

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 7 September 2022**



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 30 August 2022

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 7 September 2022 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 27th June 2022 and 13th July 2022 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 78)
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There are no petitions to note.

- 7 Youth Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 8 Questions Time

- a Public Questions

*(time limit 30 Minutes)*

- b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

- c Questions on Cabinet Minutes (Pages 79 - 100)

*(time limit 15 minutes)*

17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

- 9 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

Motion 1

Cost-of-Living Emergency Motion:

Councillor Chadderton to MOVE and Councillor Jabbar to SECOND:

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

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

With energy bills set to rise to more than £3000 next month, and possibly rising to above £4000 in January; inflation predicted to hit 18.6% by investment bank Citi; average petrol prices up 30% at their peak compared to the beginning of the year many families in Oldham are struggling, we are seeing too many people now being pushed into poverty. The time for action is now, we are declaring a cost-of-living emergency and calling on the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to step up to the crease and help those who need it.

**This Council notes:**

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

**This Council resolves to:**

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

**This Council further resolves to:**

- Declare a Cost-of-Living Emergency and instruct the Chief Executive to write to the new Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to demand they offer more support to residents, particularly:
  - for the energy price cap to be frozen to protect families this winter
  - for the Government to come good and deliver on their levelling up promises to deprived areas who need investment and support more than ever
  - to deliver on their promises to fix social care, alleviating the burden from local authorities and

increase the support offered to local authorities so those of us who knew our communities best can make the most difference here on the ground

Motion 2

Fireworks Motion:

Councillor S Bashforth to MOVE and Councillor Umar Nasheen to SECOND:

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

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

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

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

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

be banned completely but we can all agree that if they are used, this should be done responsibly. This motion sets out to propose some measures to allow licensed, controlled and safe fireworks displays, whilst tacking the anti-social use of fireworks.

**This Council notes:**

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

**This Council resolves to:**

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

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

**This Council further resolves to:**

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

10 Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

Motion 1

Can this Council Dare to be Brave

Councillor Byrne to MOVE and Councillor Woodvine to SECOND:

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

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

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

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

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

The Council recognises that Local Authorities have the power to change the speed limit but until now they have done this piecemeal in response to traffic accidents. That the 60mph default limit is inappropriate for most minor rural roads and those attempting to speed on narrow and winding lanes at this speed is reckless. British Cycling, the sport's governing body urged the Government to cut the speed limit on thousands of miles of road without white centre markings. Council recognise as more houses are built in Oldham for families many in semi rural areas on Brown Field sites the Safety for children who need to navigate these roads to school and buses. A petition was recently presented to Democratic Services for just this in my Saddleworth North Ward Council resolves to exercise its power to change these particular speed limits to more realistic speeds for the time we now live in.

### Motion 2

#### Meeting the human needs for food and warmth

Councillor Hamblett to MOVE and Councillor Marland to SECOND:

#### **This Council notes that:**

The pandemic has highlighted the significant health, well-being, and economic inequalities in our society.

More than one in three children in Oldham borough live in poverty – far higher than the national average of one in five.

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

This year, schools in Oldham will face a real terms reduction in funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals of £212,797 because of decisions made by this Conservative government.

Those on the lowest incomes will be hardest hit as incomes are squeezed by double digit inflation and increased taxation.

The Government ended the uplift in Universal Credit, removing means for families to offset rising food and fuel costs.

A poll in April this year found that 5.3 million households were already having to choose between heating and food.

If you cannot afford food or heating, you have no disposable income which exponentially reduces the amount of money spent, creating a vicious economic cycle.

#### **That this Council also notes that:**

Increasingly, Greater Manchester Local Authorities are developing 'Library Plus' or 'Warm Bank' schemes, to give residents a place to stay warm and keep the cost of bills at home down after school and during evenings and weekends.

Oldham Foodbank have issued 8,048 three-day emergency food supplies in the last year.

Whilst the need for food banks in the fifth richest economy in the world is a mark of great shame, local food banks do a brilliant job and are a lifeline for many residents of our borough.

#### **This Council believes that:**

No one should go cold or hungry in Oldham borough.

Fuel and food poverty in the United Kingdom are disgraceful and shaming indictments

of the policies of the Conservative government.  
It is time to enshrine the human right to food into law.

**This Council resolves:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion 3

*Independent Public Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Historical & Present) within Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC), including the actions and knowledge of Council Members and Officers.*

Councillor Hobin to MOVE and Councillor Wilkinson to SECOND:

**Council notes that:**

The Newsam and Ridgway review into historic Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham was published on Monday 20th June 2022. The review found that some children had been failed by agencies that were meant to protect them and that there were serious failings in the handling of some cases.

The review was discussed at an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on Mon 27 June 2022. The public were invited to submit questions to a panel that included the Council Leader and Greater Manchester Mayor. Councillors from all political parties were also invited to ask questions or make statements.

While questions were asked, sadly many were left unanswered, and some wholly ignored. Unfortunately, questions remain. We as a council, and as such member herein, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure that failings highlighted in the review are not continuing. It is very clear there is significant dissatisfaction from the public and opposition parties with the contents of the report and that this has been further evidenced in the press and on social media. There is a significant groundswell of opinion that a fully



independent public inquiry is needed to address the issue of CSE in Oldham, both historically and in the present.

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

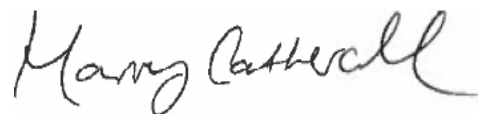
This issue is above any party-political leanings. Together we need to eradicate this corruption which lies within our society.

**Council resolves that;**

- The Chief Executive writes to the Home Secretary and the Minister for Housing, Communities and Local Government, on behalf of the council requesting that they instigate a fully independent and broad ranging public inquiry as soon as is practically possible.
- That the Terms of Reference for the inquiry are set independently of the Greater Manchester and OMBC administrations, by Government and that all relevant documentation including those relating to the recent assurance review are made available to the inquiry.
- That the cross-party steering group works alongside the inquiry which will report to the council and the public on a regular basis and will function as a conduit between the inquiry team, council officers and elected representatives.

- 11 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 101 - 110)
- 12 Corporate Plan 2022-27 and Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision for 2030 (Pages 111 - 146)
- 13 Local Planning Scheme of Delegation (Pages 147 - 160)
- 14 Members Allowance Scheme  
Report to follow
- 15 Treasury Management Review 2021/22 (Pages 161 - 188)
- 16 Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation: Terms of Reference (Pages 189 - 200)

**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

