continue to support our community despite these obstacles.

An emerging concern during 2022 has been the 'cost of living crisis'. Residents are feeling the effects of spiralling food, energy and mortgage costs. Families that previously had a comfort barrier in relation to finances and now finding that they are spiraling towards a just about managing situation, whereas our most vulnerable residents quite simply are unable to make ends meet and are in greatest need of our support even with the basics of food and warmth. I continue to work with these vulnerable groups and individuals to try and make their lives as comfortable as possible, ensuing on occasions that they are receiving food and energy vouchers where needed, that their housing provider cannot unlawfully evict them, or where they are in a desperate situation, I can obtain grants for them for essential items in the home.

Both my ward colleagues and I are conscious of people that have become isolated over the last couple of years. Shaw has an amazing network of groups and clubs that we can direct people towards to break the chain of isolation and as well as supporting these residents and ensure that we as ward councillors support these organisations to ensure that they are able to deliver voluntary services even with simple measures that keep people warm, fed and safe.

I am pleased to report that I was successful in obtaining substantial Local Improvement Funds to completely repair the Multi Use Games Area at George Street Playing Fields as well as similar funding to replace all the benches in Crompton Cemetery that were beyond repair and frankly disrespectful to visitors to the cemetery who simply wish to sit in peace and reflection.

I am a member of the committees below where business as usual still needs to take place and I retain my 100% record for attendance at ordinary full council meetings. Additionally, as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Opposition on Oldham Council, I hold the Shadow Finance and Low Carbon portfolio, and work with officers throughout the year.

- [Audit Committee](#)
- [Charitable Trust Committee](#) (Substitute)
- [Clayton Playing Fields](#)

- [Council](#)
- [Licensing Committee](#)
- [Licensing Driver Panel](#)
- [Petitioners' Panel](#)
- [Traffic Regulation Order Panel](#)

I am a school governor at Crompton House School and have been fully involved with the effects of Covid 19 on school life and have championed ensuring that pupils have access to learning tools whilst needing to work from home. There remains a national issue about school attendance post covid for varying reasons and I am keen to support families in returning to normality.

I continue to be a member of the newly formed committee of Shaw and Crompton Royal British Legion after the branch closed last year, taking responsibility for the organisation of the Remembrance Sunday event at Crompton War Memorial in 2022.

I was also responsible for the organisation at short notice of the Royal Proclamation event in the Remembrance Gardens following the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth which was well attended and well received.

- I support residents with housing repairs, rehousing, neighbour disputes, healthcare complaints, council bins and rubbish removal, dog waste and new street litter or grit bins.
- As the former Shaw and Crompton Police Inspector, I continue to work closely with our local Police, the District Partnership, Parish Council, residents and businesses of Shaw to resolve the problem of anti-social behaviour and crime. Issues on the Metrolink have been a particular focus this year and it is pleasing to see more a visible uniformed deterrent at the station in recent months
- Along with my colleagues, I continue to challenge the successor to the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework, working to achieve the best outcome possible for residents' homes, jobs, and the environment by opposing the appalling loss of our green spaces. Brownfield First!
- I have worked with residents to ensure that we keep adequate bus services in Shaw and Crompton to meet the needs of residents.
- I continue to be the lead Councillor in Shaw dealing with the aftermath of the St Paul's Church roof collapse. This is an uphill battle complicated by a restrictive attitude of Historic England who are happy to obstruct complete demolition of this site but incapable of supplying anything other than words to remediate the problem that has so far cost hundreds of thousands of pounds to reduce to a pile of rubble albeit at no cost to the council taxpayer. The subsequent sale of the site followed by breaches in planning permission granted are now subject to enforcement action.
- Along with my colleagues I formally object to planning applications if I believe they are inappropriate or not a benefit to residents.
- I continue to drive the campaigns forward for a new Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton and from these campaigns I am delighted that a decision to cancel the new build has been reversed after substantial pressure upon the NHS Integrated Care Service and look forward to the new build being started in 2023.
- I constantly deal with issues surrounding speeding vehicles, Buckstones Road and Crompton Way are two examples, and I have had some success in getting the relevant authorities to look at education, engineering and enforcement solutions to deal with this problem.
- I work with the Highways Department to have the potholes, blocked grids and poor footpaths resurfaced or repaired.
- I regularly pursue complaints of fly tipping around Shaw,
- Along with my ward colleagues and in my role as Ward Councillor, I meet regularly with local groups, ensuring that our most asset, our countryside, stays well looked after and ecologically sustainable. I continue to ensure that this area is supported and safe to use by all.
- I continue to work with residents and a variety of agencies for a resolution to on-going flooding problems, primarily in the areas of Dunwood Park, Grains Road, Beal Lane.
- I hold a weekly ward surgery as detailed below.

Contact me

E: chris.gloster@oldham.gov.uk
7:30pm to 8:30pm
T: 01706 847709
Twitter: @cllrchrsg

Surgeries

Held every Thursday at Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre (No appointment necessary)

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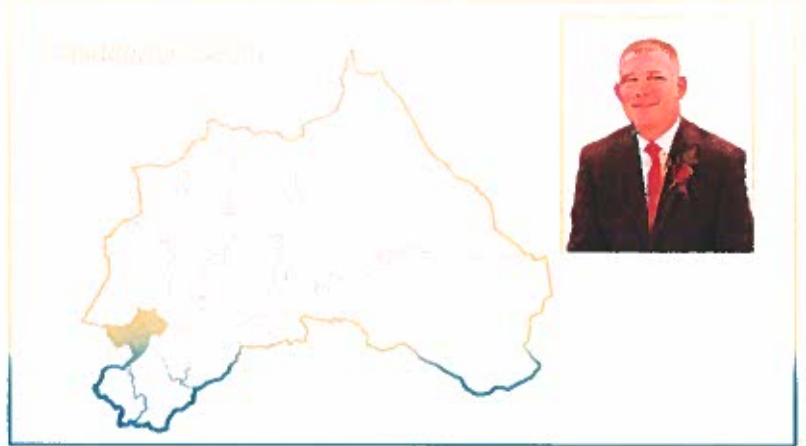
#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better



Cllr Chris Goodwin – Chadderton South Ward

My Ward priorities

- Road safety
- Environmental Improvements
- Social Isolation
- Tackling Deprivation



Work in the community

- In addition to my regular monthly drop in advice surgeries, I also take part in events which are organised by various community groups throughout the ward.
- I also arrange meetings of residents who may wish to speak to officers of the council regarding a particular matter.
- I attend Chadderton and District Homewatch meetings listening to and acting on residents' concerns where possible. I also attend the Chadderton Pub and Club watch meetings.
- I work closely with Highways England to ensure the A663 Broadway is suitably maintained and that road safety measures are as effective as practicable.
- I am regularly out and about in the ward to ensure that I can report matters that are in need of repair or enforcement.

Ward Budget Spend

| Cllr C Goodwin Individual Budget | 2022-23 | 2021-2022 Env Projects |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| | 5000.00 | 1200.00 |
| Project | Amount £ | |
| Keyring - Project Pride | 100.00 | |
| Pooled for central district spend | | 394.62 |
| International Women's Day | 42.50 | |
| Total Spent | 142.50 | 394.62 |
| Total Remaining | 4857.50 | 805.38 |

The remainder will be allocated for Environmental Projects

Contact me

E: Chris.Goodwin@dcham.gov.uk
 M: 07515 188783
 Twitter @ChrisGoodwin73
 Facebook Chris Goodwin

Surgeries

Usually on the 2nd Wednesday of the month 6-7pm at FCHO, Nelson Way. Please check with the Council website beforehand.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

#Ourbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Calling for a Health Centre and increased service provisions.
- Demanding fairer funding considering Saddleworth South pays the most Council Tax!
- Opposing plans to destroy our precious green spaces.
- Working closely with charitable and voluntary organisations across our village communities.
- Supporting Saddleworth's customs, culture, heritage and village character—including its traditional events and festivals.



Work in the community

- Supported residents in opposing destructive developments across the Ward
- Represented residents at Remembrance Services across Saddleworth
- I have assisted residents with ongoing issues surrounding Council Tax issues
- I have worked with Highways to improve road safety across the Ward including a new crossing at St Mary's School Greenfield, requested yellow lines at several locations at the behest of frustrated residents and helped deliver the return of VAS.
- I have dealt with hundreds of items of general casework including potholes, fly tipping, damaged street furniture, Anti-social behavior etc
- Supported Motions at Full Council beneficial for Saddleworth residents including Armed Forces support and service provisions, amongst other things.
- Asked Questions to the Council on important matters pertaining to Saddleworth and Oldham as a whole
- Liaised with residents and the Council with support for ongoing and new issues
- Directly contacted and subsequently supported several local groups and schools in their Local Improvement Fund (LIF) applications
- Submitted several LIF applications for the benefit of the local community including a Bandstand and Bicycle Training Track
- Communicated with residents regularly keeping them updated of road closures, diversions, bridge closures etc
- Developed a relationship with several local groups and facilitated sharing of unwanted equipment and closer cooperation
- Supported several local groups including Local Schools, Greenfield Cricket Club, Friezland Band, The Northern Alsatian and All Breeds Training Club and the Boarshurst Centre with financial contributions
- Worked alongside colleagues to make Saddleworth a better place to live

Contact me

E: chrismcmanus@oldham.gov.uk
M: 07761676057

Surgeries

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

#Ourbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

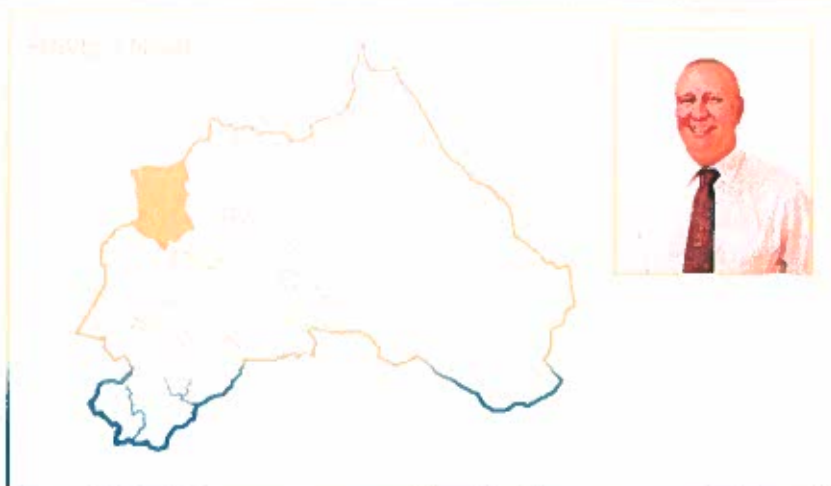
#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

Cllr Clint Phythian – Royton North Ward

My Ward priorities

- Road Safety Working with GMP to combat crime
- Post Covid recovery for businesses in Royton.
- Keep Royton tidy
- Making sure our green spaces are fit for purpose
- Dog fouling problems
- Pot holes
- Remembrance day



Work in the community

- Organized litter picks across Royton, Shaw and Crompton
- helped to set up the new Royton events group.
- Dressed up as Father Xmas and handed hundreds of presents to local children on the Royton Xmas light switch on.
- Helped many residents daily with multiple issues from planning applications to social work issues.
- Laid the wreath for our MP on remembrance Sunday to remember the people who gave the ultimate sacrifice.
- Won 2 bids in the Local Improvement Fund for Royton North, one to fill potholes on Highlands Road and the other for outdoor gym equipment in Dogford Park.
- Used my Cllr budget to fund some projects residents requested.

Ward Budget Spend

- £1800

Contact me

Email:

Clint.phythian@oldham.gov.uk

M:07973407499

Twitter @clintphythian Facebook

Cllr Clint Phythian or Royton

North Labour Party

Surgeries

The first Saturday of each month at St Paul's Parish Centre

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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Cllr Colin McLaren - Chadderton Central Ward

My Ward priorities

- Road Safety
- Improving the environment
- Supporting residents
- Promoting health and wellbeing



Work in the community

- Chair – Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Member – Health Scrutiny Committee, Licensing Committee (Vice Chair), Chadderton District Executive, Pennine Acute Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (Chair)
- Representative of Oldham Council on the Peak District National Park Authority, Trustee of the Peak District National Park Foundation Charity (Vice Chair).
- Governor – Halcyon Way Community Special School and the Radclyffe School.
- Trustee – Crossley Community Centre and Chadderton Together and supporting other community groups and organisations.
- Addressing various problems raised by residents on an ongoing basis. Organising and taking part in litter picks. Regular attendance at Oldham Council and other committee meetings.
- Holding regular ward surgeries and street surgeries.

Ward Budget Spend

- Children Celebration Appeal £100
- Historical Information Boards £1000
- Various Environmental Projects £900
- Pooled District Budget – Citizens Advice Bureau, Off the Record (Youth Counselling) £3000

Contact me

E: colinmclaren@oldham.gov.uk

T: 0161 627 4197

M: 07581 464 535

Surgeries

St Saviour's Church, Bishopgate Street
Saturday 10-11am

Kingfisher Community Special School Friday
5-6pm

Mills Hill Primary School Friday 5-6pm please
see local press for further details.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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Cllr Dave Arnott – Royton North Ward

My Ward priorities

- Reduction in crime and anti-social behavior.
- Better roads and fewer potholes.
- End fly tipping and clean up Royton.
- Better facilities for our young people.
- Protect Roytons greenbelt.
- Support for our veterans.
- Improvements at Royton Medical Centre.
- Improved access to funding for Royton



Work in the community

- Secured funding for upgrades and renovations in Dogford Road Park.
- Secured funding for youth sport at Royton Cricket Club.
- Supported Armed Forces Day event.
- Purchased and installed Armed Forces flags around Royton for Remembrance Sunday events.
- Supported Royton Royal British Legion with campaigns and projects.
- Campaigned for resolution to Park Lane House concerns.
- Campaigned for parking restrictions and road safety measures at Fir Bank Primary School.
- Campaigned for the return of the Heyside War Memorial to Royton.
- Active member of Royton Cricket Club, Royton Royal British Legion and Crompton and Royton Golf Club.

Ward Budget Spend

- Grant for youth sport and activities at Royton Cricket Club.
- Grant for greens repairs at Royton Bowls Club.
- Grant for "Sgt John Hogan VC" signs in Royton.
- Grant for St Pauls Church Restoration Fund.
- Grant for Royton RBL Heyside War Memorial project.
- Grant for "Learning Shed" at Fir Bank Primary School.
- Grant for Royton RAF Cadets.
- Royton Xmas lights.
- Town Centre summer and winter planting.
- Grants to Royton schools for coronation events.

Contact me

E: davearnott@ocham.gov.uk

M: 07904 902475

Surgeries

The first Saturday of each month at St Paul's Parish Centre

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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Cllr Dave Murphy – Crompton Ward

My Ward priorities

- Supporting residents through COVID-19
- Listening to residents
- **Environmental Issues**
- **Championing highway and footpath issues**
- **Protecting Greenbelt and OPOL**
- **New Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton**
- **Demanding better for Crompton**
- **Working all year round not just at Election time.**
- Highway improvements which includes footpaths and safety
- Tackling Dog Fouling



Work in the community

- Demanding better for Crompton.
- Working with our fantastic Royton, Shaw and Crompton District Team to deliver services and aspirations to Shaw and Crompton wards.
- Working with Oldham Council's amazing staff from, Chief Executive, Directors and Officers to deliver services for Crompton. Thank you for all your hard work I really appreciate everything each and every one does to make sure Crompton and Oldham is a great place to live, work and enjoy 😊
- Knocking on doors all year round not just at election time.
- Updates on Twitter
- Working with partners such as First Choice Homes Oldham and Greater Manchester Police.
- Worked alongside ward colleagues to bring together the "Love Where You Live" campaign – which aims to tackle dog fouling, litter and fly tipping whilst bring a sense of pride to the area.
- Attended all Full Oldham Council meetings and online meetings have asked questions, made observations and asked questions on minutes as well as submitted motions to influence policy and procedures.
- Shaw and Crompton wards hold face to face ward surgeries, organised every week, on a rota basis with my five ward colleagues – this allows me to listen to residents' concerns personally, rather than them trying to put it in an email.
- I am the Shadow Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, which I really enjoy as it gives me the opportunity to hold to administration to account whilst also offering other alternatives.
- Continue to campaign to get a Health Centre for the residents of Shaw and Crompton. Which looks to have taken a giant leap forward by having planning permission granted and work to start any moment..
- Continuing to sort local environmental issues such as dog fouling, litter and flytipping.
- Continue to raise concerns about the state of the roads and working to fix potholes, surface erosion and making sure poor roads are part of a programmed works plan for replacement or treatment. 3x problematic roads have been fixed, Rochdale Road, The Link and Low Crompton Road as well as several other roads in Royton, Shaw and Crompton.
- Supporting community groups.

- Member of Hopwood Trust appointed by the Council.
- Attended the Holocaust Remembrance Service at Crompton War Memorial and help set it up.
- Support the High Crompton Park Friends.
- My colleagues actively look at locations for more AEDs (heart start equipment) in the ward of Crompton.
- Working with the Royal British Legion, Events Group and Shaw & Crompton Parish Council to project poppies on Crompton War Memorial, which is now back on track following delayings following staff changes.
- Continue to support local residents by providing a refill for the grit bins that we have bought them, when the area does not meet the Council's criteria
- Working with Council Officers to safeguard a car park in High Crompton to ensure resident continue to have free parking.
- Continue to support the Homewatch schemes in Crompton, I continue to work with my colleague Cllr Williamson and Louie Hamblett where we have an established group.
- Dog fouling leaflets provided and delivered in problematic hot spot areas
- Provide a regular Focus Newsletter letting residents know what local Councillors are up to which includes a free post comments section.
- Support the Children's Champion Scheme and still have a young person under my wing.
- Continue with a project in Crompton working with partners such as United Utilities, Environment Agency and Oldham Council Officers – also cross party working with colleagues in Royton North and Royton South. Now completed and I am monitoring.
- Supporting residents close to the new second entrance following planning approval at Crompton Gate.
- Working with faith organisations such as Holy Trinity Church and St Paul's Methodist Church.
- Getting commitments by Oldham Council that problematic roads are to be resurfaced.
- Replacement of streets signs that do not meet the Councils criteria, but we believe leaving them as they are make the ward look uncared for. We have a massive project planned around Denbigh Drive, Dorset Ave, Bedford and Surrey Ave although refused by the council I will continue to make sure this scheme goes ahead in some form.
- Supporting residents on Denbigh Drive with guidance following a planning application.
- Fund outreach work for young people for disadvantaged at with a project lead by the detached youth team.
- Continue to report faulty Street Lighting columns.
- My colleague and I put out information street letters on various issues.
- Double Yellow lines about to be installed at Wood Street/ Salisbury Street and Rushcroft Road following concerns about visibility.
- Changes in bus services continue to be a problem for residents in Crompton we continue to work with TfGM to find solutions to make the best of a bad situation.
- We have ensured our young people have something to do in the school holidays by funding activities throughout Shaw and Crompton.
- Shaw and Crompton Councillors met with the Accountable Officer from the Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS) to raise concerns over the GP Practices in Royton and Crompton Health Centre and the services they provide. We have chased the progress of the New Health Centre in Shaw.

Issues for the community have taken on a whole new dynamic as we start to have to live with COVID-19 and financial challenges.

Residents continue to contact us with issues but it's definitely not business as usual as we look to do what we can to help which I have found very frustrating.

We continue to door knock making sure residents are ok and to make sure they are safe and well and we look to support local businesses as they start to get back on their feet.

Liberal Democrat Councillor's priorities are your priorities, and we will deliver where possible what residents want it is how we base our campaigning. You have told us what you want whether that is on the doors, if we bump into you on the street, at community meeting and through our paper communications.

For COVID-19 support please contact **0161 770 7007**

Contact me

E: dave.murphy@oldham.gov.uk

T: 01706 840056

M: 07894 598250

Twitter @CllrDaveMurphy

Surgeries

Held every Thursday 7.30-8.30
at the Life Long Learning Centre
(no appointment necessary)

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your Councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Supporting residents though COVID-19
- Listening to residents
- **Environmental Issues**
- **Championing highway and footpath issues**
- **Protecting Greenbelt and OPOL**
- **New Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton**
- **Demanding better for Crompton**
- **Working all year round not just at Election time.**
- Highway improvements which include footpaths and safety
- Tackling Dog Fouling



Work in the community

- **Demanding better for Crompton.**
- **Working with our fantastic Royton, Shaw and Crompton District Team to deliver services and aspirations to Shaw and Crompton wards.**
- **Knocking on doors all year round not just at election time.**
- **Updates on Twitter**
- **Working with partners such as First Choice Homes Oldham and Greater Manchester Police.**
- **Worked alongside ward colleagues to bring together the “Love Where You Live” campaign – which aims to tackle dog fouling, litter and fly tipping whilst bring a sense of pride to the area.**
- **Attended all Full Oldham Council meetings and online meetings have asked questions, made observations on minutes as well as submitted motions to influence policy and procedures.**
- **Shaw and Crompton wards hold face to face ward surgeries, organised every week, on a rota basis with my five ward colleagues – this allows me to listen to residents’ concerns personally, rather than them trying to put it in an email.**
- **I am the Shadow Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, which I really enjoy as it gives me the opportunity to hold to administration to account whilst also offering other alternatives.**
- **We worked hard to get a Health Centre in Shaw town centre for the residents of High Crompton, Shaw and Royton. This will provide the services that are already in Crompton Heath Centre, but hopefully more could be added. That is our hope and aspiration.**
- **Continuing to sort local environmental issues such as dog fouling, litter and fly tipping.**
- **Continue to raise concerns about the state of the roads and working to fix potholes;, surface erosion and making sure poor roads are part of a programmed works plan for replacement or treatment. 3x problematic roads have been fixed, Rochdale Road, The Link and Low Crompton Road as well as several other roads in Royton, Shaw and Crompton.**
- **We try to support community groups, whether that is advice or funding.**
- **Member of Hopwood Trust appointed by the Council.**
- **Organise the Holocaust Remembrance Service at Crompton War Memorial for the last 16 years, with the help and support of the district team.**
- **Supports the High Crompton Park Friends.**

- My colleagues actively look at locations for more AEDs (heart start equipment) in the ward of Crompton.
- Working with the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Sunday,
- Continue to support local residents by providing a refill for the grit bins that we have bought them, when the area does not meet the Council's criteria
- Continue to support the Homewatch schemes in Crompton, I continue to work with my colleague Cllr Williamson and Louie Hamblett where we have an established group.
- Dog fouling leaflets provided and delivered in problematic hot spot areas
- Provide a regular Focus Newsletter letting residents know what local Councillors are up to which includes a free post comments section.
- Supporting residents close to the new second entrance following planning approval at Crompton Gate.
- Working with faith organisations such as Holy Trinity Church and St Paul's Methodist Church.
- Getting commitments by Oldham Council that problematic roads are to be resurfaced.
- Supporting residents on Denbigh Drive with guidance following a planning application.
- Fund outreach work for young people for disadvantaged at with a project lead by the detached youth team.
- My colleague and I put out information street letters on various issues.
- Changes in bus services continue to be a problem for residents in Crompton we continue to work with TfGM to find solutions to make the best of a bad situation.
- We have ensured our young people have something to do in the school holidays by funding activities throughout Shaw and Crompton.

During the decline in the COVID-19 pandemic and then the increases in cases, the community has been hit with the cost of living crisis together with the high prices in fuel. Residents have been struggling in different ways, but their issues with us as local Councillors has really stayed the same.

Whilst I have been able to help it is very frustrating as Council services are not back to normal and residents come back to us, after reporting issues to the Council, because they feel that they have not the answer that they need.

We continue to door knock making sure residents are ok and to make sure they are safe and well and we look to support local businesses as they start to get back on their feet.

Our Liberal Democrat Councilors' priorities are what our residents have told us and we try to deliver these where possible.

For COVID-19 support please contact **0161 770 7007**

Contact me

E:diane.williamson@oldham.gov.uk

T: 01706 581849

M: 07805 587327

Twitter @CllrDWilliamson

Surgeries

7:30pm to 8:30pm every Thursday at Shaw Lifelong Centre.

No appointment necessary

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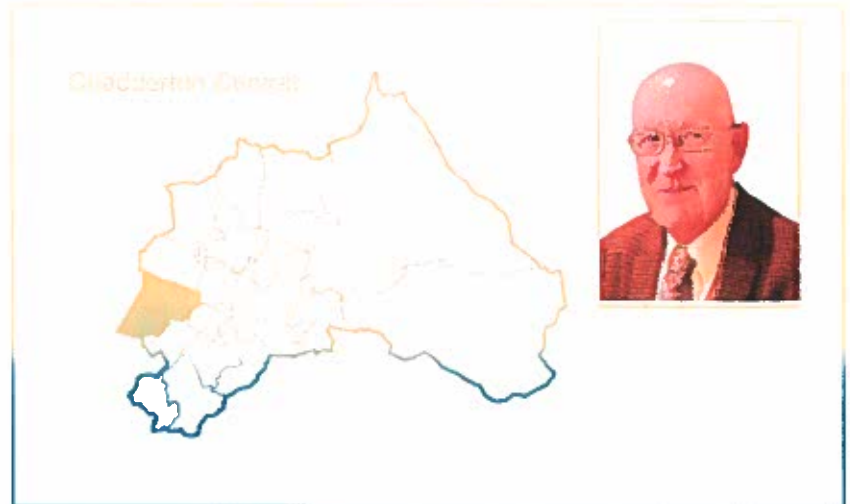
#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

Cllr Eddie Moores - Chadderton Central Ward

My Ward priorities

- Road Safety
- Improving the Environment
- Supporting Residents
- Promoting Health and Wellbeing



Work in the community

- Cabinet Member – Children, Young People and Early Years
- Member - Health & Wellbeing Board, Commissioning Board & Regional Adoption Panel, Oldham Health & Care System Board, Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership
- Chair - Corporate Parenting Panel. Chair – Co-Chair Children’s Alliance.
- Governor - Mills Hill CPS (Chair), Blue Coat School (Chair), Radclyffe School & Christie Hospital Foundation Trust.
- Trustee – Oldham Enterprise Trust, Cranmer Education Trust, Henshaw Education Trust & Chadderton Together.
- Organising and taking part in litter picks.
- Regular attendance at Oldham Council meetings.
- Worked with Oldham Foodbank delivering food packages.
- Holding regular ward surgeries and street surgeries
- Cabinet Member – Children, Young People and Early Years

Ward Budget Spend

| Project | Amount £ |
|---|----------|
| Children's Celebration Appeal | 100.00 |
| Historic Information Boards | 1000.00 |
| Various Projects - Grit Bins – Quad Bike Signage – Litter Picking Equipment | 900.00 |
| Pooled District Budget – Citizens Advice Service – Off the Record | 3000.00 |

Contact me

E: eddie.moores@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07764621491

Surgeries

10.00 – 11.00am - 2nd Saturday of the month at St Saviour Church.

5.00 – 6.00pm - 2nd Friday of the month, alternately at Mills Hill Primary school or King Fisher Special School.

Please check the Council website for full details.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

#Orbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

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Cllr Elaine Garry - Failsworth West Ward

My Ward priorities

- Making Failsworth Greener
- Improve and enhance health and wellbeing
- Support and enhance community groups
- Making Failsworth cleaner
- Ensuring roads, pavements and Greenspaces are maintained
- Support anti-social reduction measures
- Enhance Failsworth Lower Park



Work in the community

- Served as Deputy Mayor May 21 – May 22
- Mayor of Oldham May 2022 - 2023
- Support and raise money for Mayor's charities
- Support foodbanks
- Hold surgeries
- Action all case work received
- Support and promote community groups throughout Oldham
- To be an ambassador for all of Oldham
- Honorary President Oldham Hospital League of Friends
- Honorary Warden Oldham Parish Church
- Meet and greet distinguished guests and visitors to Oldham
- Represent Oldham at civic events

Ward Budget Spend

- Grit bins £343.38
- Christmas light switch on event £575.74
- Remembrance Sunday LED screen £300.00
- Grassroots forest school event £500.00
- South Failsworth School owl and outdoor play equipment £1278.23
- Moston Brook cycle path event – Dirt Factory £200.00
- Failsworth Carnival £550.00
- Breaking the Waves £500.00
- WRVS Failsworth £282.00
- 2nd Failsworth Brownies

Contact me

Email:

Elaine.garry@oldham.gov.uk

T: 07866 575375

Surgeries:

First Thursday of the month.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Public Safety
- Ensuring our local roads, pavements and green spaces are well maintained
- Tackling deprivation
- Preserving local heritage
- Promoting Health & Wellbeing
- Supporting Residents



Work in the community

- Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture & Leisure
- Supporting Voluntary Organisations to access the grants system
- Holding regular advice surgeries to engage with residents and community groups
- Attending local Resident Association meetings and regular walk-about on the Crossley Estate
- Organising and taking part in local litter picking activities and cleaning up of un-adopted green spaces.
- Securing additional funding for local initiatives, such as improved/ walking cycling routes, and additional lighting columns for safety purposes
- Working with the Council's Community Safety Team and local Neighbourhood Policing to reduce anti-social behavior
- Working with the New Chadderton Partnership to establish a Neighbourhood Forum and develop a shared vision for Chadderton
- Working with the voluntary sector to help tackle social isolation for elderly/ vulnerable residents
- Volunteering at local events such as Chadderton Day

Ward Budget Spend

- Vehicle activated signs - £1,750
- Crossey Playing Field Signs - £280
- Historic Information Boards - £830
- Local Parks - £830
- Grit Bins - £160
- Children's Christmas Appeal/ HAF funding - £180
- Int. Women's Day - £43
- Pooled District Budget – CAB/ Off the Record/ Christmas Lights - £3,000

Contact me

E: Elaine.taylor@oldham.gov.uk

M:

Surgeries

10.00 – 11.00am - 2nd Saturday of the month at St Saviour Church.

5.00 – 6.00pm - 2nd Friday of the month, alternately at Mills Hill Primary school or King Fisher Special School.

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Cllr Fida Hussain – Werneth Ward

My Ward priorities

- New improved better housing
- Don't trash Oldham
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Supporting residents post Covid-19
- Environment/highways



Work in the community

- Deal with a large number of individual cases on housing, immigration, health and education.
- Helped and supported residents post Covid-19
- Supporting local businesses
- Helped and advised people in the current Cost of living and Energy Crisis
- Working with volunteer groups/organisations e.g., Foodbanks
- Advice sessions
- Improvement to Werneth Park, introducing Multi Use Game Area (MUGA), as well as outdoor Gym equipment for physical activity and well-being
- Supporting alleygating scheme to prevent anti-social behaviour

Ward budgets spend:

I supported:

- 1 local foodbank
- BASH cricket club
- Street play sessions
- Women support group

Contact me

E: Fida.hussain@oldham.gov.uk
M: 07388334873

Surgeries

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Pressing for a new medical facility for Saddleworth
- Protecting green spaces/green belt
- Improving footpaths
- Keeping the streets free from litter and fly tipping
- Supporting RSPB and United Utilities at Dovestones
- Improving safety on our roads
- Supporting businesses coming out of Lockdown



Work in the community

- Conservative Ward Councillor for Saddleworth South.
- Leader of the opposition Group Conservative Party - Oldham MBC. This includes providing leadership and advice to members of the Group.
- Economic and Social Reform shadow cabinet member.
- Member of the Appointments Committee.
- Campaigning for a new medical facility for Saddleworth.
- Liaising with various Council Departments on behalf of residents.
- Continuing work to protect green spaces and green belt.
- Committed to improving footpaths.
- Ongoing work to ensure streets are clean and free of litter and fly tipping.
- Supporting RSPB and United Utilities to keep Dovestones Reservoir safe and an open space for people to enjoy.
- Improving safety on our roads and supporting speed cameras.
- Supporting businesses coming out of Lockdown.

Ward Budget Spend

Various projects including providing grit bins, Christmas trees and event lighting, refurbishment of instruments (Friezland Band). Also supporting Yorkshire Day, Band Contest, Mountain Rescue Team, student sponsorship to Spain along with other projects.

Contact me

E: Cllr.g.sheldon@oldham.gov.uk

T: 01457 513236

Surgeries

I do not hold ward surgeries.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

#Ourbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- To work with and for residents in order to achieve the best outcome where possible
- Continue to tackle fly tipping which blights our area
- To work with our partners who do so much to support others.
- To ensure as best I can that I provide a service to others that I would expect to receive



Work in the community

- During 2022/23 I have continued to engage with residents, groups and partners and going round the ward as my commitment to ensure that Chadderton South
- This year has also been like no other for me as I was invited to be a Consort to the Mayor, which, as well as attending functions within my own ward, has seen me attending events both with the Borough as well as in various areas in Greater Manchester.
- I am proud that a number of years ago we brought back into the ward a junior youth club. Those junior members have now outgrown that club and a senior youth club is now open.
- No report can ignore the cost of living crisis and the impact that this has had on so many, in particular, the most disadvantaged. I am pleased that I have been able to part fund lunches for those younger members during a school holiday period and will do so again.
- Fly tipping continues to present challenges, which is of course are a cost not only to the Borough finances but produce an impact on those residents who have their areas blighted, all due to someone who shows a total disregard for their neighbours and others.
- Unfortunately there were a small number of groups who missed the application deadline for the Jubilee Celebration for Queen Elizabeth. However, with my ward colleague we ensured that those groups were able to celebrate the incredible service that Her Majesty gave the country.

Ward Budget Spend

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|---------|
| Key Ring – Pride Event | £100.00 | Dementia Community Café | £250.00 | Meeting Point Café | £230.00 |
| Pooled for central spend | £394.62 | Jubilee Celebration | £125.00 | Lunch Day Event | £260.00 |
| Meeting Point Café | £208.87 | International Women’s Day | £42.50 | | |

Contact me

E: grahamshuttleworth@ocham.gov.uk
M: 07800 648 377

Facebook Chadderton South Labour Councillors

Surgeries

As at the time of compiling this report I am waiting on details of the police shift pattern for 2023 as I hold a joint surgery with the local officers.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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My Ward priorities

- Work with residents to keep Hollinwood clean, safe and secure
- Deal promptly with issues raised With me and make sure residents get the best possible Council and other public services
- Do all I can to help residents cope with the cost of living crisis



Work in the community

This report covers the period from my election on the 17th November 2022.

- I have set up regular meetings to raise residents' concerns with the Neighborhood Police Team. I am working with Regenda and Onward Housing Associations to tackle environmental issues in Limeside and Limehurst. I have met residents of School House flats at their regular coffee morning (and would be happy to come along to other events).
- I have been out in the ward with the Council's Engagement Team spreading the word about help with the cost of living crisis and picking up residents' concerns. I have responded to queries from residents including about planning permission, tree pruning, litter and fly-tipping, verges and parking, traffic schemes and roadworks, impact of broadband installation and complaints about the condition of social housing.
- I have organized repairs to the steps between Hollins Road and Whitland Drive.
- I have supported tree planting including a tree in memory of Councillor Jean Stretton.
- I have continued to knock on doors talking to residents about their concerns and making sure people know how to get in touch for help.
- I have supported successful bids to the Local Improvement Fund for improvements to Limeside Park (upgrading existing games area, improving drainage and new planting), traffic calming on Pretoria Road and environmental improvements on Vicarage Street.

Ward Budget Spend

- Summer/winter planting £1426.30
- Discussions with Onward housing about supporting community initiatives including funding Fox ABC to provide diversionary activity for young people to reduce anti-social behavior

Contact me

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M: 07595087425

Twitter @hulme.roberts

Facebook

[facebook.com/HollinwoodLabourParty](https://www.facebook.com/HollinwoodLabourParty)

Surgeries

11am -12 noon, 2nd Saturday of the month

St Chad's Centre, Lime Green Parade, OL8 3HH

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

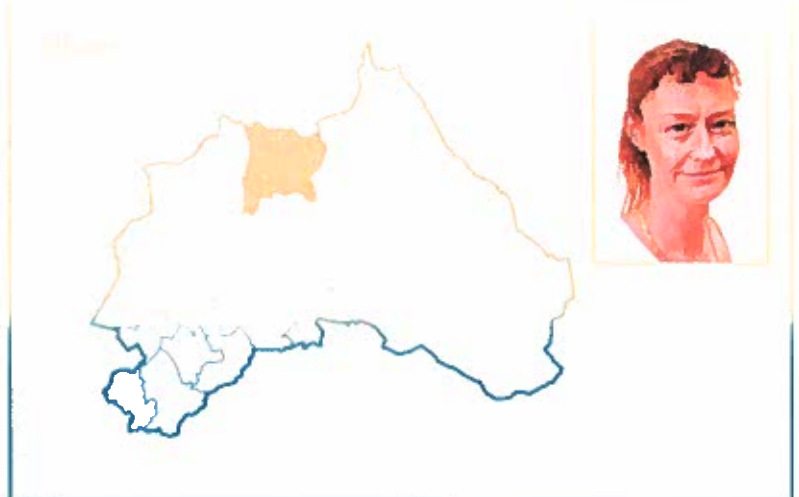
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My Ward priorities

- Supporting residents and businesses
- to recover from pandemic
- New Health Centre for Shaw
- Protecting Green Belt/Spaces
- Litter, Fly Tipping and Dog Fouling
- Listening and engaging with residents
- Environmental Improvements
- Local Policing ASB/crime
- Bus and tram services
- Highways, footways and speeding traffic



Training completed

- Corporate Parenting – Mandatory
- Safeguarding
- Planning Training - Mandatory

Work in the community

Throughout 2022 the Covid-19 recovery has made life very difficult for residents and businesses.

The Community of Shaw has once again stepped up to the challenge by supporting our neighbours, shopping local to sustain our small businesses.

Unfortunately, there have been some business casualties but on the whole, by adapting the way they work many have survived and are once again thriving.

Although the ways we have been working have changed dramatically, with far more emphasis being placed on telephone and electronic communications, the issues faced have remained very similar to previous years but with far more emphasis on our Community. Throughout the year I have continued to work hard for my residents offering support, advice and guidance to help meet their needs and resolve their issues where possible. The Cost of living crisis has features as a priority for many residents and I have supported many to obtain the support they need to keep their families warm and fed.

I have continued to demand Better for Shaw by: -

- Achieving a new Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton.
- I have worked with residents to overcome issues around school attendance and home schooling, together with issues around free school meals and access to appropriate information technology.
- I have liaised with Council departments such as Environmental Health, Waste and Highways to resolve incidences of Fly Tipping, Dog Fouling and missed rubbish collections to keep our communities clean.
- I have worked closely with our Education colleagues to ensure our teachers; support staff and parents are supported appropriately. I meet with them regularly to keep abreast of any issues our education providers are facing together with discussing potential resolutions.
- I have maintained a close link with our Children's Services colleagues, who have faced a significant increase in cases of domestic abuse, significant injuries to children and safeguarding cases across the Borough and within my ward.
- I am a member of the Cross Party Climate Change group which is working to achieve a more sustainable future for our next generations.
- I have continued to raise concerns about our highways and footways, fixing potholes, surface erosion and making sure poor roads are programmed for replacement where required.

- I have continued to work with key partners such as First Choice Homes and Guinness to resolve housing issues and ensure people feel safe and warm in their homes.
- I have worked with the police to tackle crime in Shaw together with our Youth services team to tackle Anti-social Behaviour.
- I have attended Full Oldham Council meetings, asking ward and cabinet questions together with submissions of motions to influence future policy decisions.
- I have attended training on Safeguarding Children's & Adults and Planning amongst others
- I have attended Shaw & Crompton Parish Council meetings and Chair the Environment Committee working with The Friends of Crompton Moor to improve and enhance the beautiful nature we are so lucky to have on our doorstep.
- I have **also kept in touch with some of our more elderly residents to ensure they are warm, comfortable and have enough food to keep them as healthy as possible.**

Contact me:-

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T: 01706 847709

Twitter @GlosterHazel

Surgeries

Ward surgeries are cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions.

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My Ward priorities

- Delivering a new Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton
- Listening to residents
- Protecting Green Belt/spaces
- Public rights of Way
- Litter, fly-tipping, and dog fouling
- Environmental improvements
- Local policing ASB/crime
- Bus and tram services
- Highways, footways, and speeding traffic



Training completed

- Safeguarding Refresher
- ALDC/LGA Councillor weekend
- LGA training and briefings
- LGA Conference
- Diversity Workshop
- Supporting Residents with Cost of Living
- Community Engagement

Work in the community

This Annual Report gives an account of some of my activities. I am proud to say along with my Shaw and Crompton Liberal Democrat colleagues I have remained fiercely dedicated to representing Shaw and Crompton Ward residents and we have continued to champion them and their issues.

Listening to residents:

- I keep up to date with residents' concerns by offering regular face to face Ward Surgeries, door knocking, walkabouts and community meetings.
- I keep communication open with residents I am contactable.
- I reach out to the community and share important information on Twitter, Facebook, and my Web Site.

Some examples of my work:

- I manage a range of issues on behalf of residents such as, road repairs, housing repairs, rehousing requests, public rights of way, school applications, healthcare complaints, council bins and rubbish removal, dog waste and street litter, and grit bins.
- I work closely with our local Police, the District Partnership, Parish Council, voluntary sector, faith groups, residents, and businesses of Shaw to resolve the problem of anti-social behaviour.
- I continue to challenge the Places for All framework that is going to force building on Green Belt and our green spaces. We do need new homes but not at any price and not in the numbers suggested which will result in the appalling loss of our green spaces.
- I am a member of Greater Manchester Transport Committee. It is a constant battle to maintain key bus services for residents and to make to make our trams safer by the introduction of conductors.
- I formally object to planning applications if I believe they are inappropriate or not a benefit to residents.
- I work constructively with developers who wish to build new homes in Shaw. However, such building projects require infrastructure improvements for them to work for example, new schools, better highways, and more health provision. Achieving these provisions is an ongoing battle for myself and my colleagues.
- My colleagues and I were instrumental in achieving a new Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton. Construction starts in 2023.
- I continue to request regular vehicle speed monitoring on roads such as Buckstones Road, Crompton Way, Hillside Avenue and elsewhere.
- I work with the Highways Department and regularly request to have the potholes, blocked grids and poor footpaths resurfaced or repaired. Many of our roads urgently need repairs and resurfacing and I

will continue to push for them.

- I regularly pursue complaints of fly tipping around Shaw, and I work very closely with the Environmental Health Department on this matter.
- I continue to work with residents and a variety of agencies for a resolution to on-going flooding problems, primarily in the areas of Dunwood Park, Woodend, Smallbrook Road, Grains Road, Grains Bar and Jubilee. Much needed improvements by the Environment Agency to Pencil Brook at Duchess Street and near the Park should help.
- As Chair of the Crompton Moor Users Group and in my role as Ward Councillor, I meet regularly with the group, working closely for this area of countryside that within our community remains very important. I continue to ensure that this area is maintained and safe to use by all.
- I am a Governor at St Joseph's school and as a parent myself I strive for our children's right to receive an education appropriate to their needs.
- I am Chair of the A V Davies Charity which works to help those in need and financial difficulty in specifically in Shaw and Crompton.
- I am a member of the LGA Councillors Forum, the LGA Audit Committee, LGA General Assembly and a Board member of Local Partnerships.
- I am a member of Groundwork GM and Vice Chair of its Audit Committee.
- On Oldham Council I serve on the Health & Wellbeing Board, Selection Committee, Appointments Committee, Clayton Playing Fields, and Full Council. I also serve on Corporate Safeguarding, Group Leaders, Mayor's briefings, Community Safety and Cohesion Board, Oldham Distress Fund, Oldham Leadership Board and Oldham Property Partnership.

Contact me:-

E: howard.sykes@oldham.gov.uk

T: 0161 7704016

Team Oldham Helpline: 0161 770 7007

Website: <http://howardsykes.mycouncillor.org.uk>

Twitter: @Howard_Sykes

Facebook: @Councillor.Howard.Sykes

Surgeries

Shaw and Crompton Advice Surgeries (no appointment necessary) held on Thursdays – 7:30pm to 8:30pm.

Lifelong Learning Centre, High Street, Shaw, Oldham OL2 8TB

January: 5, 12, 19, 26 February: 2, 9, 16, 23

March: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Dates beyond the above have yet to be agreed by the Council

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My Ward priorities

- Environment
- Highways
- Education
- Health and Well-being
- Hartford Mill Site



Work in the community

- After a long wait Hartford Mill demolition has been completed. The main body of the mill has been demolished, with just the chimney breast standing . Due to some technical difficulties a slight delay has been incurred.
- Working with local residents to address the issues around the anti social behaviour & how to better utilize the open space.
- Working with local residents & businesses to address the parking issues on Primrose Bank
- **Assisted local residents with Issues ranging : Housing, Schooling, Environmental, Fly tipping, ASB**
- **Contacted local residents by telephone, email and Zoom, MS Teams due to my ongoing health issues, to tackle a range of problems.**

Funding the following projects through the cllrs budget

- Werneth Freehold Community Development Project Electricity charges for pitch lights
- EIC Food bank , UKEFF (UK Education & Faith Foundation)
- Retaining wall on Chelmsford st pocket park.
- GMSAW (Greater Manchester South Asian Women),
- Toy Library &, St Thomas School – Forest Play Area,
- Grit Bins - Newport St, St Thomas Circle -
- BASH Cricket Club,
- Healthy Ageing, Indian Association

Details of participation in groups and bodies attended as a representative of the Council;

- Full Council Meetings, Audit meetings Oldham West District Partnership, Primrose Community Centre, Chair of Charities Committee, Tudor Community Sports Group.
- Where possible face to face meetings have been held with local residents , however in most cases remote working technology was used to facilitate meetings with constituents & colleagues & council officers. Social media played an active part in updating local community of advice.

Due to my ongoing health issues I have decided to retire as an elected member of Oldham council at this years all out elections in May. My heartfelt & sincere gratitude to all residents of Werneth & Oldham for allowing me to represent the community since 2007.

Contact me

E:javid.iqbal@oldham.gov.uk
M: 07969021632

Surgeries

Due to personal health issues I am only available via my mobile phone or email. Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

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Cllr Jenny Harrison – Alexandra Ward

My Ward priorities

- Improving the environment
- Supporting community groups and residents
- Improving educational outcomes



Training completed

- Safeguarding
- Corporate Parenting
- Planning
- Local Government Finance
- Licensing
- Emergency Planning
- Overview and Scrutiny
- Environmental Services
- School Governorship

Work in the community

It's a privilege to represent the people of Alexandra Ward and I keep in touch with as many as possible by door knocking, news-letters, social media, responding to residents' issues and problems and attending a wide range of community events and activities. These have ranged from joining in Christmas festivities at Roc & Rolls Community Café on Holts and Greenhill Sports and Recreation to rolling my sleeves up with local residents cleaning up the backs of Abbey Hills Road and St Michael's Church grounds and litter picking in Hathershaw.

I've helped residents with a wide range of problems and issues relating to poor housing, benefit entitlement, problem neighbours, fly tipping, anti-social behaviour, planning issues and much more.

Alexandra Ward Councillors work closely as a team. Last December, we became aware that many families were facing a bleak Christmas because of the cost-of-living crisis. With ward funding and the help of community groups, we put together and delivered food parcels to a large number of families. Massive thanks to Kaylee and the team at Roc & Rolls, Anne-Marie, Zeanna and Tanisha at Altogether, Kohinoor, Rufia and team at Greenhill Sports and Recreation Club for helping to make it happen.

Ward Budget Spend

In Alexandra Ward, we endeavour to support a wide a range of organisations and initiatives that will bring benefit to our communities. This has included funding:

- Sporting events
- Sports and activity clubs
- Festive celebrations
- HAF (Holiday Activities & Food) with REEL, Café Alt, Greenhill Sports & Recreation
- Alexandra West Community Group
- Education support
- A tool library for community clean ups
- Festive Season food parcels

LIF (Local Improvement Fund) Bids

We submitted small grant LIF Bids for Alt, Holts and the Eldon Street area and have had confirmation that three of them have been successful. This is great news because it will bring in several thousands of pounds to improve the areas and hopefully increase community involvement.

We also submitted a large grant bid to resurface the MUGA on Holts and improve the site. We're excited to announce that this too has been successful. Not only will we get the grant from LIF, but because the improvement is sports related, it also attracts almost £100,000 external funding.

Contact me

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jenny.harrison@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07875 676 731

Twitter: @clljennyoldham

Facebook: Councillor Jenny Harrison

Surgeries

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

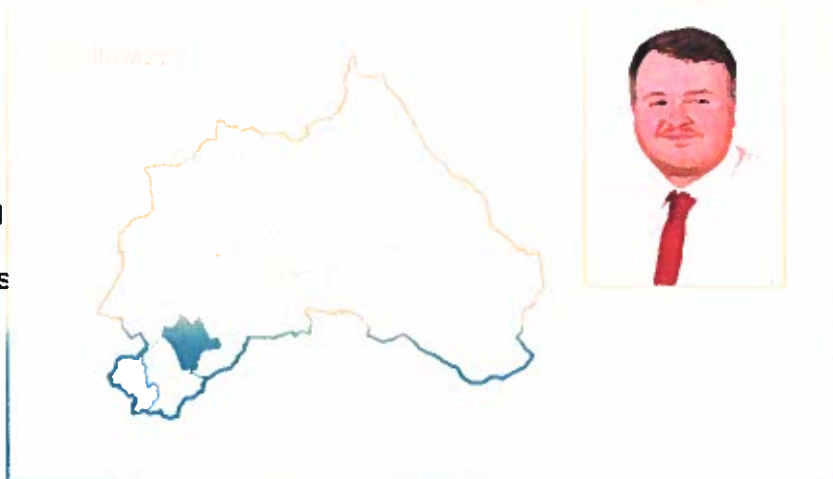
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My Ward Priorities

- Supporting local business & residents with local issues and case work that arises.
- Maintaining and continually improving the cleanliness of the ward by working with partners and residents to make sure we do our bit, including litter picks and going after the current issue with rats in the ward at source.
- Continued lobbying for funding to fix potholes & repair roads in the ward
- Representing local views on various issues and getting results for resident's casework quickly



Training completed

- Barnardo's Safeguarding Training Module 1, 2, 3, 4
- Committee – Planning Committee Mandatory Training
- Committee – Overview & Scrutiny Training
- Member Training Planning Enforcement
- Member Training Mandatory Safeguarding

Work in the community

I am very proud of the work colleagues, and I have done in the past year to support residents and businesses in Hollinwood, we are making progress in a number of areas including regenerating the ward.

I have successfully, alongside colleagues, bid for over £55,000 in funding for the ward. This will be spent on renovating and modernising Limeside Park, introducing traffic calming on Pretoria Road, and cleaning up Vicarage St – creating a safe and clean space for residents to use. If you have any further ideas, please get in touch!

Alongside this I have been observing my day-to-day duties which include answering emails, phone calls, dealing with casework and attending portfolio meetings in my role as Housing Lead for the Council. My work supporting and delivering housing projects in the borough is work I am so proud of and privileged to be a part of it.

I must now mention my friend, Jean Stretton, who sadly passed away last year, she is greatly missed and Hollinwood is worse off without her. Jean was a good friend and a fantastic mentor, she will be remembered often and in good memory.

As always – please do contact colleagues or myself if you ever need assistance with any matter. We are glad to help. Thank you.

Contact me

E: kylephythian@odham.gov.uk
M: 07811 720916
Facebook: @Kylephythian

Surgeries

Every second Saturday at St Chad's Centre between 11am and 12pm.

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My Ward priorities

- Supporting children, young people and families
- Supporting residents and community groups through the cost of living crisis
- Improving green space and cleaning up the environment



Work in the community

Since I was elected in May 2022, I have been working with residents and community groups to better the ward and invest in projects that provide demonstrable benefits to the area.

A major priority has been to support projects that benefit children and young people, such as holiday activities at Stoneleigh Park, a rolling programme of free activities with OPAG in Sholver throughout the summer, and supporting the Pennine Cascades Dance Troupe.

A particularly challenging issue has been persistent litter and fly-tipping problems, especially in Sholver. I've continued to work with the Millennium Green Trust, the Sholver and Moorside Community Centre and Sholver Travel Futures to conduct regular litter-picks, provide lightweight bin liners for the Green and liaise with FCHO to tackle litter on public walkways. A successful LIF bid for Pearly Bank Park in Sholver will clean up the wooded area, removing fly-tipping, broken glass and building debris, creating a safe and tidy space for children to play.

St James ward has beautiful green spaces but residents have rightly highlighted issues around accessibility. Two LIF bids won by St James Labour Councillors and the Millennium Green Trust will bring over £31,000 of investment to the Green, improving walkways, pathways and dropped kerbs, ensuring all residents can engage with this space. I have also supported the creation of green projects in Derker such as the Derker Community Gardens scheme, which is enabling residents to grow their own food and learn new gardening skills. Another successful LIF bid by St James Labour Councillors will see the improvement of the access path next to the Westminster Gardens in Derker. These LIF bids are fantastic news for St James Ward as it will bring further improvements to our local area and will enable residents to better engage with the vital green spaces on our doorstep. Betterment works suggested by the St James Labour Councillors have improved planting and grassed areas across the ward and I greatly enjoyed participating in a scheme to plant over 40 trees for the Queen's Green Canopy on Millennium Green in December.

Through community engagement such as door-knocking, holding street surgeries and attending community events, the St James Labour Councillors have been able to prioritise issues that are of concern to the wider community. This includes arranging and supporting community crime meetings with the Police in Sholver and Derker, as well supporting community consultations regarding housing developments and raising concerns around traffic with Highways and Planning Officers. After seeing significant demand in the community for dropped kerbs around the Sholver and Moorside Community Centre, I was able to secure 8 dropped kerbs to enable families with prams and disabled people to get to the Centre without negotiating tricky pavements.

I encourage any resident in St James ward to contact me with concerns or issues and I will do my utmost to assist.

Contact me

E: leanne.munroe@ddham.gov.uk

M: 07970601275

Facebook:

[/leannemunroe4stjames](#)

Surgeries

St James Labour Councillors regularly conduct street surgeries throughout the ward.

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

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My Ward priorities

- Listening to residents.
- Environmental Issues.
- Demanding better for Crompton.
Delivering a New Health Centre for Shaw and Crompton.
- Championing highway and footpath issues.
- Protecting Greenbelt and OPOL Land.
- Working all year round not just at Election time.
- Highway improvements which includes footpaths and safety
- Tackling Dog Fouling.



Work in the community

- Demanding better for Crompton.
- Ensuing that Oldham Council's senior executive staff are aware of some of the projects we are working on as well as bringing to their attention some of the issues when we require them.
- Working with Oldham Council staff along with working with partners such as First Choice Homes Oldham, Greater Manchester Police, Health and Social Care teams, Mio Care and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council, Thank you for all your hard work I really appreciate everything each and every one does to make sure Crompton and Oldham is a great place to live, work and enjoy 😊
- Knocking on doors all year round not just at election time and ensuring regular newsletters are delivered to every household in the ward.
- Provide regular updates on Facebook
- Worked alongside ward colleagues to bring together the "I Love Crompton" campaign, together with stickers on bins to remind residents to pick up after their dog and remember to put their own rubbish in it.
- Attended all Full Oldham Council meetings have asked questions, made observations and asked questions on minutes as well as submitted motions to influence policy and procedures.
- Attend ward surgeries, organised every week, on a rota basis with my Shaw and Crompton colleagues – this allows me to listen to residents' concerns personally, rather than them trying to put it in an email
- I am the Shadow Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, which I really enjoy as it gives me the opportunity to hold to administration to account whilst also offering other alternatives.
- I chair The Autism Way Forward Board which we discuss ways to champion the Autism Strategy and improve lives for those with Autism and SEND
- Attend the Learning Disability Partnership Board where I hold members to account and to discuss ways to champion the Learning Disability Strategy and improve lives for those with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- I am a member of Shaw and Crompton Parish Council which I am currently its Chair and Vice Chair of Events Promotions and Grants Committee
- As Chairman of the parish council, I am proud to support my amazing charities:
Dr Kershaw's,
Shaw and Crompton RBL branch and PennineMencap.

- Attended the mandatory training on “Safeguarding – Children and Adults” – “Appeals Home to school Transport Committee”
- Continue to campaign to get a Health Centre for the residents of Shaw and Crompton.
- Shaw and Crompton Councillors met with the Accountable Officer from the Clinical Commissioning Group (NHS) to raise concerns over the GP Practices in Royton and Crompton Health Centre and the services they provide. We continue progress with updates and progress of the New Health Centre in Shaw.
- Lancashire Day was on 27 November 2022 and this year the Lancashire flag was flown in High Crompton Park. Followed by the proclamation from Shaw and Crompton’s Town Crier and attended by myself as the Shaw and Crompton Parish Council Chairman.
- Changes in bus services continue to be a problem for residents in Crompton we continue to work with TfGM to find solutions to make the best of a bad situation.
- We have ensured our young people have something to do in the school holidays by funding activities throughout Shaw and Crompton.
- Continuing to sort local environmental issues such as dog fouling, litter and fly tipping
- I Continue to raise concerns about the state of the roads and working to fix potholes, surface erosion and making sure poor roads are part of a programmed works plan for replacement or treatment.
- Supporting community groups such as High Crompton Park Friends Group and Home watch Groups.
- Member of MIO (Made In Oldham) Care appointed by the Council –Thoroughly enjoyed participating in the meetings as board member, Attend Health Scrutiny Board where I can look at and scrutineer Oldham and GM wide health plans plus adding in my own suggestions, I also sit on many other outside GM Health related bodies.
- In addition, I offer general support for Crompton Cricket, Crompton Bowling Clubs, and Crompton Football Club – where we have used our ward budget to purchase football kits with the message ‘Love Crompton’ to inspire the next generation of young people to ‘Love Where They Live’.
- Working with community groups help organize the up coming coronation celebration and street party events.
- Worked alongside the Shaw and Crompton Events Group to host the Christmas Lights Event in Shaw town centre and support them in their fundraising attempts as well as their St George’s Day Event in 22.
- Supported Events such as The Tour of Britain Bike Race and hope to see a continuation of such a great legacy such as organising bike rides through Shaw and Crompton.
- Attended the Holocaust Remembrance Service at Crompton War Memorial.
- Support the High Crompton Park Friends to keep our park beautiful.
- Event lighting has now been achieved on The Big Lamp roundabout the tree will be lit in various colours to celebrate the saints of the UK as well as Easter, Christmas and Pride events.
- My colleagues are committed to providing AEDs in the ward of Crompton.
- Working to achieve poppies to project on Crompton War Memorial.
- Continue to support local residents by providing a refill for the grit bins that we have bought them, when the area does not meet the Council’s criteria
- Safeguarding land as well as saving Council money by introducing Wildflower Meadow Schemes at various sites in Crompton ward.

- Working with tenders for the High Crompton Park to provide a Community Café.
- Working with Council Officers to safeguard a car park in High Crompton to ensure resident continue to have free parking.
- Established and continue to support the Homewatch schemes in Crompton, I continue to work with my colleague Cllr's Williamson and Murphy we have already established and support two and will work with other areas to set up more.
- A scheme in place to protect High Crompton Post Office from ram raiders – (location junction of Thornham Road/Rochdale Road)
- Funded guard rails to ensure highway safety at High Crompton Post Office.
- Organise a regular monthly litter picking group called the "Crompton Cleanup Crew"
- Provide a regular Focus Newsletter letting residents know what local Councillors are up to which includes a free post comments section.
- Continue to attend Flooding meetings with a project in Crompton working with partners such as United Utilities, Environment Agency and Oldham Council Officers – also cross party working with colleagues in Royton North and Royton South.

Your Crompton Liberal Democrat Councillor's again would like to say a massive thanks to our NHS, Key workers, and the whole Community for continuing to do your bit during such immense pressures to deal with the backlog caused by covid.

Work still carries on for your local Liberal Democrat councillor's Louie Hamblett, Diane Williamson, and Dave Murphy.

Cost of living has become the latest challenge for many residents who have been affected and we have been happy offer advice and support be it through AV Davis applications and sign posting residents to the right places for help.

For any further support regarding cost-of-living support please contact 0161 770 7007

Contact me

E: Louie.Hamblett@oldham.gov.uk

T: 01706660806

M: 07971363794

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Councillor-Louie->

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LouieHamblett?s=09>

ParishWebsite: <https://www.shawandcromptonparishcouncil.co.uk/>

Surgeries

7:30pm to 8:30pm every Thursday at Shaw Lifelong Centre.

No appointment necessary

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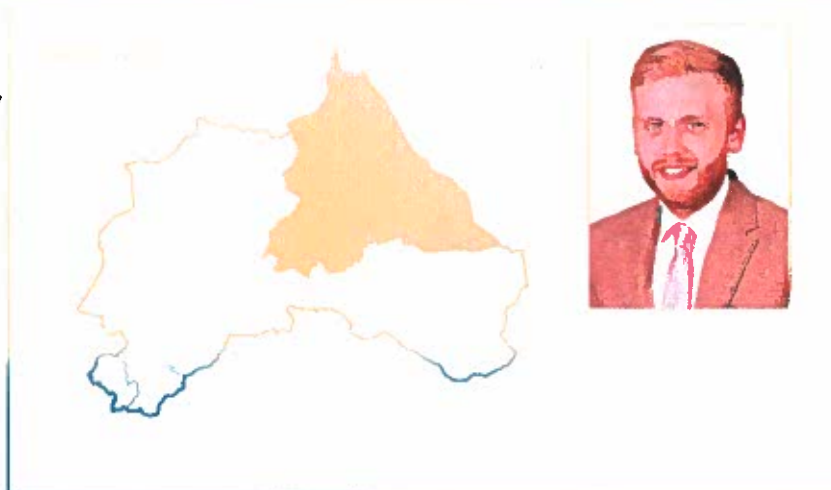
#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

Cllr Luke Lancaster – Saddleworth North Ward

My Ward priorities

- Campaigning to protect our precious green spaces, for improved statutory services representing good value for money, and for more effective road safety measures.
- Continuing to support customs and community life in our Civil Parish of Saddleworth.



Work in the community

Across 2022:

- I supported many local celebrations for Her Late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, including co-organising Saddleworth's beacon lighting event
- I volunteered at the Yorkshire Day Fayre, the Whit Friday band contests, the visit of the Band of the Grenadier Guards, amongst other events
- I promoted Remembrance and fundraising for our Armed Forces community, by erecting lamppost poppies across our villages, by leading on a poppy waterfall project involving young people, by volunteering with the Poppy Appeal, and by placing crosses on local Commonwealth War Graves
- I undertook hundreds of individual items of resident casework, including Planning, footpaths, social housing, Council Tax, drainage, grit, etc.
- I campaigned on improving road safety, protecting precious green spaces, justice for child sexual exploitation (CSE) victims, and against local authority waste and mismanagement, and regularly made public speeches at Council to this effect
- I assisted the Saddleworth Scouts in the attainment of a badge for UK Parliament Week
- I provided strategic direction in the introduction of a wildflower meadow in higher Springhead

Ward Budget Spend

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Grit bins - Grit bins that do not meet the council's criteria. These are filled on a 'fill on request' basis. | 171.69 |
| Christmas event lighting - repairs, putting up, taking down | 148.62 |
| Support the provision of district Christmas trees | 364.67 |
| Summer/Winter planting in the district | 545.60 |
| Band Contest - funding to support this annual event | 1222.22 |
| Yorkshire Day - Support to the event | 100.00 |
| Mountain Rescue Team - Cllrs contribution to support the team | 300.00 |
| Poppy waterfall project - Resources from OPAG | 171.93 |
| Scouthead & Austerlands Comm Grp - Community AED Project | 150.00 |
| Denshaw Christmas tree and lights | 150.00 |
| Community project Springhead - Plot off Belmont project | 50.00 |
| Total spend/allocation | 3374.73 |
| | Remaining 1625.27 |

Contact me

E: Luke.lancaster@oldham.gov.uk

T: 07971 594106

M: (same as above)

Twitter Not applicable

Facebook @Cllr. Luke Lancaster

Surgeries

Held on the second Saturday of every month

Delph Methodist Church Hall

Gartside Street

Delph

Councillor P Byrne

Tel: 07703 348 755

Pam.byrne@oldham.gov.uk

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

#Ourbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

#Yourbit – Get in touch and let your councillors know if you have a problem or suggestion

#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- My primary role is to represent Royton South Ward and the people who live here
- To respond to resident's queries and investigate their concerns. ~~Listening to residents and then representing their views on council.~~
- **Communication** with residents by telephone or email, always a top priority.
- **Surgeries** Face to face meetings with residents have been difficult over the last two years, however we are putting these back into place now and looking towards setting up surgeries again. A different location will be necessary due to the renovation work currently being carried out on Royton Town Hall.
- **Street Surgeries** - Along with face-to-face surgeries, street surgeries have always worked well and they mean we can get to speak to the residents who want to talk to and tell us their issues.
- **Royton Town Hall and Library** – Work continues on Royton Town Hall and the Library. The project is ongoing, and is progressing, which is exciting. The Town Hall will remain the Hub of the town for residents and we want the Town Hall to be accessible and usable for everyone. This will include a fit for purpose library, that everyone can use in all sorts of different ways.
- **Growth and Development of Royton Centre** - We are working with private and public sector partners to support that growth and development.
- **Building on our unique heritage** - wanting to make Royton a thriving place to live, work and socialise. We are promoting volunteering opportunities so residents can get involved in the community and do their bit.
- **Outdoor Spaces** - We also want to increase the use of our outdoor spaces; we have some lovely parks and walking trails. And these spaces provide an opportunity for residents to take control and improve their health. There are local sports and park clubs to be used, so promoting these activities is important.



Work in the community

Personal Casework directed to me from residents

Meeting with residents one to one or in larger groups and by telephone and email.

Along with this work I am also involved in;

- Supporting residents whilst work is taking place in their immediate area due to private land development to ensure all planning criteria is being followed and when this is not happening to ensure we act on their behalf to correct any breaches of the planning conditions.
- Providing a bridge between residents and the council.
- Being an advocate for local residents and signposting them to the right people at the council.
- Keeping residents informed about the issues that affect them.
- Don't Trash Oldham - attending regular Litter Picks around the area.

As much as I did come into my local political role to be here for local residents, over the years it has become clear to me that by taking on more 'council based' roles I can actually do more for our residents in the borough and in Royton. Everything I become involved in comes back to my work and life in Royton.

The roles I have taken, have involved work that is borough wide, remembering that Royton is part of the borough, and that all the subjects and areas that are covered and improved mean that the whole of the borough benefit from decisions made and improvements made to all the services involved in that role, this would include Royton and Royton residents.

- **Chair of the Health and Well Being Board (2020 to 2023)** - to have a say and input on how our Health and Well Being Services are commissioned and delivered throughout the borough. The Board brings together a large group of people and is always very well attended. We have GPs, Nurse Practitioners, Care Providers, Housing Providers, the police, community residents and the voluntary sectors. Our biggest and most recent work is around the very clear and worrying health inequalities in our borough. Everyone involved with this Board have a vital role into looking at why we have these inequalities, what they can lead to, and what can be done to bring about positive changes.
- **Performance Overview and Scrutiny committee (2022 to 2023)** – Challenging and improving performance, supporting the achievement of value for money, Support the role of the Council in community leadership, reporting on issues affecting the borough, and the work of public bodies in the area. Acting as a 'critical friend' to the Cabinet by reviewing policy, decisions, performance.

Contact me

E: maiebashforh@odham.gov.uk

T: 01706 290313

Surgeries

Face to face surgeries are planned and will commence as soon as possible. Alternative location is being looked at. Until then residents can contact me via email or telephone. I will ensure to be available to help and support our community in this way. Also active on facebook and keep in contact with residents

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My Ward priorities

- Speeding
- Crime
- Flytipping



Work in the community

I'm a councillor for everyone in Grotton, Springhead and Lees and work with my colleagues Cllrs Sam Al-Hamdani and Alicia Marland. As well as being shadow cabinet member for Employment & Enterprise, the vast majority of my time, energy and effort goes into casework directly affecting the ward I'm so happy to represent. Oldham Council is a very large organization responsible for delivering over a thousand services with a budget of about £100 million – it's my job to argue for the best outcomes for everyone in our ward, for those who come to me with specific problems or concerns and to work to try and improve services for everyone across the borough.

By the time people often contact their councillor, they've normally tried everywhere else. This sometimes means that I do my best to help people when they're facing some very hard problems including things like:

- Financial support during the cost of living crisis
- Council Tax errors and billing
- Pre school funding
- SEN provision
- Housing benefit
- The threat of eviction
- Access to health services
- Schooling

As well as being contactable by phone, email and Facebook, Sam, Alicia and I hold in person surgeries every month for those residents unable to use email/Facebook. These take place at Lees Library, Springhead Community Centre and Grotton Pavilion. I also actively go out and find casework by regularly knocking on doors throughout the ward and asking people how I can help them. As well as door knocking, my team and I keep in touch with everyone by posting regular Focus newsletters through each door several times a year.

A lot of casework is focused on improving things where we all live and work and deals with things like making sure potholes are repaired, streetlights get fixed, graffiti is removed etc:

- Promoting and taking part in community litter picks with LSG Litter Heroes
- Delivered several successful grant proposals for the Oldham LIF programme on behalf of Lees Ecohub, Oldham Air Cadets 2200 Squadron Lees and Springhead Community Centre
- Speaking at Planning on behalf of the neighbours of the proposed Maltby Court development which was refused.
- Speaking at Planning on behalf of the neighbours of the proposed Stonebreaks development which was refused.
- Speaking at Planning on behalf of all residents with regards to Knowls Lane and pushing for improvements. So far these pleas have sadly fallen on deaf ears.
- Speaking behalf of Save our Valleys in the community's opposition to Russell Homes' plans to re-route a

public footpath and make it even more inaccessible as part of the Knowls Lane development. This has now gone to appeal

- Ensuring that the Environment Agency responded to the blockage of Thornley Brook and that it was cleared by the new owner

As well as working for the people of Grotton Springhead & Lees, I also do work on behalf of everyone in the borough. This is work that's more at the Civic Centre and this year has included:

- Providing a critical response to the CSE Report
- Delivering a summary of that response to every home across the ward
- Helping officers push for a successful response from GMP for help with supplementing DBS checks
- Asking for and receiving assurances that those staff criticized in the CSE report and still employed by the council will undergo disciplinary action.
- Member of Performance Overview & Scrutiny committee
- Scrutinizing the performance of the borough's £400K per month streetlighting contract
- Calling for greater Councilor transparency
- Proposed and passed a motion which aims to make fairer council decisions by measuring local spending and the impact of decisions on children's safeguarding
- Asking a question at council to encourage council commitment to greater levels of local spending as part of it's Creating a Better Place programme
- Asking for commitments at full council about the risk of cost over runs with the redevelopment of the TJ Hughes site
- Querying at full council the disparity between the council's headlined cost of living response (£3m) and it's actual response (£1.2m in year 1)
- Proposing a motion of no confidence in Andy Burnham's management of GMP. This was defeated.
- Supporting a motion to strengthen support for our service personnel both serving and retired.
- Scrutinizing the way council is managing the risk associated with inflation in its construction contracts.
- Campaigning for the introduction of Community Speedwatch across Oldham

Funded work

- Grit bin filling throughout the ward
- Christmas tree & lights
- Summer and winter planting
- Support the provision of tree planting
- Funding to support the band contest across Lees and Saddleworth.

Contact me

f: [fb.me/MarkKenyon4GSL](https://www.facebook.com/MarkKenyon4GSL)
e: MarkKenyon101@gmail.com
t: 07971 363 790

Ward surgeries

Ward surgeries are held at Lees Library Hub (midday), Springhead Community Centre (6pm) on the last Tuesday and and Grotton Pavilion (10am) on the last Saturday of the month.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

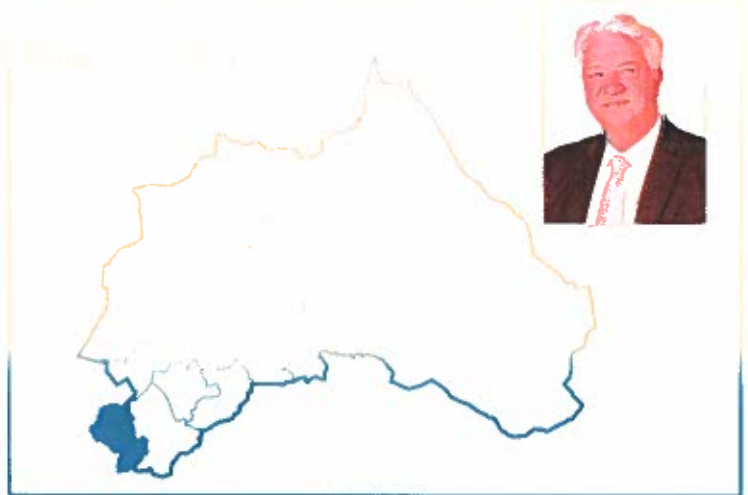
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My Ward priorities

- To be visible and approachable to all Residents.
- To improve, the area for all residents, by encouraging residents to respect outdoor spaces, including alleyways, greenspaces parks etc. Involving the community in clean ups.
- To listen to residents complaints and act upon them, to the best of my ability, in order to find the best possible resolution



Training completed

- GDPR
- Licensing
- Safeguarding
- Personal safety
- Public speaking skills

Work in the community.

- Disability equipment loan scheme
- I continue to collect Wheelchairs, strollers, Zimmer frames, crutches, bed guards, shower chairs etc, with a view to assisting residents who may need to use them free of charge. To date I have collected and re distributed over 40 Wheelchairs, let alone the various other equipment.
- I have worked on numerous cases and discovered what a diverse mixture of problems people are faced with. I gain great satisfaction in helping to resolve many of the difficulties the residents come up against. These include Housing, re housing, schooling, highways, fly tipping and more.
- I continue to work on a very complex case concerning a Company that has been acting outside their operating licence and I had received numerous complaints from residents, regarding the odour and noise levels. I have held a multi-agency meeting, in attendance with the local MP Angela Rayner.
- One of my most fulfilling roles is assisting with the Failsworth Remembrance Sunday parade. And ceremony. Each year it becomes a bigger and better event, as the community comes together to honour our deceased Military and veterans.
- I was recently honoured to accept the position of President of the newly reformed Failsworth branch of the Royal British Legion, which was unexpected but gratefully accepted.
- I have been involved in a new project at The Holy Family Church on Lord Lane. The congregation and Church Committee had taken the decision to create a Community Garden for the people of Failsworth, on a spare and unused piece of land at the back of the building. I agreed to donate £1,000 of my personal allowance to this venture, have attended operations several times and liaise with the project coordinator. This project is now completed and opens in Spring.
- I assisted with the running of the Senior Citizen's Christmas Party, held in December, which was attended by 110 residents and was a total success.
- I have assisted with The Manchester VII Scouts, Ashton Rd East, Failsworth, in fund raising and the preparation of plans for a new Two story Scout/Girl Guides building which will incorporate a new community room.
- In the last year, I have dealt with in excess of 100 emails relating to problems within the Failsworth area.

- I continue to support survivors of Child Sexual Exploitation and have accompanied them whilst being interviewed by GMPs "Operation Sherwood" an operation into historic CSE.

Contact me

Email:

mark.wilkinson@oldham.gov.uk

Surgeries

Last Monday of each Month at the Holy Family Church, Lord Lane, Failsworth.

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

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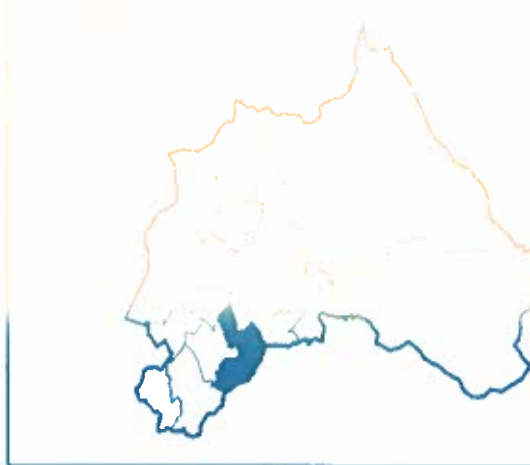
Cllr Mohammed Alyas – Medlock Vale Ward

My Ward priorities

- Housing
- Tackling Health inequalities
- Environmental improvements
- Tackling Anti Social Behaviour

Training Completed

- Adult Safeguarding
- Planning and Planning enforcement
- Public speaking
- Advocacy & Casework
- Direct payments
- Procurement/Business support



100% attendance at Oldham Council meetings

Work in the community

In 2022/23, I have represented Medlock Vale and OMBC on the following:

- South Oldham District Lead
- Member of Policy and Overview Scrutiny Committee
- Member of Audit committee
- Member of GM Waste and Recycling committee
- Member of ForHousing 'Fitton Hill Community Voice'

I have supported the following organisations/groups/Services

- REEL CIC
- Fitton Hill Bulldogs
- Bardsley community and Playing Fields Assoc for remembrance Sunday
- Saheli Women's Group-Building Relationships
- Grit Bins (Gainsborough Ave, Keb Lane)
- GreenHill Community Sports and Recreation CIC
- GM South Asian Women's CIC
- Kashmir Cricket Club

Work on ward issues

- Worked with community groups, and local community members to submit 'Local Improvement Fund' bids and currently awaiting decision.
- Helped Fitton Hill Bulldogs to submit bids to Viridor and High Sherriff's fund and decision on these is imminent.
- Worked with the police to tackle Anti-social behavior
- Working with Madina Masjid in Coppice to install a streetlight and establish a youth club.
- Following residents' concerns, worked with police to raise and fund speeding issues on Hadfield St

- Helped establish a women's group in Hathershaw
- Led on community litter picking sessions
- Worked with many individuals and families (through case work) to help raise and in most cases resolve their issues. Casework continues to increase particularly related to housing, immigration and children social services.

Contact me

Email: mohammed.alyas@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07866502184

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My Ward priorities

- Road Improvements
- Clean Streets
- Safe Environment



Work in the community

- Organized several community clean ups in the area and arranged funding security gates
- Worked with community groups to transform alleyways into growing hubs
- Successfully applied for funds for Burnley Lane to help with reduction on congestion and improve road safety
- Engaged with police to tackle anti-social behavior at Fitton Park (Burnley Lane) and Milne St to lower reported reduction in incidents and keeping wider community safer
- Collaborated with residents on improving educational opportunities and widening access to university
- Supported several community organizations, helping them grow and become self-sufficient.
- Organizing and meeting major employer and local people to encourage people to take advantage of work related opportunities helping them to grow in their career
- Held surgeries each month at Chadderton Wellbeing Centre, meeting residents to tackle a range of problems.
- Applied for funds to improve green open space to allow youth to access to safe place to play

Ward Budget Spend

- Chadderton FC Juniors – £166.58
- Sur Sangeetaloy Community Music Event – £150.00
- Chadderton Cricket Club - £250.00
- Derai Community Event - £250.00
- Community Education Engagement Event - £75.00
- Oldham SEND Point – Day trips for CYP with additional needs - £250.00

Contact me

Email:

Nazrul.Islam@oldham.gov.uk

T: 07966 867 870

Surgeries: Once a month

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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Cllr Mohon Ali – Chadderton North Ward

My Ward priorities

- Road Improvements
- Clean Streets
- Safe Environment



Work in the community

- Engaged with residents on improving educational outcomes and widening access to university.
- Developed and supported several community organizations, helping them grow and become self-sufficient.
- Organized a meeting between a major employer and local people to encourage people to take advantage of opportunities.
- Worked with community groups to transform alleyways into growing hubs.
- Organized several community clean ups in the area and arranged funding security gates
- Worked with police to tackle anti-social behavior at Fitton Park (Burnley Lane) and Milne St leading to a reported reduction in incidents.
- Held surgeries each month at Chadderton Wellbeing Centre, meeting residents to tackle a range of problems.
- Successful in obtaining funds to improve road safety on Burnley Lane
- Applied for funds to improve green open space

Ward Budget Spend

- Chadderton FC Juniors – £166.58
- Sur Sangeetaloy Community Music Event – £150.00
- Chadderton Cricket Club - £250.00
- Derai Community Event - £250.00
- Community Education Engagement Event - £75.00
- Oldham SEND Point – Day trips for CYP with additional needs - £250.00
- International Women's Day - £42.50

Contact me

E: MohonAli@oldham.gov.uk

T: 07734206623

Twitter: @MohonAli10

Surgeries: Once a month

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

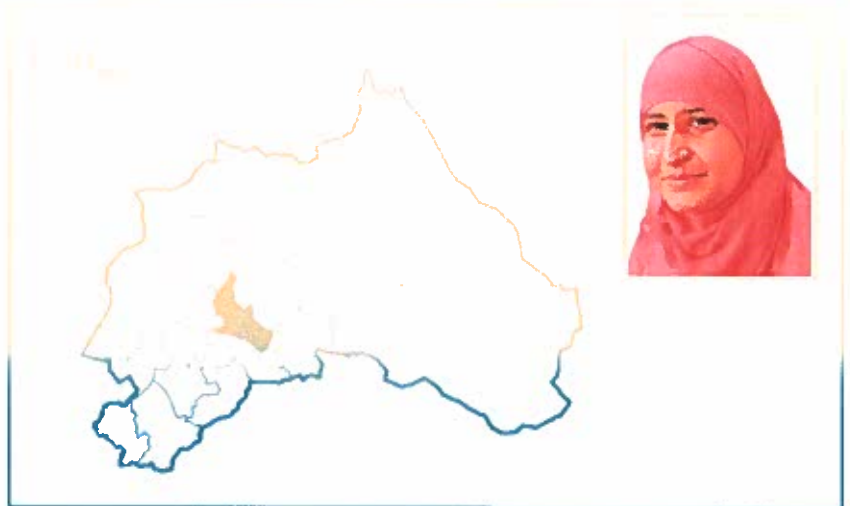
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My Ward priorities

- Health & Wellbeing
- Environmental health & waste
- Traffic & Speeding Issues
- Housing
- Representing and getting results on local ward issues for residents



Work in the community

- Working with residents with ongoing speeding issues – highways work completed on Roundthorn Rd with Speed Cushions
- Part Funded a speed gun for GMP
- Successful LIF funding – Sickle Street
- Working closely with the Local Policing team in the ward – Identifying ward issues and then getting the appropriate support to help resolve the matter
- Welcoming the new homes on Southlink

Appointments, Committees and Outside Bodies

- MioCare (**chair**)
- Health & Scrutiny
- Performance & Overview (**sub**)
- Action Together Fund Advisory panel
- MAHLO – Board Member

Contact me

E: nykubrahim@odham.gov.uk

M:

Surgeries

1

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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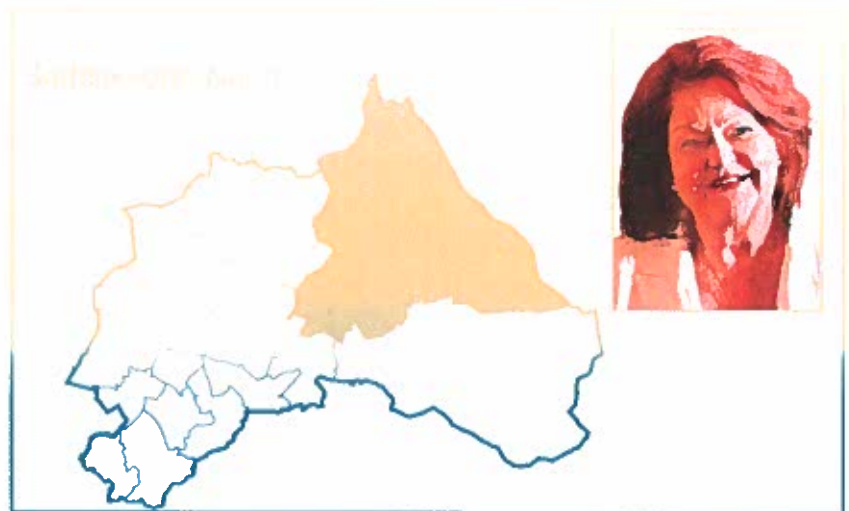
#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Reducing Speed Limits on Rural Roads
- Giving Prompt response to Residents
- Protecting the Green Belt

Training completed

- Highways Law
- Safeguarding
- Corporate Parenting
- Members Code of Conduct



Work in the community

- Liaising with residents about Local Issues
- 100% attendance at Oldham Council meetings .
- Attended training on “Safeguarding”, “Casework & Advocacy Skills” amongst other things
- Supporting Local Businesses with
- Supporting residents with Planning Application Concerns.
- Communicated with residents by telephone, email and Surgeries
- Governor of Saddleworth School
- Chairman of Saddleworth Parish Council

Contact me

E: pam.byrne@oldham.gov.uk
M: 07703 348755

Surgeries

Face to face Ward Surgeries are held at Delph Methodist Hall on Saturdays. Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems prior to this.

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My Ward priorities

- To help residents through the cost of living and fuel crisis
- Create a better and cleaner environment
- Improve community safety and local policing
- Create good schools and play places for children
- Support local organisation



Work in the community

- I have been able to assist in over 600 local issues this last year, some personal and many community problems. I believe in the vast majority of these I achieved a good result.
- I have worked and supported many community groups and organisation, in creating improved local spaces and buildings, for everyone to use. These include improving play equipment and exercise equipment in parks and open spaces. Providing assistance to elderly residents by the installation of public handrails.
- I have been able to lead on over 20 community initiatives over the past year.

Ward Budget Spend

I have supported the following using my Cllrs budget.

- NEON community centre improvements
- Cobden St handrail for elderly residents
- Extra Grit Bins
- Arundel St Park extension plans
- Higher Counthill footpath improvements
- Veg In the Park replacement of poly tunnel roof
- Clarksfield / Salem linear walk renovation
- Secure storage for community equipment store

Contact me

E: Peter.dean@obham.gov.uk
M: 07718785134

Surgeries

Face to face Ward Surgeries take place on the first Saturday of each month between 10am – 11am at either ViP Cabin – Waterhead Park, NEON Hub or St Barnabas Church Hall. Please contact me for details.

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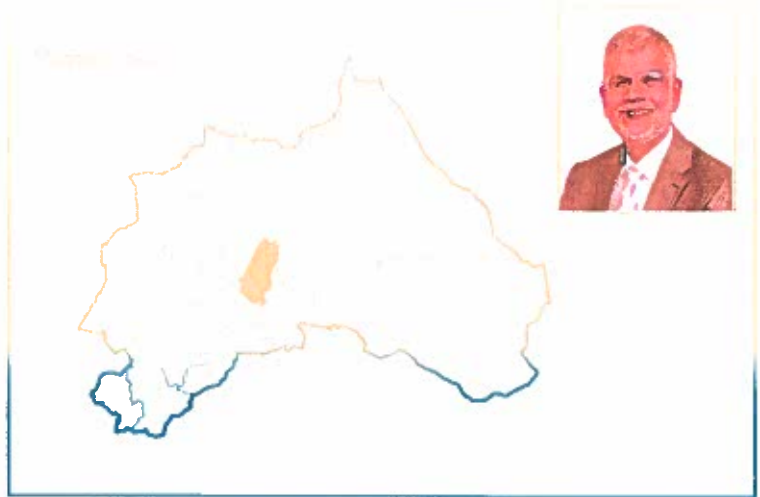
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My Ward priorities

Ward priorities are aligned with the Council priorities which are to make the ward clean, green, and a safe place for the residents.

- With COVID 19 continuing to impact communities, we have worked hard with the Council to ensure that the residents have access to good health and food provision, children's education is maintained, and the Council services respond quickly to the changed circumstances.



Training Completed

I have attended several training sessions on Finance, Audit, Safeguarding, Prevent, Environment, Planning and other similar subjects

Work in the community

This being my final Council report, I would summarise my role as a Councillor throughout my career.

- Since first getting elected in 1992, I have enjoyed this role immensely and I have worked tirelessly to make improvements in Oldham.
- I have served on most major committees, have chaired Finance, Audit, Scrutiny and Environment Committee at various times. I have been a member of Cabinet for Finance and Human Resources portfolio. As a front bench I oversaw many major developments e.g. bringing Refuse Collection in-house by getting rid of SITA and thus improving cleanliness in Oldham, clean-up of Huddersfield Canal and Rochdale Canal, building footbridges over Oldham Way and many other major initiatives.
- I became Mayor of the Borough in 2002 which was probably the most difficult time of Oldham's recent history following the civil disturbances. I worked tirelessly, involved all sections of the community and various organisations to bring peace, harmony and cohesion on the streets of Oldham.
- I have served as a governor at many schools, Freehold, Greenhill, Kaskenmoor, St Patricks R.C., Waterhead as well as Oldham College. At Freehold School and Greenhill School, I was appointed chair of the governing body when both school were put into Special Measures. Under my leadership, both schools improved immensely and came out of Special Measures. Greenhill School was judged to be one of the top ten schools in the country.
- My work was not limited to Oldham Council only as I wanted to make improvements in all walks of life. I served as a Magistrate for 27 years till Oldham Court was closed. My proudest and most notable achievement has to be my chairmanship of NHS Oldham from 2002 to 2013 which was by any means a golden period in the history of Oldham NHS. We built a number of new health centre, Failsworth, Moorside, Werneth, Glodwick and biggest and the best Integrated Care Centre next to the Civic Centre with easy access for all Oldhamers. We recruited a number of new GP's and you could see a GP on the day and time of your choice. That golden period unfortunately ended and we now live in an era where seeing a GP face to face is like winning a lottery ticket.

COUNCIL

- I chair the Performance, Overview and Scrutiny Committee which monitors council's finances, human resources, and performances. It plays a huge part in ensuring that any expenditure provides value for money, capital projects are fully justified and affordable, staff performance and attendance is of good high standard and council is meeting its targets and public expectation. It regularly calls Chief Officers and Cabinet Members to answer any areas of poor performance.
- I am also a leading member of the Audit Committee which provides a system of control over Council finances, income and expenditure, capital, and revenue. It ensures that the finances are fully safeguarded and expended in a justifiable and transparent manner.
- In addition, I am a member of Traffic Regulations Order committee.

MAJOR AIMS FOR THE NEXT 12 YEARS

- My time at Oldham Council is coming to an end in May 2023 and I thank everyone who has helped me over the years, my constituents, members of public, Council staff, my colleagues, Labour Party and all fellow Councillors.
- I wish very best for the future to everyone and I will remain loyal to Oldham and its people.

Contact me

E: Aliyahmad@oldham.gov.uk

Surgeries

Face to face Ward Surgeries take place on the first Saturday of each month between 10am – 11am at either ViP Cabin – Waterhead Park, NEON Hub or St Barnabas Church Hall. Please contact me for details.

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My Ward priorities

- Appropriate, safe and affordable Housing
- Tackling anti-social behavior
- Dealing with fly-tipping and littering
- Supporting residents to deal with the Cost of Living Crisis



Work in the community

- During the municipal year 2022/23, I have dealt with resident's concerns related to housing issues. These have included overcrowding, poor upkeep by social and private landlords and anti-social behavior by neighbours.
- Another key theme has been engagement and follow-up activities from the 'Don't Trash Oldham' initiative to educate residents about how to report issues and recycling of household waste to reduce the amount of litter across the Ward. I have been involved in community litter picking activities in the Clarksfield area that has now become a regular event, organized by the Clarksfield Community Group.
- I have worked with local community groups (St Barnabus Community Centre, NEON Hub and Greenacres Community Centre) to develop Warm Hub spaces to help residents to combat the rise in energy costs. A successful Local Improvement Fund 'Fast Grant' of £3000 was secured to provide appropriate, comfortable furniture to support the Warm Hubs.

Ward Budget Spend

| | |
|---|---------|
| Grit bins that do not meet the Council criteria (4 fills) | £575.95 |
| Veg in the Park Beekeeper | £550.00 |
| Moorside, Sholver & Watersheddings Flower Show | £50.00 |
| Arundel St Park Extension Plans | £833.33 |
| ViP Halloween Half-term Activities | £66.67 |
| Cobden St Handrail | £800.00 |
| ViP LIF Top-up | £136.67 |
| Spotlight Theatre Group | £200.00 |

Contact me

E: RosBirch@oldham.gov.uk

T: 07813 525159

M: 07813 525159

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/RosBirch.Labour>

Surgeries

Face to face Ward Surgeries take place on the first Saturday of each month between 10am – 11am at either ViP Cabin – Waterhead Park, NEON Hub or St Barnabas Church Hall. Please contact me for details.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

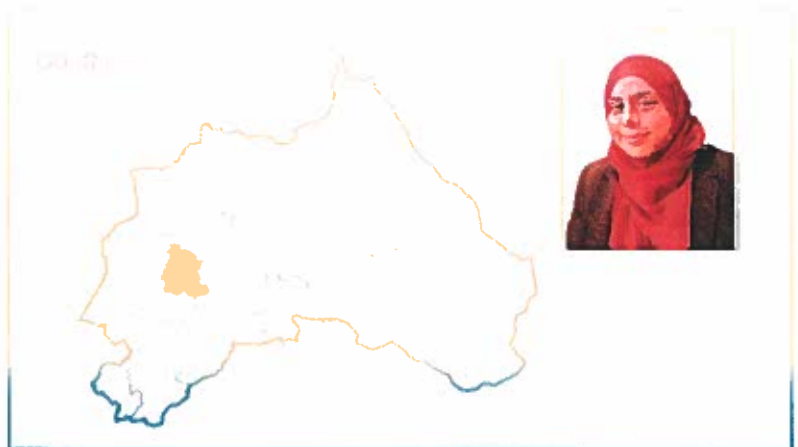
#Ourbit – Being the voice of the local community within council and helping local residents solve problems

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#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Building quality and affordable housing
- Cutting crime and working with local police for more resources
- Supporting children's education through "poverty proofing" school's
- Working with Greater Manchester Metro Mayor to make affordable and sustainable public transport system through the Bee Network



Training Completed

- **Licensing Enforcement**
- **Safeguarding**
- **Highways Regulation**

Work in the community

- **Weekly Wednesday Ward Surgery – 10.00 to 12.00**
- **Bi – monthly meeting with PCSO's & Policing Team**
- **Crompton St and Trinity St road resurfacing**
- **Don't Trash Oldham Campaign**
- **West Vale Development for 88 new homes to be completed in December 2023**
- **Brian Clarke Academy – new secondary school under construction to be finished in April 2023**
- **Supported a number of different community groups, charities and sports clubs e.g.**
 - **Foysal Ahmed Charity Badminton Tournament 2022**
 - **Westwood Cricket Club**
 - **Northmoor Library – Ayna Arts hosting Climate Collections Festival**
- **Oldham Half Term Activities and Food Programme (HAF)**
- **Alleyway resurfacing and gate schemes to reduce flytipping**
- **Key Events – Inauguration of new King, Remembrance Day Service, International Mother Language Day**
- **Celebrating new local businesses and community groups e.g. Hustle Burger, Oldham Tigers Cricket Club**
- **Regular casework through phone, emails and visits**

Committee & Meetings

- **Chair – Licensing Committee**
- **Vice Chair – Planning Committee**
- **Central Ward District Meetings**
- **Full Council**
- **LIF Advisory Panel**
- **Policy Overview & Scrutiny: Poverty Finish & Task Force**

Ward Budget Spend

- **Cultural Arts & Performances – Sur Sangeetaloy, Derai Probashi Kollan Porishod, Westwood Cricket Club**
- **Schemes – alleyway gate schemes, better street lighting, outdoor play equipment and improved green spaces**

Contact me

E: Rajsujan@odham.gov.uk

M: 07971363796

Surgeries

Weekly Wednesday Ward Surgery – 10.00 to 12.00

OBA Millennium Cultural Centre,

Featherstall Road, North, OL9 6QB

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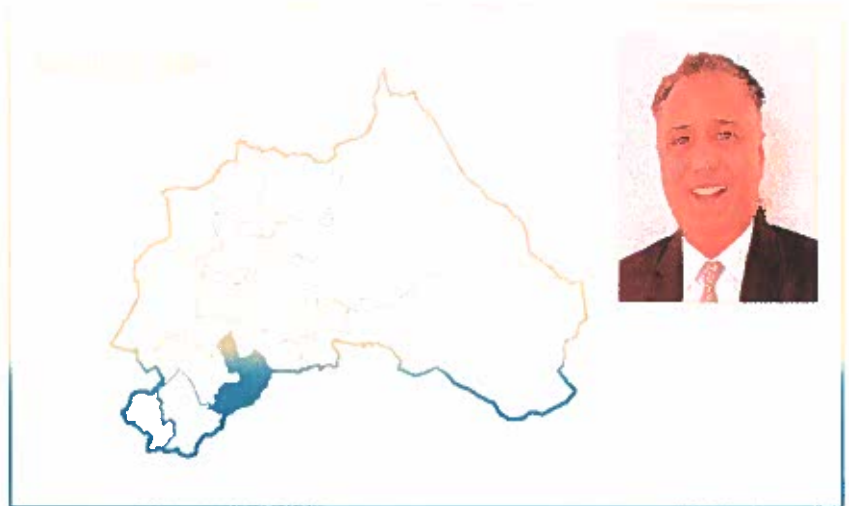
Cllr Saied Hussain – Medlock Vale Ward

My Ward priorities

- Improving the environment
- Supporting community groups and residents.
- Improving educational outcomes

Training completed

- Safeguarding Refresher
- Emergency planning
- Casework and advocacy
- Highways, waste and fleet



This is not an exhaustive list training is ongoing and not restricted to council training.

Work in the community

I have continued reaching out to the residents of Medlock Vale Ward through door knocking, communication through social media, attendance at community events and leafletting amongst other methods. I have been working with community groups and individual residents across the ward including Bardsley, Coppice, Fitton Hill and Hathershaw area.

I have worked closely with local the community groups around Medlock Vale, supporting the groups successfully bid for grants to support their work with local people. Community groups are inclusive of

- Salvation Army in Fitton Hill will receive £3,500 to widen their food group offer for local families. Meet, cook and eat will provide weekly cooking sessions and a bag of food helping people to learn new recipes and budgeting tips, as well as a warm place to meet.
- A women's group based at the Honeywell Community centre will also receive £3,500 to be able to extend their weekly sessions which reduce isolation, promote wellbeing and hep with the cost-of-living crisis.



- The new Coppice Community Hub will receive £3,500 to set up activities for 11–18-year-olds and separately for 14–24-year-olds. The grants will pay for games and kitchen equipment and furniture to support regular sessions. The activities and sessions will be developed by the young people themselves.



- REEL CIC were supported to extend their Christmas school holiday meal provision children for children receiving free school meals. REEL CIC were able to provide hot meals and a warm space for families who would otherwise not benefit.
- The Wildbrook Food and Growing Hub are based at the Wildbrook Crescent Community Allotments. A grant of £3,500 will help them to clean up and re-establish the polytunnels and existing raised growing beds and buy compost and gardening tools. Building on experience from working in Alexandra Park the Hub will contribute to the Community Veg Bag pilot scheme and sell produce from an on site market stall. I personally believe this will be a good investment to get people growing their own food and good value fresh fruit and vegetable for other local families. Given the current crisis in fresh food in supermarkets, anything we can do to support food production must be welcomed.

Get Oldham Growing

Engaging with the local community

Throughout the year I have engaged with residents who came out in large numbers leading to a very successful clean up which included cutting back overgrown hedges, clearing of fly-tipping, litter-picking and removal of heavy building material dumped at the back of the homes.



I have had the opportunity to support the local cricket team to receive funds to organize games and buy equipment. The team is helping young people in Medlock Vale to take an interest in sport, keeping fit and staying out of trouble. I will support anyone that is running local clubs, if anyone needs support, please drop me a message and I'll get on it.

I am involved in initiatives and support lots of residents, too many to put in a single report I encourage Medlock Vale Ward residents to get in touch should they wish to raise any issues or discuss anything of interest.

Look after yourselves and each other!

Contact me

Email: sajdhussain@otham.gov.uk

M: 07792502878

Twitter @s1saj

Surgeries

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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My Ward priorities

Road safety – prioritizing key locations for road improvements, particularly Huddersfield Road/Stamford Road, Medlock Way, Rhodes Hill, Cooper Street and Under Lane.

Fair development –prioritizing GP services, dentists and schools so that any housing developments work for the community.



Crime and fly tipping – we've introduced regular meetings with the local police team to ensure effective communication of residents' concerns, and to ensure anti-social behaviour and crime hotspots are identified and tackled by the local police. We've also introduced CCTV to effectively stop local fly-tipping, and ensure those doing it are prosecuted.

Work in the community

- Regular community activities to improve the area, including litter picking groups in Grotton, Springhead and Lees, dealing with abandoned cars, tackling invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, clearing blocked drains, reporting potholes, ensuring broken streetlights are dealt with.
- Support for local community groups, including regular IT sessions at Lido House,
- Funding sourced for a range of community groups (together with ward colleagues), specifically, 2200 Squadron Air Training Corps, Ashes Lane Play Group,
- Support for local residents at risk of homelessness, particularly engaging with the homelessness and housing teams at Oldham Council, and getting support with bidding for houses.
- Support for residents with varying planning applications, whether that is providing information to ensure large developments are dealt with fairly, or providing assistance and information on presenting or responding to smaller applications.
- It is not possible to record all casework and community work here, in particular where there are issues around confidentiality. Some casework has been specifically excluded, and others included deliberately in summary to ensure privacy confidentiality is respected. The remainder is abridged to minimize the length of the report.

Ward Budget Spend

Grit bins – fill on request

Provision of district Christmas trees

Band contest funding

Replanting for Grotton wildflower meadow

Christmas event lighting

Summer/winter district planting

Old Mill House outdoor aquarium

Contact me

E: sam@samalhamdani.org.uk

T: 07378 637637

Twitter/facebook: samlibdem

Ward surgeries

Ward surgeries are held at Lees Library Hub (midday), Springhead Community Centre (6pm) on the last Tuesday and Grotton Pavilion (10am) on the last Saturday of the month.

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My Ward priorities

To continue try to make a difference to improve my Ward and to support constituents in any matters they are struggling with by advocating for them and keeping them updated on a regular basis.



Training Completed

- Code of Conduct
- Safeguarding (plus refresher)
- Audit part 1 and 2
- Audit Direct Payment
- Effective Scrutiny
- Preventing hate Through Effective Challenge
- Corporate Training
- Emergency Planning
- Highways Regulations.

Work in the community

- I have completed 75 cases/enquiries and have 21 ongoing: such as housing repairs, re-housing support, traffic issues, road markings, potholes, fly tips, graffiti, contaminated bins, water main repairs, speeding cars, ASB, school crossings, Licensing issues, street furniture repairs, identifying diseased trees, school placements, benefits advice/signposting and even informal meetings just to chat and give emotional support at stressful times. On top of these I have answered many enquiries that have come in from Messenger on Social Media.
- I was proud to assist source and install a Community Piano in a local supermarket café by arranging transportation, and then had it 'tuned up' using my own personal money from the small Councillors Allowance 'pay rise' received in May 2022.
- I run a local Facebook Litter Group and personally go out litter picking almost every week, my group currently has over 260 members, many of whom I have provided with their own litter picking equipment through local businesses donations to enable them to keep areas of Failsworth litter free.
- Plus, I coordinate a monthly clean up on the Failsworth stretch of Rochdale Canal.
- I also facilitate and take part in weekly local short walks for all ages and abilities, which helps residents meet other people thus preventing loneliness and promotes wellbeing.
- Currently on the Health Scrutiny Committee and the Audit Committee.

Ward Budget Spend

Christmas Event Lighting; 7th Manchester Scout Group for tents; Queen Elizabeth field signage; Failsworth & Beyond Womens Institute; Remembrance Sunday LED screen; Diggle Brass Band for Remembrance Sunday; St Marys Church for new window; Failsworth Wolves kit and footballs; Moston Brook Cycle Path Event; St Johns new noticeboard; Failsworth Carnival; Failsworth Guides; Plus awaiting to use the remaining balance towards a new standard for the new Failsworth Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Contact me

Email:
Sandra.ball@oldham.gov.uk
T: 07581 051222

Surgeries:

These have been held on the last Monday of every month since July 2022 at Holy Family Church, Lord Lane - from 7pm to 8pm

The role of a Councillor in a co-operative borough

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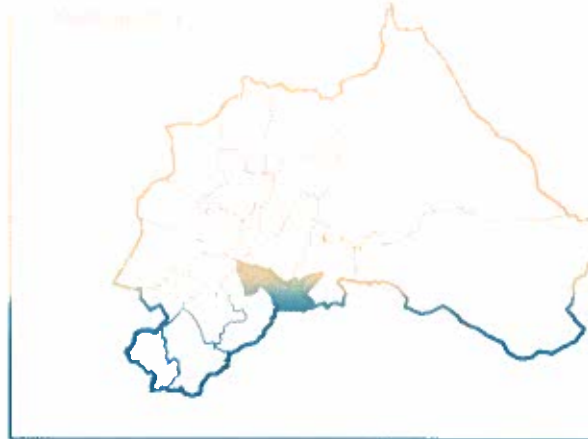
#Result – Working together to solve problems and make our community better

My Ward priorities

- Improving the environment
- Supporting community groups and residents.
- Improving educational outcomes

Training completed

- Safeguarding Refresher
- Emergency planning
- Casework and advocacy
- Highways, waste and fleet



This is not an exhaustive list training is ongoing and not restricted to council training.

Work in the community

I have continued reaching out to the residents of Alexandra Ward through door knocking, communication through social media, attendance at community events and leafletting amongst other methods. I have been working with community groups and individual residents across the ward including Holts, Alt, Hathershaw and the Abbeyhills Road area and the Glodwick area.

I've continued to work with the Alexandra West Community Group (formerly Hathershaw Community Group) to improve the area we continue to meet regularly with residents, the council and police all coming together to tackle issues collectively. Whilst challenges remain, we have seen significant improvements in the area with residents themselves commenting on the visible improvements. The work has now expanded to include more alleys covering a wider area than this time last year. I'd like to thank all the residents involved in this work and include special thanks to the group secretary Gavin Clarke for everything he does for Alexandra Ward and Oldham!

To complement the work in Alexandra West the ward councillors created a Tool Library using our ward budget. The tool library enables us to work with partners to carry out projects as identified by our residents. We have recently completed a large clean up supporting a local church who didn't have the funds to carry out the works. We engaged residents who came out in large numbers leading to a very successful clean up which included cutting back overgrown hedges, clearing of fly-tipping, litter-picking and removal of heavy building material dumped at the back of the homes and church.

Oldham Times Headline: Oldham Councillor Tours Borough as Santa before Christmas!

That's right, your very own councillor played Santa for the very first time in the ward on two consecutive days at two different events! Families had a great time visiting Santa where Santa managed to speak to and light up lots of young children and amazingly came across no children on the 'naughty list'.

Santa was joined by his two helpers ensuring a full Alexandra Ward councillor turnout on what was a very special occasion for many families! A very special Thank you to Kaylee and the team at Roc 'n' Rolls Café in Holts and Abid and the team at Oldham Greenhill Sports and Recreation Club.



Food Parcels delivered over the festive period!

Through our community involvement it was apparent that many families were struggling financially, as a team the Alexandra Ward councillors took the unprecedented decision to allocate some of our ward budget towards food parcels for families in the ward. The parcels were very well received by families to whom we delivered to ourselves. Logistically this wouldn't have been possible without the help of community groups in the ward, namely Roc 'n' Rolls café (Kaylee and the team), Altogether on Alt (Anne-Marie, Zeanna and Tanisha) and the fantastic team at Greenhill Sports and Recreation Club (special mention to Kohinoor and Rufia).



Local Improvement Fund (LIF) bids

We have submitted LIF bids for Alt, Holts and the Eldon Street Estate area, we have received confirmation three of our bids were successful bringing in several thousands of pounds to help improve parts of the ward. This is fantastic news for Alexandra Ward as it enables further community involvement and further improvements to our local areas.

We are awaiting the outcome of a larger bid to resurface the multi-use games area (MUGA) in Holts which, if successful, will attract close to £100,000 of external funding to Holts (fingers crossed everyone!!!!)

I am involved in initiatives and support lots of residents, too many to put in a single report I encourage Alexandra Ward residents to get in touch should they wish to raise any issues or discuss anything of interest.

Look after yourselves and each other!

Contact me

Email: shaid.mushtaq@oldham.gov.uk

M: 07988114409

Twitter @shaidmushtaq

Surgeries

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

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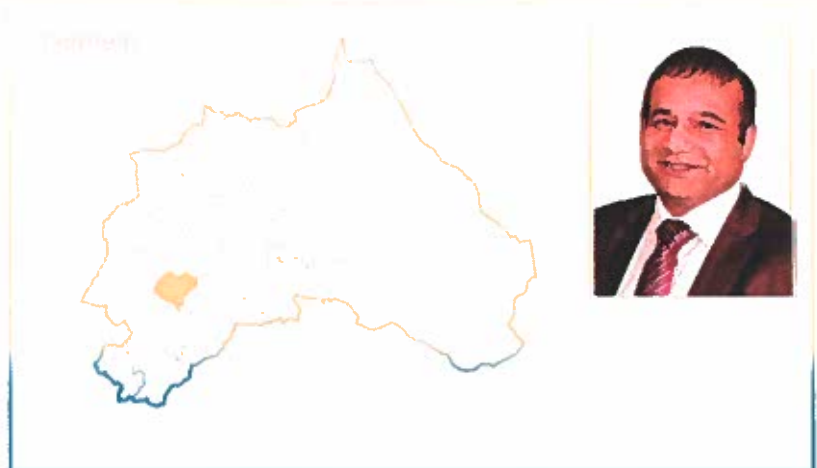
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My Ward priorities

- Environment
- Highways
- Education
- Health and Well-being
- Hartford Mill Site
- Music room in Werneth Park



Work in the community

- Hartford Mill demolition is complete and the area is being cleared for a new development
- Various roads across the ward have been resurfaced
- Working with ASRA to address issues around phase 1 & 2 of Suthers development.
- Parking issues enforcement consultation being carried out with residents on Primrose Bank.
- Keepmoat second phase in Primrose Bank and Suthers St is completed just environmental work needs to be completed.
- Don't Trash Oldham campaign successfully carried out in Werneth and now enforcement action to be taken on key hotspot areas .
- Werneth Park MUGA, a £35,000 grant from the Council's Local Improvement Fund has been obtained hopefully this grant will lever in £105,000 from the Football Foundation funding for Playzones to make a real impact on sports provision for Werneth.
- Tudor St pitch surface replacement funding bid to Football foundation will be submitted, however Council contribution is confirmed

Funded the following projects through the Councillor's budget.

- Children's Celebration Appeal
- Coppice United
- Grit Bins - Newport St, St Thomas Circle
- Glodwick Dynamos FC
- GM South Asian Women Support
- Retaining Wall Chelmsford Street
- Werneth Cricket Club fencing
- Street Play Sessions

Participation on outside bodies and partnerships

Details of participation in groups and bodies attended as a representative of the Council.

- Board member of Sixth Form College
- Director of Oldham Enterprise Trust
- West District Partnership
- Primrose Community Centre

Achievements as Cabinet Member for Employment and Enterprise

- Created two ambassador roles – Frank Rothwell – Business Ambassador and Anwar Ali - Social Enterprise Ambassador
- Hosted Business Breakfasts with Ambassador for Business, Frank Rothwell. Each with over 100 businesses in attendance at each event.
- Launched the District Business Networks. To date 2 events have taken place in Chadderton and Royton with another one planned for South Oldham shortly.

- Produced 12 editions of the Oldham Council Business newsletter each of which goes out to 5,056 businesses/people.
- Supported the 15th annual Oldham Business Awards celebrating business in the Borough.
- Secured funding of £8.4m from the Levelling-up Fund for the creation of a Green Shoots Business Centre.
- Our Build a Business events, which include a monthly networking coffee morning and Start Up Huddle, attracted 354 attendees with 98 1 to 1s delivered by the SME Champion.
- Build a Business workshops were attended by 254 people. Over a three-day series, attendees learned about setting up and running a business, the fundamentals of market research and how to use the BIPC's business support databases, and how to protect their ideas in an introduction to Intellectual Property.
- Start-Up Huddle continues to go from strength to strength and we ended the year with a Christmas marketplace. 30 local businesses booked stalls at the event at Oldham Library on the 7th December to exhibit their goods and services. Online, the huddle now boasts a Facebook group with 240 members.

Employment

- Restart contract- since winning a % of the Oldham Restart contract, we have started 832 residents onto the programme, 276 residents have secured paid employment so far and 155 of these are earning the required threshold to generate an outcome. We are over 100% on contract for customer and job starts, and in the months leading up to Christmas of 2022, Oldham Council were the highest performing provider across Greater Manchester for three months running, Oct, Nov and Dec 2022 for job starts!
- JETS – as the JETS programme comes to its end we have had huge successes in delivery for Oldham, securing over 300 job outcomes, which take us over 200% to contract profile.
- NCS – since the success of delivering the National Careers Service as a sub-contractor of the Growth company, we have won exclusivity in Oldham to deliver in Oldham, now with the new prime, Seetec. This has increased our contract value by 200%! Since starting the new contract in Oct 2022, Oldham Council is the best performing provider across Greater Manchester in the Seetec supply chain, and we are in discussions for growth, meaning more Oldham residents will be able to benefit from the increase in resources.
- Removing Barriers to work in the NHS- since securing an extra £50,000 of AEB funds, we have delivered the first of three cohorts, generating in 25 engagements, 15 completing the full training programme and work experience placements and 11 securing a paid job within the NHS so far. The next cohort starts in March 2022!
- GOW Job Fair – September 2022- 61 Employers and 1,143 Members of the public in attendance. 678 Jobs; 152 Apprenticeships; 120 Work experience / Volunteering on offer on the day with a result of 200+ residents gaining employment since attending the event so far!
- NCA JOB FAIR – January 2023 - GOW working in partnership with Northern Care Alliance, put on a hugely successful NHS Health and Social Care Recruitment Event. 308 residents attended the event; 76 candidates successful with interviews for various NCA roles; 122 expressions of interest in Volunteer Hospital roles.
- GOW Stats: April 2022 – Present- 2096 employment related opportunities created; 1419 employment related opportunities filled with Oldham residents (target was 1250 by March 2023).
- Kickstart – 2022 - 72 Kickstart positions filled; 49 filled within Oldham Council; 23 filled for local employers, using Oldham Council as a gateway provider

Markets

- Introduced free parking after 3:00pm in the market car park
- Indoor Market traders rent reduced by 50%
- Work has started at Spindles for the new market hall

Contact me

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 T: 0161 287 2005
 M: 07973 101633
 Twitter; @shoaboldham
 Facebook:
www.facebook.com/shoabakhtar

Surgeries

Please contact me by phone or email for any issues or problems.

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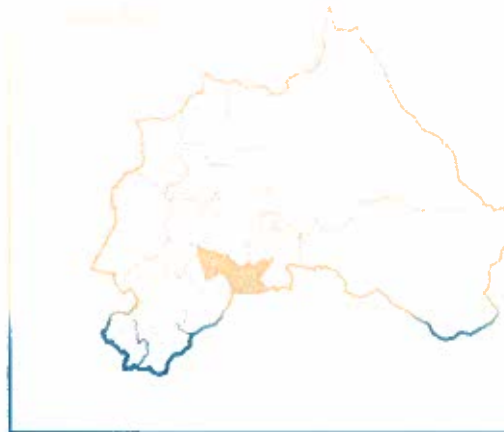
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Cllr Zahid Chauhan – Alexandra Ward

My Ward priorities

- Tackling health inequalities
- Campaigning for vulnerable groups
- Anti-social behavior



Work in the community

I have worked hard to represent the residents of Alexandra Ward since election in 2013. I regularly speak and campaign on local and national media on behalf of the residents of Alexandra Ward.

My ward colleagues and I are working towards a cooperative borough, implementing the key labour administration visions in Oldham and our ward.

Working cooperatively with residents I have helped with a variety of issues – fly tipping, anti-social behavior, alley gating, traffic measures on high risk roads and missed bin collections.

Please do contact me with any problems or council related issues. You can also read more about my work and campaigning on my website.

Ward Budget Spend

As your local ward councillors, we fund a variety of local community groups. If you are interested then please do not hesitate to contact Shaid, Jenny or I. My contact details are below.

Contact me

E: zahidchauhan@oldham.gov.uk

T: 0161 770 0000

M: 07729 186 598

Twitter [@chauhanzahid](https://twitter.com/chauhanzahid)

Facebook facebook.com/zahid.chauhan

Website www.zahidchauhan.co.uk

Surgeries

Please contact my ward colleagues or I by phone or email for any issues or problem.

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Report to Council

Portfolio Holder: Review of Special Responsibility Allowances for Members appointed to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Report Author: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Date: 15 March 2023

Summary

To report the recommendations of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel in relation to the remuneration of the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation(s)

1. Note the recommendations of the report of the GM Independent Remuneration Panel. (Appendix 1).
2. Note that the Levelling up Bill is still proceeding through parliament and therefore the GMCA does not yet have legislative power to pay allowances directly to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee members.
3. That Oldham Council (along with GM Districts) pay allowances to their appointees to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the interim.
4. The allowance payments will be reimbursed from GMCA.
5. Payments of SRAs for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set as recommended in the report (Appendix 1) and are backdated to 24th June 2022 when the new scrutiny arrangements were put in place with increases outlined in paragraph 3 (e) of this report.
6. The Council's Member Allowances Scheme is adjusted to take account of the interim arrangements.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011, as amended by the GMCA (Amendment) Order 2015 and the GMCA (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 provides for the appointment of a GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP). At their meeting on 24 February 2017 the GMCA agreed to establish in accordance with relevant statutory provisions, its own Independent Remuneration Panel.
- 1.2 Following consideration of the Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny function the GMCA agreed to re-convene the IRP to consider a special responsibility allowance (SRA) for members and substitutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PROCESS

- 2.1 The Independent Remuneration Panel met in July 2022 to begin the process of reviewing the remuneration for the Members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Their final report was completed in November 2022 but was not considered immediately by the GMCA as it was anticipated that the reference to the payment of allowances to Scrutiny Committee members was imminently to become law.
- 2.2 The Panel formally convened to conduct the review and it interviewed members of Scrutiny, members the GMCA and relevant officers. In addition, all Scrutiny members were sent a short questionnaire and for those who were unable to meet with the Panel were given the opportunity to make a written submission.
- 2.3 The Council's Independent Remuneration Panel have considered the report and satisfied with the process followed and the recommendation.

3. REMUNERATION PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the GMCA's Independent Remuneration Panel are –

- a) The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.
- b) The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:
- A Standing SRA of £536 per year
 - A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended
- c) The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.

d) The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.

e) The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members. (The Council's current Members scheme applies the percentage increase for officers at SCP 49 and it is recommended that this is applied for consistency.)

f) The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24th June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.

2 Recommendations

2.1 Council are requested to consider the report.

3 Financial Implications

3.1 None

4 Legal Services Comments

4.1 The legal comments are contained within the report and recommendations.

5 Human Resources Comments

5.1 None

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 None

16 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Review of Special Responsibility Allowances Report of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Independent Remuneration panel.

**A Review of
Special Responsibility Allowances**

For Members

Appointed to the

**Greater Manchester Combined
Authority Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

By the

**Greater Manchester Combined
Authority**

Independent Remuneration Panel

**Dr Declan Hall (Chair)
Vicky Knight
Clive Memmott OBE**

November 2022

An Independent Review
Of
Special Responsibility Allowances
For
Members appointed to the
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
By the
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Independent Remuneration Panel
November 2022

Introduction: The Regulatory Context

1. This report contains the recommendations to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) made by the independent remuneration panel (Panel or IRP) for the GMCA on the remuneration of the Members appointed to the new single GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
2. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority was established under the *Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011* (SI 2011/908). The GMCA is made up by the ten metropolitan boroughs that make up Greater Manchester. The Order provided for each constituent authority to have one formal member. These are the Leaders (or elected City Mayor in the case of Salford) of the ten Greater Manchester Councils and also constitute the GMCA 'Combined Authority Cabinet' in that they each hold a Greater Manchester-wide policy

portfolio alongside representing their local authority. Under this Order the GMCA was assigned economic and transport powers.

3. In May 2017 the GMCA became a Mayoral Combined Authority with an elected Mayor who was also assigned the functions of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Commissioner. In addition, under The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) Order (2017/469) from the 8th May 2017 the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority (GMFRA) were transferred to the GMCA and the GMFRA was abolished. The Mayor now exercises the vast majority of the fire and rescue functions previously exercised by the GMFRA in addition to many transport functions. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Fire and Rescue Functions) (Amendment) Order 2020 [SI 2020/641] which came into force on 26 June 2020, authorised the Mayor of the GMCA to arrange for fire and rescue functions to be exercised by the deputy mayor for policing and crime.

The role of the GMCA Independent Remuneration Panel

4. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 (as amended by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 [SI 2017/612]) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Amendment) Order 2018 [SI 2018/444] sets out the statutory remuneration framework for the GMCA IRP. It provides authority for the GMCA to establish an Independent Remuneration Panel primarily to make recommendations for the remuneration of the elected Mayor of the GMCA. The IRP may also make recommendations to the GMCA and to the constituent councils regarding the allowances payable to (i) members appointed to the GMCA; and (ii) members of a committee or sub-committee of the GMCA. Currently, the Order expressly prohibits payment of remuneration by the GMCA to Members of the GMCA (other than the Mayor) or members of a committee or sub-committee of the GMCA who are not an elected member of a constituent council.
5. However, the constituent councils may, in accordance with their own scheme of allowances, pay an allowance not exceeding the allowance recommended by the independent remuneration panel to an elected member of that council. In addition, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (Clause 65), which has just passed its second reading and is expected to pass into law within the next 12 months, will specifically enable Combined Authorities to directly remunerate members appointed to their Overview and Scrutiny and Audit Committees.
6. Subsequently, in anticipation of these new powers the Authority at its Annual Meeting on 24th June 2022 decided that Members appointed to its new single Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be remunerated. To achieve consistency and avoid duplication of effort by the IRPs of the constituent councils the Authority asked its IRP to provide advice on the appropriate levels of remuneration for Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

7. In this context, as in previous reviews the IRP has been cognisant of the principles that underpin the work of statutory IRPs at the nominating Councils by paying regard where relevant to the 2006 Statutory Guidance and the requirements of the 2003 Regulations in arriving at the recommendations for SRAs of Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee..

The IRP

8. The members of the GMCA IRP are:
- Dr Declan Hall (Chair):
 - a former lecturer at the Institute of Local Government, the University of Birmingham, currently an independent consultant specialising in Members Allowances and support
 - Vicky Knight:
 - Regional Manager UNISON North West
 - Clive Memmott (OBE):¹
 - Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
9. The work of the IRP was supported by the following
- Nancy Evans: Graduate Management Trainee, Governance, Scrutiny & Business Support, GMCA
 - Nicola Ward: Governance & Scrutiny Officer, GMCA
 - Gwynne Williams: Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA

The IRPs Terms of Reference

10. The IRP was given the following terms of reference
- i. To make recommendations to the GMCA on the level of SRA payable to
 - a. Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - b. The Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee
 - c. Substitute Members appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

¹ For transparency purposes Clive Memmott made a declaration of interest, namely he was the independent Chair of the Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny Function

The IRPs approach to the review

11. The IRP convened virtually via MS Teams on the following occasions:
 - 20th July 2022
 - 18th August 2022
 - 19th August 2022
 - 23rd August 2022

12. The first meeting was a scoping meeting where the IRP met with relevant Officers to plan and organise the review. At the subsequent meetings the IRP received briefings from Officers, interviewed Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members and the GMCA Mayor and Deputy Mayor and considered other relevant written evidence and data, including relevant benchmarking figures. In addition all GMCA and Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members were sent a short questionnaire so as to enable all stakeholders to exercise a voice during the review, three questionnaire returns were received.

13. For further details on the range of evidence and written material the Panel considered in its deliberations and in arriving at its recommendations see:
 - Appendix 1:
 - list of written material and other relevant documentation included in the information pack for the IRP

 - Appendix 2:
 - the Members of the GMCA and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee who made representations to the IRP and the Officers who provided a factual briefing to the IRP

 - Appendix 3:²
 - relevant benchmarking data namely:
 - BM1 – Basic Allowance, Executive and Scrutiny SRAs paid in the 10 GM Councils
 - BM2 – SRAs paid to appointees via constituent Councils by other English Combined Authorities (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority only) or directly (West Yorkshire Combined Authority only)

Key Messages/Observations - A new Overview and Scrutiny Model

14. One of the key messages that came through to the IRP by a review of written evidence and representation received was how the new Overview and Scrutiny structure was different from that which it replaced. A great deal of consideration and effort had gone into the new Overview and Scrutiny arrangements with the

² The IRP also reviewed where relevant the SRAs paid by the 10 Greater Manchester Constituent Councils for their appointees to other GMCA Committees

aim to make it more effective and enhance Member involvement. The new Overview and Scrutiny Committee is an important committee of the GMCA and recent changes in its structure reflects the growing maturity of the GMCA.

Remuneration as key to underpinning work of Overview and Scrutiny

15. The concomitant message arising out of the new emphasis on enhanced Overview and Scrutiny is that remuneration of Overview and Scrutiny Members is important to support Members to fulfil their various expected roles. As Overview and Scrutiny will be vital to ensuring the work of the Authority and Mayor is more informed and robust remuneration is essential in delivering that outcome.

Remuneration at a realistic level

16. Finally, the other key message that came through via the interviews was that any remuneration that the IRP recommended should reflect the importance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the roles that Members appointed to it will be required to carry out. While the recommendations should not reflect 'market' rates, there is an implicit element of public service built into Member remuneration it does need to be at a level that supports the demands put upon Members who are appointed to the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Making recommendations without meaningful experience

17. A central dilemma for the IRP is that it is being asked to make recommendations without meaningful experience of how Overview and Scrutiny will operate in reality. As such, any recommendations are based on the oral and written evidence rather than experiential evidence. The recommendations to the Combined Authority only represent what is known at this particular juncture, they are in effect interim recommendations. Therefore, the IRP would welcome the opportunity to revisit the recommendations contained this report after experience of the operation of Overview and Scrutiny has been gained, in time for the 2024 Mayoral elections.

The GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee – the context

18. At the Authority's Annual Meeting on 24th June 2022, the Authority decided to discontinue the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees and replace it with a single Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This decision arose out of the recommendations from an independent review of the overview and scrutiny function by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, which published its full findings in June 2022.

19. There are 20 full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, appointed by the GMCA from elected Members of the Constituent Councils, with at least one Member from each Constituent Council and so far as reasonably practicable to reflect the political balance of political parties prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils when taken together.
20. In addition, 20 Substitute Members are also appointed who may be invited to attend as full members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee when apologies have been received. Substitute Members also reflect political balance amongst the Constituent Councils as far as practicable. There is also an expectation that Substitute Members, as with full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, will take part in the work of task and finish working groups.
21. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has appointed its own Chair, who must be a Member of one of the Constituent Councils and who is not a member of a registered political party of which the Mayor is a member, or if the Mayor is not a member of a registered political party then who is not a member of a registered political party which has the most representatives among the members of the Constituent Councils on the GMCA. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee may also appoint a Vice Chair who also must not be from the same political party as the Mayor. At the time of the review, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has chosen not to appoint a Vice Chair.
22. At present there are 11 scheduled meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee per year. It is intended that Committee meetings will be followed by short 'wash up sessions', to reflect on the outcomes of the full meetings and where potential improvements may be identified. There will also be at least six knowledge briefings per year, to bring Members up to date with particular topics. All Members will be expected to attend at least two training sessions per year. Finally, there will be up to 3-4 task and finish groups per year that will look at topics in greater depth, meeting no more than 3-4 times over a short period of time, probably no more than two months. Each task and finish working group will consist of a mixture of full Overview and Scrutiny Committee and relevant Substitute Members.
23. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will determine its own work programme but there are three main areas where it will be expected to strengthen the role of overview and scrutiny:
 - To review and evaluate the performance of the Mayor and the GMCA , and the way it works with its partners to deliver for local people
 - To contribute to policy development in respect of high profile, complex issues affecting the whole of Greater Manchester
 - To investigate more complex cross-cutting issues with a particular focus on the delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy

24. A new and central process in delivering Overview and Scrutiny will be the task and finish working groups. They will provide the opportunity for the Substitute Members to get involved in scrutiny without sitting on the full Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with membership of the task and finish working groups being a mixture of full Committee and Substitute members with regard to the interests, skills, knowledge and priorities of the task and finish working group Members.
25. If it is envisaged that there is a need to delve more deeply into a topic it will lend itself to deliberation in a task and finish working group, which will be focused on teasing out new policy directions both to challenge and support the Mayor and GMCA. Other issues, will be more likely to be more appropriate to consider in the more formal setting of the full Committee where activity is more likely to be focused holding the Mayor and GMCA to account as well as asking the Mayor and GMCA to give an account.

Arriving at recommendations – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles I – other Combined Authorities

26. The IRP considered a number of different approaches in arriving at the recommended SRA for the full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. An obvious starting point was to consider what other English Combined Authorities pay their members of Overview and Scrutiny. The only Combined Authority that directly remunerates its Members of their Overview and Scrutiny Committees is West Yorkshire (by designating them as co-opted Members). It pays those Members £648 apiece per annum. However, there are some important differences. In West Yorkshire there are three overview and scrutiny committees and the scope of the budget and policy items they are required to scrutinise does not compare with GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where the GMCA revenue budget for 2021/22 was £1.93bn, by far the largest of any Combined Authority. As such the remuneration for Overview and Scrutiny Members at West Yorkshire Combined Authority is not relevant for benchmarking purposes.
27. Similarly, the IRP referred to all the allowances schemes of the nominating councils to other English Combined Authorities and the only English Combined Authority that remunerates their appointees to Overview and Scrutiny via the allowances schemes of the constituent councils is Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and even then two of the constituent councils, Peterborough and Fenland have decided not to pay such an SRA. The average SRA paid to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Members is £1,326, with a median SRA of £1,303. However, the IRP has not been guided by this level of remuneration for the same reasons it has not been guided by the SRA paid to Overview and Scrutiny Members in West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the size, scope, workloads and responsibility of GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Members is much

more broader than is the case in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles II – Other GMCA bodies

28. The IRP then considered the SRAs paid by the 10 Greater Manchester constituent councils to their appointees to other GMCA bodies via their own allowances schemes, namely the Transport Committee and Waste and Recycling Committee. This exercise did not throw up a great deal of useful comparisons. It is noted that only three of the GM Councils remunerate their appointees to the Waste and Recycling Committee. The one GM Council that has specifically reviewed remuneration for the appointee to the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee (Bury) pays an SRA of £1,500.
29. It is noted that Bury has recently specifically reviewed the SRA for its appointee to the GM Transport Committee (which is a joint committee of the ten constituent councils, the GMCA and the Mayor) and set it at £3,000. It is also noted that transport is largely a mayoral function and there is no requirement for the GMCA to have a Transport Committee, whereas the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is a statutory committee that has a wider brief. Nonetheless, the Bury SRA of £3,000 paid to its appointees to the GM Transport Committee established a base point for the IRP – it would not be unreasonable for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an SRA greater than £3,000.

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles III – The 10 GM Constituent Councils

30. As a further benchmarking exercise the IRP explored whether there were any analogous roles in the 10 Greater Manchester (GM) Constituent Councils. It is noted that in no GM Council are Members remunerated for sitting on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, their Basic Allowance is deemed to cover such duties. This review did not throw up any analogous roles to the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the Constituent Councils

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles IV – Other remunerated roles paid directly by the GMCA

31. Finally the IRP considered the annual remuneration paid to the Independent Person (£988) and the co-opted Member appointed to the GMCA Audit Committee (£1,627). Once again the IRP rejected drawing an analogy with the remuneration of these roles at GMCA as the time commitment and breath of work of Overview and Scrutiny Members is greater than that of the Independent Person and the Co-opted Member on the GMCA Audit Committee.

Adopting the time assessment multiplied by rate of remuneration approach

32. However, the IRP did note how the recommended remuneration for the Co-opted Member of the Audit Committee was arrived at, in its March 2018 Review. This was done by assessing a time input and then multiplying it by an appropriate rate of remuneration. The IRP also noted that this approach is utilised by most IRPs from the Constituent Councils (and advised by the 2006 Statutory Guidance) when arriving at their recommended Basic Allowance. As such the IRP has adopted this approach in arriving at the recommended SRA for the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members - Assessing time required

33. The IRP recognises that the Overview and Scrutiny Members also undertake a responsibility and their roles do not just involve workloads. However in the absence of any meaningful comparisons and benchmarking data and the fact that this approach has precedent the IRP has decided this is the most transparent and simple to understand approach to adopt.
34. In arriving at the estimated required time input by Overview and Scrutiny Members the IRP has settled on a figure of two days per month, or 24 days per year. In arriving at this time estimate the IRP has included:
- Attendance at 11 Overview and Scrutiny Committees per year, plus follow up wash up sessions
 - Attendance at six Knowledge Briefing sessions per year
 - Attendance at least two Training sessions per year
 - Sitting on and attending at least one task and finish working group with three meetings per year
 - Individually to keep a watching brief on portfolio business to assist with performance monitoring and policy development
 - Engage with their respective local authorities to ensure relevant GMCA-related information is circulated between local authorities and the GMCA
 - All reading, preparation and additional research where required
 - An element for travel time

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members – rate of remuneration

35. In arriving at an appropriate rate of remuneration the IRP has adopted a day rate that replicates the day rate utilised by the IRP when arriving at the recommended remuneration for the Co-opted Member on the GMCA Audit Committee, namely the mean gross daily earnings of all full time employees within the metropolitan county of Greater Manchester as set out in the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) Table 7.1a (2021). A similar rate of remuneration is adopted by IRPs in the Constituent Councils when arriving at a recommended Basic Allowance. It is a robust and defensible rate of

remuneration as it links Members' remuneration to the average earnings of those they represent and therefore cannot be seen as excessive.

36. ASHE Table 7.1a (2021) shows that the mean gross weekly earnings of all full time employee jobs in Greater Manchester is £672.60.³ To arrive at a daily rate of remuneration the IRP has simply divided the mean weekly figure by five working days, which equates to £134.52 per day.

Arriving at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members SRA

37. In arriving at the recommended SRA for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has multiplied 24 days expected input per year by a daily rate of remuneration of £134.52, which equates to £3,228. Viewed another way, an SRA of £3,228 sizes of the role of a Member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee at 28 per cent of the role of being a Member of a Constituent Council. The IRP felt that this relative sizing was fair, by definition being a Member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is does not entail the same commitment and responsibility as being an elected Member of a Constituent Council but it can reasonably be estimated to be at least quarter of the size of that role.
38. **The IRP recommends that the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an annual SRA of £3,228.**

Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

39. The term 'substitute' member is somewhat of a misnomer. Their role extends beyond that of the traditional substitute Member in that they are expected to do more than only stand in when a Committee Member sends their apologies, although that is one aspect of their role. They will be explicitly drawn upon to sit on the task and finish working groups, alongside full Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. While it cannot be known at this stage the number of task and finish working groups and the number of meetings these working groups may hold it is a reasonable assumption that all Substitute Members will have the opportunity to serve on at least one task and finish working group each year, even if the actual level of involvement does not work that way in practice.
40. Again the IRP was unable to find any analogous role in other English Combined Authority's or across other GMCA bodies. The Substitute role on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee and associated task and finish groups is unique to the GMCA.

³ See

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/earningsandhoursworkedallemployeesashetable7>

41. The IRP decided not to recommend a flat rate SRA for Substitutes as the reality is their workloads will be variable. In any one year, it is not inconceivable that a Substitute could stand in at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee a couple of times a year and attend up to three task and finish working groups, with each task group meeting up to 3-4 times. Conversely, it is equally conceivable that a Substitute will attend no Overview and Scrutiny Committee or task and finish working group meetings in any one year. Then again, an SRA that solely relates to the number of meetings a Substitute Member may attend does not recognise the common roles and responsibilities that all Substitutes are expected to undertake.

Adopting a hybrid approach to recommending Substitute Members SRA

42. Consequently, the IRP has adopted a hybrid approach in arriving at the recommended SRA for the Substitute Members that is made up of two components. The IRP is recommending a standing SRA of £538 per year. This standing SRA is to recognise that all Substitute Members will be expected to undertake relevant induction and training sessions, liaise with their respective Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member and generally to keep abreast of the broader workings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to be prepared to step in when required. In arriving at the Standing SRA of £538 the IRP has assessed the common time commitment of all Substitute Members regardless of attendance at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any task groups at 4 days per year and multiplied that by the adopted rate of remuneration of £134.52, which equates to £538.
43. The second element is the variable SRA. Substitute Members should also receive a variable SRA that relates to the number of meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish working group meetings they attend. For each meeting attended the IRP has simply decided that they should be paid a SRA set at the adopted rate of remuneration of £134.52 per meeting.
44. **The IRP recommends that the Substitute Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are paid an SRA consisting of two components:**
- **A Standing SRA of £536 per year**
 - **A Variable SRA of £134.52 for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish group attended**
45. To check that this hybrid approach does not lead to the anomalous situation where a Substitute Member could be paid more than a full Member of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP modelled potential scenarios for Substitute Member remuneration under this recommended hybrid model. It is noted that a Substitute Member would have to attend 20 meetings a year before they equalled the recommended SRA (£3,228) for Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was arrived at by taking the Substitute

Members standing SRA of £536 and adding it to a hypothetical attendance of 20 meetings per year multiplied by £134.52 per meeting attended (£2,690), which totals £3,226. It is extremely unlikely that a Substitute Member will be attending 20 meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and task and finish working groups per year. As such, the IRP is assured that the hybrid model would not lead to Substitute Members receiving a higher remuneration than Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members.

The Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

46. Obviously the workload and responsibility of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair will be greater than that of the Members of the Committee. The Chair will not only be required to Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings effectively to ensure that all Members can contribute effectively but also to work with relevant Officers to develop the work programme on behalf of the Committee, taking into account the upcoming work of the GMCA and areas where scrutiny must be carried out, i.e., on the annual GMCA budget. The Chair will also attend Overview and Scrutiny pre-meetings with relevant Officers to review agenda and point out any issues that they think need attention.
47. Furthermore, the Chair will also be expected to facilitate strong team-working between committee members during formal meetings, informal meetings and task group meetings. The Chair will also be expected to monitor the progression of the task and finish working groups to ensure that they are meeting their declared targets.
48. The Chair will also be primarily responsible for liaising with the Mayor and relevant Members of the GMCA, plus relevant Officers to lead in the co-ordination of the work of Overview and Scrutiny with that of the Mayor and GMCA. The Chair has a standing invitation to attend GMCA meetings and it is expected that they will at the very least attend when Overview and Scrutiny issues are discussed and speak on the same issues.

Benchmarking/seeking analogous roles to Overview and Scrutiny Chair

49. The IRP also considered analogous roles that may provide some appropriate benchmarking providing guidance in arriving at the recommended SRA for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair. It is noted that where the GMCA has a co-opted (independent) Chair of the Audit Committee that their remuneration is £4,067, which was arrived at by factoring the Co-opted Member remuneration of £1,627 by 2.5. The co-opted (independent) Chair of the Standards Committee is remunerated £1,234, which was arrived at by factoring the remuneration of the Independent Person by 1.25
50. Looking at the remuneration for the three Chairs of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees they each receive an

SRA of £7,341. In the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority none of the constituent authorities make provision for the remuneration of the Chair of its Overview and Scrutiny Committee through their allowances scheme.

51. The IRP chose not to be guided by the remuneration paid to the Chairs of the GMCA Audit and Standards Committees nor the Chairs of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees for similar reasons it was not guided by the remuneration of Members of these committees – the role of the Chair of a single GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is broader and deeper than these other Chairs reviewed by the IRP.
52. One suggestion put to the IRP was the role of Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee could be seen as similar to that of Chairing a parliamentary Select Committee, who are paid £16,865 (as of April 2022). The IRP has not accepted this comparison: while the work of Select Committees can be similar to that of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee in terms of process and outputs in that they have a specific scrutiny role, Select Committees have a national rather than sub-regional dimension and while tending to have a specific focus they deal with much larger topics that can be both national and international in scope.
53. The IRP also considered whether chairing the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee is comparable to chairing an Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Constituent Councils, where the mean SRA is £8,471 and median SRA £8,426. The IRP concluded the roles were not comparable. At the Constituent Councils there are normally more than one Overview and Scrutiny Committee and their focus is narrower than the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, they are also scrutinising a smaller budget. This was a view that was supported in the representation received. Nonetheless, by doing this comparison the IRP concluded that the recommended SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be larger than the mean SRA (£8,471) paid to Overview and Scrutiny Chairs at the Constituent Councils.
54. On the other hand the IRP rejected a comparison with Cabinet Members at the Constituent Councils, who receive a mean SRA of £15,901 and median SRA of £15,579. While the roles may well compare in terms of time commitment they do not in terms of constitutional powers. Cabinet Members at the Constituent Councils have extensive decision making powers, the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee does not have similar powers as the Committee is not a decision making committee, its role is to inform, influence, affect and steer the work of the Mayor and the GMCA where the decisions are made.
55. Again the IRP reviewed the SRAs paid via Constituent Council Members' Allowances schemes to see if they have provision for paying SRAs for when their Members are Chairs of other GMCA bodies. The only relevant example was in Wigan, which pays an SRA (£8,039) for GM Transport Chair and was specifically reviewed about two years ago as at the time a Wigan Member was

Chair of the GM Transport Committee. It was set with reference to the SRA paid to Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny at Wigan, a comparison the IRP has already rejected.

Adopting the Factor approach to arrive at Overview and Scrutiny Chair's recommended SRA

56. In arriving at the recommended SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has adopted the same approach it utilised in arriving at the recommended SRA for the Chairs of the GMCA Audit and Standards Committee, namely by factoring the recommended remuneration for the co-opted Member of the Audit Committee. This approach is also suggested in the 2006 Statutory Guidance that is applicable to IRPs at the Constituent Councils and commonly utilised by Constituent Councils IRPs in setting other SRAs. This is known as the 'factor' approach. Once the remuneration for an ordinary Member has been determined the Chair's SRA is arrived at setting it at an appropriate multiple of the ordinary Members remuneration.
57. In adopting an appropriate factor for arriving at the remuneration of the Chair of the Audit Committee the IRP adopted a multiple of 2.5 times the recommended remuneration for the Audit Committee Co-opted Member. The IRP has not been guided by a multiple of 2.5 times the recommended SRA for the Members of Overview and Scrutiny to arrive the recommended SRA for the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny. The IRP has taken the view that the chairing Overview and Scrutiny is a larger role, in terms of numbers of meetings and workload and a greater responsibility with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee having a wider strategic remit.
58. The IRP noted that the differential between the mean Basic Allowance (£11,654) and the mean SRA (£40,568) for Leaders/City Mayor paid across the 10 Greater Manchester Councils is a factor of 3.5. Similarly, the IRP has not been guided by this differential. The difference in workload and responsibility between a GM Council ordinary Member and the GM Council Leaders/City Mayor is greater than that between the Members and Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, by virtue of the Leaders/City Mayor of the GM Councils having all executive functions vested in their role.
59. As such the IRP has adopted a factor of 3 times the recommended SRA (£3,228) for Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members to arrive at recommended SRA for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which equates to £9,684. This differential reflects the difference in workloads and responsibility. This level is also proportional, a message that came through from the representation was that there should not be too great a differential between the SRAs for the Members and the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee, their relationship should be proportionate. An SRA of £9,684 meets this representation. Furthermore it also meets the test of assessing the role as larger than the Chairs of Scrutiny at the 10 GM Councils.

60. Consequently the IRP has adopted a multiple of 2.5 times the recommended SRA (£3,228) for the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to arrive at the recommended SRA for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
61. **The IRP recommends that the SRA for the Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be £9,684.**

Issues arising I: The Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee

62. It was not within the IRPs terms of reference to consider an SRA for a Vice Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This was because at the time of the review the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee has decided not to appoint a Vice Chair. While the IRP was given no indication that this situation could change in the short term at least to future proof the allowances for the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has decided to make a recommendation in the event that it decides to appoint a Vice Chair. By doing this it negates the need of the GMCA seeking further advice of the IRP if a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee were to be appointed.
63. It is difficult to assess the size of a role that is not in place but the role profile for a Vice Chair indicates that the post holder would be expected to replicate many of the duties of the Chair, although it would be expected that these duties will typically be undertaken in conjunction with and in support of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
64. Benchmarking revealed limited comparisons. Vice Chairs of the three Overview and Scrutiny Committees in West Yorkshire Combined Authority each receive an SRA of £1,296, which is double the SRA paid to Members of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Once again the role on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be much larger..
65. Looking for comparisons at the 10 GM Constituent Councils it is noted that only two Councils, Tameside and Trafford remunerate their Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny, at £3,509 and £4,236 respectively. This is too limited data to draw any meaningful analogies. Moreover, the IRP does not know if the Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny at Tameside and Trafford have particular discrete tasks or responsibilities. For instance it is often the case in principal councils that where a Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny is paid an SRA they have a designated responsibility such as chairing task and finish groups or lead on informal reviews, an expectation that is not explicit for a Vice Chair of GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
66. In arriving at the recommended SRA for a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee the IRP has continued with the factor approach. In

other words, the SRA for the Vice Chair has been set as a multiple of the recommended SRA for Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

67. The question remains what is the size of the role of the Vice Chair compared to the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee? Clearly the role is larger than that of an Overview and Scrutiny Member but from the role profile at least the IRP obtained no sense that it is as large as 1.5 times of the responsibility and workload of the Overview and Scrutiny Members. Clearly, there is a substantial time requirement, and may be broadly similar to that of the Chair but the Chair bears ultimate responsibility for the effective working of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
68. The IRP noted that the mean SRA (£6,709) paid to Assistant Executive Members (where appointed) in the 10 GM Constituent Councils when added to the mean Basic Allowance (total of £18,363) is about 1.5 times the mean Basic Allowance (£11,654)) paid to across the 10 GM Constituent Councils. The IRP rejected this multiple as Assistant Executive Members in the 10 GM Constituent Councils will not only support their respective Cabinet Member when required but also be given discrete responsibilities and tasks to undertake, such as being the lead on specific topics that fall within their relevant Cabinet Members portfolio.
69. As such, the IRP has arrived at the recommended SRA for a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee by setting it at 1.25 times the recommended SRA (£3,228) for the Members of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair, which equates to £4,035. At this level it clearly assesses the role as being greater than that of ordinary Overview and Scrutiny Members but is also proportionate in that maintains a clear differential vis-à-vis the recommended SRA for the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
70. **The IRP recommends that if the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee appoint a Vice Chair then that post holder should receive an SRA of £4,035.**

Issue arising II – the indexation of the Overview and Scrutiny SRAs

71. It was not within the IRPs terms of reference to consider whether the recommended SRAs should be indexed, i.e., uplifted annually in accordance with an appropriate linkage. However, the IRP noted that all other allowances paid by the GMCA are indexed linked. The relevant index being the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, known as the 'NJC' index. It would be inequitable if the recommended SRAs arising from this review were not also indexed linked. The IRP also notes that it is common practice for the 10 GM Constituent Councils Members' Allowances schemes and indeed across English local government to contain provisions for the index mechanism.

72. **The IRP recommends that the SRAs recommended for the Members, Substitutes, Chair and if so appointed a Vice Chair of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee are also annually indexed in accordance with the annual percentage cost of living increase that is applied each year as set by the National Joint Council for Local Government Staff, with the indexation applied at the same time it is applied to the remuneration of the GMCA Elected Mayor and Co-opted Members.**

Implementation of recommendations

73. The establishment of the Member roles and the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee date back to the Authority's Annual Meeting on 24th June 2022. As such, it appears logical and equitable that the recommended SRAs should apply from that date. It is recognised that until the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is enacted that these SRAs will have to be paid on an interim basis via the allowances schemes of the Constituent Councils. Indeed, it was explicitly recognised by the Authority when it decided that Overview and Scrutiny Members should be remunerated.
74. However, the means of delivering the recommended SRAs in the absence of having express authority to do pay them directly at this moment is an issue that is not within the remit of the IRP, all it has been tasked with is to make appropriate recommendations on the remuneration of Members on the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
75. The IRP feels that it only reasonable for the recommended SRAs to be paid from the date of the establishment of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
76. **The Panel further recommends that the recommended SRAs for Members and Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are backdated to 24th June 2022 or any date thereafter than the GMCA deems is appropriate.**

Appendix One: List of Information considered by the Panel

1. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 (SI 2011/908) 1 April 2011, updated July 2012
2. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Amendment) Order 2015 (SI 2015/960)
3. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority Order 2011 (as amended by The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (Functions and Amendment) Order 2017 [SI 2017/612])
4. GMCA Scoping Paper, Review of the allowance to be paid to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, that also sets out the IRP terms of reference
5. GMCA Report 24th June 2022, Independent Review of the GMCA Scrutiny Function, at which meeting established the single Overview and Scrutiny Committee, agreeing in principle to remunerate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members and authorising the IRP to review their remuneration
6. Centre for Governance and Scrutiny, Greater Manchester Combined Authority: Scrutiny Evaluation Report, Final June 2022, includes GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Member, Chair and Vice Chair Role and Responsibilities description
7. GMCA Constitution, June 2022, Part 4 Committees Section E that sets out the composition and terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
8. GMCA Constitution, June 2022, Part 5 Rules and Procedures, Section C Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules
9. Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), average Weekly pay – gross – all full-time employee jobs in Greater Manchester (Table 7.1a Work Geography) 2021, Office of National Statistics
10. The Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 (SI2003/1021)
11. New Council Constitutions, Guidance on Regulation for Local Authority Allowances, Department of Communities & Local Government, 5th May 2006
12. Allowances schemes from the ten constituent GMCA councils and other relevant benchmarking data - see appendix 3 for further details
13. All allowances schemes of Constituent Councils of the other nine English Combined Authorities were consulted

Appendix Two: Members and Officers who met with the IRP

Members interviewed by the IRP

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Cllr Barry Brotherton | Member Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Trafford – Labour) |
| Andy Burnham | GM Mayor (Labour) |
| Paul Dennett | Deputy GM Mayor and City Mayor Salford (Labour) |
| Cllr Mark Hunter | GMCA Lead for Young People, Leader Stockport Council (Liberal Democrat) |
| Cllr Jim King | Member Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Salford – Labour) |
| Cllr Tom McGee | Substitute Member Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Stockport – Labour) |
| Cllr John Walsh | Chair Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Bolton – Conservative) |

Written Submissions from Members

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Cllr M. Godwin | Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member (Oldham – Labour) |
| Cllr D. Molyneux | GMCA Member (Wigan – Labour) |
| Cllr G. Stanton | Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member (Manchester – Labour) |

Officers who briefed the IRP

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Eamonn Boylan | Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGMC |
| Julie Connor: | Assistant Director Governance & Scrutiny GMCA |
| Liz Treacy | Monitoring Officer, GMCA |
| Gwynne Williams | Deputy Monitoring Officer, GMCA |

Appendix Three: Benchmarking Data

| BM1 GMCA BM Group - Other GM Mets: BA + Exec + Scrutiny SRAs (21/22 unless indicated) | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Comparator Council | Basic Allowance | Leader or Elected Mayor | Leader Total | Deputy Leader or Mayor | Executive Members | Assistant or Deputy Execs | Chair Main O&S | Chairs/Lead Scrutiny | V/Chairs Scrutiny | Chairs Scrutiny Subs/WGs |
| Bolton | £11,644 | £31,294 | £42,938 | £18,775 | £7,140 | | | £5,100 | | |
| Bury (22/23)* | £10,791 | £38,373 | £49,164 | £19,424 | £14,568 | £2,185 | | £8,093 | | |
| Manchester (22/23) | £17,798 | £44,413 | £62,211 | £18,680 | £18,680 | £7,475 | | £11,220 | | |
| Oldham* (22/23) | £10,151 | £36,542 | £46,693 | £21,317 | £18,272 | £7,613 | £9,135 | £9,135 | | |
| Rochdale* | £11,172 | £39,395 | £50,567 | £16,758 | £15,082 | £3,016 | £8,379 | £8,379 | | |
| Salford (22/23) | £11,043 | £54,654 | £65,697 | £33,296 | £14,901 | £11,175 | | £9,315 | | |
| Stockport | £10,717 | £32,151 | £42,868 | £17,683 | £16,075 | | | £6,430 | | £1,286 |
| Tameside | £12,787 | £39,588 | £52,375 | £25,812 | £22,081 | £9,176 | | £10,526 | £3,509 | |
| Trafford (22/23)* | £7,061 | £38,678 | £45,739 | £19,770 | £14,122 | £7,060 | £8,473 | £8,473 | £4,236 | |
| Wigan* (22/23) | £13,380 | £50,589 | £63,969 | £26,093 | £18,087 | £5,969 | | £8,039 | | |
| Mean | £11,654 | £40,568 | £52,222 | £21,761 | £15,901 | £6,709 | £8,662 | £8,471 | | |
| Median | £11,108 | £39,037 | £49,866 | £19,597 | £15,579 | £7,268 | £8,473 | £8,426 | | |
| Highest | £17,798 | £54,654 | £65,697 | £33,296 | £22,081 | £11,175 | £9,135 | £11,220 | | |
| Lowest | £7,061 | £31,294 | £42,868 | £16,758 | £7,140 | £2,185 | £8,379 | £5,100 | | |
| Mean Ratios | Leader = 3.5 X BA | 100% | | 54% | 39% | 42% | 21% | 21% | | |

* Leaders' SRAs for Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Trafford & Wigan include 2nd SRA for role on GMCA

| BM2 GMCA BM Group Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Appointees Remuneration July 2021 | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|
| Constituent Council | Leader - Combined Authority Board Member | Deputy Leader - Combined Authority Deputy Member | O&S Appointees | Audit & Governance Appointees | Substitute Members | Other |
| Cambridgeshire | £3,170 | NA | £1,585 | £1,585 | NA | NA |
| Peterborough | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Cambridge City | £5,210 | NA | £1,303 | £521 | NA | NA |
| East Cambridgeshire | £5,138 | £1,541 | £1,541 | £822 | NA | CA Committee Member if not on Board - £822 |
| Fenland | May 2021 Review looked at COMBINED AUTHORITY SRAs but made no recommendations | | | | | |
| Huntingdonshire | £5,100 | | £946 | £946 | £1,655 (CA Board) | O&S & Audit Chairs £3,068 |
| South Cambridgeshire | £5,010 | NA | £1,253 | £501 | NA | NA |
| Mean | £4,726 | | £1,326 | £875 | | |
| Median | £5,100 | | £1.303 | £822 | | |
| West Yorkshire Combined Authority – Appointees 2021/22 | | | | | | |
| | Chairs | Deputy Chairs | Members | Engagement Leads | | |
| Overview & Scrutiny Committees | £7,341 | £1,296 | £648 | | | |
| Transport Committee | Chaired by CA Board Transport Portfolio Holder | £13,731 | £2,616 | £3,663 | | |