

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday, 13th December
2023

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 5th December 2023

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday, 13th December 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 1st November 2023 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 40)
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

(Time limit 20 minutes)

There have been no Petitions received.

- 7 Youth Council

(time limit 20 minutes)

Unused Stationery Within the Council and its Partners

Oldham youth council put forward the motion with the aims to address the issue of access to stationery and educational resources, which has a significant impact on the educational opportunities of our young people.

Council recognises that since the COVID 19 pandemic Oldham Youth Council have made poverty and the cost of living as priority issues and have undertaken work to improve the lives of Oldham's Young People. This includes:

- Sitting on the Oldham Town Centre board to input on decisions around the town centre improvements.
- Working with the Council's post 16 team around employability and NEET young people
- 2022 motion to Council asking that the Chief Executive writes to Government to extend the offer of the Holiday Activities and Food programme to all young people not just those on free school meals.

Council notes:

- That according to the Times Educational Supplement survey, in partnership with

the National Education Union, 94% of surveyed teachers resort to using their personal funds to purchase necessary equipment for their students.

- That according to a UNISON survey, of 6,672 of its members, showed that even though they were worried their pay would not cover spiralling living costs, more than one in five (23%) have used their own money to pay for pens and pencils for their students.
- That energy bills and the pressures of inflation are continuing to burden schools' budgets with less money to support students financially.

Council recognises:

- The importance of quality education in shaping the future of our community, but that a significant number of pupils in Oldham face challenges in accessing essential stationery items required for school.
- With the Council departments currently looking to move to the spindles this is a prime opportunity to take stock of any unused stationery. With everyone having calculator apps on their laptops or mobile phones, and offices becoming paperless, the need for pens, rulers and physical calculator has reduced.

We propose that Oldham Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to all department heads asking that teams look at current stocks of pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners, rubbers, rulers and calculators (including badged merchandise), and any items not required for the running of that department, to be donated and used to create packs that can be distributed to students most in need.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to partners (including Miocare, Greater Manchester Police, NHS, Action Together, positive steps, OCL, and Greater Manchester fire service) also donate any unused stationery.
- Work with Oldham Youth Council to create packs containing essential stationery items and help us distribute them to schools.

8 Public Questions

(time limit 15 Minutes)

To receive questions submitted by members of the public.

9 Reports of the Leader and Cabinet Members (Pages 41 - 86)

(Time limit 90 minutes)

Leader and Cabinet Members to present their reports

Non-executive members may ask questions.

- a. Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Reform and Regeneration – including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 16th October 2023; and the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 29th September 2023 and 27th October 2023
- b. Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio
- c. Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Portfolio
- d. Education and Skills Portfolio Holder

- e. Health and Social Care Portfolio Holder
- f. Communities and Culture Portfolio Holder
- g. Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder
- h. Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio Holder
- i. Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder

10 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

To be moved by Councillor Mushtaq

Seconded by: Councillor Charters

Delivering Children's Services in the community

The Sure Start programme, one of the greatest achievements of the last Labour government, ensured that millions of children received the best possible start in life, giving parents the ability to access childcare, early years learning, health services and family support. In doing so, child poverty was reduced, parents felt supported when returning to work, and thousands were able to become successful parents.

The government has introduced a new model to local authorities, known as Family Hubs, which focus on two areas: a universal 0-19s offer, ensuring that young people get the support they need throughout their childhood and adolescence; and a programme focused on the first 1001 days of a child's life, from pregnancy to age 2. This is a critical time for development, and the interventions made during this time period will help give a child the best start to life.

As we face another year of cuts from central government, the council has sought to improve the services we offer to families out in the districts, refurbishing centres and creating a service based on delivering outcomes in community settings, rather than being anchored to buildings. By creating an agile service, we can deliver the much needed family support in areas where families are, rather than expecting them to come to us.

This Council notes:

That since the ending of ringfenced funding for Sure Start centres in 2011, there has been a significant reduction in the availability of children's services across England, resulting in poorer starts for millions of children across the country.

That since the cuts to Sure Start were implemented, childhood obesity levels have risen and more children are starting school below expected development milestones.

Despite continued funding cuts from 13 years of Tory government, Oldham Council has continued to deliver services and support families.

That on Monday 4th December the Council began consulting on an improved model for delivering children's services in the community, recognising the need for an agile service that is delivered not from static sites, but through outreaching services based in hubs but delivered within a community setting.

This Council resolves to:

Continue supporting residents through the Family Hubs service, providing a 0-19s universal service across the borough, accessible to all families in Oldham at each hub. Work alongside partners in the NHS, Department for Education and VCFSE organisations to ensure a comprehensive offer across the borough, utilising council

owned assets, community assets and other suitable locations to ensure that families can access the support they need within their communities.

Thank council staff, NHS staff and school partners who have aided in the design and delivery of this new model.

This council further resolves to:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education, Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester, highlighting the exceptional work done in designing and delivering this model of children's services despite austerity, and make representations for increased funding to ensure the continued roll out of these vital services are supported well into the future.

Motion 2

To be moved by Councillor Brownridge

Seconded by Councillor Arnott

Boys Need Bins

This Council notes:

- Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men. 1 in 8 men will be diagnosed, rising to 1 in 4 for Black men. As many as 69% of those treated with surgery may experience urinary incontinence as a result.
- 1 in 25 men aged over 40 will experience some form of urinary leakage every year.
- 1 in 20 men aged 60 or over will experience bowel incontinence in the UK.
- Men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste (including incontinence pads, pouches, stoma, catheter, colostomy, ileostomy waste by-products) often have no direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.
- A survey of men living with incontinence reveals that 95% feel anxiety due to a lack of sanitary bins in men's toilets for disposing of pads hygienically.
- Nearly one third of men surveyed have been forced to carry their own waste in a bag.

This Council believes:

- that men should be able to safely and hygienically dispose of incontinence products easily and with dignity wherever they go.
- that men who need to dispose of their sanitary waste should have direct access to a sanitary bin in male toilets.

This Council resolves:

- That the Cabinet Member for Reform and Regeneration should consider as soon as reasonably practicable the provision of at least one sanitary bin in all Council male toilets – both public and in council buildings.
- To encourage other providers of public and workplace toilets in our area to make male sanitary bins available in their facilities.
- To support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign.
- That the Leader should write on behalf of the Council to our three MPs asking them to support Prostate Cancer UK's 'Boys need Bins' campaign and their request for Government to update any necessary regulations to ensure that 'suitable means for the disposal of sanitary dressings' is provided in all toilets.

11 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1

To be moved by Councillor Kenyon

Seconded by Councillor Gloster

20 is Plenty

Council notes that:

- Speed limits on Britain's Roads are 60% higher than in Europe.
- More than half of all accident casualties occur on roads with 30mph limits.
- A pedestrian is 7 times more likely to die if they are hit by a vehicle travelling at 30mph than they are at 20mph, rising to 10 times more likely if aged 60 or older.
- Reducing speed limits on residential roads has been found to reduce air pollution, the incidents of accidents, and the numbers of fatalities and serious injuries that result.
- Over 20 million citizens live in local authorities in the UK which have adopted or are adopting a default speed limit of 20mph on residential roads.
- The default speed limit of 20mph has been adopted by other local authorities without the need for the implementation of physical calming measures.
- Road safety experts from 130 countries adopted the 'Stockholm Declaration' recommending 20mph as the preferred default speed limit on residential roads in February 2020, and this was endorsed by the UN General Assembly in August 2020.

Council further recognises that:

- Covid-19 and the challenges that have come with building back from it demonstrate that one of our key concerns must be to address all aspects of public health.
- This should include lowering the default speed of motor vehicles on residential roads to reduce the danger they pose to residents and the pollution they emit.
- Such a measure should be comprehensive and cover all residential roads in the Council Area – unless there are specific and unique exceptions that necessitate a faster speed limit.

Council therefore resolves to:

- Establish an all-group working party to seek to implement a Council-wide 20mph speed limit on residential roads as soon as possible. This should include identifying roads where the lower speed limit may not be appropriate and exploring enforcement measures such as average speed cameras and Community Speedwatch initiatives.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the leaders of all other Councils in the region that haven't already implemented 20mph speed limits as the default in their authority area, and to write to Highways England requesting that speeds are reduced on sections of the motorway network in our Council area to tackle pollution.

Motion 2

To be moved by Councillor Woodvine

Second by Councillor Lancaster

Community First Aid

St. John's Ambulance is the country's first aid and health response charity. From helping young people become the health care professionals of tomorrow, to their world

class training, St. John's empowers people of all ages with lifesaving skills. They deliver compassion and care as ambulance crews, at marathons and festivals, in hospitals, and through a range of inspiring youth programmes.

St. John's Ambulance has always supported NHS Trusts in periods of high demand. During the Covid pandemic, volunteers stepped forward to serve the nation in the biggest peace time deployment in 140 years delivering 1.7 million hours in local communities.

Communities have a vital role in the chain of survival and First Aid is at the heart of every community.

Whether it's a member of the public providing CPR after attending a workplace First Aid training course, a young person learning how to treat bleeding as a cadet, or a community first responder treating someone who has experienced a fall in their home. This is community First Aid saving lives.

As the nation's ambulance auxiliary, St. John's Ambulance adds resilience to ambulance trusts by treating and transporting patients, responding to emergency call outs whilst reducing waiting times. St. John's Ambulance also delivers community operations focussing on the health needs of communities treating over 4,000 patients in 2022. These services include:

- Falls Response Services: supporting the elderly in their homes, providing the best quality care to avoid hospital admissions.
- Night-Time Economy: offering safe spaces in town centres on Friday and Saturday nights when the impact of intoxication is prevalent. This service has a 19% reduction in ambulance responses required.

As a trusted auxiliary partner to the NHS and local communities, St. John's Ambulance is committed to working with Councillors to utilise the potential of volunteers to improve patient outcomes in communities and reduce NHS pressures.

In January 2023, the *Three Ways to Save a Life* campaign, run by SJA and BBC Radio Manchester, came to an end with a final figure of 16,120 people trained across the 10 Boroughs of Greater Manchester in life saving first aid skills.

Following the fifth anniversary of the Manchester Arena bombing, the two organisations teamed to take these skills across Greater Manchester to local people and organisations, through a mix of public training sessions and on-demand training including, delivering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and using a defibrillator, treating severe bleeding and catastrophic haemorrhages, and treating someone who is choking.

This Council notes that St. John's Ambulance believes in empowering communities to respond to health emergencies and ensures everyone gets the help they need in a crisis by:

- Responding: as volunteers and a trusted auxiliary to the nation's health service.
- Educating: to inspire every generation to have confidence to provide First Aid.
- Discovering: through our services on how we lead standards in community First Aid.
-

Therefore, this Council commits to support the vision for Community First Aid by:

1. Raising awareness of the importance of learning First Aid by sending a delegation of senior Elected Members and Officers of the Council to visit our local St. John's Ambulance Unit(s) and supporting / promoting the vision across social media and the local printed media platforms; particularly emphasising that anybody in Oldham

- can access free First Aid training by SJA.
2. Recognising voluntary sector organisations such as St. John's Ambulance within local resilience arrangements to support emergency preparedness and crisis response by commissioning the Chief Executive Officer and Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care to survey and utilise the skills of Oldham's local and voluntary sector to support community response to local emergencies as recommended by the NHS Volunteering Taskforce. This can be done through supporting voluntary sector representation on local resilience forms and inclusion within emergency preparedness, resilience, and response exercises at local level.
 3. Engaging with auxiliary partners to utilise the potential of volunteers to respond to community health emergencies, improve patient outcomes and reduce NHS pressures; working with the voluntary sector to strengthen first aid resilience by empowering communities through access to first aid training and equipment to improve health outcomes and help save lives.
 4. Empowering young people to strengthen community resilience by supporting the expansion of St. John's Ambulance NHS Cadets and Young Responder programmes.
 5. Advocating for a **Statutory Right to Volunteer** by writing to the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom calling on the Government to introduce legislation to enable volunteers of all ages to deploy at times of national and local emergency. An effective system would enable volunteers to request a set period of leave to deploy at times of crisis.
 6. Requesting the Leader of the Council, as the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Member for Equalities & Communities, to circulate this to her colleagues at GMCA so that they may seek to commit to these actions in their Local Authorities too.

Motion 3

Councillor Rea to Move

Councillor Hindle to Second

The Protection and Safeguarding of Children

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.
- Minute the meetings of the Elected Members cross-party steering group, make them available to all members and to the general public via the council website. Additionally provide a quarterly report detailing any actions and progress made.

12 Child Sexual Exploitation: Elected Member Steering Group - Annual Report 2022/23 (Pages 87 - 104)

To consider the Annual Report from the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation and to agree proposals to change the terms of reference for the Steering Group to include all constituted political groups and any elected members with portfolio or shadow portfolio responsibilities for children's services.

13 Review of political balance on committees (Pages 105 - 114)

To appoint to committees of the Council in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and give consideration to committees not allocated strictly in accordance with proportionality under the Act.

14 Calendar of Meetings 2024/25 (Pages 115 - 126)

To consider a calendar of meetings for 2024/25

15 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 127 - 152)

To update council on actions from the previous Council meeting held on 1st November 2023 and meetings earlier in this municipal year.

16 Treasury Management Half Year Review Report 2023-24 (Pages 153 - 172)

A report advising Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first six months of 2023/24 and provides a comparison of performance against the 2023/24 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

17 Code of Conduct Amendment (Pages 173 - 174)

Council is asked to consider and amendment to the Code of Conduct

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

Harry Catherall

**Harry Catherall
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS
NO AMENDMENT

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



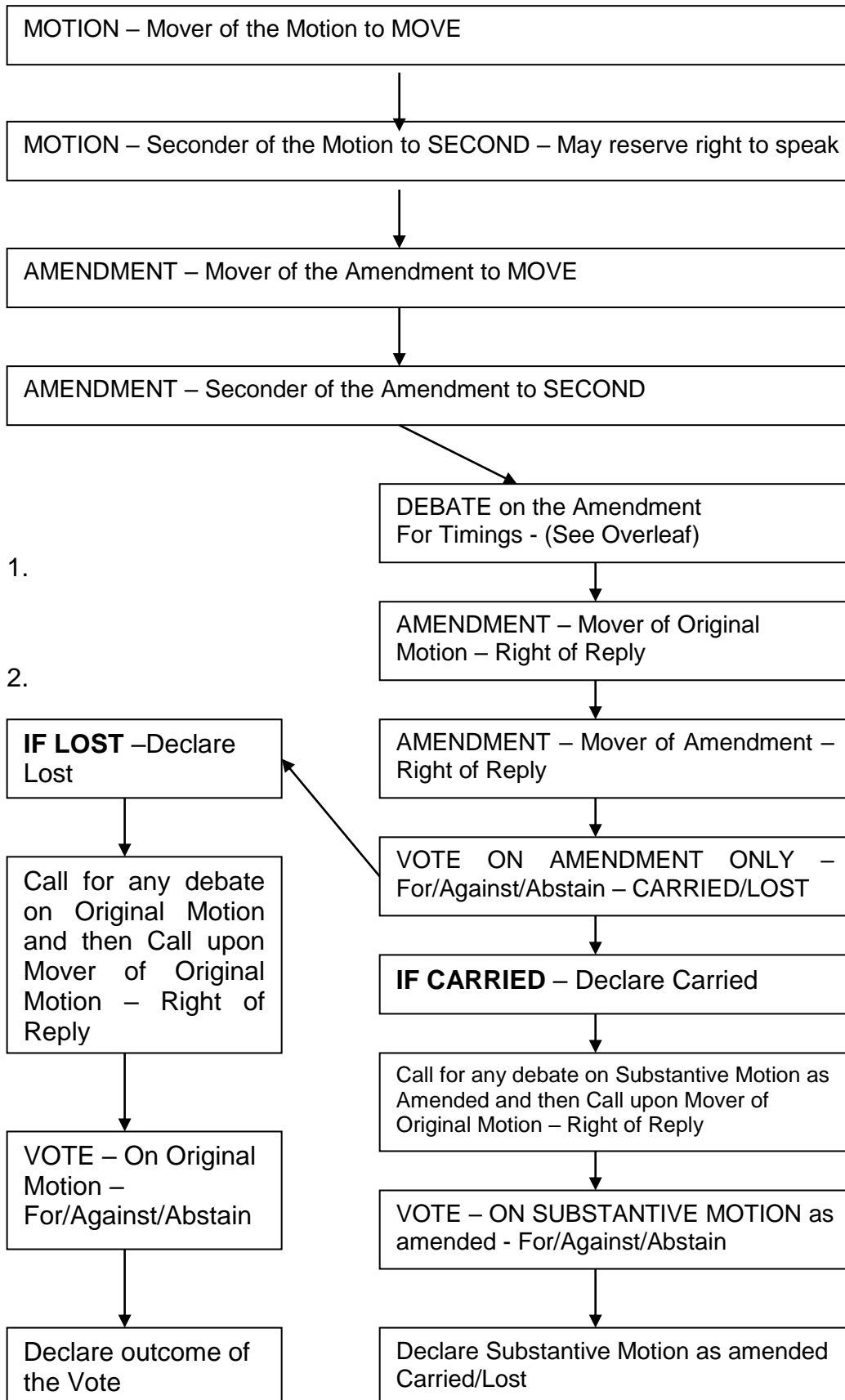
Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT



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COUNCIL
01/11/2023 at 6.00 pm

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

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

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Birch, Kenyon, Ibrahim and Williamson.

2 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 6th September 2023, be approved as a correct record.

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

Councillor Ghafoor declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 (Motion 3 – Article 4(1) Direction on Small HMOs).

Councillor Harkness declared a non-registerable interest in agenda item 12 (Motion 2 – A Fair Deal for Private Renters).

Councillor Hamblett declared a non-registerable interest in agenda item 12 (Motion 1 – Holding Housing Associations Accountable for Damp and Mould).

Councillor Gloster declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 (Motion 2 – A Fair Deal for Private Renters).

Councillor Bishop declared a non-registerable interest in agenda item 12 (Motion 2 – A Fair Deal for Private Renters).

Councillor Akhtar declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 (Motion 1 – Holding Housing Associations Accountable for Damp and Mould) as he was an employee of a Housing Association.

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

The Mayor referred to the ongoing impact of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and to the consequential loss of life. He referred

to incidents in Israel on 7th October 2023 and to the subsequent military activity in Gaza all of which had resulted in a dreadful loss of human life.

The Mayor advised that he was to write a letter to the Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Rishi Sunak MP, calling on him to use his influence to press for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. From 8th October 2023, a copy of the letter would be available in the Mayor's Parlour, for all Members of the Council to countersign.

The Mayor asked members of the Council, officers and all other people present in the Chamber to join him in a minute's silence, in honour of the innocent civilian lives that had been lost in the conflict.

The Mayor permitted the Council's political group leaders to speak on this matter. Accordingly, Councillors Shah, Sheldon, Sykes, Hobin and Hince addressed the Council.

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

The Mayor informed Council of the sad passing of Mr Dave McGrealy, who had been awarded the Civic Appreciation Award in 2015. The Mayor undertook to write to Mr McGrealy's family expressing the Council's condolences on his passing.

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 **LEADER'S ANNUAL STATEMENT**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, delivered her Annual Statement.

The Leader reminded the Council of her priorities, as set out in May 2023, when she assumed office and highlighted work that had been done and was being done to improve Oldham, to retain a resident focused approach and to provide high quality services for local people.

- a. Don't Trash Oldham – the Leader explained the importance of maintaining clean and tidy streets, parks and open spaces across the borough, a view shared by the majority of residents. Robust enforcement action was being taken to prevent fly-tipping. There was an ambitious borough-wide tree planting programme being undertaken and there had been significant investment in the borough's parks including at Alexandra Park and Daisy Nook Country Park.
- b. The Local Improvement Fund (LIF) was being developed. This was to serve as an opportunity for local resident groups to bid for funding from the LIF to fund or part-fund local improvement schemes.
- c. Education opportunities were being enhanced and developed through the programme that was being

developed in conjunction with Eton College and the Star Academy. This would lead to the building of a new campus in Oldham town centre and students having online access to Eton College.

- d. Investment was being provided for the development of six Family Hubs across the Borough, the first of which, the Beaver Hub, had recently opened. The family hubs would provide additional resources and access to family services for the borough's residents.
- e. The Leader was anxious that the Council should, wherever possible, act to protect the interests of the borough's most vulnerable residents. In this regard she referred to the Council's recent acquisition of Chadderton Total Care, a privately run care home that provided a stable home for over 100 vulnerable residents, which had encountered serious financial difficulties. The Council had intervened to secure that this care home remained open for business and that no resident would have to be relocated.
- f. The Council continued to provide assistance to residents and businesses who were suffering the ongoing impact of the 'cost of living crisis'. A range of packages and schemes were available to help local people.
- g. The Council was aware of the ongoing impact of the 'housing crisis'. Nationwide there was a problem with a lack of housing, sub-standard housing and homelessness. The Leader announced that she was shortly to convene a 'Housing Summit', including representatives of housing providers, landlords and tenants with the long-term aim of reducing poor quality housing and homelessness in the Borough of Oldham.
- h. Regeneration work was ongoing, on a wide scale, across Oldham town centre. This included work to regenerate the Spindles shopping centre to incorporate office accommodation there in addition to enhanced retail and leisure facilities. Work was ongoing to develop the new market and to develop the Old Library Buildings at Union Street into office accommodation for members and officers.
- i. The Leader reported that she had recently attended the Oldham Half Marathon, the first such event that had been held for four years. The event was well attended and provided spectators with an enjoyable event, which showcased the best of Oldham.
- j. The Council was, wherever possible committed to providing new and affordable homes for the Borough's residents.
- k. The leader reported upon new plans to develop a new theatre in Oldham town centre, thereby providing an important cultural and artistic facility for the residents of the Borough to enjoy. The consultation on proposals for a new theatre had demonstrated the public's affection for the old Coliseum Theatre and their desire to see a suitable replacement being built and opened as soon as possible.

The Leader pledged to continue to support the Borough's most vulnerable residents and to act to remove inequality and unfairness wherever it existed. The scale of the challenges that Oldham and its people faced and the role of elected members in addressing those challenges was acknowledged.

Resolved:

That the Leader's Annual Statement be noted.

8 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

9 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question from Nick Harwood

What can be done to stop idiots vandalising play areas in Oldham's parks?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods thanked Mr Harwood for his question. It is disappointing when we see incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour marring our fantastic parks and green spaces.

We would always encourage residents witnessing such incidents to report them to Greater Manchester Police through the non-emergency 101 number, or through the Greater Manchester Police web reporting portal. This will hopefully allow Greater Manchester Police to identify and arrest the individuals responsible.

Once those responsible have been identified the council can seek to use civil powers, alongside any criminal prosecution, to act against the individuals, such as Anti-Social Behaviour Injunctions, or Criminal Behaviour Orders. Such Injunctions/Orders can prevent Offenders from entering specific areas and we would seek to prevent further such behaviour by prohibiting offenders from entering the Boroughs Parks where appropriate.

When we have identified issues previously in parks, the Local Authority have also asked the First Response Security Service to patrol or monitor the location to deter such incidents. In some cases, where young people are found to have been involved our youth service can work in local parks and neighbourhoods to engage with the young people and divert them into more positive activities if possible.

2. Question from Connor Green

What's the council doing to improve SEND provision after the recent ofsted and CQC inspection?

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills thanked Mr Green for his question.

A joint Ofsted/CQC area SEND inspection of the Oldham partnership took place in June 2023. Following the inspection, Oldham Council and the Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board received the inspection report, which highlighted some positive practice but also two priority areas

that required addressing urgently and some areas for development.

To respond to this, the local area partnership, including the council, the integrated care partnership, parents/carers and wider partners, came together to coproduce a Priority Action Plan, which details the actions that the local area will take to address the two priority actions identified by the inspection. The areas for development have been included in the existing SEND & Inclusion Improvement Programme. The Priority Action Plan forms part of this and will be published shortly, so the actions we are taking as a local area partnership are open and accessible to everyone.

3. Question from Meg Birchill

What services are on offer at Beaver Family Hub and when will Family hubs open across the rest of the borough?

Councillor Mushtaq, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Children's Services replied, that Beaver Family Hub was the first of six planned Family Hubs across the borough that will offer a wide range of support for families with young children. At each family hub local families will be able to access a range of help and support to make sure their child is developing well, is healthy, safe and looked after. Services at Beaver currently include:

- Weekly Baby Play and Stay & Play sessions
- Weekly FAB activity sessions for children aged 5-11 years old
- Midwifery clinics for before and after the baby is born.
- Health visitor contacts and development clinics such as baby weigh sessions
- Breastfeeding and weaning support groups
- Families can also purchase Healthy Start vitamins, children's toothbrushes and toothpaste and feeder cups

We continue to develop new sessions and services so would urge families to check our website or visit a family hub or children's centre for the most up to date information about the services and support available.

Improvement and redecoration work is due to commence on the new Family Hub sites in the new year. The formal transition and launch of these sites as Family Hubs will be in late Spring/early Summer 2024.

Work is also underway to develop Family Hub services at Oldham Library.

4. Question from Denise Leach

Would the Leader of Oldham Council please confirm the number of knife crime incidents that have taken place in Oldham since January 2023, and detail what her Councils strategy is to discourage our young people from being influenced by criminals who carry knives?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods thanked Ms Leach for this question which is within community safety in my portfolio.

The council recognises the significant impact and harm that knife and weapon enabled crime has on Communities and has implemented a number of measures to attempt to reduce such types of behaviour, using a mixture of education, intervention and enforcement.

This includes 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 other weapon. The responses have included sessions in schools, including presentations to young people and the commissioning of a play regarding knife crime and its effects.

The council have also funded commissioned, targeted works, with individuals at risk of engaging in knife crime and focusing on messaging around how we are keeping residents safe, so they do not feel the need to carry a knife, or other weapon. We are also working closely with Greater Manchester Police to identify individuals involved in knife crime, supporting their criminal prosecutions, where appropriate, by using Civil powers such as Criminal Behaviour Orders.

The Local Authority have also in the past funded knife arches at the request of GMP, which were deployed in hotspot location. With regards knife crime incidents that have occurred in the Borough this information would be held by GMP. I would suggest that the resident request this information from GMP directly.

5. Question from Gary Tarbuck

Can the relevant Cabinet member please confirm what the total net debt for Oldham Council is forecast for the year 2023-24 year and what the total amount anticipated in interest payments to service this debt will be over this current financial year?

Councillor Jabbar Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Resources thanked Mr Tarbuck for his question to Full Council. The Council's debt is forecast to be £160.996m at the end of the financial year. For 2023/24, the interest payments to service this debt are forecast to be just over £6.5 million.

6. Question from David Nestor

Can the relevant cabinet member please confirm how many racially motivated crimes were recorded in schools in Oldham and provide a breakdown of these crimes? As part of this, can they provide a breakdown of victims and perpetrators by ethnicity?

Councillor Ali, Cabinet member for Education and Skills thanked Mr Nestor for his question. While the council encourages schools to report any hate incidents there is no legal requirement for schools to report incidents to the Council, nor to report the breakdown of information you have specifically requested in your question.

The total number of incidents that have been reported to Oldham Council for the academic year 2022/23, so the school year ending in July this year, is 195.

I welcome your concern about any hate incidents happening in schools but would like to offer reassurance that, where these issues occur, they are taken incredibly seriously by schools who use their local policies to tackle perpetrators and support victims.

Alongside this schools throughout the borough do fantastic work in promoting respect and a culture of zero tolerance for racism and hate. During the last week before half-term I know many local schools were taking part in curated activities around hate crime awareness week.

7. Question from Lynne Kovacs

Can the relevant Cabinet member please confirm the total number of HMOs in Oldham and how many people are being accommodated in them in total?

Councillor Taylor, deputy Leader of the Council and the Cabinet member for Housing and Licensing replied thanked Ms Kovacs for her question.

There are currently 72 properties that have been licensed as HMOs by Oldham Council. To be licensed as an HMO a property must house 5 or more people of 2 or more households sharing facilities.

There are also several smaller HMOs that do not require licensing under the legislation and as of August 2022, the Council's monitoring of HMOs identified 331 such properties in the borough.

The above equates to just 0.34% of all residential dwellings in the Borough of Oldham. This data does not specify the number of people accommodated in each property.

8. Question from Julie Heywood

Can the relevant cabinet member please confirm how many secondary schools in Oldham have gender neutral toilets? Can they also confirm if risk assessment were conducted to ensure the safety of girls in schools with gender neutral toilets.

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied, that the provision of toilet facilities is a matter for individual schools and the council does not hold this information. If, as a parent, Ms Heywood has questions about provision at her children's school these can be taken up with the school in question directly.

9. Question from Anita Lowe

On viewing the council meeting on 6th September and previous live meetings

It's obvious to observe some council members and also those of the cabinet whilst sat in the council chamber using their mobile phones

They have their phone either on the desk in view or sit as though they appear to be asleep with their heads bowed and viewing their devices.

Their social media must be far more important to be looking at their phones

than being interested in what is being spoken about in the chamber by their comrades

Observing Councillors on their phones is happening far too often and it appears as though they are not interested in the meetings as all we see is heads bowed.

My question is this:

Can all Councillors and staff please refrain from using their social media devices whilst in the chamber.

Switch them off or out of sight

After all, they may learn something!!!!

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied, whilst I accept that it may seem to an outside observer that those using their phones aren't paying attention in reality the very opposite may be true.

Councillors and council staff use their phones, tablets and other devices to access information, to read agendas and reports and to gather information in response to queries raised during meetings. In fact, we are actively discouraging members from using printed copies of reports and agendas – to save us money and time in printing.

Far from being a distraction, mobile device of all sorts is now an essential tool in many settings.

10. Question from Kyle Phythian

I know Failsworth Town Hall is now offering a range of services to the community, when will other parts of Oldham benefit from these community hubs?

Councillor Dean, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture replied, that recent changes at Failsworth Town Hall within our south district, represents the first stage in providing services in districts across Oldham, as part of the Council's on-going commitment to improving access to services and support as part of our 'Resident Focused' approach. Meaning people can get advice and appointments closer to home rather than having to travel further afield.

This will get stronger as we develop more integrated services working across the council, voluntary and other public sector partners.

We are working on providing similar improvements in the other four district areas (North, East, West and Central), to ensure the transition of local services within other key venues in the new year. The formal launch of the other community hubs across the remaining four districts will be late Winter/early Spring. Some local services, such as weekly Citizens Advice sessions are already available in several venues across the borough.

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

Council agreed that the Council Procedure Rules would be varied so that there would be 10 minutes for questions to the Leader from Group Leaders and 10 minutes for the section on portfolio responsibilities.

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group

Question 1: Cyber Attacks on the Council

Councillor Sheldon expressed his alarm at the reported figure of 10,000 daily cyber-attacks on the Council. He sought assurances from the Leader that the Council's ICT systems were robust and able to successfully resist any such attack. He referred to an incident involving Redcar and Cleveland Council, in February 2020 where a cyber-attack disabled their ICT systems for several weeks. Councillor Sheldon also referred to recent developments with Artificial Intelligence and if the Council knew where the various attacks were coming from and what actions were being taken to safeguard the Council's data?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied that she would provide Councillor Sheldon with a written answer to his question.

Question 2: School Attendances

Councillor Sheldon referred to recent statistical evidence that suggested school attendances in Oldham were below acceptable levels. He stated that the number of unauthorised absences from the Borough's schools in 2022 was approximately 570,000, which gave Oldham the highest levels of school absences, in percentage terms, in Greater Manchester. He asked if the Leader would join him in sending a message to parents and carers about the importance of children attending school?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, advised that she shared Councillor Sheldon's concerns about this matter and was anxious that more be done to improve school attendances in the Borough and in this regard, she undertook to pursue this matter with Councillor Ali, the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and with the Managing Director for Children and Young People's Services.

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Councillor Sykes asked the Leader if, after the next round of local elections, another local authority in Greater Manchester were to follow the lead of Stockport Borough Council and withdraw from the Places for Everyone initiative would the programme collapse?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, stated that whilst she had some misgivings regarding some of the detail, it made no sense for the Places for Everyone programme not to proceed.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party

Councillor Hobin asked if there was more that could be done to tackle the issue of selfish and illegal parking in residential areas and around schools.



Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied agreeing that, given the proliferation of motor vehicles in the Borough and beyond, more needed to be done to address this issue. The Council was doing what it could to promote walking, cycling and public transport as alternative modes of travelling but acknowledged that more was still required.

Councillor Hince, Leader of the Independent Group

Councillor Hince advised Council that Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) with six bedrooms or less are not subject to a local authority planning process. Therefore, any negative impacts are not subject to any consultative process. The Council could address this issue by introducing an 'Article 4' directive, removing permitted development rights so that an HMO with less than six bedrooms will be subject to the local authority's planning process.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that the Council had in the past lobbied the Borough's Members of Parliament on this issue and was currently reviewing the matter of Article 4. Councillor Shah undertook to keep Councillor Hince updated on developments.

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members to present their reports and invited non-executive members to ask questions thereon, as follows:

- a. Leader and Reform and Regeneration Portfolio – including minutes of Cabinet held on 21st August 2023, 18th September 2023, 2nd October 2023, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held on 28th July 2023 and the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board 30th June 2023.

Councillor Sykes asked a question relating to the regeneration work being carried out in Oldham town centre, with particular attention to the Spindles, Town Square and Old Library works and enquired if there was a timetable for delivery.

Councillor Shah, the Leader of the Council replied that all of the town centre regeneration schemes were currently on target for completion, in terms of time and costs.

Councillor S. Bashforth asked about the opening of the Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre, regarding what the next steps will be after opening.

The Leader of the Council replied that the Lifelong Learning Centre was intended to be fully utilised in the future for community-based events, which would attract users from all backgrounds and age groups.

Councillor Quigg asked for details on proposals to sell land at the Hart's Head View area of Fitton Hill, Oldham.

The Leader of the Council undertook to provide Councillor Quigg with a written answer to his question.

Councillor Hamblett asked why the wildflower garden in Oldham town centre had been removed early – around 12 months prior to the commencement of development works, as part of the ‘Creating a Better Place’ programme?

The Leader of the Council replied that the programme concerned was part of the long-term plan for the town centre and a generous replacement programme was planned

b. Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio

Councillor Taylor advised that the ‘deep dive’ being undertaken in conjunction with the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Local Government was due to commence on 19th December 2023.

Councillor Harkness expressed concern at and sought clarification on the numbers of unlicensed Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) that there were in the Borough.

Councillor Taylor, the Portfolio Holder, replied sharing Councillor Harkness’ concerns and advised that work was in hand to tackle the problem of unlicensed HMO’s, including planned and unplanned inspections of properties.

Councillor J. Hussain referred to the numbers of new homes that were being built in the Fitton Hill area of Oldham and how many of these would be affordable. Councillor Taylor replied that there would be 365 new homes built at this location of which 81 would be ‘affordable’, which, she added, was well above the 10% (for affordable homes in a new development).

Councillor Rea sought clarification on the numbers of immigrants that were being allocated housing provision in the Borough. Councillor Taylor felt that this was an inappropriately worded question.

c. Deputy Leader and Children and Young People’s Portfolio

Councillor Gloster asked for details regarding the proposed new Children’s Home that was planned to be built in the Borough.

Councillor Mushtaq, the Portfolio Holder replied that the opening of a new Children’s Home would provide a good quality home for the Borough’s looked after children. The location was still to be determined and the various options were being assessed and an announcement in this regard would be made shortly.

Councillor McLaren noted that the Portfolio Holder’s report referred to 556 children in the Borough being classed as ‘looked after’. He sought clarification as to how this compared with other authorities. The Portfolio Holder replied that the figures compared favourably with the Borough’s ‘statistical neighbours’ and with most other authorities in Greater Manchester.

Councillor H. Harrison asked whether the children’s centres in the Borough would be at risk, now that each of the Borough’s Districts were to have a Family Hub located within their boundaries. The Portfolio Holder replied that the

situation was currently under review and he was, along with his Portfolio Assistant, currently visiting the Borough's Children's centres where he found he was impressed by the breadth and depth of services that were available. No final decision though would be made prior to the conclusion of statutory consultation exercises.

d. Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio

Councillor Ghafoor sought clarification on how the invitations for the recent Oldham Business Awards were allocated.

Councillor F. Hussain, the Portfolio Holder, clarified that this was not something that the Council had been involved with.

Councillor Harkness asked if the Council could review the way in which it procured goods and services. The Portfolio holder advised that this was a matter for the Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources who would provide a written answer to the question.

Councillor Davis asked about the feedback received following a survey of traders at Tommyfields Market regarding the proposed move to a new site in the town centre. The Portfolio Holder reported that feedback had on the whole, been positive.

e. Education and Skills Portfolio

Councillor Lancaster asked a question relating to performance targets in the Borough's schools and how the Council would help to support independent schools.

Councillor Ali, the Portfolio Holder replied that the Council had ambitious long-term plans provision of education in the borough, in line, with what he hoped would be the policies of an incoming Labour government, which, he felt, would benefit all children from all backgrounds.

Councillor S. Hussain sought clarification that the Borough's Lifelong Learning Centre was performing in line, or above, the local and regional average, for such institutions.

The Portfolio Holder replied that the Lifelong Learning Centre had a proud history of high achievements. An inspection was due in early 2024 with results of that inspection due to be published towards the end of March 2024 and he was confident that the Service would score well in the external inspection.

Councillor Bishop sought clarification on the provision of mental health support at schools across the Borough, was as good and wide-ranging as the facilities offered at Saddleworth School.

The Portfolio Holder replied that whilst it was the responsibility of each individual school to ensure that there were appropriate levels of mental health support in place for students the Council's Child Psychological support and health service workers were available to help schools to identify potential issues.

Councillor Byrne asked a question relating to school absences and the Portfolio Holder undertook to provide written answer thereon.

f. Neighbourhoods Portfolio

Councillor Murphy sought clarification as to the management of the portfolio. Councillor Goodwin, the Portfolio Holder, replied that he was portfolio lead, Emma Barton was the Executive Director and Councillor Shah was Leader of the Council and responsibilities were divided accordingly.

Councillor Islam requested clarification on the tree planting policy for the Council. The Portfolio Holder replied that there was in place a policy to extensively replace trees that had to be cut down.

Councillor Sharp sought clarification on health and safety issues that may arise as a result of the Borough's tree planting programme. The Portfolio advised that health and safety issues were constantly under review and assessed for each piece of work that would be carried out.

Councillor Hobin asked how many trees had been removed as part of the Clean Air Zone Scheme. The Portfolio Holder undertook to write to Councillor Hobin on this matter.

Councillor Quigg sought clarification on the numbers of poles installed by IX Wireless – contrary to previous agreements? The Portfolio holder advised that this was a matter for the Cabinet Member for Licensing and Housing who would provide a written answer to the question.

g. Health and Social Care Portfolio

Councillor Hamblett sought clarification as to the costs associated with the acquisition of Total Care and whether there were plans to amalgamate it with MIOCARE.

Councillor Brownridge, the Portfolio Holder, replied that the cost of purchasing Chadderton Total Care was £2.4 million and no decision had yet been made with regard to its long-term operating arrangements but all options were being reviewed.

Councillor Nasheen sought clarification on the prevalence of smoking in the Borough, to which the Portfolio Holder replied that the situation was improving, in that fewer people were starting smoking and more were stopping, sometimes with assistance.

Councillor Byrne asked if the Portfolio Holder had considered exploring the possibility of linking the Suicide prevention strategy with events in anti-bullying week. The Portfolio Holder replied that she hadn't but would ask officers to explore the possibilities of this being undertaken as it seemed a good idea.

h. Communities and Culture Portfolio

Councillor Marland sought clarification on the contract for elderly people's luncheon clubs.

Councillor Dean, the Portfolio holder advised that this was a matter for the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, who would provide a written answer to the question.

Councillor Woodvine advised that heritage works at the Saddleworth War Memorial had still not been completed? The Portfolio Holder undertook to look into this matter, as a matter of urgency due to Remembrance Sunday being only a few days away.

Councillor Harrison, whilst outlining the achievements of the borough's 'cultural offer' asked why there was only a brief reference to Oldham Coliseum in the Portfolio Holder's report.

The Portfolio Holder replied that the Coliseum had recently appointed a Managing Director which would help to raise the profile of the Coliseum and see it become a central part of the borough's cultural offer.

Councillor Hince asked about the future of the St. Paul's building in Shaw.

The Portfolio holder advised that this was a matter for the Cabinet Member for Licensing and Housing who would provide a written answer to the question.

i. Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio

Councillor Quigg sought clarification as to the costs associated with the recent recruitment exercise for the post of Chief Executive?

Councillor Jabbar, the Portfolio Holder undertook to provide Councillor Quigg with details of the costs associated with the advertising of the role of Chief Executive.

Councillor Al-Hamdani referred to the dire financial situation being faced by some local authorities in the country and he asked if there was any imminent danger of Oldham Council being in that position in a few years' time as it was suggested that the Council may, in 2024/25, have to use around 30% of its reserve funding.

The Portfolio Holder advised that there was no imminent danger of Oldham Council being in such a situation.

Resolved:

1. That the Minutes of the Cabinet meetings held 21st August 2023, 18th September 2023 and 2nd October 2023, be noted.
2. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, held 28th July 2023, be noted.
3. That the Minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Executive Board, held 30th June 2023, be noted.
4. That the reports of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members, be noted.

11

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Battling Oldham's Housing Crisis

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Goodwin SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Arnott **MOVED** and Councillor Quigg **SECONDED** the following **AMENDMENT**

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.
- According to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities &

Local Government statistics, from 1997/98 to 2009/10, so the last Labour government, just over 1.8 million homes were built. For the same period but financial year 2010/11 to 2022/23 over 1.8 million homes were built under the Coalition and the Conservatives.

- Only 2920 Council homes were built under Labour from 1997 to 2010 and 21,780 Council homes under the Conservatives from 2010 to 2023 (so far), so seven times more than under the last Labour government.
- Only 247,840 housing association homes were built under the last Labour government and over 351,520 housing association homes were built under the Coalition and the Conservatives since 2010 to 2023, that is 103,680 more homes built than under Labour.

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.
- To write to the Leader of HM Official Opposition, Sir Keir Starmer, condemning his recent comments on Radio 4 on (11.10.23) in which he was asked if he would bulldoze through local opposition to new housing, Sir Keir said: "Yes, that's exactly what I'm saying." And his further comments that he wants to take away powers and decision making away from local people and to centralise decisions saying, "We need to ensure the planning goes up a level so it is not so localised." Making clear that

these comments are anti-democratic and ignorant to the genuine concerns of local people in Oldham.

- That this Council will commit to building on brownfield sites first and build the homes the people of Oldham need and deserve.
- Protect our green belt for future generations and do all it can to involve local people in the planning process.
- Support Council and social tenants with the right to buy scheme to increase homeownership.
- Welcome the second phase of the Brownfield Land Release Fund, which saw £3,151,226 of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to build on brownfield sites coming to Oldham. Noting that Oldham Council got the third largest sum out of sixty other local authorities.
- To support Neighbourhood Plans in Oldham and respect the outcome of local people.
- Write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester to put his 'Places for Everyone Plan' to a Greater Manchester wide referendum.

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.
- Control the borders of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and reduce Immigration levels to reduce the pressures on housing supply and other public services.
- Support the government's decision to remove mandatory housing targets.
- Write to the government asking them to make permanent the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Reduction) (SDLT), keeping it at £250,000 for homeowners and for first-time buyers on home purchases up to £425,000.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was LOST

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED

RESOLVED:

1. Council instructs the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and 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.

2. Council recommit to its Housing Strategy and affirms its ambition that every Oldhamer should live in decent and affordable homes.
3. The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, seeking far-reaching action to tackle the housing crisis.
4. This Council further resolves to call on the Government to:
 - a. End rough sleeping within a Parliament and tackle the root causes of homelessness, including insufficient Local Housing Allowance Rates.
 - b. Finally implement the promised ban on Section 21 'No Fault' Evictions to give private rented tenants the security they need.
 - c. 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 S. Bashforth MOVED and Councillor McLaren SECONDED the following Motion:

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

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to 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.
2. That the Chief Executive be also asked to write to the borough's three Members of Parliament to support local residents in overturning the 2015 Statutory Instrument.

12

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Holding Housing Associations Accountable for Damp and Mould Issues

Councillor Wahid MOVED and Councillor Byrne SECONDED the following Motion

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.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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 have an obligation to ensure their properties are safe and secure and have a duty of care to the most vulnerable. Oldham Council will continue to work closely with all registered providers in the borough to ensure that they take complaints about damp and mould seriously.

Whilst many residents feel that they are uprooted from their community due to needing a new home, this is a consequence of legislation which states that a local connection with the district of the local authority, not a ward or area.

Oldham Council has been hampered by consistent government cuts to local authority budgets, constraining Oldham and other local authorities in managing displaced families in temporary accommodation, with statutory services being cut to the bone. Oldham Council have continued to affirm their commitment to Serving and former HM Armed Forces personnel, through ensuring that they are identified whenever accessing council services, including Housing Options

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.

This council notes

- That via the Strategic Housing Group, we have identified single points of contact at each local housing provider to deal with damp and mould.
- A draft Damp and Mould protocol has been created and shared with Housing Associations, which will be presented at the next meeting of the Strategic Housing Group.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- To ask that the Chief Executive writes to all housing associations operating in the borough stating this council’s strongly held view that no one should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home, and remind them of their obligations to inspect properties at risk of mould and damp and to make timely repairs, otherwise the council will take the necessary action, through enforcement or legal proceedings, to ensure that tenants are not put at risk.
- Work with housing associations to provide alternative accommodation whilst works are being undertaken in cases that homes are deemed un-inhabitable

- Continue to follow best practice and ask all residents approaching Housing Options questions to identify vulnerability or membership of the Armed Forces Community.
- Continue to use discretion on a case-by-case basis to support members of the Armed Forces Community accessing housing support in Oldham.

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 resolves to:

- 1 Request that the Chief Executive write to all housing associations operating in the borough stating this council's strongly held view that no one should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home, and remind them of their obligations to inspect properties at risk of mould and damp and to make timely repairs, otherwise the council will take the necessary action, through enforcement or legal proceedings, to ensure that tenants are not put at risk.
- 2 Work with housing associations to provide alternative accommodation whilst works are being undertaken in cases that homes are deemed un-inhabitable
- 3 Continue to follow best practice and ask all residents approaching Housing Options questions to identify vulnerability or membership of the Armed Forces Community.
- 4 Continue to use discretion on a case-by-case basis to support members of the Armed Forces Community accessing housing support in Oldham.

Motion 2: A Fair Deal for Private Renters

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Sykes
SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

1st AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT



Oldham
Council

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:

- Serving improvement notices on homes with severe hazards to invalidate Section 21 notices and enable Rent Repayment Orders if the landlord fails to comply
- Serving improvement notices for excess cold in homes that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards
- Helping private renters claim back rent through rent repayment orders when they are eligible to do so
- Enforcing the ban on letting agent fees by issuing fines to criminal letting agents
- Taking action on overcrowded homes through licensing, increased inspections and a strategy for increasing the supply of homes for families and single adults
- Committing that everyone no matter who they are, has a duty to uphold the law and not break the law. Housing should not be rented to those illegally living in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Housing supply is finite and should only go to those living in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland LEGALLY.

- 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
- Publishing the breakdown of homelessness cases arising from the private rented sector by ethnicity
- Recording and publish the tenure breakdown of homelessness cases, in particular those arising from family/friends being unable to house someone
- 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.
- Supporting Generation Rent's campaign for a National Register of Landlords
- 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
- Using Landlord Licensing, Council Tax, Energy Performance Certificate & Tenancy Deposit data to identify private rented homes to communicate directly with private renters

On being put to the Vote the 1st AMENDMENT was LOST

2nd AMENDMENT

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Charters
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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.
- The Conservative Government has once again delayed a long promised ban on Section 21 evictions, despite cross party support up and down the country.
- 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
- Oldham Council are implementing a new IT system which will ensure that data is more readily available to officers for data analysis to inform policy making decisions.

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:

- Serving improvement notices on homes with severe hazards to invalidate Section 21 notices and enable Rent Repayment Orders if the landlord fails to comply
- Serving improvement notices for excess cold in homes that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards
- Helping private renters claim back rent through rent repayment orders when they are eligible to do so
- Enforcing the ban on letting agent fees by issuing fines to criminal letting agents
- Taking action on overcrowded homes through licensing, increased inspections and a strategy for increasing the supply of homes for families and single adults
- Committing not to use landlord licensing to enforce immigration law
- 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
- Utilise data available to the council to breakdown homelessness cases arising from the private rented sector, and publishing this alongside other relevant data including ethnicity, reasons for homelessness and areas, to help inform policy making in the future
- Joining with Generation Rent, the national voice of private renters, and the Labour Party, in campaigning for the legislative change private renters need to live in safe, secure and affordable homes.
- Supporting Generation Rent's campaign for a National Register of Landlords
- Support the plans of the next Labour Government to introduce a renters' charter that will abolish 'no fault' Section 21 evictions, introduce a legally binding Decent Homes Standard for the private rented sector, ban landlords from refusing to rent to those in receipt of benefits or with children, provide for longer notice periods, introduce a national landlord register and introduce a right to have pets.
- 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
- Use all the available tools at the council's disposal to engage with private renters, including the amazing work being done by the Doorstep Engagement Team

On being put to the Vote the SECOND AMENDMENT was CARRIED

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

RESOLVED:

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. Utilise data available to the council to breakdown homelessness cases arising from the private rented sector, and publishing this alongside other relevant data including ethnicity, reasons for homelessness and areas, to help inform policy making in the future.
9. Joining with Generation Rent, the national voice of private renters, and the Labour Party, in campaigning for the legislative change private renters need to live in safe, secure and affordable homes.
10. Supporting Generation Rent's campaign for a National Register of Landlords.
11. Support the plans of the next Labour Government to introduce a renters' charter that will abolish 'no fault' Section 21 evictions, introduce a legally binding Decent Homes Standard for the private rented sector, ban landlords from refusing to rent to those in receipt of benefits or with children, provide for longer notice periods, introduce a national landlord register and introduce a right to have pets.
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. Use all the available tools at the council's disposal to engage with private renters, including the amazing work being done by the Doorstep Engagement Team.

Motion 3: Article 4 (1) direction on small HMOs
Councillor Hince MOVED and Councillor Sykes to SECONDED
the following Motion:



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:

1. 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.
2. To approve the making of the Article 4(1) Direction for the Parish Boundary.
3. 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.

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



Oldham
Council

Oldham Council's 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.

1st AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

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:

1. 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.

2. To approve the making of the Article 4(1) Direction for all the towns and villages within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Area.
3. 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.
4. To confirm that, the towns and villages within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council Area wide Article 4(1) Direction will be effective with immediate effect once made.

Oldham Council's 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.

On being put to the Vote the 1st AMENDMENT was LOST.

2nd AMENDMENT

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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

"In 2021, the Liberal Democrat Group recommended the restriction of HMOs in their written submission to Oldham's Local Plan, additionally raised the issue at the full council meeting in November 2021 and again supported the regulation of HMOs in Oldham at the November 2022 Council meeting" 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 recognises that in many cases, people's issues with HMOs relate to their licensing operation and not planning."

This Council resolves to,

- 1 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.

2. To approve the making of the Article 4(1) Direction for the Parish Boundary.
3. 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.
4. To confirm that, the Shaw & Crompton Parish wide Article 4(1) Direction will be effective with immediate effect once made.

5. “To seek to enforce HMO licensing on properties which are currently excluded as having too few residents
6. To ensure full oversight of HMO licensing by bringing a regular report to the appropriate licensing committee.”

Oldham Council’s 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.

On being put to the Vote the 2nd AMENDMENT was LOST.

3rd AMENDMENT

Councillor Brownridge MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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

Information from the Council’s planning team shows that as of August 2022, there were 31 HMOs within the Shaw and Crompton Parish boundaries, 10 in Crompton and 21 in Shaw, representing 0.32% of households in these wards.

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.

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, which includes the conversion of homes into Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO).

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:

Instruct the Planning department to collect and collate evidence on the number of HMOs in each ward across the Borough, identifying clusters and report back to the relevant cabinet member if any case can be made for an Article 4 direction, noting the National Planning Policy Framework requires that any such direction should apply to the smallest possible geographical area based on this evidence.

The Council is committed to following the law around planning and would pursue any action it could take to support residents that wouldn't open the council up to legal action and fines from the planning inspectorate.

This Council is resident focused and acts in the interests of the wider borough and any action taken without robust evidence would be irresponsible and harmful to residents in every ward in Oldham.

On being put to the Vote the THIRD AMENDMENT was CARRIED

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

RESOLVED:

That Council instructs the Planning department to collect and collate evidence on the number of HMOs in each ward across the Borough, identifying clusters and report back to the relevant cabinet member if any case can be made for an Article 4 direction, noting the National Planning Policy Framework requires that any such direction should apply to the smallest possible geographical area based on this evidence.

Motion 4 was withdrawn at the meeting.

13

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT QUARTER ONE REPORT
2023-24**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance which advised 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.

The Council was 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). The submitted quarterly report provided 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. The report therefore sets out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and approval and outlines, namely: 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; an updated Treasury Investment Activity; the Treasury Performance for the first quarter period of 2023/24; and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

The Audit Committee was the body 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 5th September 2023. The Committee had been content to commend the report to Cabinet. As such, Cabinet, at its meeting on 18th September 2023 had approved the content of the report and was in turn content to commend it to Council. The Council is, therefore, requested to approve the Treasury Management Quarter One report 2023/24 to ensure full compliance with the Code.

Resolved:

That Council approves the Treasury Management Quarter One Report 2023/24.

14

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah seconded a report of the Director of Finance advising 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.

The Council's Audit Committee was a key component of the Council's governance framework. Its function was to provide an independent review and assurance role to support good governance and sound public financial management. There was a requirement for the Audit Committee to report to Council each year to advise of the work it has undertaken and this report met that requirement. The Annual report had been prepared to advise members 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.

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



Resolved:

That the Audit Committee's Annual report be approved.

15

AMENDMENT TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance that presented proposed changes to the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference, for approval.

Council was informed that a discussion had taken place at the Audit Committee's meeting on 20th July 2023 when Members had 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 5th September 2023.

Resolved:

That the Council approves the proposed change in the Audit Committee's Terms of Reference as set out in the Director of Finance's report.

16

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 6th September 2023 to all Council members.

Resolved:

That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 6th September 2023 be noted.

17

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND HEAD OF PAID SERVICE

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Human Resources and Organisational Development, advising that the Appointments Committee had recommend to Council the appointment of Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for Oldham Council..

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the RECOMMENDATIONS contained in the report, as follows:

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| COUNCILLOR | | COUNCILLOR | |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|



| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Adams Christine | AGAINST | Hussain Junaid | FOR |
| Akhtar Shoab | FOR | Hussain Sajed | FOR |
| Al-Hamdani Sam | FOR | Ibrahim Nyla | APOLOGIES |
| Ali Mohon | FOR | Iqbal Nadeem | FOR |
| Arnott Dave | AGAINST | Irfan Muhammed | AGAINST |
| Ball Sandra | AGAINST | Islam Mohammed Nazrul | FOR |
| Bashforth Marie | FOR | Jabbar Abdul | FOR |
| Bashforth Steven | FOR | Kenyon Mark | APOLOGIES |
| Birch Ros | APOLOGIES | Lancaster Luke | FOR |
| Bishop Helen | FOR | Malik Abdul | FOR |
| Brownridge Barbara | FOR | Marland Alicia | FOR |
| Byrne Pam | FOR | McLaren Colin | FOR |
| Charters Josh | FOR | Moore Eddie | FOR |
| Cosgrove Angela | FOR | Murphy Dave | FOR |
| Davis Peter | FOR | Mushtaq Shaid | FOR |
| Dean Peter | FOR | Nasheen Umar | FOR |
| Fryer Paul | FOR | Quigg Lewis | AGAINST |
| Ghafoor Kamran | AGAINST | Rea Lucia | AGAINST |
| Gloster Hazel | FOR | Salamat Ali Aqeel | FOR |
| Goodwin Chris | FOR | Shah Arooj | FOR |
| Hamblett Louie | FOR | Sharp Beth | AGAINST |
| Harkness Garth | FOR | Sheldon Graham | AGAINST |
| Harrison Holly | FOR | Shuttleworth Graham | FOR |
| Harrison Jennifer | FOR | Surjan Ruji Sapna | FOR |
| Hince Marc | AGAINST | Sykes Howard | FOR |
| Hindle Neil | AGAINST | Taylor Elaine | FOR |
| Hobin Brian | AGAINST | Wahid Abdul | AGAINST |
| Hurley Maggie | AGAINST | Williamson Diane | APOLOGIES |
| Hussain Aftab | FOR | Woodvine Max | FOR |
| Hussain Fida | FOR | Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR) | FOR |

On a recorded VOTE being taken 42 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the RECOMMENDATIONS with 14 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The RECOMMENDATIONS were therefore CARRIED.

Resolved:

That Council -

1. 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;
2. 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);
3. 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;
4. 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
5. 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).

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.30pm

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Report to COUNCIL – 13th December 2023



Cabinet Report of Reform and Regeneration Portfolio

Oldham
Council

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Reform and Regeneration

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

Economic Growth

The autumn settlement released on the 22 November confirmed details of the new Investment Zone within Greater Manchester. The fact that Atom Valley has been allocated Investment Zone status with a focus on Advanced Manufacturing and Materials sets out a clear signal on the strategic importance of Atom Valley. In Oldham we are working with Rochdale to bring forward the Stakehill Site to drive forward opportunities for local residents and local businesses.

On the 28 November, I was pleased to host the first strategic partnership board meeting with Muse. Although the partnership is still relatively new it has been impressive to see the breadth of activity already taking place, in the coming months enabling works will begin on the three main strategic sites linked to our recent successful One Public Estate funding award. Work is also progressing on the development of a Strategic Regeneration Framework which will set out our bold ambitions for Oldham Town Centre.

I can also confirm that the Spindles Workspace will be completed early in the new year. Staff will start to transfer out of the Civic Centre and over into the new workspace throughout February and March, ensuring a consistent footfall of 1,000 people in the Spindles Shopping Centre daily – supporting local shops and other businesses.

Outside of the Town Centre, work to develop Growth Plans for each district of the borough is now underway. District Growth Plans will be developed jointly with communities, residents and businesses ensuring that they reflect the things that are most important to each area. I am pleased to be able to confirm that work has now started on the first two plans which will cover the North (Royton, Shaw and Crompton) and West (Chadderton and Werneth) districts. It is also hoped that the West District plan will be aligned to the government's £20 million funding announcement in September.

On 6 November, I was pleased to be able to attend the Royton business event at Mazzo's Restaurant. Over 40 businesses were in attendance and we discussed a range of topics and shared updates on some of the planned regeneration works within the area including Royton Town Hall and the Quality Bus Corridor.

One of the key messages I heard during the Royton event and a common message that businesses share with me is a desire to be able to work with the Council on our regeneration programme and more widely on core activity. I also regularly hear that local businesses also really want to do more business with other Oldham businesses keeping spend within the

Town. With that in mind, I am pleased to announce that in January I will be hosting a procurement event open to all businesses who wish to help us shape this area in the future. Following last month's news that Oldham was awarded Social Enterprise Place status, the Council and Upturn Enterprises hosted a Social Value summit. It was real privilege to be able to attend and speak at this event to an impassioned audience in a key sector which has so much to offer to our local economy.

Frank's latest Business Breakfast meeting took place on 24th November with more than 100 companies present. Businesses often cite that one of the main issues that they face is recruiting the right people for their business – those with the right personal, academic and technical skills. The purpose of this event was to demonstrate the range of employment and recruitment support that is currently on offer to businesses in the Borough. The event showcased a range of public and private sector support from helping businesses with ready to fill vacancies, pre-employment programs and more tailored solutions such as apprenticeship schemes with thanks to partners such as The Oldham College, North Lancs Training and Get Oldham Working we can help more residents into better jobs.

Communications

The organisation and marketing of Town Centre Events are a key element of the borough's Place Marketing approach. Events are evaluated through visitor interviews and surveys to determine their success and the level of spending driven to local businesses.

The annual Christmas Parade and Light Switch on event was held in November, with the parade and switch on elements being combined into one day for the first time. The event had an estimated attendance of 10,000, and received highly positive feedback across social media from residents, with many praising the event as one of the best in years. As part of the event, we once again promoted some businesses by pushing specific offers online across our channels. We also surveyed businesses following the event, and 88% of them said they had seen an increase in both footfall and sales on the day, due to the event.

At the end of October Oldham Town Centre hosted the Halloween Half Marathon alongside a range of fun family activities. The event attracted around 7,000 visitors, and footfall figures from the Sunday in Spindles Shopping Centre show an increase in footfall of around 4% on the previous year and around 5% compared to the weekend before. For the first time in the event's history, the Oldham half marathon sold out, and the wait list was also full. This was great to see after four years away, and provides a strong basis for the event to come back even bigger and better in 2024.

November's Bonfire event held at Oldham Edge attracted around 5,000 attendees, over 90% of them Oldham residents. Families reported they enjoyed the event and there was praise for the fireworks display.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Present: Councillor Shah (in the 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 for this meeting of the
Cabinet to consider.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A question was received from Councillor Quigg:

There have been several concerns raised already about the
preliminary ecological appraisal for the Oldham sites in the
Places for Everyone plan.

In recent correspondence the Leader of the Council advised that
the preliminary ecological appraisal was carried out in
accordance with the broad principles of the Chartered Institute
of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) guidelines.
Under the CIEEM guidelines, a preliminary ecological appraisal
is broadly broken down into three phases:

1. An initial desktop survey is carried out.
2. Appropriate field surveys informed by the desktop survey.
3. A report that details the findings from the desktop and
field surveys, which identifies the priority habitats present,
records the likely presence of protected and priority species, and
includes an evaluation of the potential impacts and necessary
interventions.

In accordance with the CIEEM guidelines, the desktop survey
recommended up to seven types of field survey for the site visit
phase.

Therefore, is the Council able to tell us which of the
recommended field surveys were carried out for the preliminary
ecological appraisal, and provide any protected or priority
species or habitats that were identified as present by the field
surveys?

Also, whilst the forthcoming consultation is on the proposed
modifications only, several of the modifications to policies
affecting the Oldham sites relate to ecology, and therefore the
soundness of the modifications can only be considered within
the context of up-to-date and accurate ecological assessment.

Only the desktop survey was made available as part of the
Places for Everyone plan evidence base, so will the Council
commit to making the field survey reports available, to facilitate
Council and public scrutiny of the site allocation modifications?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing replied: The proposed modifications to Oldham site allocation policies in PfE that are related to ecology have been proposed simply to ensure consistency across all the PfE site allocation policies and to avoid duplication of policy. The modifications referred to amend or remove the ecology criteria in the allocation policies where this would be a duplication of policy JP-G9 in chapter 8 of PfE. The modifications are not a result of concerns raised about the ecological evidence behind the proposed allocations.

Further to discussions at the examination hearings GMCA submitted a note explaining the ecology evidence used to inform the choice of allocations and contents of their respective policies. This note can be found on the examination website at PfE-Response-to-IN24-AP91-Ecology-ISSUED.pdf (hwa.uk.com) and sets out that:

- It is considered that the ecological evidence published on the GMCA website represents relevant, up-to-date, adequate and proportionate evidence on ecology.
- It has suitably and robustly informed the choice of allocations and the contents of site allocation policies in the plans.
- Whilst PfE does allocate some land with environmental or amenity value, the evidence has enabled this to be kept to a minimum and ensured that the most important ecological assets have been identified for inclusion in allocation policies.
- The evidence has enabled recommendations for likely mitigation and enhancement to be included within policies, where appropriate.
- The evidence provides appropriate justification for the thematic policies in the plan which include safeguards for protecting and enhancing ecological assets, and a requirement for development to achieve a net gain in biodiversity.

The Inspectors in their robust assessment of the Plan have considered the ecological evidence prepared to support the PfE allocations and in doing so have concluded that the proposed modification are necessary to make the plan sound. Therefore, the issue of soundness being addressed by the modifications is not one related to the evidence, but whether the specific criteria previously proposed in allocation policies is necessary given JP-G9.

It is important to note that the full extent and distribution of priority habitats, and the presence of protected and priority can only be established by detailed species surveys, which are beyond the scope of the high-level Preliminary Ecological Appraisals considered necessary and proportionate for a plan such Places for Everyone (as outline in the aforementioned note prepared for the examination). Fully comprehensive surveys would be required to inform full planning applications. In the PEAs the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit have identified the likely presence of priority habitats on some sites, but they do not consider these to be of such high quality, or so extensive, so as to exclude sites from allocation. Proposals for mitigation and compensation measures for development can only be made when detailed development proposals come forward, not at

allocation stage when details of site layouts, quantum, scale and type of developments etc are unknown.

Therefore, given that the proposed modifications are not related to the ecological evidence, the field survey reports are not needed to facilitate Council and public scrutiny of the site allocation modifications.

5 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held on 18th September 2023 and on 2nd October 2023, be approved as correct records.

6 **RUBRIK AIR GAP BACKUP SOLUTION**

The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to seek funding to procure a modern data protection service which is Cloud aware (to enable it to support our cloud migration strategy), able to effectively protect data against deletion or manipulation (immutability) and capable of interrogating data being backed up to identify and mitigate against potential threats (ransom/malware etc.).

Oldham Council's ICT service had investigated several options around a modern data protection solution based on the market leaders in this area (according to Gartner's Magic Quadrant) and identified Rubrik's 'Zero Trust Data Management' solution as the ideal candidate to replace the existing legacy backup product. Many Councils, particularly those hit with ransomware, have identified Rubrik as best placed to protect them moving forwards – Redcar and Cleveland were cited as being a significant relevant example, where they also conducted a detailed assessment of the market and then ultimately selected Rubrik.

The ultimate aims of the exercise were to reach the following outcomes:

- a. Improve the Council's ability to securely protect and recover Oldham Council data is a significant measurable improvement.
- b. Develop an ability to protect Cloud hosted services and data.
- c. Develop an ability to automatically interrogate data held in backups will allow a better understanding of the data type (for governance purposes) and identify potential dormant threats or malicious files.

The Rubrik platform will also uniquely allow the Council to identify where sensitive data is located within the business and would greatly enhance reporting of any breach that may result in regulatory fines and/or legal action. This would also increase the Council's security posture in meeting and exceeding the NCSC Cyber Assessment Framework.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet would consider the commercially sensitive information contained at Item 9 of the agenda before making a decision.

7 **CREATING A BETTER PLACE UPDATE**



The Cabinet gave consideration to a report of the Executive Director, Place and Economic Growth which presented a bi-annual update on the Creating a Better Place project.

It was reported that the Council and its partners were continuing to make significant progress on the delivery of the Creating a Better Place programme which would ultimately reshape Oldham Town Centre but which also reached out across the borough.

The submitted report sought to provide a comprehensive update on delivery achieved thus far, acknowledging the successes to date and establishing key milestones in respect of the flagship projects which sat across the programme.

Nationally it had been widely recognised that there were significant delivery challenges in respect of the delivery of major capital regeneration schemes. Those challenges related to a number of external factors which are often outside of the control of the Council. These included elements such as rising supply chain costs, inflation, labour market challenges and over-saturation of the commercial market.

Unfortunately, Oldham and the Creating a Better Place Programme had not been immune to those factors. The Executive Director's report therefore sought approval for the reprofiling of existing capital resource facilitating the continued delivery of the seven key schemes, which were set out in section 5.

In summary, Oldham had so far reached a pivotal point in respect of the Creating a Better Place programme with 'spades in the ground' and several significant transformational regeneration projects, which were scheduled to reach completion over the next couple of years. The Cabinet's report aimed to acknowledge and celebrate the successes to date whilst setting out an exciting journey over the coming year as the Council and partners worked towards realising the vision of Oldham *'being a great place to visit with lots of family friendly and accessible places to go'*.

Resolved:

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

8

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 two 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.

RUBRIK AIR GAP BACKUP SOLUTION

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 6 – Rubrik Air Gap Backup Solution.

Resolved:

That Cabinet authorises the procurement of the Rubrik Air Gap system and migrate all Council data and backup requirements to the Rubrik solution, ceasing the use of the Commvault solution altogether; this approach providing the most comprehensive risk mitigation by covering all data and functions, ensuring the ability to promptly restore data and Council services.

CREATING A BETTER PLACE UPDATE

The Cabinet gave consideration to the commercially sensitive information in relation to Item 7 – Creating a Better Place Update.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes and approves the progress being made in relation to the Creating a Better Place Programme that supports 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.
2. That the Cabinet notes and approves the technical, legal and commercial recommendations for certain projects within Part B of the submitted report, as set out in the project profiles in Appendix B.
3. That the Cabinet approves reprofiling £12.630m from the Council's CaBP capital programme as set out in section 4, of the submitted report and with further detail within the project profiles in Appendix B.
4. That the Cabinet notes and approves the proposal to review the CaBP capital programme and risk assess each project against deliverability, contractual challenges to identify any potential opportunities to reduce prudential borrowing in order to save revenue (repayments) as part of the budget savings options.
5. The Cabinet notes and approves the delegation of approval to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders and Directors of Economy, Finance and Legal for any further contractual, technical or financial decisions for the delivery of the CaBP projects referenced (all of which follow previous Cabinet approvals on the holistic detail and parameters for project delivery, contractual obligations and financial management).
6. That the cabinet notes and approves the delegation of approval to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders and Director of Finance, for reviewing and approving the results of the CaBP capital programme review to identify savings, as the results will be fed back to Cabinet and full Council, in due course, as part of the budget setting process for the next financial year.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.15pm

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**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE MEETING OF THE GREATER
MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 29 SEPTEMBER,
2023**

PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mayor of Greater Manchester | Andy Burnham (in the Chair) |
| Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire) | Kate Green |
| Bolton | Councillor Nicholas Peel |
| Bury | Councillor Eamonn O'Brien |
| Oldham | Councillor Arooj Shah |
| Manchester | Councillor Bev Craig |
| Rochdale | Councillor Neil Emmott |
| Stockport | Councillor Mark Roberts |
| Tameside | Councillor Ged Cooney |
| Trafford | Councillor Tom Ross |
| Wigan | Councillor David Molyneux |

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| Bolton | Councillor Nadim Muslim |
| Rochdale | Councillor Janet Emsley |
| Salford | Councillor John Merry |

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM | Eamonn Boylan |
| GMCA Deputy Chief Executive | Andrew Lightfoot |
| GMCA Exec Director of Policy & Strategy | Simon Nokes |
| GMCA Monitoring Officer | Gillian Duckworth |
| GMCA Treasurer | Steve Wilson |
| GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny | Julie Connor |
| GMFRS Chief Fire Officer | Dave Russel |
| GMFRS Deputy Chief Fire Officer | Ben Norman |

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Bolton | Sue Johnson |
| Bury | Lynne Ridsdale |
| Manchester | James Binks |
| Oldham | Harry Catherall |
| Rochdale | Steve Rumbelow |
| Salford | Tom Stannard |
| 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 |
| NHS | Claire Norman |

1. Apologies

That apologies be received from City Mayor Paul Dennett (Salford), Councillor Mark Hunter (Stockport) & Joanne Roney (Manchester).

2. Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business

1. That the update following the introduction of Tranche 1 of the Bee Network on Sunday 24th September 2023 be received.
2. That the update on the current issues around HS2 be received.
3. That it be noted that the Mayor was seeking an audience with the Prime Minister to gain further clarity on the HS2 line to Manchester proposals.
4. That the Deputy Mayor's update on the ongoing Baird Review be noted.
5. That it be requested that any persons who wished to engage with the Baird Review and had not already done so, to make contact within the next two weeks.

3 GMFRS Fire Cover Review

1. That the GMCA notes that the GMFRS Fire Cover Review outcomes constitute a Mayoral Decision.

2. That the verbal update on outcomes of the GMFRS Fire Cover Review be received and noted. With the proposals highlighted as follows:
 - Introduce one additional wholetime fire engine at Manchester Central Community Fire Station – taking the total fleet from 50 to 51 pumps.
 - Invest an additional £340k in Prevention and Protection activities – targeting more resources to keeping people safe from emergencies before they happen.
 - Implement Enhanced Rescue Station proposals at Leigh and Ashton Community Fire Stations – strengthening the ability to respond to increasing numbers of complex emergencies.
 - Implement all proposals from the Strategic Review of Special Appliances – Implementing new technologies and ensuring specialist technical equipment is best located for where it is most needed across the city-region.
 - Crews will continue to be based on station 24/7 and day crewing arrangements will not be progressed at Sale and Offerton fire stations.

4. Declarations of Interest

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

5. Minutes of the GMCA Meeting Held on 28 July 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 28 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

6. Minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 28 July 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 28 July 2023 be approved as a correct record.

7. GMCA Audit Committee Minutes – 20 September 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA Audit Committee meeting held on 20 September 2023 be noted.

8. GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 26 July & 16 August 2023

1. That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 26 July & 16 August 2023 be noted.
2. That it be noted that as part of the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, parallel scrutiny arrangements with members of parliament were being finalised, and that work would take place to ensure that these arrangements compliment the work of the existing GMCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

9. Greater Manchester Business Board – 19 July & 19 September 2023

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Business Board meetings held on 19 July & 19 September 2023 be noted.

10. Bee Network Committee – 27 July 2023

That the minutes of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 27 July 2023 be noted.

11. Appointments to Greater Manchester Bodies

1. That the appointment of Cllr Imran Rizvi (Bury) as a member of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved.
2. That the appointment of Cllr Nathan Boroda (Bury) and Cllr Mohammed Iqbal (Bolton) as substitute members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be approved.
3. That the appointment of Cllr Elliot Moss (Bury) to the GM Joint Clean Air Scrutiny Committee be noted.

12. Cost of Living and Economic Resilience

That the latest assessment and emerging response be noted.

13. Greater Manchester Equality Panels Annual Report

1. That the Annual Reports provided by the Disabled People's Panel, Youth Combined Authority, Women and Girls Equality Panel, Race Equality Panel, Faith and Belief Panel Advisory Panel, Older Peoples Equality Panel and LGBTQ+ Equality Panel be noted.
2. That the commitment of all Portfolios to proactively engage with Equality Panels (individually or collectively) on issues that impact communities-of-identity be endorsed.

14. Towards an Integrated Technical Education, Skills and Work City-Region

1. That the update and proposed next steps be noted and endorsed.
2. That the proposals for new governance arrangements for GMCA's Education, Skills and Work portfolio, including the development of the Joint Oversight Board (JOB) with central government, in line with the Trailblazer Devolution Deal, and the proposed operation of a 'shadow' JOB ahead of full implementation in early 2024, be approved.
3. That the standing down of current Employment Skills and Work (ESW) governance be approved – primarily the Employment & Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP), with thanks for members' contributions to date.
4. That the establishment of a GMCA ESW Executive Member portfolio leads' forum, comprising the ten portfolio leads (e.g. Work & Skills or equivalent) be approved, with Leaders invited to nominate their relevant Executive Member portfolio lead.

5. That the progress of the Local Skills Improvement Fund (LSIF) application and delegate initial sign off for the submission to the Portfolio Leader for Technical Education, Skills & Work be noted.
6. That all individual districts be requested to engage with their local businesses to encourage involvement with the new ESW governance arrangements.

15. Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) Switchover

1. That the report and progress towards supporting PSTN switchover in GM be noted.
2. That support be given to advocating that the Government should play a stronger and more active role in the PSTN switchover.
3. That the need to ensure that public sector organisations and their partners were undertaking appropriate steps to upgrade or mitigate be endorsed.
4. That the work between local authorities and industry to identify vulnerable households and the request that no-one is disconnected by industry until a suitable alternative connection is available be supported.
5. That the establishment of a GM PSTN Switchover working group to coordinate activity and communication, in partnership with ISPs and Local Authorities be endorsed.

16. Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024

1. That the Business Plan for the Integrated Water Management Plan to 31 March 2024 (Annex A) be approved.
2. That the budget request this financial year (£207,758) to

operationalize the plan (paragraph 3.5) be approved.

3. That the request to create new fixed terms posted funded through retained business rates (paragraph 3.2) be approved.
4. That the allocation of a minimum of £250k is allocated to the Integrated Water Management Plan from FY 24/25 retained business rates (Paragraph 3.6) be approved.
5. That the comments raised by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted
6. That it be noted that an Integrated Water Management session would be held during the GM Green Summit on Monday 2nd October.

17. Delivering the Bee Network: Acquisition of Bus Depots to Support Bus Franchising

1. That the procedural changes for depot acquisitions for Tranches 2 and 3, in order to streamline the acquisition and leasing of depots, be approved.
2. That the changes to the decisions and delegations from the September 2022 GMCA meeting, set out in the Appendix, be noted.
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, TfGM and GMCA, to agree the final terms of leases of bus depots both in respect of interim leaseback arrangements to existing operators and the franchise depot leases to be granted to the franchise bus operators for Tranches 2 and 3.
4. That authority be delegated to TfGM to manage, maintain and insure all of the bus depots on behalf of GMCA in accordance with the terms of an agreed Protocol between GMCA and TfGM referred to in earlier reports to the GMCA.
5. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer to agree the terms

of any agreement between the GMCA and TfGM to bring Tranche 1 leases in line with Tranches 2 and 3.

18. Annual Treasury Outturn Report

That the report be approved.

19. Greater Manchester Brownfield Programme

1. That the allocation of up to £14.9m of the Brownfield Housing Fund programme funding devolved to GMCA to the 7 projects identified at Appendix 1, be noted.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM, acting in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing and the Lead Member of the relevant district to approve increases of up to 10% on brownfield funding allocations previously approved by the Combined Authority and other variations to funding conditions in the period up to 31 March 2024.

20. Greater Manchester City Deal Receipts – Investment Approval Recommendation

1. That the following investments of City Deal Receipts in two Social Impact Funds, be approved as follows:

| FUND | DISTRICT | CDR INVESTMENT |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------------|
| National Homelessness Property Fund 2 | GM Wide | £6.5m |
| Resonance Supported Homes Fund | GM Wide | £2.5m |

2. That the City Deal Receipts, which form part of the £119.8m GMCA was lending to Renaker's Bankside and Trinity D2 developments being increased from £20m to £21m, with the GM Housing Investment Loans Fund ("GMHILF") element of the loan reduced accordingly, be approved.

3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loan, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loan, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

21. Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

1. That the loan facility of up to £950,000 to ClearCycle be approved.
2. That the investment into LoveRaw Limited (“LoveRaw”) of £500,000, approved under delegated authority be noted.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Treasurer and GMCA Solicitor & Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above loan, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the loan, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the loan noted above.

22. 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.

PART B

26. Greater Manchester Investment Framework, Conditional Project Approval

That the contents of the report be noted.

Clerk's Note: This item was considered in support of the report considered in Part A of the agenda (Item 21 above refers).

A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here: [Agenda for Greater Manchester Combined Authority on Friday, 29th September, 2023, 10.30 am - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

This decision notice was issued 3 October 2023 on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on 10 October 2023.

Call-In Process

In accordance with the scrutiny procedure rules, these decisions would come into effect five days after the publication of this notice unless before that time any three members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to call-in a decision.

Members must give notice in writing to the Chief Executive that they wish to call-in a decision, stating their reason(s) why the decision should be scrutinised. The period between the publication of this decision notice and the time a decision may be implemented is the 'call-in' period.

Decisions which have already been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where the GMCA's decision agrees with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may not be called in.

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE MEETING OF THE GREATER
MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 27 OCTOBER, 2023**

PRESENT:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Mayor of Greater Manchester | Andy Burnham (in the Chair) |
| Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire) | Kate Green |
| Bury | Councillor Eamonn O'Brien |
| Oldham | Councillor Arooj Shah |
| Manchester | Councillor Joanna Midgely |
| Rochdale | Councillor Neil Emmott |
| Salford | City Mayor, Paul Dennett |
| Stockport | Councillor Mark Hunter |
| Tameside | Councillor Ged Cooney |
| Trafford | Councillor Tom Ross |
| Wigan | Councillor Nazia Rehman |

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

| | |
|----------|--|
| Bolton | Councillor Mrs Linda Thomas |
| Bolton | Councillor Nadim Muslim (Chair of Overview & Scrutiny) |
| Rochdale | Councillor Janet Emsley (Chair of Police, Crime & Fire Panel) |

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 |
| GMCA Director of Policy & Strategy | Simon Nokes |
| GMCA Director of Governance & Scrutiny | Julie Connor |
| Bolton | Rachel Tanner |

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Bury | Lynne Ridsdale |
| Manchester | Mark Duncan |
| Oldham | Harry Catherall |
| Rochdale | Steve Rumbelow |
| Salford | Maggie Kufeldt |
| Stockport | Caroline Simpson |
| Tameside | Sandra Stewart |
| Trafford | Sarah Saleh |
| Wigan | Sonia Halliwell |
| Office of the GM Mayor | Kevin Lee |
| GMCA | Sylvia Welsh |
| GMCA | Lee Teasdale |

1. Apologies

That apologies be received from Councillor Nicholas Peel (Bolton), Councillor Bev Craig (Manchester), Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Sue Johnson (Bolton), Tom Stannard (Salford), Sara Todd (Trafford) and Alison McKenzie-Folan (Wigan).

2. Chairs Announcements and Urgent Business

1. That the announcement that Eamonn Boylan would be retiring as the Chief Executive of Greater Manchester Combined Authority & Transport for Greater Manchester following the May 2024 Mayoral Elections be acknowledged.
2. That the latest rail network development updates be received following the decision of the Government to cancel the Manchester to Birmingham arm of HS2.
3. That it be noted that the Combined Authority will be kept informed of the outcomes following the letter sent to the Department for Transport requesting that protections of the land purchased for HS2 be extended into 2024 to ensure full consideration of the options available.

4. That it be noted that following the ongoing tragic events in the Middle East, the Mayor has met with the Greater Manchester Jewish Community and the Mayor and Leaders will today be meeting with the Greater Manchester Muslim Community.

5. That members express their condolences and best wishes to the family and friends of Sir Bobby Charlton following his sad passing, and that his incredible contribution to the promotion of Greater Manchester on the world stage be acknowledged.

3. Declarations of Interest

That Mayor Andy Burnham declared an interest in Item 17 (Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff) and would vacate the Chair and leave the meeting for consideration of this item.

4. Minutes of the GMCA Meeting Held on 29 September 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 29 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

5. Minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 29 September 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA Resources Committee meeting held on 29 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

6. GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Minutes – 27 September 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 September 2023 be noted.

7. Bee Network Committee – 28 September 2023

That the minutes of the GMCA Bee Network Committee meeting held on 28 September 2023 be noted.

8. Greater Manchester Waste & Recycling Committee – 11 October 2023

That the minutes of the Greater Manchester Waste & Recycling Committee meeting held on 11 October 2023 be noted.

9. Greater Manchester Equality Strategy

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That it be noted that the GMCA would consider its role in supporting delivery of the themes and actions within the proposed framework and development of a Race Equality Strategy
3. That the key themes and actions, as set out in the report, including the appointment of a political and organisational lead from each local authority to drive forward individual action and collective development of a Greater Manchester Race Equality Strategy be endorsed.
4. That the points raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
5. That the comments made by The Chair of the GM Race Equality Panel be received and noted.
6. That the GMCA record it thanks to Elizabeth Cameron for chairing the first year of the GM Race Equality Panel.

10. Implementation of Greater Manchester Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Accord and a Fair Funding Protocol

1. That the progress update be noted.
2. That the Fair Funding Protocol for activities and services that the VCFSE sector carries out across Greater Manchester, which were funded directly from the GMCA's budget, be approved.

11. Homelessness Update 2023

1. That the current and forthcoming pressures on Rough Sleeping and Statutory homelessness services, and the activity undertaken to mitigate these, be noted.
2. That the funding risk and uncertainty for all homelessness programmes beyond 31 March 2025 be noted.
3. That the ongoing work to define a vision for homelessness beyond 2025 be noted.
4. That a request be made to the Home Office for further support to be made available and that a stable alternative to the temporary Home Office Refugee Transitions Outcome Fund (RTOF), which was due to end in March 2024, be developed.

12. Greater Manchester Strategy Progress Report – Autumn 2023

1. That the draft progress report, noting the development in the approach to progress reporting, with a greater emphasis on whole system metrics and actions, be approved.
2. That the whole system actions included in the report and the next steps from progressing these actions through a round of thematic, sectoral and place-based engagement on the findings be approved.
3. That the impact assessment summary noted, and that it also be noted that the process adopted for the development of this progress report, has not gathered sufficient detail to assess specific impacts arising from delivery of programmes and policies supporting the GMS ambitions.
4. That it be noted that the assessment completed takes an overview approach, considering the strategic intent of the GMS and collective ability to, over time, achieve that strategic intent.
5. That the comments raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to the five key areas within the GMS be received and noted.

13. GMCA Revenue Update Quarter 2 2023/24

1. That the forecast position at 30th September 2023 be noted.
2. That the proposed areas for the enhanced Business Rates sites in Greater Manchester be noted. Also noted that confirmation and approval of final sites will be reported to a later meeting of the GMCA, following formal feedback from government and that the final details for the operation of enhanced Business Rates sites will be included in the Investment Plan.
3. That the updates to the GMCA general budget, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.
4. That the intention, subject to formal approval by the Department for Transport (DfT), to re-allocate £15m of Bus Service Improvement Programme (BSIP) grant funding, previously awarded by DfT to support bus services, be noted, and that it also be noted that £7.5m of this re-allocation was to be utilised in 2023/24 and £7.5m in 2024/25.
5. That the Mayor's first monthly progress update following the commencement of the Bee Network franchise be received.

14. GMCA Capital Update Quarter 2 2023/24

1. That the current 2023/24 forecast of £623.6m, compared to the previous forecast of £681.3m, be noted, and changes to the capital programme, as set out in the report, be approved.
2. That other increases in capital budget over £0.5m be approved as follows:

- Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund capital funding of £0.7m, as outlined in section 3.4.3. of the report.
- Transport Local Growth Deal 1 Major Schemes of £1.7m, as outlined in as outlined at section 3.11 of the report.
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund of £7.7m, as outlined in section 4.10, of the report.

15. UKSPF – E22 SME Workspace – Project Change

1. That the UKSPF E22 investment in SME workspace in Oldham town centre, to support the creation of SME workspace in the Flexible Workspace project in the Spindles Centre and not the Prudential Building, be approved.
2. That the proposition for any UKSPF E22 underspend, under the £15m total allocated be reassigned to E22 projects that had to reduce grant ask in 2023, up to the maximum E22 total of £15m agreed by GMCA in January 2023, be approved.
3. That it be noted that the overall UKSPF investment to the end of March 2025 remains the same overall at £1.462m but is to be split into £1m capital investment and £0.462m revenue investment.
4. That the revised outputs and outcomes proposed and the positive contribution they will make to achieving those set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan be noted.

16. Ashton Growth Corridor: Proposed Mayoral Development Zone

1. That the designation of a Mayoral Development Zone known as Ashton Mayoral Development Zone (AMDZ) be approved.
2. That the proposed area of the AMDZ, as indicated in the appendix to the report, be approved.

3. That the establishment of the AMDZ Board be approved and that authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer GMCA & TfGM to agree appropriate representation on the Board, in consultation with Tameside Council.
4. That it be noted that the projects within the proposed AMDZ will aim to deliver sustainable forms of development that reflect and deliver the GM Strategy.
5. That the principles of the business case and development strategy for the MDZ, as set out in the report, be approved, noting that the AMDZ Board will refine these into the development of a business case, for the AMDZ in overseeing the delivery of the growth sites, for submission to a future meeting of the GMCA for approval.
6. That it be noted that the current funding resource will be from Tameside Council's unallocated Levelling Up Capacity Grant with GMCA providing support with officer time.
7. That that future updates on delivery progress at AMDZ be submitted to the GMCA.

17. Electric Vehicle Charging Tariff

Andy Burnham declared an interest in the report and vacated the Chair and left the room for the discussion.

Salford City Mayor, Paul Dennett, GMCA Deputy Mayor, took the Chair for this item of business.

1. That the establishment of a floor and a ceiling price cap of 30% above the below the current EV tariff, as, set out in the report, be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer, GMCA & TfGM to approve tariff charges within those limits.

18. 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.

PART B

19. Tranche 3 Bus Procurement

That the recommendations within the report be approved.

A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk)

This decision notice was issued 30 October 2023 on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on 6 November 2023.

Call-In Process

In accordance with the scrutiny procedure rules, these decisions would come into effect five days after the publication of this notice unless before that time any three members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to call-in a decision.

Members must give notice in writing to the Chief Executive that they wish to call-in a decision, stating their reason(s) why the decision should be scrutinised. The period

between the publication of this decision notice and the time a decision may be implemented is the 'call-in' period.

Decisions which have already been considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where the GMCA's decision agrees with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may not be called in.

Report to COUNCIL - 13th December 2023

Cabinet Report of Housing and Licensing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Elaine Taylor,
Deputy Leader of the Council 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 Summit

A round table discussion will be held on the 14th December with the Leader, social landlords from the Strategic Housing Partnership and from the private sector ahead of the DLUHC deep dive on Temporary Accommodation, which takes place on 19th December.

The discussion will be focused on the key challenges faced such as the lack of housing supply, the increasing demand for homelessness services and temporary accommodation as well as housing standards within the borough.

The session will capture how as a collective we can address these issues and the key actions that will need to be taken to take forward.

Homelessness

Further to my report last month, the demand for the homelessness service continues to increase. 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 100 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 Standards

The Council continues to respond to, and address, housing standards issues in private rented properties. There have been a number of 'rapid action plans' as a result of visits by Environmental Health Officers. One example is where Officers closed a House In Multiple Occupation, occupied by 5 individuals due to a complete lack of fire protection and a poor means of escape and serious electrical issues. Another example was arranging for emergency remedial work at a privately rented property due to an imminent risk from electrical safety. This was done to ensure the family were allowed to remain in the property with the landlord being recharged for this emergency work.

Officers from the team have also served an emergency prohibition order on a ground floor flat due to its poor conversion and serious fire safety issues as well as arranging temporary accommodation by working with the Council's Housing Options and Social Services colleagues for a family so the landlord could carry out works after serious flood that affected the electrics.

Planning

Places for Everyone Joint Plan consultation on the modifications ran for 8 weeks, between 11 October 2023 and 6 December 2023. The representations received will now be submitted to the Inspectors examining the Plan together with any comments from the nine authorities on those representations.

The Council's own Draft Local Plan is to be considered by Cabinet for public consultation on 11 December. The intention is that our own Local Plan will sit alongside Places for Everyone to inform decisions on planning applications going forward. We would encourage engagement in this Draft Local Plan consultation by all residents, businesses and other stakeholders to help us refine this draft version into a final set of robust policies that we can submit for our own Local Plan examination.

In addition, we have recently emailed all local members to engage in the review of the playing pitches across the borough as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan. This piece of work will take 12 months to complete and is critical piece of evidence that will also support the local authority to apply for external funding for improving existing, and creating new, sports pitches.

Licensing

The Authority has received a significant increase in new driver applications after the Taxi policy was amended earlier this year. Before June 2023, approximately 1,300 drivers were licensed at Oldham Council as Private Hire drivers. Since June and the changes to the policy, the Council has received an additional 1,272 applications for a driver's licence with 382 successfully being awarded after the necessary checks and tests. This is almost doubling the fleet of licensed drivers of private hire vehicles and allows for local regulation of these drivers to protect the public.

We are also seeing an upturn in the number of vehicles licensed locally at the Council - another 238 vehicles have been licensed through the Council - joining the existing fleet of 1,035 private hire vehicles.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Children and Young People Portfolio Update



Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Mushtaq, Deputy Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

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

Children's Safeguarding

The Duty and Advice (MASH) front door continues to deliver efficient, timely and targeted screening and response despite high contact and referral rates. Data shows a consistent referral conversion rate, with a notable increase in Early Help referrals in October 2023. The Assessment and Intervention service are supporting 1183 children who have been identified as 'in need' of support and services (under Section 17 Children Act), or 'at risk of significant harm' (section 47 Children Act).

The Complex Safeguarding Hub has managed 98 referrals, with 55 concerning sexual exploitation, since April. As part of the prevention work, over 3000 school children have benefited from safeguarding training, while the biannual action weeks enhanced community engagement. There are 65 young people receiving support and intervention from the Complex Safeguarding team.

The safeguarding and care planning service is responsible for the initiation and progression of applications to the court where the LA have assessed the children as requiring legal intervention. There are 117 children in care proceedings. Pre-proceedings is a system used when the test for legal intervention has been met, but it is felt a period of further assessment would assist both the LA and the courts to determine whether the children can safely remain in the care of their parents and/or extended family. The service is supporting 82 children through this system.

Children Looked After

In Oldham, the rate of children looked after is relatively stable at 93 per 10,000, slightly below regional and comparative local authority averages. Placement stability is a key indicator of outcomes. A challenging placement market has made stability difficult to achieve for some young people and too many are in residential placements when we would want them to be placed in foster homes. Despite these challenges children with three or more placements in the last 12 months are comparable with the northwest and England average. Since 1st January 2023 we have supported 32 children to achieve legal permanence at home with their parents through our focused work to discharge care orders for children placed with their parents, contributing significantly to our overall children looked after numbers remaining stable.

Fostering and Adoption

Oldham's fostering service has 293 children in internal foster care, with an additional 51 in independent foster homes. We are continually working on recruiting new carers and have bold targets against this. We have registered six new mainstream households and eleven new connected / kinship carers so far this financial year. Over 70 children are being tracked through adoption, including those under Public Law Outline. Seven children are awaiting Placement Orders. There are 15 children on Placement Orders, with all but one linked to potential adopters and making progress. 16 adoptions have been finalised since April 2023, and 8 more are expected to conclude by December.

Care Leavers

Oldham ensures a smooth transition for care leavers at 18 by allocating Personal Advisers at 17 and collaborating with Housing services for post-18 accommodation options. Support is provided to Care Leavers not in education, employment, or training and the service offers to be guarantor for young people wishing to rent privately, however, there is an affordability issue in that privately rented properties at an affordable price are not available for young people and there is collaboration taking place with housing associations to identify direct matches for young people.

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC)

Oldham is supporting 47 young people aged between 14 and 19 years old who continue to seek settled refugee status in the UK, having presented as unaccompanied minors. The council is focused on providing suitable accommodation until settled status is resolved, working with housing partners to identify viable options. While some costs are recoupable, this does not cover the total outlay when considering placement and miscellaneous costs.

Social Work Academy

The local adoption of the GM Pledge which went live on 1 November 2023 will standardise agency social worker employment, aiming to cut costs and improve retention. Marketing efforts have yielded a significant increase in job applications, with an ongoing campaign to position Oldham as an employer of choice. Recruitment initiatives include active participation in recruitment events and a dedicated microsite.

Early Help

Targeted Early Help teams are supporting 576 families with 1,228 children and achieving successful outcomes for 80-90% of families for most issues at case closure and 75% of families close with all issues resolved, with housing and unemployment among the issues most difficult to resolve. The two Family Centres facilitate over 150 family time sessions per week for children with their birth families, and in addition support over 850 sessions per year on a less frequent basis e.g. during school holidays.

Early Years

We wish to consult on proposals to increase, improve and better coordinate our early family support offer to best suit the needs of Oldham families. This will include the refurbishment of seven 'Family Hubs' across the borough, the delivery of services for families with children from a wide range of facilities within communities, and the delivery of a comprehensive outreach and digital offer. To reshape our services to meet the changing needs of Oldham's families we need to reconsider the formal designation of those children's centres which are currently underused or unused, not fit for purpose, or in need of significant investment. The planned consultation, which will take place in December and January, will seek views on our plans to invest in Family Hubs, which buildings and locations we should use to deliver services for families, and the de-designation of some of our current designated children's centres.

Youth Services

The Youth Service continues to deliver a comprehensive range of youth work programmes and activities, building on the district-based youth work offer of at least 40 sessions per week. The service continues to support key events across Oldham, such as the big bang Bonfire working which received positive feedback from police and partners about the benefits of having the youth service to support. The service has been part of a successful partnership approach to addressing ASB and youth violence concerns around the King Street tram stop. Key issues are meeting demand for youth services across the districts.

Oldham's Members of Youth Parliament attended the annual UKYP sitting in the House of Commons in November to debate the priority campaign – Food for Learning. Both our Oldham MYPS spoke in the commons to the debate and represented Oldham's young people brilliantly.

We delivered a successful October universal holiday offer for children and young people ages 5 – 16 providing free activities and food for 570 children and young people.

The Outdoor and Environmental Education service is on target to deliver activity to over 8000 Oldham young people. The service has recently been granted High Peak National Park ambassador Centre status and has retained the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Mark. During October half term the service piloted delivery of family-based sessions as part of the universal holiday activities, these were a great success, and the service is planning to repeat this family-based offer for the winter holiday period.

We have been successful in a capital grant application from the youth investment fund – we have secured £165,000 to fund the replacement of the stone slate roof at the Castleshaw centre. This is a much-needed capital investment to replace the roof that has fallen into disrepair.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

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Report to COUNCIL 13 December 2023

Education and Skills Portfolio Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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

School Leadership

As a member of the Oldham Learning Board, I am supporting the LeadHERship programme to unleash talent from our community. LeadHERship is a proven coaching and mentoring programme that has successfully provided women of colour from Greater Manchester with crucial skills for leadership. The Oldham Learning board is supporting a number of women of colour through the next cohort of the programme. Delegates met with the Council Leader as part of a Black History Month masterclass.

Ofsted Inspections

I can report that two Oldham schools have recently had reports published following Ofsted inspections. I would like to commend the Headteacher, staff and governors at St Matthew's Church of England Primary School for the work which resulted in an inspection grading of 'Good'. I was pleased to read the comment that *'parents and carers are exceptionally happy with the school'*. Furthermore, I also want to recognise the progress that Ofsted reported at St Luke's Church of England Primary School, where consistent work from the whole school community resulted in an improved inspection grading of 'Good'. My congratulations go to leaders, staff and governors, and I acknowledge the comments from Ofsted that, *'Pupils enjoy school. They, and their parents, appreciate the recent improvements made to all aspects of the school. Governors, leaders and staff are united in their ambition for pupils to benefit from a high-quality education'*.

Oldham Music Service

As we progress towards Christmas, I also want to recognise the exceptional work that Oldham Council's Music Service deliver. On Sunday 26 November, the Music Centre Youth Wind Band took part once again in the northwest regional heat of the National Concert Band Festival. Due to our connections with the national organisation, the festival was once again held in Oldham and hosted by Crompton House School, with bands from across the region participating. On the 6 and 10 of December respectively, the Junior and Senior Christmas Music Festivals took place in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. These events showcased the borough's finest young musicians as well as some of our excellent community talent.

Apprenticeships

Since the government's apprenticeship reforms were introduced in 2017, the council have created 191 apprenticeship opportunities for residents, with 95 of those having come in the last 2 years. These opportunities have covered a wide variety of services from supporting

the Parks Team to maintain our green areas, supporting residents to access the services they need via Access Oldham, to growing our own Social Workers of the future through the Social Work Academy. In addition to these opportunities, 335 council officers have undertaken apprenticeship qualifications to ensure they always have the most relevant knowledge, skills & behaviours to deliver services to the standard residents expect.

Through our apprenticeship levy we have also supported schools in Oldham to access apprenticeships and create pathways into a career in education for residents. For instance, 75 Teaching Assistant apprenticeships have been created in Oldham's schools since 2017, giving a platform for residents to gain the necessary skills and establish themselves with a recognised qualification, whilst earning a salary and gaining valuable experience in a school setting. Furthermore, we have supported a variety of businesses in Oldham to access apprenticeships, working closely with Oldham College, amongst others, to identify where the council's apprenticeship levy can have a positive impact on local businesses to support residents with quality employment opportunities.

Since 2017, when the public sector target for apprenticeships was introduced, we have performed in the top 25% of all councils in the country for new apprenticeship starts every year (barring 2021, in which Covid-19 halted nearly all new apprenticeships). This meant we were one of only two councils in Greater Manchester to achieve the governments public sector target on apprenticeships over the 5-year period.

I can report that there are plans to continue to increase the number of apprenticeships offered through the council and in areas where we have found there is demand from residents, such as the digital sector. We are also going to expand on our T-Level offer. In partnership with Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College, T Level's support 16–18 -year old's exploring college courses with work experience placement and we have offered a number of Digital T Level placements to date, with the view to expanding on the number and variety of T Levels offered to our young people.

Virtual School for Children Looked After

The Council's Virtual School Team advocates on behalf of all children in care and works alongside schools, social care professionals and wider partners to make sure that our most vulnerable children can access the education they deserve and identify the different areas of support needed for each child to stay engaged with their learning.

In addition to their statutory role, the team provide an enhanced offer to our children looked after through their 'Raising Aspirations and Participation' programme. The officers regularly engage our children and young people in activities linked to their interests and aspirations. Last year the Virtual School Team delivered 22 different activities, incorporating 309 of our children looked after.

I am delighted to say that the work of the Virtual School Team was identified as a strength during the recent area SEND partnership inspection by Ofsted. In the inspection report, it is stated that, *'Children and young people with SEND who are looked after have their needs identified and met effectively. A dedicated speech and language therapist and additional time for educational psychology input within the virtual school team have been successful. As a result, these children's and young people's outcomes improve'*.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Report to COUNCIL 13th December 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

Measles: This year the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) concluded that “there is a high risk of imported cases leading to outbreaks in specific population groups ... and geographies ... with some risk of limited spread to the wider community”. Measles is a particular concern because it is easily transmitted across unvaccinated populations. In addition, it can lead to very serious illness. Around 20-40% of those with measles will be hospitalised with higher rates in babies, and adults over 25 years of age.

The Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine provides excellent protection against measles. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommend that 95% coverage is needed to prevent the spread of measles. Following the pandemic, global MMR coverage dropped and coverage in the UK, fell to the lowest level in a decade. We have seen a reduction in our MMR uptake here in Oldham.

We are working together to increase uptake of MMR in Oldham. Primary care have been actively engaged in improving vaccination uptake. Work is ongoing to increase the number of children invited to clinics and increase the number and duration of clinics. In addition, community insights and communications, building on the community engagement work carried out during the COVID pandemic, form a critical part of vaccination uptake work in Oldham. In addition, it is important that if we do see cases of measles, we identify them quickly to provide the right care, and reduce the risk of transmission. We have ensured that the testing routes for measles are clear, infection prevention and control measures are in place, and that the system is prepared for any potential outbreaks.

Adult Social Care

The Adult Social Care staff conference held on 14th November was a great success. The content included celebrating success, the roll out of strengths-based approaches and the development of the Adult Social Care workforce strategy. The strategy will be co-produced with Adult Social Care staff.

Adult Social Care continues to prepare for Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection process. The service is working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) in line with a standardized self-assessment framework. It is expected Local Authorities will be informed during the month of December if they are to be inspected by CQC in the New Year. Meanwhile CQC have published the reports from the chosen 6 local authorities who participated in the pilot inspection process.

Adult Social Care have been leading on creating the ‘All Age Carers Strategy’ which is expected to be launched in 2024. The 3-year strategy has been coproduced with unpaid carers. The strategy is a pledge to ensure Oldham is a place where every carer is heard, valued, and given the tools to not

only provide care but also take care of themselves. The objective of the strategy is framed using the following 'I statements,'

I am recognised early as a carer.

I am supported by a community that collaborates effectively.

I feel recognised and valued as a young carer, with my school and community supporting me.

I always have access to information and advice when I need it just for unpaid carers in Oldham.

I am empowered to maintain my own wellbeing while caring for others.

I am heard, valued, and celebrated in my community.

Throughout 2023 the Council have been aware of the fragility of the care home market; this is not an issue unique to Oldham. The Commissioning and Market Management Service are continuing to work closely with care providers but report that the social care market remains an area of risk. This continues to be monitored through operational and strategic provider risk groups, which are a multi-disciplinary approach to the oversight of the whole care market and report back to the Director of Adult Social Care.

Oldham Total Care is now fully re-opened following a recent scabies outbreak despite the challenges of a national shortage of scabies treatment, this treatment has been completed.

Oldham Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

Flu Campaign for 2-3 year olds: During mid-November all GP Practices started to receive the flu vaccine campaign packs for 2-3 year old. The packs include: A4 Posters; double-sided information postcards; and reward stickers for children.

Oldham Winter UEC Summit: We have recently signed off our winter plan. Given that our urgent and emergency care system has started to come under significant pressure - this will only get more pronounced the colder the weather gets and the deeper into winter we get. Earlier this month we held an urgency and emergency care winter summit to help bring together all parts of the system to discuss measures and actions that can be added to our winter plan.

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and Population Health: Work has now commenced on a core pillar of our strategy – that is to start to shift our locality to a population health focused model and progress integrated neighbourhood team working. The programme of work will work across Oldham and at Primary Care Network (PCN) level to engage, develop local understanding and co-design local plans across a 4 stage process to:

Build a common, shared understanding of the current state across the PCNs (both population health, but also readiness for public health management (PHM), maturity of PCNs and enablers)
Understand the principles of and applying patient segmentation to identify and focus on local cohorts.
Co-develop different ways of working to enhance the effectiveness of neighbourhood multi-disciplinary teams (MDT).
Develop practical implementation plans for each PCN for a specific cohort for proactive targeting.

We expect the following outcomes:

- Start to build PCN buy-in to, and capabilities in, the principles and benefits of PHM, with a clear plan for action.
- An early draft business case for what is needed for a PHM function (looking at resourcing including workforce and financial flows) and what benefits it will deliver.
- Evolve and mature broader neighbourhood MDTs and PCN relationships which will in turn start to solidify closer integrated neighbourhood working and the role of PCNs, in line with national policy recommendations on integrated neighbourhood teams.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.



Cabinet Report of Communities and Culture Portfolio

Oldham Council

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 Place Based Integration

The second round of Community Councils has now taken place, with feedback given on progress against the initial priorities that Members and partners have identified. Each meeting has also received a presentation from, and held in depth discussions with, a specific partner on a key theme identified as a wider priority:

- North – GMP on crime and policing
- South – Environmental Services on access to green space
- East – Primary Care partners on access to services
- West – Youth Service on access for activity for young people
- Central – Education and schools on primary attendance and attainment

These discussions will contribute towards the development of the District Plan for each area, providing a set of shared objectives that we are able to work towards as a partnership. This would not be possible without the our partners and the positive way in which they are supporting this work.

Feeding into this, our new partnership problem-solving model, led by the District Teams, is now becoming embedded, and we are working to bring a wider selection of partners on board. An important part of this is the opening of our partnership offices, allowing for colocation of partners and Council services – we now have these spaces operational in three of our five Districts, with the others expected to be in place over the coming months. Our face-to-face support offer is also developing, and we expect to have locations up and running in each District soon, allowing people to access a variety of support nearer to home.

Heritage, Libraries and Arts

The Christmas Fair at Oldham Library, Christmas Parade and Lights Switch On took place on Saturday 18th November. Great attendance and feedback has been received from residents. The Christmas Fair attracted 2707 visitors (over double the usual Saturday footfall). The parade and switch-on attracted 10,000 people to the town centre.

The latest exhibition at Gallery Oldham opened on 21 October. Carboniferous Monsters: 150 million Years before the Dinosaurs. This exhibition shows what Oldham was like 300 million years ago. Suitable for prehistoric monster fans of all ages!

LS Lowry's masterpiece **Going to the Match** is going on public display in Gallery Oldham from 2 December 2023 to 24 February 2024. It will feature in a new Oldham Stories display alongside much-loved Oldham Athletic items from our collection and footage of Latics fans going to the match in the 1960s.

To support our work in libraries the council has been successful in gaining £6000 from the Good Things Foundation's 'Digital Inclusion Capability Grant - Fix The Digital Divide'. This will purchase laptops for the Digital Champions Network and support staff training.

Sport and Leisure

During October and November of this year, Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) invested around £620,000 in improving facilities for our residents. Their focus was on upgrading four gyms. These were in Oldham Leisure Centre, Royton Leisure Centre, Chadderton Wellbeing Centre and Failsworth Sports Centre. The refurbishment included replacing all cardiovascular equipment at all venues. All existing strength and resistance kit was totally refurbished to bring it back to pristine condition. There are also 40 new Spin Bikes. To enhance the offer, OCL have also improved the ambience of the gym spaces with new décor, floor coverings and LED mood lighting. Finally, a new 16-person sauna was also installed at Royton which will enhance the offer at this facility. The full project was completed on Monday 20th November and feedback has been extremely positive with an increase in membership of those leisure centres.

The utilities costs for maintaining our leisure facilities have increased over the past two years. This creates a particular issue for heating the seven swimming pools OCL operate in the borough. In partnership with OCL the Council put in a bid to the Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund and were awarded the maximum funding of £500,000. This is amazing news for the borough and will help with the operating costs of our pools. Swimming is an essential life skill, as well as being an excellent form of physical activity with benefits for mental and physical health. The fund is a one-off payment though and the increased price of utilities is likely to continue to present a challenge going forward.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.



Cabinet Report of Neighbourhoods Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

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

Prevent

The Council is implementing recommendations from the recently published statutory Home Office Prevent and Channel Duty guidance, including updating relevant policies and procedures to ensure compliance.

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. Preparations are now underway to deliver Oldham's participation in Greater Manchester's Hate Crime Awareness week which will take place in February 2024. The Sophie Lancaster Foundation has been commissioned to deliver a free hate crime 'train the trainer' session for Secondary School teaching staff. The hate crime training covers the five hate crime strands and has been expanded to also include misogyny.

Asylum Seekers

The Council continues to work with a range of partner agencies to support asylum seekers and refugees to integrate within the community, including providing support with housing, employment and volunteering opportunities.

Community Safety

Community Safety Services is currently in the process of a statutory review of over 200 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in the borough which protect the properties of over 8,000 residents. As part of this process, we are amending the terms to enable residents to develop alleyways into community spaces. This follows on from and builds upon the work undertaken as part of the Don't Trash Oldham campaign. Going forward, we are aligning the PSPOs to the Place areas, which will enable residents to find full details of Orders much easier on the Council's website.

The Service continues to respond to ASB and crime in an intelligence led way, applying solution focused methodology, in partnership with colleagues internal and external to the Council. As an example, there is an ongoing piece of work relating to the King Street Tram Stop and surrounding area, and there is close working with Oldham Sixth Form College, Oldham College, the Youth Service, GMP, TfGM and Highways.

Public Protection – Food Safety

The Public Protection Team has undertaken a range of enforcement. Examples include:

-
- 2 fly-tipping cases where the offenders have not paid the correctly issued Fixed Penalty Notice. These individuals were taken to court. In both cases the magistrates agreed with the Council and issued fines plus an element of costs. The fines from the 2 cases totaled £780 and a £1,000 in costs also awarded to the Council.

The Service continues to undertake its statutory duty relating to food safety inspections – 174 in quarter 2 - making sure the food being served in the borough is safe for residents. A number of inspections have led to legal action at the Magistrates Court – 3 businesses were found guilty of various offences and fines and costs issued by the courts totaled almost £10,000.

Public Protection

Between June and October 2023, the Council and Greater Manchester Police, have been working tirelessly to crack down on the sale of non-compliant disposable vapes and illicit tobacco.

In total, Officers have seized around 6,500 vapes, 19,000 cigarettes and almost 10kg of hand rolling tobacco, all of which were illegal – all with a street value of almost £100K

On one operation, a specially trained dog sniffed out a haul of illegal tobacco in the boot of a car linked to a shop involved in the trade. All the products seized over the last few months will be destroyed and the traders face the possibility of further action through the courts.

417 Fixed Penalty Notices, prosecution outcomes in court & legal notices issued for fly tipping in quarter 2.

Highways & Engineering

The service continues to deliver on a range of highways and Access Oldham schemes to improve the road network and resident experience. Examples of this work include:

- Rock Street Park/cycling and walking scheme under construction – planned completion Summer 2024
- West Street phase 1 nearing completion, footway surfacing and tree/planting due pre-Christmas
- Cheapside closure – approval gained from Key Stakeholders to make it a permanent and amended design issued to Contractor for construction – planned completion early late Spring 2024
- Additional circa £1.3m (circa £2.5m overall) of United Utilities Green Recovery funding approved for sustainable drainage and tree/planting in the Town Centre (Market S/Curzon St areas)
- Automated bollards at Henshaw St & Albion St fully operational and resulting in fewer vehicles entering the Town Centre during pedestrian zone times
- 1680 pothole repairs in quarter 2

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.



Report to COUNCIL – 13th December 2023

Cabinet Report of Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio

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

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

Markets (Indoor)

The team have been working closely with the Market Trader Liaison Group to shape the application process for the new indoor market. Regular engagement is now in place with the Trader Liaison Group and monthly meetings for all stallholders to attend. Application forms for the new market were issued from Thursday 23 November, with a closing date of 31 January.

We continue to support Tommyfield Market including the free after 3pm weekday parking offer and 3 hours free parking at weekends, we have radio and social media ads running and a dedicated markets Facebook page where you can see all the latest offers and goods.

The market has some fantastic stalls so please support them as much as possible, especially in the run up to Christmas. Every penny spent with a local business supports local staff and local families.

Markets (Outdoor)

The team have been developing temporary site options for the outdoor market in readiness for relocation from the current site in 2024. A firm option has now been established and work taking place to design the site to ensure the market can operate effectively. Liaison with outdoor market stallholders commenced on Saturday 25 November, and will continue over the coming weeks to ensure stallholders can share their views and raise any concerns.

Get Oldham Working

Get Oldham Working Team has been awarded a 38% increase in National Careers Service provision following their excellent performance and support to local residents, allowing the Council to support an additional 840 residents over next 12 months.

The team has also just secured new funding from; the Shared Prosperity Fund Working Well: Support to Succeed programme, which will enable the team to work with more than 350 residents who have not been in employment for some time; and, £25k social value investment from our partners, Ingeus from the wider Working Well programme to support the staffing costs for the Working Wardrobe shop.

Frank's Business Visits

Frank Rothwell, Oldham's Business Ambassador, regularly visits Businesses within Oldham with an officer from the Business Growth & Investment team. These visits are intended to create contact with businesses, offer a point of contact within Oldham Council and inform them of any support that may be available to them.

The last visits were held on the 24th of October 2023 with Frank Rothwell and I had the pleasure to attend on the day. These visits usually consist of 4-5 business site visits each

lasting at least an hour. The visits open a conversation to what support the business needs to grow. Whether that be help with recruitment, funding, or upskilling staff. The officer in attendance of the business visits follows up with each business informing of them of the support that they can access.

I would encourage businesses to contact Invest@oldham.gov.uk if they would like to host a visit.

Business Support & Networking

We celebrated Small Business Saturday on 2 December by sharing stories of small businesses across the borough. This included independents like Oldham Superstore in Chadderton, Cissie Barlow's Sweet Shop in Shaw and The Box King in Coldhurst, to name just a few. It was a great opportunity to highlight the brilliant businesses we have in Oldham and encourage residents to support them as much as possible.

We had a fantastic response to the campaign with the 42 posts creating over 133,000 impressions and 15,000 engagements.

I was really pleased to get out and about in the town centre visiting some of these businesses on the day, I joined the Leader and senior Officers at the Outdoor Market on Saturday.

We're supporting local businesses every week on our social media channels. Oldham Business Hour takes place every Friday between 11am and 12noon. All you have to do is tag the council in your message and we'll share it on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Our Business Newsletter goes out every week with a roundup of all the local news and opportunities for Oldham businesses. You can sign up at oldham.gov.uk/biznews. And we run a Jobs Hour on social media every Monday at 8pm – so if you're looking for a new job, keep an eye out or follow the Get Oldham Working Facebook page.

Finally, within the Spindles redevelopment, the new Business Hive will open next year- a fantastic new place for Oldham's entrepreneurs to get support, grow and thrive.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.

Cabinet Report of Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio

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

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

Finance

The Autumn Statement proved very disappointing with little new money for local government included. Adjustments to business rates will complicate the settlement, but it will not significantly affect the funding that is received by local authorities.

No new funding has been announced for local authorities beyond the increases that were already in our MTFP model, despite inflation eating into local government's funding allocations. Social care grant allocations for 2024-25 that were announced in the 2022 Autumn Statement have been confirmed. Other aspects of the settlement will be confirmed next month.

We will continue to work up savings options given the likelihood that our funding will be cut in real terms, despite the increases in demands for our services outlined last month.

The projected deficit for the year for the Council is forecast at over £14million 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.

On a more positive note, our 2021/22 accounts were finally signed off by the auditors earlier this month. At this present time, we are the only Council in GM to achieve an Audited opinion for the 2021/22 Statement of Accounts. Our 2022/23 accounts are nearing the final stages of the Audit and will be completed once the relevant information is received from the GM Pension Fund around one outstanding query which affects all Greater Manchester authorities.

HR and Organisational Development

On Friday 24 November Oldham Council gained GM Good Employment Charter accreditation. In order to gain accreditation we had to demonstrate evidence that we met seven key requirements; providing secure work, providing flexible work, paying the real living wage, engaging and involving employees, fair, legal and ethical recruitment, clear organisational values and behaviours and policies and practice that support mental and physical health. This work is just one part of our approach to retention and recruitment.

Agreement on the 2023/24 Local Government Pay Award was reached was reached in early November and will be paid in December's pay.

Customer Services

Contact Centre demand remains high with complex enquiries coming from residents and an average wait time of around 10 minutes. Additional staff are currently being recruited to cope with demand and reduce waiting times. Access Oldham saw a total of 4,881 residents

through the door during October, a 9% increase on September and the third successive rise in as many months.

The greatest areas of demand are for Housing Options and Council Tax and Benefits support. Housing Options footfall has increased by 48% since October 2022 while Council Tax and Benefits numbers have remained steady. These two enquiry types make up the majority (73%) of visits to Access Oldham.

Cost of Living Response

The Household Support Fund allocation continues to be delivered with a focus on issuing winter warm packs to residents seeking regular help with the cost of fuel. These packs are tailored to individual needs and include items such as draft excluders, radiator foils, duvets, and low energy cooking items. Payments of £60 fuel support to disabled residents and carers in receipt of council tax reduction have also been issued during November. During December the team will distribute food vouchers to support families with children in receipt of free school meals over the Christmas school holiday break.

The cost-of-living helpline took 1,164 calls in November, compared to October's total of 1,492. The mild autumn meant we have not seen quite the sharp rise in calls we expected but we expect to see more calls over winter as people struggle with energy bills in the colder months.

Customer and Digital Experience

We continue to prepare for the February launch of the resident offer in each District as part of the PBI programme. A communications plan is in place to ensure that we clearly communicate how residents can access support and services from each location in addition to self-service online. Resident Focus training has been developed for staff working in resident facing roles in districts which will be delivered across December and January.

The Digital programme continues to develop in response to demand into the Customer Support Centre and the need to improve the end-to-end resident experience. Projects in Council Tax, Housing and Waste have commenced with delivery phased from Spring 2024 onwards.

Final preparations are being made to launch a device gifting programme for residents in significant need of a device. This forms a key focus of our planned activity for 2024 to reduce the barriers to digital inclusion in Oldham. The scheme will be delivered alongside our existing data and digital skills support offer.

Green New Deal

The programme continues to establish Oldham as an exemplar area for sustainability, energy, carbon reduction, water, and green infrastructure. The largest projects remain the Oldham Town Centre Low Carbon District Heat Network and Wrigley Head Solar Farm. We have submitted a £1.65m funding bid for the next phase of this project and we are currently waiting for confirmation of this news.

I am pleased to confirm that last month saw the first meeting of the Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Group. This group brings together sector experts, local businesses, and partners helping us to drive forward and deliver on our ambitious net zero aspirations. This group will also be the body that helps to move forward with our plans to bring on board a strategic partner helping to deliver green infrastructure across the borough and unlocking significant levels of private sector investment. This in turn will help to create jobs for our residents and supply chain opportunities for our businesses.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.



Report to COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation

Portfolio Holder:

Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member Children and Young People

Officer Contact: Gerard Jones, Managing Director Children's Services

Report Author: Shelley Kipling, Assistant Chief Executive

13 December 2023

Reason for Decision

That Full Council receive the Annual Report from the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation and agree proposals to change the terms of reference for the Steering Group to include all constituted political groups and any elected members with portfolio or shadow portfolio responsibilities for children's services.

Executive Summary

Following the publication of the independent assurance review into historic safeguarding practice, Oldham Council established a cross party Elected member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation.

The Steering Group committed, as part of its terms of reference to provide a summary of its activity to Full Council on an annual basis. This report seeks to present that summary to Full Council (at Appendix A).

The report also seeks to agree changes to the terms of reference established in 2022 to reflect the changing political landscape within Oldham Council and ensure representation from all political groups. These changes are outlined in a proposed updated terms of reference at Appendix B.

Recommendations

- That Council formally receives the Annual Report of the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation detailing the assurance work undertaken in the last twelve months.
- That Council agree the proposed changes to the Steering Group's terms of reference to;
 - Extend the membership of the group to include two representatives from each political group,
 - That the two group representatives on the Steering Group will be the Group Leader and, where the role exists within that group, the member with portfolio or shadow portfolio responsibilities for children and young people.
 - Where no such role exists within a group the Group Leader will determine the second member.

Annual Report of the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation

1 Background

- 1.1 Following the publication of the independent assurance review into historic safeguarding practice in Oldham in June 2022 Oldham Council established a cross-party Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation.
- 1.2 The cross-party steering group provides oversight and assurance of current safeguarding practice and of our support for victims and survivors of current and historic child sexual abuse.
- 1.3 At its establishment the Group committed (as part of its terms of reference) to report annually on its work to Full Council. This report includes that first annual summary of activity for consideration.
- 1.4 The Group's terms of reference also ask that any changes to the terms of reference be agreed at a meeting of Full Council.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation meets four times per municipal year. It is chaired by the Chief Executive with representatives from Labour, The Liberal Democrats, Conservatives and the Failsworth Independent Group.
- 2.2 The current membership, as outlined in the Groups terms of reference, includes two representatives from each of the political groups that were represented on Oldham Council in Autumn 2022.
- 2.3 During 2023 two new political groups are now represented on Oldham Council but are currently not represented under the Steering Group's current terms of reference.
- 2.4 The membership of the Group currently includes Group Leaders but does not specify the membership of any portfolio or shadow portfolio holder for children's and young people. The updated terms of reference specifically ask for their inclusion in future membership, where the role exists within a group, to ensure assurance and oversight within the relevant portfolio.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 That Full Council agree the proposed changes to the Group's terms of reference ensuring representation with two members from all political groups on Oldham Council. The proposed changes also state that Group Leaders from each political group will be a member of the group, alongside, where the role exists, the portfolio or shadow portfolio holder for children and young people. Where that role does not

exist within a group the Group Leader will determine the second steering group member.

- 3.2 That Full Council not agree the proposed changes to the Group's terms of reference which would leave a number of political groups unrepresented on the Steering Group.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 That Full Council receive the Annual Report of the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation (at Appendix B) and agree the proposed changes to the Steering Group's terms of reference (at Appendix B), ensuring cross-party assurance and oversight of the council's work on complex safeguarding and exploitation.

6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 None

7 Legal implications

- 7.1 None

8. Co-operative Implications

- 8.1 None

9 Human Resource implications

- 9.1 None

10 Risk Assessments

- 10.1 None

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

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- 15 **Community cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**
- 15.1 None
- 16 **Equality Impact – including implications for Children and Young People**
- 16.1 No
- 17 **Key Decision**
- 17.1 No
- 19 **Background Papers**
- 19.1 None
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix A – Annual Report of the Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation
- 20.2 Appendix B – Proposed terms of reference Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation

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Appendix A

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION: ELECTED MEMBER STEERING GROUP

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

1 Introduction

This report has been produced as a record of the progress and impact of the Cross-Party Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation during its first year in existence.

The first meeting of the group was on 23 November 2022 and the group has met in February, June and October of 2023.

2 Purpose

Oldham Council made a commitment to establishing a cross-party Steering Group at a meeting of Full Council in September 2022 which followed on from the conclusion of the Independent Review into historic safeguarding practices in Oldham, the findings of which have been fully accepted by the Council. The review focussed on multi-agency responses to allegations child sexual exploitation in the borough during the period 2011-14.

In response to the publication of the review the Council has produced a Plan on a Page aimed at supporting survivors of child sexual exploitation and tackling perpetrators of abuse.

The purpose of the Elected Member Steering Group is to provide cross-party oversight of current safeguarding practice and the progress of the Plan to seek justice for and offer support to historic victims of child sexual abuse.

The aim is to raise member awareness, provide scrutiny and assurance on the effectiveness of current practice and to increase public confidence in the partnership response to complex and contextual safeguarding in Oldham.

The objectives of the Steering Group are to:

1. Not duplicate the scope of existing Boards in place but will work alongside the Council's existing governance arrangements.
2. Be provided with assurance on the support to victims both present and historic by way of data and insight reports
3. Be provided with assurance on progress of Operation Sherwood and the support given by the Council to Operation Sherwood by way of data and insight report

4. Be provided with assurance on current complex safeguarding activity and practice within the context of wider children's social care activity by way of data and insight reports
5. With agreement by the Steering Group, request and receive detail in relation to current safeguarding practice and be able to make suggestions to improve processes and practice in place
6. Have the ability to refer any matters for additional information or advice to the independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

The Steering Group will provide reports to Council summarising matters considered within the 12-month period. A minimum of one report within each municipal year will be presented however, there may be more should the Steering Group feel it has something to report.

The Group is not a decision-making body. Any proposed changes to process/current practice that requires a decision will be referred to the appropriate decision-making forum in line with the Council's Constitution/Schemes of Delegation. What actions the decision-making bodies make on such matters referred to them will be formally reported back to the Steering Group.

3 Progress over the last 12 months

a) November 2022

At the first meeting held on Wednesday, 23rd November 2022 Members were reminded of the purpose of the Steering Group and the Terms of Reference as agreed at the meeting of Full Council in September 2022. It was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be reviewed in 6 months' time.

Members were provided with a presentation which summarised the discussions at the All-Member workshop held in August and the outcome of the Joint Safeguarding Board workshop held in September. The workshop was jointly hosted by Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership and Oldham Safeguarding Adults Board and was designed to ensure that agencies have a full understanding of the learning from both the Oldham Independent Review and the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) programme. The event sought assurance about how services have changed over the last few years, adopting new ways of working that ensure a more responsive and inclusive approach to tackling the organised exploitation of children and young people in Oldham.

Members of the Steering Group were advised that the Joint Complex and Contextual Safeguarding subgroup and Transitions Hub were reviewing their Terms of Reference following on from the event to incorporate all age exploitation and ensure survivors of exploitation are supported by multi-agency responses. A further Joint Safeguarding event to review progress will be held early in 2023.

The Group received an update from Greater Manchester Police on the progress of Operation Sherwood which is a large-scale operation in response to the survivors

identified as part of the Independent Review. Members were assured that they will be kept up to date with all arrests made in connection with the operation.

The Managing Director Children and Young People Services, updated Members on the work the Council has undertaken in reviewing our support to victims. This includes ensuring that the views of survivors of exploitation inform and shape our response to support and detection. This is being facilitated by KOGS (Keeping our Girls Safe) which has been commissioned by the Council to undertake this work.

Members received a presentation on the National Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). This is a set of reports that sets out the main findings about the extent to which state and non-state institutions failed in their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation and makes recommendations for reform. The Inquiry held 325 days of public hearings. It processed over two million pages of evidence and heard from 725 witnesses. The Inquiry has also published 61 reports and publications. Over 7,300 victims and survivors engaged with the work of the Inquiry. More than 700 gave evidence at public hearings or provided statements. The Inquiry heard repeatedly how institutions prioritised their own reputations, and those of individuals within them, above the protection of children. Many lacked appropriate policies and procedures. There are 20 recommendations noted in the report. Greater Manchester have undertaken a piece of work to consider the recommendations at a GM level and the LGA / ADASS and DCS networks are also considering the recommendations. Within Oldham we are currently analysing all the recommendations and considering what they mean for Oldham.

The Chief Executive of KOGS provided Members with an overview of the organisation and its history. It was established in 2011 and was set up to address the gaps in service provision to young people around prevention and early intervention by educating young people on unhealthy relationships and supporting those that had been groomed or exploited. KOGS works with schools / colleges, offer workshops which are held across communities in Oldham, counselling both 1:1 and group sessions, mentoring. The group agreed that work should be undertaken to understand the support in place for males who are subjected to abuse.

b) February 2023

The Group was updated on a recent communication campaign, held over a period of two weeks, focussing on raising awareness of Complex and Contextual Safeguarding. An update was provided by Cllr Rea on a workshop that was organised in Failsworth to raise awareness amongst parents of young girls, although it was noted that more needed to be done to increase parent and carer engagement in the process.

Members were also updated on the Complex and Contextual Safeguarding Action Plan which takes into account key messages from the Historic Review and recommendations from the Joint Workshop which was held.

The following actions were noted as being completed:

- The Adult Safeguarding and Exploitation Strategy and Joint OSCP and OSAB Transitions Policy have been approved and implemented.
- The Joint Safeguarding Transitions Subgroup have also reviewed their TOR to incorporate exploitation.
- Each partnership has committed to an All-Age Exploitation Strategy

A case study was presented to the Group as part of this item.

The Steering Group were appraised on the progress of the Council Communications Strategy to raise awareness of the learning from the Oldham Review and how to spot signs of child sexual exploitation and take the appropriate action.

Members noted that work has also progressed on the following areas:

- A review of all of our safeguarding web pages, making sure the language and information was accessible as possible.
- A dedicated space in each addition of Oldham Council Working for You that profiles what the MASH and KOGS do.
- Promoting World Social Workday, giving thanks to our dedicated social work teams whilst also promoting how to get in contact with them.
- Promoting training sessions that took place in education settings for young people around spotting the signs of abuse.
- Regular posts on spotting the signs of abuse on our social media channels, particularly on Tik Tok which is increasingly popular among younger people.

The Council Communications Team will continue to work closely with KOGS to ensure that communication activity is sense checked by experts by experience.

Members also received update on the Complex Safeguarding Peer Review which has been undertaken in Oldham led by the Greater Manchester Complex Safeguarding Hub which identified the following strengths in Oldham:

- It is evident that progress has been made from previous peer reviews
- Allocation decisions set clear objectives and timescales
- There is evidence of management oversight
- The social care staffing has been increased to reflect the increasing demand
- Daily and weekly governance is attended by a range of partners
- Weekly governance enables young people not open to the service to be highlighted and monitored should concerns escalate
- The duty Complex Safeguarding Social Worker sits in MASH and in strategy meetings to provide consultation advice
- There is post 18 support for young people who consent to the continued offer from the Complex Safeguarding Team
- Peer mapping is actioned for every young person

- There is evidence of joint supervision and good working relationships with the area social workers
- Examples of the Complex Safeguarding Social Worker being persistent in trying to engage young people and considering age, vulnerability and young people's preferences in doing this.
- The Complex Safeguarding Team were able to reflect on decisions/actions and highlight where they could have done things differently
- The Complex Safeguarding Team demonstrated a genuine willingness to learn and develop
- During the meetings and case discussions there was evidence of a strong multi agency partnership approach

The Chief Executive KOGS updated the Group on progress through the use of case studies from survivors and the work that KOGS continue to provide and deliver services to survivors. Since being commissioned by the Council KOGS have spoken with 40 women regarding their experiences and are producing a spoken word presentation to share at a future Member Workshop.

c) June 2023

GMP updated the group on Operation Sherwood progress with support being offered to survivors. An update to All Councillors will be provided as part of the Steering Groups Annual Report to the meeting of Full Council.

Chief Executive KOGS shared the experiences of survivors and the work that KOGS continue to provide and deliver. It was explained that KOGS use the term non-recent rather than historic when referring to survivors' experiences. A number of survivors real voices were heard during the presentation, although their identify was protected.

Members received a progress report on the work of the Complex and Contextual Safeguarding Hub. 168 referrals have been received since July 2022 of which 122 received intervention with the remaining signposted to other services including KOGS 68 were relating to CSE and 76 relating to dual Contextual and Complex Safeguarding. 54 cases are open to the Complex Safeguarding Hub between the ages of 10 – 20 years old. 25% of children and young people currently receiving support have SEND needs and 25% have speech and language needs.

Members were also informed on the work of the Council and its partners on the prevention of exploitation. This included the work being undertaken with the Communications Team to share positive messages on social media. Training has been delivered to schools re: online safety and increased awareness of complex and contextual safeguarding. Schools have reached out to request training to parents. During the week of action (13 – 24 March), the Hub delivered training/briefings to 2,500 pupils across 9 schools, 3 mosques and 5 residential homes. Feedback from a

School and young person was shared to the group as part of the presentation. The Leader asked that children with SEND and SAL are prioritised across the system.

The Managing Director of Children and Young People's Services presented the group with the specific findings of the national Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. The following recommendations of the Inquiry alongside Government's response were noted by the group:

1. Compile and publish a single core data set covering both England and Wales on a regular basis. **Agreed by Government**
2. Create Child Protection Authorities for England and Wales to improve child protection practice, provide advice to government on child protection policy and reform, inspect institutions, and monitor implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations. **Agreed as part of the Stable Homes, Built on Love Strategy.**
3. Create a Minister for Children for both the UK and Welsh governments. **Not agreed as Government believes role fulfilled by Secretary of State for Education.**
4. Commission regular campaigns to increase public awareness of child sexual abuse, which should be continuously evaluated to measure impact. *Agreed.*
5. Ban the use of techniques which deliberately induce pain in youth justice settings. **Not agreed.**
6. Give children in care the ability to challenge aspects of local authority decision making by amending the Children Act 1989. **Government believes Stable Homes, Built on Love Strategy to deliver on this.**
7. Create a registration system for care staff in children's homes. This should be through an independent body which sets, maintains and enforces standards. **Agreed by Government.**
8. Introduce a registration system for care staff in young offender institutions and secure training centres. **Government exploring how this will work.**
9. Extend the use of the barred list to anyone recruiting an individual to work or volunteer with children on a frequent basis. **Accepted - subject to feasibility study.**
10. Improve compliance with the statutory duty to notify the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) through inspections, arrangements to refer breaches to the police and an information sharing protocol between the DBS and regulator. **Agreed by Government.**
11. Introduce legislation to allow enhanced checks of citizens and residents of England and Wales who apply to work or volunteer outside the UK. **To be reviewed.**
12. Make it mandatory for internet companies to pre-screen material for known child sexual abuse images before it is uploaded. **UK Online Safety Bill to address this.**
13. Introduce laws requiring anyone working in regulated activity, a position of trust or as a police officer, to report child sexual abuse if they receive a disclosure, witness, or observe recognised indicators of child sexual abuse. **Accepted and propose a mandatory reporting regime for child sexual abuse subject to full public consultation.**

14. Commission an inspection of compliance with the Victims' Code in cases of child sexual abuse. **Accepted and to be considered through the Victims and Prisoners Bill.**
15. Remove the time limit for compensation claims by people who have been sexually abused. **Accepted and to consult on strengthening judicial guidance and options to reform limitation law.**
16. Provide specialist therapeutic support for all children who have experienced sexual abuse across England and Wales. **Accepted and will consult on systemic changes to provision.**
17. Introduce a code of practice on keeping and accessing records about child sexual abuse. **Accepted and will engage with the Information Commissioners Office**
18. Extend the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme. **Accepted and will consult on amending scope and time limits.**
19. Set up a single redress scheme, to provide some monetary compensation for people who were sexually abused in institutions in England and Wales. **Accepted and will consult with interested parties.**
20. Ensure internet companies introduce age verification systems. **Accepted. Online Safety Bill to deliver.**

The Group was kept updated on the progress of Rochdale Review and Members were assured that the meeting would receive an update up when the outcome and any learning from that review can be shared.

The Group were informed that the Council's communication strategy continues to focus on building trust and confidence in the Council's services to survivors and those contacting the council for help and guidance. An update was also provided on the training scheduled for Members.

d) October 2023

At the final meeting of the year, the Steering Group received a presentation on the Complex Safeguarding Annual report from the Assistant Director, Social Work Services. The report is produced in order to provide assurance to Members, partners and the wider public on the quality and effectiveness of the Council's services for children and young people at risk of criminal, contextual and sexual exploitation. The report will be circulated to the Steering Group and published following sign off by Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership.

The meeting heard from the Managing Director, Children and Young People Services regarding the Greater Manchester Assurance Statement, which had been circulated to the meeting in advance. This has been produced by all 10 GM authorities to provide assurance on the effectiveness of local safeguarding arrangements to tackle child sexual exploitation as part of the conclusion of the GM Independent Review. The Assurance Statement was submitted on 29 September 2023 and the final report will be published by GMCA towards the end of the year.

The Assistant Director, Safeguarding and Quality Assurance summarised the key areas of the statement on how Oldham Council has significantly improved

safeguarding practices and is working collaboratively with key partners and stakeholders. The development of the multi-agency Complex Safeguarding Hub was highlighted as an example of the progress that has been made in Oldham since the period highlighted in the Independent Review into Oldham. The Assurance Statement also identified much more robust governance and performance management processes are now in place in line with the GM Complex Safeguarding procedures and performance frameworks. This includes processes to review cases of children and young people at risk, including those missing from home and daily risk meetings are held.

Independent oversight of the progress and impact of the Complex Safeguarding Hub has been provided to the Council and partners through Peer Reviews which have been undertaken in partnership with other GM authorities and overseen by the GM Complex Safeguarding Hub, as well as Ofsted. The Peer Reviews in 2019, 2020 and 2022 have evidenced good progress being made as well as areas for improvement. Peer Reviews were suspended in 2021 due to Covid.

The meeting received a brief outline of the Council's commitment to produce a Survivors Charter for survivors of child sexual exploitation. This work is being undertaken in partnership with statutory partners and the voluntary sector to ensure that the experience and voice of survivors shapes the work.

The meeting also received a presentation on the work of the Council in education settings including primary and secondary schools to prevent exploitation. This was led by the Safeguarding Partnership Education Training Officer who spoke about early prevention, consent and healthy relationships, online safety and behaviours. These sessions are delivered to pupils, parents and carers, foster carers, children's social care staff, residential care home staff, school staff and multi-agency professionals.

The role of Safeguarding Advisor is to deliver relevant age appropriate and support to school staff, Designated Safeguarding Leads and school governors. A case study was shared which evidenced awareness raising where a child, following a training session in school, came forward as he felt he was at risk of exploitation and as a result a report was made to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) and the young man is now receiving support from school and services.

Members felt that the presentations provided assurance that schools are engaging well and would be supportive of the Council's commitment to ensure all children and young people are aware of what exploitation means and how to access support.

The Steering Group was appraised of the proposed changes to Working Together to Safeguarding Children to include education providers as statutory partners. This will support the Council's work in schools, and it will be a priority of Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership to ensure that education fulfils its statutory duties.

Greater Manchester Police provided an update on the work of GMP in relation to current and historic child sexual exploitation. GMP are committing significant

resources to tackling exploitation which includes 1 Detective Inspector, 2 Detective Sergeants, 6 Police Constables. The strength of working relationships between GMP and Children's Social Care was emphasised in tackling exploitation. Members were assured that there were a number of serious and complex investigations ongoing which are progressing at pace and the investigation stage of Operation Sherwood is embedded with the first arrest being made. A number of anonymised case studies were shared with the Group. Finally, GMP confirmed that the force has also completed a GM Assurance Statement which would also be shared with the Steering Group.

Keeping Our Girls Safe provided an update on their work with survivors of non-recent exploitation. This includes direct work as well as referrals onto other agencies. Over the last 12 months KOGS has supported 65 young women who have come forward for support. A case example was shared with the group which illustrated how much effort is required to support a disclosure and the length of time often needed to get to that point where a survivor feels able to disclose. The Complex Safeguarding Hub has worked with KOGS to support the individual concerned who has finally decided to report the abuse they experienced. Other examples were shared, and the group acknowledged the commitment from across all partners to ensuring that survivors are able to access support and perpetrators are being pursued.

Members received an update on the Council's Communication Strategy and the work that is being done to publicly promote how to access support around child sexual exploitation including with the Complex Safeguarding Hub and KOGS. This is being done via the Council website and its newsletter, Oldham Council Working for You. Alternative mechanisms for sharing stories and links with younger audiences is being explored and an example of TikTok messaging was shared with the Steering Group. Parent and child friendly versions will be developed as it was noted that content should be adapted for both audiences. The Council has been offered access to the GMP young person's forum in order to assist with the development of this work.

5 Conclusion

This report summarises the assurance work undertaken by the Steering Group overseen during the first 12 months in existence.

The report will be presented to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee in November and circulated to members of the Steering Group in advance.

**Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
Oldham Council**

24 October 2023

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APPENDIX B

Terms of Reference: Elected Member Steering Group on Child Sexual Exploitation

Purpose:

The purpose of the Elected Member Steering Group is to provide cross-party oversight of current safeguarding practice and the appropriate information detailing work that is being undertaken to seek justice and offer support to historic victims of child sexual abuse.

Objectives:

The Steering Group will:

1. Not duplicate the scope of existing Boards in place but will work alongside the Council's existing governance arrangements including 'Getting to Good Board' which oversees improvements to Children's Social Care, the Independently chaired Safeguarding Partnership which oversees all safeguarding activity across the Borough and the newly established Victim Steering Group which oversees work to support historic and current victims of CSE
2. Be provided with assurance on the support to victims both present and historic by way of data and insight reports
3. Be provided with assurance on progress of Operation Sherwood and the support given by the Council to Operation Sherwood by way of data and insight report
4. Be provided with assurance on current complex safeguarding activity and practice within the context of wider children's social care activity by way of data and insight reports
5. With agreement by the Steering Group, request and receive detail in relation to current safeguarding practice and be able to make suggestions to improve processes and practice in place
6. Have the ability to refer any matters for additional information or advice to the independent Chair of the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership

Accountability and reporting arrangements:

The Steering Group will work alongside the existing governance arrangements already in place. The Steering Group will provide reports to Council summarising matters considered within the 12-month period.

A minimum of one report within each municipal year will be presented however, there may be more should the Steering Group feel it has something to report. This will be subject to agreement by the Steering Group.

The Steering Group is not a decision-making body. Any proposed changes to process/current practice that requires a decision will be referred to the appropriate decision-making forum in line with the Council's Constitution/Schemes of Delegation. What actions the decision-making bodies make on such matters referred to them will be formally reported back to the Steering Group.

A summary will be provided to Group Leaders after each Steering Group has met for dissemination within their groups.

Meeting arrangements:

The Steering Group will meet as a minimum four times within a municipal year.

The Steering Group will be chaired by the Chief Executive.

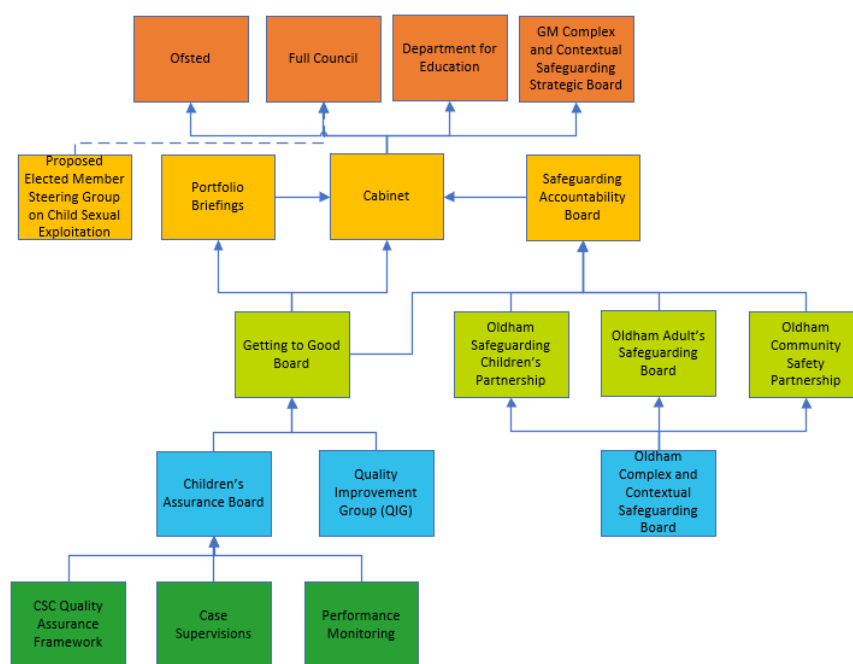
The membership will include two representatives from each political group. These representatives will include the Leader of the political group and, where the role exists, the portfolio holder or shadow portfolio holder with responsibilities for children and young people. Where the role does not exist within any group the Group Leader will determine the second member.

The Steering Group will be quorate with 50% of attendees.

Roles and Responsibilities of Members of the Steering Group:

- Attend meetings of the Steering Group
- Always maintain confidentiality (within and outside of the Steering Group forum)
- Act within the purpose of the Steering Group as set out
- Consider the impact on children and young people, victims/survivors of CSE and children’s social care
- To declare any interests at the start of each meeting that may be relevant to the agenda items

Governance Diagram



The Terms of Reference for the Steering Group will formally be reviewed on an annual basis but will be subject to discussion within six months of the Steering Group operating.

Any changes made to the Terms of Reference will be considered by the meeting of Annual/Full Council.



Report to COUNCIL

Review of political balance on committees

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

13th December 2023

Reason for Decision

The Council has received notification that three Members of the Council wish henceforth to be known as the Oldham Group, further to Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The three members are Councillors Ghafoor, Irfan and Wahid and Councillor Ghafoor is leader of the Group with Councillor Wahid as Deputy Leader

In light of this the Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The establishment of the new group means that the Conservative Group on the Council is reduced from 11 to eight. Therefore the Liberal Democrat Group, with 10 members, are now the Council's main opposition Group. Their Shadow Portfolio positions are detailed at Appendix 1.

Recommendations

- (a) The composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 be noted.
- (b) The number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year as detailed in paragraph 1.5 be approved.

-
- (c) Council confirms the allocation of seats to the political groups and makes appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 as far as is practicable (as detailed in Appendix 2 – which will be circulated prior to the meeting), including those Committees that are not strictly politically balanced – Scrutiny Boards.
 - (d) Any outstanding appointments where Group are entitled to a committee seat to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.
 - (e) The Liberal Democrat Group Shadow Cabinet positions be noted.
 - (f) In consequence of the changes outlined above, revised appointments will be made to some of the outside body appointments. These will be contained in Appendix 3 and will be circulated prior to the meeting. Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

Political Balance Review

1 Background

The Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

1.1 Political Groups

Council is asked to note that the composition of the political groups under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, is:-

| | | | |
|-------|------------------------------|----|---------|
| (i) | The Labour Group | 32 | Members |
| (ii) | The Liberal Democrat Group | 10 | Members |
| (iii) | The Conservative Group | 8 | Members |
| (iv) | Failsworth Independent Party | 3 | Members |
| (v) | Independent Group | 3 | Members |
| (vi) | Oldham Group | 3 | Members |

1 Independent Member not within a group

1.2 Political Balance

There are four statutory principles of political balance which have to be applied in filling appointments to Committees. These are contained in S15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The principles have to be applied in priority order as follows:-

- (a) that not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group;
- (b) that the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group are a majority of the Authority's membership;
- (c) subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority; and

(d) subject to paragraphs (a) to (c) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the same number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

The political group sizes as a percentage of the total membership of the Council are:-

| | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Labour Group | $32/60 \times 100 = 53.33\%$ | 105 seats x 53.33%=56 | 56 seats |
| Liberal Democrat Group | $10/60 \times 100 = 16.66\%$ | 105 seats x 16.66%= 17.49 | 17 seats |
| Conservative Group | $8/60 \times 100 = 13.33\%$ | 105 seats x 13.33% = 13.99 | 14 seats |
| Failsworth Independent Party | $3/60 \times 100 = 5\%$ | 105 seats x 5% = 5.25 | 5 Seats |
| Independent Group | $3/60 \times 100 = 5\%$ | 105 seats x 5% = 5.25 | 5 seats |
| Oldham Group | $3/60 \times 100 = 5\%$ | 105 seats x 5% = 5.25 | 5 seats |

There is one Independent Member not within a Group.

1.3 The application of these percentages to the number of seats on individual Committees gives the following allocation of seats:-

| COMMITTEE SIZE | Labour (L) | Liberal Democrat (LD) | Conservative (C) | FIP | IND Group | Oldham Group |
|----------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------|------|-----------|--------------|
| 15 | 8.00 | 2.50 | 2.00 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 |
| 14 | 7.47 | 2.33 | 1.86 | 0.70 | 0.70 | 0.70 |
| 13 | 6.93 | 2.17 | 1.73 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 |
| 12 | 6.40 | 2.00 | 1.60 | 0.60 | 0.60 | 0.60 |
| 11 | 5.87 | 1.83 | 1.46 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 |
| 10 | 5.33 | 1.67 | 1.33 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 |
| 9 | 4.80 | 1.50 | 1.19 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 |
| 8 | 4.27 | 1.33 | 1.07 | 0.40 | 0.40 | 0.40 |
| 7 | 3.73 | 1.17 | 0.93 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 |
| 6 | 3.20 | 1.00 | 0.79 | 0.30 | 0.30 | 0.30 |
| 5 | 2.67 | 0.83 | 0.67 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 |
| 4 | 2.13 | 0.67 | 0.53 | 0.20 | 0.20 | 0.20 |
| 3 | 1.60 | 0.50 | 0.40 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 |
| | | | | | | |

1.4 Under the political balance rules after these percentages have been applied to the total number of seats on Committees of the Council any remaining seats must be allocated to members who are not Members of any political group.

Applying political balance as detailed above, the allocation of seats, to the current committee structure, would be as follows:-

| Committee | Seats | L | LD | C | FIP | Ind Group | Oldham Group |
|-----------|-------|---|----|---|-----|-----------|--------------|
|-----------|-------|---|----|---|-----|-----------|--------------|

| | | | | | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Licensing | 15 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Planning | 14 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Audit Committee | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Children and Young People Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Employment Committee/Local NJC | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appointments Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Commons Registration | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charitable Trust Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Standards Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Regulation Order Panel | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals Committee | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 105 | 58 | 17 | 15 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

* In accordance with political balance rules, Labour should have a majority of seats but this is proposed to be waived.

The above calculation leaves 12 committee places to be allocated

1.5 Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance the number of seats must be allocated to accord with the rules above. It is therefore proposed that the number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

| Committee | Seats | L | LD | C | FIP | Ind Gp | Old Gp |
|--|--------------|----------|-----------|----------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| Licensing | 15 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Planning | 14 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Audit Committee | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Children and Young People Scrutiny Board* | 8 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Employment Committee/Local NJC | 7 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Commons Registration | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appointments Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Charitable Trustee Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Standards Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Traffic Regulation Order Panel | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Appeals Committee | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 105 | 58 | 17 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 |

* In accordance with political balance rules, Labour should have a majority of seats on Committee but this is proposed to be waived. On adjustment Labour and Conservative Groups is showing a slight increase.

The Health and Well Being Board is not included in the calculation above. Although the Committee is appointed by Council, the Local Authority (Public Health and Well Being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide for the disapplication of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 . At the Annual Council meeting this year it was resolved that the standards sub-committee consist of 3 members and be non politically balanced with one member from each group represented on the Standards Committee to be on the Standards sub-committee.

- 1.6 Substitutes are to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the Substitute Scheme contained in the Constitution. Substitutes for Overview and Scrutiny Boards may be nominated up to a maximum of the number of Members of that Group serving on the Board. For the Planning Committee, up to 14 substitutes are to be nominated in accordance with the political balance of each Committee.
- 1.7 Council is asked to review the political composition of the Committees; to determine the allocation of seats to political groups; and to make the appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations.
- 1.8 Outside Bodies – Arising from the changes above, revised appointments will be made to some outside body appointments These will be contained in Appendix 3 which will be circulated prior to the meeting.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 To approve the report
- Not to approve the report

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 To approve the report

4 **Consultation**

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and councillors.

5 **Financial Implications**

5.1 n/a

6 **Legal Services Implications**

6.1 There are no legal comments (Paul Entwistle).

7 **Human Resources Implications**

7.1 There are no human resources issues.

8 **Co-operative Implications**

8.1 None

9. **Risk Assessments**

9.1 A risk assessment is not required.

10 **IT Implications**

10.1 There are no IT implications.

11 **Property Implications**

11.1 There are no property implications.

12 **Procurement Implications**

12.1 There are no procurement implications.

13 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

13.1 There are no environmental or health and safety implications.

14 **Community Cohesion, including crime and disorder implications, in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

14.1 There are no community cohesion implications.

15 **Equality Impact - including implications for Children and Young People**

15.1 None

16 **Key Decision**

16.1 No

17 **Key Decision Reference**

17.1 n/a

18 **Background Papers**

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:

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Contact – Constitutional Services: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk telephone 0161 7705151, Level 4 Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

19. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Liberal Democrat Group Shadow Cabinet Positions

Appendix 2 – Membership of Committees.

Appendix 3 - Changes to outside bodies appointments

APPENDIX 1 Liberal Democrat Spokespersons 23-24

| | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Reform & Regeneration Cabinet Member: Deputy Howard Sykes | City Region |
| | Economic Growth |
| | External Relationships & Partnerships |
| | Capital projects & investment |
| | Corporate Property & Assets |
| | Borough Strategy |
| | Communications |
| | Cost-of-Living response |
| | Transport |

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Finance & Corporate Resources Cabinet Member: Deputy: Sam Al-Hamdani | Finance |
| | Revenues and Benefits |
| | HR and OD |
| | Legal Services |
| | Performance |
| | Customer |
| | IT and Digital and Transformation |
| | Green New Deal |
| | Energy |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Children and Young People Cabinet Member: Deputy: Hazel Gloster | Child safeguarding |
| | Children's Partnership |
| | Children Looked After |
| | Adoption and fostering |
| | Early Years |
| | Early Help |
| | Children's health & wellbeing |
| | Youth Service |

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Health and Social Care Cabinet Member: Deputy: Louie Hamblett | Adult Social Services |
| | Adult safeguarding |
| | Provider services |
| | Disability services & adaptations |
| | Mental Health & wellbeing |
| | Isolation |
| | Integrated Care System development |
| | Health Improvement |

APPENDIX 1 Liberal Democrat Spokespersons 23-24

| | |
|---|---|
| Education and Skills Cabinet Member: Deputy Helen Bishop | Education and Skills |
| | School Place Planning |
| | Looked After Children - educational performance |
| | Work and Skills Strategy |
| | Lifelong Learning |
| | Apprenticeships |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| Neighbourhoods Cabinet Member: Deputy: Dave Murphy | Environmental Services |
| | Waste and recycling |
| | Parks and Countryside |
| | Registrars & Cemeteries |
| | Emergency Planning |
| | Highways |
| | Justice & Community Safety |
| | Community Cohesion |

| | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Housing & Licensing Cabinet Member: Deputy: Garth Harkness | Strategic Housing |
| | Housing quality & enforcement |
| | Planning |
| | Homelessness |
| | Trading Standards & Licensing |
| | Building Control |
| | Landlord Licensing |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Communities & Culture Cabinet Member: Deputy: Alicia Marland | PBI & Districts |
| | VCSFE Sector |
| | Social Infrastructure |
| | Culture |
| | Leisure |
| | Libraries, Heritage & Arts |
| | Sports & Sport Development Events |

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Business, Employment & Enterprise Cabinet Member: Deputy: Mark Kenyon | Employment & Employability |
| | Get Oldham Working |
| | Business Support |
| | Business Networking |
| | Markets |



COUNCIL

Municipal Calendar 2023/24

Officer Contact: Paul Entwistle, Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

13th December 2023

Reason for Decision

This report sets out the draft calendar of meetings for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The Council's calendar of meetings for 2024/25 be approved, as set out at Appendix 1.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

Council Calendar 2024/25

1 Background

1.1 This report sets out the draft Calendar for the 2024/25 Municipal Year.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 The Council is entitled to amend any of the dates in the calendar but should note it is required to approve a version of the calendar at its annual meeting.

3 Preferred Option

3.1 To approve the calendar as set out in Appendix 1.

4 Consultation

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and elected members.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 n/a

6 Legal Services Comments

6.1 There are no legal comments

7 Human Resources Comments

7.1 There are no human resources issues.

8 Risk Assessments

8.1 A risk assessment is not required.

9 IT Implications

9.1 There are no IT implications.

10 Property Implications

10.1 There are no property implications.

11 Procurement Implications

11.1 There are no procurement implications.

12 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

12.1 There are no environmental or health and safety implications.

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

-
- 13.1 There are no community cohesion implications.
- 14 **Oldham Impact Assessment Completed (Including impact on Children and Young People)**
- 14.1 Not applicable
- 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:
Council's calendar of meetings 2023/24
Peter Thompson, telephone - 0161 770 4705, email peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk
Level 4 Civic Centre
Oldham
OL1 1UL
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – Draft Council Calendar 2024/25

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

1ST MAY 2024 – 31ST MAY 2025

| MAY, 2024 | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| | | 1 | 2 Election Day | 3 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|--|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Bank Holiday | | | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council | 23 | 24 |
| 27 Bank Holiday School Holiday Start | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 School Holiday End |

JUNE, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|--|---|---|---------------|
| | | | | |
| 3 6.00pm Mandatory Training for Planning Committee Members | 4 9.30am Licensing Committee | 5 6.00pm Planning Committee | 6 10.00am Appeals Committee | 7 |
| 10 | 11 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board | 12 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny | 13 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel | 14 |
| 17 6.00pm Cabinet | 18 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board | 19 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | 20 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board | 21 |
| 24 | 25 6.00pm Standards Committee | 26 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel | 27 6.00pm Audit Committee | 28 |

JULY, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------|---|--|--|---------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 9 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel | 10 6.00pm Council | 11 10.00am Appeals Committee | 12 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 15 6.00pm Cabinet | 16 9.30am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee | 17 6.00pm Planning Committee | 18 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (development session) 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel | 19 |
| 22 | 23 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board | 24 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board | 25 6.00pm Audit Committee | 26 School holiday starts |
| 29 | 30 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board | 31 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | | |

AUGUST, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|---------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 19 6.00pm Cabinet | 20 | 21 6.00pm Planning Committee | 22 | 23 |
| 26 Bank Holiday | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

SEPTEMBER, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|--|---|---------------|
| | | | | |
| 2 6.00pm Cabinet School Holiday ends | 3 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel | 4 6.00pm Standards Committee | 5 | 6 |
| 9 | 10 9.30am Licensing Panel | 11 6.00pm Council | 12 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board | 13 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|-----------|
| 16 6.00pm Cabinet | 17 2.00pm Local NJC Committee | 18 6.00pm Planning Committee | 19 10.00am Appeals Committee | 20 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel | 26 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel | 27 |
| 30 | | | | |

OCTOBER, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------|
| | 1 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee | 2 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board | 3 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board | 4 |
| 7 | 8 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board | 9 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | 10 | 11 |
| 14 6.00pm Cabinet | 15 | 16 6.00pm Planning Committee | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 28 School holiday starts | 29 9.30am Licensing Committee | 30 | 31 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board | |

NOVEMBER, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---------------|
| | | | | 1 |
| 4 School holiday ends | 5 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel | 6 6.00pm Council | 7 10.00am Appeals Committee | 8 |
| 11 | 12 9.30am Licensing Panel | 13 6.00pm Planning Committee | 14 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board Governance Strategy and | 15 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|-----------|
| | | | Resources Scrutiny Board | |
| 18 6.00pm Cabinet | 19 | 20 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board | 21 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel | 22 |
| 25 | 26 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board | 27 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel | 28 6.00pm Audit Committee | 29 |

DECEMBER, 2024

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|------------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| 2 6.00pm Cabinet | 3 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee | 4 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | 5 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (development session) | 6 |
| 9 | 10 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Standards Committee | 11 6.00pm Planning Committee | 12 10.00am Appeals Committee | 13 |
| 16 6.00pm Cabinet | 17 | 18 6.00pm Council | 19 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee | 20 School holiday starts |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Bank Holiday | 26 Bank Holiday | 27 |
| 30 | 31 | | | |

JANUARY, 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|-----------|
| | | 1 Bank Holiday | 2 | 3 |
| 6 School holiday ends | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 13 | 14 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel | 15 | 16 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board | 17 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|-----------|
| 20 6.00pm Cabinet | 21 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board | 22 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel 6.00pm Planning Committee | 23 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board | 24 |
| 27 | 28 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board | 29 6.00pm (Administration Budget) Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | 30 5.30pm Traffic Regulation Order Panel 6.00pm Audit Committee | 31 |

FEBRUARY, 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 6.00pm (Opposition Budget) Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | 7 |
| 10 6.00pm Cabinet (Budget) | 11 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 17 School holiday starts | 18 9.30am Licensing Panel | 19 | 20 10.00am Appeals Committee | 21 School Holiday ends |
| 24 | 25 9.30am Licensing Committee 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee | 26 6.00pm Planning Committee | 27 | 28 |

MARCH, 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------|---|--|--|---------------|
| | | | | |
| 3 6.00pm Cabinet | 4 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee | 5 6.00pm Standards Committee | 6 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Council (Budget) | 7 |
| 10 | 11 9.30am Licensing Panel | 12 | 13 5.30pm Traffic Regulation | 14 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|--|----|
| | 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board | | Order Panel 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 6.00pm Council | 20 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board | 21 |
| 24 6.00pm Cabinet | 25 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board | 26 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel 6.00pm Planning Committee | 27 6.00pm Audit Committee | 28 |

APRIL, 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 7 School holiday starts | 8 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 14 | 15 9.30am Licensing Panel | 16 | 17 | 18 Bank Holiday |
| 21 Bank Holiday | 22 School holiday ends | 23 6.00pm Planning Committee | 24 | 25 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

MAY, 2025

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-------------------|---------|-----------|---|--------|
| | | | 1 (No Municipal elections scheduled) | 2 |
| 5 Bank Holiday | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |

| | | | | |
|--|-----------|---|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 19 | 20 | 21 12:00 Council (Annual Meeting) | 22 | 23 |
| 26 Bank holiday School holiday starts | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 School holiday ends |



COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Portfolio Holder: Various

Officer Contact: Director of Legal Services

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

13th December 2023

Reason for Decision

The decision is for Members to note the updates on actions from the previous Council meeting held on 1st November 2023 and meetings earlier 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 1st November 2023 Council meeting and informs Members on any updated responses to motions approved at 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 Implications

7.1 N/A

8. Co-operative Agenda

8.1 N/A

9 Human Resources Implications

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 12th July, 6th September and 1st November 2023 are available online at:
<http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>
- 20 **Appendices**
- 20.1 Appendix 1 – Current Position
Appendix 2 – Reply from First Choice and Yale Housing Associations
Appendix 3 – Reply from United Utilities

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Appendix 1

Actions from Council – 1st November 2023

| ISSUE/ACTION | WHO RESPONSIBLE | COMPLETED | RESPONSE |
|--|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p>Labour Motion 1 - Battling Oldham's Housing Crisis Council Resolved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Council instructs the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and 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. 2. Council recommits to its Housing Strategy and affirms its ambition that every Oldhamer | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>Letter forwarded to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities</p> | <p>No reply has yet been received</p> |

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>should live in decent and affordable homes.</p> <p>3. The Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, seeking far-reaching action to tackle the housing crisis.</p> <p>4. This Council further resolves to call on the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. End rough sleeping within a Parliament and tackle the root causes of homelessness, including insufficient Local Housing Allowance Rates.b. Finally implement the promised ban on Section 21 'No Fault' Evictions to give private | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| <p>rented tenants the security they need.</p> <p>c. Back first-time buyers on ordinary incomes with discounted homes and give priority to local people on new homes built in their area.</p> | | | |
| <p>Labour Motion 2 – Permitted Development Council Resolved: 1. That Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to 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.</p> | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>Letters forwarded to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to the Borough's three Members of Parliament</p> | <p>No reply has yet been received</p> |

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|--|------------------------|--|---|
| <p>2. That the Chief Executive be also asked to write to the borough's three Members of Parliament to support local residents in overturning the 2015 Statutory Instrument.</p> | | | |
| <p>Conservative Group Motion: Holding Housing Associations Accountable for Damp and Mould Issues The Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Request that the Chief Executive write to all housing associations operating in the borough stating this council's strongly held view that no one should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home, and remind them of their obligations to inspect properties at risk of mould and damp and to make timely repairs, otherwise the council will take the necessary action, through enforcement or legal proceedings, to | <p>Chief Executive</p> | <p>Letters forwarded to Housing Associations that operate in the Borough of Oldham</p> | <p>Replies have been received from First Choice and Yale Housing Associations (at Appendix 2)</p> |

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>ensure that tenants are not put at risk.</p> <p>2 Work with housing associations to provide alternative accommodation whilst works are being undertaken in cases that homes are deemed un-inhabitable</p> <p>3 Continue to follow best practice and ask all residents approaching Housing Options questions to identify vulnerability or membership of the Armed Forces Community.</p> <p>4 Continue to use discretion on a case-by-case basis to support members of the Armed Forces Community accessing housing support in Oldham</p> | | | |
| <p>Liberal Democrat Motion: A Fair Deal for Private Renters This Council resolves to protect private renters by:</p> | <p>Deputy Chief Executive (Place)/Director of Economy</p> | <p>Work commenced by officers</p> | |

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Serving improvement notices on homes with severe hazards to invalidate Section 21 notices and enable Rent Repayment Orders if the landlord fails to comply2. Serving improvement notices for excess cold in homes that fail Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards3. Helping private renters claim back rent through rent repayment orders when they are eligible to do so4. Enforcing the ban on letting agent fees by issuing fines to criminal letting agents5. Taking action on overcrowded homes through licensing, increased inspections and a strategy for increasing the supply of homes for families and single adults6. Committing not to use landlord licensing to | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>enforce immigration law</p> <p>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.</p> <p>8. Utilise data available to the council to breakdown homelessness cases arising from the private rented sector, and publishing this alongside other relevant data including ethnicity, reasons for homelessness and areas, to help inform policy making in the future.</p> <p>9. Joining with Generation Rent, the national voice of private renters, and the Labour Party, in campaigning for the legislative change private renters need to</p> | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p>live in safe, secure and affordable homes.</p> <p>10. Supporting Generation Rent's campaign for a National Register of Landlords.</p> <p>11. Support the plans of the next Labour Government to introduce a renters' charter that will abolish 'no fault' Section 21 evictions, introduce a legally binding Decent Homes Standard for the private rented sector, ban landlords from refusing to rent to those in receipt of benefits or with children, provide for longer notice periods, introduce a national landlord register and introduce a right to have pets.</p> <p>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</p> | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <p>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.</p> <p>13. Use all the available tools at the council's disposal to engage with private renters, including the amazing work being done by the Doorstep Engagement Team.</p> | | | |
| <p>Independent Group Motion: Article 4 (1) direction on small HMOs</p> <p>That Council instructs the Planning department to collect and collate evidence on the number of HMOs in each ward across the Borough, identifying clusters and report back to the relevant cabinet member if any case can be made for an Article 4 direction, noting the National Planning Policy Framework requires that any such direction should apply to the</p> | <p>Deputy Chief Executive (Place)/Director of Economy</p> | <p>Work commenced by officers</p> | |

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| smallest possible geographical area based on this evidence. | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

6th September meeting

| ISSUE/ACTION | WHO RESPONSIBLE | COMPLETED | RESPONSE |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| <p>Council Motion: No More Profits Over Pollution RESOLVED</p> <p>Council Resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. | Chief Executive | Letters forwarded to United Utilities and to the Secretary of State at the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs | A reply from United Utilities is included at Appendix 3. |

Appendix 1

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>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.</p> <p>2. 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.</p> | | | |
|---|--|--|--|

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Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
Oldham MBC
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham
OL1 1UG

Your ref: Motion – Housing
Associations – Damp and
Mould (amended)

Our ref: AM/CHC

Tel No: 07880161491

Email: Anne.McLoughlin@fcho.co.uk

Date: 23 November 2023

Dear Harry,

RE: Holding Housing Associations Accountable for Damp and Mould Issues

Thank you for your letter dated 7 November 2023 regarding the Motion following the full Council meeting on 1 November 2023.

We would like to assure you that FCHO is taking the issue of damp and mould in our homes extremely seriously..

As the leading housing provider in Oldham we are an active member of the Oldham Strategic Housing Partnership where the issues of managing damp and mould have been debated and good practice shared across organisations. As you probably know, we have established a single point of contact for damp and mould cases that are raised with the Council to ensure that you have a clear communication path. We have also provided contact details for the OMBC website that signpost FCHO customers to contact us directly with any issues. We endeavour to respond to any queries raised by OMBC within the agreed timescales and we have excellent working relationships with teams across OMBC, particularly the Environmental Health Team.

Our comprehensive approach to managing damp and mould cases has been developed with our Customer Voice Panel and has enabled us to develop a best practice Damp and Mould Policy alongside a customer focused version of the Policy. In addition, we have:

- Reviewed and updated our Processes and Procedures which include clear timescales that are closely monitored (e.g. Inspection within 10 working days, repairs undertaken based on risk– e.g. emergency 3 hours, priority 5 days, etc.)

- Establishment of a dedicated Damp and Mould Project Team with representation from across the organisation.
- Appointed a dedicated contractor (B4Box) who not only undertake damp and mould related works but provide employment and learning opportunities for local residents.
- Improving our data quality and analysis (e.g. 91% of our homes have had a stock condition survey over last 2 years with the remainder being surveyed by 31 March 2024).
- High quality data has enabled us to identify potentially high-risk properties from a damp and mould perspective and to pro-actively survey circa 400 homes and take the resulting remedial actions.
- Increased investment in our homes relating to preventative measures and related improvements (e.g. Triple Glazing, Positive Input Ventilation systems, etc.) and accessing the GMCA Social Housing Quality Fund to expand this work.
- Installed a range of temperature and humidity monitoring devices in over 100 homes to help us to work with our customers and to understand any further action that is required.
- Providing additional surveying capacity and resource in our Customer Services team to meet customer demand over the autumn and winter periods.
- Providing clear communication to our customers around reporting damp and mould and promoting the 'Eyes wide open' campaign which encourages colleagues and contractors to notify us immediately if they come across any property or customer related concerns.
- All staff undergo mandatory training around damp and mould and we have organised role specific training including HHSRS training for our surveying team.
- Our Community Impact teamwork with customers to address issues arising from the cost-of-living crisis. This includes benefit advice, energy advice and support to access employment.

In terms of supporting other Housing Associations, we have led the review of Damp and Mould Policies and Procedures to identify good practice on behalf of the Greater Manchester Housing Partnership. This included advice on how to undertake a self-assessment against the Governments recently issued guidance and good practice in the management of Disrepair claims.

In your letter, you refer to the challenges around litigation. At FCHO we have taken a pro-active approach to Disrepair claim management. This has included undertaking a health and safety inspection as soon as a claim is

received in order to identify and address any immediate risks. We also contact the customer on receipt of a claim to discuss progressing down an alternative resolution route. This has proved particularly successful in reducing the number of Disrepair cases and addressing customers concerns quickly and effectively.

In Summary, we fully support the Councils view that no one should have to live in a damp, cold or unsafe home and we are clear on our obligations to inspect properties at risk of damp and mould and to make timely repairs.

Whilst damp and mould cases will continue to occur in our homes and we will never be complacent, we believe that we are making significant progress in terms of tackling root causes, undertaking preventative works, responding to issues when they occur and supporting our customers during a difficult time.

It is hoped that it is helpful to set out our approach, though please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like any additional information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne McLoughlin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne McLoughlin
Chief Executive (Interim)

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Subject: Yale Housing

Hi Harry

Thank you for the letter regarding Damp and Mold issues and the accountability Housing Associations have in relation to this.

As the Quality Assurance Manager for Yale Housing I would like to give you Yale Housing full support on this matter.

If there is any more information that could support our Association to work alongside the council to provide warm , safe and damp free homes, I would like to be contacted.

If there is a mailing list to attend any meetings with the Strategic Housing Group I would like to request to be added to the mailing list.

I look forward to your reply.

--

*Kind Regards
Debs Heyworth*

*HR and Quality Assurance Manager
Yale Housing Association Ltd
07795162420
0161 804 34 38
Chambers Business Centre, Chapel road, OL84QQ*

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Your Ref: Motion – Raw Sewage Discharges

9 November 2023

Mr Harry Catherall
Chief Executive
Oldham MBC
Level 3, Civic Centre
West Street
Oldham OL1 1UG

via email to: harry.catherall@oldham.gov.uk

Dear Harry,

Thank you for your letter sharing details of a recent motion passed by Oldham Council.

I apologise for the delay in responding; it appears that your letter was posted to an address in Trafford, therefore, we never received it, however, our address is as shown above.

I am pleased to provide responses to the points raised by the Council and give some more context around the management of storm overflows.

Please be assured that we at United Utilities are listening and planning to do much more when it comes to managing storm overflows and their impact on the water environment. We have already brought forward plans to invest £1.5 billion to reduce spills and our investment proposals for 2025 to 2030 would see one of the largest environmental improvement programmes in the country.

Storm overflows have long been a feature of sewer systems since Victorian times, capturing and holding rainwater running off roofs, roads and hills. At times of heavy rainfall, this water, mixed with treated sewage, is released into the environment instead of the risk of it flooding homes, gardens and businesses. Storm overflows act as a pressure relief valve for the sewer system.

Because we have the biggest network of combined sewers, which take in both rainwater and sewage, more heavy rain running more quickly into our sewers means they fill up much more quickly and activate more often.

We have heard what people think - no one wants to see sewage, no matter how diluted, finding its way into rivers and the sea any longer. We recognise we need to change how the sewer network is designed to cope with this, especially with the impact of climate change with more intense rainfall and a growing population.

To tackle this, we are looking at how we can reduce the volume of rainwater which gets into the sewer system in the first place, slowing it down. By doing this, we will then have more capacity to store and then treat the additional water.

Reducing the frequency of storm overflow operation will take time. We have over 2,200 storm overflows and 79,000km of sewers and we estimate the cost to reduce spills to no more than 10 per overflow per year will be around £19 billion up to 2050. But we are already making improvements and, in the last two years, we reduced spills by 39%. Our proposals to 2030 will see us invest £3 billion to improve over 400 storm overflows, cutting spills by a further 40%.

In Greater Manchester we plan to invest £740m to reduce activations of 105 storm overflows, including 4 overflows in Oldham. In 2018 we spent £80m to upgrade Oldham's Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) to improve water quality in the River Irk, and we are currently investing £12.8m at Saddleworth WwTW to improve the ecological status on a stretch of the River Tame.

We are working in partnership with the River Tame Working Group to develop an action plan to manage catchment issues, including litter/fly tipping, pollution, and habitat improvements. Our River Rangers will also be working across the water catchment to improve the environment and river water quality and engage with local community groups.

In addition, with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Environment Agency, we have agreed to collaborate on the delivery of an integrated water management plan, with the aim of reducing the risk of flooding across the city region. Together, we have set out objectives and actions from now until 2050 to transform how we manage water as a natural asset to:-

- create climate resilient places, whereby our infrastructure will be resistant to our changing climate;
- respond and adapt to flooding and droughts, ensuring local people understand risk to themselves and know their responsibilities to help manage them;
- increase capacity and collaboration throughout the water management sector.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with the Council to discuss this matter and to provide more information. In particular, in addition to our own plans we are very keen to explore how we can work in partnership to better manage rainfall when it comes to new developments or managing highways. For example, we have already provided North West developers with over £40m in discounts over the past four years to incentivise the building of water efficient homes which release less water to sewers. We are keen to see more sustainable urban drainage solutions installed to help hold rainfall back.

We do not underestimate the key role United Utilities and, more generally, the Water Industry has to play in river health. Water companies are poised to invest £60 billion in one of the largest infrastructure programmes ever undertaken to meet new environmental requirements, as set out in the 2021 Environment Act.

This scale of investment, to transform how the wastewater network operates, is so large that it would not be possible for customer bills alone to fund it. The current regulatory model allows us to raise funds up front from shareholders, allowing us to get started straight away on the improvement work, with customers paying for the investment in small bill increases over the lifetime of the new infrastructure, which could be over 50 years or more. The rate that bills will increase will be decided by the economic regulator, Ofwat, to ensure that bills are kept affordable.

I trust my response provides further information about this important, challenging environmental issue. I hope this is something we can work on together to address.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Beardmore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louise Beardmore
Chief Executive

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Report to Council

Treasury Management Half Year Review Report 2023/24

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

Officer Contact: Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance

Report Author: Talei Whitmore, Senior Accountant (Capital & Treasury)

13 December 2023

Reason for Decision

This report advises the Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first six months 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 review and outlines:

- An economic update for the first half of the year of 2023/24;
- A review and updates of the Council's current treasury management position;
- Council Borrowing;
- Treasury Investment Activity;
- Treasury Performance for the first six months;
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators;

The Audit Committee is charged with the scrutiny of Treasury Management activities for Oldham Council, and therefore considered and approved the contents of the Half Year Report at its meeting of 31 October 2023. The Committee was therefore content to commend the report to Cabinet. As such, Cabinet, at its meeting of 11 December 2023 approved the content

of the report and was content to commend it to Council

Council is, therefore, requested to approve the Treasury Management Half Year Report 2023/24 to ensure full compliance with the Code.

Recommendation

That Council approves;

- The Treasury Management Half Year Report 2023/24
- Approves the proposed revisions to the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit as presented at paragraph 2.6.9.

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.”

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 The Treasury Management Quarter 1 Update Report was presented to the Audit Committee for scrutiny on 5 September 2023. This report provides the Treasury Management position at the end of September 2023
- 2.1.3 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24 was approved at a 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 Half Year Review report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:
- An economic update for the second quarter of 2023/24;
 - A review and updates of the Council's current treasury management position;
 - Council Borrowing;
 - Treasury Investment Activity;
 - Treasury Performance for the first six months;
 - Treasury Management Prudential Indicators;
- 2.1.5 The Treasury and Prudential Indicators are incorporated at Appendix 1 to this report.

2.2 External Environment Half Year Review 2023/24

Economic Background

- 2.2.1 UK inflation remained stubbornly high over much the period compared to the US and Euro Zone, keeping expectations elevated of how much further the Bank of England (BoE) would increase rates compared to the regions. However, inflation data published in the latter part of the period undershot expectations, causing financial markets to reassess the peak in BoE Bank Rate. This was followed very soon after by the BoE deciding to keep Bank Rate on hold at 5.25% in September, against expectation for another 0.25% rise.
- 2.2.2 Economic growth in the UK remained relatively weak over the period. In calendar Q2 2023, the economy expanded by 0.2%. However, monthly Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data showed a 0.5% contraction in July, the largest fall to date in 2023 and worse than the 0.2% decline predicted which could be an indication the monetary tightening cycle is starting to cause recessionary or at the very least stagnating economic conditions.
- 2.2.3 July data showed the unemployment rate increased to 4.3% (3mth/year) while the employment rate rose to 75.5%. Pay growth was 8.5% for total pay (including bonuses) and 7.8% for regular pay, which for the latter was the highest recorded annual growth rate. Adjusting for inflation, pay growth in real terms were positive at 1.2% and 0.6% for total pay and regular pay respectively.
- 2.2.4 Inflation continued to fall from its peak as annual headline Consumer Prices Index (CPI) inflation declined to 6.7% in July 2023 from 6.8% in the previous month against expectations for a tick back up to 7.0%. The largest downward contribution came from food prices. The core rate also surprised on the downside, falling to 6.2% from 6.9% compared to predictions for it to only edge down to 6.8%.
- 2.2.5 The Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) continued tightening monetary policy over most of the period, taking Bank Rate to 5.25% in August. Against expectations of a further increase in September, the Committee voted 5-4 to maintain Bank Rate at 5.25%. Each of the four dissenters were in favour of another 0.25% increase.
- 2.2.6 Financial market Bank Rate expectations moderated over the period as falling inflation and weakening data gave some indication that higher interest rates were working. Expectations fell from predicting a peak of over 6% in June to 5.5% just ahead of the September MPC meeting, and to then expecting 5.25% to be the peak by the end of the period.
- 2.2.7 Following the September MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the Authority's treasury adviser, modestly revised its interest forecast to reflect the central view that 5.25% will now be the peak in Bank Rate. In the short term the risks are to the upside if inflation increases again, but over the remaining part of the time horizon the risks are to the downside from economic activity weakening more than expected.
- 2.2.8 The lagged effect of monetary policy together with the staggered fixed term mortgage maturities over the next 12-24 months means the full impact from Bank Rate rises are still yet to be felt by households. As such, while consumer confidence continued to improve over the period, the widely recognised GfK measure of consumer confidence hit -21 in September, it is likely this will reverse at some point. Higher rates will also impact business and according to Standard and Poors (S&P) /Chartered Institute of Purchase and Supply (CIPS) survey data, the UK manufacturing and services sector contracted during the quarter with all measures scoring under 50, indicating contraction in the sectors.
- 2.2.9 The US Federal Reserve increased its key interest rate to 5.25-5.50% over the period, pausing in September following a 0.25% rise the month before, and indicating that it may have not quite completed its monetary tightening cycle.

- 2.2.10 Having fallen throughout 2023, annual US inflation started to pick up again in July 2023, rising from 3% in June, which represented the lowest level since March 2021, to 3.2% in July and then jumping again to 3.7% in August, beating expectations for a rise to 3.6%. Rising oil prices were the main cause of the increase. US GDP growth registered 2.1% annualised in the second calendar quarter of 2023, down from the initial estimate of 2.4% but above the 2% expansion seen in the first quarter.
- 2.2.11 The European Central Bank increased its key deposit, main refinancing, and marginal lending interest rates to 4.00%, 4.50% and 4.75% respectively in September, and hinted these levels may represent the peak in rates but also emphasising rates would stay high for as long as required to bring inflation down to target.
- 2.2.12 Although continuing to decline steadily, inflation has been sticky, Eurozone annual headline Consumer Prices Index (CPI) fell to 5.2% in August while annual core inflation eased to 5.3% having stuck at 5.5% in the previous two months. GDP growth remains weak, with recent data showing the region expanded by only 0.1% in the three months to June 2023, the rate as the previous quarter.

Financial Markets

- 2.2.13 Financial market sentiment and bond yields remained volatile, with the latter generally trending downwards as there were signs inflation, while still high, was moderating and interest rates were at a peak.
- 2.2.14 Gilt yields fell towards the end of the period. The 5-year UK benchmark gilt yield rose from 3.30% to peak at 4.91% in July before trending downwards to 4.29%, the 10-year gilt yield rose from 3.43% to 4.75% in August before declining to 4.45%, and the 20-year yield from 3.75% to 4.97% in August and then fell back to 4.84%. The Sterling Overnight Index Average Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.73% over the period.

Credit Review

- 2.2.15 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, 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. This stance continued to be maintained at the end of the period.
- 2.2.16 During the second quarter of the year, Moody's revised the outlook on Svenska Handelsbanken to negative from stable, citing concerns around the Swedish real estate sector.
- 2.2.17 Having put the US sovereign rating on Rating Watch Negative earlier in the period, Fitch took further action in August, downgrading the long-term rating to AA+, partly around ongoing debt ceiling concerns but also an expected fiscal deterioration over the next couple of years.
- 2.2.18 Following the issue of a Section 114 notice, in September Arlingclose advised against undertaking new lending to Birmingham City Council, and later in the month cut its recommended duration on lending to Warrington Borough Council to a maximum of 100 days.
- 2.2.19 Arlingclose continued to monitor and assess credit default swap levels for signs of ongoing credit stress and although no changes were made to recommended durations over the period, Northern Trust Corporation was added to the counterparty list.
- 2.2.20 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 remains 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 at the end of Quarter 1 but, as presented at Table 2, had risen to £87.401m at the half year.
- 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 half year forecast for 2023/24, 2024/25 and 2025/26. It also shows the financing sources 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 and show the half year forecast compared to the Quarter 1 forecast and the closing position for 2022/23..

Table 1 – Balance Sheet Summary

| | 31 March 2023 Actual £'000 | 31 March 2024 Quarter 1 Forecast £'000 | 31 March 2024 Half Year Review Forecast £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| General Fund CFR | 465,723 | 493,124 | 487,634 |
| HRA CFR | - | - | - |
| Total CFR | 465,723 | 493,124 | 487,634 |
| Less: Other debt liabilities PFI | 204,339 | 193,787 | 193,787 |
| Borrowing CFR | 261,384 | 299,337 | 293,847 |
| External borrowing | 160,996 | 185,996 | 173,496 |
| Internal borrowing | 100,388 | 113,341 | 120,351 |
| Less: Usable Balance Sheet Resources | 154,194 | 145,453 | 128,953 |
| Less: Working capital | 25,713 | 25,713 | 20,000 |
| Net Investments | (79,519) | (57,825) | (28,602) |

- 2.3.4 Table 1 shows the forecast CFR for 2023/24 is £487.634m, an increase of £21.911m compared to £465.723m at the end of 2022/23, but a reduction compared to the forecast CFR of £493.124m at the end of the first quarter. The CFR excluding other debt liabilities relating to Private Finance Initiative schemes is forecast at £293.847m an increase of £32.463m compared to the position at the end of 2022/23 but £5.490m lower than the Quarter 1 forecast.
- 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 raising 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 September 2023 and the change over the year to date is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Treasury Management Summary

| Borrowing/Investments | 31 March 2023 Balance £'000 | Movement £'000 | 30 September 2023 Balance £'000 | 30 September 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 | (7,000) | 13,000 | 4.63% |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 35,780 | 9,815 | 45,595 | 4.90% |
| Total Investments | 70,780 | 2,815 | 73,595 | |
| Net Borrowing (total borrowing less total investments) | 90,216 | | 87,401 | |

As can be seen in the table above, borrowing remains unchanged from the start of the financial year. However, borrowing is likely to increase in line with planned capital expenditure during the latter part of the year. Overall, the level of investment has increased £2.815m 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. Bank Rate rose by 1% from 4.25% at the beginning of April to 5.25% at the end of September. Bank Rate was 2% higher than at the end of September 2022.
- 2.4.6 UK gilt yields were volatile, mainly facing upward pressure since early April following signs that UK growth had been more resilient, inflation stickier than expected, and that the Bank of England saw persistently higher rates through 2023/24 as key to dampening domestic demand. Gilt yields, and consequently PWLB borrowing rates, rose and broadly remained at elevated levels. On 30 September, the PWLB certainty rates for maturity loans were 5.26% for 10-year loans, 5.64% for 20-year loans and 5.43% for 50-year loans. Their equivalents on 31 March 2023 were 4.33%, 4.70% and 4.41% respectively.
- 2.4.7 There remains a strong argument for diversifying funding sources, particularly if rates can be achieved on alternatives which are below gilt yields + 0.80%. The Authority will evaluate and pursue these lower cost solutions and opportunities with its advisor Arlingclose.
- 2.4.8 As at 30 September 2023, Oldham Council held £160.996m of loans. There has been no new borrowing undertaken in the year to date so no movement from the position at 31 March 2023. Outstanding loans on 30 September (borrowing position) are summarised in Table 3 below.

Table 3 - Borrowing Position

| Borrowing Sources | 31 March 2023 Balance £'000 | Movement £'000 | 30 September 2023 Balance £'000 | 30 September 2023 Weighted Average Rate % | 30 September 2023 Weighted Average Maturity (years) |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| 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 | 4.71% | 1 |
| Total Borrowing | 160,996 | - | 160,996 | | |

LOBO Loans

- 2.4.9 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.
- 2.4.10 With market interest rates having risen, the probability of LOBOs being called has been higher than in the recent past. A total of £35.000m of LOBO loans had annual/semi-annual call option dates during the period April-September, however no lender exercised their option.
- 2.4.11 Currently Oldham Council has £34.000m LOBO loans with call dates during the remaining six months of this financial year. Of this sum, £10.000m is held with Dexia Finance, and the remaining £24.000m split with three other providers, Danske Bank, KBC Bank and KA Finanz. At the time of writing no call options have been exercised.

2.4.12 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. Given the revised interest rate forecasts referred to earlier in this report, the probability of the LOBO options being exercised is reducing.

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 September 2023, the Council held £73.595m invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During the first six months of 2023/24, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £70.870m and £86.330m 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 September 2023 Balance £'000 | 30 September 2023 Income Return % |
|--|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Banks & building societies (unsecured) | 10,000 | (10,000) | - | 4.06% |
| Government (incl. Local Authorities) | 10,000 | 3,000 | 13,000 | 4.77% |
| Money Market Funds | 35,780 | 9,815 | 45,595 | 4.90% |
| Property Pooled Fund | 15,000 | - | 15,000 | 4.43% |
| Total investments | 70,780 | 2,815 | 73,595 | |

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 1%, from 4.25% at the beginning of April to 5.25% by the end of September. 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 in the first six months ranged between 4.04% and 5.35%.

- 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 first half of the year. This investment has average earnings of 4.43%.
- 2.5.7 UK property markets were more settled during the second quarter of financial year 2023/24 (July – September) when the sharp rise in bond yields resulted in a big fall in property valuations. There were signs of returning investor interest, occupier resilience and a perception that the downturn in commercial real estate may be bottoming out. It helped rental income and led to some stabilisation in capital values. However, the combination of high interest rates and bond yield, higher funding costs and the prospect of sluggish economic growth constrain the outlook for commercial property.
- 2.5.8 The combination of the above had a no effect on the combined value of the Authority’s property funds since March 2023. Income returns have risen slightly in the second quarter at 4.43%.
- 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 September was £0.311m.
- 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 to 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% | | 4.710% |
| Overnight SONIA | 4.751% | 4.989% | 4.896% |

- 2.6.2 The budgeted investment rate of 4.40% (shown 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 six months 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 period to 30 September 2023 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 Q2 2023/24 £'000 | Actual Position at 30 September 2023 £'000 | Maximum Allowable in 2023/24 £'000 | Compliance Yes/No |
|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Any single organisation, except the UK Government | - | - | 30,000 | Yes |
| Any group of organisations under the same ownership | - | - | 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 | 71,330 | 45,595 | 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 September 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 originally 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.
- 2.6.9 Due to the reduction in the CFR during the year (as advised at paragraph 2.3.4 and Table 1) it is proposed that both the Operational Boundary and the Authorised Limit are reduced. The proposed limits are presented in Table 8 below and show a reduction in the Operational Boundary from £508.500m to £494.000m and the Authorised Limit from £533.500m to £519.000m.

Table 8 – Proposed Revised Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit

| Borrowing /Limits | 2023/24 Revised Operational Boundary £'000 | 2023/24 Revised Authorised Limit £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Borrowing | 297,500 | 317,500 |
| PFI and Finance Leases | 196,500 | 201,500 |
| Total Gross Borrowing / Limit | 494,000 | 519,000 |

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

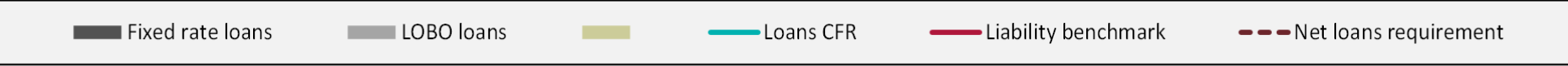
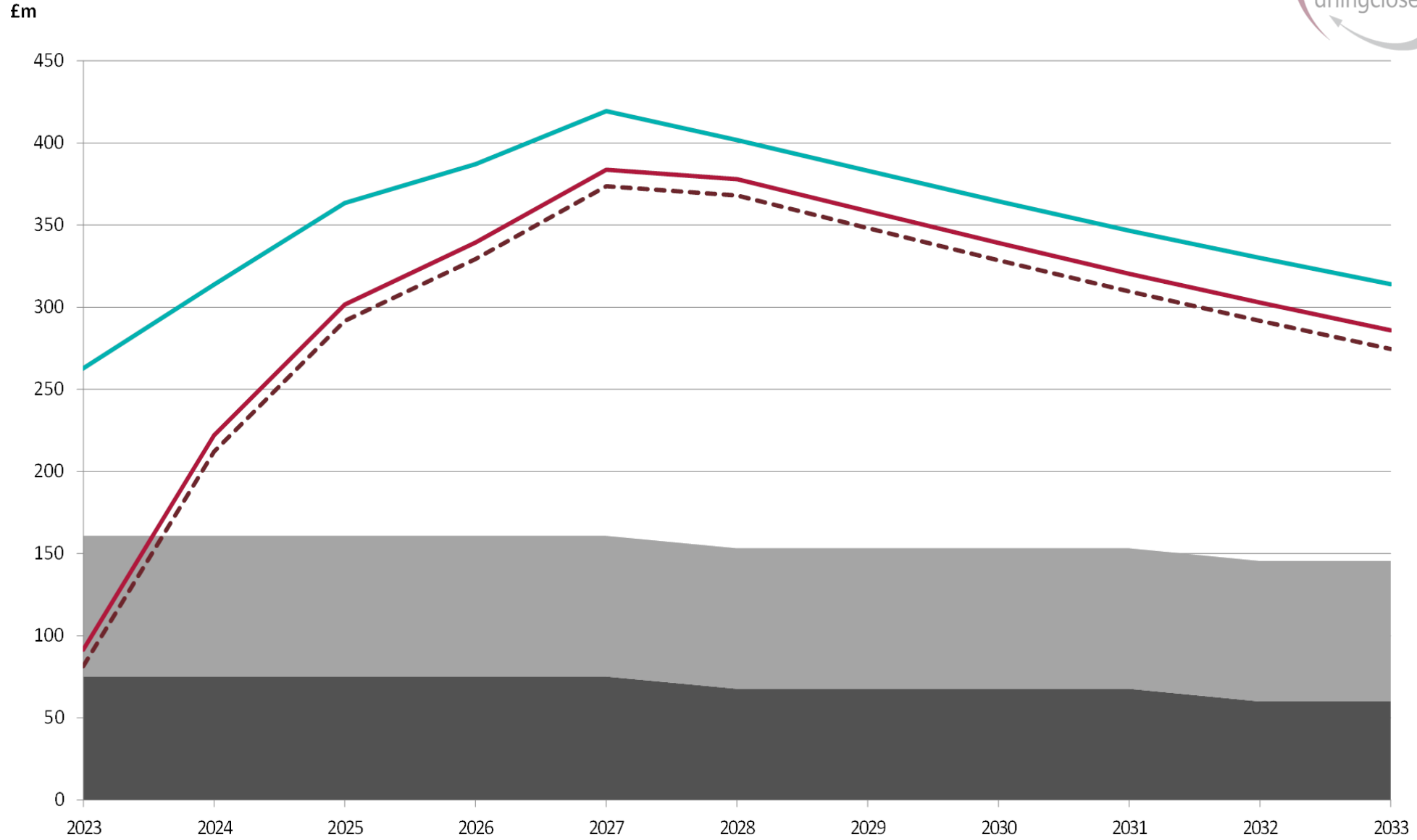
- 2.7.2 This new indicator compares the Authority’s actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term 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 9 - 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 | 292,300 | 347,900 | 388,500 |
| Less: Balance sheet resources | 181,254 | 157,900 | 158,200 | 158,500 |
| Net loans requirement | 81,546 | 134,400 | 189,700 | 229,400 |
| Plus: Liquidity allowance | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 | 10,000 |
| Liability benchmark | 91,546 | 144,400 | 199,700 | 239,400 |
| Existing /forecast borrowing | 160,996 | 173,496 | 207,496 | 230,396 |

- 2.7.3 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in the table 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



- 2.7.5 Table 10 below sets out the maturity structure of borrowing at the end of the first six months of 2023/24 compared to the upper and lower limits set in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24.

Table 10 - Maturity Structure of Borrowing

| Borrowing Timeframe | Upper Limit | Lower Limit | 30 September 2023 Actual | Compliance Yes/No |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Under 12 months | 40% | 0% | 24.26% | Yes |
| 12 months and within 24 months | 40% | 0% | 3.11% | Yes |
| 24 months and within 5 years | 40% | 0% | 30.48% | 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 11- 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.

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 Audit Committee 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 in the production of this report.

5.2 The Treasury Management Half Year Review Report was presented to Audit Committee at its meeting on 31 October 2023, for scrutiny. All matters raised by Audit Committee Members were addressed to the satisfaction of the Committee in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice and the Committee was content to commend the report to Cabinet. At its meeting of 11 December 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 Yes.

17 Key Decision

17.1 Yes

18 Key Decision Reference

18.1 FLC 16-23

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 Appendix 1
Officer Name: Talei Whitmore
Contact No: 0161 770 4424

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 half year 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 | 75,831 | 129,301 | 63,972 |
| HRA | 210 | 764 | 628 | 95 |
| Total Capital Expenditure | 58,787 | 76,595 | 129,930 | 64,067 |
| | | | | |
| Financing | | | | |
| Grants & Contributions | (32,411) | (29,464) | (58,478) | (13,469) |
| Prudential Borrowing | (16,868) | (39,002) | (64,945) | (49,959) |
| Revenue | (237) | (1,078.97) | (630) | (95) |
| Capital Receipts | (9,271) | (7,049.77) | (5,877) | (544) |
| Total Financing | (58,787) | (76,595) | (129,930) | (64,067) |

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 | 487,634 | 528,112 | 550,202 |
| Total CFR | 465,723 | 487,634 | 528,112 | 550,202 |

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 September 2023 £'000 |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Gross Borrowing (incl. PFI & leases) | 365,335 | 367,283 | 389,872 | 400,652 | 354,782 |
| Capital Financing Requirement | 465,723 | 487,634 | 528,112 | 550,202 | - |

Debt and the Proposed Revised Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

| Debt | Debt at 30 June 2023 | 2023/24 Half Year Revised Operational Boundary | 2023/24 Half Year Revised Authorised Limit | Compliance? Yes/No |
|------------------------|----------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | |
| Borrowing | 160,996 | 297,500 | 317,500 | Yes |
| PFI and Finance Leases | 193,787 | 196,500 | 201,500 | Yes |
| Total Debt | 354,782 | 494,000 | 519,000 | |

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 | 27,607 | 32,957 | 35,179 |
| Proportion of net revenue stream | 8.81% | 10.06% | 11.56% | 12.13% |

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Report to Council

Code of Conduct Amendment

Officer Contact and report author: Director of Legal Services

13th December 2023

Recommendation

Members are requested to consider the proposed amendment to the Code of Conduct.

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council have agreed a Members Code of Conduct which has been re-confirmed this year.
- 1.2 At its meeting on the 12th July 2023, Council resolved to develop and adopt a mandatory duty to report safeguarding concerns, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, into the Members Code of Conduct.
- 1.3 Council is asked to consider the following proposed paragraph for insertion into the code of conduct at paragraph 11, which has been recommended by the Standards Committee - "If any member has any safeguarding concerns, including child sexual abuse and exploitation, in connection with any person, it is the duty of the member to report these concerns to the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)".

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1 N/A

3 Legal Implications

- 3.1 N/A

4 Co-operative Implications

- 4.1 N/A

5 Human Resource Implications

| | |
|------|--|
| 5.1 | N/A |
| 6 | Risk Assessments |
| 6.1 | N/A |
| 7 | IT Implications |
| 7.1 | N/A |
| 8 | Property Implications |
| 8.1 | N/A |
| 9 | Procurement Implications |
| 9.1 | N/A |
| 10 | Environmental and Health & Safety Implications |
| 10.1 | N/A |
| 11 | Community cohesion disorder including crime and disorder implications Crime and Disorder Act 1998 |
| 11.1 | N/A |
| 12 | Oldham Equality Impact Assessment including implications for Children and Young People) |
| 12.1 | As detailed in the report, this duty will assist in strengthening safeguarding. |
| 13 | Key Decision |
| 13.1 | N/A |
| 14 | Background Papers |
| 14.1 | None |
| 15 | Appendix |
| 15.1 | None |