

# Oldham Borough Council



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



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 30 August 2022

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

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

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There are no petitions to note.

- 7 Youth Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There is no Youth Council business to consider.

- 8 Questions Time

- a Public Questions

*(time limit 30 Minutes)*

- b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

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

*(time limit 15 minutes)*

17<sup>th</sup> June 2022

25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

- 9 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

Motion 1

Cost-of-Living Emergency Motion:

Councillor Chadderton to MOVE and Councillor Jabbar to SECOND:

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

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

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

**This Council notes:**

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

**This Council resolves to:**

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

**This Council further resolves to:**

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

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

Motion 2

Fireworks Motion:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**This Council notes:**

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

**This Council resolves to:**

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

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

**This Council further resolves to:**

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

10 Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

Motion 1

Can this Council Dare to be Brave

Councillor Byrne to MOVE and Councillor Woodvine to SECOND:

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Motion 2

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

Councillor Hamblett to MOVE and Councillor Marland to SECOND:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No one should go cold or hungry in Oldham borough.

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

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

**This Council resolves:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motion 3

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

Councillor Hobin to MOVE and Councillor Wilkinson to SECOND:

**Council notes that:**

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

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

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



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

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

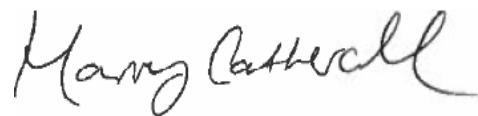
This issue is above any party-political leanings. Together we need to eradicate this corruption which lies within our society.

**Council resolves that;**

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

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

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



**Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive**

**PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



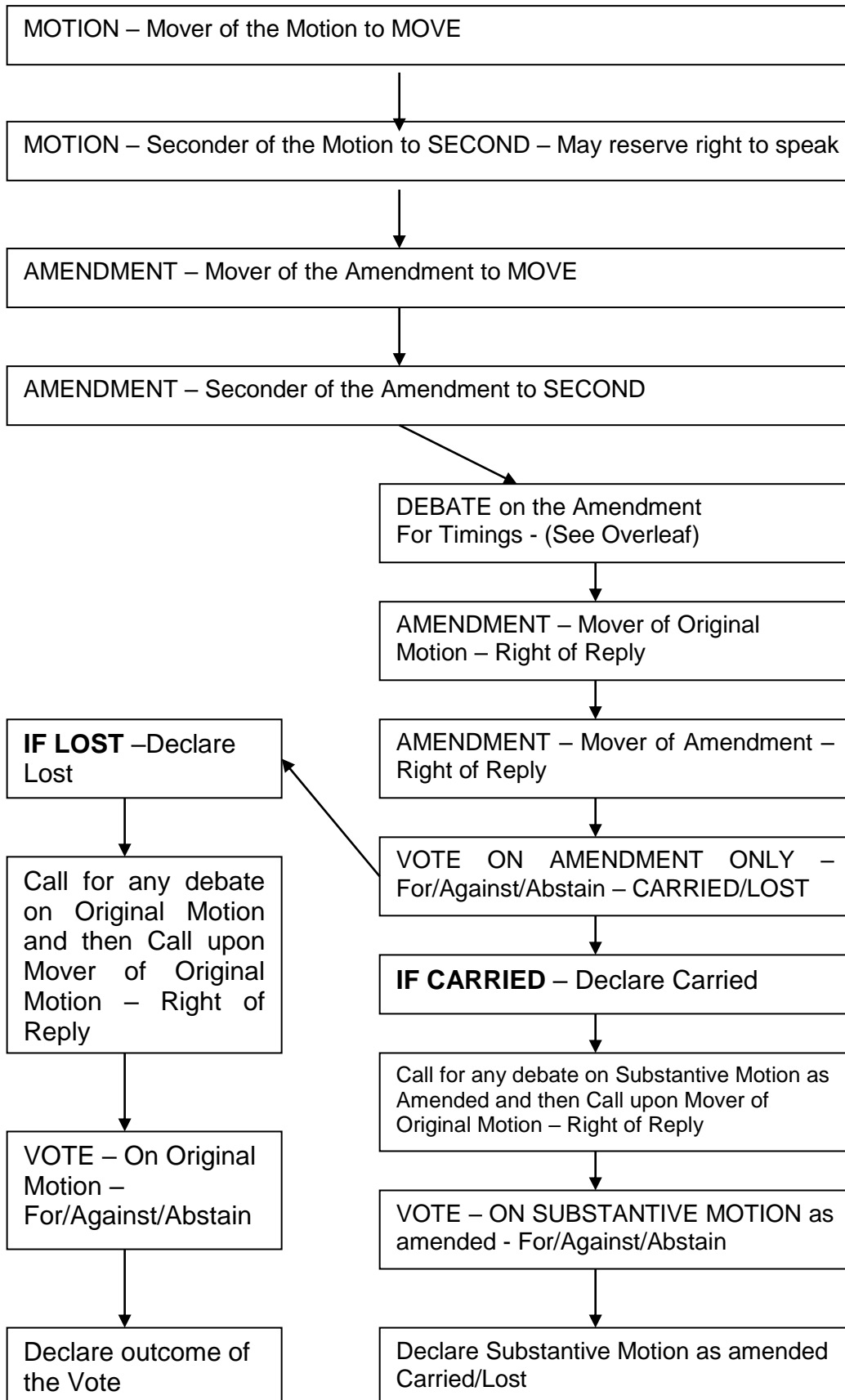
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**RULE ON TIMINGS**

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

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

## WITH AMENDMENT



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**COUNCIL**  
**27/06/2022 at 6.00 pm**

**Present:** The Mayor - Councillor Garry (in the Chair)

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

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ahmad, Hindle, Lancaster, Sharp and Sheldon.

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

Councillor Stretton declared an interest as she had given evidence as a witness to the Review into Historic Safeguarding Practices in the Borough of Oldham.

Councillor Garry declared an interest at Item 3 by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 3 by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Hazel Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 3 by virtue of her husband's receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest at Item 3 by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Murphy declared a non-registerable interest at Item 3 by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

3 **INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REVIEW OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MULTI-AGENCY RESPONSES TO CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION IN GREATER MANCHESTER: PART 2 REVIEW INTO HISTORIC SAFEGUARDING PRACTICES IN THE BOROUGH OF OLDHAM**

The Mayor advised that the meeting had been convened to receive the Independent Assurance review of the Effectiveness of the Multi-Agency responses to Child Sexual Exploitation in

Councillor Chadderton, the Leader of the Council addressed the meeting, requesting that Council resolves to move into Committee, for the remainder of the meeting to allow Members and Officers of the Council and of Greater Manchester Police to present and respond to questions received. Such a course of action would remove the time limit for public questions, that have been received, allowing them all to be answered.

### **RESOLVED**

That Council moves into Committee for the remainder of the meeting.

The Council received submissions from the following contributors:

- a. Malcolm Newsam (via video link) – one of the authors of the Independent Assurance review of the Effectiveness of the Multi-Agency responses to Child Sexual Exploitation in Greater Manchester: Part 2 Review into Historic Safeguarding Practices in the Borough of Oldham
- b. Gerard Jones – Managing Director of Children’s Services, Oldham MBC
- c. Councillor Amanda Chadderton – Leader of the Council
- d. Councillor Pam Byrne - on behalf of the Leader of the Conservative Group
- e. Councillor Howard Sykes - Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group
- f. Councillor Brian Hobin – Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party

4

### **PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Mayor advised that a total of 36 public questions had been received. Where applicable a questioner was able read out their own submission, all other questions received were read out by the Chief Executive. Some of the questions received were grouped into various themes

#### 1 Question from Sam to Mr Newsam

Why did Gary Ridgway tell me that there was a cover up when I met him but the report says there is no cover up?

Why did you not interview any of the professional standards police officers who you knew had covered up the failings in the criminal investigation and what had happened at the police station.

Why did you think that an apology was a good remedy instead of making a public call for justice and accountability in your report?

Answer – Questions to be forwarded to the Review Team

#### 2 Question from Sam to Chief Superintendent Bowen

Do you think that those responsible for the attacks on me should be prosecuted? The police know their names.

Do you think the PSB officers who covered up what happened to me and the failings of the officers around the time I was attacked should be prosecuted?

Do you think the GMP chief superintendent who wrote to Mr Keith Vaz MP should be prosecuted for saying that nothing was wrong with any actions of any GMP officers and all the investigations had been carried out well?

Do you think that GMP should compensate me for personal injury and breach of my human rights?

Do you think that GMP should share the costs of a good solicitor and barrister so that I can afford to pursue those claims?

Answers:

We have not waited for the report to be published to pursue perpetrators and 106 dedicated officers in our CSE unit are pursuing any and all lines of enquiry as part of Operation Sherwood. We are clear on this – anyone who committed these crimes and thinks they've gotten away with it, regardless of the passage of time, we will come for them.

We are keen to ensure that any individual or organisational learning from this is captured and reflected in our policies and procedures going forward as we do with any review into our operations and professional standards. Should any potential misconduct be identified, this will be thoroughly investigated by our Professional Standards Branch through the appropriate procedures.

It's important that we listen to you and address your concerns as fully as possible, and I understand there is a meeting being arranged with yourself and the Chief Constable next month where it is our intention to better understand your views and how we may be able to help you further.

### 3 Questions from Sam to Cllr Chadderton, Council Leader

Does Cllr Chadderton genuinely believe that there was no cover up in my case?

Does she believe that saying 'it all happened a long time ago and things are better now' is what I want to hear?

Does she think that the Council should bear the costs of a legal team to represent me in a personal injury and human rights claim?

Will she be referring those that failed me in the Council to the police for criminal investigation?

There is a dispute over assertions by social care staff that Sophie did not want to cooperate with the review. When pressed, they insisted an approach could be detrimental to her welfare. This is significantly at odds with the account Sophie provided to the inquiry. When given the opportunity, she was happy to cooperate with the review at length. Will any investigation be undertaken to establish if any members of Oldham Council staff acted dishonestly in their dealings with the inquiry as regards Sophie's evidence? Furthermore, will the inquiry investigate whether this was as a result of a desire to

cover up the failures by individual staff members and Oldham Council as an organisation?

Information regarding Offender J was known to the multiagency Messenger team - particularly his wife's report in 2011 that he had admitted raping a 12-year-old. This followed his attempted murder of her in 2009. Was Offender J resident in Oldham at the time of his conviction and were there any children living at his address? If so, what attempts were made to safeguard them following these disclosures? If he has been released from prison, is he allowed any unsupervised contact with under 16s?

Answers:

I initially wish to repeat my apologies to Sophie/Sam. It is clear she was let down by the council and GMP as both a child and as an adult.

The review is clear there was no 'cover up' of CSE, either the issue or the complexity of dealing with it.

However, it's also clear in your case that when you approached us as an adult to seek answers about the abuse you faced and how we had supported you we did not respond appropriately and with the honesty and transparency we should have.

I have asked for a thorough review of your contact with the council as an adult to make sure this doesn't happen to anyone else and that we learn from your experiences.

In terms of any legal action against the council our advice would be to seek independent legal advice and support but we would wish to help with that by putting her in touch with support organisations that can offer advice and support on how to go about that.

On the issue of criminal investigations into council staff, the police are now reinvestigating a number of cases including yours and we will fully co-operate with those investigations. The police will determine through those investigations should there be any action taken against individuals.

In terms of the contact between Sophie/Sam and the council about the review and her involvement in it, I will refer that question onto Gerard Jones who has worked alongside the review team throughout. He can give a more detailed response as a result.

Before I do that what I can say is that if Sophie feels we could and should have done more we should acknowledge that apologise

Before I hand over to Gerard I do want to answer your final point about the one of the offenders referenced in the report. For legal reasons we can't share specific details relating to this individual. However please be assured we will be supporting the police in their investigations into the crimes committed against you and seeking convictions for those who committed them.

4 Question from Deborah Barratt to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

For three years this council stated that CSE was Bare Faced Lies and there was no grooming happening in Oldham.

At the Last full council meeting the then Leader Arooj Shah not only apologise for the Grooming of Oldham children but also confirmed it was still happening once I asked after a report on



Sky TV and newspapers had confirmed that CSE did happen in Oldham

Back on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 every council member from all parties' bar ONE, Cllr Brian Hobin, walked out of these chambers rather than allow ONE question, even calling in the Police wasting police time for no reason.

It has now been CONFIRMED that not only has GMP AND OMBC covered up Grooming of the Children of Oldham but have also committed Misconduct in a public office

Can the council leader please tell every resident in Oldham:

- a. Who will be held accountable
- b. What punishment will happen
- c. When that punishment will happen

And can she explain why anyone should believe anything you and this council say anymore and will you call in the Government

Answers:

Firstly, I am not here to speak for previous leaders. The words you use were not my words and I am not here to justify or defend them.

We have never shied away from the fact that there are evil men out there who commit these horrendous crimes, and sadly we know this still goes on here in Oldham, as it does everywhere in the country.

The report makes it clear that we were aware of the issue, were working to tackle it and working to promote the risks of CSE to the public.

The report does not allege any misconduct in public office by council staff. That said we will of course work with GMP who are re looking at these crimes again, so should any misconduct be uncovered during that process we will of course take action.

You ask why you should you believe anything I and this Council say?

You can believe me because two independent experts ,the same expert called in by the Conservative Government to intervene in Rotherham ,have found that, while there were failings, which we completely accept, there was no cover up.

You also asked if I will call in the Government.

We already asked for this independent Review. It took two and a half years of painstaking work, by the same independent experts the Government themselves have sent in elsewhere, to get to the report being published last week.

We asked for an independent Review by national experts and we have got one. The Home Office and other agencies are aware of the review and have been briefed about its findings.

My job now is to use the findings of that Review to consider where we can improve further and do all I can to ensure young people in Oldham receive the very best possible care and support from those who are there to protect them.

5. Question from Steven Pilkington to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

In several media appearances victims' champion Maggie Oliver has alleged that Oldham Council lied to the team conducting the

CSE review by saying that the victim known to as Sophie did not wish to be interviewed by the review team. I note that this is not a finding of the review and the report does not make any reference to the review team feeling that they were misled by Oldham Council during their work.

Is there any evidence to support Maggie Oliver's allegation? If so, what will be the consequences for those found to have lied? If not, will Oldham Council be requesting that Maggie Oliver publicly correct the record?

Answer:

The report lays out the contact that the council had with Sophie throughout the review period. I would ask Gerard Jones, as one of those who has worked with the review team to provide more information on this process.

However, I can state that if Sophie feels we should have done more to facilitate her involvement we can only acknowledge that and apologise.

Elsewhere within these questions there is a reference to Cllr Mushtaq as having held the children's social care portfolio. I can confirm he has never held this portfolio.

6. Question from Caroline Watt to Councillor Chadderton,  
Council Leader

Can you explain the difference as to what changed Sophie's mind? It clearly states Sophie wasn't ready and was suicidal by her social worker then why did Maggie Oliver push for her to be in the review? What changed?

The council repeatedly claimed they had informed Sophie of the review, but Sophie said she didn't hear anything back. Did the council send Sophie the information because Sophie said she never received it? What is the truth?

Answer:

- The Council asked for Sophie's case to be included in review
- Handed over all case files and documentation
- Contacted Sophie at the beginning of the review and via her Social-Worker
- Later on did make the decision not to reapproach her based on feedback directly from those working closely with her.
- Based on advice of professionals working directly with her and with her safety in mind
- Advocates working with Sophie did approach review team at point she was given a copy of her part of the report and at that point we were happy for her to be involved as she had facilitated it herself
- Have written to Maggie to offer reassurance given her comments in the media
- In terms of the group working with the review team can confirm no elected members on that group and that both I, the Executive Director of Reform and latterly the Assistant Chief Executive are members of that group.

- A number of other staff members have supported or advised the review throughout the time period, many from children's social care but also staff from other service areas.

7. Question from David Mowbray to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Can I get a full explanation why Oldham Council told the people who were conducting the investigation that "Sophie" did not want to talk to them as this clearly was not the case as has been explained since the report came out by "Sophie" herself and also by Maggie Oliver who has been helping "Sophie" for three years? I believe this was the cause of the delay in the report being published.

Answer:

As per question 6 above.

8. Question from Tony Martin to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Chapter 8 of Part 2 of the review refers to the case of Sophie. In 8.4, 8.5 and 8.6 the reviewers claim to have been advised by Oldham Council not to interview Sophie due to "serious concerns for Sophie's welfare" and that Sophie was unwilling to be interviewed.

The Review was promised to be published on 24th January 2022. However, immediately prior to this date it was stated that there would be a further delay to enable new information to be processed and further witnesses to be interviewed.

Maggie Oliver, in an interview on Talk TV, vociferously claimed that there was a clear attempt to cover up Sophie's story.

Sophie approached her early in 2022 stating that she still had not been approached for interview. Ms Oliver then went to the review team and was told of the Council's advices to them regarding Sophie. Ms Oliver is insistent that it was only due to her intervention that Sophie was eventually interviewed. Ms Oliver's intervention clearly led to the aforementioned deferment of the Review's publication. The review reported this as "...she (Sophie) made representations in January 2022 that she had not been approached for interview by the review team". No mention of Ms Oliver.

I ask - who were the Council officials who advised the Review team not to interview Sophie?

Has disciplinary action been taken against them?

Answer

As per question 6 above

9. Question from Kay Smith to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

CSE review 27th June 2022 - Maggie Oliver has confirmed that Oldham Council has been involved in lying to Malcolm Newsam and Gary Ridgway in attempt to prevent to prevent Sophie from

testifying. I doubt Amanda Chadderton or any her team is going to stand up and claim Maggie Oliver is a liar and that Oldham Council did not make attempts to prevent Sophie from testifying. Will Amanda Chadderton now; unreservedly apologise to the entire town following officers of Oldham Council falsely claimed that Sophie did not want to testify and would likely commit suicide if the Review team contacted her directly?

An examination of Oldham Council paper trail clearly shows that the Council established a team to communicate information to the Review team. It was clearly this team that lied. Is Amanda Chadderton prepared to:

- Name every Council Officer and Elected Member on this group
- Confirm they have been dismissed
- Or is she going to pretend what they did does not amount to gross misconduct?

Finally, now that we know that Oldham Council has tampered with evidence and lied throughout the review, will Shaid Mushtaq who has been the Lead Member for Children's Services resign with immediate effect for the lies, deceit and cover up instigated by those he is responsible for?

Answer:

As per question 6 above.

10. question from Miss Harrison to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Following the release of the CSE report and Councillor Amanda Chadderton's statement, regarding taxi driver's licences being checked twice a year, I would like to know the following:

Uber Taxi Drivers can obtain a licence, via say Bury or Rochdale Council, and work here in Oldham freely. Do the surrounding boroughs follow the same same due diligence, regarding their licencing, as Oldham does?

How can we, as a Borough, be confident that Uber Taxi Drivers, do not pose a risk to the children of this Borough?

Answer:

Here in Oldham, we have tight restrictions on who can get a licence to drive taxis. In fact we have some of the most stringent conditions in Greater Manchester.

Nobody who has been convicted of a sexual offence is granted a taxi licence. Checks are also now conducted at taxi ranks and in offices, to ensure we are keeping people safe to the very best of our abilities.

In 2014, a licensing review of taxi drivers took place, and this was repeated in 2017 and again in 2021.

This was intended to make sure our licensing arrangements were in keeping with new national guidelines. Members of those panels acted on the advice of professionals and on the information they had at that time in making their decisions to remove licenses or not.

They work within national and local guidelines in making these decisions and, while the review makes clear we should have revoked licenses in a small number of cases there is no implication that these decisions were taken in bad faith – rather

that the advice and information available could have been better.

Dates of licensing meetings, and the members of the licensing panel at that point, are a matter of public record and should be available on our website.

Nationally, Government guidance means that criminality checks are undertaken on taxi drivers every six months, and this applies to every Licensing Authority in England and Wales.

However, we know some drivers choose to get licenses from other local authority areas, like Wolverhampton or Rossendale, if for instance the fee charged is lower, or some policies such as vehicle age are more relaxed than here in Oldham.

This can apply to taxis from any company including those working through Uber. It is, in my opinion, a weakness in the system and should be addressed by the government by establishing nationwide licensing conditions. In Greater Manchester we are already working to have a single set of conditions in the city region.

We're doing what we can locally by working with all operators in the Borough who are currently using drivers and vehicles licensed elsewhere, to encourage them to apply for a licence with Oldham.

#### 11. Question from Alyson Campbell to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

I have noticed recently a lot of private hire drivers operating in Oldham have licenses issued in Wolverhampton and Sefton. I could not understand why this was until the publishing of the enquiry report, when the issue of licencing for taxis was raised. My question is, is this to get around the recently introduced 6 monthly CRB checks that they may not pass and what is being done by Oldham council to ensure that only private hire and taxi drivers who have passed a recent CRB check are operating in Oldham. As a parent of a 19-year-old who regularly uses taxis I want to ensure she is safe?

Answer:

As per question 10 above.

#### 12. Question from Maggie Hurley to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

The Assurance Review confirmed that Oldham Council's Licensing Committee on multiple occasions issued taxi licenses to known sex offenders including those that had abused children. Therefore, will Amanda Chadderton, the Leader of Oldham Council please confirm:

- that the findings presented regarding failings in her Council's licensing committee are accurate?
- confirm the dates of each of the meetings where these licenses were awarded?
- confirm the names of the councillors at each of these meetings where Oldham Councillors decided to award licenses to known child sex offenders?



The Council has this information. There is no wriggle room here. Amanda Chadderton has access to the names of each and every one of these councillors. We, the people of Oldham, also have a right to know their names. Who are the councillors that through their actions protected paedophiles? Name them! And those councillors that served on the licensing committee that are still sat here today, do they have the courage to stand up and apologise for their failures and resign with immediate effect or are they going to continue to hide like the paedophile enabling cowards that we suspect they are? At what point will any of you take any responsibility for your actions?

Answer:

As per question 10 above

13. Question from Jackie Schofield to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

My question is in relation to Offender A (Shabir Ahmed). A young woman came forward in 2012 claiming she had been abused by Offender A when he was employed as a welfare rights officer by the council. I would like to know why the children's social care service closed the case within a few days without undertaking any assessment, which might have resulted in a proper investigation into Offender A's employment conduct. Also, why weren't any assessments taken when earlier opportunities were presented as well with regard to the council being informed of serious allegations against Offender A? If allowed another question, I would also like to ask if there will be an investigation into the social care of Sophie. In particular with regard to their lax attitude when it concerned Sophie's involvement with older men.

Answer:

Thank you for your questions. There are clear failings in relation to Offender A, about how we shared information between agencies and about how we investigated later allegations which are indefensible.

However, there is also a certain amount of misinformation.

There is no evidence that the council knew that Offender A had committed any crimes at the point he was employed by Oldham Council.

In fact, we were not informed of any allegations till two years after he had left the council. He was not 'protected from investigation' by the council, either by officers or politicians, as is alleged. And to be clear this issue spans political control in the council.

There is also absolutely no evidence that anybody in the council provided a reference for Offender A. I know this is an allegation being made online but there is absolutely no evidence to support it.

I am asked to 'name those who knew Shabir Ahmed'. What I would say is that Offender A lived and worked in the Borough so

I am sure many people living here or working here knew him. The people committing these crimes, including Offender A were secretive and manipulative, those who knew them closely will not have known of their offending. It is unreasonable to hold everyone responsible for the actions of everyone they know. This online noise that he was a 'friend' of people in the council is unfounded but also nonsensical. In terms of naming officers in charge at the time that is also a matter of public record and available online.

As to whether we could have prevented further offending from this individual the reality is we will never know. We were not informed of the allegations against him and he was also not arrested until after he had stopped working for the Council. But this report puts in stark terms the human impact that not getting things right can have.

One of the questions also asks again about Sophie. Like in many other places, at that time, we did not properly understand the issue of child sexual exploitation and didn't know the best ways to protect or to support vulnerable young people.

We also let Sophie down as an adult when she came to us looking for answers about the abuse she had faced and the care she had received. We should have been more willing to learn and accept our failings and I'm truly sorry for the additional pain that will have caused.

Things have already changed a great deal since Sophie was a child. But I am going through the Report line by line to see if there is any more learning, and any more improvements, we can make. No child should ever be let down as she was.

#### 14. Question from Charlotte Evyrose to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Despite attempts to deceive the people of Oldham, it has now been forced out that Shabir Ahmed was employed by Oldham Council for 18 years. It has now also been confirmed that as well as having access to vulnerable children and families, the ringleader of the Rochdale grooming gang was also protected from investigation whilst employed by the Council. Is Amanda Chadderton, the Leader of Oldham Council, prepared to; - name the Labour Party colleagues sat beside her that knew Shabir Ahmed and therefore would have known he worked for Oldham Council? - name who was the Borough Solicitor, Council Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, at the time a complaint of abuse against Shabir Ahmed was 'inexplicably' shut down by the Council?

The people of Oldham have a right to know who exactly was responsible - to reassure us all that the Council (either directly, via the Mayor's Office or any other OMBC linked entity) did NOT provide Shabir Ahmed with any form of reference or support of any kind once he had been charged? It is time for this Labour Party run Council to be honest with us all. Shabir Ahmed was one of yours and you protected him.

Answer:

As per question 13 above



15. Question from Helen Bishop to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Councillor Chadderton, how are we going to instigate change in an environment where so little value is placed in both seeking and actively listening to the experiences of young people? Where behaviours are viewed through the lens of being problematic, rather than symptomatic, and their opportunities to disclose their experiences have been drastically reduced. Where there is a culture of denial and of closing them down when they raise concerns about the behaviour of adults in authority and a belief that they will not be taken seriously. Having listened to the experiences of young people in the borough for nearly 25 years as a youth worker, this is a commonly repeated problem. How will you go about creating an environment where this sort of response is stamped out in those entrusted to safeguard our young people?

Answers

The Review clearly highlighted the issues you raise, such as young people not being properly listened to when they sought help from us in the past. I am deeply sorry to those young people we failed.

Since becoming Leader I have set out that our children and young people are my absolute top priority. I will work tirelessly to ensure that every young person in Oldham, regardless of where they live or the background they come from, have the opportunities and the support to succeed.

This means listening to our young people, providing the services they need, and ensuring that the right support is there. We're already making improvements – for example, we've put £150k extra funding this year into our youth services, both those delivered by us and also into Madhlo, which does so much fantastic work.

We're also increasingly working with our young people to build their voice into our future plans for the borough. For example, in the last few weeks we've been speaking to groups of young people to get their views on what Oldham should look like in the future, to build this into the new Oldham Plan for the borough. I'm determined that we listen to the next generation and ensure that collectively we build the Oldham that they want to live, work and be educated in – now and in the future.

GMP response to this question:

In GMP, all our officers are trained to better understand and recognise when a child's behaviour could be the product of abuse, and we have specialist officers who are trained to take appropriate action to protect vulnerable children at risk.

16. Question from Neil Wilby to Councillor Chadderton and Chief Superintendent Bowen



a. Has the Council Leader or any of the Executive Management Team challenged the quality and content of the CSE Assurance Review? Do they agree with me that it can be most charitably described as sub-optimal and does not, as the Review Team claim, go even close to where the evidence should have taken them?

b. Does the Council Leader and Executive Management Team consider the taxpayers of Oldham and the wider Greater Manchester Region have been given value for money for a Review estimated to have cost between £750,000 and £1 million? If the answer is 'No', will the Leader be encouraging the Mayor to claw back at least part of the sums paid over to the Review Team and invite Mr Burnham to withdraw any further contracts from them?

Has the Council Leader or Monitoring Officer referred to the police any elected Council Member or paid Council officer over any suspected criminal offences disclosed by the Review? If the answer is 'Yes', how many?

Answers:

Councillor Chadderton's response:

We have not challenged the quality of the CSE Assurance Review. This Review was carried out by two independent experts who are recognised as being the best in their field. Mr Newsam and Mr Ridgway spent more than two and a half years speaking to witnesses, gathering evidence and analysing thousands of pieces of information to come to their conclusions. I believe the conclusions are sound, robust, and based on hard evidence.

In terms of value for money when we as a Council asked for this Review it was to provide assurance to the people of Oldham about how we and other authorities tackled CSE in the past, and provide us with the information we need now to ensure our work is as good as it possibly can be. And we wanted this Review to be wholly independent and carried out by the best people in the country. Needless to say, this sort of expert work does not come cheap.

Any allegations that came to light during the Review process were shared with the Review team as a matter of course.

GMP Response:

GMP fully accepts and supports the findings of the review and is actively working through any implications for us

17. Question from Mr John Lawrence to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Will we see criminal convictions brought against those in the council who let all this happen and if it involves the police will we see convictions there as well. If not why? Also, I would like everybody involved in abusing our kids named publicly by you?

Answers

There are no findings in the report that currently support any misconduct allegations against staff.

18. Question from Deborah Hodgkin to Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen



How many people have already been prosecuted for these crimes?

The young girls named the people responsible - have they all been arrested and charged - if not why not?

GMP Response:

Following the publication of the report, GMP has launched Operation Sherwood, the operation name for supporting CSE victims in Oldham, taking the dedicated CSE unit up to 106 officers pursuing offenders and seeking justice for those who should have had this support all those years ago.

19. Questioner has been anonymised in order to protect identity of a potential victim

I would like to ask if I had come forward in 1981 and told my social worker I was taken off the streets of oldham town centre by 3 asian men and there was a man who worked in the civic center in social services who was preying on young teenage girls in care would things been different, -

Answer

I'm so sorry to hear your story – and while I can't answer how things would have been handled at that time I can absolutely promise you that things are different now to how they were in 1981.

The way we work now is different to how it was in the 80s, the 90s, the time this review relates to, and even to last year. That's because we're always learning and looking for ways to improve further based on best practice from around the country, from reviews from other local authorities which are known as peer reviews, where other councils come into see how we are doing and from formal inspections from bodies such as Ofsted.

We understand more about child abuse, about child sexual exploitation and how to deal with it.

But while we have made changes we are not complacent we can and will improve further, wherever we need to.

20. Question from Helen Bishop to Gerard Jones, Managing Director of Children's Services

Can the council agree to ensure that ALL staff working with children and young people receive appropriate training specifically in understanding how to identify and respond to concerns that a colleague may be either abusing their professional position or neglecting their safeguarding responsibilities? -

Answer

I'm happy to confirm that all staff working with children and young people undertake child protection training on a regular basis, and also receive professional supervision from their manager.

The Council also has a Whistleblowing Policy through which any member of staff can escalate concerns regarding professional misconduct or safeguarding responsibilities.

Furthermore, staff working directly with children and young people are subject to an enhanced police check to ensure that they do not pose a risk to children.

These checks and balances are a vital part of our safeguarding procedures so please be rest assured that they are strictly followed.

#### 21. Question from Neil Wilby to Chief Superintendent Bowen

Does Chief Superintendent Bowen consider that the remedy proposed by his chief constable - an apology - in respect of the grotesque failings visited upon 'Sophie' is remotely adequate or acceptable? Either to that survivor of child sexual abuse or the wider public of both the Borough and Region. Will the chief superintendent agree with me that the only two appropriate ways of dealing with the manifest failings of his fellow officers, past and present, is for, firstly, an outside police force to robustly investigate, without fear or favour, all those responsible for Sophie's horrific ordeal and prosecute those responsible, if and where the evidence supports such action; and, secondly, for the chief constable, the Mayor and the Oldham Council Leader to allocate the necessary funding for Sophie to instruct a specialist lawyer to pursue a human rights and personal injury claim against the force and the Council?

Answer:

Tackling and preventing child sexual exploitation in Greater Manchester, and the support available to victims, are thankfully now worlds apart from where we were in the early 2000's. We have already learned from the past and our policies and practices are entirely different.

All of our officers are trained to understand and recognise when a child's behaviour could be the product of abuse, and we have specialist officers who are trained to take appropriate action to protect vulnerable children at risk.

We have also invested over £2.3million in a Child Sexual Exploitation Unit in GMP, with officers who are dedicated to pursuing perpetrators and seeking justice for victims of CSE, regardless of the passage of time.

This team has been behind a number of operations dedicated to investigating non-recent CSE crimes which were not originally thoroughly investigated. This has meant reaching out to victims who may not have received a good service from us originally and following up lines of enquiry to establish any further leads or potential perpetrators.

I am pleased to say the team has so far seen results in a number of major investigations in Rochdale, with charges being brought and preparing for trial for Operation Lytton - a live investigation whereby eight defendants were charged in March 2022 with 82 offences in which the trial is set for May 2023. Operation Green Jacket which some of you will be aware of following the last CSE assurance review, is ongoing and has resulted in 21 arrests so far.



So my message to any offenders of these heinous crimes – we are not letting this go, we will re-investigate and we will track you down.

In addition to this, a further uplift in this team is being agreed to specifically focus on Operation Sherwood, the operation name for supporting any CSE victims in Oldham, taking the team up to 106 officers pursuing offenders and seeking justice for those who should have had this support all those years ago.

I would urge anyone who has not come forward to do so, you will be listened to, and you will be provided with specialist support.

Whilst this will not compensate for the horrific experience these victims endured, it is our hope that our dedication to leaving no stone unturned and the clear, incomparable multi-agency response to safeguarding and tackling CSE, will provide some comfort to those whom we let down in the past, and encourage anyone who has been a victim to come forward today.

## 22. Question from Helen Bishop to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

How are the council going to tackle the unhelpful culture of sending and reinforcing the toxic message to young people that what young women wear directly impacts upon the standard of behaviour that they can expect from others towards them, as is still evident in our education system? Will the council commit to challenging educational environments in the borough where young women are subjected to constant and overbearing scrutiny of their clothing, over and above that of young men?

Answer:

The point you raise about women being judged on their appearance and their clothing is not specific to Oldham or indeed to the UK, but it is something young women are subject to across the world. This has been the case, sadly, for as long as I or indeed anyone in this Chamber can remember. We already work with schools across the borough to promote safety for young women and young men. I will make sure we look specifically at this issue and ensure it's built into those conversations happening already in schools.

## 23. Question from Neil Wilby to Councillor Chadderton/Michael Newsam

This question is in seven parts but they are all very important public interest points and I ask the Mayor, councillors, members of the public and invited guests to bear with me. It will be worth it:

a. On Monday 20th June, the CSE victim anonymised as 'Sophie' wrote to Gary Ridgway and told him she could no longer trust the Review team. The reason being that what she says she was told in interview differs from what is in the final report. Does Mr Newsam agree with me that this is a highly concerning situation and could he please tell councillors and members of the public present how he proposes to remedy the situation?

- b. At the GMCA press conference last Monday it was said that the CSE Review had gone where the evidence had taken the Review team. Does Mr Newsam still stand by that statement?
- c. If I can comprehensively disprove that 'go where the evidence takes us' statement, and I am very confident indeed that I can in a number of areas of the report, will Mr Newsam agree with me that the report would stand discredited and that the only way forward for Oldham Council and the long-suffering residents of the Borough is for the Review to be withdrawn and a statutory or departmental inquiry to be instituted without delay?
- d. The report flowing from the CSE Review mentions disclosure difficulties with Greater Manchester Police and a failure to come to a satisfactory agreement within the statutory framework relating to data protection. Can Mr Newsam please explain, in more detail, the overall effect, both in terms of time lost and completeness of the report, on the Review?
- e. Again in relation to disclosure, and that fact that significant detail appears to have been a casualty in the report, would it strike Mr Newsam as extraordinary that as part of my own extensive journalistic investigations I have obtained two full and unredacted GMP Professional Standards reports (13 pages and 56 pages) that were only supplied in redacted form to the Review Team and an unredacted 2013 letter from a GMP chief superintendent to the Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee that GMP say they were unable to locate. The significance of the latter is that I have been able to tell the survivor, Sophie, that the same superintendent was, in fact the detective that led the investigation, as an inspector at the time, into her rape and abuse in 2006.
- f. On Friday 17th June 2020, the Leader of The Council, by way of a post on her Council Facebook page, breached an embargo concerning the release date of the CSE Review report. On Sunday 19th June I reported the existence of that Facebook post. in an article on the Neil Wilby Media website, a serious breach and a matter of considerable public interest, and, in doing so, deliberately breached restrictions placed on journalists relating to the same embargo. The result was that my invitation to the press conference was withdrawn but Cllr Chadderton was allowed to attend. As the final arbiter as to who should attend that press conference or not, does Mr Newsam consider that those decisions taken were fair and reasonable to all parties?
- g. Would it also be of concern to Mr Newsam that a senior GMCA officer (whose identity I know) lied to the GMP press office in order to persuade them that I should be excluded from that press conference on the flimsiest of pretexts?

Questions a. – e. and g. have been referred to the Review Team for a written answers.

Answer to f.

While these questions were addressed to the review team who are not here one point in particular referred to me 'breaching embargo' on the details of the report launch.

I wanted to address this to say i was not under any embargo. As Leader of this Council when I was told the launch was imminent I took the decision to share this information with the people of



the borough and to call for this meeting in order to discuss the findings.

I was not privy to any discussions or decisions about the press conference and who would be in attendance as it was a GMCA event.

24. Question from Helen Bishop to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

How are we going to go about achieving better targeted social education, training and information to young people in the borough to help safeguard them against adults who seek to exploit their vulnerability and lack of life experience?

Answer:

I'm glad to say that we've made huge progress in terms of helping our young people better understand the dangers of CSE; letting them know how to spot the signs and empowering them to report it. For example, a trained professional delivers focused training in our schools, which reaches thousands of children in Oldham every year. We know this is already having an impact, and at least one perpetrator has already been convicted as a direct result of young people raising concerns following one of these sessions.

25. Question from Helen Bishop to Councillor Chadderton/Gerard Jones/Chris Bowen

Will the council commit to acknowledging, discussing and developing an effective strategy to tackle the exploitation of boys and young men in the borough? Too many of whom are groomed from an early age to become involved in trafficking and dealing drugs, and whom are also exposed to violence, trauma and sexual assault?

Answers:

Councillor Chadderton - We absolutely recognise the risks to boys, as well as to girls, as regards criminal exploitation and sexual exploitation. I'm going to ask Gerard Jones to give a more detailed response about how we currently do this. That's one of the reasons why, earlier this year, we launched our Group Response and Early Collaborative Intervention Project (GRIP) project.

Gerard Jones - This project is a dedicated resource to provide support and safeguarding to young people in Oldham. The project has a range of opportunities for young people to participate in, which will look to improve confidence and self-esteem, develop hobbies and interests and raise personal aspirations.

The project also looks to tackle violence in communities and takes a safeguarding approach to how it looks after our young people, boys and girls.

Chris Bowen - In Greater Manchester we have programme Challenger - the largest ever multi-agency response to tackling organised crime (OCGs) and complex safeguarding in Greater Manchester's history. Challenger sees agencies pooling their

resources and expertise to target every aspect of a criminal's life, aiming to systematically dismantle gangs, making it difficult for them to operate. This involves; GMP, local authorities, Trading Standards, Immigration, the Illegal Money Lending Team, social housing providers, Department for Work and Pensions, DVLA, HRMC and other partners, including Non-Government Organisations (NGO). The aim is to identify every single organised crime group in Manchester and to use all means available with agencies across Manchester and the UK, to dismantle these OCGs who specifically target vulnerable young people to deal drugs.

26. Question from Helen Bishop to Councillor Chadderton/Gerard Jones

How does the council propose to go about ensuring the recruitment of more informed, highly skilled staff and also the provision of better training for everyone working with young people, to ensure that they understand their role in proactively identifying, and responding effectively to, the signs of inappropriate, abusive and exploitative behaviour towards young people, and to implement early preventative measures to combat it? Especially in residential childcare services, education and youth provision.

Answers:

This is a great question as recruitment and effective training of our social care staff is an important issue. I'm going to ask Gerard to give a detailed response.

Ensuring we have well trained, highly skilled social work staff is a priority for this Council and we are doing everything in our power to ensure we recruit the best possible people. As part of the recruitment process, we test applicants' understanding of their roles and responsibilities in respect of child abuse and how to protect children. This is a very thorough process to make sure that the people working for us are always up to the high standards we set standards that have been confirmed by Ofsted as recently as November last year.

After people start working for us, they undergo a full and detailed induction and also undergo child protection training on a regular basis. Their work is scrutinised by their manager on a regular basis through individual case supervision and can be pulled up for inspection at any time.

27. Question from Jackie Stanton to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Will the leader of the council and the chief executive admit to the public of Oldham that neither they or their cabinet or directors are capable of dealing with the horrific findings Published in the Child Sexual Exploitation report?

Will they refer Oldham Metropolitan Council to the government for failing 100s of young children over recent years, will they seek help and advice from the government to ensure that all the

victims not just the ten case studies published receive the help and support they so rightly deserve.



**Oldham**  
Council

Answer:

We have a dedicated team of social workers here in Oldham, and an excellent management team in Children's Services, we haven't stood still in responding to the review as it has been undertaken and I'm confident they will continue to use its findings to improve.

You speak of taking help and advice from Government. We have already asked for this independent Review which brought in the country's very best experts in the field. We have already asked for support from the very best and will keep improving wherever we can.

The review has taken two and a half years and has found clear examples where we failed to protect people. The priority now has to be on taking learning from this, improving where we can and on restoring confidence in our social services. That confidence is vital so that people report concerns to us in the knowledge we will act. That confidence saves lives.

I know there are those that want, for their own reasons, for the uncertainty and division around this issue to continue. But that is not in the best interests of the young people of this borough. They need to have trust in local services and we need to rebuild that trust. Our focus must be on that.

28. Question from Trevor Baxter to Councillor Chadderton,  
Council Leader

In March 2020, I received a letter from Dr Carolyn Wilkins, answering concerns about OMBC's investigation into CSE. In her response Dr Wilkins stated: "Soon after allegations of malpractice around child sexual exploitation first surfaced on social media, an independent review into historic safeguarding practice was jointly commissioned by Oldham Council and Oldham Safeguarding Partnership." So, my question is: "If other people (social media users and presumably non-OMBC staff) were aware of potential 'malpractice' issues surrounding CSE (allegations which have now been proved), why didn't this authority know? And if they did know why it took 'allegations' on social media before anything was done (ie investigation/independent review) if there was no cover-up as suggested by the recent report?"

Answer:

The report makes clear that we were aware of CSE as an issue in Oldham and that we were working hard to tackle it and promote the risks to local people. The way we deal with child sexual exploitation has changed significantly as we learned from reviews elsewhere in Rochdale and Rotherham. This is not an issue which has been ignored in Oldham till now.

This review was called in response to growing concern among members of the public expressed online and elsewhere. It was called to offer reassurance on this issue to the public. It was by no means the first time anyone in the council had addressed the issue or discussed it.





29. Question from John Reed to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

On page 85 of the report, it details councillors meeting and quashing a journalists enquiry regarding CSE in Oldham. Which councillors met to discuss this and what was their reasoning for taking such action?

Answer:

The Review team are absolutely clear on this issue the journalist's enquiry was not "quashed."

The review finds "no evidence that Journalist A nor the BBC colluded with the council in not highlighting the potential threat presented by shisha bars."

It also finds that information given to the journalist by the council in relation to the threat posed by shisha bars was "a proportionate description of what the agencies believed was happening at the time"

The report also puts right the allegation made online that a previous leader sought to cover up the issue of shisha bars. It makes clear that no conversation was ever held between that leader and the journalist and that the only conversations held on that issue were between the GMP and council press offices and the journalist.

It finds "nothing to support the assertion that Journalist A and Leader A colluded to hide from the public the potential threat presented by shisha bars and child sexual exploitation."

I hope that those repeating the allegations of a cover up take time to read the review teams findings directly in the report.

30. Identity of the questioner has been anonymised to protect the identity of a potential victim of CSE

Will the girls affected and mentioned in the report be compensated? -

Answer:

OMBC response - Firstly, as with Sophie/Sam I would like to apologise for the failures of the council in keeping you safe as a child. Nobody should have to endure the abuse you suffered and its clear we should and could have done more to support you. For that I am deeply sorry.

In terms of compensation, we would advise you to seek independent legal advice, to ensure you get the help and support you're entitled to. We can help put you in touch with advocacy services or support organisations who can help you to do this.

GMP response - Firstly, I'd like to apologise to Sophie for the terrible experiences she had. We let her down and for that I am truly sorry.

Whilst I don't know the details of her case, and unable to comment on any litigation or compensation matters, I would encourage her to speak to the officer who contacted her so we can see if there is anything we can do with further investigating

her case. If there are any lines of enquiry, the Operation Sherwood team will pursue them and seek the justice she should have had all those years ago.

31. Identity of the questioner has been anonymised to protect the identity of a potential victim of CSE

Residents of Oldham welcome this report, enabling the testimonies of victims to be known. Acknowledging that they were fundamentally let down by the people meant to protect them is a big step towards them receiving acknowledgement that they are innocent victims and did nothing wrong. The report highlights there were fundamental systemic failings and the victims weren't treated in the manner they deserved. With that said, changes have been implemented over the years and further changes are no doubt being made as a direct result of the report.

The report clearly states there is no evidence whatsoever of any cover up from within any institution involved. What powers do OMBC, The Police and GMCA have to cease the publication (online, via broadcast, and any other means) of lies, propaganda and fabricated allegations that are further damaging our community, causing tensions and creating a fractious town to live, with sections of our community being targeted with hate crime?

Can the Council give assurances that this group of people, communicating and spreading lies, accusations and misinformation will face legal charges?

The malicious communications act states "sending a message that is known to be false via a public electronic communications network; causing such a message to be sent; or. persistently making use of a public electronic communications network." constitutes a crime. Please can you give assurances that this route will now be thoroughly explored?

I appreciate this is a lengthy, word comment with questions and am happy for it to be shortened if necessary/appropriate. If it is to be changed, could I please have sight if it first? If not it's not a big problem, if the question is asked.

Answer:

I don't wish to be drawn directly on any action to be taken by the council or anyone else about false allegations being made online and elsewhere. But it's clear that people have been using the issue of child sexual abuse to try and divide communities with allegations of 'Asian cartels' controlling the council's actions on this issue. Those allegations are completely unfounded and have been found to be so by the report. It is clear they found no evidence of any cover up either by politicians or officers.

What we need to make sure is that we protect the confidence and trust in our social services. Those services save lives and to do so we need people to have the confidence to report their concerns.

We won't rule out any action that is needed to protect that trust and confidence.

32. Question from Mike Dodd to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader



As there is now evidence of CSE in Oldham, should not the enquiry be extended to cover similar years as in Rochdale and Rotherham?

Answer:

The review team have completed their work in Oldham and have clearly found failings both by GMP and the council in protecting and supporting young people at risk of or experiencing CSE. The team have not recommended any further review work or areas of concern that they haven't addressed or covered. We had already learned from reviews elsewhere with similar findings and social workers practice has changed significantly. Our focus now is on rebuilding trust and confidence from the public in our social services. This is vital to protect the most vulnerable people in our borough

33. Question from Saheed Ahmed to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader:

With the report finding zero evidence of a cover up, will the councillors take legal action against the people behind the defamatory statements made on social media and leaflets?

Answer:

The Independent Review found that there was no cover up, either of the issue of CSE or with the way it was dealt with. The report states there was: "no evidence, either through our interviews or documentary review, to suggest that senior managers or councillors sought to cover up either the existence of child sexual exploitation in Oldham, or the complexity involved in tackling the perpetrators."

The report concluded that the council was also "consistently attempting to develop best practice" in addressing the threat of CSE.

That said, we fully accept that there were failings, and we did not do enough. We as a Council are truly sorry to those who did not receive the support and care they needed and deserved.

34. Question from Peter Davis to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

Can Council Confirm, did the Councillor's/Council Leadership, cover up any Child exploration by grooming gangs to gain votes?

Answer:

The Independent Review found that there was no cover up, either of the issue of CSE or with the way it was dealt with. The report states there was: "no evidence, either through our interviews or documentary review, to suggest that senior managers or councillors sought to cover up either the existence

of child sexual exploitation in Oldham, or the complexity involved in tackling the perpetrators."

The report concluded that the council was also "consistently attempting to develop best practice" in addressing the threat of CSE.

That said, we fully accept that there were failings, and we did not do enough. We as a Council are truly sorry to those who did not receive the support and care they needed and deserved.

35. Identity of the questioner has been anonymised to protect the identity of a potential victim of CSE

Where are the rest of the failures that have not been mentioned? What comes after an apology as a apology is not good enough? What happens next - we get told we're sorry then it all goes away?

Answer:

Firstly, I'd like to apologise to you as a victim of this terrible abuse. We clearly failed in our efforts to support children and young people at that time and I'm so sorry if that includes you. You shouldn't have had to endure what we did and the council should have done better

You are right that an apology is not enough. We must and will continue to learn from experiences like yours to make sure nobody else has to suffer what you did.

I'd also urge you to seek the support from SARC and other organisations and we will send you the details of these to see how else you can be supported.

36. Question received from Anita Lowe to Councillor Chadderton, Council Leader

After many delays the report is now upon us. I do hope that after statements of apologies to the abused and phrase such as "lessons are to be learned" from those involved, cannot ever be enough for those that have suffered such abuse.

I do hope that those young girls are rightly compensated financially and given the respect they so rightly deserve, and all Council staff whom have had their names redacted are severely dealt with. Stand up and apologise to the girls or resign. This would be the most respected thing to do.

Answer:

I am deeply sorry to those young girls – now young women – who suffered so horrendously in the past. We failed them, and I know an apology now will not make up for that.

While we have already significantly changed the way we work since the time the Review relates to, we can and will improve further wherever we need to. I will do all I can to ensure no child in Oldham is let down as these young women were.

The Mayor permitted Members of the Council to ask questions of the panel.



- a. Councillor Brownridge - Could the panel comment on Maggie Oliver's statement that CSE is continuing?
- b. Councillor Wilkinson - My question is for Chief Superintendent Bowen. The question concerns Sam. I ask this question with her permission. Could you please explain when offender 'H' was arrested and implicated two other suspects namely 'F' and 'J', why neither have ever been arrested or interviewed? I appreciate this was evidence of a call accused but it was corroborated with forensic analysis at the scene. Samantha only discovered this information herself in March this year, which appears to be a clear failure by the police involved to keep this lady updated. Following on from this, I would also like to inquire why just three years on from this horrific event, with the case still unresolved and ongoing, was the evidence disposed of?
- c. Councillor Hamblett – The repercussions of this will be felt for many years and their family will also feel that their child is hurt and wounded. This review has provided a report of examples of cases where women were seriously failed by Greater Manchester Police and Oldham Council, not least the horrific experiences and lack of support given to 'Sophie' who I now believe is called 'Sam'. Could you explain what additional support beyond which is already on offer to the victims and their families is being provided to them by all, by the council and GMP to help them and their trauma if more people are later found to have been failed by GMP and Oldham Council for example, by contacting independent helpline, is there a strategy in place to support them.
- d. Councillor C Gloster – In 2015, upon first being elected to this council, I became a member of the Licensing Committee and I've served on the Licensing Committee and the Driver Licensing Panel since then. I'm mindful that this report highlights work by the Licensing Committee early in 2015 in relation to Safeguarding and my own experience of the Licensing Committee in relation to the Committee's desire to ensure that users of licensed vehicles are properly and appropriately safeguarded has never caused me to question the relevant policies and updates of these policies particularly surrounding safeguarding and ensuring only fit and proper people are allowed to drive a vehicle licensed by this council. Similarly, I've never had to question decisions to revoke licenses where a relevant driver has allegedly reached safeguarding rules or their alleged conduct has been such that it is called into question as to whether they're a fit and proper person, the evidential threshold being a balance of probabilities, however one case in particular has caused me great consternation not because of the committees actions which was to immediately revoke the license of the male driver who allegedly propositioned a vulnerable male customer to



engage in sex acts with him but the fact that upon appeal, the magistrates decided to overturn the Committee's decision and return that driver's license. It's fair to say that the magistrates court are very hit and miss in relation to Appeals and I will simply pause the question as to whether magistrates hearing these cases are appropriately trained to understand taxi licensing regulations are appropriately mindful of the lower evidential threshold follow licensing along with the safeguarding rationales being used by the Committee to make these decisions.

**Answered by GMP Chief Superintendent, Chris Bowen** – It would be very naïve of anyone to sit here and say there is no CSE. However, what we do have is much better joined up multi-agency approach to it which has been outlined in today's meeting. The information sharing is far superior to where it was, and I am confident that someone who would make an allegation at this time in Oldham would receive a significantly different level of service to anybody who would have received it back at the time of the Review. I've been asked also to comment on the investigation into 'Sam' and the offenders 'H, F and J'. Clearly, the report has identified a number of failures in the investigation that took place including some in relation to offenders 'H, F and J' that will all be reviewed as part of 'Operation Sherwood' as we review the investigations to see what evidential misses we've had and to ensure that whoever has committed these heinous crimes against the children of this borough are pursued to the full right of the law and for that you have my reassurance. You asked also around additional support. I can give you update that at the top of the daily support that is now in place through the complex safeguarding hubs that I detailed in a previous answer this evening, in the run up to this report, I have met personally with senior leaders at the Local Authority to ensure that whatever support is required is provided not only to the victims that we know about but to any new victims who may come forward as a result and I can give you categoric reassurance that we will not falter in providing the support that we need to give to those victims we're aware of and anybody else that comes forward. Obviously, it's not fair for me to comment on the intricacies of the magistrates and the taxi licensing so I'm going to leave that one to others.

**Answered by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester** - Can I take Cllr Gloster's comment about the magistrate's court and I was concerned to hear what you said Cllr Gloster, it's not acceptable if decisions of Councils are being undermined at that level without sufficient understanding of the system, so I will undertake on the back of your intervention to make contact with the Chair of the Greater Manchester bench to raise your

concerns and I will endeavour to get a good through reply to you.



**Oldham**  
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- e. **Councillor Williamson** – This is difficult. I was on the Council in 2008. I first got elected on the Council in 2008. I was attending meetings where we were discussing Children Looked-After and Safeguarding issues, so after reading and hearing what the public has said tonight and seeing the social media posts, it makes me feel sick, sick to my stomach to realise that I along with others had, we had been deceived. I became a Corporate Parent when I got elected in 2008 and still twelve years later, I'm one, but are we doing the right thing? If we can't look after other children who are not looked after, then where do we go from this? I keep thinking, did I miss something? Should I have asked more questions and pushed for an answer when I was told everything was ok. I believed officers. Everything was clearly not ok. There are whole host of issues that were not being investigated. I want to say to 'Sophie' and all the other victims and those who have said stuff tonight, please hear me when I say I promise you I didn't know about any of this. I know you were disbelieved not once or twice but many times. Being disbelieved feels like being kicked in the solar plexus. You're in a state of shock, wanting to scream that you are not lying, and nobody believes you, they don't listen to you, you're only young and making it up but you know you aren't making it up. Why are people making decisions for you when you can actually make your own? You have been let down so many times by the Council, GMP and the Police and crime Commissioner. I know saying sorry does not help you in any way, shape or form but what will help I believe is that you know it is out in the open now and if there are any other victims out there that they can come forward and explain what has happened to you and others and get it investigated? How could this happen? Why was there such a lack of joined up work when the reports were made to the Council by GMP and vice versa and it wasn't acted upon and what are both organizations going to do to reassure victims that they can come forward and that what they say will be believed and what are both organizations going to do to catch these sick perpetrators?
- f. **Councillor Hobin** – If I may just before my question Madam Mayor just ask for some clarification maybe some advice maybe some work in this better because I don't think bundling these questions together is doing us any favours. The questions are being forgotten before the answers are given out. There's people, there's people in here tonight, some of them maybe rowdy but there's people in here tonight that have spent their evening wanting answers so we need it to be as clear and concise as possible so pooling things together isn't giving these people answers which some of them maybe rowdy but there's people in here tonight that have spent their

evening wanting answers so we need it to be as clear and concise as possible so pooling things together isn't giving these people answers which is why probably that they're in the mood that they're in because all evening it's been whiffle and waffle and no real answers and now and now you're pooling you're pulling questions together and things are getting mixed up and the answers aren't being clear enough so can we go to a question and an answer please and my question on that topic my question will be one that wasn't answered before. Who was responsible for telling the review team not to interview Sam? It's a very important question we need to identify them individuals and find out what's happening to them so who are the people responsible for trying to stop Sam being interviewed by this review team.

**Answered by Gerard Jones, Managing Director, Children and Young People** – Nobody attempted to avoid Samantha being interviewed, that isn't true, can I answer the question in relation to corporate parenting if everything was okay?, Can I say that is a corporate responsibility for our looked after children and it is one of the most important things we have a responsibility for in the council and I hope nobody is told that everything is okay because children are always vulnerable to and at risk and I would hope that nobody's been told that, but we are working very hard with our corporate parenting panel to publicize the risks the children in care I I think in relation to the point about Sam I can say that there was no attempt to prevent Samantha, her case was brought forward by the council, information in relation to her case was produced by the council and the review team was supported to interview her.

- g. Cllr Rea - My questions for the leader of the council - I've heard you say on a number of occasions now that if you don't deem something good enough for your own child you don't deem it good enough for the children of this borough are you accepting of this report out in failing after failing apology after apology is that acceptable for those then children now adults doing things differently moving forward it's of no use to the victims of this report what would you want to happen as a mother as a parent is it really politics before safety, is it councillor before parents?

**Answered by Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of OMBC** - I've been leader for only eight weeks but I took that view, and I have a child and the way I view it from a political lens I think we should all view this as councillors whether you have children or not, is it acceptable for your child? Because if it's not then it's not acceptable for anybody in this borough but also if you look at another way in adult social care, would I want my parents to be treated in that way and if I don't then that's not acceptable either. Talking about this report, I'm not about to sit here



and defend the indefensible, what has gone on in that report and the failings were appalling and I accept that I was horrified when I read that report and particularly in relation to Sam but also in terms of the other victims as well. As a mother if that was my child I would want the people that committed those crimes to be brought before court and to be sent to prison. My view is that a person that commits a crime against a child is the worst person on earth. Crimes against children and violence and sexual offences against children are beyond the pale and the worst crime you can commit and what I want as a mother and for the 10 or 11 victims that are referenced in that report, I hope and I want GMP to go back and find them all and Cllr Wilkinson referenced it before about the feelings that they could have been arrested, I expect them to be brought forward and to be given a very, very lengthy prison sentence and finally have to face up to justice for the terrible inhumane things that they did that is how I view the report.

- h. Cllr Murphy - Why have many of the key players not been interviewed? of the 104 people in appendix b 52 were not interviewed, 39 not approached one died and the remainder declined to respond. There are some emissions 13 officers in GMP including the assistant chief constable and someone labelled the responsible detective. All presumably involved in at least one of these eleven cases. OMBC's legal service officers, OMBC Executive Director in charge of Helena 2 which targeted kids missing from care in the early 2000s, Keith Vaz, journalist b, the liberal democrat leader, the conservative leader, the chair of licensing panel, a manager in the local safeguarding children board, the managing director of children's services at OMBC, leader b, the managing director of children's services, executive director, advocate for Sophie, the director of children's services at OMBC. How can we have assurance if there's doubts about the full story being told?

**Answered by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester** - So I can't speak for the review team but I can only tell you what they said to me what they did as we've heard tonight is that they reviewed thousands and thousands of documents given to them by Oldham council or they requested from Oldham council and that they requested from Greater Manchester police, they were and have been under pressure to get the report out because there was a pressure from this community not to leave a long delay when everyone was saying when is the report coming out, but what I would want to say and answer to your question as tonight is making clear this is not the end of the story, by any means, this is in some ways opens out the issue I think as Councillor Williamson said before it breaks the issue out and this issue needed to be broken out this had to happen, this kind of difficult exchange had to happen and once the issue is broken

out into the open then the evidence can be followed and the right actions can be taken and from my perspective with regard to Greater Manchester police I can assure everybody here tonight that Operation Sherwood will be funded and supported to go as far and as long as it needs to go to bring perpetrators to justice as we are seeing with operation Litton and as we are seeing with operation green jacket. It's easy to say nothing is being done but people have been arrested who thought they had got away with it and I'm confident the same will happen here. It is incumbent on all authorities and individuals who have been implicated in this report to follow through every part of this report and to continue further inquiries where those are justified that is the position as we are here tonight but I would say again at some point we have to come back to a degree of working together to deal with the issues in this report we need to remember all of us that it's children at stake here what we need to do is remember all of us our responsibilities to our children we should not be conducting a debate in this fashion in this way we need now to start to deal with the issues as difficult as they are make reparation where we need to and follow things through to the full and that is what we will be doing from a great combined authority perspective working with Greater Manchester police and Oldham council.

- i. Cllr Arnott – this report was commissioned as an assurance review to assure and reassure the public. If it reassures the public then it has succeeded. I suggest that it is not this report has brought to light an astonishing catalogue of unforgivable conduct poor governance and outright incompetence at best this has allowed unspeakable crimes against children but in this borough to be continued by twisted and evil individuals and groups of men for years and as the former leader of the council Arooj Shah stated only recently are continuing in Oldham we are here now whether we like it or not because of hundreds of concerned residents as individuals small newly formed political parties and loose alliances started to speak out against what they saw as a town becoming steeped in the mire of grooming sexual abuse and the rape of young girls and a police service and council who will not or would not act on their behalf they have forced this council to examine its conduct historically and in the present and they have and that was the right thing to do in return they have been treated appallingly many have been branded racist criminals, BNP supporters and far-right activists but it is they that have forced this inquiry whether that is an uncomfortable truth it is the truth these people. these people have not campaigned for the far right they have come campaigned for the right thing the findings of this report do not assure or reassure the old and public the narrow terms of reference scope and content of the review have been criticized from all quarters including damning condemnation from the highly respected campaigner Maggie Oliver in March with

further delays announced in the report's publication I called for government intervention in a motion laid before this council. It carried the full support of all opposition parties for which they should be commended we will again call for a full and broad-ranging independent public inquiry alongside or independent of any national initiatives that the government may introduce or conduct. My question therefore is to the entire panel or any of the panel maybe Burnham's previous answer aside I said that does any member of the panel feel that the old and public would not be well or better served by an independent public inquiry that addresses their concerns to their satisfaction.

**Answered by Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of OMBC** - I've stated previously before, and I wouldn't support another review of Oldham council in relation to historic practices of CSE we've had two and a half years of an independent review looking into historic practice of CSE and you reference what Maggie Oliver said there but actually Maggie Oliver was praising of the two independent assessors, those two people are employed by the home office on a regular basis. They are seen by the current conservative government as the system leaders in terms of looking at CSE in councils that have not dealt with it previously as they did in Rochdale and they did involve them and as they've done in other places it is now for us and as a reference before, the home office and the home secretary fully aware this report and they've been fully briefed on it, if the government wants to take action that is entirely up to the government but I will not be asking for them to take any further action or any further reviews in relation to Oldham council I think for us now we have to learn some of the things from that report and but also most importantly it needs to be passed on to GMP for operation Sherwood to ensure we get justice for those 10 victims referenced in the report.

- j. Cllr Barnes - I'm going to address the bench I have never seen such an unprofessional attitude from a senior officer of the council who has sat here most of the evening with a smug grin on his face, not acceptable Mr Jones not acceptable at all. You answer to us it is not the other way around it's not acceptable at all. The assurance review into child sex exploitation has finally been published. It is a damning indictment of the failures of both Oldham council and greater Manchester police. This review should not be the end of the matter it should be the beginning. It simply is not good enough for apologies and mayor corpus from the council leader and the chief constable and for scripted answers from the panel here tonight greater Manchester police failed Sophie on numerous occasions they failed to act and a victim was let down what action did they take against the officers who failed her and if no action was taken what will greater Manchester police do now to ensure those officers who

failed her are held to account, is it any wonder that greater Manchester police had in special measures they've announced the of the launch of operation Sherwood recently but this only looks at a handful of cases can greater Manchester police given assurance today that they will follow the evidence and open up new cases including any criminal activities by those in public office. Madam Mayor, this assurance reviews terms of reference were far too narrow and written by Oldham council. How can this be independent in any way/ how can this be seen as sound and robust? This assurance review is nothing but a cover up it's a whitewash it is not designed to shine sunlight on the failures of Oldham council and greater Manchester police rather it has been spun as a lesson learned review and now Oldham council expect all 60 elected members to tow their line and agree with it. Madam Mayor, I've never been a yes man and I will not dance to the tune of the officers of this council and agree with the outcomes of this review what we all want to see in the public gallery tonight and those of us on this side is justice for the victims of CSE and the grooming gangs now is the time for sunlight to be the best disinfectant now is the time for a public inquiry when this council does not set the terms of reference and that any time frame for such an inquiry is widened nothing should be left out and if that means it uncovers hundreds of thousands of cases of historic CSE then so be it after all it was admitted by the former council leader on March the 16th this year that grooming gangs are still operating in Oldham today and then she instructed her labour councillors the majority of whom are in this room tonight to vote down a motion to bring in the government. We are all corporate parents and now is the time for all of us to stand up and be counted and say that the assurance of you does not go far enough and given that Shabbir Ahmad worked for Oldham Council and this was suppressed by this council including many sat behind beside her will she now demand the resignation of daddy's mates and support calls for public inquiry into her disgraced council.

**Answered by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester** - I will answer as far as I can to what you say. I commissioned or I agreed to commission this report when I was asked to do so to open up this debate this issue and I would say to you, I listened carefully to what you said you called the report both a damning indictment and a cover-up respectfully I don't think it can be both its either one or the other it's either a damning indictment because it has told things as they are or it hasn't I think it has told things that they are but there is more and let me say to you if any victim of child sexual exploitation current or historic comes forward to great Manchester police I will ask the chief constable to ensure that every allegation is followed up to the full and that's why I say to you in the same way I said to Councillor

Murphy this isn't the end of the story this issue now is out in the open and actually it's not another review and another review. I think it's action, it's prosecution. I think the public of Oldham will want to see and that is what we are committing to myself the chief Constable and Greater Manchester police with Operation Sherwood. People are already trying to undermine operation Sherwood in this room tonight well why when Operation green jacket has produced arrests when Operation Litton has produced charges in a criminal trial how can it be in the interest of the people of Oldham for people to undermine operation Sherwood which will now act on this report?

**Answered by Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of OMBC** - thank you, just a couple of things I'm not going to agree to an independent review, that's already been covered so I won't go back on that, I was not involved in those terms of reference then I obviously wasn't leader when it came about as I understand it was the council that brought the review was established, it came to the attention of the reviewers that Shabbir Ahmed worked here, we didn't try to cover it up as I understand it that was one of the reasons it was expanded from 2011 and 14 to longer I was two years old and when he left working here it was six years before I came onto the council. I've never met the man I never knew the man I was not active in labour party politics at the time he was a member I do not know him as I said previously. I struggle to see how can I can be held to account for that when I had no involvement whatsoever in that and that predates my time certainly as leader and it certainly predates my time on the council.

- k. Councillor Quigg - I would have followed that he's probably won't but I think how not to read a room is probably best described here tonight. You've heard the public gallery, imagine what it's like out there in the living rooms and bedrooms and you know everyone out there is angry and tonight has just been like an east German politburo meeting where you're all just standing there read from a script sit down and that's it. It doesn't answer the questions that people have and we're only here tonight because of the victims the parents the grandparents and probably the town itself who had to drag this council here kicking screaming through one leader two leaders and now this one doesn't it doesn't just happen overnight, it just doesn't happen within a week, a fortnight, a month or a year. This abuse has been going on for years and we've seen tonight survivors sat in the gallery a survivor who came up to the mic coming from 1981, 1981 and these people aren't lying these people aren't making it up these people aren't saying barefaced lies because that was what was said to the former deputy leader of the council when she stood up and asked the question it was barefaced lies and we're here now to talk about what is essentially a massive scandal of girls as



young as 12 and perhaps even younger being raped sexually abused and then some more on top for too long justice has been denied and I would say to the victims if they can to do go and get reinterviewed by the police. I know they've got no confidence in them after everything that's happened but do go and for the cps to review the cases that they had to review those cases and see what prosecutions they can bring because there must be a mountain of evidence and there must be enough reports that either the GMP or others compiled put together and perhaps weren't worth prosecuting. we've heard that one before, haven't we? We have heard that one before? But sadly, tonight Oldham joins an infamous list of towns from Rotherham to Rochdale to Telford. It's all because the council the police failed to take those reporting this horrific crime seriously failed to share vital information between agencies and departments and failed to support the victim's full stop. so, where we get this report tonight is why we are here and Gerard you say that people committing the abuse of the real criminals, yes, they are absolutely but so too are those who failed in the duty of care to look after those victims and what are we going to do about? Bringing not only misconduct but criminal prosecutions against these people if I did in financial services a financial crime, I'd be old before the courts and lose my job in fact Mr Jones you'd probably be the one to hold me off because that's how seriously you take money, how are we not doing it with children and young victims of this town. Why did the council fail to inform schools and thus parents of the risks posed by shisha bars in the meeting on the 24th of October 2013? Why was more weight put on community cohesion rather than informing the public of matters of public safety? Not only that if the council police can publish a full data set of the ethnicity and age of those found to be abusing CSE victims because thus far with the failure of IOPS and when you try to ask Greater Manchester police about crime numbers we always get the same we don't know. We aren't got a number we can't do this. So, I think it's important that we that we know where we are now Before we start looking in the past because I think that is where a lot of the problems have been raised a lot of the questions that have been posed by the public tonight have stemmed from the lack of accessible public information can I also ask whether this is the pattern whoever it may be to confirm how many victims fell through the net of the council the police and any other organization who was subsequently trafficked raped and exposed the grooming in Oldham over a period covered by the review and if necessary I think Mr Bowen given that you're obviously here tonight how many reports of CSE were missed by the disaster of the IOP system given that we don't know how many well we know 80 000 crimes were missed how many of them were victims who may have reported it or reports that there could have been suspicious activity because at the end of the day if

we're about to talk about lessons being learned and as we heard about the licensing committee only recently I think it's about time we knew where we stood on this matter and how much data and how much information has been gathered and finally to people like Sam I'm newly elected and to the victims who've spoken here tonight you've probably never had an apology or if you have it's always been in writing we're sorry we can't we should have done this we should have done this better. Sam take him to the cleaners, because that's the only way you're going to get justice, taken through the civil courts taking through the civil remedies and if necessary, go all the way to parliament because we've had plenty of debates in parliament and we've got another one and it was posed by the member for Ashfield at the last debate on another meeting on other cases of CSE and he posed the question how many people in public office behind the scenes and the councils and the police have been brought to justice, that's the answer no. So, when will we get that justice for these victims?

**Answered by Gerard Jones, Managing Director, Children and Young People** - Can I say that the information has been routinely shared with schools in 2013, I couldn't actually give assurance about the details of all of the programs that were in place at that time but perhaps I can write to the to the member afterwards to set out the details of that.

**Answered by GMP Chief Superintendent, Chris Bowen** - There was a number of points within the question and I couldn't send you and give you an honest answer on whether there was an implication of the IOPS computer system we all know there were issues with it. However, I would be making anything up if I said it what I can do is say we can have a review and have a look and see whether we can find that information and get back to you at a later date. However what I can reassure you in the main point of the question is that we will follow all lines of inquiry to whatever they lead us to and if that leads us to perpetrators we will implement the full use of the law operation Sherwood is up and running I agree with you I hope people will come forward and speak to us and give us the opportunity to put right what was wrong in the past and in order to do that we do need people to speak to us so I would implore people to come forward tell us what's happened, give us everything we need in order to get successful prosecutions to deliver lengthy prison sentences for those who deserve them.

- I. Councillor Birch - In the interest of time, I'll ask my question directly to the director of children's services. What has changed since 2014 to improve the quality of casework and what is being done to ensure that there are appropriate levels of suitably qualified social workers to



ensure that vulnerable children in the borough are protected?



**Oldham**  
Council

**Answered by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater**

**Manchester** - can I just take on the suggestion that this was my review team and that I was in putting any undue pressure inappropriate pressure on the review team I did not have any contact with the chair of the review with respect to anybody who should or should not be interviewed the review team were entirely independent of me and I refuse any suggestion to the contrary.

- m. Cllr Taylor - Nobody not one person who has read this report can feel anything but dismay and distress at some of the failures and personal accounts that are highlighted in it but it is so important that we all speak, all of us all speak honestly about the findings of this review there has been a lot of pre-judgment and online speculation from some people in this chamber about the findings but now that the review has been published I would urge everybody to read it fully in its entirety. The review clearly highlights this systemic problems that contributed and caused a series of failings at that time and we shouldn't try and hide from that because it's important that we highlight where things didn't work so we can fully understand what went wrong and why and make sure that it doesn't happen again, but it's right to say this we asked for this review because it was the right thing to do and the time period that the review covers from 2011 to 2014 is the point that we as a labour administration came back into office. We requested the review; we did not seek to cover the period where the joint opposition were in power prior to this in order to try and share or absolve any responsibility, as has already been said there will be an adjunct an adjournment debate in parliament on Thursday, if the home office has any concerns or wants to undertake a further review the conservative government, they not only have the power to do so but they are morally obligated to do so, as they did in Rotherham so let us see if the government believes as Councillor Arnott said that a full broad-range independent inquirer is necessitated. Safeguarding failures are not about scoring political points or trying to cover up for anybody, it's about solving problems by creating the environment to make changes that support our children as well as our social workers to be able to do their job properly. I know this report will make difficult reading for many people not least those who have suffered personally so I just want to take this opportunity to reiterate again if anybody listening tonight wants to speak to a trained professional or report an incident that's happened in the past please do get in touch by calling our dedicated helpline all the details of which can be found on the website. I think and I hope beyond in this chamber is that we all want the victims who are experienced CSE to be able to come forward and language is very, very

important in that process therefore what I want to end by and ask the question is that to make sure that these details are shared widely and if possible including in this transmission so that those people who have been victims have the confidence to come forward it is incumbent upon us all to make sure that people who have been failed have the opportunity to come forward and we should be supportive of that.

**A 15 minute extension was moved and seconded**

- n. Cllr George Hulme - Some contributions from anonymized victims and I know that the police have said that they're going to and we saw the incredibly brave woman who put herself spoke earlier showed so much strength to do that I would like to get a guarantee that actually the victims are not just encouraged to contact the police but actually the people who've written the questions tonight are actually reached out to make sure that they get the justice that they deserve.

**Answered by GMP Chief Superintendent, Chris**

**Bowen** - Yes I can't confirm that the ten cases referred to in the report we have been in contact with all of those women directly prior to the publication of the report we've provided ongoing support to them and we'll be helping them through the process to ensure that we get any evidence anybody else who's identified to us and we've got contact details we will make a proactive approach to you have my reassurance.

**Answered by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater**

**Manchester** - There are allegations being made that I don't want to just leave I don't want people to be able to shout out things, should ask themselves are victims more likely to come forward or not because of the way this has been conducted tonight we should give victims confidence to come forward and that's about conducting this in a respectful way.

- o. Cllr Moores - this report is of great interest to me because I do all the portfolio for children and young people on this council, I'm very proud to do that but it's been said, and I think Andy's partly answered it earlier um we have a part to play, and we need to build up public confidence in the system. Children young people and families and the general public need to know that when they raise a concern they will be listened to and where appropriate action will be taken. How can we build up this confidence? Can you give us some ideas please?

**Answered by Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of**

**OMBC** - Do you want me to answer it as far from a political perspective I mean as councillors we're here aren't we to set the direction of the tone of the

organisation and now I think that children and young people should be the golden thread that runs through this organisation we are one of the youngest towns in the north of England and it's our job to build a town that our young people are proud of and that is fit for them for the future but it's more than that as well it's about giving a good education about dealing with our early years as well but you only get confidence from your residents when people start to see that so when they see their kids going to a good nursery a good early year centre or getting a good education or being able to have a house that they can buy and that competency builds into confidence of our residents and that's all 60 of our jobs to be able to do that and that'd be my answer.

- p. Cllr Al-Hamdani - we've originally we had the report into operation Augusta which was done by the same people and it was very well respected and very well done in the report that was provided here Newsom and Ridgeway specified that they did not receive the same access to information from the police that they received with regards to operational Augusta so what I would like to ask is what justification was given by the police for not providing that information and as police and crime commissioner can I ask you so why the organization that comes under your remit did not provide that information to the investigation being carried out under your offices and given that the review has found serious failures why subsequently has that not changed why has GMP not provided information after the review on the rest of the cases that's missing and it specifies in the report that it cannot give assurance as to GMP without that information it's really important that the police are investigating and thank you to uh chief superintendent Bowen for talking about the investigations that's going to happen and the prosecutions that are going to happen, but we also need that trust into what happened and GMP did not provide that information why is that not there there's been no answer?

**Answered by Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester** - Let me take your question head on, I had concerns about how great Manchester police under the previous leadership engaged with the child sexual exploitation review and it was one of the reasons why I replaced the chief constable with the current chief constable and I believe since that change there has been a culture change within Greater Manchester police and from day one I asked to ensure that there was full engagement with this review for the purposes I set it up which was to give people answers to open this issue up as it has done tonight and I say again if any child in Oldham young person is watching this tonight are they more likely to come forward or not following the conduct of this meeting tonight it is incumbent on everybody here to give people confidence to come forward and that is

about conducting these matters in the right respectful way that we should do.



**Oldham**  
Council

- q. Councillor Kenyon - This report was meant to give us all the assurance that both GMP and Oldham council have been doing their job. In the case of GMP where the authors know a less than candid approach leading them to conclude that this negatively affects the assurance that they are able to give Andy Burnham who both commissioned the report on one hand and then on the other hand presided over the police non-cooperation does have answers to answer there are 11 kids involved in this report you have been reading a different report to me because the data's processing agreement only extended to Shabbir Ahmed and also to Sofie in the case of the council we also saw much negligence many failures of process and many instances where these failures were either not detected or not followed up. This ultimately led to the horrendous abuse that we have all read about the council asked us to accept on trust that this was in the past and that things have changed, I'm here to tell you today and I'm sure you realize this this is not acceptable to many of us sat here and many of the residencies of residents of Oldham and I imagine many of the survivors we need to know exactly what has happened here and I hope that the survivors legal representatives will push for a full judicial inquiry but in the meantime trust is earned through verification will council commit to finding out if any of those who are responsible for these failings and also those responsible for implementing the system that didn't detect these failings that they are held to account if any of these people still work for the council whether they will be disciplined retrained or fired. In addition, in addition we need to see that things have changed, and we need some sort of scrutiny body to oversee this in detail.

**Answered by Cllr Amanda Chadderton, Leader of OMBC** - No there's nothing in the report that points to misconduct but we will look at that and if there is misconduct over against any staff then we will take action. We'll obviously work with GMP as I've stated as well in terms of taking action against any individuals, that's a criminal matter when you talk about the procedures that were put in place, when you read that report if you've read all of it it talks about structural flaw within the messenger service doesn't it? And Malcolm Newson points out very clearly that one of the reasons there was an issue about sharing of data about escalation of data was because of the structural flaw in messenger, now that has been resolved and we've now worked to a complex safeguarding hub which was set up a couple of years ago so for the first time ever as social workers and as health professionals they now sit with GMP in Oldham police station and that as you read throughout the report when they talked about the structural deficits and

deficiencies in messenger that was because they weren't all under the same roof, so messenger worked to a certain extent but the problem with messenger was there wasn't enough social workers within that team so the escalation never moved around and the sharing of information never moved so we have now worked what we call a complex safeguarding hub and that solves the issue regardless of the structural issue and I do agree though Councillor Kenyon and I can't sit here today and no council leader in the country can and say our social work practice is perfect because it's not but social work practice will never ever be perfect, you are on a continuous journey of improvement to try and get better and we have to test ourselves we test ourselves continuously against things like Ofsted and we've had two visits over the past 18 months we have peer reviews every month we do another four week offset inspection over 12 months and these are things that we are continuously tested on in social care and we're not here to hide and the doors aren't closed people come in and look at our practice continuously but you are right you know it's a never-ending never ending cycle of improvement and we have to do more to assure ourselves that we are the best we can be today but knowing that we you know next week I need to be better than I am today.

**Answered by Gerard Jones, Managing Director, Children and Young People** - I'd like to thank everybody for their questions tonight it's so important we take time to answer these and those that haven't been answered has been a lot of questions I know not everybody's had the detail and I commit as Harry Catherall, Chief Executive has done that we will respond to all the unanswered questions and we will you know provide all the information that people have asked for and we're committed to being open about the safety of our children if there's one thing I think we've agreed in this chamber in the difficult conversation we've had tonight is we put our children first in Oldham and I want to commit to you that we will do everything that we possibly can to identify victims and to bring the offenders of the crimes against them to justice this isn't the end of our response to the independent review it's the beginning and as I said earlier tackle tackling sexual exploitation is a journey that we commit to every day we're out in Oldham visiting children to protect them and keep them safe and we will continue to work tirelessly to do so thank you for your support.

**Answered by GMP Chief Superintendent, Chris Bowen** - I'd just like to finish tonight by paying tribute to those who for years have lived with the horrors and hurts of the ongoing trauma that's happened and to give you my personal reassurance at my job is to ensure that operation Sherwood delivers on its aim to provide justice for those who should have had justice all those years ago

to provide support and ongoing support to anybody who brings further allegations to us and to make sure that however long ago the offense took place that we ensure that justice is served for the young people of Oldham.



Mayor - thank you all for your attention. That concludes the business of this meeting.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.45pm

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**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, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, C. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harrison, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, F Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Marland, McLaren, Moores, Munroe, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, C. Phythian, Quigg, Rea, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine

1           **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H. Gloster, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, McManus, K. Phythian, Salamat, Sharp and Sykes.

2           **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 25TH MAY 2022 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

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

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Garry declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of her husband's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Williamson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of her partner's employment with Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Murphy declared a non-registerable interest at Item 10 (Motion 2) by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Although the Members declared the interests above, following advice given by the Director of Legal Services their interests were not non-registerable interests or pecuniary and therefore did not need to be 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 make a statement which updated the Council's reply to the publication of the Child Sexual Exploitation Assurance Review, undertaken on behalf of the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

The Council's reply was based on to be based on four key points. Firstly, to seek justice for victims. Secondly to give full support to victims and survivors. Thirdly to seek to restore trust and confidence in the Borough's social care services. Fourthly to use the review to highlight the issue of child abuse; through education – enabling people (parents, relatives, carers etc) to spot the signs of abuse.

The Council will also work with Greater Manchester Police offering support wherever possible with Operation Sherwood an inquiry into historic cases of child sexual exploitation in the Borough.

6

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

Council received a report of the Head of Democratic Services which asked Members to note three petitions that had been received by the Council in accordance with the Petitions Protocol. The Petitions related to:

- i. Reference 2022-01: Petition requesting Saddleworth Health Centre received 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with 264 signatures.
- ii. Reference 2022-02: Petition requesting Queen Jubilee Party Stoneleigh Park received 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 with 56 signatures.
- iii. Reference 2022-03: Petition requesting Reduce Speed Limits Along Denshaw and Delph Road received 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 with 514 signatures.

## **RESOLVED**

That the report be noted.

7

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

8

## **QUESTIONS TIME**

9

## **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question submitted by Megan Birchall  
With Oldham Pride being held next weekend, Could the relevant cabinet member update the council on what steps Oldham Council is taking to support LGBT+ people in the borough?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure replied ...'thank you so much for this question. Oldham Council is proud to be supporting Oldham Pride this year and we're looking forward to celebrating with our LGBT plus community next weekend.

The Council is helping to financially support this year's event as well as supporting the event management too.

We want to make sure it is a huge success, Oldham's labour councillors will be there to take part in the celebrations and we'd urge as many Oldhamers as possible to get out and support the event.

In addition to this we work closely with LGBT plus groups across the borough in our work to tackle hate crime and improve hate crime reporting. We also work across schools, colleges and our partners to promote tolerance and celebrate our borough's amazing diversity.

Through our equality advisory group we seek the views of the community on policies and current issues to make sure we're making decisions that fit the needs of everyone in the borough.

We are always keen to do more if we can. If there are any suggestions you have for how we can be more supportive, more inclusive please do let us know.'

## 2. Question submitted by Chris Charters

With Oldham Athletic relegated out of the football league last season, we have seen the consequences of football's failure to regulate club ownership. Will the council work with Oldham Athletic fans to explore options to help save the club and ensure its legacy as a founding member of the Premier League is preserved for future generations?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'the Council have remained consistent in its approach to ensuring the future success of Oldham Athletic Football Club for the benefit of the residents and fans across the borough.

We are delighted to hear the news of a new ownership for Oldham Athletic Football Club - this is really good news for the club, its supporters, and the whole borough after the despair and heartache of recent years.

We're looking forward to working with the new owner and understanding more about their plans to take the club forward.

The club continue to have our full support and we wish them well for the coming season, while we keenly await confirmation about new arrangements to allow the Council and the various fan groups to support and enhance the future of the club

We all want to see Latics back in the football league - it'll give the whole town a boost'

## 3. Question submitted by Lynne Kelly

It is now 1 year since the ex-leader of Oldham Council (Arooj Shah) had her car firebombed. There is clear CCTV footage of the attack that has been shared across the world as have the news stories portraying Oldhamers as racists. Even our own Council has contributed to this allegation via its social media pages.

If someone in a position as high as the ex-leader of Oldham Council can be attacked in this way and with the police failing to prosecute anyone, especially with the CCTV footage as proof. Then doesn't it send out a clear signal that it is open season for other criminals to do the same to any of our residents. Hence perhaps why there has recently been a huge rise in arson attacks throughout our borough. More of GMP's failures to stop this.

Will the new leader of Oldham Council now write to Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen - Oldham District Commander demanding he issues an update on their progress in investigating the firebombing of Arooj Shah's car? It is not right that we, the townsfolk, are portrayed as racists when the CCTV footage clearly shows quite different?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'thanks for your question, I'm unaware of any news stories relating to that horrendous attack on a councillor's car that portrayed Oldhamers as racist. What the reports may have referenced is the undeniable scale of racist abuse suffered by the former leader – both online and in 'real life'.

It is not for me to determine whether this was related to that offence – it is for GMP to thoroughly investigate the arson attack and bring those responsible to justice.

If anyone has information that may help secure that justice it is imperative that they share it with the police as soon as possible. I'm sure your analysis of the CCTV footage will be of significant use to their investigation and will hopefully lead to a quicker outcome to the case.

Might I suggest you ask Greater Manchester Police for an update yourself as clearly this is of significant interest to you.'

#### 4. Question submitted by Lynn Kovacs

As an Oldhamer I am super proud that a member of the LGBT+ community is now our council leader. It should send a clear message out to those elsewhere who think that we are all prejudiced in Oldham.

We are definitely not!

We believe in equality for all.

Therefore, will the leader of Oldham Council please clarify whether a woman can have a penis?

Also will her Council protect the rights of women to access exclusive safe spaces including toilets and changing rooms for those that were born female rather than have to share these spaces with individuals that have self-identified as women?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'it's an interesting question. Put simply no, I don't believe that biological women can have a penis. I believe there is a clear difference between sex and gender and that we shouldn't mix up the two. Women should be protected, as per the Equality Act, on the basis of their sex.

Transwomen should also be protected on the basis of their gender identity which society should both support and respect.

There is absolutely a way to debate and negotiate the rights of cis-women and trans women in a respectful and tolerant way but that tone has been sadly lacking in the debate around these issue recently.

I need to be clear that I don't believe the people of Oldham are prejudiced – I believe them to be fair minded and reasonable. However, I worry that you have asked this question to sow division in the LGBT community as you have sought to do among other communities in the past.

In fact, just a few weeks ago at the local elections you were witnessed delivering racist and misogynistic election material that sought to convince people of the author's overarching conspiracy theory that this town was in the grip of a shadowy 'Asian cartel'.

I note that as you now have an LGBT Leader of the council the tone of your questions has moved away from divisions based on race to one of divisions based on identity.

I hope that this is merely a coincidence and not the start of a pattern of behaviour aimed at dividing people in this town.'

5. Question has been submitted by Gary Tarbuck

In the lead up to the election, the businessman Frank Rothwell distributed a leaflet in Chadderton South promoting Arooj Shah. Whilst many may consider this unbecoming behaviour of someone who has become Freeman of the Borough, will the Council please confirm how much it has paid Mr Rothwell's various businesses in contracts and what the Council's current business interests are with him?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that...the Council has no contracts with Mr Rothwell's businesses, and there has only been one payment to Manchester Cabins for £678.00 for a 20 ft Storage Container in the last year.

The only current business with Mr Rothwell personally since retirement, 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.

6. Question submitted by Denise Leach

A worrying petition online suggest that Oldham Council is involved in Operation Hexagon and that this is a joint Council and GMP operation that is targeting whistleblowers who have exposed the now proven cover up of the grooming and gang rape of our town's children.

Will the new leader of Oldham Council please confirm if OMBC is involved Operation Hexagon? And if so, as an open and transparent council, is the Leader prepared to order the release of all the paperwork involving Operation Hexagon?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'that Operation Hexagon was a Greater Manchester Police initiative examining the community impact of historic Child Sexual Exploitation being made online. Oldham Council supports this initiative by Greater



Manchester Police. Any request for the sight of paperwork connected with Operation Hexagon would have to be made to Greater Manchester Police.'



7. Question submitted by Julie Heywood

Previous to becoming leader of Oldham Council, Amanda Chadderton held the portfolio for schools whilst Jim McMahon was Leader of Oldham Council. Will she now confirm that during her role in charge of schools, that White Working-Class girls were safe and there was no grooming at the school gates?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied that...'Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership are not aware of any safeguarding issues relating to girls being groomed at the school gates during the period specified. The Partnership has a dedicated Training Officer for Children & Young people who visits schools to deliver healthy relationship work, online sexual harassment and consent. This takes place at primary, secondary and further Education Establishments and also links vulnerability to harmful sexualised behaviours, Child Sexual Exploitation, Child Criminal Exploitation and grooming. This officer also delivers awareness raising sessions to staff sexual abuse and sexual harassment in schools. Further details of these activities are available on request'.

8. Question submitted by Warren Bates

At the last full Council meeting, the Labour Leader, Cllr Amanda Chadderton, nominated Dr Chauhan to be deputy mayor in 2022/23. The council went through the normal sham of voting him in. I choose the word sham speaking as an ex-councillor, the reason being, that the Doctors had already announced his appointment as deputy mayor, at a meeting held in Mirpur Pakistan the week previous.

Will the Leader remind fellow labour Cllrs that policy decisions about our town should not be mentioned anywhere, especially in another country, until our full council has debated them before a democratic decision is agreed?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'that nominations for Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the Borough for 2022/23 were undertaken in line with the agreed procedures for making such appointments and these were consequently formally approved at the Annual Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.'

9. Question submitted by Philida Shipp

With energy costs at an all-time high, how is Oldham Council leading the way on green energy that is affordable, and what support is the government giving to the council to expand this?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that...the Council knows that the cost of energy is a key concern for Oldham residents and businesses, especially at this time. The award-

winning Warm Homes Oldham programme to insulate the homes of low-income families is continuing.

Additionally, the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy was adopted in March 2020, which sets out the Council's ambition to create a Local Energy Market for Oldham to supply locally generated green energy to residents and businesses at affordable prices. An update on Oldham's Green New Deal was presented to the Council's Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2022, which included the completion of a Local Area Energy Plan for Oldham borough. This work is complex but includes market engagement with providers interested in joining a Delivery Partnership to build large-scale renewable energy generation across the borough.

The Council is supported in this work by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority's Local Energy Market project, and the Government has indicated that it may be prepared to look at reforming the national energy market to allow 'locational pricing' which would support the Council's work. The energy market regulator Ofgem includes 'locational pricing' in its forward work programme.

Finally, the Council is looking to develop a number of energy infrastructure projects including the proposed Minewater District Heat Network for Oldham Town Centre, which if successful could supply town centre businesses and residents with affordable green energy for years to come.

10. Question submitted by Jeffery Smith

The dual carriageway leading from Manchester roundabout to Westwood/Featherstall Road North roundabout, on both sides of the dual carriageway is a mess, why can't it all be cleaned up? I'd do it myself but I'm not allowed and I've been asking councillors for years. Thanks.

Councillor Stretton Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied... 'thank you for your question, Oldham Way is mechanically swept on a weekly basis, through the summer months all verges are litter picked and cleaned monthly as part of the grass cutting and bed maintenance programme. The most recent cut and clean was on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> July. If there is a section you think is being missed, please advise further and the teams will ensure this is picked up.'

11. Question submitted by Amanda Cawdron

Cllr Chadderton in her new position as Leader of the Council agreed that there had been previous failings and that it is now time to get things right. The CSE report found Oldham Council had been 'more concerned about covering up their failures' than acknowledging they failed to take action.

Is Cllr Chadderton prepared to take action to remove the council of those officers and councillors that we're responsible for these failures and cover ups?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ... 'the report was clear that there had been no 'cover up' of the issue of child sexual exploitation in Oldham or the complexities in tackling it.



It provides evidence of work carried out to communicate the risk of CSE to school children and their parents and cites this as good practice for the time.

However, as Ms Cawdron identifies it does rightly highlight poor responses that the council sent to an adult victim of abuse where we clearly were not open and transparent in our past failings. In that case we did not readily accept our past failings and potentially caused further distress to someone who we had also failed as a child. I'm clear this cannot happen again. I have asked for a thorough review of this victim's contact with the council as an adult so we can understand how that happened and make sure it doesn't happen again. That review will also look at staff conduct and whether disciplinary action is appropriate.'

12. Question submitted by Lord Christopher Badderly

I would like to know the name of the person who supplied Shabir Ahmed, convicted of CSE in Rochdale, with a character reference. I have been informed that the person responsible is a current Labour Councillor. Is this correct?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'that there is no record of anyone from Oldham Council providing Shabir Ahmed with a reference'.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon also addressed the Council on this point and rebutted allegations, which had been made online and elsewhere, that he personally had provided Shabir Ahmed with a reference.

13. Question submitted by Karl Bardsley

In a statement from Andy Burnham on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July he states "Operation Sherwood will investigate the historic cases identified by the review team to bring any perpetrators to justice." My question is what is being done about the victims that were not in the review, like the lady that was subjected to abuse in 1981?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing replied ...'thank you for this question. I can confirm that Operation Sherwood will investigate all historic cases of CSE from any time-period. It will start with those in the review but will also pick up any others that are brought forward to the team. We will work with GMP to promote Operation Sherwood and encourage historic victims to come forward. We will also make sure they are given the support they need as they bravely seek justice for their past abuse.'

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**QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET**

**Councillor C. Gloster, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group:**

Question 1: Greater Manchester Police

The current staffing structure of Greater Manchester Police is having a detrimental impact on the provision of community policing in the Borough of Oldham. Traditionally each of Oldham's 20 Wards have had a dedicated community police officer but this is no longer the case despite assurances to the contrary provided by both Greater Manchester Police's Chief Constable and by the Mayor of Greater Manchester. Will the Leader therefore raise the issue of the police's staffing resources with Greater Manchester Police?

Councillor Chadderton undertook to raise these staffing issues, reported by Councillor C. Gloster, during her regular meetings with Chief Superintendent Bowen.

**Question 2: Anti-Social Behaviour on the Metrolink Network**  
Safety on trams is becoming an increasing concern for commuters across Greater Manchester but especially so for those passengers that used Metrolink services on the section of track between Oldham and Rochdale, which continues to see frequent occurrences of anti-social behaviour – more so than any other part of the network. It was welcome that announcements were recently made regarding the installation of new security cameras but what most be most helpful would be to see conductors on the tram network providing a visual deterrent to would-be miscreants and reassurance to most of the paying public?

Councillor Chadderton replied that she shared the concerns expressed regarding violence and anti-social behaviour of the Metrolink network. This should be continually monitored but that if current initiatives failed to solve the problems, then the deployment of Conductors on the Network should be examined.

**Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:**

**Question1 – Manchester Airport**

Passenger travelling to and from Manchester Airport have in recent weeks and months had to endure extremely lengthy delays to their journeys and disruption to their travel arrangements due to staffing shortages. Please could the Leader of the Council take up these issues with the Chief Executive of Manchester Airport Group and also raise the issue of the dividends from the Airport Shareholdings that are owed to the Council?

Councillor Chadderton replied that she shared Councillor Sheldon's concerns regarding the recent scenes of delays and disruption witnessed at Manchester Airport. In this regard she undertook to write to the Chief Executive of Manchester Airport Group to request that the issues relating to the delays at the airport and the matters ascertaining to the dividends are addressed.

**Question 2 – Extreme Weather Conditions**

Councillor Sheldon referred to the weather forecast which was forecasting temperatures to be more than 35 degrees centigrade

in the Borough in the days ahead. In this regard Councillor Sheldon expressed his concerns for public safety and for the safety of wildlife arising from outdoor activities such as swimming in open water and having barbeques on moorlands for instance?

Councillor Chadderton replied expressing her concern at these activities and the attendant possibility of death and serious injury that are associated with them. In this regard she would instruct the Council's Communications Team to issue press and news releases highlighting the dangers that can arise as a result of undertaking certain outdoor activities in very hot weather.

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

"Recently there had been reports that seven underperforming schools had been identified as needing intervention in Oldham. I'd like to know why the situation has reached this stage and what actions the council hasn't been undertaking, as this, to me, looks like the council is failing the children of this borough yet again. The government say that they are investing in this area, I'd like to know what the council is doing to ensure other schools aren't going to fall into special measures? In the same week that that report came out, a head teacher was complaining that for almost a decade he had been asking the council to attend to leaking buildings and flooding issues. Children shouldn't have to work in that kind of environment. The head teacher said that the council had been dodging the matter and dodging accountability so when will somebody from this administration take responsibility and help this headmaster to provide good school for these children or I'm going to have to have a word with the headmaster and that in the school holidays perhaps say that the classrooms are empty retail spaces and put a sign outside saying it's 'Spindles two' and only then will the council spend some money?"

Councillor Chadderton replied that in terms of the seven underperforming schools, she didn't know which schools they were. The Leader had read that same report and had asked for the council's education service to prepare her a report thereon. Presently it was unclear as to whether they were local authority schools or academy schools?

Question received from Councillor McLaren  
Councillors throughout the borough are receiving complaints about residential properties that have been left empty for extended periods. These properties are privately owned, they become a blight on the neighbourhood and they can take up a large amount of Elected Member and Officer time which could be put to better use. Could the relevant Cabinet Member, please tell us what powers the Council have to bring such properties back into use?

Councillor Chadderton replied that the Council had limited powers with regards to tackling privately owned long-term empty properties within borough. For the Council's enforcement teams

to take action properties have to be causing a direct nuisance to prescribed members of the public. The most common type of enforcement is serving a statutory notice for action regarding open access, defective guttering/damp to neighbouring properties and pest waste issues. In most cases this results in the owner taking steps to make the property safe, but it rarely resolves the long-term vacant issue and put an end to reoccurring complaints.

Other Powers available to Local Authorities, each with its own barriers and challenges and used as last resort included:

- Enforces Sale Procedure – the Council is in the final stages of successfully completing its first ESP with a view to doing more in the coming months.
- Compulsory Purchase Order – Was the main tool used in Housing Market Renewal over a decade ago, mostly used to regenerate streets and rows of housing
- Empty Dwelling Management Orders – not currently used in Oldham but Officers are reviewing the process to determine how it can be effectively used in Oldham

The Council is also working with Homes England within scope of its Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026 to launch a refreshed empty homes scheme using the learning from the Empty Homes Pilot that took place in 2019-21. We will be looking to launch the new Empty Homes Scheme late autumn.

Question received from Councillor Birch:

Children and young people are the future of our borough, but over many years we have seen youth services cut and facilities close. Young people are also having to face increased challenge and pressure that are brought about by a variety of issues including the pandemic, exams, the cost of living and peer pressure. Could the Cabinet member for Children and Young People, please tell us what the Youth Service are doing to support our young people?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet member for Children and Young People's Services replied outlining a range of positive initiatives that the Council's Children's Services was undertaking to support the Borough's young people in such challenging circumstances.

Question received from Councillor Al-Hamdani

Greater Manchester has been in special measures since December 2020. Since the creation of the Greater Manchester Mayoralty, the political responsibility for the region's policing has rested with Mayor Andy Burnham.

An average of 220 crimes per day went unrecorded during 2019 and 2020. Earlier this year iOPS was scrapped but no one has taken responsibility for its failed implementation.

In March 2021 it emerged that Greater Manchester Police had only managed to act on 8.5% of reported crime. That is the second worst figure across England and Wales and it's far lower than the 14.4% average.

More needs to be done to increase GMP's capacity to act on crime, and it is particularly concerning that HMIC still has

significant concerns over how Greater Manchester Police identify and support victims of serious crime  
Political accountability has been lacking throughout the period of GMP being in special measures. Will the Leader of the Council write to Mayor Burnham asking him to come to Oldham to field questions from councillors – as he has done elsewhere in Greater Manchester – on the ongoing situation affecting Greater Manchester Police?

Councillor Chadderton replied: that she would be happy to invite Mayor Andy Burnham to attend Oldham and to field questions from councillors about the performance of Greater Manchester Police, as has happened in other authorities across Greater Manchester. However, she added that she hoped that there would be more councillors present, at such a meeting than on a previous occasion when the Mayor Andy Burnham spoke on this matter to Oldham Councillors, in late November 2021. On that occasion only a handful of Oldham Councillors were in attendance, with most of the audience being made up of Councillors from outside of Oldham.

Question received from Councillor Alyas:  
What are the plans for the outdoor market once the indoor market is relocated into the Spindles?

Councillor Chadderton replied that the Council is passionate about ensuring that the Tommyfield market and the indoor and outdoor traders have a thriving future. There were a number of options being explored for the outdoor market traders to use building on the feedback from the trader engagement sessions. The Council continues to welcome all traders to engage with the Market management team to ensure all views and ideas are captured, ahead of the options being finalised and discussed with traders, shoppers and visitors to inform the final decisions.

Question received from Councillor S. Bashforth:  
Further to the publishing of the independent assurance review into historic child sexual exploitation in Oldham, and the subsequent Adjournment debate in Parliament, where Racheal Maclean, the Conservative Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department thanked local MPs Jim McMahon and Debbie Abrahams - in the Minister's words - "for setting out their strong commitment to securing justice for those victims, which is what we all want to see?"  
The Minister further said, " In that, he will have the full support of Conservative Members and the full force of the Home Office—the Home Secretary, and every single Home Office Minister ".  
Rachel Maclean, the Conservative Government's Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, also stated "... I can say from my position as a home Office minister that to call into question the integrity of the law enforcement professionals who dedicate their lives and careers to investigating these incredibly disgusting and abhorrent crimes is outrageous. It is completely wrong, and anyone who thinks that there is any question about their professionalism needs to take a good, long, hard look at themselves".



My question is this: in the light of these strong and unequivocal messages of support from a senior Government Minister, spoken in Parliament, has this council had any other comments, positive or negative about the report from the Government? And in the light of continued calls for further reviews and or inquiries from some members of this council, will the Leader and Chief Executive formally write to the Government asking them if they feel this ought to be the case?

Councillor Chadderton replied that she welcomed the debate in parliament and the commitment of Oldham's Members of Parliament to publicly address this issue and raise it for debate with ministers.

Rachael Maclean's support for the work of the independent review team and other review teams was unequivocal and much welcome. It was clear that the government had absolute confidence in the purpose and objectives of their work, just as Oldham MBC does.

The Council is in active conversation with the Department for Education and the Home Office about the review findings and our response to it – both to see how they can help us drive improvements to services and how they can help us share learning from our review across the sector.

The work with DfE and Home Office is ongoing, and I know they are supportive of the work that the Council is doing and are seeking to help us.

Should anyone else wish to write to the Home Office, Department for Education or Ofsted about the review they would be welcome to do so.

Question received from Councillor Nasheen:

I have had some residents contact me asking when they will get their £150 energy rebate. Can the relevant cabinet member provide and update on how many people have received their rebate and when everyone else will?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that The Council has issued payments to 85,840 out of the 88,292 households eligible to receive the Council Tax Energy Rebate.

Of these 57,951 payments were made by Direct Debit with 27,889 made by the Post Office who are currently administering these payments.

Question received from Councillor Harrison:

Too many Oldham families are struggling with the rising cost of living. Energy, fuel and food have gone through the roof, and this is only going to get worse with rising levels of inflation and another fuel rise on the horizon. Can the relevant Cabinet Member tell us what the council are doing to help struggling families?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon replied that, the Council has provided

support to struggling households via the Energy Rebate and Household Support Funding.

So far on the Energy Rebate the Council has issued payments to 85,840 out of the 88,292 households eligible to receive this support.

Of these 57,951 payments were made by Direct Debit with 27,789 made by the Post Office who are currently administering these payments.

Via the Household Support Fund, a further £2.419m is to be provided which includes:

- Support to working age in receipt of council tax reduction of £25 to further support fuel costs
- Support to pensioners of £110 in receipt of council tax reduction to further support fuel costs.
- Vouchers for those in emergency need to replace boilers.
- Working together with Action Together to support the most vulnerable
- Food Support for eligible children for the Spring Bank and Summer Holidays

Question received from Councillor Shuttleworth:

It is pleasing to know that Oldham residents have been coming forward offering to host individuals and families fleeing the atrocities that are taking place in Ukraine. Sadly, many will have arrived in this country with few personal belongings and many of them will also have a limited knowledge of our culture and language.

Could the relevant Cabinet Member, advise as to how many refugees from the Ukraine have been provided with accommodation in our Borough? What systems the Council have in place to ensure a placement is safe and secure?

And what support hosts and guests receive to ensure that the placement is a successful one?

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that a total of 53 Ukrainian refugees have been provided with accommodation, in the Oldham Borough, through the Homes for Ukraine Scheme.

When the Council receives notification of a Visa application being approved by the Home Office, DBS checks are undertaken for all sponsors in a household aged 16 years and over. Checks are also made with Social Care and Greater Manchester Police.

In addition, inspections of all sponsor properties are undertaken by Environmental Health colleagues in advance of the Ukrainian refugee's arrival. Once the refugees have arrived, Social Care colleagues undertake a welfare visit to the sponsor household to meet with the guest.

If the DBS or property inspection is failed, the Council will look to rematch any Ukrainian refugees to another household.

Regular dialogue takes place with sponsors/guests and the Council has a dedicated officer to support the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. Support is provided by a range of partners including Education, Get Oldham Working, Access Oldham, Housing, Libraries and other providers to support their integration.



At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired. The Council was advised that all unanswered questions would receive a written reply.

**RESOLVED** that the questions and responses provided be noted.

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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 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were submitted.

Members asked the following questions: -

Question from Councillor Hamblett:

I would like to ask a question regarding the very serious issue regarding the recent IT failures affecting Oldham Royal Hospital and indeed the wider Northern Care Alliance across Oldham, Bury and Rochdale.

IT systems began to fail on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May, causing significant disruptions to outpatient services as well as diagnostic tests and scans. The Chief Medical Officer of Northern Care Alliance, Dr Chris Brookes said that the IT failures represented a “critical incident”.

Nine days into this critical incident - and with IT systems still causing delays to patient care – it was announced that experts from abroad were being flown in but that there was still no end in sight. Hospital staff had said that they were unable to keep track of patients or report the results of tests back to patients. Our residents rely on many of the services affected by the recent IT failures across north Manchester. A&E departments and surgical theatres experienced protracted and costly delays. So, I ask the Leader, what work has the administration undertaken to investigate these IT failures and will there be a full impact report on the incident so that the full extent of the damage and the efforts to prevent a recurrence can be put before the public?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adult Care replied that ‘at approximately 00:00 on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the Trust started to experience disruption and instability issues in some of its digital clinical systems. From that point the Trust’s digital team started investigating the issues with the relevant technology providers to investigate and resolve this. At that point the Trust also declared an internal Business Continuity Incident. On the evening of Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May further degradation of the IT systems with critical memory loss resulted in new instability across the core clinical systems further impacting clinical services with greater loss of key activity such as outpatients, diagnostics and planned care and handover of care communications with primary care colleagues. In line with the

recognised NHS national emergency preparedness Policy and National Framework, the NCA escalated from a Business Continuity to Critical Incident status. This decision was taken 13:00 on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022.

Over 400 clinical and administrative systems were affected and were not available to hospital, community and primary care colleagues.

Systems and processes have been developed to capture, assess and respond to potential patient harms. Audits are being undertaken for assurance purposes to identify safe systems for onwards referrals from ED, e-outcomes from OPD and clinical elements such as VTE assessments. Datix systems remain live but are being supplemented with floor walkers to discuss safety and harms with staff and capturing any incidents on paper systems. Incident trends and analysis will be completed. Safe migration back into clinical and administrative system is well underway with supporting audits to ensure risks are controlled. Throughout this incident regular updates have been provided to officers of the Council, GP practices, Commissioners and local system partners. The Trust recognises more communications could have been done with some stakeholders and further work is being done to ensure that local MPs and are kept up to date with events in a timely manner. The CQC, and NHS England have been fully briefed and kept updated and the Trust has updated its messages for patients and public.

Now the major aspects of the IT outage have been dealt with, the Trust is of course turning to a lessons learned exercise and has committed to work with partners on that piece of work. As the relevant Cabinet Member, I have asked our newly jointly appointed officer responsible for health and care integration as part of the current NHS reorganisation to lead a piece of work and report back to the relevant meetings with the outcomes of that work on behalf of the Administration.

Question received from Councillor Lancaster:

Further to the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Councillor Lancaster requested an update on the Clock Tower at Diggle.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, updated the Council on work that was being undertaken in this regard.

Question received from Councillor Kenyon:

Further to the Cabinet meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Councillor Kenyon requested an update on the 'Creating a Better Place' initiative.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, updated the meeting on this matter and reported that further details thereon would be reported to the appropriate bodies of the Council in due course.

Question received from Councillor Woodvine:

Further to the Cabinet meetings held 17<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, Councillor Woodvine sought clarification on the heritage value of historic buildings in the Borough, especially those that

were situated in the Saddleworth wards. In addition, he asked when the 'street bins' would arrive.

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council, undertook to pursue these issues and write to Councillor Woodvine thereon.



Question received from Councillor Surjan:

"We know of the incident of the young man that took place on 21st June and unrest that have been subsequently taking place in Coldhurst and other wards after the emergence of the video. Whilst the community have acknowledged the increase in police presence, local residents and myself as a ward Councillor want to know why it took GMP almost two weeks to inform and appeal to the public for information? This is not acceptable. Please can I request, the Cabinet team and Council Executives arrange a community meeting, which is open to all members of the public as previous ones were behind closed doors.

We know of the incident on the young man that took place on 21<sup>st</sup> June and unrest that have been subsequently taking place in Coldhurst and other wards after the emergence of the video. Whilst the community have acknowledged the increase in police presence, local residents and myself as a ward Councillor want to know why it took GMP almost two weeks to inform and appeal to the public for information? This is not acceptable.

And can I request, the Cabinet team and Council Execs arrange a community meeting, which is open to all members of the public as previous ones were behind closed doors?

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that Officers attended the report of an assault on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022 in an alleyway off Featherstall Road North immediately and a full and thorough investigation was launched, although there were no known suspects. It was not appropriate at the time due to conflicting accounts for this matter to progress to a public appeal for information. Specialist officers continued to work with the victim. When the video was posted and suspect details were provided, officers moved quickly to make arrests. A total of four arrests had been made and further arrests were anticipated.

There was a public meeting that was held on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July and was attended by police, council representative and elected members. Police and partners worked closely with the local community to mitigate rumour and speculation that was being circulated, which led to a meeting of elected members and community leaders being held. This meeting was to brief key individuals who hold influence in the community to provide clarity on the current situation and how they could help dispel rumours and speculation circulating in the community. This meeting was held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> July.

At that meeting the council made a commitment to ensure that those in attendance would be updated of any significant developments in the case and therefore further meetings may follow due course.

Question received from Councillor Alyas:

We would all agree that Don't Trash Oldham has been an overwhelming success and I know it made a huge difference in my own ward, Medlock Vale. However, I did have some complaints that not all alleyways were cleared. Can the Cabinet Member provide an explanation and let me know if these will be done in the future?



Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied that as far as she had been made aware all the alleys within the Medlock Vale Ward have received a clearance as part of the DTO campaign that was undertaken in December. It has been noted however that despite this clearance residents in some areas over the last 6 months are continuing to dump waste inappropriately and with this in mind we continue to issue fixed penalties and where they remained unpaid, we will prosecute. If a list of alleys that have been perceived to have been missed can be emailed to the Council, officers will endeavour to ascertain the current situation and if for any reason they have been genuinely missed, the street cleansing team will pay them a return visit.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022, 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided thereon be noted.

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**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

**Motion 1 – New Deal for Workers**

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Goodwin SECONDED the following MOTION: New Deal for Workers

Throughout the pandemic, workers in insecure jobs without any protected employment rights have kept the country running. They have worked on the front line, caring for our most vulnerable residents, keeping essential services running and keeping food on shop shelves.

The Living Wage Foundation estimates that over a million key workers are in insecure work, lacking basic rights and protections, and 3.8 million people are in insecure work across the economy as a whole.

At the same time, incomes have stagnated and many workers have experienced real term pay decline. The North West region has some of the highest levels of low pay, but in-work poverty is increasing nationally, with one in six working households now falling below the poverty line.

This Council notes:

- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers were already 'insecure', meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero-hour contracts, agency workers and the bogus self-employed.
- Zero-hours contracts do not guarantee a minimum number of working hours each week. In the UK labour market, people on zero-hours contracts are more likely to be young,

part-time, women, or in full-time education when compared with others in employment. Three quarters of those workers on zero-hour contracts lost shifts during the pandemic and the 'Race on the Agenda' (ROTA) report shows that a disproportionate number of Black and minority ethnic (BME) workers are on zero-hours contracts.

- 1 in 10 workers have experienced 'fire and rehire' and have been told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay and terms and conditions, or face the sack – with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers. Since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021) a quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay – since the pandemic began.
- That while the Prime Minister has called the practice of 'fire and rehire' "unacceptable" he has continually refused to take action to outlaw it, raising concerns that he will not intervene in the race to the bottom. An escalating number of employers across all sectors are using weak employment protections to force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, meaning many have to work longer hours for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- Despite austerity, as a Labour led council we pay our employees the real living wage. It is important that working people have a decent wage and the council is an accredited Living Wage Employer and encourages others to become the same.

The council further notes, insecure work is bad for working people and bad for the economy, which is why we need a better settlement to support rights and provisions for working people.

This council therefore resolves to:

- Work to ensure that local residents are protected against unscrupulous employers and ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister demanding an end to 'fire and rehire' and keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions, and to ask that all key workers get a pay rise at least equal to inflation.
- Not to use 'fire and rehire' as an employer and to discourage its use by council contractors and to continue to ensure the council's procurement practices certify that we use contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records.
- Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and wellbeing, by working with our anchor institutions, key partners and recognised trade unions, to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment.
- Encourage local businesses to support the Greater Manchester (GM) Good Employment Charter to improve employment standards across the Borough.
- Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

AMENDMENT



Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:



Throughout the pandemic, workers in all types of employment have kept the country running. They have worked on the front line, caring for our most vulnerable residents, keeping essential services running and keeping food on shop shelves.

The Living Wage Foundation estimates that over a million key workers are in insecure work, lacking basic rights and protections, and 3.8 million people are in insecure work across the economy as a whole. We agree more must be done to tackle this, but according to the Office of National Statistics, the unemployment rate had generally been falling since late 2013 up until the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic in December 2019 to February 2020. It has now returned to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels.

However more must be done to keep money in people's pockets by having more secure employment and reducing the tax burden on the wages people earn. We note with concern, that where incomes have stagnated that many workers have experienced real term pay decline. The North West region has some of the highest levels of low pay, in-work poverty is increasing nationally, with one in six working households now falling below the poverty line. This is due to policies by local authorities like Oldham Council which actively encouraged low paid jobs and boasted that "The average wage rate in Oldham is 16% lower than the UK average, representing a significant cost saving for businesses" (OMBC Investment activity brochure, 2013).

Sadly, unscrupulous employers have used cheaper labour from abroad and places like the European Union, whilst failing to invest in upskilling and retraining a more than capable domestic workforce. To tackle low pay, we support employers and local authorities who invest in upskilling and retraining their workforce and the government's plan to control migration levels. We also reject Britain ever re-joining the European Union (EU), European Economic Area, EU Customs Union or EU Single Market which helped stagnate working peoples pay.

This Council notes:

- Even before the pandemic, 1 in 9 workers were already 'insecure', meaning they did not have access to basic rights at work and could be dismissed at will; including those on zero-hour contracts, agency workers and the bogus self-employed.
- Zero-hours contracts do not guarantee a minimum number of working hours each week. In the UK labour market, people on zero-hours contracts are more likely to be young, part-time, women, or in full-time education when compared with others in employment.
- Three quarters of those workers on zero-hour contracts lost shifts during the pandemic and the 'Race on the Agenda' (ROTA) report shows that a disproportionate number of Black and minority ethnic (BME) workers are on zero-hours contracts.



- 1 in 10 workers have experienced ‘fire and rehire’ and have been told to reapply for their jobs on worse pay and terms and conditions, or face the sack – with BME workers facing this at twice the rate of white workers. Since March 2020 (TUC research, January 2021) a quarter of all workers have experienced a worsening of their terms and conditions – including a cut in their pay – since the pandemic began.
- We oppose the actions of employers across all sectors that force their staff to accept worse terms and conditions, meaning they may have to work longer hours for lower pay, with what can be devastating consequences for workers and their families.
- That Oldham Council pays its employees the real living wage. It is important that working people have a decent wage and the council is an accredited Living Wage Employer and encourages others to become the same. The council further notes, insecure work is bad for working people and bad for the economy, which is why we need a better settlement to support rights and provisions for working people.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Work to ensure that local residents are protected against unscrupulous employers and ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions requesting if legislation will be tabled to end ‘fire and rehire’ and protect residents employment terms and conditions, and to ask that workers get a pay rise at least equal to inflation where financially possible, with low paid workers being given priority.
- That Oldham Council will not use ‘fire and rehire’ as an employer and will not sign contracts with contractors who use them and will continue to ensure the council’s procurement practices certify that we use contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records.
- Welcome the increasing number of local employers prioritising their employees’ standard of living and wellbeing, by working with our anchor institutions, key partners and recognised trade unions, to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment.
- Encourage local businesses to support the Greater Manchester (GM) Good Employment Charter to improve employment standards across the Borough.
- Confirm when Oldham Council will meet the full objectives of the TUC campaign for a ‘New Deal for Working People’.
- Welcome the Conservative government increasing the National Living Wage which has increased to £9.50 from 1 April 2022 – which equates to an extra £1,000 a year for a full-time worker.
- Welcome the Conservative government increasing the tax-free personal allowance to £12,570 since 2010 and welcome the £6 billion tax cut that will see the level at which people start paying National Insurance rise to £12,570 – lifting 2.2 million people out of paying any personal tax and ensuring people get to keep more of the money they earn.
- REJECT Britain ever re-joining the European Union (EU), European Economic Area, EU Customs Union or EU Single Market which helped stagnate working peoples pay.

• Write to Oldham's three MP's seeking to confirm that they and the Labour Party will REJECT Britain ever re-joining the European Union (EU), European Economic Area, EU Customs Union or EU Single Market which helped stagnate working peoples pay.



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

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

RESOLVED that Oldham Council:

1. Works to ensure that local residents are protected against unscrupulous employers and ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister demanding an end to 'fire and rehire' and keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions, and to ask that all key workers get a pay rise at least equal to inflation.
2. Not to use 'fire and rehire' as an employer and to discourage its use by council contractors and to continue to ensure the council's procurement practices certify that we use contractors that have good employment, equality and environmental records.
3. Promote the increasing number of progressive local employers prioritising their employees' standard of living and wellbeing, by working with our anchor institutions, key partners and recognised trade unions, to bring forward plans to ensure all have best practice employment.
4. Encourage local businesses to support the Greater Manchester (GM) Good Employment Charter to improve employment standards across the Borough.
5. Support the TUC campaign for a 'New Deal for Working People'.

## **Motion 2 – Early Years Funding**

Councillor Munroe MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following MOTION: Early Years Funding:

Well-established research continues to emphasize the importance of early childhood education as an essential building block of a child's future success. Early years education provides a strong base for future learning and it develops a child's cognitive and social development, ensuring that they are school ready.

Childcare is a fundamental building block of the economy and many working parents and parents who are undertaking education or training are dependent on childcare provision. If sufficient childcare places are not available it has a significant impact on businesses, the health service, education, and many other sectors of the economy.

Yet over the last decade, early years services have been neglected by the Conservative Government.

Like all Local Authorities, Oldham has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient free childcare places to enable take-up of early years entitlements, and like many Local Authorities we

are seeing settings closing due to problems recruiting and retaining staff.

The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has warned, “Nurseries across the UK are being forced to close or reduce their services at an alarming rate because they are struggling to recruit and retain staff.”

Without urgent action, this loss of provision will have a significant impact on children and families who are unable to access services they need and deserve.

This Council notes:

- There are areas in some parts of the borough that have insufficient places available to meet demand.
- Official data from Ofsted shows nurseries are closing at a higher rate in poor and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- Early Years providers are struggling financially, because cost of living is rising above the most recent increase in Funded Early Learning (FEL).
- That the recruitment and retention of Nursery staff is a cause of concern.
- That there is pressure on the system due to rising numbers of SEND and vulnerable children.

This Council:

- Is concerned that the sector has been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and believes that, although early years providers were relied upon to enable key workers to continue to work during the pandemic, they received insufficient financial protection.
- Is concerned that the historical underfunding, increasing costs and impact of Covid-19, means that early years’ providers across the childcare sector will be faced with financial sustainability issues.
- Is concerned that this lack of adequate funding is making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff due to the early years providers’ inability to pay competitive rates.
- Notes that Oldham continues to be underfunded as compared to other local authorities, with the disparity in Oldham’s hourly Funded Early Learning (FEL). Funding for both 2-year-old entitlement and 3 – 4-year-old entitlement is considerably lower than the national average, the GM average and our statistical neighbours.

Type of funding	National average	Statistical neighbour average	GM average	Oldham average
2-year-old entitlement	£5.47	£5.34	£5.30	£5.19
3- & 4-year-old entitlement	£4.81	£5.05	£4.48	£4.24

This Council resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education outlining our concerns and asking for swift action to: address this disparity and provide Oldham Metropolitan Borough with a fair funding deal in addition to the additional investment

needed to ensure every child can recover the learning and social development lost in the pandemic and has the chance to reach their full potential.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Red: Strike out Green: Replace with/add.

### Early Years Funding

Well-established research continues to emphasize the importance of early childhood education as an essential building block of a child's future success. Early years education provides a strong base for future learning and it develops a child's cognitive and social development, ensuring that they are school ready. Childcare is a fundamental building block of the economy and many working parents and parents who are undertaking education or training are dependent on childcare provision. If sufficient childcare places are not available it has a significant impact on businesses, the health service, education, and many other sectors of the economy.

Yet over the last decade, early years services have been neglected by the

Conservative Government. Like all Local Authorities, Oldham has a statutory duty to ensure that there are sufficient free childcare places to enable take-up of early years entitlements, and like many Local Authorities we are seeing settings closing due to problems recruiting and retaining staff. The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) has warned, "Nurseries across the

UK are being forced to close or reduce their services at an alarming rate because they are struggling to recruit and retain staff." Without urgent action, this loss of provision will have a significant impact on children and families who are unable to access services they need and deserve.

This Council notes:

- There are areas in some parts of the borough that have insufficient places available to meet demand due to a failure by this Council to plan.
- Official data from Ofsted The Guardian Newspaper has claimed shows nurseries are closing at a higher rate in poor and disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
- The data shows that there has been a 3.8% increase for 2-year-old free early education entitlement in Oldham and in the Greater Manchester authorities to £5.67 as per the data set from the Department of Education for 2022/23.
- The data shows that there has been a 3.7% increase for 3 to 4-year-old free early education entitlements in Oldham and in the Greater Manchester authorities. With Oldham now receiving £4.66 as per the data set from the Department of Education for 2022/23.

- The government has already announced up to £180m to provide better training and support for staff working with preschool children.



Oldham

Type of funding	National average	Statistical neighbour average	GM average	Oldham average
2-year-old entitlement	£5.47	£5.34	£5.30	£5.19
3- & 4-year-old entitlement	£4.81	£5.05	£4.48	£4.24

- It is concerning that some Early Years providers are struggling financially, because cost of living is rising above the most recent increase in Funded Early Learning (FEL).

- That the recruitment and retention of Nursery staff is a cause of concern.
- That there is pressure on the system due to rising numbers of SEND and vulnerable children.

This Council:

- Is concerned that the sector has been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and believes that, although early years providers were relied upon to enable key workers to continue to work during the pandemic., they received insufficient financial protection.
- Is concerned that the historical underfunding, increasing costs and impact of Covid-19, means that early years' providers across the childcare sector will may be faced with financial sustainability issues.
- Is concerned that this lack of adequate funding is making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain staff due to the early years providers' inability to pay competitive rates.
- Notes that Oldham continues to be underfunded as compared to other local authorities, with the disparity in Oldham's hourly Funded Early Learning (FEL). Funding for both 2-year-old entitlement and 3 – 4-year-old entitlement is considerably lower than the national average, the GM average and our statistical neighbours.

- This Council resolves to:
  - Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education outlining our concerns and asking for swift action to: address this disparity and provide Oldham Metropolitan Borough with a fair funding deal in addition to the additional investment needed to ensure every child can recover the learning and social development lost in the pandemic and has the chance to reach their full potential.
- That the Council Leader of Oldham Council will instruct the Cabinet member for Finance to direct the appropriate funding to this vital service.



- To contact local employers and make sure that their employees are aware of the free hours of childcare available and to take up the provision where their employees are not aware.

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

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

### **RESOLVED**

Council requests that the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, outlining our concerns and asking for swift action to: address this disparity and provide Oldham Metropolitan Borough with a fair funding deal in addition to the additional investment needed to ensure every child can recover the learning and social development lost in the pandemic and has the chance to reach their full potential.

13

### **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

#### **Motion 1 – Making Fairer Decisions**

Councillor Kenyon MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes that:

The administration, councillors and council officers are collectively making thousands of decisions each year, some large, many small, but all collectively have an effect on the health, wealth and welfare of the people who live and work in Oldham, Shaw, Crompton, Saddleworth, Royton, Failsworth, Lees, Chadderton and the surrounding areas.

Making our borough safer for children and young people is a key aim shared by everyone in the council chamber.

Making our borough wealthier by directing more of this Authority's spending to local jobs and businesses is also a key aim shared by all in this chamber.

When making a decision, officers and councillors are careful to consider the full implications of that decision. The different options and the implication of the decision are weighed against specific criteria; financial, legal, the co-operative agenda, human resources, risks, IT, property, procurement, environmental and health & safety, equality, community cohesion & crime, children & young people. An equality impact assessment is also completed.

This Council believes that: Councillors and officers should be explicitly considering the implications of making a decision on the safety of children and on Authority spending into the local economy.

Council therefore resolves to:

Direct the Chief Executive to amend the standard assessment criteria within the decision-making reports and records to include a requirement to consider the implications of the decision on:



1. The potential to increase the risk of harm to children (a context assessment). This to be included on the section dealing with Implications for Children and Young People.
2. Authority spending into the local economy. This to be included in the section on Co-Operative Agenda.
3. Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Stretton  
SECONDED the following amendment:

Paragraph 4

Insert – currently

Paragraph 6

Insert – that in developing a new approach to impact assessments for council decisions the standard assessment criteria

Delete – amend the standard assessment criteria within the decision-making reports and records to and insert – should  
Paragraph 7

Insert – impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on

Delete – (a context assessment). This to be included on the section detailing with implications for Children and Young People

Paragraph 8

Delete – This to be included in the section on the Co-Operative Agenda.

Paragraph 9

Insert – in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments.

Amendment to Motion to read

This Council Notes that:

The administration, councillors and council officers are collectively making thousands of decisions each year, some large, many small, but all collectively have an effect on the health, wealth and welfare of the people who live and work in Oldham, Shaw, Crompton, Saddleworth, Royton, Failsworth, Lees, Chadderton and the surrounding areas.

Making our borough safer for children and young people is a key aim shared by everyone in the council chamber. Making our borough wealthier by directing more of this Authority's spending to local jobs and businesses is also a key aim shared by all in this chamber.

When making a decision, officers and councillors are careful to consider the full implications of that decision.

The different options and the implication of the decision are currently weighed against specific criteria; financial, legal, the co-operative agenda, human resources, risks, IT, property, procurement, environmental and health & safety, equality,

community cohesion & crime, children & young people. An equality impact assessment is also completed.



This Council believes that:  
Councillors and officers should be explicitly considering the implications of making a decision on the safety of children and on Authority spending into the local economy.

Council therefore resolves to:  
Direct the Chief Executive that in developing a new approach to impact assessments for council decisions the standard assessment criteria should include a requirement to consider the implications of the decision on:

- 1) The potential impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on the risk of harm to children.
- 2) Authority spending into the local economy.
- 3) Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes, in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments, within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.

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

**RESOLVED** that:

Council therefore resolves to direct the Chief Executive that in developing a new approach to impact assessments for council decisions the standard assessment criteria should include a requirement to consider the implications of the decision on:

- 1) The potential impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on the risk of harm to children.
- 2) Authority spending into the local economy.
- 3) Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes, in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments, within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.

**Motion 2 – 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:

This Council notes that:

The Newsome 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.

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 a cross party steering group is established to work 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.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Moores SECONDED the following amendment:

Paragraph 1.

Insert – Response to the

Delete – Independent Public Enquiry

Insert – Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice

Delete – (OMBC) including the actions and knowledge of Council Members and Officers

Paragraph 4.

Delete – wholly ignored. Unfortunately questions

Delete – and as

Delete – The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure the failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

Insert – We must move forward ensuring we have acknowledged past failing, sought to make amends to those we have failed and ensuring current practice never repeats any of those mistakes. We must also seek justice for those still awaiting it.

Delete Paragraph 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

Insert

- Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
- Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.
- to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.
- That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

Amended motion to read:

Response to the Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice within Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Council notes that:

The Newsome 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 Monday 27th 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 remain. We as a council, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. We must move forward ensuring we have acknowledged past failing, sought to make amends to those who we failed and ensuring current practice never repeats any of those mistakes. We must also seek justice for those still awaiting it.



Council resolves that:

- Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
- Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.
- to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.
- That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION, as AMENDED, should be adopted as the formal MOTION, as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Ahmad Riaz	FOR	Iqbal Javid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Islam Nazrul Mohammed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST
Alyas Mohammed	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	AGAINST

Azad Ali Montaz	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	McManus Chris	APOLOGIES
Barnes Robert	AGAINST	Moores Eddie	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Munroe Leanne	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	Phythian Clint	FOR
Chadderton Amanda	FOR	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Dean Peter	FOR	Salamat Aqeel Ali	APOLOGIES
Gloster Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	APOLOGIES
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Stretton Jean	FOR
Harrison Jenny	FOR	Surjan Ruji	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	APOLOGIES
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hulme George	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Williams Steve	FOR
Hussain Fida	FOR	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Sajed	APOLOGIES	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES	Garry Elaine (MAYOR)	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 32 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RESOLUTION with 20 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The RESOLUTION was therefore **CARRIED**.

On adoption as the substantive Motion a further recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION, AS AMENDED, as follows:

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Ahmad Riaz	FOR	Iqbal Javid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Islam Nazrul Mohammed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST



Alyas Mohammed	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Azad Ali Montaz	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	McManus Chris	APOLOGIES
Barnes Robert	AGAINST	Moore Eddie	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Munroe Leanne	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	Phythian Clint	FOR
Chadderton Amanda	FOR	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Rea Lucia	AGAINST
Dean Peter	FOR	Salamat Aqeel Ali	APOLOGIES
Gloster Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	APOLOGIES
Gloster Hazel	APOLOGIES	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Stretton Jean	FOR
Harrison Jenny	FOR	Surjan Ruji	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	APOLOGIES
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hulme George	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Williams Steve	FOR
Hussain Fida	FOR	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Sajed	APOLOGIES	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES	Garry Elaine (MAYOR)	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 32 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RESOLUTION with 20 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The RESOLUTION AS AMENDED was therefore **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED that:

1. Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
2. Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our

Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.

3. to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.
4. That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

14 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

RESOLVED that the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 be noted.

15 **REVISION TO FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which advised that there was a requirement to review the authority's Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs) on a regular basis. Such a review had recently concluded and the consequent revised FPRs were therefore presented to Council for consideration.

A detailed review of FPRs has been undertaken by officers from the Council's Finance, Internal Audit and Constitutional Services teams. This has resulted in a range of proposed changes to improve the FPRs so that they would better reflect the current operating arrangements of the Council and current best practice.

RESOLVED That Council approves the revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules.

16 **REVISION TO THE CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services which advised that a review of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPRs) had been undertaken to ensure the Rules were up to date and fit for purpose. The consequent revised CPRs were therefore presented for consideration.

Because of the review of the CPRs, a revision to Article 15.4.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution was proposed to align Article 15.4.2 with the revised CPRs.

A comprehensive review of the CPRs had been undertaken by officers from Legal Services, the Commercial Procurement Unit, Finance and Internal Audit. This had resulted in a range of proposed changes to improve the CPRs so that they would better reflect updated legislation, the current operating arrangements of the Council and current best practice.

RESOLVED That Council approves the proposed revisions to Article 15.4.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution and to the Contract Procedure Rules in Part 4G of the Constitution.

17

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Head of Democratic Services that presented Council with proposed revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board, determined in response to the introduction of Integrated Care Systems arising from the Health and Care Act 2022.

RESOLVED: That the Council is confirms the revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board and agree to the amendment of the Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution accordingly.

18

### **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22**

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Ahmad SECONDED a report of the Statutory Scrutiny Officer that provided Council with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for the 2021/22 Municipal Year as required by the Council's Constitution at Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.1.

The report outlined the statutory role of overview and scrutiny; the roles and responsibilities of the Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Health Scrutiny Committee in 2021/22; and a summary of the considerations and work undertaken by the three bodies during 2021/22.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22, be noted.
2. Council notes and supports the thanks of the Chairs expressed to Cabinet Members, Council Officers and representatives from partner organisations for their support and contributions in the delivery of as full a scrutiny function as was achievable during the difficult times in 2021/22.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.10pm

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

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A question was received from Lynne Kovacs;  
After admitting in a recent Full Council meeting and apologising  
for her Council's role in the cover up of the grooming and gang  
rape of our town's children, the previous leader of Oldham  
Council Arooj Shah promised to facilitate an open meeting with  
the townsfolk immediately after the publication of the repeatedly  
delayed CSE Assurance Review.

Can the new leader of Oldham Council, Amanda Chadderton  
now confirm the date, time and location of this promised special  
meeting? And who and how many will be invited to attend and  
how it will be facilitated?

Councillor Chadderton, Leader of the Council responded;  
Greater Manchester Combined Authority have today announced  
that the review into historic child sexual abuse in Oldham will be  
published this coming Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

I have today requested an Extraordinary Council meeting at  
6pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 so residents can ask questions  
and Councillors from all parties, can discuss the findings  
together.

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 21ST  
MARCH 2022**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on  
21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 be agreed.

6 **APPOINTMENTS TO CABINET SUB-COMMITTEES AND  
JOINT COMMITTEE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Democratic  
Services which sought appointments to the following Cabinet  
Sub-Committees;

1. The Failsworth Trust Cabinet Sub-Committee
2. The Local Investment Fund Cabinet Sub-Committee
3. The Commisising Partnership Board
4. The Shareholder Cabinet Sub-Committee

The terms of reference for each sub-committee were considered by the Cabinet.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To appoint to the sub-committees

Option 2 – Not to appoint to the sub-committees

RESOLVED That:

1. Membership in 2022/23 of the Failsworth Trust Sub-Committee is:-
  - The Council Leader
  - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
  - The Cabinet Member for Housing
2. Membership in 2022/23 of the Local Investment Fund Cabinet Sub Committee is:
  - The Council Leader
  - Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
  - Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon
3. Membership of the Commisising Partnership Board in 2022/23 is:
  - The Council Leader
  - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
  - Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care
  - Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
4. Membership in 2022/23 of the Shareholder Cabinet Sub- Committee was:
  - The Council Leader
  - The Deputy Leader (Statutory)
  - Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
  - Cabinet Member for Corporate Services

7

## **APPROVAL OF ENFORCEMENT POLICIES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth, which sought approval of a revised Corporate Enforcement Policy in order to take account of updated guidance, codes of practice and new regulatory sanctions which have been introduced since the Council's Enforcement Policy was last reviewed in 2012, and to also agree a separate enforcement policy relating to the deciding of financial penalties and appropriateness of prosecution under The Tenant Fees Act 2019.

It was reported that The Council is required to have an overarching statement of Enforcement Policy which governs the way statutory enforcement functions are provided.

The Council adopted the Enforcement Concordat in 2002 and established an enforcement policy to set out what businesses and others being regulated could expect from enforcement officers employed by the Authority. Since then additional guidance, codes of practice and new regulatory sanctions have been introduced and it was therefore appropriate to update the Enforcement Policy from time to time to reflect these changes and avoid challenge.



In addition, the Tenant Fees Act 2019 allowed for financial penalties to be issued against lettings agents who contravene requirements imposed on them under the Act. The Council must publish its methodology on how it would deal with such breaches and how penalty amounts will be derived.

The current Enforcement Policy was approved in 2012 and was reviewed from time to time to ensure that the Council laid out its generic principles for good enforcement.

It committed the Council to good enforcement policies and procedures including carrying out our activities in a robust but fair way that supported those who the Council regulate to comply and grow, avoiding imposing unnecessary regulatory burdens and assessing whether lesser outcomes could be achieved by lesser means. It provided guidance on a range of options that were available to help the public achieve compliance with the legislation we enforce and how powers may be used to regulate and raise standards in various sectors. The proposed policy was attached at Appendix

The Tenant Fees Act 2019 introduced new legislation relating to the activities of lettings agents. Breaches of this legislation included:

- A lettings agent who fails to publicise their fees
- A failure by any person engaged in letting agency or property management work to hold membership of a redress scheme
- A failure by a property agent who holds clients money to belong to an approved or designated client money protection scheme
- Failure to display a certificate of membership at each agents premises

Enforcing authorities must have regard to statutory guidance and publish how what it would take into account when considering a financial penalty and the policy sets out those considerations. The proposed policy was attached at appendix 2.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Approve the implementation of the enforcement policies.

Option 2 - Do not approve the enforcement policies.

RESOLVED – That the Enforcement Policies be approved.

8

## **RENEWAL OF FRAMEWORK OF CONTRACTORS FOR TREE SURGERY WORKS.**

Ay Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of the commencement of the procurement to establish a tree surgery services framework

It was reported that Oldham Council operated a commissioning model for tree surgery work; the current framework of contractors was up for renewal expiring on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The current framework comprised 5 companies on it (one of which no longer operates on our behalf due to performance

issues) attending to both emergency and planned work supporting the arboriculture team.

The current framework had the ability to direct award work to contractors or if above £10000 a mini competition was to be undertaken. When using the direct award option availability, suitability, and price were taken into consideration.

A new framework was required to continue to support the Council's arboricultural team. This framework would seek to increase the number of framework contractors from 4 to 6 in order to improve resilience (Storm Arwen in November 2021 stretched the resources in existing framework)

The evaluation criteria used to assess bidders was to be split between quality, environmental considerations, social value, and cost. Only those bidders demonstrating a combination of high quality, competitive costs and social value considerations would be offered a place on the framework.

It was also reported that a delegation was requested for the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth to approve the award of the framework.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - (recommended): To approve the commencement of the procurement to establish a tree surgery services framework and allow for delegated authority for the award. This will allow for a thorough and robust tendering exercise to be undertaken and award completed in time for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.

Option 2- To not approve and not allow for delegated authority for the award of the framework. This will constrict the timeframe for the renewal of the framework which may affect service provision and continuity.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The commencement of the procurement to establish a tree surgery services framework be approved.
2. That delegation be given to the Executive Director of Place and Economic to award the contract for Tree Surgery Services.

9

## **PROCUREMENT OF WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth with sought approval to award a 5 year contract to a new Water and Wastewater provider.

It was reported that the Council were currently paying 'out of contract' rates for water and wastewater services and to help realize the benefits and savings / efficiencies, this report sought approval to award a 5-year contract to a new provider - Wave. The water services industry was deregulated on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 and by default Oldham Council's commercial supplies were placed with Water Plus on deemed out of contract rates and conditions. A review had been carried out to formally appoint a new supplier and identify savings and efficiencies for the Council's water usage.

It was further reported that by awarding this contract the Council would realise a saving of approximately £51,000 per annum.

Option 1 - (Recommended): To award the water and wastewater services contract to Wave to take advantage of the savings and efficiencies offered. Wave is a prominent organisation in the public sector market currently supplying to Manchester City Council and Lancashire County Council, both of which have provided references.

Option 2 - To not award the contract, leaving the Council on the 'out of contract' deemed rates. A further procurement exercise would be required and is not guaranteed to increase the savings and efficiencies identified above. The estimated water charges for 2022/23 if no action is taken is £627,000 as opposed to £576,000

RESOLVED – That the appointment of Wave via the NEPO (North East Procurement Organisation) Water Retail Services framework be approved.

10

### **THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CLEANING CHEMICALS AND MATERIALS**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth to award a 4-year contract for the supply and delivery of cleaning chemicals and materials. This was a strategic function to improve and ensure the organisation receives best possible prices, quality and sustainability that enhances better operational performance.

It was reported that a tendering exercise had been carried out for the supply and delivery of cleaning chemicals and materials over the next 4 years. The products were used to clean and sanitise Council buildings along with schools and school kitchens. The result of the process had identified savings in the unit price of the products.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To award the contract to Accommodation Supplies at Pattersons who submitted the most economically advantageous tender; offering high quality goods at a competitive price

Option 2 – To continue with existing arrangements and not realise potential cost reductions and no formal contract in place.

RESOLVED – That the contract for the supply and delivery of cleaning chemicals and materials be awarded to Accommodation Supplies at Pattersons.

11

### **A BED EVERY NIGHT PHASE 5 PROCUREMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth which sought the recommissioning of the Oldham Council's A Bed Every Night (ABEN) rough sleepers' accommodation service and also sought that delegation be given to the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth to award the contract to the successful bidder. A Bed Every Night (ABEN) had been in operation since October 2018 and had now reached its fifth iteration, with Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) confirming their intention to continue funding the project for a further three years.

ABEN provided accommodation for up to 22/23 (including one emergency bed) rough sleepers, plus an additional 6 spaces for people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). The service provided support and housing management across three buildings, with the main 18-bed building acting as a 24-hour central hub.

Oldham Council currently had a provider in place until 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and therefore it was proposed to procure a new contract from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. This contract was to be awarded on a 1+1+1 basis to allow for any potential changes in the funding model which GMCA had indicated may be subject to review across the next three years.

Option/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Deliver the ABEN service by procuring a provider via a competitive tender exercise.

The option above was recommended to ensure the Council achieved value for money and quality via the open market. The Council would secure a provider via this exercise via earlier soft market testing, and the contract would be procured on a 1+1+1 basis to help reduce risk should any changes need to be made to the funding model via GMCA.

Option 2- Deliver the ABEN service in-house via the statutory Temporary Accommodation (Housing Options) service.

The option above was not recommended due to a lack of staffing capacity to provide support to the 28/29 ABEN residents, and the time and cost it would take to recruit to fixed term contracts to remedy this.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 13 of the agenda before making a decision.

12

### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

13

### **A BED EVERY NIGHT PHASE 5 PROCUREMENT**

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 11 – A Bed Every Night phase 5 Procurement.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The continued delivery of A Bed Every Night in Oldham for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 be supported.
2. Approval be delegated to the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth of the contract award of the A Bed Every Night service following a competitive tender exercise.

The meeting started at 4.00pm and finished at 4.23pm



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**Present:** Councillor Chadderton (Chair)  
Councillors Akhtar, Brownridge, Chadderton, Jabbar, Moores,  
Stretton and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ali and Mushtaq.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A public question was received from Neil Wilby:

"Following the widely condemned scenes of disorder at the last two Council meetings, both in the public galleries and within the Chamber itself, can the Council Leader, on behalf of the Cabinet, please confirm what steps have been, or are being, taken to create a safe working environment for those members of the public not part of the disorderly group whom self-style as 'The Rabble'; paid council officers; security staff; film crews; journalists; elected Members and, of course, the Mayor. Thank you".

Councillor Chadderton responded. "Thank you for this question. The behaviours of some of the public in the council chamber at our last meeting were utterly disgraceful and we have acted swiftly to ensure that we keep staff, elected members and members of the public safe.

We have had a number of complaints from elected members, staff and members of the public about both the behaviour of people in the public gallery and the behaviour of a small number of opposition members. These complaints cover incidents where people threw missiles in the chamber, shouted abuse and used foul language, were threatening and aggressive and disrupted the meeting to the point where it was difficult to conduct the business of the council.

We have security cameras in the chamber and were live streaming the meeting so much of this activity was captured. We welcome and encourage local people attending public meetings because we know that resident input, involvement and reasonable challenge is an essential part of improving what we do. We also know that some of the issues that we discuss or decisions we make aren't always popular with the public and it's right that people have an opportunity to give us feedback and tell us what they think. But that has to be done in a reasonable manner that doesn't threaten, harass or bully staff or elected members doing their jobs.

The sorts of behaviour we saw at the last two council meetings will not be allowed to continue and will not be tolerated. We are taking action against those small number of people whose actions amounted to criminal and anti-social behaviour.

We are also looking to implement enhanced security measures for future meetings to better protect those taking part in or observing them and to reduce the opportunities for the types of behaviour we saw last time. These include more stringent sign in processes, stricter security checks for people attending and better security camera coverage.

These will apply to all public meetings. These measures are currently being finalised and agreed by key partners including Greater Manchester Police. All four Group Leaders have been briefed on these measures and have agreed to them.

You'll see that some additional measures. Including us being here in the Council Chamber, have already been implemented, others will follow over the coming days and weeks."

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

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022 be approved.

6 **GM CLEAN AIR PLAN UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth which set out the case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan and Greater Manchester's annual mean standards for Nitrogen Dioxide in 2021.

Poor air quality was a significant public health issue, causing certain types of disease and in Greater Manchester and contributed to 1,200 deaths a year.

The Government had issued directions to local authorities in the UK, including those in Greater Manchester, to take action to address illegal exceedances of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in the shortest possible time and, initially in the case of Greater Manchester, by 2024 at the latest.

Greater Manchester authorities had kept the original GM Clean Air Plan, agreed in Summer 2021 under constant review; by tracking emerging evidence and listening to GM businesses and residents who said that it would cause them financial hardship. In late 2021 GM authorities commissioned an independent review of emerging global supply chain issues and the impact this could have on the cost and availability of vehicles, particularly vans.

The review illustrated that the previous agreed plan in summer 2021 would cause businesses and residents financial hardship and the Government agreed with Greater Manchester's assessment that the plan was no longer likely to achieve compliance in 2024 due to the impact of the pandemic and the supply chain issues for compliant vehicles.

The Government revoked the direction requiring the implementation of a category C charging Clean Air Zone so as to achieve compliance with legal limits for NO<sub>2</sub> in the shortest possible time and by 2024 at the latest and Greater Manchester was now required by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to review existing measures,

determine if any changes should be made and to submit that review to the Secretary of State.

A new plan must be deliverable and reduce NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to below legal limits in the shortest possible time and by 2026 at the latest, in a way that recognises the cost-of-living crisis and post pandemic economic conditions. This new plan aimed to be both fair to businesses and residents and should not cause financial hardship to people in Greater Manchester.

The new plan would use the £120 million of Clean Air funding that the Government has awarded to Greater Manchester to deliver an investment led approach to invest in vehicle upgrades, rather than imposing daily charges and in particular through the delivery of zero emission buses in the Bee Network (a London-style integrated transport network). The new plan would ensure that the reduction of harmful emissions is at the centre of GM's wider objectives.

The ten GM local authorities had taken a GM-wide approach to producing a Clean Air Plan because air pollution did not respect local authority boundaries, particularly across densely populated urban areas. This enabled a consistent and coordinated approach to maximise air quality benefits for all people living and working in Greater Manchester; whilst minimising the risk of unintended consequences, such as displacing existing, elevated NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations to other locations within Greater Manchester.

#### Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the recommendations outlined in the report.

Option 2 – Not to approve the recommendations outlined in the report.

#### RESOLVED – That:

1. The 'Case for a new Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan' document attached as Appendix 1 and associated appendices A to E had been submitted to the Secretary of State as a draft document subject to any comments from the Council ahead of the next Air Quality Administration Committee be noted.
2. Councillor Abdul Jabbar as the Council's appointed representative on the Air Quality Administration Committee will represent Oldham Council comments;
3. The initial screening undertaken to assess which protected characteristics were likely to be impacted by the new GM Clean Air Plan, and in scope for the Equalities Impact Assessment be noted.
4. The updated Do Minimum position for 2023 and 2025 and the forecasted points of exceedance in GM in 2023 and 2025 be noted.
5. The participatory policy development approach and the next steps for the GM CAP be noted.
6. The new 'ask' from Government to remove out-of-area operation by private hire drivers/vehicles to support the new GM Clean Air Plan be noted.
7. The feedback from early engagement activity with vehicle owner representative groups be noted.

8. The NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring results and the exceedances of the annual mean across sites set up for GM CAP purposes between 2018 and 2021 be noted.



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7

### **LEVELLING UP OLDHAM: THE OLDHAM ECONOMIC REVIEW OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND CIVIC PRIDE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval of the recommendations of the Independent Oldham Economic Review Board through the Levelling Up Oldham: The Oldham Economic Review of Economic Transformation and Civic Pride. (March 2022).

It was reported that Alun Francis, the principal at Oldham College was asked to lead a Commission to help to plot a brighter future for the Borough; utilising the great leaders in Oldham and drawing on expertise from Greater Manchester, the wider region and nationally to turn the Government's Levelling up mantra into a reality for Oldham's communities.

The review began in September 2021, however the Government's "Levelling Up" White Paper was delayed and not published until February 2022, which meant that it was not available until the final phase of the review was complete.

At the conclusion of the Commission, the documents were in the public domain, however, it was reported that Cabinet was requested to accept the findings as detailed within the appendices and full report and to embed the recommendations into the work of the refreshed Oldham Partnership.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To accept the recommendations in the report.

Option 2 – Not to accept the recommendations within the report

RESOLVED – That:

1. The findings of the Commission be noted, and the recommendations set out in the review be endorsed, accepted, and approved.
2. The recommendations were to feed into the work programme/agenda for the refreshed Oldham Partnership to continue with wider partnerships for the accountability of deploying relevant actions and delivering solutions to improve the lives of Oldham's residents.

8

### **CREATING A BETTER PLACE UPDATE: SPINDLES REDEVELOPMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought to provide an update on the current position of the Creating a Better Place project and sought approval of an amendment to the contract strategy which has further to the outcome of investigation works undertaken.

Following approval at Cabinet in February 2022, of the Full Business Case and a pre-construction services agreement with Wilmot Dixon Construction for the Spindles redevelopment, it was recommended that the redevelopment was contractually split into two separate project and contract workstreams;

Project/Contract Workstream 1:

- Demolition of TJ Hughes

- Construction of the new market and events space
- Roof improvement works



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#### Project/Contract Workstream 2

Redevelopment of internal spaces within the centre (Workspace and Archives).

There were two main benefits to this approach in relation to both the programme for delivery and reduced inflation cost risks caused by the current market conditions which could impact the scheme.

Funding for the Spindles project had already been approved through the Council's Capital Programme and associated Creating a Better Place Strategic Framework. Town Deal funding had also been secured for two projects which fell within the Spindles remit: Tommyfield Market and a flexible office space.

Following feedback from staff, residents, market traders and business community from engagement exercises throughout the lockdown period, further extensive consultation was taken between October to December 2021.

All procurement exercises had been undertaken in full compliance with the Public Procurement Law and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The Procure Partnerships Construction Framework was selected for the main redevelopment works with the detail provided in the report Cabinet considered in February 2022.

Since the previous Cabinet report, the appointment of Wilmott Dixon Construction in March 2022 has allowed significant progress to be made on the project and the planning application for the redevelopment received planning approval on the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Options/alternatives considered

Options to be considered at Item 13 of the agenda.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information at Item 13 of the agenda before making a decision.

9

### **OLD LIBRARY BUILDING: RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT PHASE 2**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth which sought approval to proceed to the next stage of the Old Library Building: Restoration and Refurbishment Phase 2.

The report provided details of the work already undertaken at the Old Library site including demotion and strip out, extensive programmes of surveys and investigations and the current position works undertaking the restoration and conservations works to the external fabric of the building.

During February 2021 a priority works schedule addressing the most significant conservation issues affecting the Old Library building capturing the most disruptive structural and fabric interventions required to present the building for a future fit out was approved.



Approval was given to award the priority works contract to Tilbury Douglas Construction and work started on site in December 2021. During May 2022 approval was given to issue a works contract modification to enable additional works to be undertaken.

The feasibility option assessment set out the following parameters for the Old Library accommodation goals;

- Public, community space and meeting rooms on the ground floor
- Enhanced / available space for community groups to collaborate from across arts, culture and performance and who need more space to deliver their activities and services.
- Additional gallery space on the upper floor as there is connecting bridge to the existing Gallery
- Civic space – Council Chamber, mayoral chamber, member rooms, committee meeting rooms and executive office space for officers / support staff.

The Strategic Business Case (SBC) had been developed to understand the value in utilising baseline future use assessments and this document set out the procurement and development strategy for the Old Library restoration and refurbishment phase 2. The SBC documentation (appended to the part b paper) sets out:

- What is the rationale for the project, case for change and the business need
- Indicative costs and phasing
- Procurement and delivery strategy
- Financial implications
- Links to corporate strategy/asset management

The lead consultant will be responsible for the co-ordination of the design of the project and for the appointment, coordination, management, and programming of the activities of the Design Team.

A procurement exercise has also been completed for the external project management team, cost consultant and principal designer.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 – proceed to the next stage of project development

- Note the completed Strategic Business Case (SBC) and agree to its approval as the basis of the delivery of the preferred facility mix for the Old Library restoration and refurbishment Phase 2.
- Authorise formal agreement and award of the contract(s) in the configuration set out in this report for the next stage of project development.

Option 2 – Carry out further accommodation analysis: to undertake further future uses / accommodation analysis it would be necessary to carry out a further review of the Council's accommodation needs and strategic ambitions.

Objectives would need to be re-set and opportunities to drive programme, design and construction efficiencies would not be realized. Project development would be put on hold and the



outturn cost for re-development of the Old Library would likely increase.

Future uses could span into private / third sector solutions and would result in different options being needed for civic / corporate services. Programme, cost uncertainty, timescales and strategic objectives would be put at risk if this option was to be considered further.

Option 3 – do not progress phase 2 proposals at this time. By undertaking the external fabric restoration works, the Council would have invested significantly into addressing the deterioration of the condition of the building and it will be possible, on completion of the phase 1 work, to secure the building pending consideration of other options.

As with other listed heritage buildings on Union Street, the local community do not want these buildings to stand empty, especially given the investment committed to-date in ensuring a long-term future.

Maintaining public access and bringing heritage buildings back into use are known priorities and this is a driving factor in consideration of the options available.

Option 4 - Dispose of the building following completion of the current phase 1 works: By undertaking the external fabric restoration works, the Council would have invested significantly into the development of a long-term future for the Old Library building.

However, it may not be possible to achieve any interest in the market with a specified and deliverable use without a commitment to invest the further resources (time and financial) needed to complete a fully occupiable building. It is anticipated that the Council would have to include a significant grant award (£millions) to any potential bidder as part of a disposal package. Concerns and risks were noted that any successful bidder, even with the Council grant award, could take ownership of the building without securing an acceptable end use or timeline for reinvestment. Creating a Better Place strategic objective would be put at risk.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 14 before making a decision.

10

### **ATOM VALLEY MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE (MDZ)**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director of Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of the establishment of a Mayoral Development Zone, within the North East Growth location of Greater Manchester and for it to be named the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone.

It was reported that the aim of Growth Locations of which there are six across Greater Manchester was to identify priorities for investment to support new development, improve sustainable transport links, create and retain employment, offer better job opportunities and improve training and skills development for residents.

The North-East Growth Location had a specific opportunity to create significant levels of employment around three key sites, Northern Gateway Site (Bury/Rochdale), Stakehill site

(Rochdale/Oldham) and the Kingsway Business Park (Rochdale).

To support transformational economic growth at these locations, all three local authorities were seeking Cabinet approval for the sites in question to be incorporated into a Mayoral Development Zone to ensure a committed focus in delivering these sites at district, regional and national levels.

The Atom Valley MDZ would support inclusive and sustainable growth that would boost and maximise the competitiveness of the northern part of Greater Manchester in relation to its local economy and would provide employment opportunities in those areas, the proposal was also to brand the area as the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Zone.

Governance arrangements including the formation of a Mayoral Development Zone Board would be established as part of the proposals to ensure that the necessary infrastructure and investment was secured to realise the full potential and aspirations of the area.

Option/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To approve the recommendations

Option 2 – Not to approve the recommendations

RESOLVED – That:

1. The establishment of the Mayoral Development Zone (MDZ) within the North East Growth Corridor be approved.
2. That the Mayoral Development Zone be named Atom Valley.
3. The establishment of the Atom Valley Mayoral Development Board be approved with the delegated authority to develop a strategy for the Mayoral Development Zone and create business case for investment and external funding support with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

11

### **CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT (CRSTS) - TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth which sought formal acceptance of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and Integrated Transport Block allocations for 2022/23 and the programmes recommended for delivery.

Funding previously received for Core Highways Maintenance and Integrated Transport Block (ITB) had been 'consolidated' into the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) funding settlement with effect from 2022/23, for the next 5 financial years.

On 1st April 2022, GM was notified of its final CRSTS allocation of £1.07bn based upon the CRSTS Prospectus, which had been submitted to Government in September 2021 and the draft Programme Case submitted on 31st January 2022.

This allocation included an amount of £175m for core highways maintenance and £82m for ITB funding for the period 2022/23 to 2026/27.

In a report presented to the GM Wider Leadership Team on 13th April 2022 by TfGM/GMCA agreement was gained of the 2022/23 interim allocation of CRSTS funding for the following elements (in advance of final agreement of the full allocations across the CRSTS programme):

- 2022/23 Core Highways Maintenance funding (consolidated highways maintenance block, incentive fund, pothole and challenge funding);
- 2022/23 Integrated Transport Block (ITB) funding.

### **Core Highways Maintenance Funding**

A core highway maintenance allocation of £35m (covering the first year of the £175m) will be made to local authorities based on an allocation process agreed with the GM Delivery Group, the GM Highways Group and the GM Treasurers.

### **Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Funding**

ITB is capital funding granted to local authorities for expenditure on their local transport plans. Following the confirmation of the final CRSTS award by DfT the proposal for allocating ITB in 2022/23, that had been discussed and agreed in principle by the GM Delivery Group and GM Highways Group, was as follows:

- There is no requirement for ITB to be used as part of the funding strategy for Bus Franchising in 2022/23, and therefore it can be released, in full, for funding local transport. However, the potential requirements for ITB to be applied as a funding mitigation for Bus Franchising will need to be reviewed on an annual basis.
- For 2022/23, it is proposed that the allocation basis for ITB returns to the 'historic' 50:50 between the GM local authorities and public transport investment via GMCA. Therefore, the proposal is that £16.3m of ITB is released on a 50:50 basis between the GM local authorities and GMCA.

Following discussions with local authorities via the GM Delivery Group and the GM Treasurers, it was proposed that the allocations of ITB funding per local authority would follow the same as that used when ITB was last allocated to the GM local authorities in 2010/11.

Oldham's total settlement for 2022/23 will be £3,774,000 (£707k ITB funding and £3.067m core maintenance funding).

This will be passported, via the Council's Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2022/23 - 2026/27 approved by full Council on the 2nd March 2022, for investment in and maintenance of Oldham's transport network. This is in accordance with current Local Transport Plan expectations.

### **Core Highways Maintenance Funding**

In an effort to maintain the progress made as part of our recently completed Highway Investment Programme (HIP) we plan on prioritising funds going forward in the same manner. Ensuring scheme selection is carried out in the same manner will allow us to continue to prioritise the correct intervention on the highway at the correct time.

Prioritising the programme using the most recent condition data from the range of condition surveys we carry out annually, and cross referencing those against out claims and enquiry data, has allowed us to not only target the worst roads across the

borough, but also continue in our efforts to reduce highway claims and revenue repairs throughout Oldham. With savings achieved in 2021/22 we already have a preventative maintenance programme of £750,000 approved. This has been tendered and is awaiting delivery in the summer of 2022 (shown at the bottom of Appendix 1 as previously approved). Appendix 1 details the highway schemes to be funded from CRSTS which will enable us to carry out a resurfacing programme alongside the preventative programme.

#### **Integrated Transport Block (ITB) Funding**

The ITB allocation for Oldham in 2022/23 is £707,000. A programme of works has been compiled by highways officers. Appendix 2 set out a proposed programme of schemes which would fully utilise the expected ITB allocation and is recommended for delivery in 2022/23.

Options/Alternatives considered

Option 1 - Members agree - The proposed programme of schemes which would fully utilise the expected City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement highway maintenance and Integrated Transport Block (ITB) allocations available for 2022/23 as per the formal grant notification from GMCA.

Option 2 – Members don't agree the proposed programme of schemes which would fully utilise the expected City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement highway maintenance and Integrated Transport Block (ITB) allocations available for 2022/23 as per the formal grant notification from GMCA.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 15 of the agenda.

12

#### **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

13

#### **CREATING A BETTER PLACE UPDATE: SPINDLES REDEVELOPMENT**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 8.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The updated contract strategy as set out in this report be noted.
2. That the Construction company as detailed within the commercially sensitive report be formally appointed to undertake a package of Enabling Works in relation to accelerating a start on site for the Workspace and Archive development (Project 2).
3. Approval be delegated to the Leader of the Council as Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing, in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Finance and Culture, Chief Executive, Executive Director for Place and

Economic Growth, Directors of Economy, Finance and Legal Services –

- a. to review and approve the details associated with finalising the technical details and entering into the design and build contract for the Market, Event space and Roof works (Project 1); and
  - b. to review and approve the details associated with finalising the technical details and entering into the design and build contract for the Workspace and Archive (Project 2)
4. The Borough Solicitor or his nominated representative/s be authorised to negotiate and sign and/or affix the Common Seal of the Council to any documents authorised by and/or required to give effect to the recommendations in this report.



14

## **OLD LIBRARY BUILDING: RESTORATION AND REFURBISHMENT PHASE 2**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The completed Strategic Business Case (SBC) for the Design and Build project be noted and approved.
2. The preferred facility mix / internal fit out arrangement within the Old Library building which comprises redevelopment Phase 2 be noted and approved
3. Formal agreement and award of the pre-construction services agreement (PCSA) to the Construction Company as detailed within the report be approved.
4. Formal agreement and award of the contract for professional services for an Architect led multidisciplinary design team to the Architects.as detailed within the report be approved
5. Formal agreement and award of the contract for project management professional services to the company detailed within the report be approved.
6. Formal agreement and award of the contract for cost consultancy professional services to the Company detailed within the report be approved.
7. Formal agreement and award of the contract for Principal Designer to the company as detailed within the report be approved
8. Formal agreement of the appointment via a call-off contract using a compliant Framework of solicitors to provide external legal support to the Project be approved.
9. Approval be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing in consultation with the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth, the Director of Legal Services, the Director of Finance (or their nominees), and the Cabinet Members for Finance and Culture
  - a) to appoint any further external technical specialists as required to ensure value for money and timely delivery.



- b) to review and agree the formal agreement of the phase 2 Design and Build construction contract.
10. The Borough Solicitor or his nominated representative be authorised to sign and/or affix the Common Seal of the Council to the contract documents and associated documentation in accordance with this report.

15

**CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT (CRSTS) - TRANSPORT CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2022/23**

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information on relation to Item 11.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The proposed programme of works/projects which would fully utilise the expected City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement highway maintenance and Integrated Transport Block (ITB) allocations available for 2022/23 as per the formal grant notification from GMCA be approved.
2. The 2022/23 Transport Capital programme, based on good practice and ensuring best value for money (Appendix 1) be approved.
3. The 2022/23 Integrated Transport Block (ITB) programme of highway safety, traffic management and minor works schemes based on accident data analysis and feedback from Councillors and residents across the borough (Appendix 2) be approved.
4. All tender award decisions relating to delivery of the appended programmes, with a value of over £400,000, be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth in consultation with the relevant Portfolio holder (consistent with previous Cabinet delegations for highways improvement contracts/programmes): this is necessary to meet delivery timescales.
5. All tender award decisions relating to delivery of the appended programmes (up to £400,000), be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth without the need for further sign-off of individual tender awards (the mechanism for this to be agreed with the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth).
6. Any underspend generated as the attached programmes progress (Appendix 1 and 2) be used to deliver additional schemes in priority order (although lower priority schemes may be selected depending on available budget, value for money and type of treatment) until the budget is fully expended in year. This approach to utilising underspend meant that the Highways service did not need to gain further approvals to deliver additional schemes, ensuring they could be delivered as soon as practically possible. Any additional schemes to be delivered would be communicated with the Portfolio Holder in advance and Ward Members as the scheme development progresses.
7. It be noted:



- detailed financial reports and updates will be reported to Corporate Investment Performance Board (CIPB).
- delivery teams will engage with procurement and legal to ensure that the Council's Contract Procedure Rules are adhered to in all cases.
- The Portfolio Holder would be kept up to date on programme delivery overall; and
- Ward members would be informed of scheme development (where appropriate) and delivery dates ahead of schemes getting to site. This mechanism would ensure prompt and efficient delivery of schemes and the overall programme.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.40pm

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## COUNCIL

# Update on Actions from Council

**Portfolio Holder:** Various

**Officer Contact:** Director of Legal Services

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Drogan, Head of Democratic Services  
**Ext.** 4705

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

The decision is for Elected Members to note the updates to the actions from the previous Council meetings.

### Executive Summary

1. This report provides feedback to the Council on actions taken at the Council meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

### Recommendations

Council are asked to agree the action taken and note no correspondence has been received regarding some motions agreed at the previous Council meeting.

**Update on Actions from Council**

**1 Background**

1.1 The report sets out the actions officers have taken on notice of motions approved at the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**2 Current Position**

2.1 The current position from actions as a result of motions is set out in the table at Appendix One. No letters are attached in response to the actions from Motions approved at Council.

**3 Options/Alternatives**

3.1 N/A

**4 Preferred Option**

4.1 N/A

**5 Consultation**

5.1 N/A

**6 Financial Implications**

6.1 N/A

**7 Legal Services Comments**

7.1 N/A

**8. Co-operative Agenda**

8.1 N/A

**9 Human Resources Comments**

9.1 N/A

**10 Risk Assessments**

10.1 N/A

**11 IT Implications**

11.1 N/A

**12 Property Implications**

12.1 N/A

**13 Procurement Implications**

- 
- 13.1 N/A
- 14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
- 14.1 N/A
- 15 **Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 18 **Key Decision Reference**
- 18.1 N/A
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:
- Agenda and minutes of the Council meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022 are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – actions taken following the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022.
- 20.2 Appendix 2 – Letters and other information received in response to actions approved at previous Council meetings.

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## Appendix 1

### Actions from Council - 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

ACTION	ISSUE/RESPONSE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED
Administration Motion 1: New Deal for Workers	Letter sent to the Prime Minister 'demanding an end to 'fire and rehire' and keep his promise to local residents to protect their employment terms and conditions, and to ask that all key workers get a pay-rise that is at least equal to inflation'	Chief Executive	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Administration Motion 2: Early Years Funding	Letters to be sent to the Secretary of State for Education, outlining the Council's concerns and asking for swift action to address the disparity, outlined in the Motion, and to provide Oldham Metropolitan Borough with a fair funding deal in addition to the additional investment needed to ensure every child can recover the learning and social development lost in the pandemic and has the chance to reach their full potential	Chief Executive	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Opposition Motion 1: Making Fairer Decisions	Chief Executive to amend the standard assessment criteria within the decision-making reports and records to include a requirement to	Chief Executive and Executive Leadership Team	Council approved the Motion on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022  Work is underway on an Impact Assessment tool kit to include

## Appendix 1

	<p>consider the implications of all decisions on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The potential impact of the decision on children and young people which should include any potential impact on the risk of harm to children.</li> <li>2. Authority spending into the local economy.</li> <li>3. Direct the Chief Executive to make and introduce these changes, in line with current plans for a fresh approach to impact assessments, within three months of this Council meeting. A progress report and any financial implications be reported to future cabinet meetings as and when appropriate.</li> </ol>		<p>the considerations detailed in the motion.</p>
<p>Opposition Motion 2: Independent Inquiry in Child Sexual Exploitation</p>	<p>That dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.</p> <p>That ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like</p>	<p>Chief Executive And the Executive Leadership Team</p>	<p>Council approved the Motion on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>

## Appendix 1

	<p>SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.</p> <p>To advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors be established.</p> <p>That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.</p>		
<p>Revision to Finance Procedure Rules</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b> That Council approves the revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules.</p>	<p>Director of Finance</p>	<p>Council approved the report on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022</p>

## Appendix 1

Contract Procedure Rules	<b>RESOLVED</b> - That Council approves the proposed revisions to Article 15.4.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution and to the Contract Procedure Rules in Part 4G of the Constitution.	Director of Legal Services	Council approved the report on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Update on Actions from Council	<b>RESOLVED</b> - that the actions regarding Motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022 be noted	Director of Legal Services	Council noted the report on 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
Health and Wellbeing Board – Terms of Reference	<b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Council confirms the revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board and agree to the amendment of the Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council's Constitution accordingly.	Director of Legal Services	Council approved the report on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22	<b>RESOLVED –</b> 1. The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22, be noted. 2. Council notes and supports the thanks of the Chairs expressed to Cabinet Members, Council Officers and representatives from partner organisations for their support and contributions in the delivery of as full a scrutiny function as was	Director of Legal Services	Council noted the report on 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2022

## Appendix 1

	achievable during the difficult times in 2021/22.		
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## Report to COUNCIL

# Corporate Plan 2022-27 and Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision for 2030

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

### Senior Officer:

Shelley Kipling, Assistant Chief Executive

### Report Author:

Guy Parker, Policy Manager

**07 September 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

Oldham Council's last Corporate Plan expired in 2020, being replaced by a Covid Recovery Strategy to focus the Council's resources as the borough responded to the pandemic. As the Council now looks to the future, a new Corporate Plan enables the strategic use of resources to support the policy and operational priorities of the administration. The new Corporate Plan 2022-27 sets out these priorities for the next five years, with specific deliverables for the next three years.

The Corporate Plan also provides the core of the Council's contribution to delivering the new Oldham Plan – Our Future Oldham. Our Future Oldham will be formally adopted by the Oldham Partnership, and establishes how the major organisations in Oldham will work together to uplift every resident and create a thriving borough.

### Executive Summary

Oldham Council's Corporate Plan 2022-27 describes how the Council will maximise the impact of our efforts and resource to improve the lives of residents in the borough over the next five years. The plan, which aligns with the Oldham Partnership's vision document

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(*Our Future Oldham*), focuses specifically on the impact of our work on children and young people. It acknowledges the present and future challenges created by the cost of living crisis, and describes how services across the Council will 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 are: Residents first; Place-based working; Digital; Working with communities to reduce need.

Our Future Oldham outlines the vision for the future of the borough shared by the Oldham Partnership and informed by the views and priorities of residents. The document establishes a set of aims – the core elements of a good life in Oldham, that we believe every resident should expect. These range 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.

Our Future Oldham also establishes the central governance model for the Oldham Partnership, including the functioning of the Partnership itself and its key delivery boards: the Economic Development Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Communities Board.

## **Recommendations**

Council is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the Corporate Plan 2022-27 and the outcomes it commits the Council to delivering over the next three years
2. Approve the Corporate Plan 2022-27 for adoption.
3. Note 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. Approve *Our Future Oldham* for consideration and adoption by the Oldham Partnership.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 Oldham Council's last Corporate Plan ran from 2017 to 2020, establishing the Council's values (FORWARD) and behaviours, and the co-operative approach to working with residents. This plan expired when the borough was experiencing the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was decided that rather than produce a new Corporate Plan at that point, it would be more appropriate to produce a Covid Recovery Strategy as a roadmap to supporting residents in response to the pandemic. This Covid Recovery Strategy is due to expire this year.
- 1.2 Alongside the development of this new Corporate Plan, the Council has been working with partners to develop a new Oldham Plan. The last Oldham Plan ran from 2017 to 2022, providing an action statement for the Oldham Partnership, setting the borough's overarching goals and activities, enablers, and short- and medium-term outcomes. The new Corporate Plan has been produced to represent the Council's contribution to this wider vision for the future of the borough.

## **2 Development of the Corporate Plan and Our Future Oldham**

- 2.1 The Council has consulted extensively over the last couple of years with residents to understand their priorities and ambitions for the borough. This consultation included 10,000 interactions online and 1,000 direct conversations across 17 events in 2020, a survey of over 600 residents in 2021, Big Oldham Conversation events in every part of Oldham in 2021/22, over 300 young people engaged in focus groups and surveys in 2022 and resident focus groups across the borough. The feedback from this engagement is summarized in the "What Residents Want" section of the draft Our Future Oldham document (see Appendix 2) and also informs the Corporate Plan.
- 2.2 In addition to resident engagement, sessions have been held with councillors and with Council staff through departmental team meetings, specific sessions and at the staff conference to inform the Corporate Plan. Sessions with senior teams at partners have supported the development of Our Future Oldham.
- 2.3 Our Future Oldham and the Council's Corporate Plan have been developed in parallel to ensure that the Council's priorities over the next five years align as well as possible with our residents' broader vision for the future. This ensures the most effective and efficient use of resources to supporting the improvement of our residents lives.
- 2.4 The Corporate Plan included as Appendix 1 is a final draft, subject to approval by Full Council. Our Future Oldham may be subject to minor revisions before adoption by the Oldham Partnership, as it goes through the process of approval by the Council and the other partner organisations.

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### **3 Contents of the Corporate Plan**

#### 3.1 The plan establishes five policy priorities:

- Healthy, safe and well supported residents. Activities under this priority include improvements to our health and social care model, safeguarding, community safety and the Council's response to the cost of living crisis.
- A great start and skills for life. Activities under this priority include improving education outcomes, increasing youth activities, and developing a new model for early years services.
- Better Jobs and dynamic businesses. Activities under this priority include delivering the town centre regeneration plans, improving business support, and developing a new employment and skills strategy.
- Quality homes for everyone. Activities under this priority include finalising Places for Everyone, reducing homelessness through improvements to temporary accommodation and home building, and rolling out the tenants charter and landlord licensing schemes.
- A clean and green future. Activities under this priority include new green spaces and opportunities through Northern Roots and a town centre park, Don't Trash Oldham, and greater enforcement of littering and fly-tipping.

3.2 Oldham Council is continuously aiming to improve. The Corporate Plan commits the Council to focusing on resident experience, ensure that every interaction with the Council and our services is as good as possible, and that everything we do has residents at the heart.

3.3 The other operational priorities in the Plan (Place-based working, digital, and working with communities to reduce need) are linked to that commitment to putting residents first. Through consultation residents have been clear that they want services as much as possible delivered closer to home, so the plan includes a commitment to bringing more services together in neighbourhoods. This enables more effective partnership working, and a better, more convenient service for residents. By digitising services where possible and appropriate, we can again make the experience smoother and more straight forward for residents, while recognising that some will need support or access to technology. By delivering preventative interventions with communities, we are again responding to resident demands that we take a long term perspective, as well as catching issues before they become too serious.

3.4 Our Future Oldham sets a vision for the borough in 2030. By establishing deliverables to be completed in the next three years, and priorities for the Council for the next five years, the Corporate Plan provides steps on the borough's journey. When the deliverables included in the plan have been completed the priorities will be reviewed and new deliverables established for the next stage.

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3.5 The plan will be used to inform the budget setting process for the coming municipal year. By aligning spend as closely as possible to our residents' priorities efficiency and impact for residents can be maximised.

## **4 Contents of Our Future Oldham**

4.1 Our Future Oldham provides an overview of the state of the borough today, our places and people. It identifies some of the things that make Oldham a great place to live, and some of the key challenges we know are coming in the years ahead. While recent years have demonstrated that the future is unpredictable, there are certain things that we know will happen, like our population ageing, the changes that are already in progress in our town centres and the transport improvements that local and national government have committed to delivering.

4.2 The document provides an overview of the responses to consultations and resident engagement to inform the vision, and then sets out eight aims to uplift every resident. These are:

- A well-rounded, enriching, life-long education
- The opportunity to get a decent job that pays well and offers security and flexibility
- Quick, cheap and easy transport to every part of the city region
- A home that is affordable, well-maintained and appropriate
- Timely access to vital services to keep people healthy and safe
- A clean, green and healthy environment
- Diverse opportunities to get together, with regular activities to boost physical and mental health and community spirit
- A local area that meets people's need and makes them proud

4.3 Our Future Oldham does not seek to present a single picture of what life will be like in every part of the borough, recognising that people do and want to live in different ways. Instead, it sets basic benchmarks for the minimum standards we want for everyone.

4.4 The Oldham Partnership will work together to establish specific targets and metrics to measure progress against these aims. These can then be used to identify areas of weakness at a borough level as well as in particular districts or neighbourhoods. Partners may in one area wish to focus on interventions on education, for example, where outcomes are particularly weak, while in another area the priority is improving transport links.

4.5 The Partnership will celebrate successes, monitor progress and set challenges for improvement. This improvement will be delivered through newly established Economic Development and Communities boards, and the already established

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Health and Wellbeing Board. These boards will in turn work with existing boards and groups to increase effective working across the system.

## **5 Options/Alternatives**

- 5.1 Option 1: Approve the Corporate Plan 2022-27 for adoption and allow Our Future Oldham to proceed to the Oldham Partnership for final approval.
- 5.2 This option is recommended as it will allow the Council to proceed most efficiently and effectively, delivering on the Administration's priorities and focusing on the needs of residents, while contributing to the overall vision for Oldham set out in Our Future Oldham.
- 5.3 Option 2: Reject the Corporate Plan 2022-27 and Our Future Oldham as drafted, proceeding without a Corporate Plan or wider borough vision until amendments can be made.

## **6 Preferred Option**

- 6.1 Option 1: Approve the Corporate Plan 2022-27 for adoption and allow Our Future Oldham to proceed to the Oldham Partnership for final approval

## **7 Consultation**

- 7.1 Extensive consultation has taken place over the last two years to establish resident priorities for the Council and borough. Prior to the pandemic, "Let's Talk Oldham" generated 10,000 responses on social media and 1,000 direct conversations across 17 events. Residents called for cleaner streets, and a focus on job creation, with top priorities to make Oldham a better place to live focusing on housing, transport, the maintenance of roads and pavements, and our town centres.
- 7.2 Last year 616 residents responded to a survey focused on recovery from the pandemic, with responses emphasizing the need for safe and decent homes for everyone and more employment opportunities. The top priority, however, was ensuring those most in need were given the support they need. The value of parks and open spaces was also highlighted.
- 7.3 Consultation in 2022 has focused on face to face, detailed engagement with residents. This started with focus groups and surveys with young people, with more than 300 participating. Priorities from young people included making Oldham cleaner, greener and safer, with better public transport, and more activities. Focus groups with residents and representatives from voluntary and community groups emphasized the need for localized, place-based services, easy access, and a stronger relationship between the Council and residents.

## **8 Financial Implications**

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- 8.1 All the actions that are included within the Corporate Plan that are to be delivered to achieve corporate objectives will be financed within approved budgetary resources. Ensuring that the Council remains financially resilient and sustainable in the future will form a key part of the on-going budget setting process and medium term financial strategy.
- 8.2 The availability and the alignment of resources to deliver the actions will depend to a significant extent on the allocation of resources by Central Government, and may need to be revisited in light of shifting national policy and budgetary priorities. (Anne Ryans)

## **9 Legal Services Comments**

- 9.1 None

## **10 Co-operative Agenda**

- 10.1 The Corporate Plan 2022-27 is designed to support the Co-operative agenda. This is achieved in through its alignment with Our Future Oldham, enabling the Council to work with partners and residents to deliver a long-term vision.
- 10.2 The operational priorities of resident focus, place-based working and preventative interventions delivered with communities reflect co-operative principles. The plan is intended to further strengthen the Council's collaborative approach with residents, partners, and the VCFSE sector.
- 10.3 Our Future Oldham and the partnership governance it establishes strengthen the co-operative approach that is well embedded in Oldham. The document and partnership will enable every major organization in the borough to work more closely together with residents, aligning resources and effort where appropriate to improve residents' lives.

## **11 Human Resources Comments**

- 11.1 There are no direct HR implications in relation to the approval of the plans.
- 11.2 The HR/OD Service will work closely with services to support workforce priorities, embedding core behaviours and shaping resources to assist the delivery of the corporate plan.

(Catherine Pearson, Strategic HR Lead)

## **12 Risk Assessment**

- 12.1 Without an up to-date Corporate Plan there is reputational risk for the Council that it may have difficulty demonstrating that its use of resources represent value for money because they are focused on appropriate priorities and actions. This risk is



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heightened if priorities and actions are not aligned to a wider borough vision (Mark Stenson)

### **13 Property Implications**

13.1 None

### **14 Procurement Implications**

14.1 No procurement implications (Dan Cheetham, Interim Procurement Lead)

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

15.1 The Corporate Plan 2022-27, delivered in conjunction with Our Future Oldham, will have positive implications for equality, community cohesion and our work to reduce crime. The focus of the plans are on ensuring all residents have access to high quality education, housing, and work amongst a range of other measures. The plan includes activities to create healthier, safer and better supported communities, including the development of a community safety and cohesion plan.

### **16 Implications for Children and Young People**

16.1 The Corporate Plan is centred on children and young people, with every element designed to positively impact what Oldham is like as a place to grow up. Our Future Oldham was driven by extensive consultation with children and young people, with the key aims reflecting the life ambitions of our younger residents.

### **17 Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

17.1 No

### **18 Key Decision**

18.1 Yes

### **19 Key Decision Reference**

19.1 -CS-1-22

### **20 Background Papers**

20.1 N/A

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## **21 Appendices**

21.1 Appendix 1 – Oldham Council Corporate Plan 2022-27

21.2 Appendix 2 – Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision for 2030 [DRAFT]

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**Oldham Council  
Corporate Plan  
2022–2027**



**Oldham  
Council**



# Foreword

It has been my privilege to represent Royton South as a councillor since 2012, and now to serve the borough as Council Leader. In the last decade I've learned some important lessons.

**Our residents are proud of the place they live but want it to be the best it can be.** They understand that things take time, and that after years of austerity there are limits on what the Council can do. They want to see us investing for the future and being ambitious, but are often sceptical about whether that investment will deliver results. They know that Oldham's best chance is our young people. They want to be involved, to play their part, and to have their views respected.



I'll be holding these lessons close as leader. **This Corporate Plan is the Council's contribution over the next five years to creating Our Future Oldham.** When you take a long-term approach it's obvious that you have to start by getting things right for children and young people. That's why making sure Oldham is the best possible place to grow up is a central element of this plan.

However, we can't ignore the immediate challenge that the cost of living crisis presents. With energy bills going through the roof and wages being stretched by inflation, even relatively well-off people are having to cut back, and more and more people are going to be forced to make really hard choices. Like with Covid, we'll need to work together to get through it. Having brought people together for a Cost of Living Summit this summer, I'm determined that we'll have a range of support services in place before the costs really start to bite when people's boilers start to come back on in the autumn.

Whatever your situation, but particularly when you're struggling, **being able to rely on excellent service from your local council makes a big difference.** That's why, as well as developing specific support for people feeling the impact of rising prices, this Corporate Plan is a declaration of intent: **every council service will be a good service, every experience for residents will be a good experience.** We've made "Residents First" a key operational priority, so every member of staff is thinking first and foremost about how best we can serve our communities. I'm committed to ensuring that residents will see improvements in their interactions with the Council, and we'll also be building on the Big Oldham Conversation to bring residents much more into the decision-making process. Oldham Council will be an organisation that works with residents, not one that does things to them.

A frustration I often hear from residents is that they feel like we're always looking to the next project or plan, before the previous ones have been completed. This Corporate Plan is about making sure we deliver on those vital regeneration projects that are finally making a difference in Oldham. Projects like Spindles, Northern Roots and the new performance and theatre space will be transformational and we have to see them through to give us a base from which to grow.

There's huge amounts to do. This plan represents only a fraction of what the Council and our fantastic staff do every day. **Alongside our residents, and with a clear focus on our aims, I know we can achieve great things for Oldham.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Chadderton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Councillor Amanda Chadderton**

# Delivering Our Future Oldham

The single best thing we can do to create the future we want for our borough is investing in our children and young people. Every young person in Oldham has the potential to do great things, to live great lives and to improve the lives of those around them, if we support them to do so.

Over 300 young people participated in focus groups and surveys prior to the development of this plan, and they shone a light on the many diverse things that make Oldham a great place to grow up. Amongst other things they highlighted the parks, the take-aways, the netball and their friends and neighbours. We can't shy away, though, from the reality that currently Oldham's young people face many challenges.

On average, a child in Oldham gets lower grades than their equivalents across Greater Manchester and nationally. Mental health issues for young people are a prominent and growing concern, particularly in the aftermath of the pandemic. Young people report worries about personal safety. When they leave education, they find it harder than peers elsewhere to secure that crucial first job.

Of course, many of the challenges faced by young people are also experienced by the older residents of Oldham. Focusing on the next generation, then, also means making life better for the current one.

After more than a decade of annual budget cuts, we can only achieve results by focusing on what is most important and where the Council can have most impact.

## In Oldham this means:

- 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

Delivering against these priorities means the Council can help residents and make Oldham the best place it can be. Our experience during the pandemic showed what a difference we can make. It also showed the power and leadership of our residents. A key learning for the future is that by empowering residents to take the lead, amazing things can happen.

This plan sets out the Council's priorities, with specific actions for the next three years. It works in parallel with the **Our Future Oldham** vision – a blueprint for the next decade.

Residents tell us that they feel more and more a part of Greater Manchester, and as the Combined Authority acquires more powers through devolution it is vital that we take advantage of our place in the city region. Earlier this year the GMCA published a GM Strategy which prioritises growth, equality and the climate. We will do best for our residents by aligning our efforts to these priorities.

**Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision for 2030** sets the direction for our borough as a whole, based on extensive consultation with residents and partners. It shows what we're trying to achieve overall, and specifically the minimum expectations every resident should have by 2030. This Corporate Plan is the Council's contribution.

**GM Priority:**

- A Greener Greater Manchester

**Our Future Oldham Aim:**

- A clean, green and healthy environment

**Corporate Plan Priority:**

- A clean and green future

**GM Priority:**

- A Fairer Greater Manchester

**Our Future Oldham Aims:**

- A clean, green and healthy environment;
- Diverse opportunities to get together, with regular activities to boost physical and mental health and community spirit;
- A home that is affordable, well maintained, and appropriate

**Corporate Plan Priorities:**

- Healthy, safe and well supported residents;
- Quality homes for everyone

**GM Priority:**

- A More Prosperous Greater Manchester

**Our Future Oldham Aims:**

- The opportunity to get a decent job that pays well and offers security and flexibility;
- A local area that meets people's needs and makes them proud;
- Quick, cheap and easy transport to every part of the city region;
- A well-rounded, enriching, life-long education

**Corporate Plan Priorities:**

- Better jobs and dynamic businesses;
- A great start and skills for life



# Our Priorities



## Healthy, Safe and Well Supported Residents

The Council's biggest responsibility is the effective safeguarding of our most vulnerable residents, and this continues to be a top priority.

Our approach to safeguarding and supporting residents has become increasingly embedded in communities, so that we're close at hand when people need us. This "place-based" approach has allowed us to act faster, and to work more closely with partners to provide more wrap-around support. Utilising procedures and processes that are regularly tested and reviewed internally and by external bodies, and through continuous improvement, we will continue to do everything possible to keep people safe. This includes actions to intervene as early as possible before risk develops. Where people suffer abuse, our victim strategy is in place to ensure they get the best support possible.

The pandemic showed our health services at their best, working closely with residents to keep people safe and respond to outbreaks. Recent innovations such as advanced health checks to include mental health support and the announcement of a new specialist diagnostic centre show that we're moving in the right direction. However, health inequalities remain a huge challenge in Oldham. We work closely with NHS colleagues to ensure residents can access services when they're unwell and are investing in better support to help people live healthy, active lives. This reduces the need for more costly and impactful interventions later down the line. Health and social care in Greater Manchester is changing, and we have the opportunity to make it more responsive to the needs of our local communities rather than a one-size-fits-all approach.

The next couple of years are likely to see households under particular financial stress through the cost of living crisis. This creates tensions and stresses, and increases the risk of people falling into substantial difficulty. Therefore it is more important than ever that the Council and our partners are working closely with residents to provide support as quickly and efficiently as possible to keep people healthy, safe and supported.

### In 2022–25 we will...

- Deliver health and social care services that are more joined-up through the delivery of the new integrated care model
- Deliver significant changes to Adult Social Care services to ensure the support we provide to local people is good quality and meets national guidelines
- Achieve a good Ofsted rating for our children's social care services, so residents can be confident that Oldham is a place where our children and young people are safe and supported
- Develop and deliver a health inequalities plan for Oldham
- Increase the uptake of local and national health checks, screenings and immunisations
- Increase levels of physical activity and usage of leisure facilities
- Develop and deliver a new three-year community safety and cohesion plan, tackling crime and ensuring people feel safe across the borough
- Develop a thorough response to the cost of living crisis to ensure every Oldham resident has the support they need, building on the outcomes of the Cost of Living Summit.

### Why this matters for children and young people...

A young person born in Oldham today has a shorter life expectancy than elsewhere in the country, and even within Oldham the difference in areas is stark. Mental health and safety are two of the biggest concerns for Oldham young people. Addressing this is crucial if we're to give young people the best start possible.

## A Great Start and Skills for Life

In the pandemic our amazing teachers and schools responded in the most trying circumstances, continuing to support our children and giving them the best chance to succeed against all odds.

Recent years have seen improvements in outcomes, with progress in early years, primary and A-level results before the pandemic. We've also seen the creation of new places at our best schools, including a whole new site for Saddleworth School, the brand new Brian Clarke Academy, and the announcement of a new sixth form supported by Eton College. Clearly, however, there is more to do to give all our young people the education they deserve.

Outside of schools, young people need opportunities to gain new skills and experiences, and to socialise. Mental health remains a pressing priority for young people in the face of mounting pressures.

### In 2022–25 we will...

- Improve outcomes and increase the number of quality school and college places by:
- Working with partners in the education sector to drive improvement, led by teachers and schools
- Creating new, quality school and college places where there is need
- Develop and deliver a strategy for SEND provision and services to identify and meet the needs of local children and young people
- Increase opportunities for young people to engage with our youth activities and support
- Develop and deliver a strategy for post-16 education and training that equips residents to access great jobs
- Develop a new, improved model for early years services and support including health visiting, family nursing and children's centres

### Why this matters for children and young people...

There is no more effective way to improve someone's life chances than supporting their development in their early years. Giving every child a great education is a moral responsibility, and it's also vital if we're to boost wealth and productivity in the local economy and make Oldham an attractive place for families.

## Better Jobs and Dynamic Businesses

The link between decent work and better life chances is clear. As an employer, the Council reflects this by ensuring all our staff and suppliers are paid at least the real living wage. We also promote the GM Good Employment Charter to businesses across the borough.

We are investing in Oldham's future, with a £306m regeneration strategy to create town centres that are great places to live, work and spend time. This programme is moving forward at pace, in part thanks to our success bidding for funding from the Towns Deal Fund and Future High Streets Fund.

The Council supports businesses and jobs through our employment programmes, schemes for business start-ups and growth, creating space for building and service provision. We work with employers and training providers to ensure local residents can access the skills they need to progress into well paid employment. The Council is committed to a more inclusive approach to employment, with a focus on supporting those who face barriers to work.

Our Future Oldham is a place where every resident can get a job that supports a lifestyle that works for them. As the Independent Economic Review demonstrated, there is an entrepreneurial drive in Oldham, but there is more to do to ensure that Oldham is seen as a great place to start, grow or locate a dynamic business.

### In 2022–25 we will...

- Deliver on our plans for a renewed purpose for Oldham Town Centre as a creative place with a vibrant night time and cultural economy, more jobs and homes, including:
- Redevelopment of the Spindles to include a new market, retail space, office and events space
- A new performance and theatre space for Oldham
- A new Town Centre Park
- A new community purpose for the Old Library
- Improve the approach to supporting and engaging local businesses
- Increase the amount the council spends with local companies and suppliers
- Deliver a more ambitious and proactive approach to place marketing
- Support residents into work through our range of Get Oldham Working initiatives
- Deliver a transport strategy to open up a wide range of jobs and other opportunities for Oldham people across the city region and beyond
- Develop a new employment and skills strategy and Oldham Skills Plan for the borough

### Why this matters for children and young people...

Our consultation with young people showed that most want to build their future careers in Oldham if they can, but they are split on whether the jobs they want will be available to them. By making Oldham a more attractive place for business, we create opportunities for people today and make it more likely that the next generation will stay here to help our borough thrive.

## Quality Homes for Everyone

Oldham's Housing Strategy, published in 2019, sets out a clear approach to deliver the homes we need, including those for young people and first-time buyers, homes suitable for older residents and those with additional needs, and social and affordable housing. The selective licensing scheme introduced to improve the quality of private-rented housing had a significant impact in the worst-affected areas. The recently published Mills Strategy shows how we'll use Oldham's heritage assets to provide more brownfield housing and protect the borough's green spaces. Creating A Better Place includes the provision of 2,000 homes in the town centre, revitalising our high streets, addressing shortages and removing the need to build on green belt.

While the plans are in place, there is still work to do. The lack of affordable, accessible and appropriate housing is a top issue raised by residents in consultations. While lower than the national average, house prices remain unaffordable for many, and others struggle to find a home that fits their needs. For renters, standards in the private rented sector are often not high enough.

The "A Bed Every Night" programme has significantly reduced the amount of people sleeping rough in the city region, but many still find themselves reliant on temporary accommodation. The future of housing delivery in Oldham will partly be established by the introduction of Places for Everyone (a spatial plan for Oldham and eight other Greater Manchester boroughs), and our own local plan, but housing must continue to be a key area of focus.

### In 2022–25 we will...

- Deliver new, high-quality homes across the borough to meet a wide range of local needs from affordable to aspirational
- Finalise Places for Everyone to identify the land we need to meet our local housing need and to support business growth whilst continuing the review of our own Local Plan, focusing on using brownfield land wherever we can
- Roll out our tenants charter and landlord licensing schemes to improve the quality of rented homes across the borough
- Deliver our Warm Homes Oldham scheme to protect those most vulnerable from rising energy prices, and ensure more of our homes are well insulated
- Work to reduce homelessness by reviewing and improving our temporary accommodation and building on the successful A Bed Every Night project

### Why this matters for children and young people...

The sense that home ownership is out of reach is particularly acute for young people, who face the prospect of living longer with their parents, using a large chunk of their salary on insecure rent, or moving elsewhere. Building more home, including town centre apartments, increases the chances of our young people staying in Oldham as they get older.

The need for appropriate accommodation was particularly felt by young people during the pandemic, where many were forced to try to study in overcrowded spaces at home.

## A Clean and Green Future

Oldham has committed to Green New Deal targets to make the Council carbon-neutral by 2025 and the borough carbon-neutral by 2030. This is important for the borough as a way of making Oldham a more pleasant and healthier place to live in the short term, while protecting the borough and planet from the worst effects of climate change in the long term. There are also commercial opportunities for the borough from the green agenda, with a growing green technology industry, and potential for green tourism. Oldham is already seen as a leading green borough, and Northern Roots has the potential to put Oldham on the map as a key visitor destination in Greater Manchester.

People should be proud of their local area and feel good when they're walking around it. Nothing makes that harder than when there's rubbish all over the place. Through "Don't Trash Oldham" we've been cleaning up our streets, removing more than 150 tonnes of litter. We'll be going further with that, prosecuting more fly-tippers and redesigning streets to make them easier and more pleasant to spend time in.

### In 2022–25 we will...

- Support Oldham's growing green industry, creating more green jobs and opportunities
- Boost our position as the greenest borough in Greater Manchester by improving and better promoting our amazing green spaces
- Create new green spaces and opportunities through Northern Roots and our new Town Centre Park
- Support the development of Greater Manchester's plan to deliver cleaner air
- Deliver cleaner neighbourhoods and streets through the roll out and further development of Don't Trash Oldham
- Increase enforcements for those who litter and flytip
- Support increased recycling for homes and businesses

### Why this matters for children and young people...

Young people around the world have been the driving force behind the climate agenda in recent years. In our consultation, young residents indicated a very strong preference for a shift towards greater reliance on public transport over private vehicles to protect the climate. They are also, like older residents, very conscious of the impact of litter and how it makes them feel about their neighbourhood. Don't Trash Oldham remains an important programme if we are to help residents young and old to feel prouder of where they live.





# How we work

The Council is constantly looking at how we can work more effectively and efficiently in the interests of residents. As a Cooperative Council, we work in partnership with residents, businesses and other major organisations across the borough. Further detail of this approach is set out in **Our Future Oldham**.

Over the next five years, we will look to embed some core values and behaviours to ensure every interaction with the Council is a good experience for residents.

We will also take forward four transformational changes to our service delivery:

- residents first;
- place-based working;
- digitisation; and
- a preventative, collaborative approach with communities.

## Residents First

The commitment to making every service a good service and every experience a good experience means constantly working with residents to improve our performance. This will be achieved in part through new measures and metrics that allow us to monitor the resident experience of our services more effectively.

Alongside improvements to how we measure our performance, we will build on the work already underway to ensure the resident voice is at the heart of our decision making. This takes traditional forms, such as consultation on key projects and decisions and the Big Oldham Conversation meetings that took place across the borough throughout 2021–22, and more innovative forms. One example of this is the Oldham Poverty Truth Commission, where residents with experience of poverty come together with decision makers from the Council and other public bodies to explore how we can better serve people in poverty. Another example is the Oldham Independent Economic Review, where leaders from business, the skills sector, the voluntary sector and Greater Manchester received expert evidence before producing a series of recommendations on the future of the Oldham economy.

## Place-based Working

Feedback from residents has been clear: as much as possible, people want services close to home and tailored to the specific needs of their community. While some services will always need to be delivered centrally, we aim to deliver more and more locally, across the five-district footprints agreed with our partners.

Services delivered by the Council in districts include early help for residents who are struggling, violence prevention and financial inclusion. Each district also has a dedicated local team focused on the needs of the community, reaching out to residents and coordinating actions.

As well as bringing more Council services to local areas, we aim to more deeply integrate with other public bodies like the NHS, schools, housing associations and the police. By strengthening the ties between us we can provide more holistic support to residents. Establishing community hubs in each district means every resident can access services and support without having to travel far.

We will also be building our relationship with the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, as set out in the Greater Manchester VCFSE Accord. The sector provided so much to Oldham during the pandemic, demonstrating its deep understanding of and links into our communities. Working more closely with the sector will be vital, particularly as residents are affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

**Our Future Oldham** sets out the place we want the borough to be, somewhere that uplifts every resident. But residents have told us that the challenges and opportunities that matter most to them are often those closest to home. So we'll be tailoring **Our Future Oldham** with local residents and partners to meet the needs of individual districts, putting emphasis and priority on what's most important in each neighbourhood.

## Digital

Not everyone is equipped or comfortable with accessing services digitally, so it's important that the support is always there for those who need it. More and more, however, residents want and expect the convenience of being able to apply for services or solve problems through their computer or phone.

We're implementing a digital strategy so that, where it is possible and there is resident demand, end-to-end digital services are available. Whether paying council tax, reporting fly-tipping or applying for a school place, services should be available at the click of a button, without having to wait in a queue or leaving the house. This is more convenient for residents and more efficient, enabling more resource to be focused on resident priorities. We'll be focusing website improvements on those things residents need the most, and making accessing Council services easier than ever.

For the digital strategy to be a success, though, we need to strengthen Oldham's digital fibre infrastructure, so that homes and workplaces can access digital connections that reflect current and future demand. This will be achieved in part through the GM One Network project, bringing high speed networks to the city region.

Digital skills development opportunities will be available to residents, to equip them with skills that are increasingly vital for work and life. We will also be providing greater support for those who lack the equipment and connectivity for the digital world.

## Working with Communities to Reduce Need

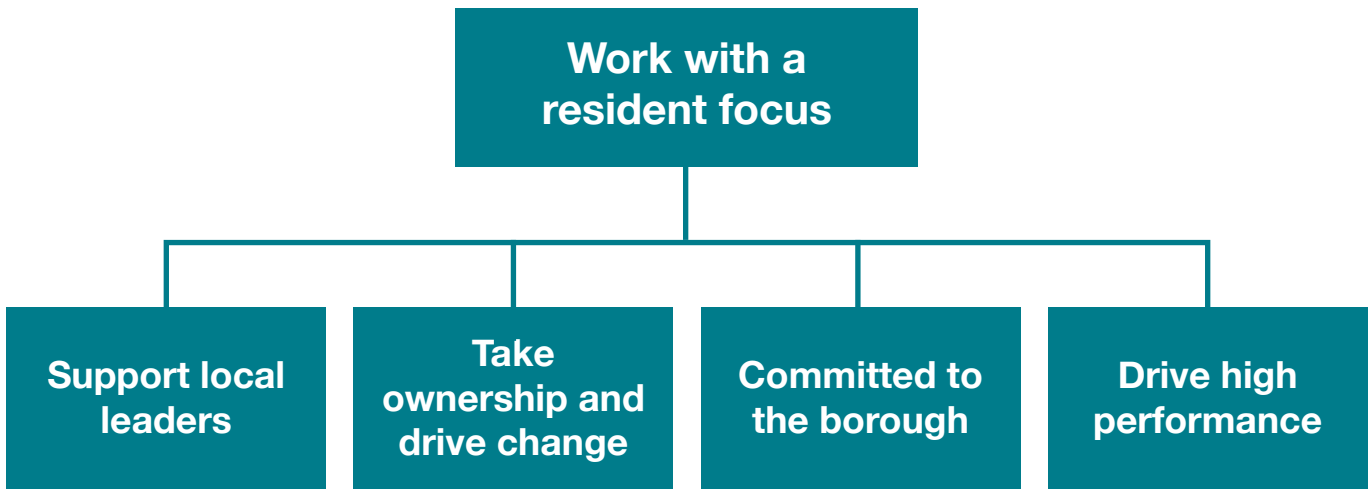
Taking a community-centred, preventative approach to public services is better for everyone. For the public purse, it's better to help people stop smoking than treat lung cancer, and it's far better for the person too.

We are happier and healthier when we exercise regularly, eat well, have an active social life and support network, with enough money coming in and a home that meets our needs. That means that, for the Council, by focusing resources on early help to support people it's better for everyone.

What early help looks like will be different in different places, as to be effective it requires genuine partnership between services and residents. For some areas it may be more community events to help get people out of the house, for others extra support for families under stress.

## Core Behaviours

Every day we interact with thousands of Oldham residents. Our councillors and staff bring their skills, experience and personality to work every day to make Oldham a great place to live. We're all different, and this diversity is a real asset, but there are some core behaviours that we expect throughout the organisation.



As described above, everything the Council does, and every action our staff take should have a focus on residents. This is the central behaviour that will ensure every experience residents have of the Council is a good one, and ultimately what will mean every service we provide is a good one in the eyes of the people we work for.

We have a commitment to working closely and collaboratively with partners and residents. We **support local leaders** because in many cases the Council is not best placed to act. Oldham is full of talent and passionate people, so it's important that wherever possible we look to empower residents to take the lead.

Where the Council is best placed though, it's vital that we **take ownership and drive change**. Our staff are constantly looking for ways that we can improve services or solve problems, and are supported to take responsibility, acting boldly and with courage in the understanding that they will be supported to succeed.

In everything we do, we consistently demonstrate that we are **committed to the borough**. The Council is full of born and raised Oldham people, and everyone who works for us knows that their responsibility is first and foremost to Oldham and its residents. We will always do what's best for Oldham, and fight for more for Oldham regionally and nationally.

Finally, we are determined to **drive high performance**. Our staff are supported to do excellent work, and we conduct rigorous and continuous performance analysis to ensure we squeeze everything out of our budget, and are constantly improving.

# Our Future Oldham

A Shared Vision for 2030

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# Foreword

In Oldham we've got a proud history of punching above our weight. There's the mills that remind us where we came from, and the bright young businesses that show us where we're going. The population of our borough may only account for 0.3% of the UK, but we've produced leaders in business (like Sir Jim Ratcliffe, one of the world's richest men), sport (like David Platt and Mike Atherton, who were England football and cricket captains at the same time in the 90s) and culture (like Suranne Jones, Sarah Lancashire and Nick Grimshaw).

Our population is young, diverse and optimistic. Set between an energetic 21<sup>st</sup> century city and the timeless beauty of the Peak District, Oldham is a great place to call home. If we're to achieve our potential, though, we need a clear, shared plan for the future.

That's what we've produced here. After extensive conversations with residents, businesses, community groups and organisations around the borough, we've agreed this vision: Oldham will be a place that uplifts every resident. We've set out the things we want people to know they can rely on if they live here, across education, work, our neighbourhoods and communities. Our goals are ambitious but achievable. We're reflective of the world in which we find ourselves but retain an unmistakable Oldham accent.

Now we've got a shared target, it's up to us all to work together to achieve it. We're aiming for 2030 – far enough away that real change is possible but near enough to drive action today.

Every Oldham resident deserves a rich, fulfilling life. This is how we make that possible. This is Our Future Oldham.



# Our Oldham

## Who We Are

Oldham is a diverse place in many senses. We're more than the stereotype of a tough, simple, Northern mill town. We're a radical place: we sent people to Peterloo and the Spanish Civil War and raised leaders of the suffragettes and the cooperative movement. We're an innovative place: from the cotton industry to the tubular bandage and the world's first test tube baby. We're a bold place: Many of our parents came here from far away with a determination to build a good life for themselves. We're a proud place, and yes, a tough place: being on high ground next to the Peaks, you won't last long if you can't handle the wind and a bit of rain.

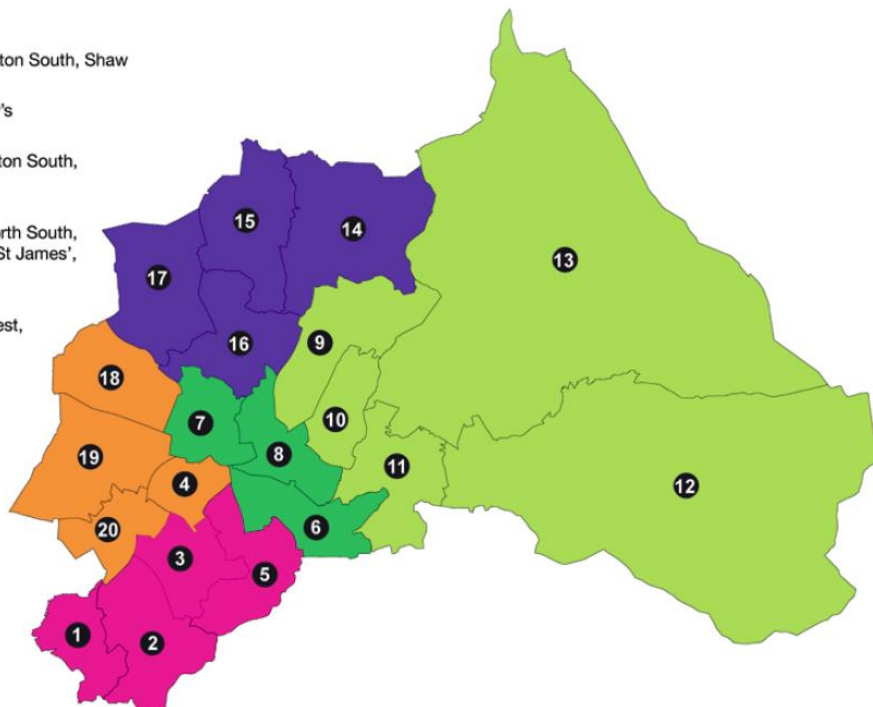
The borough is divided into five districts, with many services coordinated at a district level to address local needs. Our population is focused around Oldham town centre and the towns of Failsworth, Chadderton, Royton and Shaw, with the eastern half of the borough more rural, comprising Saddleworth and its villages. Our communities benefit from fantastic local parks, like Alexandra Park and Tandle Hill. Transport links take people easily into Manchester (via the tram and bus network) and elsewhere (via the M60 and M62).

### Districts

- North District**  
Crompton, Royton North, Royton South, Shaw
- Central District**  
Alexandra, Coldhurst, St Mary's
- West District**  
Chadderton Central, Chadderton South, Chadderton North, Werneth
- East District**  
Saddleworth North, Saddleworth South, Saddleworth West and Lees, St James', Waterhead
- South District**  
Failsworth East, Failsworth West, Hollinwood, Medlock Vale

### Electoral Wards

- 1 Failsworth West
- 2 Failsworth East
- 3 Hollinwood
- 4 Werneth
- 5 Medlock Vale
- 6 Alexandra
- 7 Coldhurst
- 8 St. Mary's
- 9 St. James
- 10 Waterhead
- 11 Saddleworth West & Lees
- 12 Saddleworth South
- 13 Saddleworth North
- 14 Shaw
- 15 Crompton
- 16 Royton South
- 17 Royton North
- 18 Chadderton North
- 19 Chadderton Central
- 20 Chadderton South



Oldham today is younger than the national average. We're diverse, with significant numbers of residents of Pakistani and Bangladeshi heritage, and other emerging communities.

**Oldham's Population is**  
**242,100** with 118,400 males (49%)  
 and 123,700 females (51%)  
 making us the sixth largest borough in Greater Manchester

**Between 2011 and 2021** our population increased by **7.6%**

This is a larger increase than that seen across Greater Manchester (6.9%) and England (6.6%).

According to the ONS, our population is projected to reach  
**261,018 by 2041**  
 a 10% increase from the 2020 population



It is expected that the number of older people in Oldham's population will grow by 30% in the next 20 years.

Age	0 – 19	19 – 64	65+
Population	67,900	135,500	38,700
Percentage	28%	56%	16%

Oldham is a place of contrasts, with areas of very high levels of deprivation, some of the most aspirational places to live, and everything in between. Every part of the borough has things to celebrate and be proud of, but all have their own unique challenges too.

## Unemployment

Unemployment in Oldham is 7.3%

The highest in Greater Manchester and higher than the England rate.

	March 22	March 21
Oldham	7.3%	9.9%
GM	5.6%	8.0%
England	4.3%	6.6%

Alexandra has the highest rate at **13.6%**

Saddleworth North has the lowest at **1.8%**

## Youth unemployment in Oldham is 9.8%

The highest in GM, and significantly higher than the national rate.

	March 22	March 21
Oldham	9.8%	16.4%
GM	6.5%	10.6%
England	5.0%	9.2%

Hollinwood has the highest rate at **16.5%**

Saddleworth South has the lowest at **2.7%**

## Annual Pay

The median annual gross pay for residents of Oldham is below that of GM and England.

Oldham	£27,594
Greater Manchester (Met County)	£28,960
England	£31,490



## Deprivation

Oldham currently has four areas within the borough which are among the top 1% of the nation's most deprived areas.

However, **26.2%** of areas in Oldham are among the **10%** most deprived areas in England

## Life expectancy 2018–20



	Oldham	England
Male	77.2	79.4
Female	80.5	83.1

## Healthy life expectancy 2017–19

	Oldham	England
Male	58.3	63.2
Female	58.3	63.5

Overall levels of income, health and education are somewhat below regional and national averages. These averages mask the significant inequalities that exist within the borough, however. People in Alexandra are expected to live on average 12 years less than those in Saddleworth South. Youth unemployment across the borough is the highest in Greater Manchester at 9.8%, but in Hollinwood it reaches 16.5%. Oldham as a whole is the second happiest borough in Greater Manchester, reflecting the fact that for many it's a great place to live. But we can't hide from the reality that many of our friends and neighbours are struggling.

Like other places, the world of work has changed a lot in Oldham – the days of most people living within sight of their workplace are gone. The Oldham Independent Economic Review identified a strong “entrepreneurial culture” in the borough, with large numbers of business start-ups and small and micro businesses. Wholesale and retail, construction, and professional services contribute significant numbers of jobs, with manufacturing the largest single sector in terms of Gross Value Added (although this has declined).

Despite this, unemployment is relatively high, and the Review noted an over-reliance on the “foundational” economy – the kind of jobs that are found everywhere like retail

and the public sector that, while vitally important to the functioning of the borough, don't generate significant additional wealth.

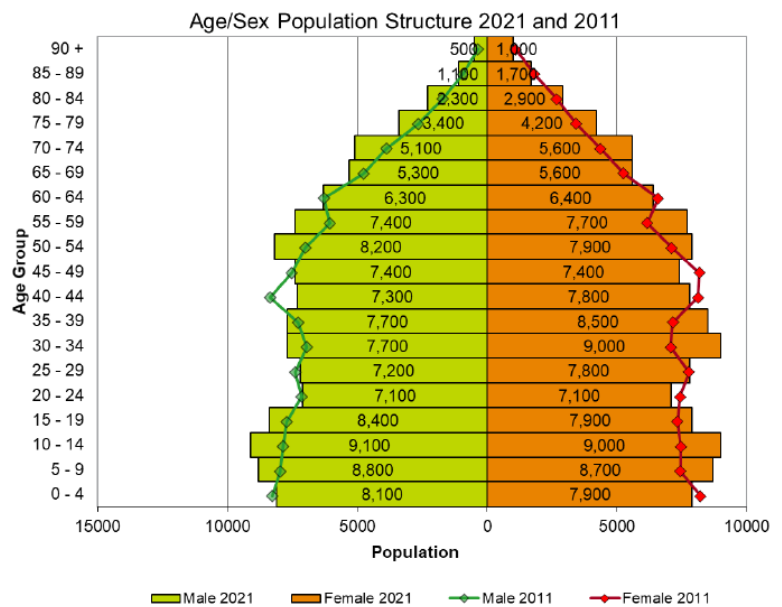
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## What We Know About The Future

The Covid pandemic reminded everyone that the future is unpredictable, and inevitably any strategic vision will have to adapt to changing circumstances. But there are some things we know will happen in the years ahead that will affect our borough.

### Our Population is Ageing

While Oldham today has a younger than average population, over the next decade the number of people reaching retirement age is expected to increase significantly. This will create greater pressures on our health and social care system, and on public and personal budgets. This demographic shift makes it more important than ever that we take a preventative approach to public health, supporting people to live healthy and active lives for longer.



### Our Town Centres are Changing

Around the country high streets are changing as online and out-of-town retail puts pressure on local shops. Towns that succeed will do so because of the experiences they create for people, attracting visitors with the mix of shops, leisure, employment and housing.

Places like Royton and Uppermill are already doing well, drawing locals and visitors with their independent shops and options for food and drinks. There are a clear set of commitments in place to improve Oldham town centre, with work already underway. We know that by 2030 Oldham will have more places to eat and drink in the town centre, there will be thousands more people living in town, and the infrastructure will be in place for a thriving cultural scene.

#### *Creating A Better Place*

In August 2020 Oldham Council signed off plans for a town centre investment programme worth £285 million. Creating A Better Place will transform Oldham town centre, making it a great place to visit, shop, work and live. Plans include a new market, food hall, performance space, work spaces and a town centre park.

## Transport Improvements

Improving public transport makes a huge difference to people's life chances, particularly if you live in more remote parts of places like Saddleworth and don't have access to a car.

The Greater Manchester Transport Strategy sets out a range of improvements that will be taking place to our network over the next two decades. For Oldham this includes increased capacity on our existing tram network, improved bus transit between Rochdale, Oldham and Ashton, and accessibility improvements that will make active travel in and around our towns easier.<sup>1</sup>

Greater Manchester will also soon be implementing a franchised bus network, enabling democratic control over fares, routes and timetables. Historic data on the performance of franchised and non-franchised bus systems means we can expect significant growth in bus journeys in the coming years.

## Changing Land Use

The Places for Everyone plan, a spatial plan for nine Greater Manchester boroughs including Oldham, is currently undergoing independent examination before being adopted by the nine authorities.<sup>2</sup> This plan indicates the parts of the borough that will be available for development as housing or employment space, if the developments also meet the requirements set out in Oldham's Local Plan, which is also under review.<sup>3</sup>

A commitment to meeting the Government's requirements for house building while retaining the maximum amount of green space means Oldham has relatively little employment space in Places for Everyone. This reduces the scope for new jobs within the borough in industries that require a substantial footprint, such as logistics. Instead, economic growth can be expected in sectors that can better make use of existing infrastructure and brownfield sites, including manufacturing, digital and professional services.

### *Atom Valley*

Spanning Oldham, Rochdale and Bury, Atom Valley will be a new Mayoral Development Zone, which could include up to 1.6m sq m of employment space, creating 20,000 jobs and 7,000 homes to boost the region's economy.

<sup>1</sup> GMCA: Our Five Year Transport Deliver Plan 2021-2026 ([https://downloads.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/5Y95swfmf42WVZozNA4fE/84092928376473c507ec000098b18c35/Delivery\\_Plan\\_2021-2026\\_Jan\\_2021\\_Final.pdf](https://downloads.ctfassets.net/nv7y93idf4jq/5Y95swfmf42WVZozNA4fE/84092928376473c507ec000098b18c35/Delivery_Plan_2021-2026_Jan_2021_Final.pdf))

<sup>2</sup> GMCA: Places for Everyone (<https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/places-for-everyone/>)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201213/local\\_plan\\_review](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201213/local_plan_review)



## **Levelling Up Oldham**

Regional development has been on the national government agenda in different forms for decades, with varying levels of success. While funding pots come and go, the shift towards regional devolution is likely to have more staying power. Greater Manchester has been a trailblazer on devolution in the UK, and as such Oldham's relationship with the rest of the city region should only strengthen in the coming years.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority have committed to a strategy for progress focused on three areas: economic growth, greater equality, and climate change. For Oldham this will mean working closely with the city region on issues ranging from skills and business investment, to homelessness and employment support, to democratic engagement and efforts tackle pollution.

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## What Residents Want

We've been talking about the future a lot over the last couple of years, through two mass consultations on resident priorities, an ongoing sequence of "Big Oldham Conversation" events, focus groups and surveys with young people, and numerous sessions with community groups and businesses.

Just before the pandemic struck in 2020, "Let's Talk Oldham" generated 10,000 responses on social media and 1,000 direct conversations across 17 events. Residents called for cleaner streets, and a focus on job creation, and said these were the top priorities to make Oldham a better place to live:

1. Homes that fit different needs and budgets
2. Better public transport
3. Well maintained roads and pavements
4. Town centres that are well used

As we started thinking about recovery from the pandemic in 2021, 616 residents responded to a survey and once again highlighted the need for safe and decent homes for everyone and more employment opportunities. The top priority, however, was ensuring those most in need were given the support they need. The value of parks and open spaces was also emphasised.

Building on these insights, this year over 300 Oldham young people took part in focus groups and surveys where they were challenged to make hard choices about the future they wanted in the borough. Their contributions again emphasised a desire for Oldham to be a clean, green and safe place where public transport allowed them to access opportunities, where they felt part of the city region, and where there were activities for young people and communities.

Focus group sessions with voluntary and community groups demonstrated the strength of our local third sector. People who work every day to create a supportive and colourful environment in our neighbourhoods made clear that our future Oldham must be local (with services and opportunities close to home), accessible (with provision cheap or free wherever possible), and tailored to the needs of the residents nearby. Oldham people are proud, and they are leaders. Oldham in the future should be a place where residents are trusted and empowered to get on with doing what's needed for their neighbourhood. Where support from public services is necessary, the driving considerations should be: Long-term over short-term; Focused on providing for the most vulnerable; In and for local areas, rather than universal.

# Uplifting Every Resident

If there's something that binds every Oldham resident together it's a pride in community and an instinct to help people up when they're struggling. What people need looks different in different parts of the borough, and there's no desire to make every part of Oldham look and feel the same. But if you live in our borough, the least you should expect are the basics of a fulfilling life, as well as some of the things that make life joyful.

These expectations are the central element of Oldham's vision for the future. Of course, as individuals our lives and expectations will go far beyond this. For some a good job might mean catching the tram across to Media City every day, while for others it will be close to home and fit around family life. For some green space means somewhere on the corner to kick a ball, for others it's climbing the hills round Dovestones. An "appropriate" home might be an accessible bungalow, a town centre flat or a four-bed for a big family.

As a group of people and organisations, and as a place, our aim is to uplift every resident so that we all have:

- **A well-rounded, enriching, life-long education**
- **The opportunity to get a decent job that pays well and offers security and flexibility**
- **Quick, cheap and easy transport to every part of the city region**
- **A home that is affordable, well-maintained and appropriate**
- **Timely access to vital services to keep people healthy and safe**
- **A clean, green and healthy environment**
- **Diverse opportunities to get together, with regular activities to boost physical and mental health and community spirit**
- **A local area that meets people's need and makes them proud**

When "anchor" organisations like the council, police, college or hospital are making strategic choices or day to day decisions, these aims will be in mind. When businesses are setting up in Oldham, they'll know that this is what we're trying to do and we'll invite them to be part of it. When someone decides they want to help their neighbourhood, this can guide their thinking about what will make the most difference.

The last few years have shown us that the future is unpredictable, and further bumps in the road may mean we don't achieve all of this for every resident by 2030. But sticking to these targets will allow us to measure progress, and remain focused on a shared set of goals.

# How We'll Make It Happen

## The Oldham Partnership

Our Future Oldham will only become reality if every major organisation in Oldham is focused on it. That means placing it at the heart of strategies and decision making. With the same goals in mind, we can more easily work together, and hold each other to account.

Central to that work is a refreshed and empowered Oldham Partnership. The Partnership consists of representatives from all of our major public organisations, as well as voices from the private sector, the voluntary sector and our young people. The group will initially meet quarterly to monitor progress against the Uplifting Every Resident ambitions, to celebrate successes and to agree interventions and actions to be delivered by individual organisations and our delivery boards.

Responsibility for most partnership activity will sit with three boards: the Economic Development Board, the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Communities Board. These boards will in turn work with issue specific groups and with residents, and report back to the Partnership.

The Economic Development Board will oversee growth of jobs and prosperity in the borough. The board will focus on delivery of recommendations from the Oldham Independent Economic Review on issues ranging from skills to innovation, and link to other groups like Transport for Greater Manchester and the Education and Skills Partnership.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will continue to deliver all its statutory responsibilities, and lead on improving issues like the environment, access to health services and the safety and security people should feel when they're enjoying the place they live.

The Communities Board will focus on strengthening our neighbourhoods and ensuring Oldham is a great place for all of us to live, that we work and live in harmony and no-one falls through the cracks. The board will provide a key link to residents and tackle the challenges that stop Oldham and its organisations working effectively together.

While this partnership structure focuses on our overall approach to Oldham as a borough, in many cases decisions will be operationalised through Oldham's five districts. This operationalisation will be coordinated by District Partnerships. These District Partnerships will work with residents to identify the most effective ways to improve their neighbourhoods, and areas of priority within the structure of Our Future Oldham. Progress at the district level will then be fed back to the Oldham Partnership, to inform future work.



## Report to COUNCIL

# Local Planning Scheme of Delegation

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Amanda Chadderton (Leader) - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Strategic Planning and Information Team Leader

**Ext.** 1672

**7 September 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

To amend the Council's Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation (last approved 14 September 2011) to bring the decision-making process up to date and reflect recent legislative changes.

### Executive Summary

The report sets 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.

### Recommendations

That the revised Local Planning Scheme of Delegation be approved and adopted.

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## Amendments to the Local Planning Scheme of Delegation

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Constitution is a living document that requires regular updating to ensure it reflects legislative and organisational changes. The current Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation was approved 14 September 2011. As such, an update to the scheme of delegation is required in respect of changes to the local planning decision-making process. This includes renaming it as the Local Planning Scheme of Delegation.
- 1.2 Having an up-to-date Local Planning Scheme of Delegation links to the Council's Corporate Plan and Priorities, in particular supporting local leaders and working with a resident focus through ensuring there is a clear and transparent decision-making process for documents that are prepared as part of, and in support of, the Local Plan, and which reflects the recent legislative changes.

### 2 Current Position

#### Changes to the Local Planning System

- 2.1 The current Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation was adopted 14 September 2011 to reflect changes in the procedures to be followed in relation to the production of development plan documents, following amendments to the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004.
- 2.2 Since the Scheme of Delegation was last updated legislative changes have taken place, including:
- The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended;
  - The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; and
  - The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017
- 2.3 As such, changes need to be made to the existing Local Development Framework Scheme of Delegation in relation to the following in particular:
- Terminology (such as replacing references to the Local Development Framework);
  - References to regulation stages within the decision-making procedures; and
  - Decision making processes for Neighbourhood Planning.
- 2.4 There may be further changes as a result of the recently announced Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. Any changes needed to the Scheme of Delegation will be considered at the appropriate time once further guidance and legislation has been published.



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## Neighbourhood Planning

- 2.5 Neighbourhood planning was introduced as part of the Localism Act 2011. Communities have been part of the plan-making process for a long time, however the Government introduced new legislation to empower communities so that they could have a greater say in helping shape where they live and work through 'neighbourhood planning'.
- 2.6 Parish Councils or, in non-parished areas, neighbourhood forums can develop a shared vision and planning policies through a neighbourhood plan that, once passed, becomes part of the statutory development plan and is used to determine planning applications alongside the Local Plan for that neighbourhood area.
- 2.7 A Neighbourhood Plan should support the strategic development needs set out in the Local Plan and must address the development and use of land.
- 2.8 The Localism Act has also given communities the ability to grant planning permission through Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs) or Community Right to Build Order (CRBO). An NDO (or CRBO) can grant planning permission for specific types of development in a specific neighbourhood area, they can:
- Apply to a specific site, sites, or wider geographical area;
  - Grant planning permission for a certain type or types of development; and
  - Grant planning permission outright or subject to conditions.
- 2.9 NDOs (or CRBO's) only grant planning permission, and do not remove the need to comply with other relevant legislation and regulations.
- 2.10 Whilst a Neighbourhood Plan or NDO is not prepared by the Council as Local Planning Authority (LPA), we are required to support and assist those preparing them. In relation to Neighbourhood Plans, upon a successful examination and referendum the neighbourhood plan becomes part of the statutory development plan once it has been made (brought into legal force) by the LPA. As such, the necessary decision-making processes for the preparation of neighbourhood plans need to be incorporated into the Local Planning Scheme of Delegation.
- 2.11 The proposed levels of decision-making for neighbourhood planning are set out below.

## Brownfield Land Register

- 2.12 Regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 requires local planning authorities to prepare, maintain and publish a register of previously developed (brownfield) land. The Register must be reviewed at least once a year.
- 2.13 The Brownfield Land Register is split into two parts: Part 1 includes all those brownfield sites suitable and available for residential development in the borough and which meet certain criteria; Part 2 is a subset of Part 1, and this identifies those which have been granted permission in principle through Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Permission in Principle) Order 2017. Prior to entering

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a site in Part 2, the LPA must undertake the necessary requirements for publicity, notification and consultation (set out in regulations 6 to 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017). The Council does not currently have any sites on Part 2 of the Brownfield Land Register.

- 2.14 The proposed levels of decision-making for the Brownfield Land Register are set out below.

#### Places for Everyone

- 2.15 The Council is in the process of preparing the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan with Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan. The Places for Everyone Publication Plan (2021) has now been submitted for examination. The proposed levels of decision-making required for Places for Everyone are reflected in the section on the preparation of joint development plans below.

#### Local Planning Scheme of Delegation

- 2.16 References to regulations in the Local Planning Scheme of Delegation relate to the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended, unless otherwise stated.
- 2.17 In addition to the specific powers outlined above, there may other powers and duties relating to local planning. Where not specifically outlined below it is suggested that these duties may be exercised by Council officers under the general scheme of delegation relating to Local Planning matters.

#### *Local Development Scheme*

- 2.18 The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is a public statement setting out the Council's project plan for preparing the Local Plan and its supporting documents.
- 2.19 The purpose of the LDS is to:
- Set out what planning policy documents exist and what new documents will be prepared as part of, and in support of, the Local Plan;
  - Set out the timescales the public can expect for the preparation and review of these documents;
  - Indicate when the local community can get involved and influence the plan-making process;
  - Enable work programmes to be set for the preparation of Local Plan documents; and
  - Show how the programme for the production of documents will establish and reflect the council's priorities and to assist the programming of other Council strategies and programmes.

2.20 The proposed levels of decision-making for the LDS are:

LDS Review ( <i>S15(8)(a) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004</i> )	Portfolio Member in consultation with Executive Director
All other powers and duties relating to the LDS	Executive Director

*Statement of Community Involvement*

2.21 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) outlines when and how we will engage the community in the preparation of the Local Plan and other planning documents. It outlines how we will provide guidance and assistance to neighbourhood planning groups. It also sets out how the community will be consulted on planning applications.

2.22 Changes to the Regulations introduced in 2012 mean that there is no longer an obligation to undertake consultation on the SCI before its adoption.

2.23 The proposed levels of decision-making for the SCI are:

Adoption of SCI ( <i>S23 PCPA 2004</i> )	Council
All other powers and duties relating to the SCI	Executive Director

*Development Plan Documents (DPDs)*

2.24 These documents form the heart of the Local Planning system and include documents relating to the development and use of land and which contain the statutory planning policies used to guide future development. Together these form the adopted Development Plan for the borough. The primary DPD is usually the Local Plan.

2.25 The process of preparing a DPD requires public consultation/participation at key stages and decisions will be required prior to each stage of consultation.

2.26 The proposed levels of decision-making for DPDs are:

Approval of documents for public consultation as part of Regulation 18	Cabinet
Approval of Publication Plan prepared as part of Regulation 19 for public consultation	Cabinet
Approval for Submission of Publication Plan and supporting	Council

evidence and documentation to Secretary of State for independent examination ( <i>S20 PCPA 2004</i> )	
Preparation, and submission, of material requested by the inspector as part of the examination process.	Head of Service
Approval of, and publication of, modifications to the Publication Plan, as recommended through the independent examination, for public consultation. ( <i>S20(7C) PCPA 2004</i> )	Cabinet
Adoption ( <i>S23 PCPA 2004</i> )	Council
All other powers and duties relating to DPDs	Executive Director

- 2.27 The same levels of decision-making would be followed for an Area Action Plan were one to be produced. These may be prepared to provide a greater level of detail in the planning of key areas.

*Supplementary Planning Documents*

- 2.28 Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are designed to support, explain and expand upon policies contained in Local Plans and other DPDs and are a material consideration in planning decisions. They are not DPDs and therefore should not be approved by Council.

- 2.29 The proposed levels of decision-making for SPDs are:

Approval of draft SPD for public consultation ( <i>Regulation 12</i> )	Cabinet
Adoption of SPD ( <i>Regulation 14</i> )	Cabinet
All other powers and duties relating to SPDs	Executive Director

*Interim Planning Position Papers*

- 2.30 An interim planning position paper (IPPP) provides further guidance and advice on relevant planning policy matters which may have arisen since a statutory planning document (which forms part of the adopted Development Plan for the borough) was adopted. They are not subject to consultation. IPPPs deal with topics for which additional information is required about how the matter affects Oldham and how it is to be implemented through the planning system until such time as an updated statutory planning document can be prepared. Although not part of the

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Borough's statutory development plan, the IPPP will have the status of a relevant material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

2.31 The proposed levels of decision making for IPPP's are as follows:

Approval of Interim Planning Papers	Cabinet
All other powers and duties relating to Interim Planning Papers	Executive Director

*Evidence Base*

2.32 A Local Plan must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. To do so, objective and proportionate evidence is required which can take a number of forms: work prepared in-house, work commissioned by Oldham Council and undertaken by consultants, and work commissioned by AGMA and partner bodies. This may also include designation updates, for example those from Greater Manchester Ecological Unit in relation to Sites of Biological Importance (SBI) and Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) and reports responding to the Housing Delivery Test.

2.33 The approval to appoint external support will be carried out in line with the Council's procurement procedures.

2.34 The proposed levels of decision-making for evidence base documents relating to the preparation of the Local Plan are as follows:

Approval, and publication of, Oldham Council prepared or commissioned evidence base.	Portfolio Member in consultation with Executive Director
All other powers and duties relating to evidence base	Executive Director

*Monitoring Report*

2.35 The Monitoring Report monitors:

- The progress of documents identified for production as part of the Local Plan
- The implementation of the borough's planning policies to ascertain whether:
  - They are achieving their objectives and delivering sustainable development
  - They have unintended consequences
  - The assumptions and objectives behind policies are still relevant
  - The targets are being achieved.

2.36 The Monitoring Report also:

- Provides detailed information on levels of house building, housing clearance and the borough's potential housing land supply, including the five-year deliverable housing land supply; and
- Includes the Infrastructure Funding Statement, which provides a summary of financial contributions the Council has secured through Section 106 agreements (s106) from new developments.

2.37 The proposed levels of decision-making for the Monitoring Report are:

Monitoring Report ( <i>S35 PCPA 2004</i> )	Portfolio Member in consultation with Executive Director
All other powers and duties relating to the Monitoring Report	Executive Director

*Joint Development Plan Documents*

2.38 There will be occasions when the Council decides that it is appropriate to work with other Councils and partner bodies to jointly prepare a planning document. For example, in the past we have prepared the Joint Waste and Minerals Development Plan Documents and currently nine of the Greater Manchester districts are preparing Places for Everyone. Upon adoption these joint DPD's form part of the adopted Development Plan for the borough.

2.39 Where joint development plan documents are to be prepared, the proposed levels of decision-making are as follows:

Approval to commence the joint DPD ( <i>S28 PCPA 2004 and Regulation 4(4A) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000</i> )	Council
Approval of Publication Plan, prepared as part of Regulation 19, and any supporting documents for public consultation	Cabinet
Approval for submission of Publication Plan and supporting documents to Secretary of State for independent examination ( <i>S20 PCPA 2004</i> )	Council
Preparation, and submission, of material requested by the inspector as part of the examination process.	Head of Service
Approval of, and publication of, modifications to the Publication Plan,	Cabinet



as recommended through the independent examination, for public consultation. (S20(7C) PCPA 2004)	
Adoption of joint DPD (S23 PCPA 2004)	Council

*Brownfield Land Register*

- 2.40 The Brownfield Land Register must be reviewed at least once a year, to ensure that sites which no longer meet the criteria for inclusion are removed and new sites are entered if it is appropriate to do so.
- 2.41 The proposed levels of decision-making for the Brownfield Land Register are:

Approval to publish, and consult on, sites that the Council proposes to grant permission in principle on (Regulations 6 to 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017).	Portfolio Member in consultation with the Executive Director
Grant permission in principle on sites to be included in the Brownfield Land Register (Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (Permission in Principle) Order 2017) upon receipt and consideration of representations.	Planning Committee
Approval and publication of the Brownfield Land Register (Part 1 and Part 2)	Portfolio Member in consultation with the Executive Director

*Consultation Responses*

- 2.42 From time-to-time Oldham Council may be invited to comment on a relevant planning consultation. This may, for example, relate to changes in national planning guidance or consultations being carried out by relevant statutory providers and neighbouring local planning authorities.
- 2.43 When it is considered appropriate to submit comments on relevant planning consultations the proposed levels of decision making are as follows:

Approval of comments to relevant planning consultations on behalf of Oldham Council.	Executive Director in consultation with Portfolio Member.
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All other powers and duties relating to relevant planning consultations.	Executive Director
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### *Neighbourhood Plans*

- 2.44 The legal procedure for producing a neighbourhood plan is set out in Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA 1990) and the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (NPR). Matters relating to a neighbourhood plan are not functions which must be dealt with by a body other than the Executive. As a result, they are the responsibility of the Cabinet (although they can be delegated to individual Cabinet members or Council officers).
- 2.45 The key stages in the preparation of a neighbourhood plan and proposed levels of decision making are set out in the table below:

Designation of an organisation or body as a neighbourhood forum ( <i>S61F Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990</i> ) for preparation of a neighbourhood plan.	Cabinet
Powers to 1). decline to consider a neighbourhood forum application where there is an existing forum ( <i>Reg 11 NPR</i> ); where any application is currently under consideration ( <i>Reg 5 NPR</i> ) or where it is a repeat proposal ( <i>Schedule 4B TCPA 1990</i> ); 2). consider the withdrawal of an organisation or body's designation as a neighbourhood forum ( <i>S61F TCPA 1990</i> ); and 3). consider whether a qualifying body is authorised and application documentation is complete ( <i>Schedule 4B TCPA 1990</i> );	Portfolio Member in consultation with the Executive Director
Designation of a Neighbourhood Area (the area to which a proposed neighbourhood plan would apply), or an amendment to an existing Neighbourhood Area, following receipt of a proposed neighbourhood area and public consultation.	Cabinet
Approval of publication of the	Cabinet

neighbourhood plan for public consultation. ( <i>Regulation 16</i> ) ( <i>NPR</i> )	
Approval of submission for independent examination of the neighbourhood plan ( <i>Regulation 17</i> ) ( <i>NPR</i> )	Cabinet
Powers to: 1). consider recommendations made in the Inspectors Report ( <i>Schedule 4B TCPA 1990</i> ); 2). refer an issue to independent examination where proposed recommendation differs from that made by the examiner ( <i>Schedule 4B TCPA 1990</i> ); and 3). Revoke or modify a neighbourhood plan ( <i>S61M TCPA 1990</i> )	Portfolio Member in consultation with the Executive Director
Approval of Neighbourhood Plan following successful independent examination and referendum. ( <i>Regulation 18 NPR</i> )	Council
All other powers and duties relating to Neighbourhood Plans	Executive Director

2.46 The key stages in the preparation of a NDO / CRBO and proposed levels of decision making are set out in the table below:

Approval of the publication of a NDO / CRBO for public consultation. ( <i>Regulation 23</i> ) ( <i>NPR</i> )	Cabinet
Approval of submission for independent examination of the NDO / CRBO ( <i>Regulation 24 NPR</i> )	Cabinet
Decisions regarding NDO / CRBO proposal following examiners report and approval of publication thereof ( <i>Regulation 25 (1), (2) NPR</i> )	Council
All other powers and duties relating to Neighbourhood Plans	Executive Director

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### **3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 Option 1 – To approve and adopt the revised levels of decision-making in respect of local planning. This would reflect the latest terminology and regulations and provide greater clarity when making decisions in respect of local planning.
- 3.2 Option 2 – Not to approve and adopt the revised levels of decision-making in respect of local planning. This would result in the continued use of an out-of-date scheme of delegation and a lack of clarity.

### **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option as this would reflect the latest terminology and regulations and provide greater clarity when making decisions in respect of local planning.

### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Not applicable

### **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Not applicable

### **7 Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 Under the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000, the Cabinet is responsible for the discharge of the function of formulating or preparing plans and alterations which together comprise the Development Plan, except in relation to actions specified below, which are not to be the responsibility of the Cabinet:
- (a) the giving of instructions requiring the Cabinet to reconsider any draft development plan document submitted by the Cabinet for the Council's consideration;
  - (b) the amendment of any draft development plan document submitted by the Cabinet for the Council's consideration;
  - (c) approval, of any development plan document
  - (d) the approval, for the purpose of its submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination under section 20 (independent examination) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, of a development plan document; (e) the adoption (with or without modification) of the development plan document. (A Evans)

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

- 8.1 The amendments proposed to the Local Planning Scheme of Delegation seek to ensure effective and efficient decision-making, enabling delivery of the council's priorities and objectives under the Co-operative Agenda.

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9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 Not applicable

10 **Risk Assessments**

10.1 Not applicable

11 **IT Implications**

11.1 Not applicable

12 **Property Implications**

12.1 Not applicable

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 Not applicable

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 Regard will be given to environmental and health and safety issues / implications during the preparation of relevant documents under the revised Local Plan Scheme of Delegation as appropriate and in line with the relevant statutory regulations.

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

15.1 Regard will be given to the need to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment in line with the relevant statutory regulations during preparation of documents under the revised Local Plan Scheme of Delegation as appropriate.

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

16.1 No. See above.

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 No

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 Not applicable

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act :

- 
- Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/contents>)
  - Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2000/2853/made?view=plain>)
  - Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents>)
  - The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 as amended (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made>);
  - The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/637/contents/made>); and
  - The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/403/contents/made>)

## 20 **Appendices**

20.1 None



## Report to Council

# Treasury Management Review 2021/22

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

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

**Report Author:** Lee Walsh, Finance Manager

**Ext.** 6608

**7 September 2022**

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## Reason for Decision

The Council is 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. This report meets 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 (minimum) treasury update report (approved by Council on 15 December 2021)
- 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 is therefore important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

The Council confirms that it has complied with the requirements under the Code to scrutinise the treasury strategy and the mid-year update prior to their subsequent approval. The Audit Committee is charged with the scrutiny of treasury management

activities in Oldham and therefore considered and approved the contents of the Treasury Management Review 2021/22 report at its meeting on 21 June 2022. The Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. As such, Cabinet considered and approved the report at its meeting of 22 August and commended it to Council. Approval by Council will ensure full compliance with the Code for 2021/22.

### Executive Summary

During 2021/22, the Council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators detailing the impact of capital expenditure activities during the year, with comparators, are as follows:

Actual prudential and treasury indicators	2020/21 Actual £'000	2021/22 Revised £'000	2021/22 Actual £'000
Actual capital expenditure	73,227	38,709	76,989
Total Capital Financing Requirement:	491,713	494,877	468,895
Borrowing	172,843	172,843	167,597
Total External debt (Gross Borrowing)	397,248	381,246	381,045
Investments			
· Longer than 1 year	15,000	15,000	15,000
· Under 1 year	68,540	52,000	90,300
· Total	<b>83,540</b>	<b>67,000</b>	<b>105,300</b>
<b>Net Borrowing (Gross borrowing less investments)</b>	89,303	105,843	62,297

As can be seen in the table above, actual capital expenditure was greater than the revised budget estimate for 2021/22 presented within the 2022/23 Treasury Management Strategy report considered at the Council meeting of 2 March 2022. The outturn position was less than the £86.002m original capital budget for 2021/22 as approved at Budget Council on 4 March 2021.

Oldham, along with the rest of the country, was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021/22 but as the year progressed began to get back to some form of normality. This is reflected in the progress in taking forward the Council's capital programme and hence the expenditure incurred, most of which was over the later part of the financial year. It must be noted that as the legacy impact of the pandemic is still being felt, there will be further challenges during 2022/23 but these are expected to be on a much lesser scale. The capital programme will therefore be subject to change, but this will receive close financial monitoring during the financial year.

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report.

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The Director of Finance confirms that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) was not breached during 2021/22.

The financial year 2021/22 continued the challenging investment environment of previous years, namely low investment returns, although there was an upward movement towards the year-end reflecting inflationary price rises and increases in interest rates.

### **Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- 1) Approve the actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators presented in this report
- 2) Approve the annual treasury management review report for 2021/22

## Treasury Management Review 2021/22

### 1 Background

1.1 The Council has adopted the Revised Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management 2021. The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's Treasury Management activities.
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
- Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report (stewardship report) covering activities during the previous year.
- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring Treasury Management Policies and Practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions. In Oldham, this responsibility is delegated to the Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance).
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of the Treasury Management Strategy and policies to a specific named body. In Oldham, the delegated body is the Audit Committee.

Treasury management in this context is defined as:

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

1.2 The report therefore summarises the following:

- The Council's capital expenditure and financing during the year;
- The impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement);
- The actual prudential and treasury indicators;
- The overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances;
- The summary of interest rate movements in the year;
- The detailed debt activity; and
- The detailed investment activity.

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## 2 Current Position

### 2.1 The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing during 2021/22

2.1.1 The Council undertakes capital expenditure when it invests in or acquires long-term assets. These activities may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no resultant impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- Financed by borrowing if insufficient immediate financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply available resources, the capital expenditure gives rise to a borrowing need.

2.1.2 Capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators (these indicators are all summarised in Appendix 1). The table below shows the actual level of capital expenditure and how this was financed. As can be seen in the table below, actual capital expenditure in 2021/22 was greater than the revised budget estimate. The revised budget estimate is based on the month 8 2021/22 reported position to align with the Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23 report approved on 2 March 2022, and not the latest reported position (month 9 report presented to Cabinet on 21 March 2022). All prudential indicators in the 2021/22 strategy are based on this revised budget.

2.1.3 One of the major causes of the variation in expenditure between the revised outturn and the actual position was the requirement for the Council to include the new Saddleworth School within its asset register and 2021/22 accounts at a value of £32.333m. The school was opened in March 2022 and was mostly funded by the Department of Education who donated the asset to the Council. Other expenditure was also accelerated at the year end due to the easing of pandemic related pressures.

	2020/21 Actual £'000	2021/22 Revised £'000	2021/22 Actual £'000
Non-HRA capital expenditure	68,830	38,419	76,309
HRA capital expenditure	4,397	290	680
<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>73,227</b>	<b>38,709</b>	<b>76,989</b>
Resourced by:			
• Capital receipts	3,184	5,535	11,861
• Capital grants	20,820	13,688	31,829
• Donated Asset	0	0	32,333
• HRA	2,532	291	912
• Revenue	146	7	54
<b>Unfinanced capital expenditure</b>	<b>46,545</b>	<b>19,187</b>	<b>0</b>

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## 2.2 The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

2.2.1 The Council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). This figure is a gauge of the Council's indebtedness. The CFR results from the capital activity of the Council and resources used to pay for the capital spend. It represents the 2021/22 unfinanced capital expenditure (see above table), and prior years' net or unfinanced capital expenditure which has not yet been paid for by revenue or other resources.

2.2.2 Part of the Council's treasury activity is to address the funding requirements for this borrowing need. Depending on the capital expenditure programme, the treasury service organises the Council's cash position to ensure that sufficient cash is available to meet the capital plans and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies (such as the Government, through the Public Works Loan Board [PWLB] or the money markets) or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council.

### Reducing the CFR

2.2.3 The Council's (non-Housing Revenue Account [HRA]) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. The Council is required to make an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR). This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External debt can also be borrowed or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.

2.2.4 The total CFR can also be reduced by:

- The application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts); or
- Charging more than the statutory revenue charge (MRP) each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).

2.2.5 The Council's 2021/22 MRP Policy (as required by Government Guidance) was approved as part of the Treasury Management Strategy report for 2021/22 on 4 March 2021.

2.2.6 The Council's CFR for the year is shown in the table below and represents a key prudential indicator. It includes Private Finance Initiative (PFI) and leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council's borrowing need. In 2021/22 the Council had seven PFI schemes in operation; however, no borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included within each contract.



	2020/21 Actual £'000	2021/22 Revised £'000	2021/22 Actual £'000
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>			
Opening balance	472,377	491,713	491,713
Add unfinanced capital expenditure	46,544	19,187	0
Add adjustment for the inclusion of on-balance sheet PFI and leasing schemes (if applicable)	270	0	373
Less MRP/VRP*	(2,742)	(2,742)	(2,742)
Less PFI & finance lease repayments	(24,736)	(13,281)	(20,449)
Closing balance	491,713	494,877	468,895

\* Includes voluntary application of capital receipts and revenue resources

2.2.7 Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for net borrowing, the CFR and by the authorised limit.

#### Gross Borrowing and the CFR

2.2.8 In order to ensure that borrowing levels were prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council had to ensure that its gross external borrowing did not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2020/21) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2021/22) and next two financial years.

2.2.9 This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure.

2.2.10 This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2021/22 if so required. This flexibility was not used. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

	2020/21 Actual £'000	2021/22 Revised £'000	2021/22 Actual £'000
Total External Debt position (Gross Borrowing)	397,248	381,246	381,045
CFR - including PFI / Finance Leases	491,713	494,877	468,895
Under / (Over) funding of the CFR	94,465	113,631	87,850

The table above shows the position as at 31 March 2022 for the Council's gross borrowing position and CFR. This shows, compared to the revised budget position:

- A small movement in the gross borrowing position, due to lower than expected finance leases.
- A decrease in the CFR.

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### The Authorised Limit

- 2.2.11 The authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and was set at £523m. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level.

### The Operational Boundary

- 2.2.12 The operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year and was set at £498m. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached. The Council operated well within this boundary in 2021/22.

	2021/22 Actual £'000
Authorised Limit	523,000
Operational Boundary	498,000

### Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream

- 2.2.13 This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream and is within expected levels.

	2021/22 Actual £'000
Gross Borrowing	167,597
PFI / Finance leases	213,448
<b>Actual External Debt (Gross Borrowing)</b>	<b>381,045</b>
Financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream (General Fund)	9.65%

- 2.2.14 The table above splits the gross borrowing position of the Council between actual external debt (loans) and PFI / Finance lease debt. As can be seen above the gross borrowing position is well within the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary.

## 2.3 **The Council’s Debt and Investment Position**

- 2.3.1 The Council’s debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through Member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council’s Treasury Management Practices.

2.3.2 At the end of 2021/22 the Council's treasury position was as follows:

	31 March 2021 Principal £'000	Average Rate/ Return	Average Life years	31 March 2022 Principal £'000	Average Rate/ Return	Average Life years
Fixed rate funding:						
-PWLB	35,482			35,241		
-Stock	6,600			6,600		
Market	130,761			125,756		
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>172,843</b>	3.96%	36.35	<b>167,597</b>	4.16%	36.05
<b>PFI &amp; Finance Lease Liabilities</b>	<b>224,405</b>			<b>213,448</b>		
<b>Total External Debt</b>	<b>397,248</b>			<b>381,045</b>		
<b>CFR</b>	<b>491,713</b>			<b>468,895</b>		
<b>Over/ (under) borrowing</b>	<b>(94,465)</b>			<b>(87,850)</b>		
Investments:						
Financial Institutions/LA's	68,540	0.37%		90,300	0.21%	
Property	15,000	4.44%		15,000	3.83%	
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>83,540</b>			<b>105,300</b>		
<b>Net Debt</b>	<b>89,303</b>			<b>62,297</b>		

2.3.3 The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

	2020/21 Actual %	Upper Limit %	Lower Limit %	2021/22 Actual %
Under 12 months	32%	40%	0%	33%
12 months and within 24 months	10%	40%	0%	10%
24 months and within 5 years	13%	40%	0%	12%
5 years and within 10 years	4%	40%	0%	9%
10 years and above	40%	50%	0%	36%

2.3.4 The investment portfolio and maturity structure was as follows:

Investment Portfolio	Actual 31 March 2021 £'000	Actual 31 March 2021 %	Actual 31 March 2022 £'000	Actual 31 March 2022 %
<b>Treasury Investments</b>				
Banks	20,000	23.94%	25,000	23.74%
Building Societies	0	0%	5,000	4.75%
Local Authorities / Public Bodies	28,000	33.52%	14,000	13.30%
Money Market Funds (MMF's)	20,540	24.59%	46,300	43.97%
<b>Total Managed In House</b>	<b>68,540</b>	<b>82.04%</b>	<b>90,300</b>	<b>85.75%</b>
Bond Funds	0		0	
Property Funds	15,000	17.96%	15,000	14.25%
Cash Fund Managers	0		0	
<b>Total Managed Externally</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>17.96%</b>	<b>15,000</b>	<b>14.25%</b>
<b>TOTAL TREASURY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>83,540</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>105,300</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>TOTAL NON TREASURY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>

	2020/21 Actual £'000	2021/22 Actual £'000
Investments		
Longer than 1 year	0	0
Under 1 year	68,540	90,300
Property Fund	15,000	15,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,540</b>	<b>105,300</b>

2.3.5 Key features of the debt and investment position are:

- a) Over the course of the year 2021/22, investments increased by £21.760m. The large increase in investments related to additional Government grants received in March 2022 for the Council Tax energy grant that was to be distributed in 2022/23 to qualifying households along with higher cash balances due to pension costs having previously been paid in advance in April 2020.
- b) The average rate of return on investments with Financial Institutions decreased from 0.38% in 2020/21 to 0.21% in 2021/22. This decrease relates to the Bank of England base rate being at 0.10% for the majority of the year, until the first interest rate rise in December 2021 followed by further increases in February and March 2022.

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- c) Investments were arranged throughout the year to ensure enough liquid cash was available to support the paying of COVID-19 related grants to local businesses (on behalf of Central Government), but still trying to make a return on investments by placing cash out for longer periods. Although every effort was made to maximise returns, as the base rate increased 3 times in the later part of 2021/22 from 0.10% to 0.75% this affected the overall return in circumstances where investments were already in fixed term arrangements before the interest rate rise.

## **2.4 Investment Strategy and control of interest rate risk**

- 2.4.1 Investment returns remained close to zero for much of 2021/22. Most Local Authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the continued growth of inter Local Authority lending.
- 2.4.2 The expectation for interest rates within the Treasury Management Strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency rate levels introduced at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic were no longer needed.
- 2.4.3 The Bank of England and the Government also maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the various lockdowns/negative impact on their cashflow. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to Local Authorities to pass on to businesses in the form of Business Grants. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was the demand to borrow. This had the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation (CPI was 6.2% in February).
- 2.4.4 While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of changes to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity resulting from the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.
- 2.4.5 Investment balances were kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates as illustrated in the charts shown below. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.
- 2.4.6 In December 2021 The Bank Of England ceased using LIBOR (London Interbank Offer Rate) and LIBID (London Interbank Bid Rate) and switched to SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average). The 2021/22 Treasury Management Strategy approved in

March 2021 stated Oldham Council would measure performance using LIBID rates. Due to this change this report includes both LIBID and the new SONIA comparators.

2.4.7 The two tables below show both bank rate versus LIBID Rates and SONIA Rates at different periods.

#### LIBID Rates of Return to December 2021

	Bank Rate	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month	12 month
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>High</b>	0.25	0.06	0.06	0.14	0.36	0.73
<b>High Date</b>	17/12/2021	29/12/2021	31/12/2021	31/12/2021	30/12/2021	28/10/2021
<b>Low</b>	0.10	-0.09	-0.08	-0.07	-0.04	-0.04
<b>Low Date</b>	01/07/2021	27/08/2021	17/09/2021	08/09/2021	27/07/2021	08/07/2021
<b>Average</b>	0.11	-0.07	-0.05	0.01	0.09	0.31
<b>Spread</b>	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.20	0.40	0.68

#### SONIA Rates of Return from December 2021

	Bank Rate	7 day	1 month	3 month	6 month
	%	%	%	%	%
<b>High</b>	0.75	0.69	0.75	0.93	1.27
<b>High Date</b>	17/03/2022	18/03/2022	16/03/2022	28/03/2022	17/03/2022
<b>Low</b>	0.10	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
<b>Low Date</b>	01/04/2021	15/12/2021	10/11/2021	14/04/2021	09/04/2021
<b>Average</b>	0.19	0.14	0.17	0.24	0.34
<b>Spread</b>	0.65	0.65	0.71	0.88	1.22

## 2.5 Borrowing Strategy and control of interest rate risk

2.5.1 During 2021/22, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This meant that the capital borrowing need, (the Capital Financing Requirement), was not fully funded with loan debt, as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

2.5.2 A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue cost – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.

2.5.3 The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances, has served well over the last few years. However, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when the Authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.



2.5.4 Against this background and the risks within the economic forecast, caution was adopted with the treasury operations. The Treasury Management Team and the Director of Finance therefore monitored interest rates in financial markets and adopted a pragmatic strategy based upon the following principles to manage interest rate risks.

- If it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a sharp **fall** in long and short term rates, (e.g., due to a marked increase of risks around relapse into recession or of risks of deflation), then long term borrowings would have been postponed, and potential rescheduling from fixed rate funding into short term borrowing would have been considered.
- If it had been felt that there was a significant risk of a much sharper **rise** in long and short term rates than initially expected, perhaps arising from an acceleration in the start date and in the rate of increase in central rates in the USA and UK, an increase in world economic activity or a sudden increase in inflation risks, then the portfolio position would have been re-appraised. Most likely, fixed rate funding would have been drawn whilst interest rates were lower than they were projected to be in the next few years.

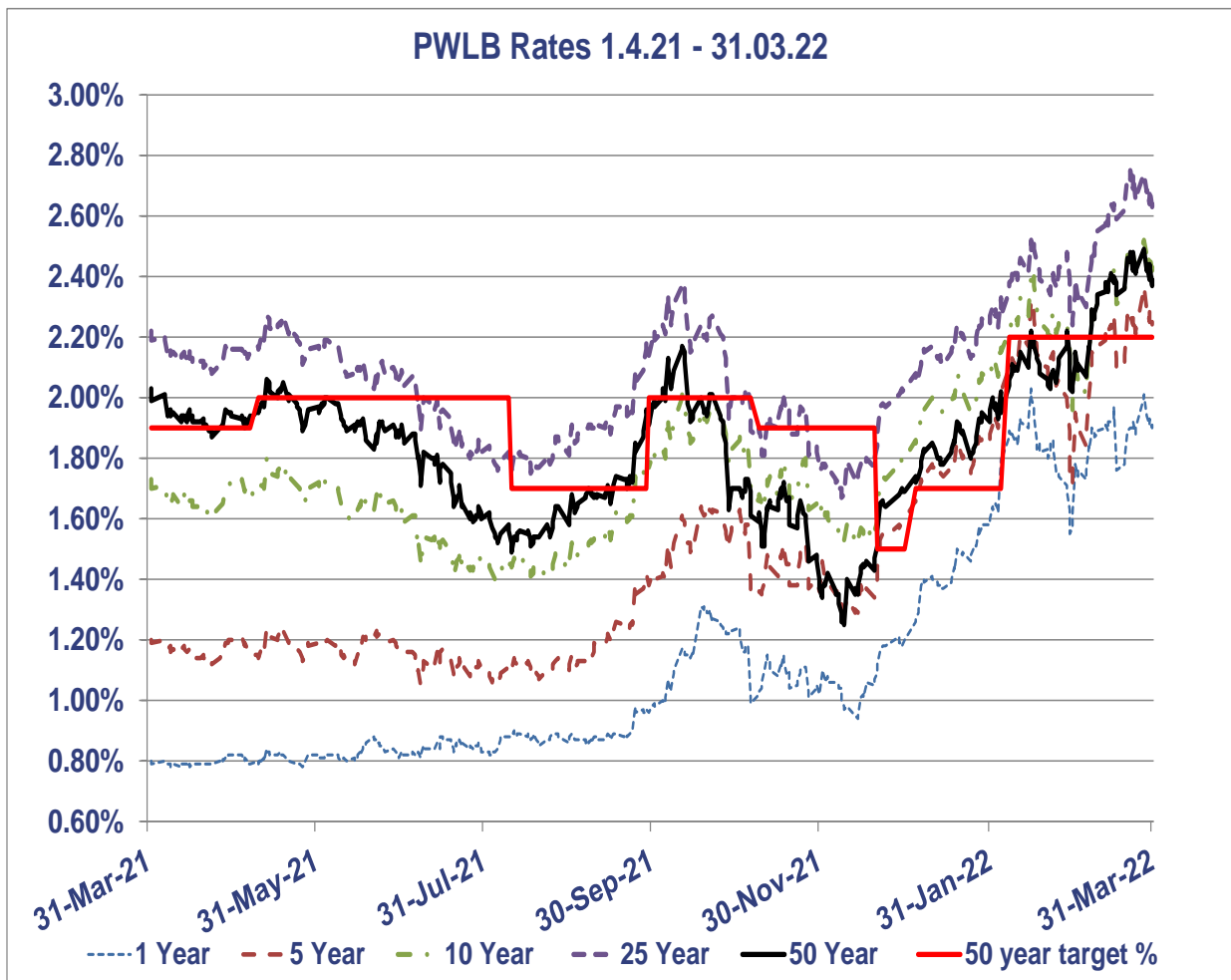
2.5.5 Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer term fixed borrowing rates during 2021/22 and the two subsequent financial years until the turn of the financial year, when inflation concerns increased significantly. Internal, variable, or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period until well into the second half of 2021/22.

2.5.6 The two tables below show the interest rate forecast as at the time the Treasury Management Strategy was issued in March 2021 compared to the interest rate forecast as at February 2022.

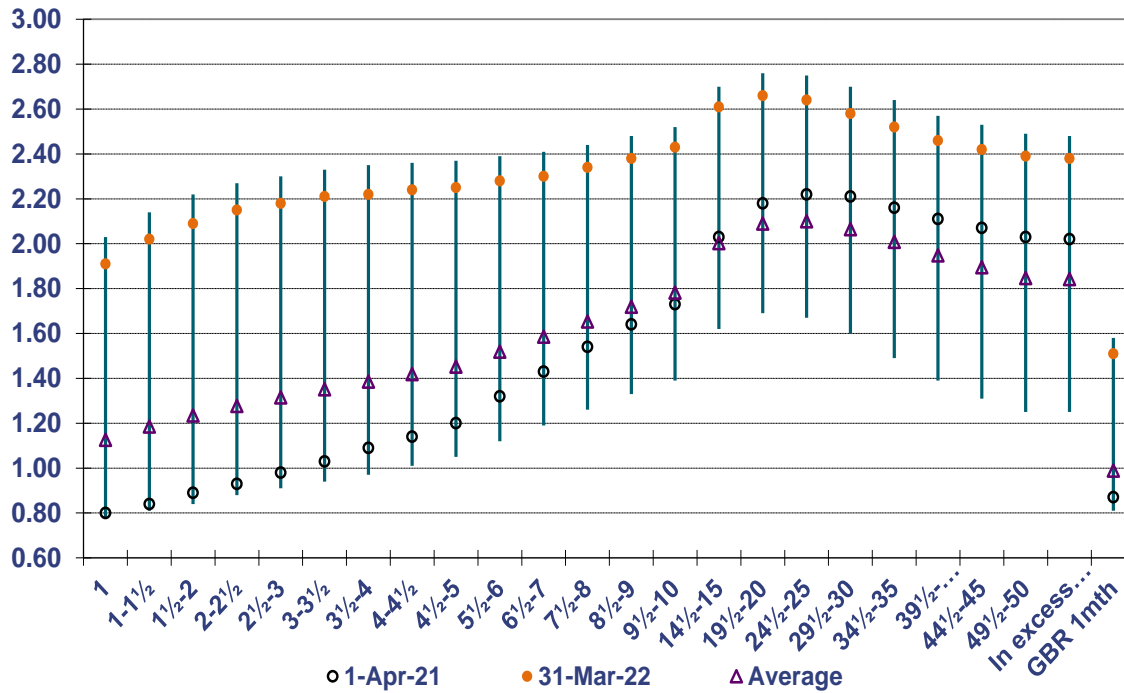
Link Group Interest Rate View		8.2.21											
	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24
BANK RATE	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
3 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
6 month ave earnings	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
12 month ave earnings	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20
5 yr PWLB	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	1.00	1.00	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
10 yr PWLB	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.40	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60
25 yr PWLB	1.90	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20
50 yr PWLB	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.70	1.80	1.80	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

Link Group Interest Rate View 7.2.22													
	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25
BANK RATE	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25
3 month av. earnings	0.80	1.00	1.00	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20	1.20
6 month av. earnings	1.00	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30	1.30
12 month av. earnings	1.40	1.50	1.60	1.70	1.70	1.60	1.60	1.50	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.40
5 yr PWLB	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.30
10 yr PWLB	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40
25 yr PWLB	2.40	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.60
50 yr PWLB	2.20	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.40

2.5.7 The information in the table below and in graphs in Appendix 2 show PWLB rates for a selection of maturity periods, the average borrowing rates and the high and low points in rates.



PWLB Certainty Rate Variations 1.4.21 to 31.3.2022



	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	50 Year
01/04/2021	0.80%	1.20%	1.73%	2.22%	2.03%
31/03/2022	1.91%	2.25%	2.43%	2.64%	2.39%
Low	0.78%	1.05%	1.39%	1.67%	1.25%
Low date	08/04/2021	08/07/2021	05/08/2021	08/12/2021	09/12/2021
High	2.03%	2.37%	2.52%	2.75%	2.49%
High date	15/02/2022	28/03/2022	28/03/2022	23/03/2022	28/03/2022
Average	1.13%	1.45%	1.78%	2.10%	1.85%
Spread	1.25%	1.32%	1.13%	1.08%	1.24%

- 2.5.8 PWLB rates are based on, and are determined by, gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through H.M. Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields.
- 2.5.9 The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields. Inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last 30 years in lowering inflation and the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation, etc.
- 2.5.10 This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. We have seen, over the last two years, many bond yields up to 10 years in the Eurozone turn negative on expectations that the European Union (EU) would struggle to increase growth rates and inflation from low levels. In

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addition, there has, at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US whereby 10 year yields have fallen below shorter term yields. In the past, this has been a precursor of a recession. Recently, yields have risen since the turn of the year due to global inflation concerns.

2.5.11 Gilt yields fell sharply from the spring of 2021 through to September and then spiked back up before falling again through December. However, by January sentiment had well and truly changed, as markets became focused on the embedded nature of inflation, spurred on by a broader opening of economies post the pandemic, and rising commodity and food prices resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

2.5.12 At the close of the day on 31 March 2022, all gilt yields from 1 to 5 years were between 1.11% and 1.45% while the 10-year and 25-year yields were at 1.63% and 1.84%.

2.5.13 Regarding PWLB borrowing rates, the various margins attributed to their pricing are as follows: -

- **PWLB Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- **PWLB Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- **PWLB HRA Standard Rate** is gilt plus 100 basis points (G+100bps)
- **PWLB HRA Certainty Rate** is gilt plus 80 basis points (G+80bps)
- **Local Infrastructure Rate** is gilt plus 60 basis points (G+60bps)

2.5.14 At the end of March it was considered that there was likely to be a further rise in short dated gilt yields and PWLB rates over the next three years as Bank Rate was forecast to rise from 0.75% in March 2022 to 1.25% later in 2022, with upside risk likely if the economy proves resilient in the light of the cost-of-living squeeze. Medium to long dated yields are driven primarily by inflation concerns but the Bank of England is also embarking on a process of Quantitative Tightening from when Bank Rate hits 1%, whereby the Bank's £895bn stock of gilt and corporate bonds will be sold back into the market over several years. The impact this policy will have on the market pricing of gilts, while issuance is markedly increasing, is an unknown at the time of writing.

2.15 It should be noted that since the end of the 2021/22, the period to which this report relates, the Bank Rate was increased to 1% in May 2022 and then by a further 0.25% in July 2022. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting of 4 August 2022 voted to increase the Bank Rate again by a further 0.5% to 1.75%.

## 2.6 Borrowing Outturn for 2021/22

### Treasury Borrowing

2.6.1 Due to investment concerns, both counterparty risk and low investment returns, no borrowing was undertaken during the year.

### Debt Rescheduling

2.6.2 There was no rescheduling of debt during the year as the average 1% differential between PWLB new borrowing rates and premature repayment rates made rescheduling unviable.

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### Repayment of Debt

- 2.6.3 On 9 August 2021 the Council repaid £0.241m of PWLB debt at a rate of 3.81%. No breakage costs were incurred as the maturity date had been reached. Also, during the year £0.005m was distributed to charities for which the Council manages the funds.

### Borrowing in Advance of Need

- 2.6.4 The Council has not borrowed in advance of its needs.

## **2.7 Investment Outturn**

### Investment Policy

- 2.7.1 The Council's investment policy is governed by Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) investment guidance (now the Department for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)). This has directed the preparation of the annual investment strategy which for 2021/22 was approved by Council on 4 March 2021. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data (such as rating outlooks, credit default swaps, bank share prices etc.).
- 2.7.2 The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

### Resources

- 2.7.3 The Council's year-end cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council's core cash resources are comprised as follows:

<b>Balance Sheet Resources</b>	<b>31 March 2021 (£'000)</b>	<b>31 March 2022 (£'000)</b>
Balances - General Fund	17,263	20,012
Balances - HRA	21,371	21,721
Earmarked Revenue Reserves	113,512	99,228
Revenue Grant Reserve	20,146	10,731
School Reserve	9,306	10,192
Provisions	25,427	19,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>207,025</b>	<b>181,582</b>

### Investments at 31 March 2022

- 2.7.4 The Council managed all of its investments in house with the institutions listed in the Council's approved lending list. At the end of the financial year the Council had £105.300m of investments as follows:

Institution	Type	Amount £'000	Term/ Days	Rate%	Start Date	End Date
CCLA Property Fund	Property	15,000		3.83%		
		<b>15,000</b>				
Cornwall Council	Fixed	5,000	33	0.55%	31-Mar-22	03-May-22
Close Brothers Ltd	Fixed	5,000	181	0.40%	25-Nov-21	25-May-22
London Borough of Haringey	Fixed	5,000	91	0.75%	28-Feb-22	30-May-22
Close Brothers Ltd	Fixed	5,000	182	0.40%	29-Dec-21	29-Jun-22
Nationwide Building Society	Fixed	5,000	181	0.15%	04-Jan-22	04-Jul-22
Goldman Sachs	Fixed	5,000	181	0.81%	01-Feb-22	01-Aug-22
<b>Total Fixed Deposits</b>		<b>30,000</b>				
Santander UK PLC	Notice	2,500	35	0.45%	01-Apr-21	
Santander UK PLC	Notice	2,500	95	0.55%	30-Apr-21	
Santander UK PLC	Notice	5,000	180	0.53%	24-Nov-21	23-May-22
<b>Total Notice Accounts</b>		<b>10,000</b>				
UK Treasury	Treasury Bills	2,000	92	0.18%	17-Jan-22	19-Apr-22
UK Treasury	Treasury Bills	2,000	92	0.18%	17-Jan-22	19-Apr-22
<b>Total Treasury Bills</b>		<b>4,000</b>				
Aberdeen MMF	MMF*	20,000	2	0.50%	30-Mar-22	01-Apr-22
Federated MMF	MMF*	10,000	1	0.50%	31-Mar-22	01-Apr-22
Invesco MMF	MMF*	6,300	1	0.48%	31-Mar-22	01-Apr-22
Federated Cash Plus MMF	MMF*	10,000	31	0.52%	01-Mar-22	01-Apr-22
<b>Total Money Market Funds (MMF)</b>		<b>46,300</b>				
<b>Total Investments</b>		<b>105,300</b>				

\* Money Market Funds (MMF)

2.7.5 The Council's investment strategy as set in March 2021 was to maintain sufficient cash reserves to give it necessary liquidity, whilst trying to attain a benchmark average rate of return of London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) on the relevant time deposit multiplied by 5%, whilst ensuring funds were invested in institutions which were the most secure. LIBID ceased to be used by the Bank of England at 31 December 2021, with SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average) replacing it. The table below shows the returns by the relevant time period measured against both LIBID and SONIA.



	Average Benchmark LIBID Return %	Average Benchmark SONIA Return %	Actual Return %
7 day	(0.074%)	0.137%	0.043%
1 month	(0.053%)	0.126%	0.199%
3 Month	(0.011%)	0.095%	0.378%
6 Month	0.095%	0.074%	0.237%

2.7.6 The Council's overall average performance on its cash investments exceeded its LIBID and SONIA benchmark in all periods.

2.7.7 The investments held with the Churches, Charities and Local Authorities (CCLA) Property Fund generated £0.550m of income with an average return in year of 3.83%.

2.7.8 Furthermore, the Director of Finance confirms that the approved limits within the Annual Investment Strategy were not breached during 2021/22.

## 2.8 The Economy and Interest Rates – Position Prevailing at 31 March 2022

### UK – Economy

2.8.1 Over the last two years, the Coronavirus outbreak has caused huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings until raising it to 0.25% at its meeting on 16 December 2021, 0.50% at its meeting of 4 February 2022 and then to 0.75% in March 2022. Members should note that subsequently the Bank Rate was increased to 1% in May 2022, by a further 0.25% in July 2022 and then again by 0.5% to 1.75% at the MPC meeting of 4 August 2022).

2.8.2 The UK economy endured several false dawns through 2021/22, but at the end of March, with most of the economy opened up and nearly back to business-as-usual, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) numbers were robust (9% year on year [y/y] Q1 2022) and sufficient for the MPC to focus on tackling the second-round effects of inflation, now that the Consumer Price Inflation (CPI) measure has already risen significantly.

2.8.3 Gilt yields fell towards the end of 2021, but despite the war in Ukraine gilt yields moved up in early 2022. At 1.38%, 2-year yields remained close to their recent 11-year high and 10-year yields of 1.65% were close to their recent six-year high. These rises were part of a global trend as central banks have suggested they will continue to raise interest rates to contain inflation.

2.8.4 Historically, a further rise in US Treasury yields will probably pull UK gilt yields higher. There is a strong correlation between the two factors. However, the squeeze on real household disposable incomes arising from the 54% leap in utilities prices in April 2022 (which has subsequently increased further) as well as rises in Council Tax, water prices and many telephone contract prices, are strong headwinds for any economy to deal with.

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- 2.8.5 In addition, from 1 April 2022, employees also pay 1.25% more in National Insurance tax. Consequently, inflation will be a bigger drag on real incomes in 2022 than in any year since records began in 1955.

#### Average Inflation Targeting

- 2.8.6 This was the major change in 2020/21 adopted by the Bank of England in terms of implementing its inflation target of 2%. The key addition to the Bank's forward guidance in August 2020 was a new phrase in the policy statement, namely that "it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the 2% target sustainably". That now seems very dated. Inflation has increased significantly and together with supply side shortages, labour shortages, commodity price inflation, the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent Western sanctions, all point to inflation being at elevated levels until well into 2023.

#### USA

- 2.8.7 The flurry of comments from US Federal Reserve (Fed) officials following the mid-March Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting, including from Chair Jerome Powell, had markets pricing in a further 225bps of interest rate increases in 2022 on top of the initial move to an interest rate range of 0.25% - 0.5%.
- 2.8.8 The upward pressure on inflation from higher oil prices and potential knock-on impacts on supply chains all argue for tighter policy (CPI was estimated at 7.8% across Q1), but the impact on real disposable incomes and the additional uncertainty points in the opposite direction.
- 2.9.9 The inversion of the 10 year-2 year Treasury yield spread at the end of March led to predictable speculation that the Fed's interest rate increases would quickly push the US economy into recession. Q1 GDP growth is likely to be only between 1.0% and 1.5% annualised (down from 7% in Q4 2021). But, on a positive note, the economy created more than 550,000 jobs per month in Q1, a number unchanged from the post-pandemic 2021 average. Unemployment was only 3.8% at the end of 2021/22.

#### Eurozone (EZ)

- 2.8.10 With euro-zone inflation having jumped to 7.5% in March it seemed increasingly likely that the European Central Bank (ECB) would accelerate its plans to tighten monetary policy with a potential to end net asset purchases at a point earlier than the Q3 date which the ECB targeted in March. The market anticipated possibly three 25bps rate increases later in 2022 year followed by more in 2023.
- 2.8.11 Policymakers have also hinted strongly that they would re-start asset purchases if required. Christine Lagarde has stated "we can design and deploy new instruments to secure monetary policy transmission as we move along the path of policy normalisation."
- 2.8.12 While inflation has hit the headlines recently, the risk of recession has also been rising. Among the bigger countries, Germany is most likely to experience a "technical" recession because its GDP contracted in Q4 2021, and its performance has been subdued in Q1 2022. However, overall, Q1 2022 growth for the Eurozone was expected to be 0.3% quarter on quarter (q/q) with the y/y figure posting a healthy

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5.2% gain. Encouragingly, unemployment fell to only 6.8% towards the end of 2021/22.

#### China

- 2.8.13 After a concerted effort by China to get on top of the virus outbreak in Q1 of 2020, economic recovery was strong in the rest of the year; however, 2021 saw the economy negatively impacted. With outbreaks of COVID-19 in large cities, such as Shanghai, near-term economic performance is likely to be subdued. Official GDP numbers suggest growth of c4% y/y, but other data measures suggest this may be an overstatement.

#### Japan

- 2.8.14 The Japanese economic performance through 2021/22 is best described as tepid. With a succession of local lockdowns throughout the course of the year, GDP is expected to have risen only 0.5% y/y with Q4 seeing a minor contraction. The policy rate has remained at -0.1%, unemployment is currently only 2.7% and inflation is sub 1%, although cost pressures are mounting.

#### World Growth

- 2.8.15 World growth is estimated to have expanded 8.9% in 2021/22 following a contraction of 6.6% in 2020/21.

#### Deglobalisation

- 2.8.16 Until recent years, world growth has been boosted by increasing globalisation i.e., countries specialising in producing goods and commodities in which they have an economic advantage and which they then trade with the rest of the world. This has boosted worldwide productivity and growth, and, by lowering costs, has also depressed inflation.
- 2.8.17 However, the rise of China as an economic superpower over the last 30 years, which now accounts for 18% of total world GDP (the USA accounts for 24%), and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, has unbalanced the world economy. In addition, after the pandemic exposed how frail extended supply lines were around the world, both factors are now likely to lead to a sharp retrenchment of economies into two blocs of western democracies v. autocracies.
- 2.8.18 It is, therefore, likely that we are heading into a period where there will be a reversal of world globalisation and a decoupling of western countries from dependence on China (and to a much lesser extent Russia) to supply products and vice versa. This is likely to reduce world growth rates.

#### Central Banks' Monetary Policy.

- 2.8.19 During the pandemic, the Governments of western countries provided massive fiscal support to their economies which has resulted in a big increase in total Government debt in each country. It is therefore very important that bond yields stay low while debt to GDP ratios slowly subside under the impact of economic growth.
- 2.8.20 This provides Governments with a good reason to amend the mandates given to central banks to allow higher average levels of inflation than has generally been seen over the last couple of decades. Both the Fed and Bank of England have already changed their policy towards implementing their existing mandates on inflation, (and full employment), to hitting an average level of inflation. Greater

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emphasis could also be placed on hitting subsidiary targets e.g., full employment before raising rates. Higher average rates of inflation would also help to erode the real value of government debt more quickly.

## **2.9 Other Key Issues**

### **International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) 9 – Financial Instruments**

- 2.9.1 Following the introduction of IFRS 9 in 2020/21 and after the consultation undertaken by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on IFRS9, the Government has introduced a mandatory statutory override for Local Authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds. This was effective from 1 April 2018 and applies for five years from this date. The Council has elected to utilise the mandatory override. The Council is required to disclose the net impact of the unrealised fair value movements in a separate unusable reserve throughout the duration of the override in order for the Government to keep the override under review and to maintain a form of transparency. The Council has complied with this disclosure requirement in the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts.

### **Other Treasury Management Issues**

- 2.9.2 Members have previously been advised about the introduction of IFRS 16 Leasing which would bring currently off balance sheet leased assets onto the balance sheet which should have been introduced for Local Authorities from 1 April 2021. This would have meant that the annual accounts for 2021/22 were the first set of accounts produced in accordance with this standard.
- 2.9.3 However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and following the consultation on the emergency proposals for an update of the 2021/22 Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK and the 2022/23 Code Consultation in March 2022, the introduction of IFRS 16 has been delayed until 2024/25. This delay is part of the recommendations to address the crisis position within the sector, regarding the fact that the significant majority (91%) of Local Government bodies missed the statutory deadline of 30 September 2021 for publication of their audited 2020/21 accounts. Members should note that the Council was not included in the 91%, as the Council's accounts were audited within the statutory deadline.

## **3 Options/Alternatives**

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

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 The preferred option is that the contents of the report are agreed by Council to ensure full compliance with the CIPFA Code of Practice.

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## 5 **Consultation**

5.1 There has been consultation with Link Asset Services, Treasury Management Advisors.

5.2 The presentation of the Treasury Management Review 2021/22 to the Audit Committee for detailed scrutiny on 21 June 2022 was in compliance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice. The report was also presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 22 August 2022. Cabinet approved the report and was content to commend it to Council. Approval by Council will ensure full compliance for the financial year 2021/22 with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice.

## 6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 All included in the report.

## 7 **Legal Services Comments**

7.1 None.

## 8 **Cooperative Agenda**

8.1 The treasury management strategy embraces the Council's cooperative agenda. The Council will develop its investment framework to ensure it complements the cooperative ethos of the Council.

## 9 **Human Resources Comments**

9.1 None.

## 10 **Risk Assessments**

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

## 11 **IT Implications**

11.1 None.

## 12 **Property Implications**

12.1 None.

## 13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None.

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14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None.

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

15.1 None.

16 **Equality Impact Assessment Completed**

16.1 No.

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes.

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 FLC-13-22

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

File Ref: Background papers are provided in Appendices 1 and 2  
Officer Name: Lee Walsh  
Contact: lee.walsh@oldham.gov.uk

20 **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Prudential and Treasury Management Indicators  
Appendix 2 Graphs



## Appendix 1: Prudential and Treasury Indicators

<b>TABLE 1: Prudential indicators</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>Outturn</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Outturn</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>				
Non – HRA	73,227	86,002	38,709	76,989
HRA				
TOTAL	73,227	86,002	38,709	76,989
<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>				
Non – HRA	12.39%	13.32%	13.32%	9.65%
<b>In year Capital Financing Requirement</b>				
Non – HRA	10,334	32,558	3,164	(22,818)
TOTAL	10,334	32,558	3,164	(22,818)
<b>Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March</b>	491,713	504,935	494,877	468,895

<b>TABLE 2: Treasury Management Indicators</b>	<b>2020/21</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>Outturn</b>	<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Outturn</b>
<b>Authorised Limit for External Debt</b>				
Borrowing	308,000	321,500	302,500	302,500
Other long term liabilities	229,500	220,000	220,500	220,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>537,500</b>	<b>541,500</b>	<b>523,000</b>	<b>523,000</b>
<b>Operational Boundary for External Debt -</b>				
Borrowing	288,000	301,500	282,500	282,500
Other long term liabilities	224,500	215,000	215,500	215,500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>512,500</b>	<b>516,500</b>	<b>498,000</b>	<b>498,000</b>
<b>Actual external debt</b>	397,248			381,045
<b>Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days</b>	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

<b>Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2021/22</b>	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Under 12 months	40%	0%	33%
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%	10%
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	12%
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	9%
10 years and above	50%	0%	36%

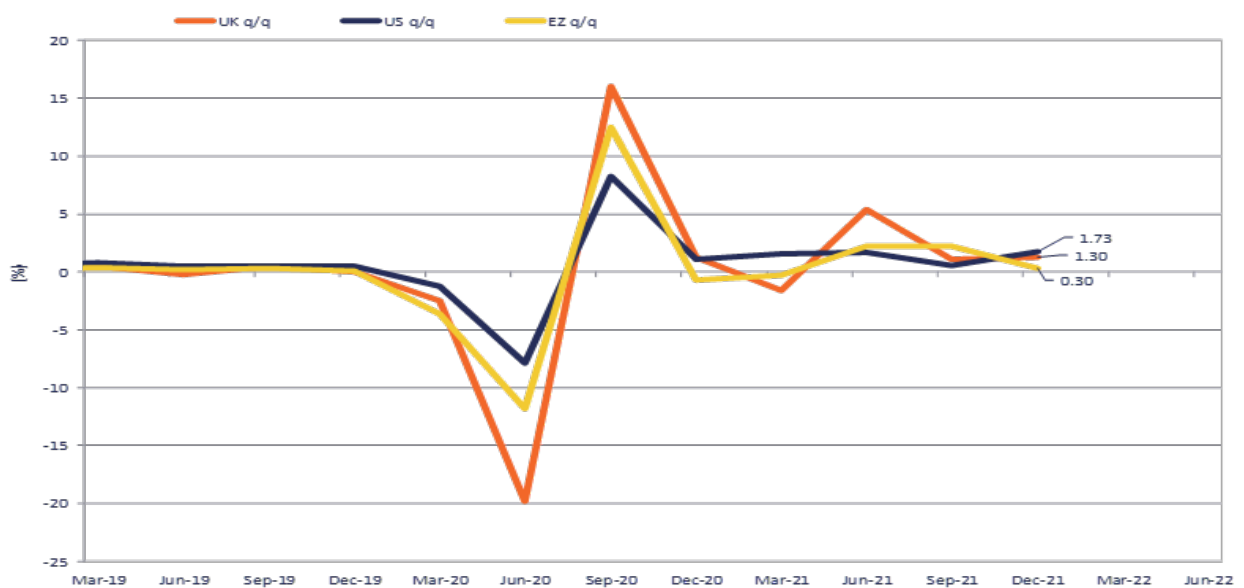
## Appendix 2: Graphs

Market Expectations for Future Increases in Bank Rate (6<sup>th</sup> April 2022)

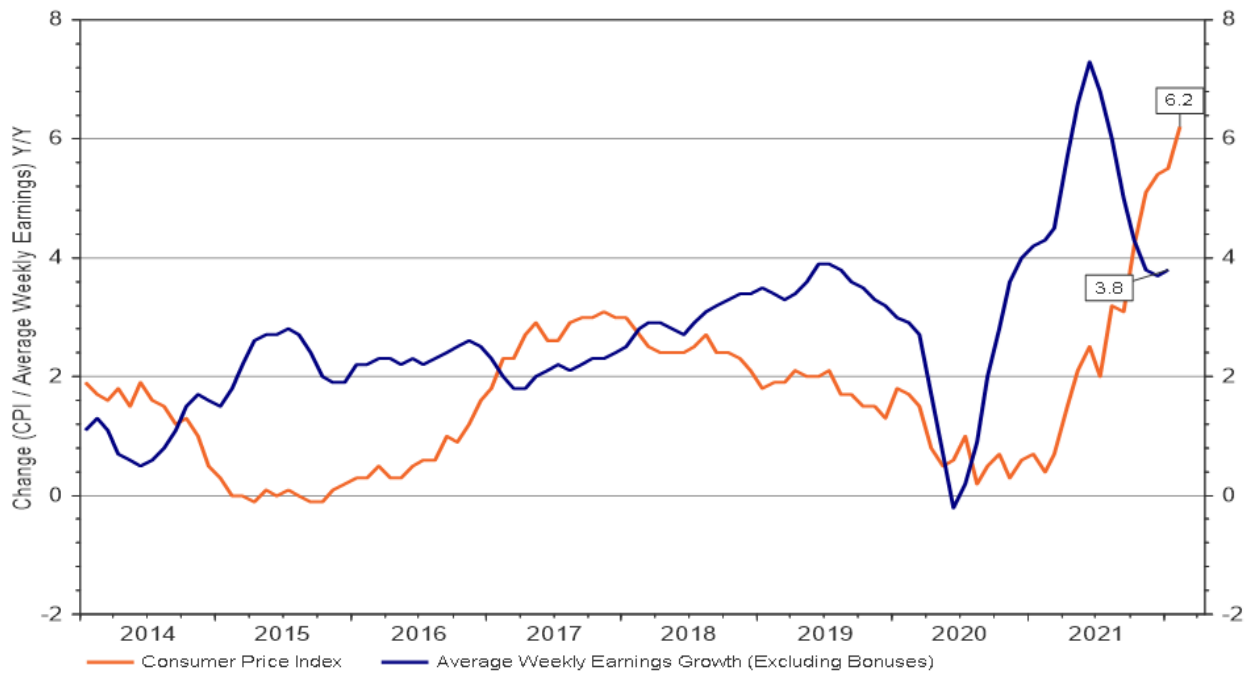


\*MD0 = Change in Bank Rate expected at MPC meeting to be held May 2022, MD1 = Jun-22, MD2 = Aug-22, MD3 = Sep-22, MD4 = Nov-22, MD5 = Dec-22, MD6 = Feb-23

UK, US and EZ Quarterly GDP



### CPI v Average Weekly Earnings Growth



Source: Refinitiv Datastream



## Report to COUNCIL

# Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation: Terms of Reference

### Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Eddie Moores, Cabinet Member Children and Young People

**Officer Contact:** Gerard Jones, Managing Director Children and Young People (Statutory Director of Children's Services)

**7 September 2022**

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### Reason for Decision

At its meeting on 13 July 2022, Council considered a motion in response to the Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Practice in Oldham.

This paper provides Full Council with an update on the All 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 the draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group for approval.

### Recommendations

Full Council is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report
2. By way of receiving the Council's action plan responding to the Independent Assurance Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation, note the priority areas of action and progress against the resolution agreed by Full Council on 13 July 2022. This includes 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

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Child Sexual Exploitation survivors steering/advisory group and the establishment of an Elected Member Steering Group. This is set out at appendix 1 to this report

3. Agree the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation as set out in appendix 2 to this report
4. Note that the Council's response is to support victims, seek justice and provide assurance about current practice as set out within the Council's action plan



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## 1.0 Background

1.1 At the meeting of Full Council on 13 July 2022, Full Council debated a motion in relation to an Independent Review into Historic Child Sexual Exploitation. In debating the motion, Council resolved that:

- Dedicated additional resource be recruited or redeployed to support the work of Operation Sherwood in fully investigating any historic CSE allegations across Oldham to seek convictions for those that perpetrated these terrible crimes and to ensure justice for victims.
- Ongoing support be given to victims of historic and current CSE including access to independent support from organisations like SARC and KOGs (Keeping Our Girls Safe). This support should include advice on how to secure independent advice on reparations and complaints.
- to advise on and oversee this vital support work a steering group of victim/ survivor charities and groups and survivors would be established.
- That a cross-party steering group is established to work alongside the existing Department for Education chaired 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees our improvements to Children's Social Care, our independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity in the borough and our newly established Victim Steering Group to oversee our work to support historic and current victims of CSE. The cross-party group would oversee each of their activity and report back to the Oldham public on progress.

1.2 Progress has been made against the resolution and further detail is attached as appendix 1 to this report by way of the Council's action plan responding to the Independent Review into Child Sexual Exploitation. This document details the priority actions that are underway. In addition, the Council has facilitated an All Elected Member workshop with information provided with:

- An overview of the issue of CSE nationally and in Oldham
- Detail of the Council's response to complex safeguarding cases in the Council
- An overview of Operation Sherwood
- An overview of our partnership led victims strategy and the work we are undertaking with local victims charities
- A draft set of terms of reference for the agreed Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation

1.3 The draft Terms of Reference for the agreed Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation are set out at appendix two of this report for agreement.

## 3.0 Financial Implications

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3.1 There will be no impact on service budgets as a result of this proposal.

Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

#### **4.0 Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications contained within the report.

Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal

#### **5.0 Human Resources Implications**

5.1 Not applicable

#### **6.0 Risk Assessments**

6.1 Not applicable

#### **7.0 IT Implications**

7.1 Not applicable

#### **8.0 Property Implications**

8.1 Not applicable

#### **9.0 Procurement Implications**

9.1 Not applicable

#### **10.0 Environmental and Health and Safety Implications**

10.1 Not applicable

#### **11.0 Community Cohesion and Crime Implications**

11.1 Not applicable

#### **12.0 Equality Impact Assessment Completed (EIA)**

12.1 Not applicable

#### **13.0 Key Decision**

13.1 No

#### **14.0 Forward Plan Reference**

14.1 Not applicable

#### **15.0 Background Papers**

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15.1 None

**16.0 Appendices**

16.1 None

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# Review into historic safeguarding practices in the Borough of Oldham



## Priority actions:

- To work with Greater Manchester Police to investigate historic allegations of sexual exploitation and bring offenders to justice
- To provide support to victims of child sexual exploitation
- To provide reassurance about standards of current safeguarding practice
- To ensure cross-party oversight and involvement in improving safeguarding services and supporting victims
- To raise greater awareness of child sexual abuse, how to spot it and how to report it

## Bringing offenders to justice

Under Operation Sherwood Greater Manchester Police will investigate all allegations of historic sexual abuse. This will include those highlighted in the CSE Review but also any other historic allegation from any time period.

The Operation will be clearly promoted to encourage other victims and witnesses to come forward, both to seek justice and access support.

The Council has identified dedicated additional resource to support the ongoing work of Operation Sherwood, both by supporting the work of investigation teams and by providing help and ongoing support to victims who come forward.

## Supporting victims of child sexual exploitation

A GMP and Oldham Council victim strategy, for those victims identified in the review and any new victims that come forward, has already been developed and deployed working alongside victim support, SARC, and mental health services. It offers a helpline for victims signposting to support on a range of issues including mental health and housing.

This helpline will continue to offer support to victims throughout Operation Sherwood and beyond, should it continue to be needed.

The Council will provide funding via an appropriate support organisation to provide advocacy for victims including signposting to independent legal advice and support

The Council will convene a victim support advisory group led by victims/survivors and chaired by local organisation Keep Our Girls Safe (KOGS) to ensure the voice of local victims shapes our ongoing support offer and oversees our current work.

## Providing assurance on current safeguarding practice

Council safeguarding and children's social care services are inspected regularly by Ofsted. They provide a rating of our current practice in a range of areas against a national framework.

In addition, the Council's ongoing work to improve the services we provide for children is overseen by a 'Getting to Good' Board which is chaired by the Department for Education.

Oldham also has a multi-agency safeguarding partnership, chaired independently, which oversees the borough's work to keep children and young people safe.

To encourage greater and quicker improvements to services Oldham Council will work with sector-leading councils from across the country who can share best practice in safeguarding and specifically CSE practice.

A series of Learning Events will be held to encourage learning for professionals on CSE and complex safeguarding practice from the Oldham Review, the Home Office Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse and other national inquiries.

## Ensuring cross-party oversight and involvement

Oldham Council will establish a cross-party assurance group to provide scrutiny and direction for the council's improvement activity in relation to safeguarding. The group will also oversee our work to support victims.

The terms of reference for this group will be determined by an all member engagement process and agreed at Full Council.

We will review our current member training offer on CSE and wider safeguarding issues with advice and support from charities and advocacy groups.

## Raising awareness of child sexual abuse

Oldham Council will promote the work we do to safeguard children and young people and the role all residents and organisations can play in supporting that work.

We will improve our safeguarding education and training offer to more pupils and parents in Oldham schools, to local businesses and partner organisations so they are aware of the risk of child abuse and how to report it.

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## **DRAFT Terms of Reference: Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation**

### Purpose:

The purpose of the Elected Member Steering Group is to provide cross-party oversight of current safeguarding practice and the appropriate information detailing work that is being undertaken to seek justice and offer support to historic victims of child sexual abuse.

### Objectives:

The Steering Group will:

1. Not duplicate the scope of existing Boards in place but will work alongside the Council's existing governance arrangements including 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees improvements to Children's Social Care, the Independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity across the Borough and the newly established Victim Steering Group which oversees work to support historic and current victims of CSE
2. Be provided with assurance on the support to victims both present and historic by way of data and insight reports
3. Be provided with assurance on progress of Operation Sherwood and the support given by the Council to Operation Sherwood by way of data and insight report
4. Be provided with assurance on current complex safeguarding activity and practice within the context of wider children's social care activity by way of data and insight reports
5. With agreement by the Steering Group, request and receive detail in relation to current safeguarding practice and be able to make suggestions to improve processes and practice in place
6. Have the ability to refer any matters for additional information or advice to the independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

### Accountability and reporting arrangements:

The Steering Group will work alongside the existing governance arrangements already in place. The Steering Group will provide reports to Council summarising matters considered within the 12-month period. A minimum of one report within each municipal year will be presented however, there may be more should the Steering Group feel it has something to report. This will be subject to agreement by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group is not a decision-making body. Any proposed changes to process/current practice that requires a decision will be referred to the appropriate decision-making forum in line with the Council's Constitution/Schemes of Delegation. What actions the decision-making bodies make on such matters referred to them will be formally reported back to the Steering Group.

A summary will be provided to Group Leaders after each Steering Group has met for dissemination to their groups.

### Meeting arrangements:

The Steering Group will meet as a minimum four times within a municipal year.

The Steering Group will be chaired by the Chief Executive. The membership will be:

- Leader of the Council (Leader of the Administration/Labour Group) +1 Member from the Labour Group
- Leader of the Liberal Democrats +1 Member from the Liberal Democrat Group
- Leader of the Conservatives +1 Member from the Conservative Group
- Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party +1 Member from the Failsworth Independent Party

Given the roles in which the Cabinet Member and Shadow Cabinet Member(s) undertake, it is not recommended that the Cabinet/Shadow Cabinet Members responsible for Children and Young People form the Steering Group.

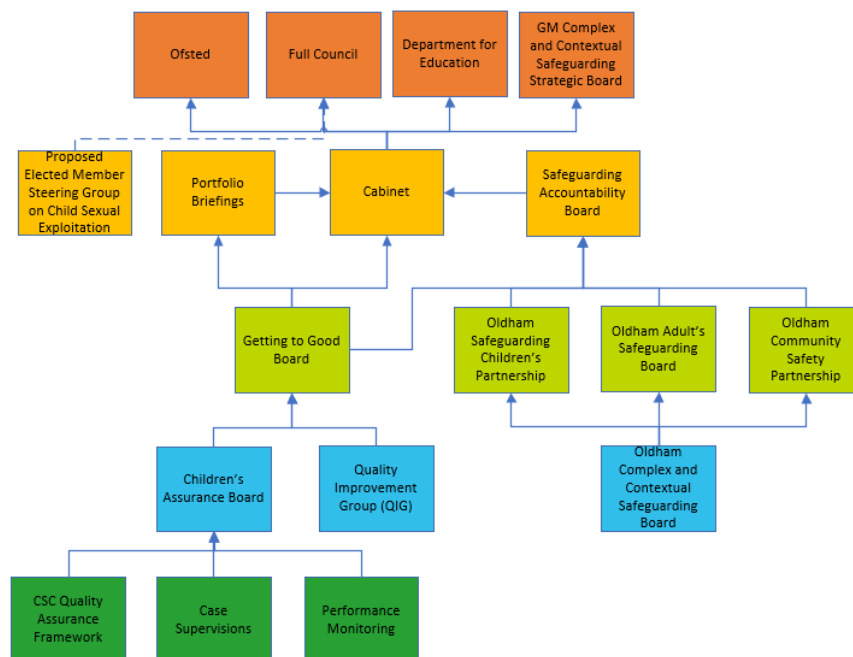
The Steering Group will be quorate with 50% of attendees (a minimum of 4 members) and preferably there will be representatives from each of the four Political Groups on the Council:

- Labour
- Liberal Democrats
- Conservatives
- Failsworth Independent Party

Roles and Responsibilities of Members of the Steering Group:

- Attend meetings of the Steering Group
- Always maintain confidentiality (within and outside of the Steering Group forum)
- Act within the purpose of the Steering Group as set out
- Consider the impact on children and young people, victims/survivors of CSE and children’s social care
- To declare any interests at the start of each meeting that may be relevant to the agenda items

Governance Diagram



The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group will formally be reviewed on an annual basis (May of each year) but will be subject to discussion within six months of the Steering Group operating. Any changes made to the Terms of Reference will be considered by the meeting of Annual/Full Council.

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