

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

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

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Members of the Council declared interest as follows:

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

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

Although the individual Members declared their interests above (b – g), following advice previously given by the Director of Legal Services their interests were not non-registerable interests or pecuniary and therefore did not need to have been declared.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

The Mayor permitted the Leader of the Council, Councillor Chadderton to address Council regarding the removal of recordings of public meetings from the Council's website.

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

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

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

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

7

YOUTH COUNCIL

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

8

QUESTIONS TIME

9

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question submitted by Matthew Smith

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you'.

2. Question from Hannah Roberts

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

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

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

3. Question from Stephen Ingram

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

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

4. Question from Alison Shore

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

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

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

5. Question from David Barter

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

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

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

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

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

6. Question from Brian Kelly

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. Question from Megan Birchall

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

Can Councillors confirm the status of this project?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



Oldham
Council

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

Under their leadership:

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

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

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

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

10. Question from Chris Morris

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

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

11. Question from Lynne Kovacs

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

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

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied as follows: ‘the only current business with Mr Rothwell personally is that he is the Leader’s Business Ambassador, which is an unpaid position, to help champion economic recovery, business support and business networking opportunities for the benefit of local businesses. The Council were delighted to hear about the decision Mr Rothwell and his family made to buy Oldham Athletic Football Club, but this decision and transactional process had no Council involvement.

With regards to the specific questions –

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

12. Question from Tony Birchall

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

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

13. Question from Mahaira Afshaan

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

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

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

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



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

14. Question from Eesa Hussain

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

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

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

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

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

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

Question 1: Cost of Living Crisis

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

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

Question 2: Transport

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

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

Councillor Lancaster Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group

Question 1: Whit Friday Events in Saddleworth

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

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



Question 2: Openness and Transparency

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

Councillor Chadderton replied denying Councillor Lancaster's question.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party

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

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

Question from Councillor Birch:

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

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

Which has so far resulted in:-

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

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

Question from Councillor McLaren:

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

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

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

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

Question from Councillor Ibrahim:

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

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

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

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

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

Question from Councillor Lancaster

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani

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

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



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

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

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

Question from Councillor Goodwin:

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

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

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

Question from Councillor Steven Bashforth:

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

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

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

Question from Councillor Chris McManus

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

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

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QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the undermentioned dates, to receive questions on any items within the minutes from members of the Council that are not members of the Cabinet and to receive appropriate responses from Cabinet members. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 17th June 2022 and 25th July 2022 were submitted.

Members asked the following questions: -

a. Question from Councillor Woodvine:

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

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

b. Question from Councillor C. Gloster:

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

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

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

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

c. Question from Councillor Kenyon:

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED that:

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

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NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Cost of Living Crisis

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

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

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

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

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



This Council notes:

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

This Council resolves to:

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

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Sharp SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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

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

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

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



Oldham
Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council notes:

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

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

This Council resolves to:

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED that Oldham Council:

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

MOTION 2 – Fireworks

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council notes:

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

This Council resolves to:

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

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

1st AMENDMENT

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

2nd AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council notes:

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

This Council resolves to:

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

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

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

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

3rd AMENDMENT

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council notes:

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

This Council resolves to:

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

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

On being put to the vote the MOTION as amended was

CARRIED.

RESOLVED that

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

The Council further resolves to:

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

13

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion1 – Can this Council Dare to be Brave

Councillor Byrne MOVED and Councillor WOODVINE seconded the following Motion:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT

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

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

This Council Notes:

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

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

This Council recognises:

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

Therefore, this council resolves:

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

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

RESOLVED that:

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

MOTION 2 - Meeting the Human Needs for Food and Warmth

Councillor Hamblett MOVED and Councillor Marland SECONDED the following Motion:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council believes that no one should go cold or hungry in Oldham borough. Fuel and food poverty in the United Kingdom are disgraceful and shaming indictments of the policies of the Conservative government.

It is time to enshrine the human right to food into law.

This Council resolves:

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

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

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

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

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

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



Oldham
Council

Councillor Alyas MOVED and Councillor Birch SECONDED the following Amendment:

This Council notes that:

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

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

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

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

That this Council also notes that:

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

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

This Council resolves:

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

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

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



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

RESOLVED that:

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

Motion 3 – Independent Public Enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) (Historical & Present) within Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC), including the actions and knowledge of Council Members and Officers.

Councillor Hobin MOVED and Councillor Wilkinson SECONDED the following Motion:

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

The review was discussed at an Extraordinary Full Council Meeting on Mon 27 June 2022. The public were invited to submit questions to a panel that included the Council Leader and Greater Manchester Mayor. Councillors from all political parties were also invited to ask questions or make statements. While questions were asked, sadly many were left unanswered, and some wholly ignored. Unfortunately, questions remain. We as a council, and as such member herein, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure that failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

It is very clear there is significant dissatisfaction from the public and opposition parties with the contents of the report and that this has been further evidenced in the press and on social media. There is a significant groundswell of opinion that a fully independent public inquiry is needed to address the issue of CSE in Oldham, both historically and in the present.

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

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

Council resolves that;

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

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

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

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

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

14

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

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

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

15

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

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

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

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



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

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

RESOLVED:

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

16

LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME OF DELEGATION

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

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

RESOLVED:

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

17

MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME

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



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

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

RESOLVED:

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

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

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

RESOLVED:

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

19

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

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

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

An AMENDMENT to the report was moved, as circulated, by Councillor Sykes and seconded by Councillor Al-Hamdani.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Council notes the report.
2. That, by way of receiving the action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation, Council notes the priority areas of action and progress against the resolution agreed by Full Council on 13th July 2022; including the dedicated additional support to the work of Operation Sherwood led by Greater Manchester Police, the Council's response to ongoing support to survivors of CSE including access to independent support, the establishment of a Child Sexual Exploitation survivors steering/advisory group and the establishment of an Elected Member Steering Group, as set out in full at Appendix 1 of the Statutory Director of Children's Services report.
3. That Council agrees the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation, as set out in appendix 2 of the Statutory Director of Children's Services report.
4. That Council notes the authority's response is to support victims, seek justice and provide assurance about current practice as set out within the Council's action plan.

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