

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 6th September 2023

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 29th August 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 6th September 2023 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 12th July 2023 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 38)
- 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 39 - 58)
(time limit 15 minutes)

19th June 2023
17th July 2023

24th July 2023

9 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Shah to MOVE and Councillor Brownridge to SECOND:

Fragility of the Social Care Sector

The Social Care sector is in crisis. The market is failing residents who need society's care and support the most.

Oldham Council recently announced that it would be acquiring Chadderton Total Care Unit to prevent the nursing home from closing and creating over two-hundred redundancies and create continuity of care issues for over a hundred vulnerable residents.

The social care system is not fit for purpose and is failing the people who rely on it, despite the incredible efforts made by those who work in it.

Long-term problems, including high levels of unmet need and care providers struggling to deliver the quality of care that older and disabled people deserve, are compounded by rising demand, backlogs caused by Covid-19 and a workforce crisis. Pressures in the NHS compound these challenges even further and can sometimes lead to 'bed blocking'.

We need reform now – government cannot wait any longer to act.

This Council notes:

- That there are no quick and easy fixes to the crisis in social care, but this cannot be ignored.
- That the fragility of the care sector market is putting Oldhamers' health, quality of life and livelihoods at risk
- The council continues to receive an increased number of complaints linked to unaffordability of financial contributions and linked to the cost-of-living crisis.

This Council further notes:

- The decision to acquire the Total Care Unit in Chadderton was not one taken lightly but allowing the second biggest care-home in the Borough to close would've been cruel.
- The acquisition of the Total Care Unit has protected over 100 vulnerable residents from being moved out of borough and ensured that 200 hardworking social care staff did not lose their jobs.
- That the nursing sector in particular is facing huge challenges in recruiting staff, that agencies are driving up the cost and making it difficult for the NHS to compete and offer parity.

This Council resolves to:

- Use the newly created Oldham Total Care to combat bed blocking at the Royal Oldham Hospital, relieve some pressure in the social care sector and provide the support Oldhamers need in Oldham.
- Write to the Department for Health and Social Care to urge them to urgently adopt the delayed reforms to care sector funding and eligibility.
- Write to the Department of Health and Social Care to ask them to urgently commission a review on market volatility in the Care and Nursing Home Sectors.

- Work with the Integrated Care System across Greater Manchester and the North West, as well as the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services to raise awareness and address issues of care home market fragility, and lobby for reform to create a care system that meets resident's needs, accepts that a greater personalisation of services is required, and increases the availability of care services.

Motion 2

Councillor Goodwin to MOVE and Councillor Taylor to SECOND:

No More Profit Over Pollution

Across the borough of Oldham, our rivers are treasured by residents, as vital waterways that supported Oldham's growth during the industrial revolution. Water from the Tame, Medlock and Irk contributed to our mills, our canals and help connect us to our neighbouring towns.

Since the failed experiment in privatising our water utility in 1989, residents have seen bills go up, yet have suffered with issues getting water delivered to their homes, with leaks and water shut offs increasing in frequency whilst shareholders increase their dividends.

United Utilities was identified in 2022 as the worst water polluter in the UK, with "10 of the country's 20 pipes that spilled the most sewage in 2022 were owned by United Utilities" (The Guardian, April 2023). The River Trust identified 31 sites in Oldham where raw sewage is discharged into rivers.

One of Oldham's MP's has raised this issue in their role as Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the government have voted against parliamentary measures to stop sewage being pumped into our rivers.

Sampling at the River Tame near Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate. These are all chemicals that are harmful to both humans and wildlife, showcasing that pollution in our rivers is extremely harmful to the residents of the borough.

This Council notes:

1. The data from the River Trust that shows details of 31 raw sewage discharge into rivers and streams across Oldham in 2022, including along the River Tame in Saddleworth, the River Medlock at Bardsley and the River Irk in Royton.
2. Water sampling at Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate.
3. That despite United Utilities reporting £788m profits in the year to 31st March 2023 and paying dividends of £300m to their shareholders, UU proposes to add the costs of any clean up to our bills.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to United Utilities requesting that they respond to each of these 3 points separately, giving detailed plans, including a timetable, to ensure these discharges into our local waters are prevented in future and calling for the clean-up costs to be met by United Utilities and their shareholders and not paid for by customers.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking for the government to strengthen environmental protections around sewage discharges, including increasing fines for discharges and stronger regulatory action including mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets.
3. Write to the Borough's 3 MPs asking them to pressure the Government to

require mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets and an increase in fines for sewage discharges.

10 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Councillor Woodvine to MOVE and Councillor Sheldon to SECOND:

A State of the Art Health Centre for Saddleworth

The Civil Parish of Saddleworth is the only District in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham to have not had the provision of a Health Centre planned for despite the overwhelming public support for one.

While the current Centre, situated in Uppermill, has given care to many people over the years, the modern medical needs of the population of Saddleworth are not met by the current site. Many people living in Saddleworth's village communities have to travel to central Oldham for basic treatment – to Glodwick, Littlemoor, Moorside, or the Integrated Care Centre.

The provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre of all of Saddleworth is the single biggest issue and this was made clear to The Council Leader, Councillor Arooj Shah, when she visited us in 2022 at her 'Meet the Leader' event in Saddleworth Civic Hall. Despite her warm words, no action has been taken.

The content of this Motion has an electoral mandate - in recent Elections, all successful Candidates in Saddleworth have been nominally or actively in favour of a Health Centre.

Increased pressure is being placed on the already stretched healthcare provisions in Saddleworth resulting from the increased house building, including the 78 dwellings on Huddersfield Road, Diggle, with the prospect of more developments to come at Knowls Lane, Birks Quarry, Bailey Mill, Fletcher's Mill and possibly Stonebreaks in years to come.

The Member of Parliament for Oldham East & Saddleworth hosted an event too to discuss the prospect of developing a new Health Centre, but she did not invite the Councillors for the area and we have never seen any outcomes from this discussion, at which there were senior Officers of the Council.

The Integrated Care System for Greater Manchester has stated in the past that funding is not necessarily the problem in preventing progress, but the options for siting a Health Centre in Saddleworth is the stumbling block. However, a strategic site has opened up in a central, accessible location in Uppermill with the demolition of Saddleworth School and this is in the ownership of the Council.

Therefore, this Council commits:

- To prioritise the provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre for all of Saddleworth.
- To commit to making the site of the old Saddleworth School mixed-use, and earmarking some space for a state-of-the-art Health Centre.
- To improve the pitches and playing fields on the old Saddleworth School site for the use of local people, and for increased sporting provisions.
- To consider ways to increase capacity at the Delph site in the meantime, whilst a new Health Centre is established, as it is a source of local commentary that this service is underutilised.
- To schedule a meeting with all stakeholders, including the Leader of the

Council, the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care and the Saddleworth North, South, and West & Lees Councillors, to discuss our priorities for the people we represent.

Motion 2

Councillor Al-Hamdani to MOVE and Councillor Williamson to SECOND:

Raw Sewage Discharges

This council notes that:

In 2011, the Environment Agency reported that our rivers were cleaner than at any time since the Industrial Revolution.

In March this year the same agency noted that there were more than 300,000 raw sewage discharges into rivers and coastal areas in 2022, lasting for more than 1.75 million hours.

In the same period our local water company, 'United Utilities', was responsible for 69,245 of those sewage discharges lasting for 425,491 hours.

In Oldham alone, raw sewage has been discharged into our waterways more than 2,500 times since 2021, lasting for more than 14,000 hours.

These hours of raw sewage went into the waterways alongside which Oldham residents walk, cycle and ride; and in which families go boating, fishing and paddling. Raw sewage in open waters has been shown to increase the risk of diseases such as hepatitis and Weil's disease.

The deterioration in the quality of our water is so apparent that it is evidenced not only by Environment Agency data but by the observations of Oldham residents who have noted the rise in unpleasant odours and visible pollution in the water.

The sewage discharge data, provided by the water companies themselves, demonstrates that not a single discharge in 2022 resulted from exceptional circumstances - rainfall or storms – but due to a lack of treatment and investment by the same water companies.

Yet since 1989, they have paid out £72 billion in dividends to shareholders and bonuses of millions of pounds to executives while accruing industry wide debts of £60 billion and inflicting a 40% real terms price increase on ordinary people.

So much value has been extracted from the sector that one of the largest companies is currently failing under its huge level of debt and there are forecasts of future huge price rises across the country, including Trafford, to make up for decades of lack of investment.

This situation is unfair and unsustainable – ordinary people are paying ever higher prices for the privilege of having raw human sewage dumped in their communities while the industry is allowed to be run for the enrichment of shareholders and executives.

This council resolves to:

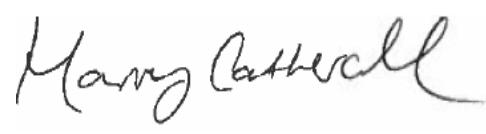
Call upon Central Government to firmly establish the 'Polluter Pays Principle' across the industry". Water companies must operate in the interests of the Public, not shareholders. They must make meaningful provision for the monitoring of water quality, publish a strategy with targets for the reduction of sewage discharges, including meaningful economic impact assessments, and provide for financial penalties in relation to sewage discharges and breaches of monitoring requirements.

11 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 59 - 82)

12 Constitution Amendments (Pages 83 - 160)

- 13 Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 (Pages 161 - 194)
- 14 Treasury Management Review 2022/2023 (Pages 195 - 216)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Catherall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**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

