

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 1 November 2023**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 24 October 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 1 November 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 6th September 2023 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 26)
- 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)
- 7 Leader's Annual Statement
Leader to address Council
- 8 Youth Council
(time limit 20 minutes)
There is no Youth Council business
- 9 Public Questions
(time limit 15 Minutes)
To receive questions submitted by members of the public.
- 10 Reports of the Leader and Cabinet Members (Pages 27 - 102)
(time limit 90 minutes)
Leader and Cabinet Members to present their reports.
Non-executive members may ask questions.
 - a. Leader and Reform and Regeneration Portfolio – including minutes of Cabinet held on 21 August 2023, 18 September 2023, 2 October 2023, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 28 July 2023 and the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board 30 June 2023.

- b. Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio
- c. Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Portfolio
- d. Education and Skills Portfolio
- e. Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio
- f. Neighbourhoods Portfolio
- g. Health and Social Care Portfolio
- h. Communities and Culture Portfolio
- i. Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio

11 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Battling Oldham's Housing Crisis

Councillor Taylor to MOVE

Councillor Goodwin to SECOND

Too many Oldhamers are struggling to afford to keep a roof over their head. Too many Oldhamers live in substandard or overcrowded housing.

There are currently over seven-and-a-half-thousand families on Oldham's Social Housing Register, with almost eleven thousand applications still being processed. Many of these families have been fruitlessly bidding on properties to no avail through no fault of their own.

The failure of the housing market is driving some Oldham families to crisis. There are currently 470 households in Temporary Accommodation (TA), the longest being in TA for over 3 years, as they require a 5-bedroom property, and the supply simply does not meet the demand. This number has doubled since the same month in 2021 when it stood at 233 Households.

In addition, the Local Housing Allowance rates have not been properly reviewed since 2011, despite recent Labour analysis showing that private sector rents have risen by £168 a month in the last two years alone. Therefore, the very safety net that is intended to ensure people can afford decent housing is failing them.

This Council notes:

- That Oldham is in a Housing Crisis.
- Oldham Council has an ambitious Housing Strategy, but we are struggling to cope with the sheer volume of demand.
- That poor quality, insecure and expensive housing can often lead to families in Oldham falling into avoidable crises.
- The Conservative Government's failure on housing over the last 13 years, with homelessness continuing to rise and home-ownership falling.
- Comparatively, under the last Labour Government, 2 million homes were built, 1 million more households became homeowners and there was the largest social housing investment in a generation.

This Council further notes

- The cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated this situation, meaning that more Oldhamers are now struggling to afford housing costs (both rental and buying).
- Under this Government, the number of new social rented homes has fallen by over 80%. Consequently, there are now more than 30,000 fewer social rented homes built each year.
- The Council has a moral obligation to ensure Oldhamers do not live in substandard housing. We are committed to working with our partners in the social housing sector and, where possible, private landlords to ensure Oldhamers have decent homes to live in.

This Council resolves:

- To instruct the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) & the Assistant Chief Executive to bring together key partners in Oldham's housing sector – social housing, private rented and owner-occupiers, stakeholders from the Voluntary, Community, Faith & Social Enterprise sector, and relevant Council Officers and Cabinet Members at Oldham's Housing Summit at the earliest opportunity.
- To recommit to our Housing Strategy and affirm our ambition that every Oldhamer should live in decent and affordable homes.
- To write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities seeking far-reaching action to tackle the housing crisis.

This Council further resolves to call on the Government to:

- End rough sleeping within a Parliament and tackle the root causes of homelessness, including insufficient Local Housing Allowance Rates.
- Finally implement the promised ban on Section 21 'No Fault' Evictions to give private rented tenants the security they need.
- Back first-time buyers on ordinary incomes with discounted homes and give priority to local people on new homes built in their area.

Motion 2

Permitted Development

Councillor Steve Bashforth to MOVE

Councillor McLaren to SECOND

In 2015, the Coalition Government introduced a Statutory Instrument, **The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015**, which removed the need for planning permission for certain developments, including but not limited to the erection of communications infrastructure, including masts and telegraph poles.

In doing this, the government removed the ability of Local Authorities to have any say over significant developments within their boundaries, restricting residents from having their concerns and voices heard.

We have seen the impact of this here in Oldham, with many residents angry that large wooden poles have been erected outside their homes with little warning, streets cluttered with large grey cabinets and masts appearing without residents' input.

This Council notes:

That elected members across the council support ambitions to make Gigabit

broadband internet available nationwide.

That elected members are concerned about the removal of local voices from the planning process across the country, due to changes introduced by the Coalition Government in 2015.

These changes have led, in many cases, to residents feeling they have no control over their local neighbourhoods and town centres.

The changes in planning controls have been used to cut costs for companies providing broadband infrastructure, utilising wooden telegraph poles and large masts to carry cables above ground rather than below ground.

That these poles and masts are an undesirable addition to street clutter and in many cases cause inconvenience to householders and to visually impaired pedestrians, with some positioned in wholly inappropriate locations or erected in clusters near the same property.

This Council resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and request that the 2015 Statutory Instrument (SI) be amended to ensure that operators who choose to erect telegraph poles and masts to deliver gigabit broadband would require planning permission and full consultation with local stakeholders.

Ask that the Chief Executive also write to our borough's 3 Members of Parliament to support local residents in overturning the 2015 Statutory Instrument

12 Notice of Opposition Business

(Time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

Holding Housing Associations Accountable for Damp and Mould Issues

Councillor Wahid to MOVE

Councillor Byrne to SECOND

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (Oldham Council) must lead from the front to ensure that our residents benefit from safe and secure housing. As such, OMBC must ensure that housing stock is maintained to the highest quality.

It is especially the case for socially rented properties. There are housing association properties in the borough that are sadly affected by damp and mould. This is a silent killer as so tragically seen in the case of Awab Ishak in our neighbouring Rochdale Council. However, the prevalence of such houses suffering with damp and mould is feared to be in the thousands in Oldham. One can only draw their attention to the increasing interest from litigators from the legal industry to appreciate this is potentially a very big problem that requires immediate action. Housing associations must do more given that they have a duty of care to the most vulnerable. It is time Oldham Council holds these corporate landlords to account.

Too often a culture of secrecy and fear surrounds housing associations and they are seemingly unaccountable to many elected members and residents. We must change that and remind them of the important duty of care that they have to local people. Amongst the damp and mould issues, all too often many

residents who have lived in an area for several years and may have started a family are uprooted from that area due to them having a lower priority over others who may have no links to that ward. We believe that having links to a local area is important and that Oldham Council needs to strengthen the local connection test by ensuring that a set number of new build properties are reserved for local people, i.e people who live in Hollinwood get a home in Hollinwood etc.

Temporary accommodation and management of displaced families is in drastic need of restructure to ensure the most vulnerable in our society are managed in accordance with Human Rights Act 1998.

It is also important that Oldham Council reiterate its commitment to HM Armed Forces personnel and ensure that they are always given priority and services that they need and deserve.

This Council acknowledges:

- The letter written to all Councils by Michael Gove (Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) to council leaders and social housing providers stating that damp and mould complaints must be handled “with sufficient seriousness” and the deaths, such that of two year old Awaab Ishak must ‘never be allowed to happen again’.
- That under the Housing Act 2004, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council has a legal duty to review housing conditions in their district, identify actions required to remedy ‘Category 1 Hazards’ and then - “they must take the appropriate enforcement action in relation to the hazard”.
- That under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, mould is designated as a ‘Category 1 Hazard’, meaning that local authorities can serve hazard awareness and improvement notices and can also take other emergency action, where housing associations are falling short.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Ensure that repairs are actioned through proper inspections, especially to repairs that need to be made to tenants’ homes that can prevent damp and mould. Such as clearing guttering, sealing windows, replacing faulty extraction fans in bathrooms and kitchens as well as providing cavity wall insulation.
2. Conduct and publish a full damp and mould survey of properties in the OMBC area. Ensuring that they prioritise damp and mould complaints and resolve them without delay.
3. Empower, educate, and enable independent advice and representation for all tenants, on the process for raising and tracking a damp or mould complaint and what their rights are in challenging any delays.
4. Where progress is too slow, to use powers including but not limited to hazard awareness notices and hazard improvement notices to ensure that damp and mould complaints are treated with the urgency they are due.
5. To ask the Chief Executive and or Deputy Chief Executive/s to write to all housing associations outlining the above resolutions and stating this council’s strongly held view that nobody should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home.
6. That this Council will take the necessary legal action against any housing association that fails in its duty of care and that puts tenants at risk.
7. Compel Housing Associations to provide alternative accommodation whilst

- works are being undertaken in cases that homes are deemed un-inhabitable.
8. Strengthen the local connection test and allocate a set number of homes for local people within each district for people who live in that district to strengthen our communities and to priorities local homes for local people.
 9. Ensure that all residents approaching housing services are asked a question that will identify them at an early stage if they fall into the category of being vulnerable.
 10. Regularly review staff training processes to ensure that all relevant staff are aware of the housing policies specific to the vulnerable community.
 11. Ensure that all residents approaching housing services are asked a question that will identify their membership of the Armed Forces community. So that those that served this Country are given top priority for housing.
 12. Use discretion in waiving the five-year limit and allow veterans to access housing support with an exemption from the local connection requirement regardless of the time elapsed since they left Service

Motion 2

A fair deal for private renters

Councillor Harkness to MOVE

Councillor Sykes to SECOND

This Council notes:

- The number of private renters in Oldham has grown significantly over the last decade
- There are more than 4.4 million UK residents who live in a private rented home
- In England, 1 in 8 private rented homes have at least one severe hazard, and 4% of private rented homes have an energy efficiency rating of F or G, meaning they are also illegal to rent out.
- The end of a private sector tenancy is one of the leading causes of homelessness.
- Black and minority ethnic households are more likely to experience poor housing outcomes including homelessness.
- Oldham Council has a statutory obligation to ensure that no private rented tenant is living in substandard accommodation

This Council believes:

- Private renters should not have to live in homes that are damp, in a poor state of repair, overcrowded or unaffordable
- That data and communication resources at the Council's disposal can be better used to engage with private renters
- More frequent events, such as the Landlord Forum held in November 2019, would offer an opportunity for all landlords operating in Oldham to meet and discuss the issues that affect them and their tenants
- That too little is known about people who face homelessness, whether they are evicted or are forced to leave their family or friends' home, and this impedes efforts to prevent homelessness
- The Government should bring forward the legislation it pledged in December 2019 immediately so that tenants can no longer be evicted without a reason

This Council resolves to protect private renters by:

1. Serving improvement notices on homes with severe hazards to invalidate Section 21 notices and enable Rent Repayment Orders if the landlord fails to comply
2. Serving improvement notices for excess cold in homes that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards
3. Helping private renters claim back rent through rent repayment orders when they are eligible to do so
4. Enforcing the ban on letting agent fees by issuing fines to criminal letting agents
5. Taking action on overcrowded homes through licensing, increased inspections and a strategy for increasing the supply of homes for families and single adults
6. Committing not to use landlord licensing to enforce immigration law
7. Working more closely with the local police force to protect private renters from illegal evictions and appoint one person accountable for enforcing the Protection from Eviction Act
8. Publishing the breakdown of homelessness cases arising from the private rented sector by ethnicity
9. Recording and publish the tenure breakdown of homelessness cases, in particular those arising from family/friends being unable to house someone
10. Joining with Generation Rent, the national voice of private renters, in campaigning for the legislative change private renters need to live in safe, secure and affordable homes.
11. Supporting Generation Rent's campaign for a National Register of Landlords
12. Making sure the Council website has useful advice and information for private renters that is easy to find; makes it easier for private renters to understand how the council can help enforce their rights, sets reasonable expectations; and allows for checking if a privately rented home has a landlord licence
13. Using Landlord Licensing, Council Tax, Energy Performance Certificate & Tenancy Deposit data to identify private rented homes to communicate directly with private renters.

Motion 3

Article 4 (1) direction on small HMOs

Councillor Hince to MOVE

Councillor Sykes to SECOND

Residents from across Shaw and Crompton have contacted both the Shaw & Crompton Independents and Liberal Democrats concerned with the expansion of HMOs.

Whilst there is very little we can do to prevent full planning applications from being considered, we can act to close the loophole that allows for permitted development rights for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where between three and six unrelated people share basic amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom.

Oldham Council currently permits, without the need for planning permission under 'permitted development rights', the change of use of a typical dwelling house occupied by a single household in use class C3, to a property used as a 'small' HMO that is shared by between three and six unrelated people in use class C4.

Such concerns were put before the Shaw & Crompton Parish Council on 29/08/23. At this meeting the Parish Council recognised that:

There is an increasing threat to the residents of Shaw & Crompton from speculator developers purchasing, and outbidding with ease, domestic dwellings designed for housing young families, further pricing them out of the area.

There is growing concern from local residents about the increasing harm the conversion of domestic dwellings designed for family housing are having on the fabric of residential streets and the overall neighbourhood.

Clusters of HMO premises that are emerging in neighbourhoods within the parish due to the utilisation of permitted development rights.

It is time that the Parish Council took immediate steps to safeguard the fabric of our community.

On this basis the Parish Council voted unanimously to , as a matter of urgency, for OMBC to seek to approve a Shaw & Crompton Parish wide Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for changes of use from dwellings (Use Class C3) to Houses in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4).

This Council resolves to,

For the OMBC executive to consider and investigate the making of a direction pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 on a Shaw & Crompton Parish wide basis to withdraw the permitted development rights to convert a dwellinghouse (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (C4) is appropriate, and justified, to prevent harm to local amenity and the wellbeing of the parish area.

If direction (1) is approved by the council executive then following resolutions are to be applied.

To approve the making of the Article 4(1) Direction for the Parish Boundary.

To delegate authority to OMBC to carry out all necessary consultation following the making of the Direction, to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements and to take all other action considered necessary or expedient to give effect to the matters set out in this motion.

To confirm that, the Shaw & Crompton Parish wide Article 4(1) Direction will be effective with immediate effect once made.

Oldham Council leadership cannot hide behind government legislation on this issue. As it has the authority to give residents both a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views and community factors are considered.

As it is expected that the Council values resident's views and opinions and puts communities at the forefront of decision making.

The adoption of this motion is an obvious step to demonstrating to the people of this town that the council is prepared to act in their interests. And not just pay lip service to concerns relating to their communities.

Motion 4

The Protection and Safeguarding of Children

Councillor Rea to MOVE

Councillor Hindle to SECOND

The protection and safeguarding of our children should be a priority for all of us.

Reviews on historical CSE have been in front of us before. Regular requests for independent Inquiries continue to be refused.

Whilst we continue to seek justice for survivors of historical CSE we cannot ignore the fact that it is still happening now, that grooming is still happening and that grooming gangs are active.

The Leader of the Council has previously stated that CSE has and in all probability will continue to occur in the Borough.

Council notes that:

Information and knowledge are the most powerful tools that we have. We need to educate our children of the signs of grooming and showing them who or where to go with any concerns. We need to give them the feeling that they can report anything in complete confidence. Being pro-active and highlighting this issue could prevent more children from becoming victims/survivors.

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

Council resolves to;

Commit to facilitating relevant sessions across the Borough

Bring together all departments within the Council and work with other external bodies to deliver specific sessions on CSE and grooming.

Work with partners to formulate and develop a straight-forward and clear package which will be delivered to all Year 7 students in the Borough every year as a matter of course.

Work towards rolling sessions out to Year 6 students

13 Treasury Management Quarter One Report 2023-24 (Pages 103 - 122)

To consider the report of the Director of Finance.

14 Annual Report of the Audit Committee (Pages 123 - 154)

To consider the report of the Director of Finance.

15 Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee (Pages 155 - 162)

To consider the report of the Director of Finance.

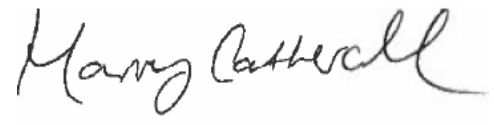
16 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 163 - 178)

Council is asked to consider updates on actions from previous meetings.

17 Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (Pages 179 - 182)

To consider a report in relation to the recommendations of the Appointments Committee with regard to the appointment of Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service.

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 that reads "Harry Catherall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Harry Catherall
Chief Executive

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



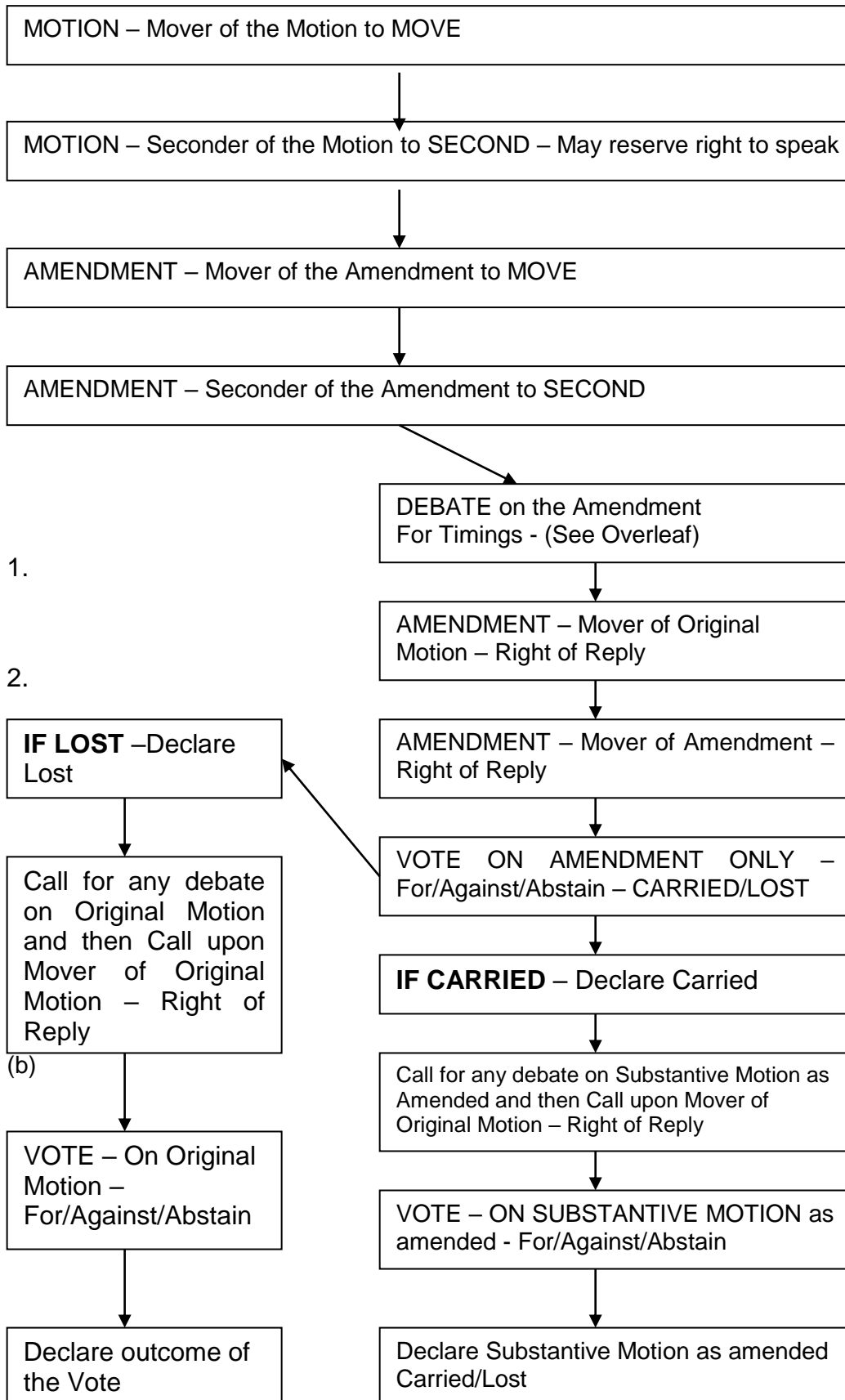
Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT





COUNCIL
06/09/2023 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Moores (in the Chair)

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Arnott, Ball, M. Bashforth, S. Bashforth, Birch, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Fryer, Ghafoor, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, H. Harrison, J. Harrison, Hince, Hobin, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Iqbal, Irfan, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Quigg, Rea, Salamat, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Williamson and Woodvine

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Chauhan, Councillor Hindle, Councillor Ibrahim and Councillor Lancaster.

2 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH JULY 2023 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12th July 2023, be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment at Minute 9 (Notice of Administration Business: Motion 1 – Oldham Assurance Review – Final Stage) regarding the numbering of the resolutions, after resolution 2, which should read 3, 4 and so on.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

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

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

5 TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Deputy Mayor advised Council of the absence of the Mayor Councillor Chauhan and he permitted the Leader of the Council, Councillor Shah, to address the meeting thereon. Councillor Shah advised that the Mayor's wife had recently been diagnosed with a serious illness, which meant that the Mayor would be undertaking fewer civic duties in the coming weeks and months. Council sent its best wishes to the Mayor, the Mayoress and their family at this difficult time.

The Deputy Mayor referred to the recent sad news of the passing of former Mayor and Councillor, Val Sedgwick and he permitted Councillors Sykes, Al-Hamdani, Jabbar and Woodvine

to pay their individual condolences and tributes. Council held a minute's silence in memory of former Mayor and Councillor Val Sedgwick.

The Deputy Mayor advised that Members would be aware that this is the last Council meeting that the Director of Finance, Anne Ryans, would be attending prior to her impending retirement. Accordingly, the Deputy Mayor called on Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, to speak in tribute to Anne's service to the Authority and to mark the occasion with a presentation, as a mark of esteem.

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

There were no petitions for this meeting of the Council to consider.

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

8 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question submitted by Megan Birchall

I saw the video of the old T.J. Hughes building being demolished I can also see a visible difference already in the town centre. There's still lots of work going on and lots to do I was wondering what the timescale is for the various projects?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question.

The new workspace in Spindles will be completed first with council staff moving into the space over the winter months ahead of the new year, this will immediately increase footfall in the spindles and spending in our town centre businesses, it will then also free up the site where the civic centre is for some much-needed housing land.

This includes moving Access Oldham and the TfGM Travel Shop into the unit that used to house H&M opposite Rhode Island Coffee, to provide a new single front door to access help and support in the Town Centre.

The HIVE social enterprise hub will also be completed later this year to support local residents with business start-up support, and to provide enhanced opportunities for local businesses to network and grow.

In 2025, the new market hall, archives & heritage centre, and the new event space are due for completion – and following the demolition of TJ Hughes the steel works for the new structure will start to go in place before Christmas this year.

2. Question submitted by Shadab Qumer,

I saw the press release about the new partner for the Town Centre regeneration and development of the area including housing. I want to know what type of housing will be built and will there be affordable housing for those that are finding it hard to afford good housing?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing replied, thank you Mr Mayor and thanks to Shadab for his question.

All of us in Oldham Council are really excited about the next stage in our town centre regeneration and the appointment of Muse as our private sector development partner.

The exact type of housing that will make up the 2,000 town centres homes hasn't yet been decided and will be subject to formal planning applications – including consultation with residents – in due course.

There will however be a range of housing to be provided, both in terms of type – i.e. the number bedrooms - and tenure and the Council will seek to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the new homes are affordable homes, as per our stated targets.

We will also look to make sure that all homes are built to zero or low carbon standards to help Oldham meet its ambitious climate emergency targets.

3. Question submitted by Adam Pape Jones

What does appointing a private sector development partner mean?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, Thanks, Adam for your question. Appointing a private sector partner allows the Council to harness Muse's considerable experience, resource capacity, technical expertise, financial resources, and strong relationships with key stakeholders including Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Homes England and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (amongst others) to accelerate progress and delivery of the much-needed new homes in the town centre.

The Council are delighted to have selected Muse Places (who are a multi-award-winning master-developer of national acclaim) as its partner, especially given the personal commitment from their Managing Director who is himself an Oldhamer, who understands the importance of our heritage, the pride in our communities and shares our passion to have quality, affordable, efficient and sustainable homes.

4. Question submitted by Shona Farnworth

In Oldham there are many unpaid carers to friends and families, such as providing personal care, arranging medical and social support, and attending appointments and with the carer's leave bill being passed recently in parliament does the council believe that more action is needed, both nationally and locally, to support people in work with caring responsibilities and the boroughs unpaid carers.

Will the council support this effort by launching an unpaid carers survey in Oldham so that carers can have their say on the support and services they need, and will the council offer efficient, effective support and guidance that is always available for carers, throughout the borough?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, replied thank you Mr Mayor and thanks to Shona for

asking a really important question. Here in Oldham 9.8% of our population are unpaid carers and they do an amazing job. We do believe we – as an organisation – can do more to support unpaid carers and later this year the Council will launch a new Carers Strategy.

A recent survey has helped inform the strategy and the priorities for the next few years. The Carers strategy will focus on early intervention and prevention for unpaid carers and ensuring there is sufficient information, advice and support to unpaid carers. Ongoing annual surveys will take place with carers, but the carers service is happy to hear your thoughts and feedback at any time. We are re-establishing the carers partnership board and are always looking for board members to represent the views of unpaid carers, so if you'd like to participate drop me an email and I'll pick this up with officers.

5. Question from Connor Green

What conversations has the council had with TfGM and Transpennine Express about the potential closure of the ticketing office at Greenfield train station?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question. The Council have been working with TfGM in relation to the proposals to close the rail ticket office at Greenfield, following announcements from Transpennine Express.

Both the Council and TfGM have significant concerns about this proposal and have expressed strong objections back to Transpennine through consultation responses, I've written a joint response with the Oldham's MPs Jim McMahon and Debbie Abrahams. We are currently waiting for feedback on this matter. I think it's a disgrace that last week the rail operators themselves admitted that they knew that this would make it harder for older and disabled residents to travel by train and yet they've put these proposals forward anyway with apparently no shame. Railways are a vital connection for many of our residents – especially in Saddleworth – and preventing vulnerable residents from being able to access the city-region and beyond is unforgivable.

As I said, we've objected to this as a Council and we hope that the plans do not go ahead.

6. Question from Latif Choudhury

How will the Council and TfGM measure success when it comes to the school streets schemes across Oldham?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied, thank you for your question and I'd like to say I'm really positive about the school streets scheme. This will improve the safety of our children and their parents or guardians and will also reduce the number of pollutants in the air around our schools - the air that our children breath.

The council measures the success of school street schemes via the school's travel plan and a hands-up surveys conducted twice a school year. This shows changes over time and before/after results for the school streets schemes, based on how children

travel to the school – ideally moving from car trips to active travel choices, which includes walking, cycling, scootering. From the outset, all schools are made aware of the Mode-shift Stars accreditation scheme and that every scheme needs to achieve a minimum of “bronze” award. However, in Oldham, schools aim for “silver” accreditation, which means the children at the school are achieving at least a 10% shift from cars to active travel choices, like walking, cycling, or scooting. The council also does multiple informal consultations with parents and residents to understand their experiences before/after a school street trial, to measure the success. This includes views on driver behaviours, safety, congestion and impact on the local community.

7. Question received from Stephanie Shuttleworth
I know Broadway is managed by National Highways but is there anything the Council can do to work with National Highways and Costco to try and mitigate against the queues of traffic caused by people wanting to fuel up at Costco?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, replied, thank you for your question. The Council is aware of these concerns and is working with National Highways on this matter. National Highways are looking at ways in which they can increase the number of traffic lanes along Broadway, especially on the approach to the motorway junction, to increase capacity and reducing congestion.

The approach to the Costco/Long Lane junction is also included in the investigation. The council has been informed that proposals are being developed and new road layout designs are being finalised with the intention of consultation early next year. Depending on feedback from local communities and understanding any complexities for the construction programme, this could be underway next year.

The Council has been liaising with National Highways regarding this problem and together we have also been working with Costco on their internal operations for accessing and egressing the car park. I will take this opportunity to assure residents that despite statements by individuals on social media, there has not been any planning application from Costco to provide an alternative exit since the erection of the petrol station. Transport for Greater Manchester (Urban Traffic Control team) have also been involved with regards to reviewing the signal timings, where appropriate, to ease congestion in the meantime.

8. Question submitted by Anita Lowe
On 14th July 2023 the Manchester Evening News and in a report in the Oldham Times produced results of the 12 worst rated GP Surgery’s according to a patient survey in Greater Manchester. Out of those 12 listed, five were rated poor in Oldham.

They are listed as follows

- 1) Werneth Medical Centre
- 4) Oldham Medical Service
- 6) Royton Medical Centre
- 8) Medlock Vale Centre
- 8) Kapur medical Werneth

I would like to question cabinet member for Health and Social Care Councillor Barbara Brownridge or her deputy Councillor Marie Bashforth? Since this was published what contact have you made - if any - with these practices in Oldham to support and offer guidance in bringing patient satisfaction up to an acceptable standard?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet member for Health and Social Care replied, that this survey was just one way to understand GP performance, but all practices have been contacted by Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board – which I’m a member of - and asked to submit plans to address the concerns. All the practices were obviously disappointed with the results of the survey and accepted that further action is required to address issues.

All 5 practices highlighted in the Oldham Times piece are among 26 Oldham practices that have submitted an expression of interest for Modern General Practice Access funding because they recognise residents’ frustrations.

Clearly there is work to be about access to appointments and understanding how the GP system works and I just want to reassure residents and councillors that access to GP appointments is an issue that’s constantly raised with the new integrated care system – both locally and at a Greater Manchester level – as it’s one of the number one complaint that residents have when we’re out on the doorsteps.

9. Question submitted by Imran Choudhary

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Nazrul Islam and Mohon Ali both continue to openly fraternise with the former Chairman of Oldham Central Mosque. This man is a convicted sex offender. How can Oldham Council promote a Victim and Survivors Charter for victims of CSE whilst its councillors take part in this behaviour? Does the Council feel it is appropriate for any of its councillors to attend community events and sit alongside convicted sex offender(s)?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Services replied, that a key part of the role of a local councillor is to attend local events and to engage local communities.

We end up sitting next to and meeting with loads of people. We have no way of knowing what someone does in their private life and equally we don’t DBS check everyone before attending events.

Sexual abuse, exploitation and violence in any form is abhorrent. We stand firmly with survivors and victims of CSE. We support the Police and criminal justice system in wanting to ensure anyone found guilty of these offences is brought to justice.

10. Question submitted by Kyle Phythian

How can regular Oldhamers help those who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and sky-rocketing demand at community hubs like Oldham Foodbank?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that Oldhamers who wish to help their fellow residents can volunteer their time to help others in need. There are several opportunities available, residents wanting to get involved can find more info on either the Council's website or on Action Together's website.

Can I just take this opportunity to thank Action Together for everything they do for the people of Oldham by the way, Laura and her team are really good assets for the Borough, and I can say this as the GM Lead for Communities – our voluntary and community sector is miles ahead of others in GM and we should cherish it.

Back to the question at hand, over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks is donated by the public – the foodbank relies on the goodwill and support of the people of Oldham helping their fellow Oldhamers. If you want to help there is the page on the foodbank's website all about donating food, money or time to them. I know there's plenty of Councillors in the Chamber tonight – including our Deputy Mayor Cllr Moores - who have given up their time to deliver food-parcels on behalf of the foodbank.

I also want to give a shout out to the Saddleworth Labour Party's second annual Tea for Trussell event held in July this year where they raised £450 and hundreds of items of food donated by the community.

11. Question submitted by Sharon Jones

Was the Council aware that Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen had fled the town? Can the Council reassure the public that we are safe and that nothing untoward has taken place with the sudden departure of Oldham's most senior police officer?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied, thank you for your question. I'm grateful for the opportunity to clear this up and to prevent the spread of further conspiracy theories. Obviously, personnel decisions taken by Greater Manchester Police are up to them but I can say that Greater Manchester Police frequently reviews the portfolios for which its senior employees are responsible for; moving senior officers into different roles to provide specialist skills where they are needed and to maintain professional development. Chief Superintendent Goodman-Bowen had been in post as District Commander for Oldham for nearly two years and, rather than fled Oldham, has now been reassigned by Greater Manchester Police in a role appropriate for his skills and experience.

Temporary Chief Superintendent Phil Hutchinson, who has been the Operations Superintendent for the Oldham district since early 2022, is currently providing leadership to the district pending their routine scheduled promotion process and I'd like to reassure the public that nothing untoward has taken place and police operations are continuing as normal.

12. Question submitted by Sheila Brophy

Knife crime destroys lives and blights communities. Will the relevant Cabinet member of Oldham Council therefore please detail what the Council is currently doing to raise awareness of

the dangers of knife crime and do they agree that anyone found to be guilty of wielding a machete should be nowhere near a councillor or the council chamber?



Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied that Oldham Council recognises the significant impact and harm that knife and weapon crime has on Communities and has implemented a number of measures to attempt to reduce such types of behaviour, using research from the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, adapting recognised good practise from other areas, and listening to residents to establish why they feel the need to carry a knife or weapon.

The responses have included inputs in schools using presentations and the commissioning of a play regarding knife crime. And we've commissioned targeted works with individuals at risk of engaging in knife crime and focusing on messaging on how we keep residents safe, so they do not feel the need to carry a knife or weapon.

We are also working closely with Greater Manchester Police to identify individuals involved in knife crime, supporting their criminal prosecutions, where appropriate, through Civil remedies such as Criminal Behaviour Orders.

We've also funded knife arches in the past at the request of GMP, which were deployed in hotspot locations.

And in reference to the Council Chamber, I can confirm that we have robust security and screening operations in place to ensure that no member of the public is able to access the chamber with a knife or a weapon to protect both elected members and the general public during public meetings.

Members across the chamber will be grateful for your concerns for our safety.

Several questions submitted by members of the public remained unanswered at the end of the allotted 30 minute period for this item. The Deputy Mayor advised that the unanswered questions would be published, with appropriate answers, on the Council's website in due course.

9

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group

Question 1: Oldham Coliseum

It was noted that the Oldham Coliseum theatre closed at the end of March 2023 but according to a recently published independent report £137,000 could have saved it from closure. The Council has authorised £1 million of grant funding recently to preserve activities at Boundary Park yet has provided nothing for Oldham Coliseum. The new theatre building is smaller, with a reduced seating capacity and will lack the necessary atmosphere. Will the Leader of the Council authorise expenditure in the sum of £137,000 to, at least temporarily, keep the Coliseum theatre open?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that it wasn't a decision of the Council that led to the closure of the Oldham Coliseum theatre. The building would have cost too much to

properly repaired and maintained. The Council was not able to authorise additional funding but is engaged in ongoing discussions, with the Coliseum's management committee regarding future plans.

Question 2: Government Funding

Councillor Sheldon commented on additional funding that the Council had received, from the Conservative Government to finance projects in the Oldham Borough. The additional funding included approximately £6 million for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services and £1.5 million for various traffic and transport initiatives. Councillor Sheldon, therefore, asked if the leader of the Council would join him in welcoming the additional funding, that the Council has received, which will benefit the local community.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that she did indeed welcome the additional funding that the Borough of Oldham had recently received from the Government but she also advised that the Council's services had been underfunded by the Government over a number of years.

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor,

I want to begin by paying tribute to all the pupils across Oldham Borough who have received their A Levels, T Levels, B Tecs, GCSEs and other qualifications recently.

Mr Deputy Mayor, as a Council, we have MUCH work to do when it comes to education in our Borough.

The latest OFSTED inspections across some of our secondary schools paint a very mixed picture.

For far too many people in Oldham, there just isn't the option of sending your children to a high performing school.

Too many secondary schools are rated as inadequate or in need of improvement.

The impact of the pandemic years is still keenly felt across the schooling system and too little is understood about the impact that these years of disruption have had on pupil attainment.

School absences are spiralling out of control.

Persistent absences have risen by more than 80% in the last four years. The damage that this missed classroom time is doing to the future life chances of our next generation cannot be overstated.

This is unacceptable. And it should be the top priority of this Council to help put it right.

Last month I wrote to the Director of Children's services following the mixed OFSTED findings, asking him to outline the Council's strategic response.

Since then, we have had results day and another set of OFSTED findings, this time dealing with SEND provision in the Borough.

The outcome? Widespread systemic failings which must be urgently addressed.

So will the Leader outline her own administrations' plan to tackle these important issues and play a leading role in delivering the first-rate Education offer that Oldham deserves.

Or is the strategy just to wait for handouts from the great and the good at Eton College?



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Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that not schools in the Borough were the responsibility of Oldham Council but the Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Councillor Ali, was working closely with the Leader in lobbying the Government for additional funding that would help alleviate some of the issues raised in the question and would help to produce better educational outcomes for young people in Oldham.

Councillor Hince, Leader of the Independent Group

The findings of a recent 'OFSTED report following a SEND inspection into schools in the Oldham Borough had found that the Council was failing pupils in terms of their educational prospects'. He asked who, within the Council, would take responsibility and apologise for these failings in Oldham's schools?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that whilst it was unfair to attack Council Officers, she did share some of his concerns regarding the results of the inspection. The Council was doing all that it could to improve educational performances for all children.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party

With reference to the Borough's 'Don't Trash Oldham' campaign, Councillor Hobin asked if rules regarding the size of vehicles that could access the council's tips and recycling facilities could be relaxed. He asked if by not permitting larger and wider vehicles access to these facilities 'was it not encouraging fly-tipping'?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, undertook to investigate the issues raised by Councillor Hobin.

Question from Councillor Davis

Could the member responsible for the war memorial in the town centre please look into the situation where motor vehicles are parking on the cobbled area it appears to be from the property which used to be the former Greaves Arms they are taking the bollards down on the road and leaning them on the war memorial!

This is a total lack of respect to people who paid the ultimate price.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied The area where vehicles are parking is an unadopted highway. However, the vehicles do cross and remove bollards from a part of the highway that is adopted. We have recently been made aware of bollards being removed and placed against the memorial so vehicles can access this 'parking space'. Officers from the Corporate Landlord team will be working with local businesses and users of the area to ensure that where

bollards are removed, they are placed in a safe area and away from the memorial.



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Question from Councillor Holly Harrison

Coercive control is on the rise; in fact, according to the ONS (25th November 2022) significantly so. There were 41, 626 offences of coercive control recorded, in England and Wales in the year ending March 2022. This is up from 33,954 the year before and 24,856 the year before that.

In September 2022, Refuge launched their, 'Make It Mandatory Campaign' - a campaign to ensure that 16- to 19-year-old receive education on domestic abuse and controlling or coercive behaviour. It is my personal belief that this is not early enough, but in any event, they found that less than half of 16- to 19-year-old are receiving this education.

Please can the cabinet member for education provide the statistics on the number of 16- to 19-year-olds who receive this education in Oldham. A breakdown of each educational facility would be great too.

Councillor Ali, Cabinet member for Education and Skills replied The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. Therefore, the schools in Oldham that have a sixth form attached (Bluecoat, Crompton House and North Chadderton) are statutorily obliged to deliver this education and do so as part of their personal development curriculums. Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College deliver this education as part of their contextualised safeguarding curriculum, or tutorial curriculum, which is delivered to all students. In addition to the standard curriculum, any students experiencing, or perpetrating abuse is provided with additional education and support on a 1 – 1 basis.

The Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership training officer delivers online safety and healthy relationships assemblies to primary, secondary and FE students which include elements of coercive control. In the last term she delivered sessions to over 7,500 students.

The secondary assembly offer for the 2023/24 academic year has been refreshed and will include a focus on teenage relationship abuse and adolescent stalking and harassment. This reflects issues requested by schools.

During the last academic year, the Partnership also launched a high quality Happy and Safe Curriculum resource for primary schools. This is available on the Partnership website and includes a lot of lessons that lay the foundation of understanding about coercive and controlling behaviour. Linked to this, as part of the 2023 White Ribbon fortnight of action, a conference is being held with young people on 29th November to develop peer leadership around promoting healthy and respectful relationships.

Question from Councillor Byrne
My question is again about Road Speed Limits.
During COVID we were able on a National Basis to reduce Town and village centres to 20MPH.
Whilst not popular at first more and more 20MPH have been requested and implemented.
I was told some 4 years ago by a previous Senior Highways Officer that there would be a study of all the speed limits on all the road in the borough.
This never took place as far as I am aware and many roads in the Saddleworth wards, without footpaths, are still at the upper end of the National limit of 50 mph and are used in excess of these speed limits.
I have even presented Petitions to lower the speed limits in my Ward.
I understand that more 20mph area are to be proposed but when can I expect a thorough study of other limits than 20mph.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied

The previous speed limit review for all 10 Manchester Borough's was led by TfGM. This review led to the creation of the policy for setting speed limits, which is in line with National Policy. This is to ensure that there is a constant approach in setting limits.

Currently, speed limits are set based on collision data and in agreement with Greater Manchester Police.

The TfGM led Road Danger Reduction Group are currently re-assessing the speed limit policy and the implementation of lower speed limits in the light of the ever-increasing use of the highway by non-motorised users.

The existing Temporary 20-mph speed limits introduced in the Saddleworth Villages were done so using temporary powers, granted by Central Government, during the Covid Pandemic. These powers expired in April 2022.

There has been a long-standing request for a 20-mph limit in villages - data shows that the signs have resulted in a reduction in speeds. However, this has not led to full compliance.

As and when funding becomes available, Oldham Council highways are changing covid era temporary measures to permanent physical restrictions. Linked to this, funding has been confirmed for a traffic calming and permanent 20-mph limit within the Uppermill and Dobcross areas which will be consulted upon in the next couple of months.

It should be noted that Greater Manchester Police don't support the introduction of permanent 20-mph speed limits without physical measures (traffic calming) to make them self-enforcing.

Question from Councillor Kenyon

Every ward in the Oldham Borough has been affected by the telecommunication mast installations by IX telecom.

Whilst these street work poles deliver a choice of mobile connectivity providers to residents and businesses, this comes at a cost to our landscape. I'd be surprised if there was a councillor in this room who hadn't been contacted by a resident complaining about the eyesore of one of these new masts plonked outside their home with no consultation.

But what have Oldham Council done so far – very little apart apparently apart from a meeting with IX wireless and a trial supposedly starting in Chadderton soon. What has been the outcome of this trial? Nothing so far as nothing as been communicated to Councillors and residents.

One of the key fundamental functions of the planning requirements is that all operators are required to explore site-sharing opportunities under the terms of their licences. What evidence does the Council have from Telecommunication operators that this has been done for every proposed new mast or monopole location? If they have provided evidence, who, as a technical expert, has reviewed their justification. Which have been challenged, questioned or refused as a result?

The electronic communications code is set out in Schedule 3A of the Communications Act 2003 and it is a set of rights that are designed to facilitate the installation and maintenance of electronic communications networks. The operators and their contractors, such as IX, are not working illegally, so if we want to make a change to their procedures and the planning requirements, this means a change to the code and Act which would need to be brought before Parliament.

Residents, Councillors and local Councils cannot make any change unless this is done.

So, my question to the cabinet member is, have they written to the relevant Member of Parliament or Select Committee requesting that this code or Act is changed as a result of the detrimental affect these unsightly structures are having to our town and villages? And if so, when?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Housing and Licensing replied, thank you for your question. The Council is aware of proposals by IX Wireless to roll out their infrastructure in the borough utilising rights available to them through national planning legislation meaning that some of it does not require approval from the Local Planning Authority. These are known as permitted development rights.

However, where masts are proposed to be erected under these rights, the operator must first obtain what is known as 'Prior Approval' from the Local Planning Authority. This requires them to make an application and the Local Planning Authority will then need to determine on a case-by-case basis whether their siting and appearance is acceptable or not. No other matters can be considered under this process.

Whilst such legislation exists the Council must accept that operators such as IX Wireless have rights to install their infrastructure, albeit subject to compliance with any conditions contained within them. Council officers have ensured that IX Wireless are aware of these requirements.

I am aware that some equipment has been installed in the form of poles to support wires in the Chadderton area. These have been assessed by officers and fall within the provision of permitted development rights. Where this is the case, they do not require approval from the Local Planning Authority.

Former Councillor Chadderton has written to the Secretary of State raising concerns about the permitted development rights

afforded to electronic communication operators. I too share these concerns.

In respect of the wider requirement for telecommunication code operators to adhere to their codes of practice, which includes a requirement to share sites where possible, I understand this is a matter for OFCOM.

10

QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 19th June 2023, 17th July 2023 and on 24th July 2023. The Council was asked to receive questions on these minutes, from members of the Council that are not members of the Cabinet and to receive appropriate responses from Cabinet members.

Members asked the following questions: -

a. Question from Councillor Harkness

Further to Minute 13 of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th July 2023, Councillor Harkness asked about the impact of local rail ticket office closures and also asked the Leader of the Council if she would enlist the support of the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the Greater Manchester Bee Network Committee to campaign against this measure.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that she shared Councillor Harkness' concerns at the proposed closure of ticket offices on the rail network and would seek the support of the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the Greater Manchester Bee Network Committee to campaign against this measure.

b. Question from Councillor Kenyon

Further to Minute 10 of the Cabinet meeting held on 19th June 2023, Councillor Kenyon asked how many houses were proposed to be built on the 'key strategic sites in Oldham Town Centre' that were detailed in the Minute.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that there were no plans to build housing on these sites.

c. Question from Councillor Hamblett

Further to Minute 9, of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th July 2023, Councillor Hamblett asked, for progress on work being undertaken regarding the approval to award a contract under the Tree Surgery Framework.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that the original contractor had withdrawn and a new contractor had started work.

d. Question from Councillor Byrne

Further to Minute 9, of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th July 2023, Councillor Byrne, sought clarification on the number of contracts being awarded under the Tree Surgery Framework contract.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that there would be five separate contracts awarded in respect of this matter.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 19th June 2023, 17th July 2023 and 24th July 2023, be noted.
2. That the questions above and responses thereon be noted.

11

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – Fragility in the Social Care Sector

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Brownridge SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

This Council resolves to:

1. 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.
2. To write to the Department for Health and Social Care to urge them to urgently adopt the delayed reforms to care sector funding and eligibility.
3. To 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.
4. To 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 – No More Profits Over Pollution

Councillor Goodwin MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED the following Motion:

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:

- a. 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.
- b. Water sampling at Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate.
- c. 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. 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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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.

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 former role as Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, James Ignatius O’Rourke McMahon put forward a bill in March 2023 which was then voted upon on April 25th 2023. The Labour Party ABSTAINED on their own bill and were unable to vote in favour of reducing sewage discharges. It was only thanks to Conservative MP’s that these proposals were passed, voting in FAVOUR, of reducing sewage discharges. Indeed, claims by the Sun Newspaper that the Labour farce in Parliament resulted in Labour MP James Ignatius O’Rourke McMahon being overheard saying: "We've been made to look like t**ts".

The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, published in August 2022, set out stringent targets to protect people and the environment, backed up by up to £56 billion capital investment – the largest infrastructure programme in water company history. The government announced on Tuesday 25th April 2023 that its target to reduce storm overflows will be enshrined in law.

This builds on:

- The requirement for all storm overflows to be fitted with monitors by the end of 2023. 91% currently have them fitted, up from only 7% in 2010. It is as a result of this monitoring that the government is able to see the extent of what is happening and take action to address it.
- The recent Plan for Water – the government’s five year strategy on water – which includes bringing forward £1.6 billion investment, with £1.1bn specifically on storm overflows
- Proposals for unlimited penalties to be imposed on water companies that break the rules. More than £142 million has already been levied in fines since 2015. Money from those fines and penalties will also now be channelled back into the environment.
- The commission from the Secretary of State to ask water companies to provide action plans on every storm overflow.
- The legally binding targets that already exist through the Environment Act 2021 to cut 80% of total phosphorus pollution from sewage treatment plants by 2038.

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. United Utilities operations generated £788m of net cash, more than 15% lower than a year earlier, as inflation pushed its costs higher and its customers used less water. United Utilities also recorded a fall in both revenue and pre-tax profit, which tumbled by over 40% to £256m.

4. The £114 million United Utilities invested between 2014 and 2017 for a cleaner River Irk, and building a new works at the Oldham wastewater treatment plant in Chadderton, off Foxdenton Lane, with a new pipeline running from Royton to Chadderton to handle greater volume.

This Council Resolves to:

1. I request that the Chief Executive to write to United Utilities requesting that they respond to each of these 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 confirm, whether Labour will indeed keep to its 2019 manifesto promise to nationalise water companies in England and confirm how much it would cost taxpayers to nationalise water, as well as clearly identifying the economic impact on pensioners who have their pension funds invested with water companies; to work with the Government to require mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets and an increase in fines for sewage discharges.

This Council further resolves to:

1. Write to United Utilities to confirm if they have plans to expand the sewage treatment works in Chadderton, and what capacity they would need in terms of storage and land in the medium to long term to avoid future sewage discharge.
2. For the Council to specifically consider the impact of further house building on local infrastructure, such as water and sewage across the Borough. More house building means more people, which naturally means more sewage.
3. Confirm how much it would cost taxpayers in Oldham for Oldham Council to set up its own Municipal Water Company.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

Council Resolves to:

1. That the Chief Executive writes 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. The Chief Executive to 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.
4. The Chief Executive to 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.

12

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1 – A State of the Art Health Centre for Saddleworth

Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Sheldon
SECONDED the following Motion

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 ear marking 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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Brownridge MOVED and Councillor Marie Bashforth SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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, where she was supportive of resolving this issue, whilst reminding people that responsibility for the provision of new health centres lies with the NHS and Integrated Care System, not Oldham Council.

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.

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.

Therefore, this Council commits:

- To work alongside the GM Integrated Care System and NHS England to prioritise the provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre for all of Saddleworth and find a suitable site within Saddleworth.
- To making the best use of the site of the old Saddleworth School for the people of Saddleworth
- To work with the GM Integrated Care System 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 invite all relevant stakeholders, including the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Place Lead for Health and Care Integration to a meeting of East District Community Council to discuss this issue with residents and local Councillors.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

The Council commits:

1. To work alongside the GM Integrated Care System and NHS England to prioritise the provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre for all of Saddleworth and find a suitable site within Saddleworth.
2. To making the best use of the site of the old Saddleworth School for the people of Saddleworth
3. To work with the GM Integrated Care System 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.
4. To invite all relevant stakeholders, including the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Place Lead for Health and Care Integration to a meeting of East District Community Council to discuss this issue with residents and local Councillors.

Motion 2 – Raw Sewage Discharges

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED

RESOLVED:

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.

13 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SCODED a report which presented Members with details of the actions officers have taken on Motions that were approved at the 12th July 2023 Council meeting and informed on the response position regarding outstanding matters from previous meetings.

Resolved:

That Council notes the actions taken and notes the correspondence has been received regarding some Motions agreed at previous Council meetings.

14 **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services that sought to amend the constitution as detailed in the report with the amendments to the Rules specified.

Council was advised that the Constitution required regular reviews to ensure that it remained fit for purpose and that it reflected best practice. There were a number of areas detailed, in the report, for Council to consider, appertaining to Contract Procedure Rules; Financial Procedure Rules; Access to Information Procedure Rules; and Contract Procedure Rules.

Resolved:

That the amendments to the Constitution, detailed in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services, be approved.

15 **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24**

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Charters SECONDED the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24. The Oldham Youth Justice Plan sets out the strategic direction for youth justice in Oldham, taking a partnership approach to reducing re-offending, reducing the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system and reducing the use of custody.

There had been an acknowledgment that the plan is significant in length. However, this is dictated by the template provided by the national Youth Justice Board. A Service Development Plan was attached at Appendix 4 to the report.

Resolved:

That Council approves the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

16 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2022/2023**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance concerning the Treasury Management review 2022/23. Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003, to

produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23. The Director of Finance's submitted report met the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).



During 2022/23 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 2nd March 2023); a mid-year treasury update report (which was approved by the Council on 14th December 2022); and an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report) The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report was therefore important in that respect, as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council approves the actual 2022/23 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the Director of Finance's report.
2. That Council approves the annual treasury management review report for 2022/23.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.10pm

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Report to COUNCIL 1 November 2023

Cabinet Report of Reform and Regeneration Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member, Reform and Regeneration

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Borough Strategy

The Local Government Association are supporting Oldham Council with a Corporate Peer Challenge this week, 31 October to 3 November. This improvement activity brings peer officers and members from across the country to Oldham to help us assess our progress against our plans and ambitions and to identify areas for improvement.

Peer Challenges are a key part of the LGA's improvement activity, and all local authorities are expected to have one every four years.

The Peer Challenge team will meet officers and members alongside partners from across Oldham and the wider city-region.

The outcome of the Peer Challenge will be published by the LGA in December with the Council due to publish an action plan in response by March 2024.

Communications

The Communications function have supported and promoted a range of activities including:

- Unveiling a new blue plaque to honour suffragist, Marjory Lees;
- Organising and promoting some fantastic family-friendly Halloween activities and the Halloween Half Marathon;
- Promoting the Big Bang Bonfire which takes place tomorrow– a fantastic free, family event for the whole community;
- Announcing and promoting our Christmas events programme which aims to drive visitors and spend in local businesses throughout the Christmas period;

-
- Distributing our free newspaper 'Oldham Council Working for You' updating local residents about available services, events and activities across the borough.

External Relationships and Partners

Visited the Violence Reduction Unit's community-led programme – a project launched to prevent young people from getting involved in crime.

Council Leader Arooj Shah met with the head of Eton during September to discuss plans for Oldham's new Eton Star College. Worked with the landowner so the chimney at Hartford Mill could be demolished – paving the way for much-needed new homes.

Economic Growth

On the 30th September 2023 the government announced a new levelling fund of £1.1 billion to help long-term plans for 'left-behind towns'. Fifty-five towns will be given £20 million endowment-style funds each over 10 years to invest in local people's priorities.

Chadderton is one of the towns who will be allocated £20m of funding and the Council will now work within the framework set out by government to capitalise on this opportunity.

Capital Projects and Investment

The Creating a Better Place Programme bi-annual report to Cabinet in October provided an update on project progress, revenue savings generated, progress towards the borough's carbon reduction targets, creation of new jobs, apprentice opportunities, new homes for Oldham's residents and increased social value.

In October the team met Tommyfield traders to update them on the exciting plans for their new market at Spindles. Wilmott Dixon also started the ground works for the new market, events and archive space off Parliament Square. Piling rigs are on site which are preparing the foundations for the new steel structure.

Corporate Property and Assets

Ongoing restoration works to Royton Town Hall remain on programme and are due to compete in Spring 2024. The new Place Based Integration site at Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre is up and running for residents to access services until the works at Royton are complete.

Transport

During October Government announced the cancellation of the HS2 project between Birmingham and Manchester with a commitment to spend the money saved on local transport projects. We await detail on the amount of funding available to Greater Manchester and, in turn to Oldham.

The Greater Manchester Bee Network launched in Wigan, Bolton and Bury during October and is due to roll out in Oldham from March 2024.

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Present: Councillor Shah (Chair)
Councillors Ali, Dean, Goodwin, Shah and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brownridge, Hussain, Jabbar and Mushtaq.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ali declared an other registerable interest in Item 13 UKSPF Skills Funding by virtue of his appointment as a Director on the Positive Steps Board.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions were received.

5 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 24th July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2023/24: QUARTER 1: APRIL - JUNE 2023**

Consideration as given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Cabinet with an update on the Council's 2022/23 forecast revenue budget position at Annex 1 of the report and the financial position of the capital programme as at 30 June 2023 (Quarter 1) together with the revised capital programme 2022/23 to 2027/28, as outlined in section two of the report at Annex 2 of the report.

Revenue Position

The forecast outturn position for 2022/23 was a projected deficit variance of £12.104m after allowing for approved and pending transfers to and from reserves

Unlike 2022/23, when 12.00m of corporate resources were held to offset costs arising from the legacy of the COVID pandemic, the budget for 2023/24 had been prepared so that anticipated COVID legacy costs were consolidated with the mainstream budgets of Children's Social Care and Community Health and Adult Social Care. Whilst improving, it was recognised that this remained a challenging position and every effort would be made to further reduce the overall variance before the year end.

As the financial monitoring report reflected the financial position as Quarter 1, it could be regarded as an early warning of the potential year end position if no further action was taken to reduce net expenditure where possible.

The management action initiated in 2022/23 across all service areas to review and challenge planned expenditure and to maximise income had to be continued in 2023/24.

Although the impact of this action had yet to take full effect in the current financial year, it was anticipated that by the year end the current outturn deficit position should be reduced.

An update on the major issues driving the projections was detailed within Annex 1, section 2.

Information on the Quarter 1 position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), Housing Revenue Account (HRA) and Collection Fund was also outlined in the report.

There were currently no significant issues of concern in relation to the HRA.

The Collection Fund was forecasting an in-year surplus of £1.638m which in turn contributed to an estimated surplus of £1.700m.

Whilst currently in surplus, the position would continue to be closely monitored throughout the year as any surplus or deficit at the end of the financial year would have a direct budgetary impact in future financial years.

Capital Position

The report outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2023/24 to 2027/28 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2023/24 was £103.748m at the close of Quarter 1 a net decrease of £6.557m from the original budget approved at Full Council on 1 March 2023 of £110.305m. Actual expenditure to 30 June 2023 was £12.405m (11.96% of the forecast outturn).

It was likely that the forecast position will continue to change throughout the year with additional re-profiling into future years.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 – To consider the forecast revenue and capital positions presented in the report including proposed changes

Option 2 – To propose alternative forecasts

RESOLVED – That:

1. The forecast revenue outturn for 2023/24 at Quarter 1 being a £12.104m adverse variance having regard to the action being taken to manage expenditure be approved.
2. The forecast positions for the Dedicated Schools Grant, Housing Revenue Account and Collection Fund be approved.
3. The revised capital programme for 2023/24 and the forecast for the financial years to 2027/28 as at Quarter 1 be approved.

7

GRANT ACCEPTANCE: CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT (CRSTS) - OLDHAM MUMPS CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of a grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for delivery of an outline/full business case for the delivery of a highway improvement scheme along the Mumps corridor and surrounding area.

The Greater Manchester CRSTS business case was submitted in September 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester on behalf of itself and all 10 Greater Manchester Districts. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority received confirmation of the full regional CRSTS allocation on the 1st April 2023 and in the 29th July 2023 the Department for Transport as the funders of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, confirmed the delivery plans and funding allocations to each City Region Mayor. The improvements to the Oldham Mumps Corridor was included in the scheme which has been developed over the last year and has now secured Strategic Outline Business Case assurance through the Transport for Greater Manchester Process to move to the next stage of scheme development.

Options/alternatives

Option 1:

- a) That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Mumps corridor scheme be accepted.
- b) That approval is granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
- c) That approval for all procurement and tender award activity carried out in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and any resulting decisions relating to the necessary external support required to develop the scheme (examples listed in the report) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth or a nominated representative.
- d) That approval to use part of the grant funding to appoint temporary support to Council teams, as required, to progress design options, stakeholder engagement and production of the full business case to secure further capital funding for Oldham.
- e) That approval to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representatives be granted to execute and complete any contractual documents.

Option 2:

- a) That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Mumps corridor scheme is not accepted.
- b) That approval to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development is not granted.
- c) That all procurement and tender award activity and decisions relating to the necessary external support required to develop the scheme (examples listed in the report) shall not be delegated.
- d) That approval to use part of the grant funding to appoint temporary support to Council teams, as required, to progress design options, stakeholder engagement and production of the full business case to secure further capital funding for Oldham is not granted.

RESOLVED – That:

1. That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for delivery of an outline/full business case (OBC/FBC) for the scheme along the Mumps corridor be accepted.
2. Approval be granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
3. That the intention to bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2023/24 and complete development of the scheme in the appropriate timescales be noted.
4. Approval to procure and make tender awards (in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules) relating to the necessary external support required to develop the outline/full business case (OBC/FBC) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth or a nominated representative.
5. Approval to use part of the grant funding to appoint temporary support to Council teams, as required, to progress design options, stakeholder engagement and production of the full business case to secure further capital funding for Oldham be agreed.
6. Approval to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representatives be granted to execute and complete any contractual documents be agreed.

8

**GRANT ACCEPTANCE: CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE
TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT (CRSTS) - BEAL
VALLEY/BROADBENT MOSS IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of a grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for delivery of an outline/full business case to support the Beal Valley/Broadbent Moss Improvement Scheme. The Greater Manchester CRSTS business case was submitted in September 2021 by Transport for Greater Manchester on behalf of itself and all 10 Greater Manchester Districts. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority received confirmation of the full regional CRSTS allocation on the 1st April 2023 and in the 29th July 2023 the Department for Transport as the funders of the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, confirmed the delivery plans and funding allocations to each City Region Mayor.

The improvements to the Beal Valley/Broadbent Moss Improvement were included in the scheme which has been developed over the last year and has now secured Strategic Outline Business Case assurance through the Transport for Greater Manchester Process to move to the next stage of scheme development.

Options/alternatives

Option 1:

- a) That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for delivery of an outline/full business case for the scheme at Beal

Valley/Broadbent Moss scheme (subject to GMCA approval in September 2023) be accepted.

- b) That approval is granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
- c) The intention to bring the additional resources into the Transport Capital Programme in 2023/24 and complete development of the scheme in the appropriate timescales be noted.
- d) That approval for all procurement and tender award activity carried out in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules and any resulting decisions relating to the necessary external support required to develop the scheme (examples listed in the report) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth or a nominated representative.
- e) That approval to use part of the grant funding to appoint temporary support to Council teams, as required, to progress design options, stakeholder engagement and production of the full business case to secure further capital funding for Oldham.
- f) That approval to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representatives be granted to execute and complete any contractual documents.

Option 2:

- a) That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for scheme development of the Beal Valley/Broadbent Moss scheme is not accepted.
- b) That approval to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development is not granted.
- c) That all procurement and tender award activity and decisions relating to the necessary external support required to develop the scheme (examples listed in the report) shall not be delegated.
- d) That approval to use part of the grant funding to appoint temporary support to Council teams, as required, to progress design options, stakeholder engagement and production of the full business case to secure further capital funding for Oldham is not granted.

RESOLVED – That:

1. That the grant offer from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) for delivery of an outline/full business case (OBC/FBC) for the scheme at Beal/Valley/Broadbent Moss corridor be accepted (subject to GMCA approval in September 2023).
2. Approval be granted to enter into a Funding Delivery Agreement with TfGM in relation to the proposed scheme development.
3. That the intention to bring the additional resource into the transport capital programme in 2023/24 and complete development of the scheme in the appropriate timescales be noted.

4. Approval to procure and make tender awards (in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules) relating to the necessary external support required to develop the outline/full business case (OBC/FBC) be delegated to the Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth or a nominated representative.
5. Approval to use part of the grant funding to appoint temporary support to Council teams, as required, to progress design options, stakeholder engagement and production of the full business case to secure further capital funding for Oldham be agreed.
6. Approval to the Director of Legal Services or his nominated representatives be granted to execute and complete any contractual documents be agreed.

9

APPROVAL TO UTILISE THE GMCA CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF GROCERIES, CHILLED AND FROZEN FOODS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval to enter into a call-off contract with Dunsters Farm Ltd, following a competitive tender for the supply and delivery of groceries, chilled and frozen food.

Trafford Council on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority had undertaken a procurement process to retender the contract for the supply and delivery of groceries and chilled and frozen foods. Duster Farms Ltd were identified as the most economically advantageous tenderer.

Oldham Council was named as a purchaser in the tender documentation and Trafford Council would enter into an overarching contract with Dusters, with Oldham Council having the right to access this contract and place orders for the supply and delivery of groceries, chilled and frozen foods. During this financial year Trafford Council were intending to undertake the procurement of the following contracts,

- Supply & Deliver of Fresh Produce and Chilled Prepared Produce
- Supply & Delivery of Fresh and Freshly Frozen Meat, including Halal, Cooked Meats and Bacon
- Supply and Delivery of Milk, Bread, and Dairy Products

Oldham Council had made a commitment to secure supplies under the contracts which could create greater efficiencies, economies of scale and reduced costs.

Options/alternatives

Option 1 – Do nothing. This would leave Oldham Council with no formal contract in place. This runs the risk of a further increase in costs, unstable service delivery and nonadherence of the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Due to the spend associated with this contract an alternative procurement process would need to be completed which would not guarantee any savings and may be less attractive to the market due to the lack of economy of scale.

Option 2 – Undertake a procurement process targeting local businesses to solely supply to Oldham Council. This is not a

viable option at present as a review has not taken place on the local market position.

Option 3 – To utilise the GMCA framework and enter into a call-off contract with Dunster Farms Ltd. This would provide stability in the service area ensuring continuous delivery and fixed prices. Furthermore, a robust and compliant procurement process has been undertaken to identify Dunster Farms Ltd, reducing risk further to the Council.

Option 4 – On completion of a compliant procurement process by Trafford Council via STaR Procurement, to allow for delegated approval to enter into call-off contracts for:

- Supply & Deliver of Fresh Produce and Chilled Prepared Produce
- Supply & Delivery of Fresh and Freshly Frozen Meat, including Halal, Cooked Meats and Bacon
- Supply and Delivery of Milk, Bread and Dairy Products

This would allow the implementation period to be fully maximized ensuring that all systems are up to date, delivery schedules agreed and specific service requirements to be considered prior to the contract start dates.

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

10

CORPORATE FURNITURE

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which sought approval of repurposing and recycling of corporate furniture and to enter into a new contract with a furniture supplier to enable to complete the transition phases of a number of projects relating to corporate accommodation under the Creating Better Place Programme.

To promote new ways of working the Council was introducing a flexible and modern office environment to strengthen service delivery and meet the expectations of our workforce, partners and residents.

This approach would enable the Council to reduce its corporate estate, repurpose sites for development, release efficiencies, whilst retaining the 'Resident First' focus.

The key assets undergoing refurbishment over the next two years were, Beaver Family Hub, Alexandra Park Eco Centre, Spindles, Royton Town Hall, Chadderton Town Hall, Markets, Events and Archive and the Old Library.

In order to complete the projects, Facilities Management Team and Procurement colleagues undertook a mini tender process under an existing Framework agreement to select a suitable supplier for a period to cover the next 4 years.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Accept the recommendations: To approve the proposals regarding existing furniture stock and proceed with the contract arrangements for a preferred furniture supplier for the next few years will allow the objectives around corporate accommodation within the Creating a Better Place programme

to be realized. This includes decant staff and services from the Civic Centre into the new workspaces at Spindles, Old Library as well as PBI Community Hub sites across the borough, which aligns to the council's residents first approach.

Option 2 - Do nothing - Not to approve the proposals regarding existing furniture stock and purchase the new furniture requirement would not allow the council to achieve all the required desks within the new Spindles workspace and the objectives would not be achieved with the existing corporate furniture. New furniture would be bought on an "ad-hoc" basis reacting to failures without a certain consistency of supply in place.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the information contained at Item 17 of the agenda before making a decision.

11

APPROVAL TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONTRACT FOLLOWING AN OPEN TENDER PROCESS FOR ADVOCACY SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Adult Social Services which sought approval to award the contract for delivery of the Oldham Advocacy Hub service to a successful provider following an open procurement exercise, from 1st November 2023 until October 2026.

The current contracts for the delivery of Advocacy Services would end on 31st October 2023. It was essential to continue delivery of these services for some of the Borough's most vulnerable adults and it was a statutory requirement for the Council to commission Advocacy based on an individual's needs.

Option/alternatives considered

Option 1 - To cease all commissioning arrangements with the current providers for all areas of advocacy included in this report.

As the majority of advocacy services are a statutory requirement, this was not a viable option and the Council must seek a new provider for these services going forward in order to maintain its statutory duty.

Option 2 - Cease commissioning arrangements for the delivery of the LDA Learning Disability Advocacy service as this is not a statutory requirement but retain the other element. The Council was proud to commission a non statutory service for residents with Learning Disabilities and feels that this is important to continue as part of a wider advocacy hub model.

Option 3 - To seek an alternative provider of advocacy services through the ongoing Procurement Process, to delegate the contract award decision to the DASS and to extend the current contractual arrangements by a further 2 months . This was the preferred option as it allowed the Council to complete the open procurement process to seek an alternative provider who was able to deliver all areas of advocacy through a Hub model approach, and to delegate the contract award decision to the Director of Adult Social Services.

RESOLVED -That the decision to award the contract to deliver the Oldham Advocacy Hub Services is delegated to the Director of Adult Services, following the completion of an open procurement exercise from 1st November 2023 until 31st October 2026, with the option to extend for a further 12 months.

12

APPROVAL TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO AWARD CONTRACT FOLLOWING AN OPEN TENDER PROCESS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICES

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought approval to award the contract for the delivery of the Mental Health Supported Living Service to a successful provider, following an open procurement exercise from 1st December 2023 until November 2026.

The current contract would end of 30th November 2023 and it was essential to continue the delivery of these services for some of the most vulnerable adults in Oldham.

This was a statutory support service based on the assessed Care Act needs for the individuals residing in the supported accommodation.

Options/alternatives considered

Option1 - To continue with the current provider, Turning Point, for delivery of supported living services for people with complex Mental Health needs

This option was not viable. The contract for this service had expired and it is recommended to 'test the market' ensuring that current terms and conditions are in place.

Option 2 - To de-commission the services with Turning Point and cease delivery of supported living services for people with complex Mental Health needs. This option was not viable. This statutory service currently supported 13 of our most vulnerable adults and has potential to increase this service to support more individuals with the right model in place. Without this service, the Council would need to find alternative placements for each of the service users as they are not able to live independently without support.

Option 3 - To seek an alternative care provider via an open Procurement Process, and to delegate the contract award decision to the DASS

This was the preferred option as it allows the Council to complete the open procurement process to seek an alternative provider who is better able to meet the needs of our service users, and to develop supported living services for people with complex mental health needs, and to delegate the contract award decision to the Director of Adult Social Services.

RESOLVED – That the decision to award the contract to deliver Mental Health Supported Living Services from 1st December 2023 until 30th November 2026, with the option to extend for a further 24 months, be delegated to the Director of Adult Social Services, following the completion of the ongoing procurement exercise.

13

UKSPF SKILLS FUNDING (15 – 19 NEET)

Councillor Ali declared an other registrable interest in this item by virtue of his appointment as a Director Positive Steps. He left the room and took no part in voting thereon.

Consideration was given to a report of the Director Education, Skills and Early Years which sought approval of the acceptance of a portion of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding to be provided via a direct grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and to secure delivery of the funded activities from September 2023 up until 31st March 2025 in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

The skills grant funding of £720,000 and had been allocated by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to deliver or secure the delivery of the 15-19 NEET support programme for 2023/23 and 2024/25.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 -

- (a) modify the current contract in place between the Council and Positive Steps Oldham with effect from September 2023 to include the provision of a comprehensive engagement and transition offer that will enable young people to successfully engage in a positive learning or work destination and develop the skills and confidence to continue into a sustainable career pathway at a cost of £200,000; and
- (b) build the activities to be delivered during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 into a new contract, which will be commissioned in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules with the remaining grant funding for 2024/25 (and any future funding awarded) to be incorporated into the new arrangements for NEET provision delivery.

This option provided the shortest gap in delivery of the programme, but still allowed the flexibility to align the funding to any new arrangements that may be in place on 1 April 2024.

Option 2 - To commission grant funded activities for the full grant period in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.

This option presented the risk of a gap in service delivery and support for young people at a critical time (Autumn term) in their transition to Post 16 provision.

RESOLVED – That:

1. The acceptance of the funding for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund via GMCA for the 15 – 19 NEET support be approved and authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years to approve and enter into a grant agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
2. The service delivery arrangements in respect of the grant funded activities, as detailed in this report, from September 2023 up until 31 March 2025 in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules be approved and authority be delegated to the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years to approve and formalise any necessary commissioning activity or contractual arrangements.

14

OLDHAM YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24

Consideration was given to a report of the Managing Director of Children and Young People which provided the Cabinet with the Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 before submission to Full Council for approval.

The Oldham Youth Justice Plan set out the strategic direction for youth justice in Oldham taking a partnership approach to reducing re-offending, reducing the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system and reducing the use of custody.

Options/alternatives considered

As this is a statutory duty for the local authority, it is not possible to provide an alternative option to this plan.

RESOLVED – That the Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 be noted and commended to Full Council.

15

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.

16

APPROVAL TO UTILISE THE GMCA CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF GROCERIES, CHILLED AND FROZEN FOODS

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 9 - Approval to utilise the GMCA Contract for the Supply & Delivery of Groceries, Chilled and Frozen Foods.

RESOLVED – That:

1. Approval be given to utilise the Greater Manchester Combined Authority contract for the supply and delivery of groceries, chilled and frozen foods with Dunsters Farm Ltd which Trafford Council would put in place for Oldham's required supplies as and when needed.
2. Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth to approve and enter into all call-off contracts under the Trafford Council contract for the Supply & Delivery of Groceries, Chilled and Frozen Foods and to approve and enter into call-off contracts with the appointed suppliers in respect of the following once Trafford Council had procured and entered into overarching contracts for the:
 - a. Supply & Deliver of Fresh Produce and Chilled Prepared Produce
 - b. Supply & Delivery of Fresh and Freshly Frozen Meat, including Halal, Cooked Meats and Bacon
 - c. Supply and Delivery of Milk, Bread and Dairy Products

17

CORPORATE FURNITURE

Consideration was given to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 10 Corporate Furniture.



Oldham
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RESOLVED – That:

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The repurposing and recycling proposals in this report regarding the existing corporate furniture to support the transformation of corporate accommodation under the Creating a Better Place Programme be approved and authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and economic Growth to finalise and implement the disposal, recycling and repurchasing recommendations.
3. Authority be delegated to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth to approve the award of and the entering into of a call-off contract for the supply, delivery, and installation of office furniture as and when required over a 4 year term for the new Spindles Workspace Project following the completion of the procurement exercise set out in section 2 below.
4. Authority be delegated to the Director of Legal Services and his nominated representatives to carry out all necessary legal formalities.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.18pm

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CABINET

18/09/2023 at 6.00 pm



Oldham
Council

Present: Councillor Shah (Chair)
Councillors Ali, Brownridge, Dean, Goodwin, F Hussain, Jabbar,
Mushtaq 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**

Two public questions were received:

The first question was submitted by Sam Al-Hamdani, In response to a question on the spending on a new pitch for Oldham Athletic, Councillor Shah stated that "in the event that clawback is required, to enable the Council to recover any of the grant deemed ineligible, the formal procedure would be for Officers to prepare a formal report for the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and then depending on the nature of the concerns / issues being raised, this could then be escalated to Cabinet. In either occurrence, the formal decision relating to the issues and enactment of clawback would be a matter of public record." She stated further – although not minuted – that this was her understanding, anyway, and that she was not aware of any circumstance – not in her leadership or her time in the cabinet – that has been done behind closed doors in the way that I was describing.

I would like to refer Councillor Shah to the decision – a term which here must be used very loosely – taken with regards to the clawback clause (7.11 Relevant Period) contained within the Grant Funding Agreement dated 19th August 2011, for the new stand at Oldham Athletic. The disposal took place in 2016, while she was in the cabinet. That clawback clause was not pursued. Having had meetings with the senior management team at the Council, I understand that no report was ever produced, and no concerns ever escalated to Cabinet. There is no formal record of any decision on this matter.

Before we even consider the merits of the decision itself, can she explain how this decision was taken with regards to a grant from Oldham Council for £700,000, a very substantial amount of money, with no report, and no formal record of the decision?

How can Oldhamers be confident that there weren't other decisions taken in exactly the same way, as she was unaware of this one which took place while she was a cabinet member, and had been for several years? And how can they have confidence that this Labour Council is properly spending and taking care of

its budget when decisions like this have been taken without any formal oversight?

Councillor Shah responded, 'for the purposes of those who aren't elected members I'll try and explain in plain English how we write grant agreements to make sure that we actually get the benefit that is agreed for Oldham and the community as part of that grant.

In drafting grant agreements we ensure we are clear about the benefits and conditions that we expect for the grant and we then monitor those conditions or the delivery of those benefits to make sure we get value for the money we give.

I can confirm that the Council has been actively monitoring the conditions of the recent grant agreement for Oldham Athletic. This monitoring has not resulted in any circumstances being identified where it would be necessary to trigger the clawback condition. Consequently there has been no requirement for Cabinet to consider a report in respect of this matter.

In relation to the 2011 grant agreement, I assume that the Councillor is referring to a short period of time under previous club management arrangements when the North Stand was not made available for the community to use, which was a grant condition at that time.

I understand that the decision not to enact the clawback clause at that time was not formally recorded. While I'm not sighted on all the details, this matter has already been investigated by the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Team, and they found that it was clear that the purpose for which the grant was given has been and continues to be fulfilled.'

The next question was submitted by Garth Harkness, Can I welcome the cabinets decision to recently make 20mph zones permanent in some of Saddleworth's villages. This is something Liberal Democrats have been advocating some time. Can I also welcome the cabinet members response to my proposals to look at road safety and 20mph zones in Diggle. Does he share the same concerns as me that the Conservative government are considering restrictions on councils' ability to impose 20mph speed limits as part of a new shift against green policies and traffic schemes?

Does he agree that the 20 MPH and green initiatives here has been a success and the stance by the Conservative government is short-sighted. It is already being introduced in Wales and Scotland, and many local authorities in England have adopted it as the default. Does he believe that the Conservative government should let local councils run their own areas?

Councillor Goodwin responded, 'The Road Danger Reduction Group (RDRG) - led by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) - is currently re-assessing the speed limit policy and the implementation of lower speed limits in the light of the ever-increasing use of the highway by non-motorised users (people walking, scooting, cycling etc).

The existing 20-mph speed limits were introduced using temporary powers granted by Central Government during the Covid Pandemic. These powers expired in April 2022.

As and when funding becomes available, Oldham Council is changing the temporary measures to permanent physical restrictions and we are working with all partners to ensure that

the changes and restrictions introduced are proportional and suitable for the local community.

This work includes a Greater Manchester Police request to only introduce permanent 20-mph speed limits in conjunction with physical speed calming measures to support self-enforcement.'

5 **MINUTES OF THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 21ST AUGUST 2023**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 21st August 2023 be approved.

6 **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES (SEND) & INCLUSION STRATEGY 2023 - 2027**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Managing Director Children and Young People which sought approval of the Special Educational Needs and or Disabilities (SEND) and Inclusion Strategy 2023-2027.

Following the end of the previous strategy, the 2023-2027 was presented which had been developed focusing of current issues and future priorities for Oldham's children and young people with SEND.

The development of the strategy coincided with the publication of the SEND and Alternative Provisions Green Paper and the Department for Education's local area partnership plans, which had been considered in developing the draft.

The Strategy was attached at Appendix 1.

Options/alternatives considered

There are no alternatives to this strategy. All local areas are expected to have a strategy outlining the provision and development of functions related to children and young people who have SEND. This ensures that there is compliance with the Children & Families Act, 2014, the SEND Regulations, 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice, 8.1, 2015, which states:

Local authorities must place children, young people, and families at the centre of their planning, and work with them to develop coordinated approaches to securing better outcomes, as should clinical commissioning groups (now integrated care partnerships/boards).

They should develop a shared vision and strategy which focuses on aspirations and outcomes, using information from EHC plans and other planning to anticipate the needs of children and young people with SEN and ensure there are pathways into employment, independent living, participation in society and good health. Where pathways need further development, local authorities and CCGs [now integrated care partnership/board] should set out clear responsibilities, timescales, and funding arrangements for that work. This strategic planning will contribute to their:

- Joint commissioning.
- Local Offer, which must include support in preparing for adulthood
- Preparation of EHC plans and support for children and young people to achieve the outcomes in their plan.

RESOLVED – That the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities and Inclusion Strategy 2023-2027 be approved.

7

SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH MIOCARE GROUP CIC

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Adult Social Care which sought approval of the implementation of a refreshed services level agreement with Miocare CIC for a range of service provided.

The report also sought a commitment from wider Council colleagues to work with the Miocare Group CIC to develop service level agreements and specifications of requirements for those corporate services that Miocare Group CIC buys back from the Council.

In partnership with Miocare, a refreshed service level agreement and a range of service specifications had been drafted and related solely to the services delivered through Oldham Care and Support Ltd.

Options/alternatives considered

Option 1 - Do not enter into a new Service Level Agreement, and do not develop Service Level Agreements and specifications of requirements for services Miocare buys back from the Council.

This would leave both the Council and Miocare Group CIC in a position where the relationship and the services to be delivered are not covered by a compliant, up to date agreement, leading to lack of clarity for all parties.

Option 2 – Do not enter into a new Service Level Agreement until the future focus of Miocare Group is clarified, and do not develop Service Level Agreements and specifications of requirements for services Miocare buys back from the Council until that time.

This would carry the same risks as Option 1 and as it is envisaged that the full implementation of the target operating model and adult social care reform will take a significant period of time, it would leave uncertainty and lack of clarity for both the Council and Miocare.

Option 3 – Enter into a new Service Level Agreement for the services delivered to the Council by Miocare Group CIC, and develop Service Level Agreements and specifications of requirements for services Miocare buys back from the Council.

RESOLVED – That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 10 of the agenda before making a decision.

8

TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER ONE REPORT 2023/24

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which provided Members with details of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first quarter of 2023/24 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

In order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function. The report provided an additional update and included a new requirement in the 2021 CIPA code mandatory from 1st April 2023 of quarterly reporting of the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

Options/alternatives considered

In order that the Council complies with the CIPFA Code of Practice it has no other option than to consider and approve the contents of the report.

RESOLVED – That the Treasury Management Quarter one report and the Treasury Management activity and projected outturn be noted and commended to Full Council.

9 **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.

10 **SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT WITH MIOCARE GROUP CIC**

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 - Service Level Agreement with Miocare Group CIC.

RESOLVED – That:

1. A new Service Level Agreement with Miocare Group CIC be approved.
2. The wider corporate services work with Miocare to develop Service Level Agreements and specifications of requirements for services Miocare buys back from the Council be endorsed.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 6.18pm

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Present: Councillor Shah (in the Chair)
Councillors Ali, Brownridge, Dean, Goodwin, Jabbar, Mushtaq,
and Taylor

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fida Hussain.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for this meeting of the Cabinet to consider.

5 **PLACES FOR EVERYONE PLAN: A JOINT
DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT FOR 9 GREATER
MANCHESTER LOCAL AUTHORITIES (BOLTON, BURY,
MANCHESTER, OLDHAM, ROCHDALE, SALFORD,
TAMESIDE, TRAFFORD AND WIGAN) - PROPOSED
MODIFICATIONS CONSULTATION**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which provided an update on the Places for Everyone (PfE) Plan and its independent examination. The report sought approval for the PfE modifications (Main, Additional and those relating to the policies map), and associated supporting background documents, to be subject to a period of representations for 8 weeks commencing no earlier than 9th October 2023. A summary of what the modifications would mean for the overall aims of the Plan and specifically for Oldham was included within the report. Following the conclusion of the consultation, the Inspectors would consider all the representations made on the proposed Main Modifications (MM's) before finalising the examination report and the schedule of recommended MMs.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing advised Members of a formatting error on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority regarding one of the modifications. However, Cabinet was assured that this error would be corrected prior to the commencement of the formal consultation period.

The Cabinet was also aware that this matter had recently been considered by the Place Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board at its special meeting on 26th September 2023. At that meeting, Scrutiny Board members had endorsed the

recommendations in the report and requested that Cabinet concur.



Oldham
Council

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the progress made in respect of the Places for Everyone Plan (PfE);
2. That the Cabinet agrees that the PfE modifications (Main, Additional and those relating to the policies map), and associated supporting background documents, are to be subject to a period of representations, for a period of 8 weeks commencing no earlier than 9th October 2023; and
3. That the Cabinet agrees the next steps for the production of the PfE Plan (detailed in paragraphs 2.77 to 2.80 of the submitted report).

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.05pm

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY 28TH JULY 2023 AT ROCHDALE COUNCIL, NO.1
RIVERSIDE, ROCHDALE, OL16 1XU**

PRESENT

Mayor of Greater Manchester	Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire)	Kate Green
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Bolton	Councillor Akhtar Zaman
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Hunter
Tameside	Councillor Ged Cooney
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Manchester	Councillor Luthfur Rahman
Rochdale	Councillor Janet Emsley

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM	Eamonn Boylan
GMCA Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
GMCA Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
GMCA Treasurer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Lee Fallows
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Carol Culley
Oldham	Harry Catherall
Rochdale	Steve Rumbelow

Salford	John Searle
Stockport	Caroline Simpson
Tameside	Sandra Stewart
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale
TfGM	Helen Humble

GMCA 134/23 APOLOGIES

That apologies be received from Councillor Nicholas Peel (Bolton), Councillor Bev Craig (Manchester), Councillor Tom Ross (Trafford), Sue Johnson (Bolton), Joanne Roney (Manchester) & Tom Stannard (Salford).

GMCA 135/23 CHAIRS ANNOUCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, invited Deputy Mayor Kate Green to provide an update following some recent high profile news stories in relation to Greater Manchester Police.

Firstly, reference was made to Andrew Malkinson, who had recently been released from prison after close to 20 years for a conviction of rape that he had now been found innocent of. This was an appalling miscarriage of justice and there were a number of concerns about how this case had been handled and a detailed review being undertaken of what had happened within GMP that had resulted in this failure of justice.

Secondly, news had broken in relation to three separate strip searches of women in police custody, in one particular case there had been an accusation of rape by custody officers – this case has now been referred directly to the IOPC (Independent Office for Police Conduct) and a response was being awaited on whether the IOPC

would take the case. The other two reported cases would continue to progress through the standard complaints process.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had met with one of the women and following this meeting the Mayor had invited Dame Vera Baird KC to conduct an independent review of custody processes and the care of detainees within GMP. This review would take place swiftly and the outcomes would be made transparently available to provide the three women and the wider public assurance that there had been a full and independent review of the circumstances and conditions within GMP's custody suites.

It was requested that Chief Constable Stephen Watson be asked to attend a forthcoming meeting of the GMCA to provide his personal views on the news stories highlighted above.

The Mayor of Greater Manchester raised concerns about the proposals raised by Government to close all ticket offices within rail stations and he, alongside the other Metro Mayors were part of a group reviewing the legality of the process, particularly the three-week consultation process and the inordinate impact that the closures would have on users with disabilities. The GMCA was requested to agree a motion that the current process be halted and replaced with a full consultation process in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act 2005.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the update following recent high profile news stories in relation to Greater Manchester Police be received.
2. That updates on the Dame Vera Baird KC led review be submitted to the GMCA as and when appropriate.
3. That Chief Constable Stephen Watson be invited to a forthcoming GMCA meeting to provide his own view on the matters.
4. That the following motion be agreed:

This Committee resolves to support the action of the Mayor of Greater Manchester and other Mayors in opposing the current proposal to close ticket offices in rail stations.

We call on the Rail Delivery Group to halt the current process and undertake a full consultation in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Act 2005.

GMCA 136/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED /-

That there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any item on the agenda.

GMCA 137/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2023

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 30 June 2023 be approved as a correct record.

**GMCA 138/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 7 JUNE 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 7 June 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 139/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA WASTE AND RECYCLING
COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JULY 2023**

RESOLVED /-

1. That the minutes of the GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee meeting held on 13 July 2023 be noted.

2. That the appointment of Councillor Alan Quinn as the Chair of the Waste & Recycling Committee for this municipal year be approved.

**GMCA 140/23 MINUTES OF THE GREATER MANCHESTER AIR QUALITY
ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE HELD ON 13 JULY 2023**

RESOLVED /-

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Air Quality Administration Committee meeting held on 13 July 2023 be noted.

**GMCA 141/23 MINUTES OF THE GMCA AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 21
JULY 2023.**

Item withdrawn.

GMCA 142/23 GREATER MANCHESTER APPOINTMENTS

RESOLVED /-

1. That Councillor Elizabeth Patel (Trafford) (Labour) be appointed to the Growth Company Board.
2. That Councillor Sean Ennis (Trafford) (Liberal Democrat) be appointed to the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
3. That Councillor Christine Roberts (Wigan) (Labour) be appointed as a substitute member of the GMCA Audit Committee.

**GMCA 143/23 EVALUATION OF THE GMCA SCRUTINY FUNCTION AND
ANNUAL REPORT**

Gillian Duckworth, GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, introduced a report outlining the work of the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee over the past municipal year

in support of the independent evaluation undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

The evaluation of the first year had found that good progress had been made in the implementation of the recommendations and helpfully highlighted some further areas for consideration during 2023/24, including providing further training and knowledge sessions for members, continued regular attendance by the Mayor and relevant portfolio Leaders, and the continued development of the work programme and task & finish groups.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the draft of the annual report in conjunction with the independent evaluation, as set out in Annex A, be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee will submit a report on their activities to the GMCA on an annual basis.

**GMCA 144/23 GREATER MANCHESTER INTEGRATED TECHNICAL
EDUCATION CITY REGION**

Councillor Eammon O'Brien, Portfolio Leader for Technical Education, Skills & Work, presented a report which provided an update on the ambition for Greater Manchester as an integrated technical education, skills and work city-region in the context of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal and Local Skills Improvement Plan development.

The approach being developed had received the endorsement of GM's business community & employers, as well as training & skills providers and education establishments. There had been national concern expressed about the proposed approach, particularly from Secretary of State about different offers in different regions, however it was felt that the purpose of devolution was to allow each area to

develop its offer to capitalise upon the strengths and ambitions of that place. It was hoped as well that this would provide a model for other areas to successfully emulate.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the update be welcomed and that the next steps over the coming months, as set out in paragraph 4, be noted as follow:
 - Analysis of the stakeholder consultation and public poll responses will be completed and will inform the further development of the technical education/MBacc proposals.
 - Framing of the seven Employer Boards (one per career gateway) to help employers shape clear pathways for young people into the jobs of the future and understanding the areas of study needed for these pathways. In this way it will create the same clarity around the technical education route as already exists around the university route. These Employer Boards will sit within the wider governance and accountability landscape linked to the Devolution Deal, including arrangements for implementing the LSIP recommendations. These Boards will be established in the early Autumn.
2. That it be noted that that developmental work will continue over the summer and further details will follow with the intention to submit proposals for the new governance arrangements to the GMCA in September 2023 for consideration and approval.
3. That feedback from public polling be submitted to a future meeting of the GMCA.

GMCA 145/23 LOCAL AREA ENERGY PROGRAMME – STRATEGIC OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Harry Catherall, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region, presented a report which provided an update on the Strategic Outline Business Case completed since the GM Local Area Energy Plan was approved in September 2022. The report

included proposals to leverage significant investment into the region and set out the strategic imperative and proposed approach to deliver the outcomes from the Greater Manchester Local Area Energy Plan.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the report and the proposed approach to delivering the outcomes from the GM Local Area Energy Plan be noted.
2. That the investigation and development of outline business cases to accelerate inward investment and delivery be noted.
3. That the development of regional delivery structure, operating model and required capacity be endorsed.
4. That the need for additional dedicated resource to support development of new commercial and finance solutions, the approach to which will be set out in a further report in relation to further work following agreement to the Strategic Outline Business Case, be endorsed.
5. That the submission of a circa £5m bid to Innovate UK Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places, to support delivery of the above, with the GMCA to act as the accountable body, be approved.
6. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA and TfGM and GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Leader, Green City Region, to finalise the bid, receive and defray funding if successful.

GMCA 146/23 DOMESTIC ENERGY ADVICE DEMONSTRATOR PROJECT

Harry Catherall, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Green City Region, presented a report which provided background information on the national £20m Domestic Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Projects funding, provided via the Northwest Net Zero Hub, and the opportunity that this would present to the city region.

The report sought approval for the signing of a Grant Funding Agreement with the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to receive grant funding of up to £2.1m for a Domestic Local Energy Advice Demonstrator (LEAD) project which would provide the opportunity for ~24,000 GM residents to be provided with in-person energy saving advice.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the forthcoming opportunity presented by the LEAD funding be noted.
2. That the proposed approach, with the GMCA acting as the accountable body for the LEAD programme, be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Lead Portfolio Lead for Green City Region to
 - Sign a grant funding agreement with the DESNZ to receive grant funding for a GM LEAD project up to £2.14m.
 - Expend the awarded grant funds by defrayed agreements via the funding partners i.e., 3 Local Authorities, 2 Social Enterprises, 2 private business and a cooperative.

GMCA 147/23 ATOM VALLEY BUSINESS PLAN

Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, introduced a report seeking the GMCA's approval for the Atom Valley MDZ Business Plan 2023/24.

The Business Plan detailed the workstreams currently underway and the huge amount of work already taking place in relation to each of the separate sites including work on skills, innovation and transport.

RESOLVED /-

That the Atom Valley MDZ Business Plan 2023 - 2024 (Appendix A) be approved.

**GMCA 148/23 UKSPF: COMMUNITIES AND PLACE WIGAN COUNCIL
PHASE 2**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report setting out a proposal from Wigan Council on the second phase of UKSPF investment in the district and the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board to the GMCA, as the Lead Authority, in relation to the investment proposal. The proposal was related to the UKSPF Communities and Place investment priorities E1, E3 and E6.

RESOLVED /-

1. That Wigan Council be granted up to £1,958,294 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place Phase 2 proposal by March 2025, taking the Wigan Council Communities and Place UKSPF investment across Phases 1 and 2 to a maximum of £3,008,294.
2. That the additional impact of the Wigan Council Phase 2 proposal to the collective impact of the currently approved ten Local Authority proposals, in exceeding the majority of outcomes and outputs for the Communities and Place Investment Priority as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, be noted.

**GMCA 149/23 PROPOSAL FOR THE COMMISSIONING OF SUPPORT FOR
THE SOCIAL ECONOMY**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report that offered context and outlined a proposition for a two-year programme of support for the social economy in Greater Manchester. This would include the commissioning of £460,000 specialist business support activities and £365,000 for the creation of an Inclusive Ownership Platform and associated provision to support community wealth building in Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board on the strategic fit and deliverability of the UKSPF proposal for the creation of an Inclusive Ownership Platform and associated business support activity be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for the Economy, Business and International and Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment, to approve the procurement method and subsequent award of contract(s) worth £825,000 across the following indicative allocations:
 - £460,000 for specialist support activities which address gaps or weaknesses in the current support available to inclusively owned businesses: and
 - £365,000 for the creation and management of the GM Inclusive Ownership Platform, delivering the UKSPF outputs and outcomes described in this report.

GMCA 150/23 GMCA REVENUE UPDATE QUARTER 1 2023/24

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report informing of the GMCA's financial position at the end of June 2023 (Quarter 1) and forecast revenue outturn position for the 2023/24 financial year.

The report showed a forecast deficit of £15.3m for TfGM for 2023/24, but this would be fully mitigated by the actions proposed within the report including the reallocation of Bus Service Improvement Plan funding.

RESOLVED /-

1. That an increase to the Mayoral budget of £500k funded from Mayoral reserves towards the cost of additional extended rough sleeper provision provided through Manchester City Council (para 3.2) be approved.
2. That an increase to the revenue grant to Transport for Greater Manchester of £7.8m funded from the Capital Programme Reserve to fund capital financing

costs that are unable to be met from Metrolink revenues (para. 6.14) be approved.

3. That the intention to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding previously awarded by Department for Transport to support bus services, with £7.5m of this re-allocation to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25 (para 6.14) be noted.

GMCA 151/23 GMCA CAPITAL UPDATE QUARTER 1 2023/24

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report which provided an update in relation to the GMCA's 2023/24 capital expenditure programme.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the current 2023/24 forecast of £681.3m compared to the 2023/24 budget of £591.8m be noted and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
2. That an increase in the Transport capital budget, approved by GMCA in June 2023 as part of the Transport Capital Programme report for the City Region Sustainable Transport schemes of £41.4m, as outlined in section 2.9, be noted. That the inclusion within this figure of Greater Manchester's (GM's) share of the national Additional Maintenance (Pothole) Funding of £6.2m within the 2023/24 forecast, as outlined in section 2.9.4 of this report, also be noted.
3. That other increases in capital budget over £500k be approved as follows:
 - Active Travel Fund 4 (ATF4) capital funding of £3.6m as outlined in section 2.5;
 - Access for All of £2.8m as outlined at section 2.7;
 - GM One Network of £1.8m as outlined at section 2.14;

- Regional Growth Fund Loans of £3.9m outlined at section 3.1;
- Growing Places of £9.3m for outlined at section 3.2;
- Housing Investment Loans Fund of £9.6m outlined at section 3.3;
- Brownfield Land Fund of £16.4m outlined at section 3.7;
- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding of £1.8m outlined at section 3.9;
- UK Share Prosperity Fund carry forward of £1m unspent approvals from 2022/23 outlined at section 3.10;
- Social Housing Decarbonisation funding of £26.7m outlined at section 3.11;
- Social Housing Quality Fund of £15.0m outlined at section 3.12;
- Homeless Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme of £2.1m outlined at section 3.13 and
- Fire and Rescue Services of £4.0m outlined as section 4.

**GMCA 152/23 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK
ANNUAL REPORT**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report which provided an overview of GMCA’s achievements in managing investment in commercial property, residential development and business within Greater Manchester.

RESOLVED /-

That the contents of the report be noted.

**GMCA 153/23 GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK –
REQUEST FOR DELEGATION**

Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment, presented a report seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment

and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding previously approved by the Combined Authority, for the period 29th July 2023 to 28th September 2023.

RESOLVED /-

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM and the GMCA Treasurer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and approve urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 29 July 2023 to 28th September 2023
2. That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the GMCA.

**GMCA 154/23 GREATER MANCHESTER HOUSING INVESTMENT LOANS /
CITY DEAL RECEIPTS / GREATER MANCHESTER
BROWNFIELD PROGRAMME**

Councillor Ged Cooney, Portfolio Lead for Housing, presented a report seeking approval to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve investments from the Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund (GMHILF) and/or investments using City Deal Receipts, and to agree urgent variations to the terms of GMHILF and City Deal Receipts funding previously approved by the Combined Authority.

Additionally, approval was also sought to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in conjunction with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve further allocations of brownfield funding that has been devolved to GMCA.

RESOLVED /-

1. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve projects for GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding, and agree urgent variations to the terms of GMHILF and/or City Deal Receipts funding, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.

2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve further allocations of brownfield funding, that has been devolved to GMCA, in the period 29 July 2023 to 28 September 2023.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.
4. That it be noted that any recommendations that are approved under the delegation will be reported to the next available meeting of the Combined Authority.

GMCA 155/23 DELIVERING THE BEE NETWORK: FARES AND PRODUCTS

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, presented a report setting out the proposed introduction of fares and products that would be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24th September 2023.

The report, in addition to the broad fare structures, included some of the more discreet products on offer that lived outside of the multimodal core offers. These included offers for students, discounted routes and cross-boundary services that would continue to exist.

The Mayor acknowledged comments raised by the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bee Network Committee. These comments had included an ask that concessionary support continues for all groups, and that no groups be left at a disadvantage, with a particular emphasis on support carers. It was asked that the compensation process be made as simple as possible with bureaucracy minimised, that relations be improved with trade unions to mitigate risk of strike action, and that pathways to careers be improved to increase driver availability.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the proposed range of fares and products that will be available to customers travelling on franchised bus services from 24th September 2023 be approved.

2. That the recommendations and feedback from the GM Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Bee Network Committee be noted.

**GMCA 156/23 GREATER MANCHESTER BUS STRATEGY: BETTER BUSES
FOR THE BEE NETWORK**

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, introduced a report seeking approval of the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy, a sub-strategy of the 2040 Transport Strategy. A summary was provided of its contents, including how the bus network would support the creation of the integrated Bee Network.

One of the key targets within this was to increase bus patronage in Greater Manchester by 30% by the year 2030. An ambitious target that would be achieved through lower fares and better integration, which studies showed would account for 15% of this. 8% of the increase would come through improved services, and the remaining 7% sought via improved reliability. Realising this ambition would also however, require proper investment from Government on a fair and consistent basis as seen with Transport for London.

The Mayor advised of the suggestion raised by the Bee Network Committee, that its model be replicated at the district level to allow for better control and coordination when deploying bus services.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the draft Greater Manchester Bus Strategy be approved.
2. That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
3. That the principle of the replication of the Bee Network Committee model at a district level to better control and coordinate the deployment of Bus Services be endorsed.

GMCA 157/23 METROLINK CONTRACT EXTENSION

The Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, presented a report seeking approval to trigger the extension option within the Metrolink Operations and Maintenance Agreement (MOMA) with Keolis Amey Metrolink Ltd (KAM) to extend the contract until 25 July 2027.

It was advised that a large-scale review would take place on the vision for the future of Metrolink as the service now passed the 30 years mark. This review would potentially commence in late 2024 stretching into 2025 and would include consideration of any potential network expansion and the current financial compensatory arrangements in place for those authorities that did not currently have a Metrolink service.

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.
3. That the proposed terms of an extension to the MOMA with KAM from 21 July 2024 to 25 July 2027 be approved.
4. That it be noted that a large-scale review of the vision for Metrolink will be undertaken late 2024/ 2025, noting the review will include any potential Metrolink network expansion and the current financial compensatory arrangements in place for those authorities who do not currently have a Metrolink service.

GMCA 158/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

GMCA 159/23 METROLINK CONTRACT EXTENSION

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (minute 157/23)

RESOLVED /-

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the recommendations and feedback from the Bee Network Committee be noted.

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD
HELD ON FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE, 2023**

1. APOLOGIES

That apologies be received and noted from Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (Bury), Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Sara Todd (Trafford) and Alison McKenzie-Folan (Wigan).

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2023/24

That the Mayor or Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, be appointed as Chair of the AGMA Executive Board under Section 9.2 of the AGMA Constitution.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS TO THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2023/24

1. That the appointment of City Mayor Paul Dennett Deputy, as a Vice Chair of AGMA, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be approved.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Mark Hunter as a Vice Chair of AGMA, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be approved.
3. That the appointment of Councillor Bev Craig as a Vice Chair of AGMA, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be approved.

4. AGMA CONSTITUTION

That the AGMA Constitution be noted.

5. AGMA APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

1. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the AGMA Executive Board for 2023/24 be noted as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
GMCA	Andy Burnham	-
Bolton	Nicholas Peel (Lab)	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)
Bury	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)	Lucy Smith (Lab)
Manchester	Bev Craig (Lab)	Joanna Midgley (Lab)
Oldham	Arooj Shah (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
Rochdale	Neil Emmott (Lab)	Dalaat Ali (Lab)
Salford	Paul Dennett (Lab)	Tracy Kelly (Lab)
Stockport	Mark Hunter (Lib Dem)	Mark Roberts (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Ged Cooney (Lab)	Bill Fairfoull (Lab)
Trafford	Tom Ross (Lab)	Catherine Hynes (Lab)
Wigan	David Molyneux (Lab)	Keith Cunliffe (Lab)

2. That the appointments made by the Greater Manchester Local Authorities to the Draft Development Plan – Places for Everyone Joint Committee for 2023/24 be noted as follows:

District	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Nick Peel (Lab)	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)
Bury	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)	To be confirmed

Manchester	Tracy Rawlins (Lab)	To be confirmed
Oldham	Arooj Shah (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
Rochdale	Neil Emmott (Lab)	Daalat Ali (Lab)
Salford	Paul Dennett (Lab)	Mike McCusker (Lab)
Stockport	N/A	
Tameside	Ged Cooney (Lab)	Jacqueline North (Lab)
Trafford	Tom Ross (Lab)	Liz Patel (Lab)
Wigan	David Molyneux (Lab)	Paul Prescott (Lab)

3. That the appointment of 10 members, nominated by the Greater Manchester Local Authorities plus the GMCA Housing Portfolio Lead, to the Planning and Housing Commission for 2023/4 be approved, as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
GMCA Portfolio Lead	Ged Cooney (Lab)	
Bolton	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)	Hamid Khurram (Lab)
Bury	Clare Cummings (Lab)	Sean Thorpe (Lab)
Manchester	Gavin White (Lab)	To be confirmed
Oldham	Elaine Taylor (Lab)	Chris Goodwin (Lab)
Rochdale	Danny Meredith (Lab)	Dylan Williams (Lab)
Salford	Mike McCusker (Lab)	Tracy Kelly (Lab)
Stockport	Colin MacAlister (Lib Dem)	To be confirmed
Tameside	Jacqueline North (Lab)	To be confirmed
Trafford	Liz Patel (Lab)	James Wright (Lab)
Wigan	Susan Gambles (Lab)	Paula Wakefield (Lab)

4. That the appointments made by Greater Manchester Local Authorities to the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for 2023/24 be noted as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Andrew Morgan (Con)	Garry Veevers (LibDem)
Bury	Elizabeth Fitzgerald (Lab)	Joan Grimshaw (Lab)
Manchester	Zahid Husain (Lab)	To be confirmed
Oldham	Eddie Moores (Lab)	Jenny Harrison (Lab)
Rochdale	Pat Dale (Lab)	Sameena Zaheer (Lab)
Salford	Sammie Bellamy (Lab)	Irfan Syed (Lab)
Stockport	David Sedgwick (Lab)	Lisa Smart (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Naila Sharif (Lab)	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
Trafford	Sophie Taylor (Lab)	Barry Winstanley (Lab)
Wigan	Ronald Conway (Lab)	John O'Brien (Lab)

5. That the appointments and substitutes made by Greater Manchester Local Authorities to the Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Steering Group for 2023/24 be noted as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Rabiya Jiva (Lab)	Aalaina Khan (Lab)
Bury	Richard Gold (Lab)	To be confirmed
Manchester	Luthfer Rahman (Lab)	To be confirmed
Oldham	Chris Goodwin (Lab)	Josh Charters (Lab)
Rochdale	Janet Emsley (Lab)	Shaun O'Neill (Lab)
Salford	David Lancaster (Lab)	To be confirmed

Stockport	Tom Morrison (Lib Dem)	Frankie Singleton (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Vimal Choski (Lab)	Barrie Holland (Lab)
Trafford	Rose Thompson (Lab)	Bilal Babar (Lab)
Wigan	Dane Anderton (Lab)	Paula Wakefield (Lab)

6. That the nominations by Greater Manchester Local Authorities to the Statutory Functions Committee 2023/24 be approved as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
Bolton	Nadeem Ayub (Lab)	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)
Bury	Charlotte Morris (Lab)	Richard Gold (Lab)
Manchester	Tim Whiston (Lab)	John Flanagan (Lab)
Oldham	Peter Dean (Lab)	Ros Birch (Lab)
Rochdale	Janet Emsley (Lab)	Terry Smith (Lab)
Salford	Hannah Robinson-Smith (Lab)	To be confirmed
Stockport	Frankie Singleton (Lib Dem)	Jilly Julian (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Vimal Choksi (Lab)	Sangita Patel (Lab)
Trafford	Catherine Hynes (Lab)	Rose Thompson (Lab)
Wigan	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Dane Anderton (Lab)

7. That the appointment of 9 members, nominated by the GM Local Authorities to the GM Pensions Fund Management Panel for 2023/24 be noted as follows:

Local Authority	Member

Bolton	Champak Mistry (Lab)
Bury	Joan Grimshaw (Lab)
Manchester	Angela Moran (Lab)
Oldham	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)
Rochdale	Sean O'Neill (Lab)
Salford	Andrew Walters (Independent)
Stockport	Lisa Smart (Lib Dem)
Trafford	Jill Axford (Lab)
Wigan	Nazia Rehman (Lab)

8. That it be noted, that Tameside MBC, as the Lead Authority managing the Greater Manchester Pensions Fund, will appoint its own member.
9. That the appointment of Councillor Janet Emsley (Lab) to the Halle Board for 2023/24 be approved.
10. That the appointment of the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, to the Halle Board for 2023/24 be approved.
11. That the appointment of Councillor Nathaniel Tetteh (Lab) to the Peoples History Museum for 2023/24 be approved.
12. That the appointment of Eddie Moores (Oldham) (Lab), to the Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Council of Governors in 2022/23 for a three-year term of office be noted.
13. That the appointment of Councillors Tricia Ayrton (Bolton) (Lab), Philip Cusack (Salford) (Lab) and Richard Silvester (Bolton) (Lab) to the North West Flood and Coastal Committee for 2023/24 be approved.
14. That, subject to any further changes, all appointments to made up to the AGMA Annual Meeting in June 2024.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

That there were no declarations of interest made in relation to any item on the agenda.

7. MINUTES OF THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2023

That the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board held on 10 February 2023 be approved as a correct record.

8. AGMA 2022/23 FINAL OUTTURN

1. That the report and the AGMA final revenue outturn for 2022/23 be noted.
2. That the position of reserves in 2022/23, as detailed in the report, be noted.

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Report to COUNCIL (1 November 2023)

Cabinet Report of Housing and Licensing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Elaine Taylor,
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

Housing and Homelessness

The demand for the homelessness service continues to increase. Approximately 630 residents per month are approaching the homelessness service for assistance. Similarly, residents needing assistance with temporary accommodation continues to increase, with 470 households currently being housed in temporary accommodation. The number of residents applying to the Council's Housing Register also continues to increase and to help demonstrate the size and scale of the issue – at the end of September, there were over 7,600 households on the register seeking accommodation with less than 330 properties available.

While acknowledging these challenges, the Council continues to review the level of service being provided to help the huge numbers of residents in need of housing support. A new IT system is being developed to reduce the amount of paperwork involved and support residents to access the Housing Register in a more effective way. We are also undertaking a review of staffing capacity, casework demand and systems and processes compared to other local authorities across Greater Manchester to understand if there are any other areas of best practice that we can adopt at this critical time. The team in Access Oldham continues to support residents, but the number of people coming through the door for assistance continues to grow, with approximately 85 residents attending daily for housing support and advice.

Given the complex escalation of housing demands in Oldham – the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) are coming to do a deep dive to review the procurement and management of temporary accommodation. This will provide the Council with an opportunity to outline directly to government officers what the key challenges and issues are affecting Oldham's residents and the impact on service provision. We hope this will highlight the need for extra assistance in order to alleviate this demand led service.

Housing Quality and Enforcement

The Environmental Health team are responsible for housing standards enforcement in the private rented sector, and also carry out proactive condition audits in properties in Selective Licensing areas. Where there are defects identified that require the landlord to take action, the team will inform the landlord and take enforcement action where appropriate.

The team are receiving an average of 70 requests a month from tenants who are experiencing disrepair issues in their home including damp and mould. It is expected there will be an increase of requests regarding excess cold, damp and mould during the winter months. The Council has provided information on the website to advise tenants and landlords about the steps they can take to help mitigate these issues: https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/100007/housing/2896/mould_and_damp_in_the_home

The team has recently increased capacity to help meet the existing and anticipated increase in challenges associated with housing quality and standards.

Landlord Licensing:

The Selective Licensing scheme, approved in July 2022, is currently being delivered in specific neighbourhoods across Oldham. There have been 492 applications received from private landlords with 332 licenses granted and 131 condition audits of licensed properties completed.

The Council has been successful in attracting an additional £75,000 from Greater Manchester Combined Authority to consult and implement the next targeted private landlord selective licensing scheme using the new delegated powers from central Government. This work is due to commence soon, starting with a detailed data analysis to help identify potential areas ahead of any community consultation.

Planning:

The Planning Inspectorate have independently examined the Joint Development Plan, Places for Everyone (PfE) for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities, and the Inspectors have made some modifications to the plan to make it sound and legally compliant. At this point in time, Oldham residents, businesses, landowners and developers are being asked for their views on the proposed modifications to the Plan.

The consultation on the modifications will run for 8 weeks, between 11 October 2023 and 6 December 2023. Views can be submitted by completing the online response form: [Modifications - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/modifications) or you can download the response form from the GMCA PfE website and email the completed form to: placesforeveryone@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk.

Trading Standards and Licensing:

On 6th June 2023, members approved a revised policy which addressed concerns raised by the taxi trade relating to additional requirements which were causing applicants to licence their taxis outside of the Borough.

These changes are the first step in acknowledging and reacting to the modernisation of the taxi trade and how it operates. The changes are a positive reflection of collaborative working between Licensing Officers and taxi trade representatives. It has led to an increase in new driver applications, with a total of 1,129 received as of 23rd October. 291 of which have already been issued with licences.

Further trade engagement has taken place around vehicle testing and a report was presented to the Licensing Committee on 31st October with proposals to amend the policy, including increasing the vehicle age limit, issuing MOT Certificates as part of the annual vehicle test and creating a simplified and accessible testing criteria document to assist the trade in meeting our expected compliance requirements.

Tobacco & Vape Enforcement:

The local authority has a statutory duty to enforce legislation in respect of illegal tobacco and non-compliant vapes. Illicit tobacco is often linked to other criminality, including serious

organised crime. However, it is a growing concern for the Council's Trading Standards as it is currently a cheap option for children and young people to start smoking as it erodes the cost motivation to quit.

Illegal vapes are often designed and flavoured to appeal to young people and available at 'pocket money' prices. Whilst the risk that legal vapes present is known, the risk of harm from non-compliant vapes is not. The Trading Standards team is continuing to work with partners such as GMP, HMRC and Oldham Tobacco Alliance to crack down on illegal vapes. Last month, Trading Standards, assisted by GMP, seized £27,000 worth of illegal tobacco and vapes with further legal action to follow.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

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Report to COUNCIL 1st November 2023

Children and Young People Portfolio Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Children's Safeguarding

The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) front door for children's social care and early help delivers efficient, timely and targeted screening and response where families tell their story once and are being correctly signposted to services to get the right service for the right child at the right time.

We continue to receive high levels of contacts in the MASH and a high rate of referrals. However, our focused improvement programme has led to improvements in the timeliness and quality of practice and is improving help for families and children. We continue to face challenges in recruitment and retention of permanent social workers.

Children's Partnership

The Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) have undertaken six local child safeguarding practice reviews. The OSCP strategy focuses on improving complex and contextual safeguarding, domestic abuse, children's mental health and impact of trauma, neglect and transitions. The OSCP has worked at pace to implement action plans from the learning from local reviews.

Children Looked After

The number of children in care to the Council remains broadly stable at 556 (at 11 October 2023). Our edge of care provision (ASU) has a consistently high success rate (above 85%) in supporting families to remain together or in supported placements and 2 of our 3 children's homes are rated 'Good' by Ofsted.

Care leavers are given priority housing banding and supported to bid on properties when the time is right for them. There is council commitment not to make care leavers intentionally homeless. The most significant challenge we face is finding appropriate placements for the increasing complexity of children becoming looked after, resulting in more children and young people placed in external residential placements.

We have challenges with regards to identifying suitable, affordable accommodation for young people approaching 18, enabling a smooth transition. The Children in Care Council and Youth Council delivered a motion to full council to make care experienced status a

protected characteristic as part of our corporate parenting responsibilities which has been passed. The upcoming activities during Care Leaver Week at the end of October included raising awareness of Care Experienced individuals and the Council's corporate parenting responsibilities.

We're working collaboratively through our Corporate Parenting Panel to improve placement sufficiency by delivering our ambitious plans to increase the number of Council foster carers, residential provision, local externally commissioned placements and securing suitable accommodation for over 18s to increase the number of Oldham children and young people placed in local provision.

Adoption and Fostering

Our Fostering recruitment campaigns have resulted in registering 5 new fostering households and 11 new connected/kinship carers keeping children with their families. We have the lowest use of Fostering Agency placements in Greater Manchester. 56% of children looked after are placed with Oldham Fostering Service or connected/kinship carers enabling our children to live in familiar communities, remaining in their schools, and maintaining links with family and friends.

Adoption Now, our regional adoption Agency has secured a diverse range of adopters who can meet the needs of our children leading to 73% of Oldham children being placed with internal adopters so far in 2023/24.

Early Years

Our first Family Hub on the Beever school site has opened, and plans are progressing well to have a family hub in each district. Family hubs will support the delivery of better early help to families in communities.

81% of eligible 2-year-olds are benefitting from early education places compared to 74% nationally. 96% of 3- and 4-year-olds are benefitting from early education places compared to 94% nationally.

97% of early years providers and 98% of childminders are judged to be providing good or outstanding provision by Ofsted, resulting in the vast majority of children, including those with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or SEN support, accessing their early education in quality early years provision.

Children who have reached a 'good level of development' (GLD) outcome at age 5 has improved from 60% in 2022 to 63%, whilst national increased from 65% to 67%.

Early Help

We've refreshed the Early Help Strategy to focus on strengthening earlier intervention to better meet children, young people and family's needs.

Targeted early help teams are supporting 470 families with 1,100 children. Family Help Tool outcome scores evidence 80-90% of families have most issues resolved at case closure and 75% of families close with all issues resolved, with housing and unemployment among the issues most difficult to resolve.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Education and Skills Portfolio Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Attendance and Inclusion

During 2022/23 attendance of pupils in school continued to be lower than pre-pandemic levels in primary, and slightly below national. Secondary attendance was in line with national. Persistent absence in primary was slightly above national, whilst secondary school persistence absence was in line with national. We've successfully lowered the national gap in secondary school attendance through increased collaborative work between secondary schools across Oldham by sharing incoming year 6 attendance data to strengthen transition planning including through over a 100 home visits in two secondary schools. As a result, year 7 attendance at the start of 2023/24 has increased by 1.6%.

School Place Planning

There are currently sufficient places in both primary and secondary schools. In 2023, 1-3 parental preference rates for primary (96.6%) are just below national (98.3%) and secondary 1-3 parental preference rates have increased to 94.1%, in-line with national (94.1%). Brian Clarke secondary free school opened at its new town centre venue and additional places were created in other 'good' secondary schools.

Quality of Education

Strategic system leadership by the Oldham Learning Board is having impact. In response to priorities and requests, sector led programmes in leadership, curriculum and writing have supported better outcomes for our children and young people. Provisional 2023 outcomes show Oldham standards recovering from the pandemic dip in Early Years and primary and making significant improvement in secondary. The Good Level of Development rate increased whilst gaps to national averages narrowed. KS4 results improved in comparison with 2019, both across the borough and in most schools. KS5 outcomes show A' level performance above national at A*-E. Primary Ofsted inspection outcomes continue to improve and are now above the national average for good or outstanding.

Music Service

Following a busy academic year involving provision of music tuition to schools, children, and families, plus the wider offer from the service, the late Summer and early Autumn period has been busy, with highlights including:

-
- Summer Festival with 45 performances on 7 & 8 July
 - Youth Brass Band - Tenby Tour: 22-24 July
 - 100% pass rate for 58 children taking London Academy and Drama Art exams in July
 - Renewed subscription from all schools and two new additions in September

Children Looked After Virtual School

The Virtual School continues to provide advice, guidance, training and challenge to Designated Teachers, Social Workers, Foster Carers and other partners. Collaborative working with schools and social workers is supporting improvement in the attendance of children with a social worker. Our Raising Aspirations and Participation programme has enabled 309 children to go on university/college visits, develop independence and life skills and obtain qualifications.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Mental Health in Education team have built resilience across the workforce through mental health and wellbeing support. We continue to see good engagement from schools in completing self-assessments of their whole school approach to mental health. We have also established a robust method for capturing and monitoring this data which will allow us to monitor impact and target future work.

SEND

A joint Ofsted/care quality commission (CQC) area send inspection of the Oldham partnership took place between Monday 26 June 2023 to Friday 30 June 2023. Since receipt of the report on 25 July 2023, the local area partnership has been working to address the priority actions and development areas.

Change Programme Partnership: Oldham has been selected as part of the SEND and Alternative Provision Change Programme for the North West region. This programme, which includes additional funding from the DfE, will help the partnership improve the quality and timeliness of our Education and Health Care Plans and strengthen alternative provision.

Delivering Better Value (DBV) Programme: Oldham's grant bid has been approved and will bring in £1,000,000 in additional funding. This will be targeted at SEN support and early identification. This is timely as the areas identified through the DBV programme, also support the response to the Ofsted/CQC inspection.

Post-16/Youth Employment/Apprenticeships

The Employment and Skills Partnership Board is driving the strategic approach to reducing the rates of unemployment and Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET). The action plan will focus on 4 priority areas (NEET reduction, skills mapping and gap analysis, supporting those furthest away from employment and increasing employer's role in the skills curriculum).

The local careers event for 15-25 year-olds in September 23 successfully engaged around 400 young people who attended the event. Over 45 exhibitors attended the event and feedback from these establishments has been positive. This event was organised in response to a request from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Connect to Your Future, a programme supporting 15-19 year-olds to engage in EET activity, worked with 86 young people across the lifetime of the project. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund NEET programme will commence in October 2023 and will again work with 15-19 NEET young people, supporting them to re-engage in positive EET activity. The project will continue until 31 March 2025, and aims to reach 380 15-19 year-olds.

Adult Education

The Lifelong Learning Service has secured a £3m Adult Education Budget to support around 3000 learners and has, additionally, secured £179,000 for Multiply delivery (a numeracy programme) to over 100 learners. The service has seen over 2000 enrolments in the first month of the new academic year as well as successfully gaining Matrix accreditation (the service's annual quality benchmark). Adult learners have been recognised through a National Festival of Learning winner at the prestigious Learning and Work National Award ceremony in London. Additionally, 2 learners were finalists at the Ascentis Annual Awards for 'learner of the year.' Finally, in terms of outcomes with regards to GCSE English and Maths, the service achieved a 96% pass rate which is an excellent result for Oldham's adult learners.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

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Report to COUNCIL – 1st November 2023

Cabinet Report of Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Cllr F Hussain, Cabinet Member for Business, Employment and Enterprise

Business Awards – 15th year of **Oldham Business Awards** – most successful to date with sponsors secured by the Council including MUSE, Tilbury Douglas, Rowan Ashworth and Get Oldham Working. The event promoted the excellence in the local business community and raised £6k for Mahdlo and Dr Kershaws. The Council's Build a Business project, which supports residents move into becoming entrepreneurs, was a finalist.

Frank's Business Breakfast is a partnership created between Frank Rothwell, Oldham's Business Ambassador and Oldham Council. The initiative was started to create a space for Oldham businesses to better connect as well as an opportunity and platform to educate Oldham businesses. At the Fourth Business Breakfast we had a successful event with over 100 businesses in attendance with a focus on cybersecurity delivered by the National Cyber Security Centre, which is a part of GCHQ and is the UK's technical authority for cyber threats.

The Council has agreed a new **business support programme** with the Business Growth Hub which was launched in October. It will be more flexible and will support a wider range of local businesses which, for the first time, will now also include our retail, market traders, hospitality and leisure sector which will help us rebuild our post-covid economy.

SEUK Place Status - Oldham Council in partnership with Upturn Enterprise has secured 'Social Enterprise UK Place Status' which puts our borough on the map as a place where social enterprises thrive. The award recognises that Oldham is a hotspot of social enterprise activity. The Council and Upturn have submitted a three-year plan which sets out an approach to support councils, charities, consumers and budding social enterprises to grow "Social Enterprise Communities" tackling key local issues.

The programme aims to promote, raise awareness, and build the markets for social enterprise at a local and national level. This builds upon the Council and Upturn's Proper Good programme – a £2m loan programme which is supporting social entrepreneurs to grow their businesses. The next steps will be developing the social value market place and launching the new Social Innovation Hub in the Spindles.

Get Oldham Working team celebrated 10 years – they have helped over 13,000 residents into work, growing from a team of 2 staff to nearly 40. They support our residents whether they are unemployed and looking for work, or through their innovative Career Advancement Service, they can support residents in work to get better paid jobs. The team has recently been named the highest performer for National Careers Service in the North West and will see provision expand to support even more citizens.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.



Report to COUNCIL – 1st November 2023

Cabinet Report of Neighbourhoods Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

Hate Crime

Raising awareness of hate crime and providing support to victims is a key area of work for both the Council and partner agencies. In recent months, this has included delivering training to frontline staff, delivering work in schools and community groups to build confidence to report hate crimes. The Council is currently working in partnership with Victim's Services and the Crown Prosecution Service to deliver an event for frontline staff who work with residents to help them understand what happens when a hate-crime is reported.

Community Safety

Community Safety Services continue to work in partnership with our Domestic Abuse team, providing advice to victims of Domestic Abuse to enable them, wherever possible, to remain in their homes. The Service has completed 90 Sanctuary surveys within the past 6 months. The Community Safety Service has also carried out surveys on behalf of partners in the homes of individuals who have been subject to threats of serious violence to reduce their risk of becoming the victims of significant harm. The learning is used to improve prevention and enhance safety.

Anti-Social Behaviour continues to have a significant impact on Communities and the Community Safety Service continue to challenge such behaviour, working closely with partners, Ward Members and the Community to identify those engaging in Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminality using both informal and formal interventions to ensure that Communities are made safer for the Boroughs residents.

A particular issue is youth disorder in and around the town centre. We are working with the Police and other partners to identify causes and to develop solutions. Significant work has also been carried out in response to residents concerns, Ward Members and partners around key issues, such as Off-Road motorbikes and Firework nuisance. Firework nuisance has been an ongoing issue and we are working to identify solutions whilst also collaborating with partners and other local authorities to seek their support. Community Safety Services have also worked closely with key partners including Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and Greater Manchester Police in developing the Bonfire strategy, to try and ensure that the Community is kept safe.

The Community Safety Service is also working with partners to develop a strategy in response to the Serious Violence Duty legislation, that came into force in January 2023.

This is a significant piece of work, which is intended to reduce the risk of serious violence within the Oldham Borough and to make the Borough a safer, more desirable place to live.

Environmental Services

- Service continues to deal with the major challenge of Ash dieback across Oldham – this has resulted in the large-scale removal of trees
- Service is working with colleagues to produce a new Pitch strategy for the Borough and aims for a Summer 2024 completion
- Work in the vicinity of the Spindles has started and as part of this, the WOW bed has been removed and will be relocated after works have been completed
- Service is working with colleagues to complete preparations for the Council organised bonfire at Oldham Edge
- The refurbishment of the frontage at Hollinwood Crematorium has been completed
- October sees the start of the tree planting season - 100's of trees to be planted between now and the end of March 2024
- Residents have an 85% satisfaction rate with Oldham parks. Improvements to facilities have taken place at Daisy Nook and £64,000 of investment is taking place in Woodhouses Park.
- There have been 612 penalties issued for littering & flytipping since DTO started and at the same time, there have been 71 successful prosecutions with more due in the near future

Waste, Fleet & Highway Operations

- In cab technology (Bartec) for domestic bin collection completed successfully. To expand to other areas in due course (Bulky Waste) to increase efficiency
- Christmas schedules for bin collection on track and information shared with residents
- Winter maintenance on track and all preparations complete
- Name the gritter competition going well with well over 300 entries submitted so far

Traffic & Engineering

- All capital projects including resurfacing, major bridge works, public realm and active travel type schemes progressing on schedule
- New zebra crossing on Chew Valley Road outside school is complete and operational for students to use
- Next phase of the Town Centre (Accessible Oldham) public realm works progressing, including recent planning application approved for the section of the Linear Park on Rock St/St Marys Way section
- School Streets programme is ongoing –
 - Installed at 1 location and operational
 - 1 trial starts on 30 October 2023
 - 4 more in development
- School active travel audit has been completed and report due imminently – this will highlight additional areas/locations where intervention would be beneficial for safer/active travel school schemes

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Report to COUNCIL 1st November 2023

Cabinet Report for Health and Social Care

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Barbara Brownridge Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities. Council is requested to note the report.

Public Health

Tobacco Harms;

Oldham Tobacco Alliance has been established for the past two years and is a partnership aiming to reduce the health inequalities caused by tobacco and smoking and to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. Your Health Oldham provides community stop smoking support which is tailored to meet the individual needs. This includes working with communities on alternative forms of tobacco such as shisha.

Oldham Youth Council's motion regarding vaping highlighted the issue of youth vaping and the concerns that young people have about this. The public health team, and Your Health Oldham are working with the Youth Council to coproduce communication for young people about vaping and smoking. A support pack for schools and education settings on youth vaping has also been developed and shared with schools already.

Vapes are an effective way to quit smoking and all the evidence shows that they are less harmful than smoking as 2 out of 3 smokers will die early, many in mid-age. But we do not want non-smokers, particularly young people, to take up vaping. If you smoke, vaping is the better choice; if you don't smoke, don't vape.

Oldham Suicide Prevention Strategy

Oldham Suicide Prevention Partnership launched its new 10-year strategy on World Suicide Prevention Day (10th September). This has been co-produced with residents as well as a wide range of professionals. The focus of the strategy is recognising that each life lost to suicide is a tragedy that has a devastating impact on loved ones. The Oldham

approach is to work together as a whole community to make suicide prevention everyone's business.

Infection Prevention in Care Homes:

The Public Health team have been working closely with our care homes to reduce the spread of infections. We have seen an increase in scabies cases and outbreaks over the past few months. Scabies is an infestation of the skin by a mite. It can be intensely itchy and is transmitted by prolonged or frequent skin to skin contact. It can also be transmitted before symptoms occur.

Staff from NHS GM, Adult Social Care, our Care Homes, Primary Care, and the Public Health Team have all been working to address these outbreaks. There have been challenges in accessing treatment which have taken time to address. It is really important that scabies is diagnosed and properly treated to avoid further spread, in particular in our most vulnerable residents. Our staff have been training care home staff in how to apply treatment, and prevent spread.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care has developed a new operating model to enable people to access advice, information, and guidance earlier and ensure everyone who requires assistance receives enablement support in the first instance. Although in its infancy this new way of working is already proving to be successful with the introduction of the Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC). The ARCC is proving it can respond timely to people's care and support needs with 28.0% of enquiries per month resolved following an initial discussion with the ARCC Service.

Adult Social Care has seen a continued demand for specialist support services, as such the service has needed to prioritise timely responses to safeguarding concerns and those people with complex care and support needs.

Adult Social Care has published a Market Position Statement; [Understanding Oldham's health and adult social care market | Understanding Oldham's health and adult social care market | Oldham Council](#). The purpose of the market position statement is to outline social care priorities based on the current and future needs of Oldham residents. The service is actively working closely with and supporting providers in response to care market fragility because of workforce and cost of living challenges.

Activity continues across the Adult Social Care directorate in preparedness for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance process. This has included the completion of a CQC self-assessment to evaluate the current service and identify areas for improvement. Transformation across Adult Social Care is being completed at pace in the form of a service improvement plan. Specific workstreams have been established to implement service improvements which focus on improving outcomes for residents, this is linked to the council and wider system strategic priorities.

Oldham Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

Oldham's burgeoning ICP continues to develop at pace. The ICP brings together partners from across the borough's health and social care sector, as well as Action Together and Healthwatch, to agree and lead the strategic direction for local health and care services, under delegation from NHS Greater Manchester. The Locality Board is well attended and there is real commitment to secure the advantages that joint working can bring.

Commissioners and providers are collaborating to agree how to transform services to make them sustainable for the future for our borough's residents. A new five year strategy for health and care has been agreed, as has the scope for a revised transformation programme following extensive work to examine our local drivers of demand. A delivery plan for the transformation programme is in the process of being finalised, which will also align to the national NHS planning process.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

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Report to COUNCIL 1st November 2023

Cabinet Report of Communities and Culture Portfolio

**Portfolio Holder:
Councillor Peter Dean Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture**

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities. Council is requested to note the report.

District Working and Placed Based Integration

The first round of District Community Council meetings have been completed. Feedback has been positive. The work will further strength partnership collaboration in each neighbourhood. The next round of meetings will take place before Christmas, focusing on a more in-depth discussion on of one of the key issues identified by Members in each patch. Council teams and partners are starting to share office space with the District Teams, this will further improve collaboration. It will result in better problem-solving, nipping issues in the bud, improving outcomes and lead to quicker problem resolution.

Work is also continuing to rollout face-to-face support in each of our Districts. Council and partners working closely together to bring vital services closer to our local communities, through our network of hubs. We want to provide a more holistic response, that allows people to access help for a number of different issues in one place.

This year, the Doorstep Engagement Team were aligned to our five Districts, to strengthen our Place-Based working approach. From April - August they have knocked on over 37,000 doors, speaking to more than 12,000 people, and supporting people to access information and services over 5,000 times.

Heritage Libraries and Arts (HLA)

As part of the town centre regeneration schedule, HLA collections and services from 84 Union Street will be moved into temporary facilities by the end of February 2024. Collections will be stored in secure temporary accommodation until Spindles site is complete.

Archives and Local Studies service will close at 84 Union Street on 30 November 2023. A temporary service will operate from Oldham Library from March 2024 until the Spindles site is ready. There will be no access to physical archives during this time, but digital resources will be available as usual.

Oldham Theatre Workshop will move to Gallery Oldham's vacant café space in January 2024, until their permanent new home in the Old Library Building is complete.

HLA have delivered a range of high-quality participatory festivals and programmes, some of which are highlighted below:

Summer Reading Challenge - Over 2,000 children (aged 4-11) took part in the Summer Reading Challenge, with 4,274 attending 75 events. 24,566 physical books issued and 19,001 digital loans.

Children's Literature Festival - We partnered with Christina Gabbitas and her charity 'Children's Literature Festivals' to pilot a children's literature festival in Chadderton. The mission of the charity is "*to give children and families from less privileged back-grounds and areas of deprivation access to FREE literature festivals and books*". We worked with 10 schools, 2,000 children participated, 9 authors and illustrators delivered interactive sessions. The charity distributed £3,000 worth of books to families, and we held a community celebration day that was attended by over 320 people.

Histories Festival - We delivered a successful Oldham Histories Festival that included 31 individual events delivered by 19 organisations. The most popular event was the Oldham Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Temple open day (150 visitors) the Oldham Microscopical & Natural History Society open day (101 visitors) and the Oldham International Brigadiers talk (50 attendees, including the Spanish Consul General to Manchester).

Festival Oldham and Coronation- Over 9,000 people attended across the two festivals, working with over 160 artists. The coronation celebrations were featured in BBC Northwest Tonight. We secured £17,500 from DCMS for the Coronation and £11,00 from Without Walls for Festival Oldham.

Oldham Theatre Workshops Summer show - The outstanding summer show 'Three Times Table' was performed by 45 passionate and talented young people, with audiences of over 1,000.

Successful Funding and Partnerships

- Library On Funding: £42,150 to update the Gallery Oldham and Libraries website. This will improve user experience with the introduction of an image-led and intuitive information architecture, with bespoke interactive elements.
- Zarah Hussain Artwork - £10,300 funding secured across two funding bodies (Art Fund and the ACE/V & A Purchase Grant Fund) to acquire Zarah Hussain's 'Root 2: Yellow Blue' artwork, which was previously showcased at Gallery Oldham in 2022.

-
- £5,000 from The National Archives Records at Risk fund was awarded to Oldham Local Studies and Archives in July to secure the digital archive material from Oldham Coliseum alongside documentation of the Coliseum collection.
 - Library Improvement Fund Round 2 from ACE– £151,520 secured from Arts Council to refurbish Northmoor Library.
 - Invited to submit full bid to ACE for LIF Round 3 to make improvements to Oldham Library.
 - GM Libraries have secured UKSPF funding to continue to the delivery of the Build a Business Programme – supporting start-ups and small to medium sized businesses.
 - GMCA Spirit Fund - £38,000 to deliver Placed based celebratory arts projects.
 - Development of Oldham Live Music Network

For upcoming events please visit the <http://www.visitoldham.com/whats-on> and [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/directory/169/live at the library autumn 23 - winter 24](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/directory/169/live-at-the-library-autumn-23-winter-24) websites.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

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Report to COUNCIL 1 November 2023

Cabinet Report of Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet member,
Finance and Corporate Resources

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities. Council is requested to note the report.

Finance

The Council's accounts for 2022/23 were submitted to the auditors by the deadline of 31st May, one of only [34%] % nationally and [4] Councils within GM to meet the deadline. The audit now is almost complete with some technical matters – such as accounting for potential RAAC implications – outstanding.

The results for the half year to September have been prepared, these highlight the financial pressures faced by this Council (and many other Councils across the country). There are unprecedented demands for Council Services, in particular the number of children being looked after by the Council and a massive increase in families requiring temporary accommodation. This is not unique to Oldham, all Greater Manchester local authorities are facing unprecedented demand for these services.

The projected deficit for the year is forecast at over £10 million and the increased demand for these services looks set to continue for a number of a year to come. As a result, the Council will face significant challenges in setting its budget for 2024/25 and difficult decisions will be required.

Revenues & Benefits

In-year collection rates for both council tax and business rates remain on track despite the cost-of-living challenges still being faced by many households.

At the end of September, the in-year collection rate for council tax was 54.59% and for business rates was 56.39%. This means we are on target to meet our annual target rates

for collection of 94% for council Tax and 97% for Business Rates. Whereas a few years ago Oldham had one of the lowest Council Tax collection rates, Oldham is currently in a strong position compared to other GM authorities, such as Rochdale (54%), Stockport (53.25%), and Tameside (54.13%).

Progress is being made to reduce the outstanding arrears for previous years debts, with £3m collected for council tax and £1.1m for business rates in the first half of the year. Additional technology is being introduced to increase efficiency, reduce processing times and improving the resident experience reducing repeat contact.

Performance

Following feedback from Scrutiny members the team have redesigned the Corporate Performance Reports to become a more visual overview of performance across the areas of People Services (Adults, Children's and Public Health), Place Services (Economy, Environment) and Corporate Services (Finance, HR and OD, IT, Customer Services). Each report will go to the appropriate Scrutiny quarterly.

Performance reports are being migrated to the new PowerBI system as we decommission the Corvu system (complete end October).

Transformation

The Transformation programme is now in full delivery focusing on:

- managing service demand by focusing on how we support our residents earlier and prevent the escalation of need, primarily in children and adult services
- working more closely with partners to join up services locally in a place residents can conveniently access drive digital, customer focused improvements to services, including more self-service where appropriate, primarily concentrating on environmental and housing services where we have the biggest demand and potential savings ensuring we collect and use Data effectively to improve services. These change programmes act together to help meet the financial challenge.

Customer and Digital Experience

We continue to deliver improvements across Town Hall sites in each district as part of a phased approach. The first site at Failsworth Town Hall includes refreshed signage and more services available to access closer to home. Improving Customer Experience Guidelines have been launched with Managers to cascade through their teams following briefing sessions earlier this year.

In response to demand into the Customer Support Centre, we have established priority areas to focus on end-to-end improvements within Council Tax, Housing and Waste projects. Projects have started with delivery phased into Spring 2024 onwards.

Information Technology

ICT continues to protect Oldham Council from increasing external threats and internal vulnerabilities. We have deployed a cutting-edge threat management solution, providing

round-the-clock threat hunting and active remediation. Our next focus area is establishing a robust data backup service that guarantees data restoration during a catastrophic incident or ransomware attack. We are also actively addressing internal and supply chain vulnerability management, ensuring our council remains resilient in emerging challenges.

Green New Deal

Oldham is at the forefront of a ground-breaking, pathfinder project to provide a Town Centre Low Carbon District Heat Network, which will utilise a variety of low carbon heat sources including biomass, air source, wastewater and mine water. If successful, the project will attract £30m of funding from the Government and private sector.

In order to develop the project further, the Council has applied for two grants totalling £2.6m of funding to take the feasibility and design work to next level and also procure a strategic commercial partner to deliver this and other projects.

Decisions in respect of the grants are expected by the end of this year

HR Services

Like all local authorities Oldham Council is facing significant challenges relating to our workforce including challenges in recruiting to key roles, including social workers, retention of staff in key roles given comparable pay rates in the agency and private sectors and the wellbeing of our workforce. We are developing a new workforce strategy over the next six months which will learn from best practice elsewhere and test innovative new approaches to deal with these challenges.

The HR and Legal teams are also undertaking some assurance work regarding Equal Pay issues being highlighted elsewhere across the country to understand any potential challenges for Oldham.

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Report to Council

Treasury Management Quarter One Report 2023/24

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Report Author: Lee Walsh, Finance Manager (Capital & Treasury)
Ext. 6608

1 November 2023

Reason for Decision

This report advises Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first quarter of 2023/24 and provides a comparison of performance against the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

Executive Summary

The Council is required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021). This quarterly report provides an additional update and includes the new requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from 1 April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. This report therefore sets out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and approval and outlines:

- An economic update for the first quarter of 2023/24;
- A review and updates of the Council's current Treasury Management position;
- Information on Council Borrowing;
- Updated Treasury Investment Activity;
- Treasury Performance for the Quarter;
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators;

The Audit Committee is charged with the scrutiny of Treasury Management activities for Oldham Council, and it therefore considered and approved the contents of the Quarter One report at its meeting on 5 September 2023. The Committee was therefore content to commend

the report to Cabinet. As such, Cabinet, at its meeting on 18 September 2023 approved the content of the report and was content to commend it to Council.

Council is, therefore, requested to approve the Treasury Management Quarter One report 2023/24 to ensure full compliance with the Code.

Recommendation

That Council approves the Treasury Management Quarter One Report.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council operates a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested with low-risk counterparties, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment returns.
- 1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 1.3 As a consequence, treasury management 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.”
- 1.4 With effect from the start of 2023/24, following a competitive tendering process, the Council changed its treasury management advisors from The Link Group, Treasury Solutions to Arlingclose Ltd. The format of the treasury management reports has therefore changed in line with the advice received from Arlingclose Ltd.

2 Current Position

2.1 Requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice

- 2.1.1 The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (Revised 2021) (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to produce a quarterly treasury management update report; a requirement in the 2021 Code which is mandatory from 1 April 2023.
- 2.1.2 This report provides an additional update to that previously received by Members to reflect the new requirement in the 2021 Code of quarterly reporting on treasury management prudential indicators. The treasury and prudential indicators are also incorporated at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.1.3 The Council's treasury management strategy for 2023/24 was approved at the Budget Council meeting on 1 March 2023. The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the potential loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 2.1.4 This Quarter One report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:
- An economic update for the first quarter of 2023/24;
 - A review and updates of the Council's current treasury management position;
 - Information on Council Borrowing;
 - Updated Treasury Investment Activity;

- Treasury Performance for the Quarter;
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators;

2.2 External Environment Quarter One 2023/24

Economic Background

- 2.2.1 From the start of the quarter until May it looked like peak global monetary policy rates were in sight as inflation continued to ease and central banks turned more dovish in tone. Only a few weeks later, stronger and more persistent inflation data, particularly in the UK, changed the picture.
- 2.2.2 The UK situation was not welcome news for the Bank of England. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth was weak, confirmed at 0.1% in quarter 1 (Q1), although more recent monthly GDP data has been somewhat better. The housing market had stalled, consumer demand was weak but seemingly recovering despite higher interest rates, and labour demand remained strong, with repercussions for wage growth which is accelerating.
- 2.2.3 April data showed the unemployment rate increased to 3.8% (3mth/year) while the employment rate rose to 76.0%. Pay growth was 6.5% for total pay (including bonuses) and 7.2% for regular pay, the largest growth rate of the latter outside of the COVID pandemic. Once adjusted for inflation, however, growth in total pay and regular pay remained negative.
- 2.2.4 Inflation fell from its peak of 11.1% reached in October 2022, but the annual headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate in May 2023 was higher than the consensus forecast at 8.7% (8.4% expected), largely driven by services inflation, while the annual measure of underlying core inflation rose to 7.1% from 6.8%.
- 2.2.5 After a sharp rise in interest rate expectations, with clearly serious implications for mortgage markets due to higher inflation and wage data, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) reaccelerated monetary policy tightening over the period with a 0.25% rise in May to a 0.5% rise in June, taking Bank Rate to 5.0%. At both meetings the vote was 7-2 in favour of increasing rates, with the two dissenters preferring to keep rates on hold.
- 2.2.6 Interest rate expectations priced in further hikes in policy rates. Arlingclose Ltd., the Council's treasury adviser, revised its forecast to predict a further 0.5% of monetary tightening to take the Bank Rate to 5.5%. The risks, however, are that rates could be higher; financial markets are forecasting interest rates above 6%.
- 2.2.7 With many mortgages at low fixed rates now systematically being re-set over the next 12-24 months at higher rates at the end of their fixed rate period, there has been a lagged effect of the follow through of monetary policy on households' disposable income. The economic slowdown is expected to develop over time and therefore, despite the GfK (Nuremberg Society for Consumer Research) measure of consumer confidence rising to -24 in June, it is likely that confidence will be negatively affected at some point. The manufacturing sector contracted during the quarter according to survey data, which will eventually impact into services, whose expansion is slowing.
- 2.2.8 Despite the US Federal Reserve (Fed) increasing its key interest rate from 5.00% to 5.25% over the period, activity in the region continued to defy monetary tightening, particularly in labour markets which have so far appeared robust, supporting the Fed's assertions of two more rate hikes after it paused in June. Annual US inflation continued to ease, falling from 4.9% in April to 4.0% in May, the lowest level since March 2021. US GDP growth at 2% annualised in the first calendar quarter of 2023 was also significantly stronger than expected against the initial estimate of 1.3%.

- 2.2.9 In the Euro Zone, the picture was somewhat different. The European Central Bank (ECB) maintained its hawkish tone and increased its key deposit, main refinancing, and marginal lending interest rates to 3.50%, 4.00% and 4.25% respectively. There were signs of weakening activity, particularly in Germany whose manufacturing sector has been impacted by high energy prices and weaker global demand. However, inflation remained sticky; annual headline CPI fell to 5.5% in June while annual core inflation rose to 5.4% from 5.3%, which means the ECB is unlikely to stop monetary tightening.

Financial Markets

- 2.2.10 Financial market sentiment and bond yields remained volatile, the latter continuing their general upward trend as uncertainty and concern over higher inflation and higher interest rates continued to dominate.
- 2.2.11 Gilt yields rose over the period. The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.30% to 4.67%, the 10-year gilt yield from 3.43% to 4.39%, and the 20-year yield from 3.75% to 4.51%. The Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) rate averaged 4.37% over the quarter.

Credit Review

- 2.2.12 Having completed a review of its credit advice on unsecured deposits at UK and non-UK banks following concerns of a wider financial crisis after the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and the purchase of Credit Suisse by UBS, as well as other well-publicised banking sector issues, in March, Arlingclose reduced the advised maximum duration limit for all banks on its recommended counterparty list to 35 days.
- 2.2.13 Over the period, Standard and Poors (S&P) upgraded the NatWest Group and related entities to A+ (except NatWest Markets which was upgraded to A), revised the UK sovereign outlook to stable from negative, and upgraded both Barclays Bank PLC and Barclays Bank UK PLC to A+.
- 2.2.14 Fitch put the US sovereign rating on Rating Watch Negative following increased political partisanship which at the time was hindering the latest resolution to raising the debt ceiling. It also upgraded the outlook on the United Overseas Bank to stable, the outlook on the Clydesdale Bank to positive, and the outlook on the Bank of Montreal to stable.
- 2.2.15 Moody's withdrew Guildford BC's rating (who chose not to continue being rated) and affirmed the Aaa rating of the European Investment Bank.
- 2.2.16 Arlingclose continued to monitor and assess credit default swap levels for signs of ongoing credit stress but made no changes to the counterparty list or recommended durations over the quarter. Nevertheless, heightened market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, as ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

2.3 The Oldham Council Treasury Position

- 2.3.1 On 31 March 2023, the Authority had net borrowing of £90.216m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. This had fallen to £80.516m by the end of Quarter 1.
- 2.3.2 The actual and planned level of capital expenditure are the drivers of borrowing for capital purposes. Appendix 1 shows the actual level of capital expenditure at the end of 2022/23 and includes the Quarter 1 forecast for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. It also shows the financing including the level of prudential borrowing.
- 2.3.3 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Balance Sheet Summary

	31 March 2023 Actual £'000	31 March 2024 Forecast £'000
General Fund CFR	465,723	493,124
HRA CFR	-	-
Total CFR	465,723	493,124
Less: Other debt liabilities PFI	204,339	193,787
Borrowing CFR	261,384	299,337
External borrowing	160,996	185,996
Internal borrowing	100,388	113,341
Less: Usable Balance Sheet Resources	(154,194)	(145,453)
Less: Working capital	(25,713)	(25,713)
Net Investments	(79,519)	(57,825)

- 2.3.4 Table 1 shows the forecast CFR for 2023/24 is £493.124m, an increase of £27.401m compared to £465.723m at the end of 2022/23, but a reduction compared to the CFR of £503.278m approved in the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy at the 2023/24 Budget Council meeting. The CFR excluding other debt liabilities relating to Private Finance Initiative schemes is forecast at £299.337m an increase of £37.953m compared to the position at the end of 2022/23.
- 2.3.5 The table clearly highlights that the Council borrowing is well below the CFR and the Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need (CFR) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy has been prudent in recent years as investment returns have been low and counterparty risk is still an issue that needs to be considered. This along with rising interest rates for external debt means that the Council will continue to analyse and assess the market to determine the optimum time to externally borrow.
- 2.3.6 The treasury management position as at 30 June 2023 and the change over the quarter is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Treasury Management Summary

Borrowing/Investments	31 March 2023 Balance £'000	Movement £'000	30 June 2023 Balance £'000	30 June 2023 Average Rate %
Long-term borrowing				
- Public Works Loan Board	35,241	-	35,241	2.81%
- Lender Option Borrowing Option	85,500	-	85,500	4.33%
- Other	40,001	-	40,001	4.03%
Short-term borrowing	254	-	254	-
Total Borrowing	160,996	-	160,996	-
Long-term investments	15,000	-	15,000	4.25%
Short-term investments	20,000	(12,000)	8,000	4.28%
Cash and cash equivalents	35,780	21,700	57,480	4.35%
Total Investments	70,780	9,700	80,480	
Net Borrowing (total borrowing less total investments)	90,216		80,516	

As can be seen in the table above, borrowing has remained the same in the first three months of the year. However, borrowing is likely to increase during the year in line with planned capital expenditure. Overall, the level of investments has increased £9.700m since the end of 2022/23 due to the cash position of the Council.

2.4 **Borrowing**

- 2.4.1 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that Local Authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for Local Authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority.
- 2.4.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans are no longer available to Local Authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.
- 2.4.3 Oldham Council has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council, and it has no plans to do so in future.
- 2.4.4 The chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.
- 2.4.5 There has been a substantial rise in the cost of both short and long-term borrowing over the last 18 months. In this reporting period (Q1), the Bank Rate rose from 4.25% at the beginning of April to 5.0% at the end of the first quarter and was also significantly higher than its level of 1.25% at the end of June 2022.
- 2.4.6 Gilt yields have faced upward pressure since early April following signs that UK growth has been more resilient and inflation stickier than expected. Consequently, PWLB borrowing rates continued to rise over the quarter. On 30 June, the PWLB certainty rates for maturity loans were 5.25% for 10-year loans, 5.36% for 20-year loans and 4.95% for 50-year loans. Their equivalents on 31 March 2023 were 4.33%, 4.70% and 4.41% respectively.
- 2.4.7 As at 30 June Oldham Council held £160.996m of loans. There has been no new borrowing undertaken in the first three months of the year so no movement from the position at 31 March 2023. Outstanding loans on 30 June (borrowing position) are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3 - Borrowing Position

Borrowing Sources	31 March 2023 Balance	Movement	30 June 2023 Balance	30 June 2023 Weighted Average Rate %	30 June 2023 Weighted Average Maturity (years)
	£'000	£'000	£'000		
Public Works Loan Board	35,241	-	35,241	2.81%	18.12
Banks (LOBO)	85,500	-	85,500	4.33%	43.43
Banks (fixed term)	40,000	-	40,000	4.03%	46.05
Local Bonds (long-term)	1	-	1	1.00%	-
Local Bonds (short-term)	22	-	22	0.00%	-
Local Charitable Trusts (short-term)	231	-	231	1.94%	1
Total Borrowing	160,996	-	160,996		

LOBO Loans

- 2.4.8 Oldham Council continues to hold £85.500m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate and terms or to repay the loan at no additional cost.
- 2.4.9 With market interest rates having risen, the probability of LOBOs being called has been higher than in the recent past. A total of £25.000m of LOBO loans had annual/semi-annual call option dates during the April-June quarter, however no lender exercised their option.
- 2.4.10 Currently Oldham Council has £40.500m LOBO loans with call dates during the remaining nine months of this financial year. Of this sum, £30.500m is held with Dexia Finance, and the remaining £10.000m split with two other providers, Danske Bank and KA Finanz. At the time of writing no call options have been exercised.
- 2.4.11 Council officers have liaised with treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, over the likelihood of the options being exercised for LOBOs within the loan portfolio. If the option is exercised the Authority plans to repay the loan at no additional cost. If required, the Authority will repay the LOBO loans with available cash or by borrowing from alternative sources or the PWLB, always providing that overall savings can be demonstrated.

2.5 Treasury Investment Activity

- 2.5.1 CIPFA published a revised the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes on 20 December 2021. These define treasury management investments as investments that arise from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.
- 2.5.2 At 30 June, the Council held £80.480m invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the first quarter of 2022/23, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £70.870m and £80.480m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in Table 4 below.

Table 4 - Treasury Investment Position

Investment Placements	31 March 2023 Balance £'000	Movement £'000	30 June 2023 Balance £'000	30 June 2023 Income Return %
Banks & Building Societies (unsecured)	10,000	(10,000)	-	4.06%
Government (incl. Local Authorities)	10,000	(2,000)	8,000	4.35%
Money Market Funds	35,780	21,700	57,480	4.35%
Property Pooled Fund	15,000	-	15,000	4.25%
Total investments	70,780	9,700	80,480	

- 2.5.3 Both the CIPFA Code and Government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 2.5.4 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report, the Authority expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income.
- 2.5.5 Bank Rate increased by 0.75%, from 4.25% at the beginning of April to 5% by the end of June, with the prospect of further increases to come. Short-dated cash rates rose commensurately, with 3-month rates rising to around 5.25% and 12-month rates to nearly 6%. Money Market Rates for the quarter were between 4.04% and 4.80%.
- 2.5.6 The Council in previous years has invested £15.000m in the Churches, Charities & Local Authorities (CCLA) pooled property fund. As this is a longer-term investment and there has been no change in the value held over the quarter.
- 2.5.7 UK property markets continued to struggle as higher interest rates and bond yields and higher funding costs weighed on the sector. There was some improvement in May, building on signs of returning investor interest and transactional activity in calendar Q1 and a perception that the downturn in commercial real estate may be bottoming out. This has helped support capital values and rental income. The additional move upwards in yields in late May/June and the prospect of sluggish economic growth however constrain the outlook.
- 2.5.8 The combination of the above has had no effect on the combined value of the Authority's property funds since March 2023. Income returns remained broadly consistent at 4.25%.
- 2.5.9 The change in the Authority's funds' capital values and income return over the 3-month period is shown in Table 4.
- 2.5.10 The Authority has budgeted income from these investments in 2023/24. Income received for the period up to 30 June was £0.156m.
- 2.5.11 The Council's investments have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, but their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Councils medium to long-term investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund

investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a three to five-year period total returns will exceed cash interest rates.

Statutory Override

- 2.5.12 In April 2023 the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities published the full outcome of the consultation on the extension of the statutory override on accounting for gains and losses on pooled investment funds. The override has been extended for 2 years until 31 March 2025, but no other changes have been made; whether the override will be extended beyond the new date is unknown but commentary on the consultation outcome suggests not. The Council will discuss with Arlingclose the implications for the investment strategy and what the future implications will be. Any future Treasury Management Strategies will be revised accordingly.

2.6 Treasury Team Performance

- 2.6.1 The Treasury Team measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates, as shown in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Treasury Team Performance

	Budgeted Performance Rates / Benchmark SONIA Return %	Benchmark SONIA Return % Plus 5%	Actual Return
			%
Budgeted Investment Rates	4.400%		4.504%
Overnight SONIA	4.379%	4.598%	4.504%

- 2.6.2 The budgeted investment rate of 4.40% above included within the annual strategy for 2023/24 was based on the average rate over the full financial year as expectations were for a number of interest rate rises to take place during 2023/24. The actual rate achieved in the first quarter exceeds this budgeted rate.
- 2.6.3 Previously the benchmark return was measured on the London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) which was a forward-looking interest rate. The Bank of England replaced LIBID with SONIA in December 2021. SONIA is calculated differently to LIBID in that it is a backward-looking rate, based on actual results. In a rapidly increasing interest rate environment SONIA can increase quicker than the existing portfolio of investments. This can be shown above as the actual return is slightly lower than the benchmark.
- 2.6.4 The Director of Finance reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the quarter complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Table 6 below.

Table 6 - Investment Limits

Investment Limit	Maximum during Q1 2023/24 £'000	Actual Position at 30 June 2023 £'000	Maximum Allowable in 2023/24 £'000	Compliance Yes/No
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	10,000	5,000	30,000	Yes
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	10,000	-	20,000	Yes
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	15,000	15,000	15,000	Yes
Unsecured investments with building societies	-	-	20,000	Yes
Money Market Funds	66,330	57,840	80,000	Yes
Strategic Pooled Funds	15,000	15,000	15,000	Yes

2.6.5 Compliance with the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for external debt is demonstrated in Table 7 below.

Table 7 – Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit

Borrowing /Limits	Actual Position at 30 June 2023 £'000	2023/24 Operational Boundary £'000	2023/24 Authorised Limit £'000	Compliance Yes/No
Borrowing	160,996	312,000	332,000	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	193,787	196,500	201,500	Yes
Total Gross Borrowing / Limit	354,782	508,500	533,500	Yes

2.6.6 The Operational Boundary represents the expected borrowing position for the Council for the year and was set at £508.500m.

2.6.7 The Authorised Limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and for 2023/24 was set at £533.500m. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level although it can be revised if required.

2.6.8 Since the Operational Boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the Operational Boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure. No breaches have occurred, and it is not anticipated that there will be any breaches in 2023/24.

2.7 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

2.7.1 As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Authority monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

Liability Benchmark

- 2.7.2 This new indicator compares the Authority's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing that the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £10.000m, the level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

Table 8 - Liability Benchmark

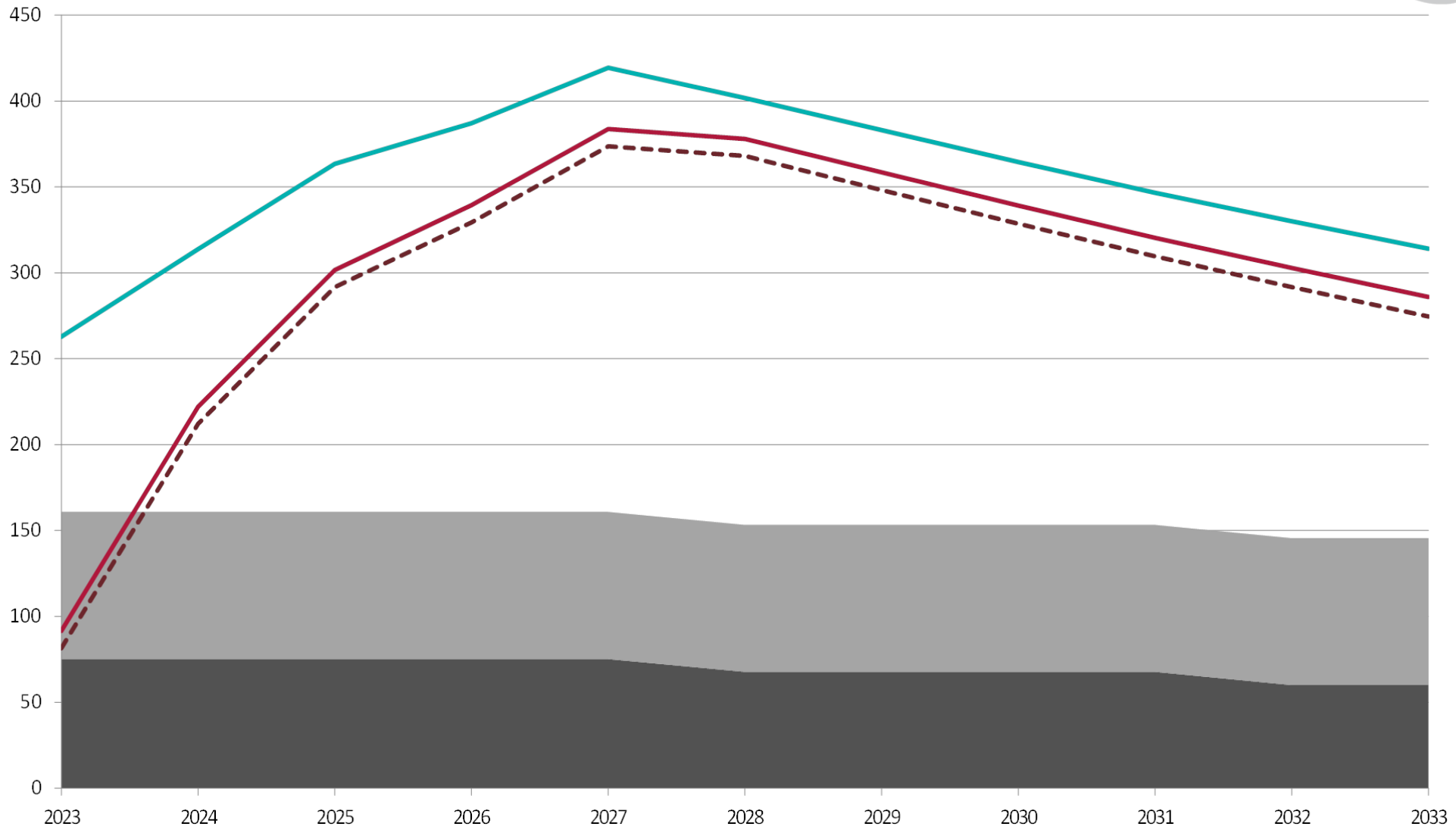
Liability Benchmark Measurement	31 March 2023 Actual £'000	31 March 2024 Forecast £'000	31 March 2025 Forecast £'000	31 March 2026 Forecast £'000
Loans CFR	262,800	313,800	363,400	387,100
Less: Balance sheet resources	181,254	157,700	157,700	157,700
Net loans requirement	81,546	156,100	205,700	229,400
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Liability benchmark	91,546	166,100	215,700	239,400
Existing /forecast borrowing	160,996	166,996	215,796	239,396

- 2.7.3 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in table 8 above, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower to finance the expected capital spend. There could be timing differences between when the Council externally borrows compared to when the expenditure is required due to the nature of capital works, but new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income.
- 2.7.4 Following on from the medium-term forecast above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing. Minimum Revenue Provision on new capital expenditure is forecast based on a 25 year asset life. This is shown in the chart below together with the maturity profile of the Authority's existing borrowing

Liability Benchmark - Oldham MBC



£m



- 2.7.5 Table 9 below sets out the maturity structure of borrowing at the end of the first quarter of 2023/24 compared to the upper and lower limits set in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24.

Table 9 - Maturity Structure of Borrowing

Borrowing Timeframe	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	30 June 2023 Actual	Compliance Yes/No
Under 12 months	40%	0%	34.53%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	40%	0%	3.11%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	40%	0%	20.22%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	40%	0%	4.82%	Yes
10 years to 20 years	50%	0%	3.11%	Yes
20 years to 30 years	50%	0%	3.11%	Yes
30 years to 40 years	50%	0%	3.11%	Yes
40 years to 50 years	50%	0%	15.55%	Yes
50 years to 60 years	50%	0%	12.44%	Yes

- 2.7.6 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. In the case of LOBO loans, the next option date has been used as the measure to determine if it is potentially repayable.

Long-term Treasury Management Investments

- 2.7.7 The purpose of the Long-Term Treasury Management indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are set out in the table below.

Table 10- Limit / Actual Investments exceeding one year

Limit / Actual Investments Exceeding One Year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£50m	£50m	£50m	£50m
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£15m	-	-	-
Compliance – Yes/No?	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 2.7.8 Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds. For the Council, this is currently the CCLA Property Fund. Long term investments exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term investments.

2.8 Other Key Issues

- 2.8.1 The Council has a number of Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) loans that have a call date during the remainder of 2023/24. The lender has the option to increase the interest rate when each loan reaches its call date. As the Council is now operating in a rising interest rate environment, there may be opportunities to repay the Council's historical LOBO borrowing. The Council will investigate all opportunities and will ensure any repayments create revenue savings. No lender exercised their option during the first quarter of 2023/24.

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.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 There has been consultation with the Council's, Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose, and Senior Officers in the production of this report. The report was presented to Audit Committee at the meeting on 5 September 2023 for scrutiny. All matters raised by Audit Committee Members were addressed to the satisfaction of the Committee and the Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. At its meeting on 18 September 2023 Cabinet approved the report and commended it to Council.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 All included within the report.

7 Legal Services Comments

- 7.1 None.

8 Co-operative Agenda

- 8.1 The Council ensures that any Treasury Management decisions comply as far as possible with the ethos of the Co-operative 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 both Internal and 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.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 None.

15 Community cohesion disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

15.1 None.

16 Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including impact on Children and Young People)

16.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is included at Appendix 2.

17 Key Decision

17.1 Yes

18 Key Decision Reference

18.1 FLC 14-23

19 Background Papers

19.1 The following is a list of the 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 that Act.

File Ref: Background papers are contained with Appendices 1 and 2.

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20 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Prudential and Treasury Indicators

Appendix 2 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 1 - Prudential and Treasury Indicators

The following tables shows a summary of the prudential indicators for Quarter One 2023/24.

Capital Expenditure

Capital Expenditure/Financing	2022/23 Actual £'000	2023/24 Forecast £'000	2024/25 Budget £'000	2025/26 Budget £'000
Expenditure				
General Fund services	58,577	102,748	110,870	55,839
HRA	210	1,000	500	95
Total Capital Expenditure	58,787	103,748	111,370	55,934
Financing				
Grants & Contributions	(32,411)	(39,962)	(50,140)	(10,469)
Prudential Borrowing	(16,868)	(54,428)	(57,433)	(43,966)
Revenue	(237)	(1,063)	(500)	(95)
Capital Receipts	(9,271)	(8,295)	(3,297)	(1,404)
Total Financing	(58,787)	(103,748)	(111,370)	(55,934)

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Capital Financing Requirement	31 March 2023 Actual £'000	31 March 2024 Forecast £'000	31 March 2025 Budget £'000	31 March 2026 Budget £'000
General Fund Services	465,723	493,124	530,488	541,248
Total CFR	465,723	493,124	530,488	541,248

Gross Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement

Gross Borrowing /CFR	31 March 2023 Actual £'000	31 March 2024 Forecast £'000	31 March 2025 Budget £'000	31 March 2026 Budget £'000	Debt at 30 June 2023 £'000
Gross Borrowing (incl. PFI & leases)	365,335	379,782	418,481	421,398	354,782
Capital Financing Requirement	465,723	493,124	530,488	541,248	-

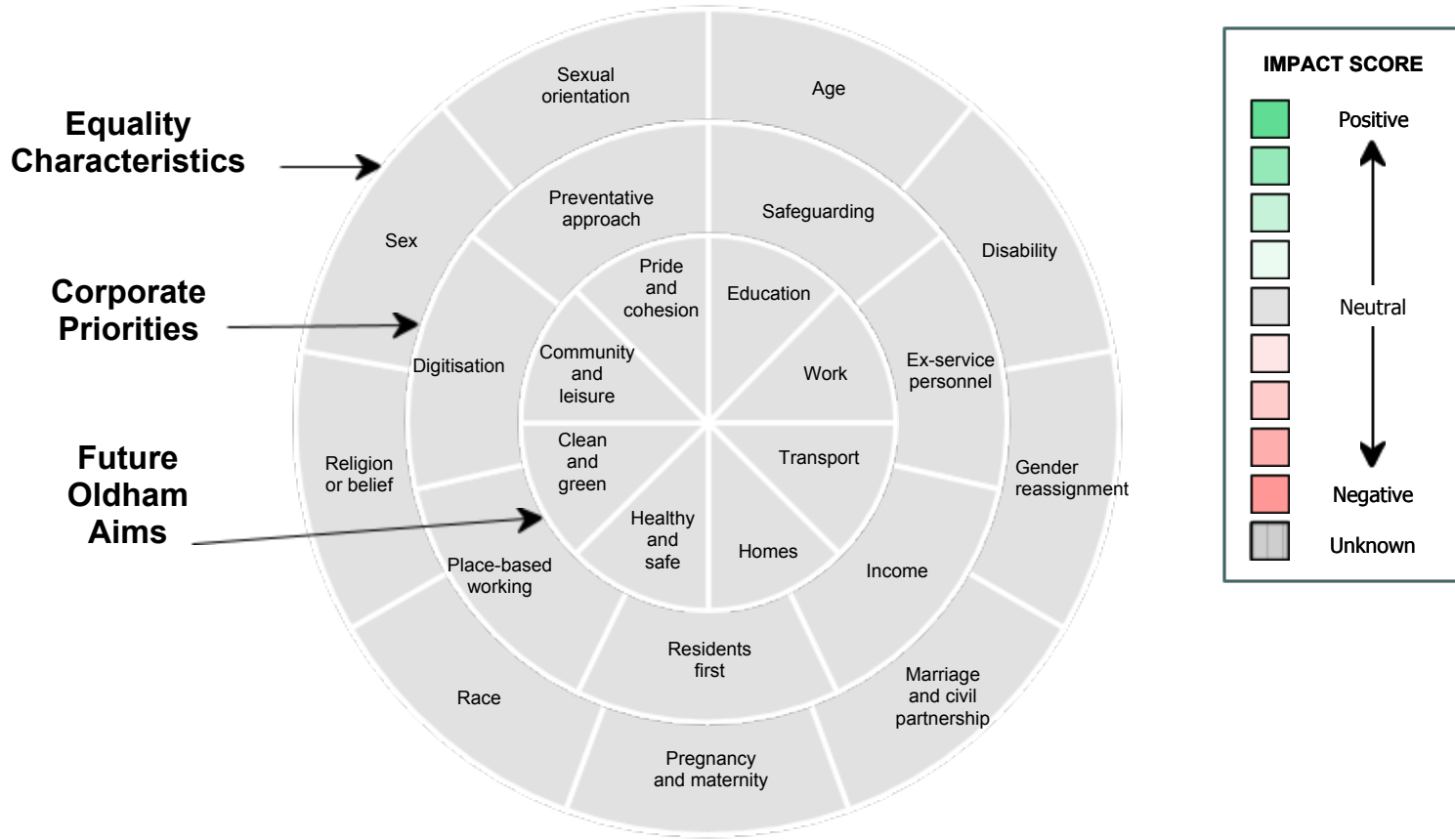
Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

Debt	Debt at 30 June 2023	2023/24 1 Quarter Estimate Operational Boundary	2023/24 1 Quarter Estimate Authorised Limit	Compliance? Yes/No
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Borrowing	160,996	312,000	322,000	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	193,787	196,500	201,500	Yes
Total Debt	354,782	508,500	533,500	

Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Financing Cost/Net Revenue Stream	2022/23 Actual £'000	2023/24 Forecast £'000	2024/25 Budget £'000	2025/26 Budget £'000
Financing costs (£m)	24,124	32,609	38,417	40,953
Proportion of net revenue stream	8.81%	11.91%	14.03%	14.95%

Treasury Management Quarter 1 Review 2023/24



Treasury Management Ex Review Quarter 1 2023/24				
	Impact	Likelihood	Duration	Comment
Equality Characteristics				
Age	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	The report considers the performance of the Treasury Management function (within Finance) for quarter 1 2023/24 and as such, in isolation has no direct impact on Equality
Disability	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Gender reassignment	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Marriage and civil partnership	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Pregnancy and maternity	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Race	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Religion or belief	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Sex	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Sexual orientation	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Corporate Priorities				
Safeguarding	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	The report considers the performance of the Treasury Management function (within Finance) for quarter 1 2023/24 and as such, in isolation has no direct impact on Corporate Priorities
Ex-service personnel	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Income	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Residents first	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Place-based working	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Digitisation	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Preventative approach	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Future Oldham Aims				
Education	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	The report considers the performance of the Treasury Management function (within Finance) for quarter 1 2023/24 and as such, in isolation has no direct impact on Future Oldham Aims
Work	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Transport	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Homes	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Healthy and safe	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Clean and green	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Community and leisure	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above
Pride and cohesion	Neutral	Possible	Short Term	As Above

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Report to Council

Annual Report of the Audit Committee to Council

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Report Author: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Contact: anne.ryans@oldham.gov.uk

1 November 2023

Reason for Decision

The Council's Audit Committee is a key component of this Authority's governance framework. Its function is to provide an independent review and assurance role to support good governance and sound public financial management. There is a requirement for the Audit Committee to report to Council each year to advise of the work it has undertaken and this report meets that requirement. This report has been prepared for full Council to advise of the work undertaken by the Committee in the financial year 2022/23 and for Council to note the views of the Committee on internal control.

Executive Summary

To discharge its role, the Audit Committee met on eight separate occasions during the municipal year 2022/23 undertaking the work detailed in Appendix 1 of this report. During 2022/23 it was possible to recruit an Independent Chair for the Audit Committee who commenced in the role on 1 March 2023.

The Committee's work programme was built around its responsibilities for corporate governance, internal audit, external audit, risk management, fraud and corruption, Treasury Management, Information Governance and the review of the annual Statement of Accounts. This report summarises the work undertaken by key programme area for the financial year 2022/23.

This report is to inform Council of the work of the Audit Committee in the last financial year and to note the observations of the Committee on the standard of corporate governance, internal control, the production of the Statement of Accounts, risk management, information governance and internal audit in 2022/23.

Recommendation

That Council accepts the Annual Report of the Audit Committee.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Audit Committee is a key component of this Authority's governance framework. Its function is to provide an independent review and assurance role to support good governance and sound public financial management.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Committee is to provide, to those charged with governance, independent assurance on the adequacy of the internal control environment / governance processes, integrity of financial reporting and adequacy of the risk and information management framework.
- 1.3 To discharge its role, the Audit Committee met on eight separate occasions during the municipal year 2022/23 undertaking the work detailed in Appendix 1 of this report. During 2022/23 it was possible to recruit an Independent Chair to the Audit Committee who commenced in the role on 1 March 2023.
- 1.4 There is a requirement for the Audit Committee to report to Council each year to advise of the work it has undertaken and this report meets that requirement. This report has been prepared for full Council to advise of the work undertaken by the Committee in the financial year 2022/23 and for Council to note the views of the Committee on internal control.

2 Work Programme in 2022/23

- 2.1 The Committee's work programme was built around its responsibilities for corporate governance, internal audit, external audit, risk management, fraud and corruption, Treasury Management, Information Governance, and the review of the annual Statement of Accounts.
- 2.2 Appendix 1 outlines the work undertaken in each of the key areas of responsibility and Council is requested consider and accept the information provided on the work of the Audit Committee.

3 Options

- 3.1 There are two options as follows:
 - a) Accept the Annual Report of the Audit Committee to Council .
 - b) Reject the Annual Report of the Audit Committee to Council and request an alternative style of report.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option (a) at 3.1 is the preferred option, that the Annual Report of the Audit Committee to Council is accepted by Council.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 There has been consultation with the Audit Committee on the preparation of this report. Information for inclusion in the Annual Report was considered at the Committee meeting on 20 July 2023 with a draft report presented for approval on 5 September 2023.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The Annual Report of the Audit Committee to Council has been prepared to support the Council in its delivery of the cooperative agenda.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no specific human resources implications.

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 The Council is required to prepare an Annual Report on the operation of its Audit Committee. The report does not identify any specific risks to bring to the attention of full Council.

11 IT Implications

11.1 There are no specific IT implications.

12 Property Implications

12.1 There are no specific property implications.

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no specific procurement implications.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 There are no specific Environmental and Health & Safety Implications.

15 Community cohesion disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

15.1 There is no specific community cohesion disorder implications.

16 Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including impact on Children and Young People)

16.1 N/A.

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:

File Ref: Reports to the Audit Committee of:

a) 20 July 2023 – Item 10
Self-Assessment of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee during the 2022/23 compared to the Constitution 2023/24 (link below)

[5. Self Assessment of the work undertaken by the AC during 2022-23 compared to the constitution.pdf \(oldham.gov.uk\)](#)

b) 5 September 2023 – Item 12
Annual Report of the Audit Committee to Council (link below)
[6. Audit Committee Annual Report.pdf \(oldham.gov.uk\)](#)

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Contact: anne.ryans@oldham.gov.uk

20 Appendices

20.1 Appendix 1 - Annual Report to Council on the Work of the Council's Audit Committee during 2022/23.

OLDHAM COUNCIL

Annual Report to Council on the Work of the Council's Audit Committee during 2022/23

1 November 2023

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Audit Committee is a key component of this Authority's governance framework. Its function is to provide an independent review and assurance role to support good governance and sound public financial management.
- 1.2 The purpose of the Committee is to provide, to those charged with governance, independent assurance on the adequacy of the internal control environment / governance processes, integrity of financial reporting and adequacy of the risk and information management framework.
- 1.3 To discharge its role, the Audit Committee met on eight separate occasions during the municipal year 2022/23 undertaking the work detailed in Section 2 of this report. During 2022/23 it was also possible to recruit an independent chair to the Audit Committee who commenced in the role on 1 March 2023. Committee attendance throughout the 2022/23 municipal year is shown at Annex A to this report.

2 Work Programme in 2022/23

- 2.1 The Committee's work programme was built around its responsibilities for corporate governance, internal audit, external audit, risk management, fraud and corruption, Treasury Management, Information Governance, and the review of the annual Statement of Accounts. Annex B to this report sets out the Committee's full Work Programme's for 2022/23 (Annex B (1)) and 2023/24 (to date) (Annex B(2)).
- 2.2 The paragraphs below outline the work undertaken in each of the key areas of responsibility.

Statement of Accounts

- 2.2.1 The Council produced its draft Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2021/22 in advance of the statutory deadline for submission to the External Auditor and the accounts were considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 21 June 2022. Whilst not a statutory requirement for the Audit Committee to review the draft Statement of Accounts it is considered good practice that appropriate scrutiny occurs at this stage. It provides Members with the opportunity to ask detailed questions and seek assurances before the accounts are finalised.
- 2.2.2 To support the review of the Accounts, the 9 June 2022 meeting considered the responses of the Director of Finance to key questions asked by the External Auditor, on the preparing of the accounts and the control environment. At this same meeting, the Committee agreed its own response to the External Auditor on these matters.
- 2.2.3 The challenges of local public audit within local government have been well documented in the press and subject to review by both the Public Accounts Committee and the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee. The approval of the 2021/22 accounts could not be concluded in 2022/23. The initial reason for this was the audit could not be concluded until a statutory override was in place in relation to the valuation of infrastructure assets. The statutory instrument was not enacted until 25 December 2022, and so the audit opinion could not be achieved by the statutory deadline of 30 November 2022.

- 2.2.4 Whilst the infrastructure asset issue was being resolved from an audit perspective, an added issue which delayed the audit opinion was linked into the triennial valuation of the Greater Manchester Pension Fund which, for Oldham, had a material impact. As such it was not possible for the Committee to approve the accounts which will now be approved in the financial year 2023/24. The Committee received updates on the progress of the audit at every subsequent meeting in 2022/23 and this has continued into 2023/24.

Audit Completion Report

- 2.2.5 At its meeting on 28 March 2023 the Audit Committee considered the Draft Audit Completion Report produced by the External Auditor to the Council (Mazars LLP) which set out the draft findings of the 2021/22 audit of the draft Statement of Accounts (only the pensions issue detailed in paragraph 2.2.4 remained outstanding). Overall, the findings of the External Auditor continue to be positive including the value for money judgement as per previous financial years, reflecting the good practice adopted by Oldham in preparing its accounts and in its stewardship of public funds.

Reserves Policy

- 2.2.6 Linked into the approval of the Final Accounts and the ongoing financial resilience of the Council, the Audit Committee reviewed the proposed Reserves Policy at its meeting on 21 June 2022 alongside the draft Statement of Accounts. The Audit Committee considered that the Reserves Policy was appropriate based upon the 2021/22 Accounts.

Annual Governance Statement and Local Code of Corporate Governance

- 2.2.7 The main purpose of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) is to provide the necessary assurance that a reliable framework is in place for the financial year that aligns to the Statement of Accounts. A separate report on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 was presented alongside the draft Statement of Accounts at the meeting on 21 June 2022. Throughout the municipal year regular updates were submitted to the Committee outlining the progress made on the key issues for improvement that had been identified and whether there were further issues to inform the production of the AGS for 2022/23. The Annual Governance Statement complies with the framework set out in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (CIPFA/SOLACE) guidance. The conclusion supported by the work of the External Auditor was that the statement meets the requirement set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE guidance.
- 2.2.8 The Committee also reviewed the Local Code of Corporate Governance at its meeting on 9 June 2022. It is considered good practice to review the Code as a minimum every two years.

Partnership Governance

- 2.2.9 An emerging challenge for all Councils to consider is whether they have appropriate oversight from a governance perspective over the partnerships in which they have a financial and operational interest. There have been several matters reported in the public domain which has highlighted that in other public bodies those charged with the provision of this oversight have not fully understood the risk. The Audit Committee therefore considered reports on 21 July 2022 and 29 November 2022 on the wider risks from all entities in which the Council had an interest. The view was that at present there were no significant concerns about the partnerships operated by the Council.

- 2.2.10 The Audit Committee at its meeting on 1 November 2022 considered a report outlining the potential risks which could arise as the Northern Roots (Oldham) Charitable Company continued to develop. The Committee recognised that as the Company expanded it had the potential to change the Council's current risk profile on partnerships. Going forward the Committee recognises the need to provide appropriate oversight in this area and the need to work with the scrutiny function to provide oversight.

Internal Audit and Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor

- 2.2.11 The Internal Audit service was provided in-house during 2022/22 with specialist support from Salford City Council for computer audit. The Committee received regular updates on the progress against the Internal Audit Plan and an update to the Audit Charter at its meetings on 9 June 2022 and on 28 March 2023. At its meeting on 21 July 2022, it reviewed the system of internal audit for the financial year 2021/22 in line with good practice. In accordance with expected professional standards, which requires a review of the Internal Audit Service every five years, CIPFA was commissioned to undertake an External Quality Assurance review which was completed in March 2023. This reviewed whether Internal Audit Practices adopted by the Service in Oldham conformed with the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standard. The outcome, which was reported in the municipal year 2023/24 was that the Service "Generally Conforms to the Standard". As such the work undertaken by internal audit is in line with best practice as "Generally Conforms to the Standard" is the highest rating.
- 2.2.12 At the meeting which considered the draft Statement of Accounts on 21 June 2022, the Audit Committee considered the Annual Report of the Head of Audit. This highlighted that the overall control environment was adequate. The report did however highlight the challenges associated with the internal control environment in Adult Social Care and Payroll Processing.

Treasury Management

- 2.2.13 Recent corporate failings of other Local Authorities reported in the public domain have identified the importance of appropriate independent scrutiny of Treasury Management which is therefore a key task of the Audit Committee. The meetings of the Audit Committee were timetabled so that it could provide this scrutiny before key Treasury Management reports were approved by Cabinet and subsequently by Council.

Senior Information Risk Owner (SIRO)/ Information Governance

- 2.2.14 Another key role in the Governance Framework is the SIRO who considers the Council's risks in relation to information governance and when information is disclosed, often inadvertently, to an individual who has no right to access that data. This role is undertaken by the Director of Finance who submits a half yearly report to the Audit Committee detailing breaches. The Council is one of a small minority of Council's that prepare such a report, which is considered best practice.

Risk Management

- 2.2.15 The Audit Committee reviewed the Council's risk management arrangements during the year. Effective risk management can have a major impact on the successful achievement of the objectives, policies, and strategies of the Authority. In particular, the Audit Committee concentrated on reviewing the Corporate Risk Register. No significant concerns were highlighted from the review.

3 Summary

- 3.1 The report highlights the work of the Committee during 2022/23 and shows that it has discharged its duties in accordance with requirements. The detailed work programme for 2022/23 and that agreed for 2023/24 can give Council assurance that the Committee is effective and working to its terms of reference.

Annex A

Member Attendance at Audit Committee Municipal Year 2022/23	Meetings Attended								Total Attendance
	09/06/22	21/06/22	21/07/22	08/09/22	01/11/22	29/11/22	16/01/23	28/03/23	Actual / Possible
Cllr Ahmad		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 / 8
Cllr Alyas	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y			5 / 8
Cllr Arnott	Y		Y						2 / 8
Cllr Ball	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	8 / 8
Cllr C Gloster		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	7 / 8
Cllr Hulme									0 / 8
Cllr Iqbal	Y	Y	Y				Y		4 / 8
Cllr Islam (Vice-Chair)	Y	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	6 / 8
Cllr Kenyon (Substitute)									0 / 8
Cllr Lancaster (Substitute)									0 / 8
Mr. Page (Independent Chair appointed in year)								Y	1 / 1
Cllr Salamat	Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		6 / 8

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year

Annex B(1)

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
Thursday 9 June 2022 at 6.00 pm	SIRO Annual Report 2021/22	This is the Annual Report of Senior Information Responsible Officer to the Audit Committee.
	Audit of Housing Benefit Subsidy 2020/21	This is the reported outcome of the audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant undertaken by KPMG in relation to the 2020/21 financial year.
	Director of Finance – Charged with Governance, Management Processes and Arrangements.	The draft response of the Director of Finance to provide key assurances to support the Audit Process which are then discussed by the Committee.
	Audit Committee Chair – Charged with Governance, Management Processes and Arrangements.	The draft response of the Audit Committee Chair to provided key assurances to support the Audit Process which are then discussed by the Committee.
	Local Code of Corporate Governance	This is an update to the previously agreed Local Code of Corporate Governance.
	Internal Audit Charter 2022/23	This is the annual update to the Internal Audit Charter for discussion at the Audit Committee.
	Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report.	An update report on the progress made by the Internal Audit Service.
	Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 6.00 pm	2021/22 Annual Report to Audit Committee
Draft 2021/22 Annual Statement of Accounts		This is the report to the Audit Committee on the draft Statement of Accounts which also details the provisional out-turn for the financial year 2021/22.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Reserves Policy for 2021/22 to 2022/23	This is the annual update to the Reserves Policy considering the provisional out-turn for the financial year 2021/22.
	Treasury Management Review 2021/22	The annual review of Treasury Management for 2021/22 by the Audit Committee.
	Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22	The detailed review of the Annual Governance Statement by the Audit Committee.
Thursday 21 July 2022, 6.00pm.	Update on External Audit Matters	An update if required, on national developments linked into the ongoing developments and consultations on the provision of external audit to Local Government Bodies
	2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts.	This report provides an update on the 2021/22 draft Statement of Accounts and associated issues arising from the fieldwork from the current external audit which is ongoing.
	The 2021/22 Review of the System of Internal Audit	Annual Review of the system of internal audit using the balanced scorecard.
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23	This report detailing the proposed work programme for 2022/23 including actions required to support the approval of the 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts.
	Private Report; Partnership Risk Dashboard	This is the regular report produced for the Committee to assess the ongoing risk to the Council from its key partnerships.
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and new issues for 2022/23	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
		Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.
Thursday 8 September 2022, 6.00 pm	Update on External Audit Matters	An update produced by the External Auditor of issues to be brought to the attention of this Committee.
	2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts	This report provides an update on the 2021/22 draft Statement of Accounts and associated issues arising from the external audit. It will detail the consultation outcome on Infrastructure Assets and the potential impact on the Council.
	Update on Financial Administration in Local Authorities	A report detailing challenges experienced in the financial administration at other local authorities including Section 114 Notices issued as reported in the public domain.
	Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report including significant issues highlighted on internal control	This is the routine report on the progress made against the agreed audit and counter fraud plan detailing any control weaknesses identified. Item not considered as meeting finished early
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for 2022/23	This report detailing the proposed work programme for 2022/23 including actions required to support the approval of the 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts. Item not considered as meeting finished early
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and new issues for 2022/23	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
		Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee. Item not considered as meeting finished early
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	This sets out the position as of 30 June 2022 in relation to matters included on the Corporate Risk Register. Item not considered as meeting finished early
	Private Report; Potential Risks to the Council arising from the setting up of Northern Roots (Oldham) Limited	This report sets out the analysis of risk to the Council from the Charitable Company Northern Roots (Oldham) Limited. Item not considered as meeting finished early
Tuesday 1 November 2022, 6.00pm	External Audit Progress Report	An update produced by the External Auditor of issues to be brought to the attention of this Committee.
	2021/22 Annual Statement of Accounts	This report provides an update on the 2021/22 draft Statement of Accounts and associated issues arising from the external audit. It will detail the consultation outcome on Infrastructure Assets and the potential impact on the Council.
	Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2022/23	The planned scrutiny of the 2021/22 Treasury Management Mid-Year review before submission to Cabinet in November.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Update on General Matters	This is an update on Regulatory developments to inform the Audit Committee in support of its Governance role.
	Annual Governance Statement 2021/22	This report details the proposed Final Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22.
	2022/23 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report including significant issues highlighted on internal control	This is the routine report on the progress made against the agreed audit and counter fraud plan detailing any control weaknesses identified.
	Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for 2022/23	This report detailing the proposed work programme to support the approval of the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts.
	Private Report; Appointment of External Auditor 2023/24 until 2027/28	This report details the proposed appointment of the External Auditor following the Public Sector Audit Appointments Procurement Exercise.
	Private Report; Potential Risks to the Council arising from the setting up of Northern Roots (Oldham) Limited	This report sets out the analysis of risk to the Council from the Charitable Company Northern Roots (Oldham) Limited.
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and new issues for 2022/23	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
Tuesday 29 November 2022, 6.00 pm.	External Audit Update Report	The report presents an update on the progress of the external audit into the 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts.
	2021/22 Annual Statement of Accounts	This report provides an update on the progress of the audit on the 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts.
	Review of Corporate Fraud Policies	A review of the updated Counter Fraud suite of policies to reflect recent legislation.
	The Financial Reporting Council (FRC) 2022 reports	This report updates the Committee on the transition of the FRC to the Auditing Reporting and Governance Authority. It also details the findings from the Quality Review of Local Authority and National Health Service audits undertaken across the public sector in the calendar year 2022.
	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Audit Committee Guidance Documents	This report sets out the updated guidance issued by CIPFA in respect of the best practice to follow in operating an Audit Committee.
	Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for 2022/23	This report detailing the proposed work programme to support the approval of the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	This sets out the position as of 30 September 2022 in relation to matters included on the Corporate Risk Register.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Private Report; Senior Information Risk Owner update	This updates the Audit Committee on the key matters relating to data protection and information security breaches.
Monday 16 January 2022, 6.00 pm	External Audit Progress Report	An update produced by the External Auditor of issues to be brought to the attention of the Committee.
	Public Sector Audit Appointments – confirmation of Mazars LLP as the Council's external auditor for 2023/24 to 2027/28.	This report confirms the appointment of Mazars LLP as the Council's external auditor following the procurement exercise they undertook.
	External Audit of Teachers' Pensions Agency Return 2021/22	This report considers the feedback following the external audit of the Teachers' Pension Agency return.
	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24	This report sets out the Proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 to support the Corporate Objectives of the Council.
	Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report including significant issues highlighted on internal control	This is the routine report on the progress made against the agreed Audit and Counter Fraud plan detailing any control weaknesses identified.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for the remainder of 2022/23 and the 2023/24 financial year	This report detailing the proposed work programme to support the approval of the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts.
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and new issues	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement, the Corporate Risk Register and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.
	Private Report; Potential Risks Associated with Council's setting up a Housing Company	This follows on from the 21 July 2022 report on Partnership Governance whereby the Committee requested a report on the perceived risks associated with setting up a Housing Company within Oldham.
	Private Report; Partnership Risk Dashboard	This is the regular update requested by the Committee on partnership governance considering potential issues identified on governance elsewhere.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	This sets out the position as of 30 September 2022 in relation to matters included on the Corporate Risk Register.
Tuesday 28 March 2023, 6.00 pm		
	Audit Completion Report 2021/22	Update on the progress of the preparation of the Audit Completion Report for 2021/22

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Final Accounts Update 2021/22	Update on the progress of the audit of the 2021/22 accounts and related matters
	2022/23 Final Accounts – Proposed Accounting Policies and Critical Judgements	In line with best practice, approval is sought for the significant accounting policies and critical judgements to be adopted in preparation for the completion of the 2022/23 Statement of Accounts
	External Audit of Housing Benefit Subsidy claim 2021/22	This report considers the feedback on the external audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant claim.
	Internal Audit Charter 2023/24	An updated Internal Audit Charter for the financial year 2023/24
	Updated Audit Committee Work Programme	An updated programme completing the work for the 2022/23 financial year and setting out some key issues for 2023/24
	Private Report; Internal Audit Plan 2023/24	The proposed plan of work for the financial year 2023/24 to enable review by the Committee.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	An update on the Corporate Risk Register at quarter 3 2022/23
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2021/22 and new issues	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement, the Corporate Risk Register and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2022/23 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
Reports for consideration during 2023/24		
	Compliance with the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Financial Management	This report details the assessment within Oldham Council on how it complies with the CIPFA Code of Financial Management with appropriate recommendations for improvement.
	External Audit Completion Report and Final Statement of Accounts 2021/22	The report details the findings of the external audit into the 2021/22 Statement of Final Accounts
	External Audit Completion Certificate for the 2020/21 Accounts	The final audit certificate is anticipated to be issued following the implementation of the agreed accounting treatment for Infrastructure Assets and the conclusion of the Whole of Government Accounts audit.
	Internal Control Matters for Adult Social Care	This is the report to Committee on Internal Control Matters within the Adult Social Care Service.
	Review of the System of Internal Audit by the Audit Committee	An annual review of the Internal Audit Service
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 and new issues for 2023/243	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year

Annex B(2)

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
Thursday 8 June 2023 at 6.00 pm	Audit Committee Chair – Charged with Governance, Management Processes and Arrangements.	The draft response of the Audit Committee Chair to provide key assurances to support the Audit Process which are then discussed by the Committee.
	Director of Finance – Charged with Governance, Management Processes and Arrangements.	The draft response of the Director of Finance to provide key assurances to support the Audit Process which are then discussed by the Committee.
	Update on Key Developments within the remit of the Committee.	This report provides an update on matters pertinent to this Committee including an update on the final accounts, developments linked into the future oversight of local audit and planned training for the Committee.
	Local Code of Corporate Governance	This is an update to the previously agreed Local Code of Corporate Governance.
	Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report on 2022/23	An update report on the progress made by the Internal Audit Service.
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for 2023/24	This report detailing the proposed work programme for 2023/24 including actions required to support the approval of the Statement of Final Accounts which are not yet closed.
	Private Report; Partnership Risk Dashboard	This is the regular report produced for the Committee to assess the ongoing risk to the Council from its key partnerships.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Private Report, Senior Information Risk Owner Update	An update report by the Senior Information Risk Owner of key developments in Information Governance impacting on Oldham Council.
Tuesday 27 June 2023 at 6.00 pm	Update on External Audit Matters	An update if required, on national developments linked into the on-going developments and consultations on the provision of external audit to Local Government Bodies.
	2022/23 Annual Report to Audit Committee	This is the Annual Report of the Chief Internal Auditor on the overall Internal Control Environment of the Council for the financial year 2022/23.
	Draft 2022/23 Annual Statement of Accounts	This is the report to the Audit Committee on the draft Statement of Accounts which also details the outturn for the financial year 2022/23.
	Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23	The detailed review of the Draft Annual Governance Statement by the Audit Committee in advance of the Statement of Final Accounts.
	Reserves Policy for 2022/23 to 2023/24	This is the annual update to the Reserves Policy considering the provisional out-turn for the financial year 2022/23.
	Treasury Management Review 2022/23	The annual review of Treasury Management for 2022/23 by the Audit Committee.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Feedback on the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Review of the Internal Audit Service	This is the feedback to the Committee of the review undertaken of the Internal Audit Service and whether its working practices comply with International Auditing Standards.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	A report on the Corporate Risk Register as at 31 March 2023.
Thursday 20 July 2023, 6.00pm.	Audit Strategy Memorandum	This report sets out the proposed approach from the External Auditor to audit the 2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts.
	Internal Control Matters for Adult Social Care	This is the report to Committee on Internal Control Matters within the Adult Social Care Service.
	Update on General Matters	A report detailing the feedback from Best Value Inspectors at failing Authorities, a key report produced by the Public Accounts Committee, the requirement placed on the Accountable Officer for key capital grant programmes and the creation of the Office for Local Government.
	Self-Assessment of the work undertaken by the Audit Committee during 2022/23 compared to the Constitution.	The first stage in the production of an Annual Report which is a requirement of recently issued guidance on best practice for Audit Committees is to undertake an assessment of how the responsibilities set out in the Terms of Reference have been discharged.
	Proposed Revisions to Finance Procedure Rules	This report sets out some proposed revisions to the Finance Procedure Rules which are to be recommended to Council.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Amendments to Contract Procedure Rules and Proposed Future Revisions.	This report sets out the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules as reported to Council on 12 July 2023 and some further revisions proposed by the Director of Finance.
	Internal Audit Progress Report	A report on the progress made against the agreed Internal Audit Plan.
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2023/24	A report detailing the proposed work programme for 2023/24 including actions required to support the approval of the Statement of Final Accounts which are not yet closed.
	Private Report; Update on the Risk Management Strategy and Framework and the Corporate Risk Register for 2023/24	A report on the Risk Management Strategy and Framework and the Corporate Risk Register as at 30 June 2023.
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 and new issues for 2023/24	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.
Tuesday 5 September 2023, 6.00 pm	Update on External Audit Matters	An update produced by the External Auditor of issues to be brought to the attention of this Committee.
	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Quarter 1 – June 2023	As requested by the Audit Committee reports detailing the in-year financial position including the projected outturn as also reported to Cabinet and the Scrutiny Board.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Treasury Management Update Quarter 1 Monitoring Report	A new requirement for the financial year 2023/24 is for a Treasury Management update report to be produced on a quarterly basis. As the role of the Committee is to scrutinise treasury management arrangements and then make recommendations to Cabinet, then this report is on the agenda to facilitate consideration by Cabinet in September.
	Compliance with the CIPFA Code of Financial Management	This report details the assessment within Oldham Council on how it complies with the CIPFA Code of Financial Management with appropriate recommendations for improvement.
	Oldham Council Loans Policy and amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Audit Committee	This report is to inform the Audit Committee of the proposed Loans Policy to be adopted by the Council. It is also proposed to recommend a small change to the Audit Committees Terms of Reference.
	The draft Annual Report of the Audit Committee	This report is in line with the best practice issued by CIPFA in respect of operating an Audit Committee.
	Update on General Matters	This will update the Committee on current matters of interest.
	Future Oversight of Council Companies and Partnerships	This report sets out a proposed process for the Audit Committee to review key Council Companies and Partnerships during 2023/24.
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for 2023/24	This report detailing the proposed work programme for 2023/24 including actions required to support the approval of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 and new issues for 2023/24	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and Strategic Financial Management highlights to the Audit Committee.
Tuesday 31 October 2023, 6.00 pm	External Audit Progress Report	An update produced by the External Auditor of issues to be brought to the attention of this Committee.
	Revised 2021/22 Audit Completion Report	This report details the revised Audit Completion report on completion of the audit.
	2022/23 Statement of Final Accounts	This report provides an update on the 2022/23 draft Statement of Accounts and associated issues arising from the external audit.
	Treasury Management Mid-Year Review 2023/24	The planned scrutiny of the 2023/24 Treasury Management Mid-Year review before submission to Cabinet in November.
	Update on General Matters	This is an update on regulatory developments to inform the Audit Committee in support of its Governance role.
	Internal Audit Progress Report 2023/24	This is the routine report on the progress made against the agreed audit and counter fraud plan detailing any control weaknesses identified.
	Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for 2023/24	This report detailing the proposed work programme for 2023/24 including actions required to support the approval of the 2023/24 Statement of Final Accounts.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 and new issues for 2023/24	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement and ad hoc matters to be highlighted to the Audit Committee.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	This sets out the position as of 30 September 2023 in relation to matters included on the Corporate Risk Register.
	Private Report; Senior Information Risk Owner update	This updates the Audit Committee on the key matters relating to data protection and information security breaches
Monday 15 January 2024, 6.00 pm	External Audit Progress Report	An update produced by the External Auditor of issues to be brought to the attention of the Committee.
	External Audit of Teachers' Pensions Agency Return 2022/23	This report considers the feedback following the external audit of the Teachers' Pension Agency return.
	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Quarter 2 – September 2023	The second formal report on the expected financial outturn for the financial year 2023/24.
	Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2023/24	This report sets out the proposed Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 to support the Corporate Objectives of the Council.
	Internal Control Matters; Payroll	This is the report to Committee on Internal Control Matters within the administration of payroll.
	Internal Control Matters: Adult Social Care	This is the report to Committee on Internal Control Matters within the Adult Social Care Service – a follow up to the report presented to the Committee on 20 July 2023.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Audit and Counter Fraud Progress Report including significant issues highlighted on internal control	This is the routine report on the progress made against the agreed Audit and Counter Fraud plan detailing any control weaknesses identified.
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for the remainder of 2023/24 and the 2024/25 financial year	This report detailing the proposed work programme for 2023/24 including actions required to support the approval of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 and new issues	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement, the Corporate Risk Register and ad hoc matters to be highlighted to the Audit Committee.
	Private Report; Review of Council Owned Companies and Partnerships	This is the outcome of the review of the Councils working arrangements with Council owned companies and partnerships compared to best practice.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	This sets out the position as of 31 December 2023 in relation to matters included on the Corporate Risk Register.
Tuesday 6 March 2024, 6.00 pm	2022/23 Annual Statement of Accounts – Update (if required)	Update on the progress of the audit of the 2022/23 accounts and related matters.
	2023/24 Final Accounts – Proposed Accounting Policies and Critical Judgements	In line with best practice, approval is sought for the significant accounting policies and critical judgements to be adopted in preparation for the completion of the 2023/24 Statement of Accounts.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Housing Benefit Subsidy Audit 2022/23	This report considers the feedback on the external audit of the Housing Benefit Subsidy Grant claim.
	Financial and Capital Monitor Report for month 9	The final formal report on the expected budget outturn for the financial year 2023/24.
	Internal Audit Charter 2024/25	An updated Internal Audit Charter for the financial year 2024/25.
	Update on General Matters	This is an update on regulatory developments to inform the Audit Committee in support of its Governance role.
	Report on the use of exemptions to Contract Procedure Rules and direct award of contracts during the financial year 2023/24	Reporting on these issues was requested by the Audit Committee when it considered the revisions to the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules at its meeting on 20 July 2023
	Proposed Audit Committee Work Programme for the remainder of 2023/24 and the future 2024/25 financial year	This report detailing the proposed work programme for the remainder of 2023/24 including actions required to support the approval of the Statement of Accounts and setting out the future plan of work for 2024/25.
	Private Report; 2024/25 Internal Audit and Counter Fraud Plan	The proposed plan of work for the financial year 2024/25 to enable review by the Committee.
	Private Report; Update on the Corporate Risk Register	An update on the Corporate Risk Register as of 31 December 2023 to include issues during the period to March 2024.

Updated Audit Committee Work Programme for the 2023/24 Municipal Year		
Meeting Date & Venue	Agenda Item	Summary of Report Issue
	Private Report; Update on the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23 and new issues	This updates the Audit Committee on key matters included within the Annual Governance Statement, the Corporate Risk Register and ad hoc matters to be highlighted to the Audit Committee.

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Report to Council

Amendment to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources

Officer Contact: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Report Author: Anne Ryans, Director of Finance

Contact: anne.ryans@oldham.gov.uk

1 November 2023

Reason for Decision

It is considered appropriate to amend the current Audit Committee Terms of Reference to replace reference to the Standards Committee with Scrutiny Boards.

Executive Summary

A discussion took place at the Audit Committee meeting on 20 July 2023 when Members considered a report on how the Committee had discharged its duties in accordance with its Terms of Reference as set out in the Constitution. During the scrutiny process, it was suggested that within the Terms of Reference, the wording at 4.4.2(d)(iv) be amended so the Audit Committee liaises with the Scrutiny Boards on any matter(s) relating to the effective operation of the Council. This proposal was endorsed following a report on the matter to the Audit Committee on 5 September 2023.

This report presents the proposed change to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference to Council for approval

Recommendation

That the Council approves the proposed change in the Audit Committee Terms of Reference as set out in this report to Council.

1 Background

1.1 A discussion took place at the Audit Committee meeting on 20 July 2023 when Members considered a report on how the Committee had discharged its duties in accordance with its Terms of Reference as set out in the Constitution. During the scrutiny process, it was suggested that within the Terms of Reference, the wording at 4.4.2(d)(iv) be amended so the Audit Committee liaises with the Scrutiny Boards. This proposal was endorsed following a report on the matter to the Audit Committee on 5 September 2023.

2 Proposed Change to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference

2.1 There is one recommended change to the Audit Committees Terms of Reference as detailed in Appendix 1. This was presented for approval, and accepted, at the last meeting of the Audit Committee when Members considered a report on the matter. This report was prepared following on from a discussion at the previous meeting (20 July 2023) when Members considered a report on how the Committee had discharged its duties in accordance with its Terms of Reference as set out in the Constitution. During the scrutiny process, it was suggested that within the Terms of Reference, the wording at 4.4.2(d)(iv) be amended so the Audit Committee liaises with the Scrutiny Boards on any matter(s) relating to the effective operation of the Council.

2.2 This report presents the proposed change to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference to Council for approval.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 There are three options as follows:

- a) Accept the proposed change to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference.
- b) Reject the proposed change to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference.
- c) Propose an alternative approach to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 Option (a) at 3.1 is the preferred option, that the proposed change to the Audit Committee Terms of Reference is accepted.

5 Consultation

5.1 There has been consultation with and agreement from the Audit Committee on the proposed change to the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The amended Terms of Reference supports the Council in its delivery of the cooperative agenda.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no specific human resources implications arising from the report.

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 There are no specific risk issues arising from this report.

11 IT Implications

11.1 There are no specific IT implications arising from the report.

12 Property Implications

12.1 There are no specific property implications arising from the report.

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no specific procurement implications arising from the report.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 There are no environmental and health & safety implications arising from the report.

15 Community Cohesion Disorder Implications in Accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

15.1 There are no specific community cohesion disorder implications arising from the report.

16 Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including Impact on Children and Young People)

16.1 N/A

17 Key Decision Reference

17.1 N/A

18 Background Papers

18.1 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 contained in Appendix 1
Officer Name: Anne Ryans
Contact No: 0161 770 4902

19 Appendices

19.1 Appendix 1: Amendment to Section 4.2.2 of the Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Amendment to Audit Committee - Terms of Reference

4.4.1 The Audit Committee will undertake the following Council (or 'non-executive') function as defined in Schedule 1 to the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) Regulations 2000 (as amended) –

a) Duty to approve the authority's statement of accounts, income and expenditure and balance sheet, or record of payments and receipts (as the case may be).

4.4.2 The Audit Committee shall, having regard to the CIPFA 'audit committee' guidance. In this regard it will:–

a) be responsible for oversight of the Council's Internal Audit arrangements and will;

(i) approve the Internal Audit Charter, the Annual Audit Plan and performance criteria for the Internal Audit Service;

(ii) review summary findings and the main issues arising from internal audit reports and seek assurance that management action has been taken where necessary;

(iii) review and agree any improvements to the effectiveness of the antifraud and corruption arrangements throughout the authority;

(iv) consider the annual report from the Chief Internal Auditor;

(v) review the activities, processes and procedures of the Council having regard to the demonstration of an economic, efficient and effective use of resources and the delivery of Value for Money to Council Tax payers; and

(vi) review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Audit on an annual basis as per statutory requirements and the outcome of the review of compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.

(vii) Oversee the implementation of any recommended improvements where appropriate

b) be responsible for oversight of the Council's relationship with the External Auditor, including consideration of

- (i) the External Audit Plan of Work;
- (ii) the external auditor's Audit Completion Report;
- (iii) relevant reports issued by the External Auditor (with the exception of Public Interest reports and Statutory Recommendation reports made under Section 24 Schedule 7 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014); and
- (iv) issues arising from the audit of the Annual Statement of Accounts.
- (v) Independent reviews undertaken by the Financial Reporting Council

c) review Financial Procedure Rules and Contract Procedure Rules and make recommendations to the Council as to any changes considered necessary to those documents and procedures.

d) undertake the following activities in respect of corporate governance –

- (i) approve the local code of corporate governance;
- (ii) assess the effectiveness of the authority's corporate governance arrangements;
- (iii) review the Annual Governance Statement and the progress made by the Council to address issues identified as risks when the financial statements are prepared;
- (iv) liaise, as necessary, with the [Scrutiny Boards](#) on any matter(s) relating to the [effective operation of the Council](#);
- (v) review Partnership and Project Governance within the Council;
- (vi) monitor compliance with data protection legislation;
- (vii) review the annual Treasury Management Strategy and policies and procedures and make recommendations to the responsible body; and
- (viii) review Treasury Management reports and make recommendations to the responsible body including update/changes to procedures.

4.4.3 The Audit Committee shall undertake the following activities in respect of Risk Management –

- a) assess the effectiveness of the Authority's Risk Management arrangements;
- b) review progress on the implementation of Risk Management arrangements throughout the authority; and
- c) consider the Corporate Risk Register on a regular basis to review the level of risk being faced by the Authority, review the progress made by the Council to address the risks identified to minimize the financial, operational and reputational impact to the Council
- d) consider the adequacy of resources available to manage the financial impact of a failure in risk management.

4.4.4 The Audit Committee shall undertake the following activities in respect of Information Governance.

- a. Assess the effectiveness of Information Governance policies and procedures
- b. Receive updates on key issues from the Council's Senior Information Risk Owner

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COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

1st November 2023

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Members to note the updates on actions from the previous Council meeting held on 6th September 2023 and meetings in this municipal year.

Executive Summary

This report provides information to the Council on actions taken at the most recent Council meetings.

Recommendations

Council is asked to:

1. Note the report.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 This report sets out the actions that officers have taken on motions approved at the 6th September 2023 Council meeting and informs Members on the response to previous meetings in this municipal year.

2 Current Position

2.1 The current position on actions is set out in the table at Appendix 1.

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 **Community Cohesion including Crime and Disorder Implications in accordance with Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact – including Implications for Children and Young People**
- 16.1 N/A
- 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:
- The agenda and minutes of the Council meetings held on 12 July and 6th September 2023 are available online at:
<http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – Current Position
Appendix 2 Response from Jim McMahon MP
Appendix 3 – Home Office (Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse)

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Appendix 1

Actions from Council – 6th September 2023

ISSUE	WHO RESPONSIBLE	DATE COMPLETED	RESPONSE
<p>Council Motion: Fragility in the Social Care Sector Council resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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. 2. To write to the Department for Health and Social Care to urge them to urgently adopt the delayed reforms to care sector funding and eligibility. 3. To 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. 4. To work with the Integrated Care System across Greater Manchester and the North West, as well as the Association of Directors 	<p>Director of Adult Social Care/Chief Executive</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Letters forwarded to the Secretary of State for health and Social Care – awaiting a reply</p>

Appendix 1

<p>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</p>			
<p>Council Motion: No more Profits over Pollution: Resolved 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</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>A response from Jim McMahon MP is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>An email has been received from the Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP's office to say that the actions are noted and a letter will be sent to the Secretary of State.</p> <p>An email has been received from Debbie Abrahams MP's office to say she will be responding in due course.</p>

Appendix 1

<p>discharges, including increasing fines for discharges and stronger regulatory action including mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets.</p> <p>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</p>			<p>No other replies have been received to date.</p>
<p>Council Motion: Raw Sewage Discharges</p> <p>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</p>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>ongoing</p>	<p>Awaiting a reply to a letter forwarded to the Secretary of State Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs</p>

Appendix 1

to sewage discharges and breaches of monitoring requirements.			
12 July 2023 Council Meeting			
<p>Youth Council Motion – Disposable Vapes Resolved that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Chief Executive, be requested, to write to the Secretary of Health asking that, in the review of regulations related to vaping, that the sale of all disposable e-cigarettes be banned. 2. The Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board convene a Workshop to consider issues relating to vaping. 	Letter forwarded to Secretary of State for Health – 19 th July 2023	Work is ongoing	<p>Awaiting a reply from the Secretary of State for Health.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with officers and members to schedule a scrutiny board workshop</p>
<p>Administration Motion 1 – Oldham Assurance Review – Final Stage Resolved:</p>	Letters forwarded to the Home Secretary, the Borough’s three MP’s and the Mayor of Greater Manchester - 19 th July 2023	Work is ongoing	Reply from the Minister for Safeguarding is attached at Appendix 3

Appendix 1

<p>1. That the Chief Executive writes to the Home Office to request:</p> <p>a. That they accept each of the 20 recommendations made by the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse, and that a plan for implementing each of the recommendations in the current parliament is secured.</p> <p>b. That following the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sex Abuse (CSE) led by Professor Alexis Jay, and Oldham Assurance review into historic safeguarding practices in Oldham, the government will support the final stage assurance review announced by the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the terms of reference of which will include current operational practice across key agencies.</p> <p>2. That the Chief Executive writes to the borough Members of Parliament to request:</p> <p>a. That they make representations to the Home Office supporting the Council's request for the government to accept each of the 20</p>	<p>Chief Executive/Managing Director for Children's Services</p>		
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Appendix 1

<p>recommendations made by the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, and that a plan for implementing each of the recommendations in the current parliament is secured.</p> <p>4. That the Council develop and adopt a Victims and Survivors Charter in consultation with victim and survivor groups outlining the rights and support which will be provided to those affected by child sexual abuse and exploitation, and the requirements placed on officials in administering and investigating reports of abuse, and to secure its adoption by all relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>5. That the Council support further work to raise public awareness among young people in all relevant settings, and with the general public to support prevention, early identification of child sexual abuse and exploitation, and to promote the greater reporting of safeguarding concerns.</p>			
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Appendix 1

<p>6. That the Council develop and adopt a mandatory duty to report safeguarding concerns, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, to be enshrined in the Code of Conduct for elected members, and consult on the duty for officials employed by Oldham Council.</p> <p>7. That Oldham Council will fully support any further investigations that are brought forward into pre-existing cases of child sexual exploitation.</p> <p>8. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester in his capacity as Police and Crime Commissioner overseeing Greater Manchester Police to request:</p> <p>a. Support in the development of a Victims and Survivors Charter, outlining the rights and support which will be provided to those affected by child sexual abuse and exploitation, and the requirements of officials in administering and investigating reports of abuse,</p>			
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Appendix 1

and it's adoption by all relevant statutory authorities. 9. That an update on Operation Sherwood be provided to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board			
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Mr Harry Catherall
Chief Executive, Oldham Council
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

DECS Reference: MIN/0974265/23

15 September 2023

Dear Mr Catherall,

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2023 to the Home Secretary relating to the findings of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse ('the Inquiry'). I am replying as the Minister for Safeguarding.

The Government remains firmly committed to tackling child sexual abuse and doing all that we can to combat this horrific crime. Our approach is underpinned by the Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, published in January 2021, which sets out firm commitments to drive action across every part of government and across all agencies – education, health, social care, law enforcement, industry, and civil society.

The Final Report of the Inquiry marked an important milestone in our collective efforts to tackle child sexual abuse. The Government published its response to the Inquiry's Final Report on 22 May 2023, accepting the need to act on all but one of the Inquiry's recommendations, demonstrating how seriously the Government takes the Inquiry's findings. Each of those recommendations covers an extensive programme of work which will deliver real change for the future.

At the heart of the Government's response lies our resolve to ensure the institutions of the present and future are not like those of the past, and to support victims and survivors. No crime is more horrific than the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and the commitments we have made in the Government response aim to build on the UK's position as a world-leader in tackling child sexual abuse.

The Government response does not represent our final word on the Inquiry's findings, but rather the start of a new chapter. We have existing robust cross-Government governance structures to track effective delivery against the Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Strategy. Under these existing mechanisms, we will continue to monitor progress of agreed recommendations across government, and with relevant partners, to ensure their effective implementation so we can best work together to remain responsive to this evolving threat, and uphold the needs of victims and survivors.

As you have referenced in your letter, local inquiries, including in Oldham, have exposed truly shocking cases of the most vulnerable in our society being abused by ruthless predators, and failed by those whose job it was to protect them.

The Government recognises the important role local inquiries play in improving our response to child sexual abuse and exploitation. I welcome the authorities in individual towns and cities, who are responsible for delivering services, to commission local inquiries to ensure that lessons are learnt and that local partners are doing all they can to improve their response.

To ensure lessons are being learnt from inquiries into historical practice, the Government also commissioned His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services to inspect current policing practice in response to group-based sexual exploitation of children, which is due to report later this year. In the meantime, the Government continues to drive national action to safeguard children and young people, disrupt offending, and bring perpetrators and those complicit to justice.

Thank you for your dedication to tackling these abhorrent crimes and keeping children and young people safe from all forms of abuse, both in Oldham and across the country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah Dines". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a small blue dot.

Sarah Dines MP

Jim McMahon OBE MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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

24 October 2023

Ref: JM40826

Dear Harry

Re: Council Motion: No more Profit Over Pollution

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the Council Motion: No More Profit Over Pollution.

As requested, I have written to the Government to call for a mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets and an increase in fines for sewage discharges.

Once I have received a reply to this, I will get back in touch.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim McMahon".

Jim McMahon OBE MP
Member of Parliament
Oldham West & Royton

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Report to COUNCIL

Appointment of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Officer Contact: Vikki Morris, Assistant Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development

Report Author: Vikki Morris, Assistant Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development

1st November 2023

Reason for Decision

The Appointments Committee recommend to Council the appointment of Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for Oldham Council.

Recommendations

The Appointments Committee recommend that Council:

- Approves and continues the appointment of Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service on a part-time (0.6FTE), two-year fixed term contract effective from 1st January 2024;
- Approves a salary of £108,000 for Harry Catherall (0.6 pro-rata of the full salary and subject to any nationally agreed pay awards);
- Appoint Harry Catherall as Electoral Registration Officer for any constituency or part of a constituency coterminous with or contained in Oldham Metropolitan Borough and Returning Officer for Local elections, Parish Council and Parliamentary elections and local returning officer for Greater Manchester Combined Authority mayoral election and other elections and referenda;
- Note Appointments Committee have redesignated Executive Director Place and Economic Growth back to Deputy Chief Executive Place and Economic Growth at the salary banding of £136,542 (subject to any nationally agreed pay awards) and note that Appointments Committee approved the variation in contract for the existing postholder following appropriate internal HR process
- Appointments Committee recommends that Emma Barton be offered the 0.4 FTE Chief Executive development role at a salary of £147,925 (inclusive of Deputy Chief Executive

salary plus a supplement payment for the 0.4 pro rata development role and subject to any national pay awards)

Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

1 Background

1.1 During Summer 2023 the Council undertook a full and thorough external recruitment process for the post of Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service), including an extended advert process and utilising the skills of an appropriate recruitment agency. There has been an extensive search over several months of the regional and national market for our next Chief Executive.

However, during this time, it has also become apparent just how challenging the market for Senior Executives has become in the public sector. In addition, the scale of challenges facing the sector makes the need for current experience at Chief Executive level more vital. We are aware that we are not the only Local Authority in the Northwest who have been to external market and have been unable to appoint.

1.2 It is a statutory requirement that the Council has a Head of Paid Service, (Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989) and therefore the Appointments Committee decided to halt the current process and explored an extension to Harry Catherall's current contract.

1.3 The Appointments Committee met on 22nd September 2023 and recommends to Council that Harry Catherall be offered a variation and extension of the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service on a part-time (0.6 FTE), two-year fixed term contract effective from 1st January 2024.

1.4 Appointments Committee recommends that Harry Catherall be paid a salary of £108,000 (0.6 pro-rata).

1.5 Following this decision, the Appointments Committee met again on the 5th October 2023 to consider a report to strengthen the executive structure that reports directly to the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service role and agreed an internal process for the selection of a Chief Executive development role (0.4 FTE).

1.6 Set tasks and duties were agreed for the 0.4FTE element of the role that provide an opportunity for internal skills development and provides cover commensurate with the level of the post. This arrangement provides strong officer leadership, continuity and stability, whilst at the same time, providing an opportunity to identify and develop a potential future Chief Executive from within Oldham – an innovative “Grow our Own” approach that has the support of the LGA and is being viewed as good practice.

1.7 The Appointments Committee recommends that the post of Executive Director Place and Economic Growth be redesignated to Deputy Chief Executive Place and Economic Growth, the structure and salary banding (subject to increases from National pay awards) having been previously agreed by Council 3rd November 2021.

1.8 At the Appointments Committee meeting of 19th October 2023, a selection process was completed for the Chief Executive development role (0.4 FTE) and it is recommended that the role be covered by Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive Place.

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- 1.9 Appointments Committee recommends that Emma Barton be paid a salary of £147,925, which is inclusive of her Deputy Chief Executive salary and a supplement payment of the 0.4 pro-rata development role.
 - 1.10 At the point of the current Chief Executive completing the fixed term contract/or serving notice, the individual covering the 0.4 FTE of the role will have no call on the full role, and the Appointments Committee will be required to decide on the process for appointment of the next Chief Executive.
 - 1.11 Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive Place remains in her substantive post and would cover only 0.4 FTE of the Chief Executive role as a development opportunity. The arrangement would be reviewed on a 12 monthly basis by Appointments Committee.

2 **Financial Implications**

- 2.1 The proposed options within this paper would generate a saving of approximately £36,500 plus associated on costs.

Lee Walsh, Assistant Director of Finance (Financial Management)

3 **Legal Services Comments**

- 3.1 Council is required to appoint a Head of Paid Service.

Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal

4. **Co-operative Implications**

- 4.1 Supports the Council's Co-operative Agenda

5 **Human Resources Comments**

- 5.1 All changes proposed within this report following existing policy and guidance and any staff directly affected by the proposals will be consulted in line with the Council's agreed procedures for implementing structural changes.

Vikki Morris, Assistant Director of Human Resources & Organisational Development

6 **Risk Assessments**

- 6.1 N/A

7 **IT Implications**

- 7.1 None

8 **Property Implications**

- 8.1 None

9 **Procurement Implications**

- 9.1 None

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- 10 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**
 - 10.1 None
 - 11 **Community cohesion disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**
 - 11.1 None
 - 12 **Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including impact on Children and Young People)**
 - 12.1 No
 - 13 **Key Decision**
 - 13.1 No
 - 14 **Background Papers**
 - 14.1 None