

COUNCIL
13/03/2024 at 6.00 pm



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

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6.02pm and reconvened at 6.32pm.

The Deputy Mayor stated that this meeting was being held during Ramadan. Council agreed to suspend Procedure Rules to allow an adjournment of 30 minutes for prayers and to allow members the opportunity to have refreshments.

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor (Councillor Chauhan) and from Councillor Hindle.

2 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH DECEMBER 2023, 22ND JANUARY 2024 AND 28TH FEBRUARY 2024 BE SIGNED AS CORRECT RECORDS

Council considered the Minutes of the meetings held on 13th December 2023, 22nd January 2024 and 28th February 2024.

Further to Minute 11 of the meeting held 13th December 2023 (Notice of Opposition Business), in respect of Motion 3: The Protection and Safeguarding of Children, a member queried the accuracy of this section of the minutes stating that a bullet point, containing the following information had been omitted ...'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.'

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the accuracy of the Minutes of the Council meeting held 13th December 2023, as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	AGAINST	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR

Sam			
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	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Bishop Helen	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
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	AGAINST	Salamat Ali Aqeel	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Harkness Garth	AGAINST	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hurley Maggie	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 32 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the Minutes being approved as a correct record with 26 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The Minutes were therefore APPROVED.

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meetings held 13th December 2023, 22nd January 2024 and on 28th February 2024 be approved and signed by the Mayor as correct records.



Oldham
Council

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

Councillor Hobin declared a disposabel pecuniary interest in agenda item 10: Notice of Administration Business (Motion 2 – Bee Network).

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

The Deputy Mayor agreed to accept an Item of Business, Review of Political Balance on Committees, as a matter of urgency in accordance with S.100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972; Urgent Council consideration was required to enable a review of 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 for the remainder of the 2023/24 municipal year and the matter could not reasonably wait until the next scheduled Council meeting.

The Item was considered at Item 17 of the agenda.

The Deputy Mayor announced that following discussions with group leaders he was varying the order of the agenda by moving item 16 (Places for Everyone Plan) to item 10, to enable a more thorough discussion on the proposals contained in the submitted report. Council agreed to this.

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

The Council was informed that there were two Members who had indicated they would be retiring at the end of the current Municipal Year.

Councillors Mushtaq, Shah, Byrne and Al-Hamdani paid tribute to the work of Councillor Jenny Harrison.

Councillors Davis, Shah, Byrne and Al-Hamdani paid tribute to the work of Councillor Fryer.

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

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

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

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

8 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question from Mark Birchall

Having just watched the meeting on the 13/12/2023 I was surprised to see the youth council requesting stationary, then hijacked by the labour party to use it as a political football. Can you please disclose how much money has been used so far to fit out the lavish offices being built in the Spindles for the Council's staff and what monies have been provisioned for further work?

Can you please also verify that full attendance by staff in these offices are being achieved and the working from home has been restricted and staff are encouraged to come into work. Bearing in mind one of the statements made was staff in the Spindles will shop in the town?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources replied, thanking Mr Birchall for his question. The Council offices in Spindles are a central part of redeveloping the town centre to support local shops - traders in spindles are already reporting increased footfall and spend because of the moves which is encouraging.

In addition, this change in public service office space has released vital brownfield sites that will be used to provide much needed new homes for Oldham's residents.

We have reused existing furniture in the new space and the costs for the new infrastructure and fit out is around £800,000; and the costs of maintaining the new office space are lower than the costs for maintaining the Civic Centre.

The new office space offers a range of working arrangements, with some staff working from an office environment every day, some working from various Council and partner bases depending on the nature of their work, and some staff who work flexibly between offices and home. However, the new space can accommodate up to 1,000 people, which is important to continue to support town centre traders.

2. Question from Lewis Farnworth

Will the council consider instead of unpaid carer's grant, an unpaid carer's loan this would provide essential support for what we unpaid carers deserve please can Councillor Jabbar or Councillor Barbara Brownridge to answer. This would better support us the low rate to pay back would potentially save the council funds that would have to be paid back.

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care replied, thanking Mr Farnworth for his question and for the suggestion about ways that the Council could support our valued carers in Oldham.

Oldham Council's Carers offer included a range of free services for unpaid carers across the borough and I would urge Mr Franworth to get in touch to discuss what support we offer now and how we might better support him:

Heath issues; Entitlement to benefits; Mobility issues; Equipment and assistive technologies; Carers rights; Carers employment issues; One-to-one practical and emotional support; Carers assessments; Carers personal budgets (subject to eligibility criteria which is based on the Care Act); Signposting/referrals to social services and other providers;

Oldham carers emergency support scheme (OCESS); Activities/Talks/Training; Access to Carers Support Groups and Networks.

Oldham currently has 2,257 unpaid carers registered with 1,369 receiving support via an assessment in the previous 12 months and 1,226 in receipt of a Carers personal budget.

We are aware that there are national organisations who offer additional support of grants and additional extra financial help which we can help signpost local carers to. This information is also available on the Carers UK website.



3. Question from Meg Birchall

How is the council working with the NHS to ensure that sites for new health centres are identified and that these are built?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care replied, thanking Meg Birchall for her question. The Council has no direct responsibility for building new health centres: this is the responsibility of the NHS.

It is for the NHS Greater Manchester to identify what facilities it needs in the future and then to propose a way of funding that, albeit those requests would be in competition with all of the requests from the whole of the NHS nationally.

The council continues to work with local health organisations to lobby for additional health services and centres to meet local needs.

4. Question from Paul Scoltock

What is the Council doing about takeaway drivers on the High Street as they are a real nuisance and sometimes drive dangerously? Please can the Council take action before someone gets hurt?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Housing and Licensing replied, thanking Mr Scoltock for his question. The Council's teams regularly patrol the town centre and issue penalty notices to vehicles found in contravention of the restrictions. We are well aware that drivers continue to flout the restrictions and are working hard to tackle this using the powers we have and seeking new ones.

We receive many reports about vehicles driving dangerously in the town centre and we continue to encourage people to report this to the Police, as they are the only authority who can deal with the dangerous driving behaviours.

We have already introduced hydraulic bollards to limit vehicular access to the pedestrianised area of the Town Centre, and there are more measures to be installed as works to the town centre continue to roll out.

5. Question from Kelly Jones

How is the council working with partners to combat anti-social behaviour and crime when we are seeing less PCSOs and police officers on the streets? How can people feel safe in the community after reporting crime and anti-social behaviour?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied thanking Kelly Jones for her question. The Council and its partners continue to work together and are committed to tackling anti-social behaviour and crime. Information from residents helps us to fully understand the problem, to identify those responsible and to intervene as early as possible. Information can be provided confidentially or anonymously. Non-urgent information can be reported on 101, via the GMP web portal at gmp.police.uk or through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

6. Question from Imran Ghaffar

I would like to ask the Leader, how can she and her cabinet give Oldham athletic a £1 million to spend on a football pitch, while road maintenance projects receive comparatively less funding. Could you kindly provide an explanation and justification for this allocation?

Understanding the reasoning behind such decisions would greatly help in fostering transparency and trust within the community.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, thanking Mr Ghaffar for his question. Put simply the investment into a new pitch at Boundary Park was made to secure the future of Rugby League in Oldham as it allowed a ground sharing partnership between Latics and Roughyeds to be developed. It also opened the door to other community led use of the pitch including by youth teams and by different sports.

The Council investment is a catalyst to unlocking further funding opportunities directly aimed at supporting grass roots provision, youth sports, community engagement and participation through both Oldham Athletic and Oldham Rugby League Clubs. I wouldn't want to apologise for investing in the things that matter to this town and to the people in it – especially where that investment provides the opportunity for so much more.

That said, the council also continues to ensure funding is available for road and pavement maintenance, emergency repairs and road safety projects, and has invested over £4m over the last year because we know that the state of our roads matter to local people too.

7. Question from Vikki White

I've seen in the news about 500 social homes being built, can we find out more about them? Where are they going? When will they be built etc?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing replied, thanking Vikki White for her question. During the Housing Round Table event held in February, the Council had made a shared commitment to deliver 500 new social homes over a 5-year period in a response to the national housing crisis which is directly impacting on Oldhamers.

Work is well underway on council owned sites including in the town centre to determine how many homes, of what size etc will be built in each site.

This will be based on the individual site specifications and local need and full details will be included in detailed plans as they are brought forward.



8. Question from Kyle Phythian

With the rise in gang related violence in Failsworth what is the council doing to liaise with GMP to put more police and community outreach workers onto the streets in Failsworth to tackle the issue at source?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thanking Kyle Phythian for his question. The Community Safety Team and other partners work very closely with GMP. Significant work has taken place in the Failsworth area to resolve issues and this continues daily. Partners involved in this work also include TfGM and the business sector.

In order for services to identify those involved in these behaviours, it is important that incidents are reported and information is provided. This enables us to identify the root causes of the issues and to respond in a solution focussed way with the community.

Violent incidents and other crimes can be reported confidentially or anonymously via 101at gmp.police.uk or through Crimestoppers. In an emergency, incidents should be reported to GMP using the 999 service.

9. Question from Jayson Pape-Jones

When will the Snipe pub be coming down and where will you be putting that artwork installation that's in between the snipe and the shop next door?

I've seen the CGI mock-ups online and they look really good, it'll make that alleyway between the bus station and the high street much safer.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, thanking Jayson for his question. Demolition of the Snipe Inn is planned to start this Spring – probably in the next month. with works lasting until summertime.

The 'Light Squeeze' artwork currently in the alleyway next to the Snipe is to be protected and taken away for a condition assessment and refurbishment works. We are hopeful that the artwork can be reincorporated into the town centre at a later date.

10. Question from Tom James

Why are you wasting time with two different motions about Gaza on the agenda tonight, hasn't Oldham got enough real issues to deal with rather than this virtue signalling?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, that the Council is absolutely committed to dealing with a wide range of issues that local people bring to us in this chamber and via case work directly to us. Be that highways improvements, the state of public services after nearly 15 years of austerity, supporting them with the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis or housing

crisis. We work every day to meet the needs of Oldham's residents.

But while the conflict in Gaza may be taking place geographically far from Oldham the impacts are being felt here. Oldham is home to Palestinian residents who are impacted by the ongoing conflict as they fear for the safety of their loved ones who remain in Palestine. In the last fortnight in fact a local woman was reunited with her husband who had been trapped inside Gaza and injured in the incessant attacks that continue to injure innocent people.

The borough is home to both Jewish and Muslim residents both of whom as communities are dealing with the impact of growing antisemitism and islamophobia which continues to be stirred up by this conflict.

It is easy to think that this conflict is nothing to do with us here in Oldham and to shy away from discussing what many Oldham residents want us to discuss,

But that doesn't sit right with me and doesn't feel in keeping with Oldham's proud history of standing up for what's right. During the American Civil War, when cotton was blockaded and many in Oldham faced a lack of work and income as a result, Oldham people stood up for what was right. Historical records show that mill towns like Oldham showed some of the highest support for abolition of the slave trade during this time – despite the impact that blockades and the war were having on their income.

Oldham has a proud history of supporting those who are in danger, those who are persecuted, those who are terrorised. We should continue that proud tradition to speak up for others and fight for the rights and protections of our fellow humans across the globe.

The Deputy Mayor advised that the unanswered questions would be published to the Council's website, with written answers, in due course.

9

REPORTS OF THE LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS

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 Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Question 1: Environmental Services

Councillor Sykes noted that it was proposed that 30 posts were to be cut from the Council's Environmental Services, despite the Council's poor record in environmental enforcement. He asked what impact this will have, if any, on front-line services?

Therefore, he asked, does the Leader still stand by the proposed staffing cuts and will the public be affected by this proposal?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that the Liberal Democrat group had not objected to this proposal at the Budget Council meeting on 28th February 2024 and had not put forward any viable alternate options. The Leader of the Council noted

that the austerity measures that had been forced onto the Council by central government, since 2010, had resulted in the Council having to make difficult decisions.



Question 2: Public Space Protection Orders

Councillor Sykes stated that several Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO), that were in place to protect some of the Borough's most valued open and public spaces, had been allowed to lapse, such as Crompton Moor, which had expired in November 2023. The failure to have a PSPO in place left these spaces vulnerable to damage and vandalism. Councillor Sykes asked who in the Labour administration would be held accountable for the failure to renew the PSPOs that had lapsed? Are there other, similar, Orders that have not been renewed?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that the PSPOs were currently being reviewed by the Council and further discussions thereon would be held in due course.

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group

Councillor Sheldon stated that in 2022/23 only about 94% of Council Tax monies in the Borough had been collected and that not once, since 2014, had the collection rate reached 95%, which equated to about £30 million of lost income. Councillor Sheldon asked if the Council was actively seeking to reclaim this money and what plans were in place to seek an improvement in future years.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that the Oldham's Council Tax collection rates were in the top three for Greater Manchester authorities.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independence Party

Councillor Hobin referred to recent successful resident well-being events that Failsworth Independence Party members had been promoting, which had seen the funding of projects in green spaces, in Failsworth, via Section 106 funds. A wellbeing market was due to be held in Failsworth and Councillor Hobin asked if the successful template for these types of events could be rolled out across the Borough.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, commending the work of the Failsworth Independence Party members in this regard and she agreed with Councillor Hobin's suggestion.

Councillor Ghafoor Leader of the Oldham Group

Councillor Ghafoor asked if the Council had devised a roadmap for addressing and reducing the levels of reserve funding that the Council is incurring and reducing the Council's overall debts? He also asked if local businesses can be utilised to help with the problems associated with temporary housing accommodation?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, disputing that the levels of reserves held by the Council were as low as was being

suggested. The Council did have, as discussed at a recent 'round table' event a plan for addressing the housing crisis in Oldham, including the problems that arise from temporary accommodation.



Councillor Hince Leader of the Independent Group

Councillor Hince stated that on the day redundancy notices were issued to members of staff, the Council Leader was on social media 'bragging' about the new council offices in the Spindles shopping centre. He asked if the Leader of the Council would be apologising to those staff members for her actions?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, that she would not apologise for the interpretation of her activities that Councillor Hince has made and that the new office facilities at the Spindles will prove to be a great success in freeing up brownfield land in Oldham town centre for future development.

The Deputy 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 the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 13th November 2023, 11th December 2023 and 22nd January 2024; urgent decisions made during 2023/24; and the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 24th November 2023, 15th December 2023, 26th January 2024 and 9th February 2024.

Councillor Arnott - The Labour Party in Royton North are currently distributing an election leaflet focussing on the contentious issue of IX Wireless developments in the Royton area. Such are the inaccuracies and falsehoods stated in this blatant piece of electioneering with no regard, or perhaps even any real understanding of the issues, the residents group opposing IX Wireless developments have been moved to write to all councillors, the Chief Executive of the Council and the regions MPs expressing their outrage, and outlining how they have been left speechless by the use of an issue that has caused so much anxiety, as a piece of clumsy propaganda. Following a meeting with residents and the Leader of the Council, facilitated by Councillor Lewis Quigg in December, Councillor Shah agreed to speak with IX Wireless regarding the positioning of a mast on Denbydale Way. Residents are still waiting for an appropriate response. Following requests for updates from IX Wireless from Royton North councillors, the company has made it clear that they will only deal with the Leader of the Council. Can Councillor Shah, therefore, update the council on this particular issue, and in general what progress she has made on challenging the developers with regards to their planning and practices which are causing so much concern to the residents of Royton.

It is accepted that in many ways, the council is bound by statute and legislation, but other councils and regions have been much

more proactive in their scrutiny and more successful in holding companies such as IX Wireless to account.
Would the Council Leader commit to standing up for the residents of Royton North and undertake to work collaboratively with local elected councillors for their benefit.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, that she and members of her administration will continue to support the residents of Royton North in their efforts to hold companies such as IX Wireless to account for their failings. Councillor Shah has personally lobbied IX Wireless for them to address the concerns of the residents of Denbydale Way or to find a suitable compromise. The Council's powers though were only limited grounds on which they can be refused planning permission.

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani - the council recently announced funding of £270,000 for the night-time economy, although with no details of how that would be spent.
Could the cabinet member responsible please give us the details of how this funding has/will be used?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, that funding had been made available on the condition that it benefitted businesses in the Yorkshire Street/Union Street areas of the town centre and work was ongoing for achievement of 'purple flag' status for the town centre.

Question from Councillor Davis - the Failsworth Councillors have met and agreed an alternative site for the Covid Memorial that would give it a proper place in the centre of Failsworth, the only issue is that the site in question needs a bit more TLC than we thought, is there any scope to look at what investment can be made to make sure we can do it justice and pay the proper respect to people who died during the pandemic?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, commending Councillor Davis for the work that he has done in this regard and she confirmed that between £7,000 and £10,000 of funds would be made available for developing a fitting Covid memorial in Failsworth.

b. Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio
The Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio Holder presented her report.

Question from Councillor Adams - The councils of Greater Manchester including Oldham have received notice that the Save Greater Manchester Greenbelt Group intends to pursue a legal action to oppose the adoption of the Places for Everyone plan.

Is the council aware of the financial risk that it faces by choosing to go ahead and adopt the plan with legal action pending, and has it made suitable provisions to cover cost awards that could potentially result from a successful action brought by the GM group.

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio replied, that she was aware of the potential legal challenge. However, based on evidence provided the Council is confident that the inspectors have examined the plan properly and in detail and that the appropriate procedures have been followed and that there will be limited financial risk to the council.

Question from Councillor Sajed Hussain - I've seen in the report that 218 inspections were carried out in areas with selective licensing. How many of these inspections resulted in work being required on the property? Does this show that we are getting better results for residents in areas with selective licensing?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio replied, that 264 condition audits of licensed properties have been carried out which allow for inspections of properties to be undertaken. If a property is found to be in disrepair a landlord is obliged to carry out appropriate remedial work in a specified time and, in this regard, a total of 25 landlords have had action taken against the for not carrying out the required remedial work.

Question from Councillor Harkness - there is currently no formal oversight structure for the licensing of HMOs in Oldham, which was raised by the Liberal Democrats last November (2023) at full council, following the discovery that multiple HMOs in the Borough had expired licenses.

This was due to be discussed at the housing round table in February.

Could the cabinet member responsible please provide the outcome of those discussions, and confirm what oversight is due to be put in place as a result?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Housing and Licensing Portfolio replied, that the Housing round table had considered a number of options and plans for dealing with Oldham's housing crisis including multiple HMOs in the Borough that had expired licenses. The licensing of HMOs is managed proactively by the Council's Environmental health service which includes the licensing of HMOs where national legislation applies.

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

The Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Portfolio Holder presented his report.

Question from Councillor Iqbal - Given the increasing demand at the MASH, what are we doing to support families so they're not reaching crisis point and in need of intervention?

Councillor Mushtaq, Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Portfolio replied, that the Council screened all enquiries to MASH to gauge the level of response that will be provided and will work extensively with external agencies to secure an appropriate outcome. In doing this work the Council is acutely aware of the adverse impact that the cost-of-living crisis is having on the most vulnerable residents of the Borough

Question from Councillor Ibrahim - I'm pleased to see that the council is successfully recruiting new social workers and that the social work academy is going from strength to strength. Can you give an update on how we are working to retain social workers, which I know has been a real issue.

Councillor Mushtaq, Deputy Leader and Children and Young People's Portfolio replied, that the Council has been successful in recruiting new social workers and the stability of staff has been a positive factor. There have been incentives for staff such as a '2 year' bonus, reimbursement of professional fees and greater opportunities for career progression.

d. Education and Skills Portfolio

The Education and Skills Portfolio Holder presented his report. Question from Councillor Gloster - With the continued persistent absence increase in Oldham, what are we doing to increase attendance in our schools?

Also, with the desperate situation around mental health of our children and the significant delays in Educational Psychology appointments and support, what are we doing to protect our children's welfare?

Councillor Ali, Education and Skills and Skills Portfolio Holder replied, that officers in the Education and Children's Services were working hard to ensure that school attendances remained high. The delays regarding Educational Psychology appointments were due in part to a lack of funding from central government but staff were currently working to reduce the backlog.

Question from Councillor J. Harrison - I'm glad to see that Dame Christine Lenehan has chaired the first Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board last month. Can Cllr Ali give assurance to members that the Priority Action Plan is progressing and that we are addressing the needs of Children with SEND in the borough?

Councillor Ali, Education and Skills and Skills Portfolio Holder replied, assuring Council that the Priority Action Plan was progressing as well as could be expected and that the Council was addressing the needs of Children with SEND throughout the Borough.

Question from Councillor Bishop - Students and staff continue to face unacceptable conditions at Newman College. The building's roof is in disrepair and the heating system is dangerously unfit for purpose.

In January, Labour's own Lord John Hutton was appointed as Chair of the new PFI liaison board. Concerningly, he recently commented that PFI contracts like the one at Newman College "do represent good value".

Meanwhile children are being failed and are losing days of education while those involved play the blame game and the school leaks like a colander.

Does the Cabinet Member agree that students and staff at Newman College have experienced the exact opposite of “good value”?

And what is this administration doing to support Newman College with the spiralling costs and poor conditions they must deal with because of being locked into a bad contract?

Councillor Ali, Education and Skills and Skills Portfolio Holder replied, that the Council was continuing to work closely with the building’s owners, Amber Limited and a programme of works had been put forward to address the issues raised including the leaking roof.

e. Health and Social Care Portfolio

The Health and Social Care Portfolio Holder presented her report.

Question from Councillor Charters – I note there is mention of an increase in MMR uptake in Oldham following a large outbreak in the West Midlands. I spoke with Cllr Brownridge and officers about issues with GP surgeries not offering this vaccine to children at the appropriate age and I’m grateful that this issue was resolved quickly. Can we have assurance that every GP practice has been contacted and reminded of their obligations to ensure there is sufficiency of appointments and vaccines, and that everyone eligible is offered them?

Councillor Brownridge, Health and Social Care Portfolio Holder replied, the increasing instances of these diseases was a concern. The rollout of vaccines is an issue for the Government to resolve but there had been reassurances from the department for Health that vaccines would be available at all schools and locations were being sought for pop-up clinics at which vaccines could be administered.

Question from Councillor Lancaster – I recently met with Marie Curie – an organisation which Elected Members will know as the nation’s leading end-of-life charity, providing hospice care to those dying, and close support to their loved ones.

Marie Curie estimates that, in Oldham, 530 people do not receive the palliative care which they need each year, and more than 20,000 people are caring for a family member, friend or neighbour due to their long-term health issues.

Local authorities have a critical role to play in helping people die well, and many core services are central components of a high-quality approach to end-of-life care. To that effect, Marie Curie have established a checklist of actions for councils.

These requested actions include undertaking a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for palliative care, ensuring eligibility for Council Tax Support for those living with terminal illness, and encouraging schools and local employers to adopt better bereavement policies, amongst others.

Will the responsible Cabinet Member commit to exploring the full checklist, with a view towards Oldham Council meeting all actions requested by Marie Curie?

Councillor Brownridge, Health and Social Care Portfolio Holder replied, that she had asked officers in the Adult Social Care Services to investigate this matter.



Question from Councillor Williamson - As people are probably aware I have had a long stay in our local hospital, and I can't count on my hands and toes how many times I needed a wheelchair for outpatients and inpatients use. You have to search round for them, and some were even locked up not being utilised.

Now normally I would not go down this route, but I feel I need to if there had been wheelchairs at the front entrance of the hospital I would not have fallen and broken my elbow.

Please can the cabinet member for social care to investigate this issue and report back.

Also parking for disabled patients and visitors is appalling at the hospital. There is building work going on and half the car parking spaces are taken up by vans.

Surely there is a solution - other hospitals have a dedicated car park near the entrance. There is an empty former builder merchants ready to purchase which would make an excellent overflow car park could this land not be purchased?

Councillor Brownridge, Health and Social Care Portfolio Holder replied, undertaking to request that officers in the Adult Social Care Service investigate the issues raised by Councillor Williamson, with relevant colleagues in the NHS and to report back to Councillor Williamson.

f. Communities and Culture Portfolio

The Communities and Culture Portfolio Holder presented his report.

Question from Councillor McLaren – I wanted to thank Cllr Dean for the work that has gone into the partnership hubs after a range of services are now available for residents at Chadderton wellbeing centre. When can we expect to see the other proposed hubs open?

Councillor Dean – Communities and Culture Portfolio Holder replied, outlining the extensive work that was ongoing to rollout partnership hubs and place-based work across the five districts of the Borough.

Question from Councillor Marland – could the Portfolio Holder update Council on community engagement activities that were happening in the Borough to help those in the Borough who were feeling lonely and isolated?

Councillor Dean – Communities and Culture Portfolio Holder replied, that the Council was doing its best to make services available and accessible at as many places as possible in the Borough, such as Libraries.

g. Neighbourhoods Portfolio

The Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder presented his report.

Question from Councillor Sykes - Businesses and individuals have suffered massively from the over-extended works on Oldham Way that are now running months late.

Could the cabinet member responsible please let us know what assessment that was carried out for the works on Oldham Way on businesses and individuals when the original timetable for works was agreed?

Could they confirm what additional assessment was made over the four and a half month delays, and what impact they have had? What actions have the Council taken to ensure that this will not be repeated, and what are the consequences for the contractors of the delays?

Councillor Goodwin Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder replied that the works on Oldham Way were essential due to the condition of the road, the reason they have overrun was largely due to the need to undertake further remedial works that had not originally been foreseen. and the urgent need to upgrade. External funding for the works had been secured from the Department for Transport.

Question from Councillor A. Hussain - recently received the Conservative leaflet claiming that Oldham Council has cut funding to fix potholes but in the same leaflet they announced the Government has funded Oldham £544,240 to fix potholes. Can the Cllr Goodwin explain this confusion?

Councillor Goodwin Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder replied that Oldham Council has spent more on repairing potholes in the last 12 months that it did do in the previous three years. The £544,240 funding had been spent in line with regulations laid down for repairs to potholes.

Question from Councillor H. Harrison - The numbers in the report about the number of reports of rats & mice are staggering, the report says these numbers have doubled. I'm really grateful that the labour administration decided to make this a free service and to continue that with this year's budget, can Cllr Goodwin just expand on the work that's going on with united utilities to increase sewer baiting because I think this will help bring the numbers reported inside people's houses down too.

Councillor Goodwin Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder replied there is great demand for pest control services and Council officers were working closely with external agencies, such as United Utilities, to combat the problems posed by rats and mice.

Councillor Rea referred to a question that was raised earlier in the meeting, during Public Questions and sought clarification on issues relating to gang violence in Failsworth?

Councillor Goodwin Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder replied that the incident referred to was reported in the local media and that he wasn't sure why local councillors were not informed about the incident.

h. Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio
The Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio Holder presented his report.

Question from Councillor Lancaster - In recent months, I have received a small handful of representations to promote a 'plant-based treaty' for Oldham, and I am sure other Elected Members may have also.

I have discussed this with the Countryside Alliance, and I share their support for farmers. The agricultural sector should be celebrated for its great contribution to food sustainability and security, employment, and the economy, and to all communities, urban and rural.

Furthermore, farming must be part of the solution to climate change. For example, purchasing of home-grown produce reduces food miles to our dinner tables, and shopping local is environmentally friendly.

Can I invite the Cabinet Member to reject the harmful approach of 'plant-based treaty' advocacy, and confirm that Oldham Council recognises the immense importance of farming? Can I further ask the Cabinet Member to commit that, where possible, all food and drink provided at Council-organised events is sourced from local suppliers, and ensures dietary choice by including meat and dairy alongside vegetarian and vegan options?

Councillor F. Hussain Cabinet Member for the Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio replied outlining initiatives that were in place to promote the agricultural sector in the Borough and developing and encouraging local supply chains.

Question from Councillor Salamat - Can Cllr Hussain talk us through the procurement event the council recently held for local construction businesses?

Councillor F. Hussain Cabinet Member for the Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio replied that the event, which he hoped would be the first of many such or similar events, was well attended by business concerns based across the Borough and some larger companies who engage on projects in the Borough. The event was successful and should bring extensive business opportunities in the future, benefitting local people.

Question from Councillor Kenyon - Who signed off the outline plan that will result in the new theatre and replacement for the Coliseum changing from a production theatre to a performance space?

Councillor F. Hussain Cabinet Member for the Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio replied that this was not part of his portfolio remit. The Leader of the Council, Councillor Shah, undertook to provide Councillor Kenyon with a written answer to his question.

i. Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio

The Finance and Corporate Resources Portfolio Holder presented his report.

Question from Councillor Hamblett - £60 pay-out at Christmas failure can the cabinet member update the council regarding last Christmas's Household Support Fund vouchers with confusion about how they will be used, a run at the tills and shops being equally confused as to how these vouchers were offered.

Some residents have still yet to be paid.

Can the Cabinet member respond by letting our residents know when this mess will be sorted?

Councillor Jabbar Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources replied that it was not a mess but a vital support service for residents of the Borough. 10,165 residents had been helped by this initiative. The payments were now available at pay-points across the borough which meant that affected residents could access the fund more quickly.

Question from Councillor Murphy - Oldham Council staff do a fantastic job for us in very challenging times and most of us really appreciate everything they do. Cuts and the way some of our staff are treated by certain elected members and some members of the public is disgraceful. Oldham Council for some has become not a nice place to work.

In the recent staff survey, there was not one question in relation to elected members, how can that possibly be right in an elected member led council? - where was the mechanism to say how right or how wrong elected members got it.

Can the Leader or Cabinet member provide assurances that when elected members do get it wrong and a member of staff raises concerns the staff member will be fully supported from their line manager right up to Executive Director level? I know of at least two incidents where this has not been the case.

Councillor Jabbar Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources replied and reiterated Councillor Murphy's comments about the excellent work that staff at the Council do. Since the Conservative government was first elected, in 2010, the Council had lost approximately on third of its workforce. Councillor Jabbar advised the rationale for the questions on the Council's staff survey and encouraged any staff member, who had an issue with Member conduct to raise these via the Council's Monitoring Officer. Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, emphasised the comments made by the portfolio Holder adding that any attack on Council staff, by members of the Council was unacceptable and should be dealt with appropriately.

10

ADOPTION OF PLACES FOR EVERYONE PLAN

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which sought Council approval to formally adopt The Places for Everyone Plan - incorporating the Main Modifications, amendments to the Policies Map and Additional Modifications - in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 (as amended) ("2012 Regulations") and the

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) (“2004 Act”).



The Places for Everyone Plan: A Joint Development Plan Document for nine Greater Manchester Local Authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan) 2022-2039 (PfE) was the strategic spatial plan for the nine constituent boroughs and, as such, set out a collective planning policy framework. All policies within the plan were "strategic policies". It was being prepared as a Joint Development Plan Document of the nine local planning authorities.

The report provided details of the current position with regards to the PfE Plan, summarising the main modifications, the Inspectors Report and any implications for Oldham of the PfE Plan as modified.

The documents appended to the submitted report were listed under section 20 below and were available to be viewed on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority’s website.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the following AMENDMENTS.

- a. Under Page 2 ‘Recommendations’ Delete the words ‘is recommended’ and to insert ‘resolves’.
- b. To delete recommendations i. to vi.
- c. To insert a new recommendation i. to read: ‘Reject the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022-2039 and remove Oldham Borough from Places for Everyone.’
- d. To insert new recommendation ii. to read: ‘Pursue the development of an ‘Oldham Local Housing Strategy’ which prioritises ‘Brownfield First’ development and truly affordable housing.’

Therefore, the amended recommendations to read:

‘This Council resolves to:

- i. Reject the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022-2039 and remove Oldham Borough from Places for Everyone.
- ii. Pursue the development of an ‘Oldham Local Housing Strategy’ which prioritises ‘Brownfield First’ development and truly affordable housing.’

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Irfan Muhammed	FOR



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

On a recorded VOTE being taken 26 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 32 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SUBMITTED REPORT as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
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Adams Christine	AGAINST	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
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	AGAINST
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Bishop Helen	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
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	AGAINST	Salamat Ali Aqeel	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Harkness Garth	AGAINST	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hurley Maggie	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 32 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION AS AMENDED with 26 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The

RECOMMENDATION IN THE SUBMITTED REPORT were therefore CARRIED.



RESOLVED:

That the Council:

1 Accepts the findings of the Inspectors' Report and approve the Main Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document proposed by the independent Inspectors, as set out in Appendix 1.1 and 1.2 of the submitted report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

2 Approve the amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document Policies Map, as set out in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, for incorporation of all the changes in so far as they relate to Oldham Council's administrative area into the Oldham Policies Map.

3 Approve the Additional Modifications to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document, as set out in Appendix 3 to the submitted report, for incorporation into the final version of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

4 Adopt the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document 2022 – 2039 (provided in Appendix 4 of the submitted report, incorporating the Main Modifications and Additional Modifications) as part of the Development Plan for Oldham, in accordance with Section 23 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended), with effect from 21 March 2024.

5 Adopt the Policies Map (detailed at Appendix 5 of the submitted report) with effect from 21 March 2024, which incorporates the Modifications to it (detailed at Appendix 2 to the submitted report) and is necessary to give effect to the policies of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document.

6 Delegate authority to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing, to make any minor non-material editorial amendments to the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document and Policies Map ahead of its final publication, subject to consultation and agreement with the eight other Places for Everyone authorities. These amendments will be limited to correcting minor errors and formatting text.

11

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1: This Council calls for a lasting peace in Palestine and Israel

Immediately prior to this Motion being moved and seconded, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Sheldon, addressed Council outlining his Group's concerns regarding the legality of this Motion. Accordingly, Councillor Sheldon and the other Conservative group Councillors present (Councillors Adams, Arnott, Byrne, Lancaster, Quigg, Sharp and Woodvine) withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of this Motion.

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Birch SECONDED the following Motion:

The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have died in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

The conflict has had a deep and emotional impact on many Oldhamers, some of whom may have friends or relatives in the region.

Whilst this Council is limited in our ability to affect change in foreign policy, we have a duty to express the concerns of our residents.

This Council Notes:

- That the House of Commons passed a resolution backing calls for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages.
- That, members of this Council, led by the Mayor Cllr Dr Zahid Chauhan and Leaders of all Political Groups, called for a ceasefire in early November.
- The international community is increasingly backing calls for a ceasefire and welcomes comments in this regard by the UK Foreign Secretary and US President but recognises that words are not enough, and Palestinian civilians need urgent action to prevent further loss of life.
- The International Court of Justice's provisional measures and expresses concerns at reports that Israel has failed to comply with this ruling.
- That Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7th – the largest volume of cases recorded in four months since Tell MAMA was founded in 2011.
- That the Community Safety Trust recorded 2,699 incidents of anti-Jewish hate between October 7th and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- Condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023.
- Reiterates calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza.
- Urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable Palestinian state.
- Recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

- Resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
- Supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
- Regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.
- Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place.

1st AMENDMENT

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Harkness
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

This Council calls for a lasting peace in Palestine and Israel. The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have died in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

The conflict has had a deep and emotional impact on many Oldhamers, some of whom may have friends or relatives in the region.

Whilst this Council is limited in our ability to affect change in foreign policy, we have a duty to express the concerns of our residents.

This Council Notes:

- That the House of Commons passed a resolution backing calls for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages.
- That, members of this Council, led by the Mayor Cllr Dr Zahid Chauhan and Leaders of all Political Groups, called for a ceasefire in early November.
- The international community is increasingly backing calls for a ceasefire and welcomes comments in this regard by the UK Foreign Secretary and US President but recognises that words are not enough, and Palestinian civilians need urgent action to prevent further loss of life.
- The International Court of Justice's provisional measures and expresses concerns at reports that Israel has failed to comply with this ruling.
- That Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7th – the largest volume of cases recorded in four months since Tell MAMA was founded in 2011.
- That the Community Safety Trust recorded 2,699 incidents of anti-Jewish hate between October 7th and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- Condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023 and the taking of hostages.
- Condemns the scale of the Israeli military actions in Gaza where they have targeted civilian infrastructure, and not adhered to international law by making a clear distinction between military and civilian targets; and for imposing a total siege on the civilian population Gaza denying them adequate supplies of food, water, medicines and power.
- Reiterates calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza, and secure the release of hostages and detainees. Page 3.
- Urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, the creation of a viable Palestinian

state, the two states living side by side in peace and security.

- Recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

- Resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
- Supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
- Regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.
- Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place.

On being put to the VOTE the 1st AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

2nd AMENDMENT

Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid SECONDED the following AMENDMENT.

The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have been killed in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

The conflict has had a deep and emotional impact on many Oldhamers, some of whom may have friends or relatives in the region.

Whilst this Council is limited in our ability to affect change in foreign policy, we have a duty to express the concerns of our residents.

This Council Notes:

- That the House of Commons passed a resolution backing calls for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages.
- That, members of this Council, led by the Mayor Cllr Dr Zahid Chauhan and Leaders of all Political Groups, called for a ceasefire in early November.
- As the occupying power, under international law, Israel has a clear obligation to ensure the basic needs of Gaza's population are met.
- The international community is increasingly backing calls for a ceasefire and welcomes comments in this regard by the UK Foreign Secretary and US President but recognises that words are not enough, and Palestinian civilians need urgent action to prevent further loss of life.
 - the International Court of Justice's provisional measures and expresses concerns at reports that Israel has failed to comply with this ruling.

- According to Human Rights Watch, Israel's policies in the occupied territories amount to apartheid and persecution, both crimes against humanity.
- The UN, Human Rights Watch, and humanitarian organisations have warned that starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is being used in Gaza. Starvation of the civilian population is illegal under International Humanitarian Law, and in direct breach of UNSC Resolution 2417.
- That Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7th – the largest volume of cases recorded in four months since Tell MAMA was founded in 2011.
- That the Community Safety Trust recorded 2,699 incidents of anti-Jewish hate between October 7th and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- Condemns the killing of 234 Palestinian in the West Bank by the state of Israel in the calendar year 2023 which preceded the attack carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023.
- Condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023.
- Condemns all acts of collective punishment which is prohibited under international law and amounts to a war crime including the statement made by leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to continue bombing Gaza and cutting off electricity and water to its population of over 2 million people.
- Reiterates calls for an immediate and permanent ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza.
- Urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable Palestinian state.
- Recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

- Resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
- Resolves to support any action taken by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) following Israel's actions in Gaza which the ICJ has said places the civilian population at imminent risk of genocide.

- Share details of Save the Children's Stand with children open letter campaign calling for a ceasefire with every school in Oldham.
- Supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
- Regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.
- Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the AMENDMENT as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	ABSENT	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	ABSENT	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Steven	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	ABSENT
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	ABSENT	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Moore Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Fryer Paul	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	ABSENT
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	FOR
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Salamat Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	ABSENT
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	ABSENT
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST

Harrison Jennifer	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Hince Marc	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	ABSENT
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 18 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 32 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION AS AMENDED as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	ABSENT	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	ABSENT	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Steven	FOR	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	FOR	Lancaster Luke	ABSENT
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	ABSENT	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Moore Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Dean Peter	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Fryer Paul	FOR	Quigg Lewis	ABSENT
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	FOR
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Salamat Ali	FOR

		Aqeel	
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Shah Arooj	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	ABSENT
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	ABSENT
Harrison Holly	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Jennifer	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	ABSENT
Hussain Fida	FOR	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 48 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION AS AMENDED with 2 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION AS AMENDED was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

This Council:

1. Condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023 and the taking of hostages.
2. Condemns the scale of the Israeli military actions in Gaza where they have targeted civilian infrastructure, and not adhered to international law by making a clear distinction between military and civilian targets; and for imposing a total siege on the civilian population Gaza denying them adequate supplies of food, water, medicines and power.
3. Reiterates calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza, and secure the release of hostages and detainees. Page 3.
4. Urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, the creation of a viable Palestinian state, the two states living side by side in peace and security.
5. Recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.
6. Resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
7. Supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
8. Regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.

9. Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place.

Motion 2: Bee Network

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor H. Harrison SECONDED the following Motion:

Bus deregulation was a failed experiment. Passengers lost out and vital public transport routes were lost.

Once Tranche 2 of bus franchising in Greater Manchester launches at the end of March over half of Greater Manchester buses will be under local control.

In August 2022, Greater Manchester became the first major city outside of London to introduce a cap on bus fares, prices for adults were capped at £2 a journey or £5 a day, and £1 for journey or £2.50 a day for children under 16.

This Council:

- believes public transport should be run in the interest of public good and to the benefit of the communities it serves, not private profit.
- welcomes the arrival of the second phase of Greater Manchester's bus franchising in Oldham on March 24th.
- further welcomes bus improvements including more frequent buses, more reliable buses, a commitment to improve performance to benefit residents and to make buses safer by increasing the number of TravelSafe Officers on the Bee Network by 30.
- supports plans to full integrate Greater Manchester's Public Transport System by January 2025.

This Council resolves:

- a. To work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Transport for Greater Manchester, via the Bee Network Committee, to improve bus services for all Oldham residents.
- b. To ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and thank him for his commitment to bringing buses in the city-region back into public control as well as efforts to make public transport in Greater Manchester more affordable.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council continues to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Transport for Greater Manchester, via the Bee Network Committee, to improve bus services for all Oldham residents.
2. That the Leader of the Council be requested to write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and thank him for his commitment to bringing buses in the city-region back into public control as well as efforts to make public transport in Greater Manchester more affordable.

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**Motion 1: Save Oldham Coliseum Theatre**

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Gloster
SECONDED the following Motion:



This Council believes that Oldham Coliseum Theatre was a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. Its productions have put Oldham on the map and brought acclaim from across the UK's arts and culture sector.

For many years, the Coliseum has been one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London, providing a platform for the development of new work. The closure of its Fairbottom Street home signifies a serious failure by all parties involved, with the withdrawal of ACE funding – and the failure to secure the long-term future of the site, despite missed opportunities linked with town centre regeneration projects.

This Council notes that: since the Coliseum announced that it would close in March 2023, the public support for the Theatre has been phenomenal. Oldham residents, theatregoers from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts are united by a desire to resolve the difficulties facing the Oldham Coliseum; and keep it on Fairbottom Street where it belongs.

In September 2023, despite the then leadership of this Council publicly stating

otherwise, a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building is not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment.

Investing in the Fairbottom building could be a much more cost-effective proposal freeing up millions for other projects and much needed regeneration.

This Council resolves to:

1. Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building.
2. Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. Bring a report to cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council can take to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.

AMENDMENT:

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Dean SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

This Council believes that Oldham Coliseum Theatre is a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the

country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. Its productions have put Oldham on the map and brought acclaim from across the UK's arts and culture sector.

For many years, the Coliseum has been one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London, providing a platform for the development of new work. The closure of its Fairbottom Street on the back of the withdrawal of ACE funding was regrettable.

Since the Coliseum announced that it would close in March 2023, the public support for the Theatre has been phenomenal. Oldham residents, theatregoers from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts are united by a desire to resolve the difficulties facing the Oldham Coliseum.

In September 2023, a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building is not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment. Investing in the Fairbottom building could be a much more cost-effective proposal freeing up millions for other projects and much needed regeneration.

This Council resolves to:

1. Examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.
2. Continue to Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. Bring a report to Cabinet as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council is taking to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to retain a producing theatre in the borough including the potential option to remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

1. That Council resolves to examine the feasibility of refurbishing and investing into the Fairbottom Street building alongside the current option to create a long-term home for a producing theatre in the Borough.
2. That officers continue to Explore funding streams that could help finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
3. That a report be brought to a future meeting of the Cabinet, as soon as possible, outlining the steps that this Council is taking to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to retain a producing theatre in the borough

including the potential option to remain at home, on Fairbottom Street, which would also help regenerate that part of Oldham town centre and Yorkshire Street.



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Motion 2: Confidence in Oldham Council Leadership

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED the following Motion:

In Shakespeare's Hamlet, Marcellus states that "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark" and sadly following the closure of Oldham's Coliseum theatre by this Council, these words echo across the empty stage and stalls as a warning to this Boroughs Leader. For instead of Denmark, the people of this town believe "Something is rotten in Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council".

Driven by the next press release or online video, Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) and this Labour administration continues in its quest for the 'Game Changing' Holy Grail that will fix the town's decline. The numerous town centre focused projects that go over budget; such as the thirty two million pound overspend on the Cinema, the failed Hotel Future and Conference Centre that was never built, two Coliseum theatre plans that were scrapped and that led to the closure of the 140 year old Coliseum theatre, Marks and Spencer's, a 'Budget' Hotel at Princes' Gate scrapped, and the Council even failing to deliver a Lidl. Countless opportunities missed, thousands of promised jobs failing to materialise and a Borough back to square one and in a worse position.

Undeterred the Council even went and bought a shopping centre in the middle of pandemic, spending millions of pounds of taxpayer's money, which has now resulted in conflicting messaging coming from this administration that the Council is on the brink, with headlines stating, "Our councils haven't declared bankruptcy yet... but that doesn't mean the situation isn't dire", can only leave residents in this Borough feeling fearful.

The failure of OMBC to deliver the best possible services that many residents rely on and pay for, is one of the key reasons why this administration is failing this Borough. The administration is failing to get the basics right. Most egregious was the improvement notice issued by the Department for Education following on from an inspection which found OMBC was failing our towns Special Educational Needs and Disabilities children.

To assets being sold off, seeing little or no return on their true value to the people of this Borough. It is important to state that it is not the hard-working frontline staff that are to blame. They have been dealt a bad hand. It is the lack of leadership and responsibility at the top.

There is an iron law at the top of OMBC; which is that the Council is run in the interests of those who run it, instead of those who pay for it.

The bunker mentality that exists within the administration and leadership of OMBC is damaging this Borough. The failure by the administration to attract the right investment and failure to deliver on existing projects is damaging the prospects of our Borough. The failure to attract the right talent starts and ends

with those at the top, with the buck stopping firmly at the Leader of OMBC's door.

After doing the hockey cokey of staying and then going, the now part time Chief Executive has the unenviable task trying to resolve the administrations mess. After spending unknown amounts on consultants to try and find the right candidate for the post of Chief Executive, OMBC shamefully couldn't find a new full time Chief Executive. It is no wonder there is a torrent of senior officers leaving the Council before the last person to leave the Civic Centre turns out the lights.

In 2012 Oldham Council was runner up in the prestigious most improved council award and in 2014 Oldham was 'highly commended' at the LGC Council of the Year Awards. Since that high water mark things have gone very wrong. It is clear radical measures need to be taken to restore the confidence of our residents, our business community, and OMBC workforce. Now more than ever we need to restore trust in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham.

If Oldham is to have any chance of rebuilding residents trust, incentivising people to stay or move into the area with their families, then there needs to be massive change at OMBC. The Council needs to offer hope for the future. Sadly, this administration under the Leadership of Arooj Shah is not capable of delivering this.

This Council therefore resolves to:

To write to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, to request a full audit of the Council's governance and finances.

This Council also resolves that it:

Has NO confidence in the Labour Council Leader Arooj Shah and Labour administration to run OMBC.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Steven	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST

Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Moores Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Fryer Paul	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	FOR
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Salamat Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Jennifer	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Hince Marc	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 26 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 32 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore LOST.

Motion 3: The Conflict in Gaza

Immediately prior to this Motion being moved and seconded, the Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Sheldon, addressed Council outlining his Group's concerns regarding the legality of this Motion. Accordingly, Councillor Sheldon and the other Conservative group Councillors present (Councillors Adams, Arnott, Byrne, Lancaster, Quigg, Sharp and Woodvine) withdrew from the meeting during the consideration and determination of this Motion.

Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid SECONDED the following Motion:

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.
As national politicians' squabble in parliament, the ongoing



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conflict has resulted in significant loss of life. Over 30,000 dead so far. The majority, 21,000 at the most recent count, are children.

As the numbers of the innocent massacres increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives. However insignificant we know our influence to be, we must speak out in support of the aid agencies that are being prevented from reaching those that are starving to death. The need for humanitarian agencies to provide essential aid and assistance to those affected by the conflict is critical.

As this council knows, many Oldhamers have donated to these agencies. As we debate this issue, there are groups of children and young people from across our town raising funds for these aid agencies. They are pleading with us to help get the aid through. We are pleading with you all here to do what can be done and help people from starving to death.

The people of Oldham are neither Islamists today anymore than they were Far Right yesterday. Caring about others does not make us extremists. From all backgrounds, all of us are traumatised by the images of the horrors of the conflict in Gaza. We are concerned about the daily reported breaches of human rights, including allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing. No one, however powerful they are, should be above the law. Which is why the people of this borough believe it is right that investigations to hold perpetrators accountable are done so through the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

This is why so many of us were shocked by the comments of the leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to continue bombing Gaza and cutting off electricity and water to its population of over 2 million people. What the Labour Party leader is describing is collective punishment. Collective punishment is a war crime.

At its core, this motion seeks to affirm the United Kingdom's commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and holding perpetrators of violence and atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

The Council notes;

The convention of the prevention and punishment of the crime and genocide as the first human right treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9th December 1948. That according to the Genocide Convention, ratified by 153 states including the United Kingdom, that genocide is a crime prohibited under international law that collective punishment is a war crime as prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, more specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II.

The Council further notes;

That after initially abstaining or failing to turn up to vote supporting a ceasefire, all 3 Oldham Labour Party MPs now support what Labour describe as an 'immediate humanitarian ceasefire' which does not go far enough to stop the plausible case of genocide

The statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages

The head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."

The order from the ICJ for Israel to provide aid was one of six provisional measures ordered by the Court on 26 January 2024. Since that period, Amnesty International has reported that Israel has continued to disregard its obligation as the occupying power to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met and failed to lift restrictions on the entry of life-saving goods, or open additional aid access points and crossings or put in place an effective system to protect humanitarians from attack that in its January 26 decision, the ICJ ordered Israel to take steps to prevent any acts of genocide in Gaza. The Court required that Israel ensure that it does not commit acts that might fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes that Israel takes steps to punish any Israeli who might have individually committed acts of genocide or incited others to commit acts of genocide in Palestine.

The Council resolves:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all.
2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to all 3 Oldham MPs, Debbie Abrahams, Jim McMahon & Angela Raynor, on behalf of the people of Oldham, condemning the statement issued by their party leader Sir Keir Starmer and ask that all 3 MPs confirm their understanding that collective punishment is a war crime.
3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza.
4. To write to the Foreign Secretary requesting that our government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two-state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk.

1st AMENDMENT

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

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.

As national politicians' squabble in parliament, the ongoing conflict has resulted in significant loss of life. Over 30,000 Palestinians have died so far, the majority, 21,000 at the most recent count, are women and children. This is in addition to the nearly 1,200 Israelis and others who were killed as a result of the Hamas attacks on 7 October.

As the numbers of the innocent Palestinians being killed increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives. This should include the release of hostages and detainees, and lead to a long-lasting credible solution to this conflict.

However insignificant we know our influence to be, we must speak out in support of the aid agencies that are being prevented from reaching those that are starving to death. The need for humanitarian agencies to provide essential aid and assistance to those affected by the conflict is critical.

As this council knows, many Oldhamers have donated to these agencies. As we debate this issue, there are groups of children and young people from across our town raising funds for these aid agencies. They are pleading with us to help get the aid through. We are pleading with you all here to do what can be done and help people from starving to death.

Caring about others does not make us extremists. From all backgrounds, all of us are traumatised by the images of the horrors of the conflict in Gaza. We are concerned about the daily reported breaches of human rights, including allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing. No one, however powerful they are, should be above the law. Which is why the people of this borough believe it is right that investigations to hold perpetrators accountable are done so through the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the International Criminal Court.

This is why so many of us were shocked by the comments of the leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to cut off electricity and water to the population of over 2 million civilians in Gaza. What the Labour Party leader is describing is collective punishment. Collective punishment is a war crime.

At its core, this motion seeks to affirm the United Kingdom's commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and holding perpetrators of violence and atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

The Council notes:

The convention of the prevention and punishment of the crime and genocide as the first human right treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9th December 1948 that according to the Genocide Convention, ratified by 153 states including the United Kingdom, that genocide is a crime prohibited under international law that collective punishment is a war crime as prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, more specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II.

The council further notes:

- That after initially abstaining or failing to turn up to vote supporting a ceasefire, all 3 Oldham Labour Party MPs now support what Labour describe as an 'immediate humanitarian ceasefire' which does not go far enough to stop the plausible case of genocide.
- The statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza on 29 February in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages
- The head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."
- The order from the ICJ for Israel to facilitate the provision aid was one of six provisional measures ordered by the Court on 26 January 2024. Since that period, Amnesty International has reported that Israel has continued to disregard its obligation as the occupying power to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met and failed to lift restrictions on the entry of life-saving goods, or open additional aid access points and crossings or put in place an effective system to protect humanitarians from attack that in its January 26 decision, the ICJ ordered Israel to take steps to prevent any acts of genocide in Gaza. The Court required that Israel ensure that it does not commit acts that might fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes that Israel takes steps to punish any Israeli who might have individually committed acts of genocide or incited others to commit acts of genocide in Palestine.

The Council resolves:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all.
2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to all 3 Oldham MPs, Debbie Abrahams, Jim McMahon & Angela Raynor, on behalf of

the people of Oldham, condemning the statement issued by their party leader Sir Keir Starmer and ask that all 3 MPs confirm their understanding that collective punishment is a war crime.

3. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza.

4. To write to the Foreign Secretary requesting that our government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two-state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the 1st AMENDMENT as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	ABSENT	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	ABSENT	Irfan Muhammed	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Steven	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	ABSENT
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	ABSENT	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Fryer Paul	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	ABSENT
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Rea Lucia	FOR
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Salamat Ali Aqeel	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	ABSENT
Harkness	FOR	Sheldon	ABSENT

Garth		Graham	
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Jennifer	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Hince Marc	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	APOLOGIES	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	ABSENT
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	APOLOGIES

On a recorded VOTE being taken 18 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 32 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

2nd AMENDMENT

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Whatever your background, creed, colour, or political persuasion, there is no one in this borough that has been left untouched by the current conflict in Gaza.

As national politicians' squabble in parliament, the ongoing conflict has resulted in significant loss of life. Over 30,000 dead so far. The majority, 21,000 at the most recent count, are children.

As the numbers of the innocent massacres increase and with no end to suffering in sight, we call upon this Council to act and add the voices of the people of Oldham to those of the millions across the world appalled by the atrocities of the conflict in Gaza.

However small our voice, we as a council should add our name to the many Councils across England pleading for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the violence and protect civilian lives. However insignificant we know our influence to be, we must speak out in support of the aid agencies that are being prevented from reaching those that are starving to death. The need for humanitarian agencies to provide essential aid and assistance to those affected by the conflict is critical.

As this council knows, many Oldhamers have donated to these agencies. As we debate this issue, there are groups of children and young people from across our town raising funds for these aid agencies. They are pleading with us to help get the aid through. We are pleading with you all here to do what can be done and help people from starving to death.

The people of Oldham are neither Islamists today any more than they were Far Right yesterday. Caring about others does not make us extremists. From all backgrounds, all of us are traumatised by the images of the horrors of the conflict in Gaza. We are concerned about the daily reported breaches of human

rights, including allegations of genocide and ethnic cleansing. No one, however powerful they are, should be above the law. Which is why the people of this borough believe it is right that investigations to hold perpetrators accountable are done so through the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

At its core, this motion seeks to affirm the United Kingdom's commitment to upholding human rights, promoting peace, and holding perpetrators of violence and atrocities accountable for their actions. No matter the justification of this atrocity, the cause of humanity should be at the forefront of all our minds.

The Council notes;

The convention of the prevention and punishment of the crime and genocide as the first human right treaty adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 9th December 1948. It is prohibited under international law that collective punishment is a war crime as prohibited by treaty in both international and non-international armed conflicts, more specifically Common Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Article 4 of the Additional Protocol II.

The Council further notes:

All 3 Oldham MPs supported an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Parliament.

That the tragedy of what is happening in Gaza is not an issue that is party political, and that people on all sides of the chamber want an end to the violence and a peaceful resolution, and that this shouldn't be an opportunity to play politics or electioneer before council elections in May.

- The statement from the Secretary-General of the United Nations condemning the incident in northern Gaza in which more than a hundred people were reportedly killed or injured while seeking life-saving aid and his call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire and the unconditional release of all hostages.

-The head of UNICEF's warning that without safe water, "many more children" will soon die from disease. "Access to sufficient amounts of clean water is a matter of life and death...children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink...without safe water, many more children will die from deprivation and disease in the coming days."

- The order from the ICJ for Israel to provide aid was one of six provisional measures ordered by the Court on 26 January 2024. Since that period, Amnesty International has reported that Israel has continued to disregard its obligation as the occupying power to ensure the basic needs of Palestinians in Gaza are met and failed to lift restrictions on the entry of life-saving goods, or open additional aid access points and crossings or put in place an effective system to protect humanitarians from attack that in its January 26 decision, the ICJ ordered Israel to take steps to prevent any acts of genocide in Gaza. The Court required that Israel ensure that it does not commit acts that might fall within the scope of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This includes that Israel takes steps to punish any Israeli who might have individually committed acts of genocide or incited others to commit acts of genocide in

Palestine.



The Council resolves:

1. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all.
2. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza.
3. To write to the Foreign Secretary and the Shadow Foreign Secretary requesting that our government and a future Labour Government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two-state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk.

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Chief Executive, be instructed to write to the Prime Minister reiterating the United Kingdom's commitment to adhering to the Geneva Convention and International law and request that His Majesty's Government communicate this with all.
2. That the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Secretary General of the United Nations informing him that the citizens of Oldham stand alongside millions from across the world and support the United Nations demands for an immediate ceasefire and for Humanitarian aid to be provided to all those in need in the affected area of Gaza.
3. That the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Foreign Secretary and the Shadow Foreign Secretary requesting that our government and a future Labour Government does everything possible to help bring the governments of Israel and Palestine together to resolve the issue and create a two-state solution so that innocent lives are no longer at risk.

Motion 4: Commission a Judge Led non-statutory independent inquiry into all aspects of historical and current instances of child sexual exploitation within the borough.

Councillor Hobin MOVED and Councillor Rea SECONDED the following Motion:

Contrary to the claim made by the previous Council leader, being groomed and gang raped did and still does destroy lives. The initial failures of those whose responsibility to protect them

were scandalous and it is right that she was forced to publicly apologise for the failings of this council. Unfortunately, the findings of GM Mayor's so-called Assurance Review neither provided assurance nor sufficiently reviewed what had taken place. Despite claiming there was no cover up, and that lessons had been learned, allegation after allegations have proven to be true.

The most terrifying was that the ringleader of the infamous Rochdale Grooming Gang, had been an Oldham Council employee with access to children for 18 years. People from across all communities of Oldham have lost trust in this council after this revelation was confirmed as accurate. A revelation that had been kept hidden from all of us.

As recently as this January, the highly respected Maggie Oliver referenced the Oldham Assurance Review and told its authors Malcom Newsam & Gary Ridgway that in Oldham they had been prevented from getting to the truth. This is after it emerged that survivors had been prevented from giving testimony to the Review Team. The individual identified within the Assurance Review as responsible for preventing survivors from testifying is a senior Oldham Council employee.

There have been several attempts so far to secure the support of this Labour Party run council, under 3 different leaders, to call in the government and lead a fit for purpose inquiry. On each occasion, including calls for a Public Inquiry, every Labour Party councillor has voted to block these motions. Given Maggie Oliver's most recent statement, and the failure of Operation Sherwood to so far charge a single offender, it is time that this Council looked to itself to secure justice for the as of yet unknown number of children that this council failed.

A non-statutory inquiry, an action within the powers of this Council, will allow the opportunity for victims, survivors and whistleblowers to give evidence in private and free from any other pressures or interference. This is especially important because of the up to now less than candid role of both Oldham Council and Greater Manchester Police. Such arrangements will hopefully also encourage other victims to come forward and once and for all lift this dark cloud that has hung over this town for too long.

The Council notes:

That since the review in 2022, little has been done to bring to account those responsible, both within the Council and other authorities and externally by way of criminal prosecutions. That survivors deserve to see the full powers of law enforced on perpetrators and facilitators.

We as a council, and as such members herein, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure that failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

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

historically and in the present.

The purpose of the Inquiry should be to fully investigate and establish the facts of child sexual exploitation across the Borough of Oldham, to identify if, and where, public, and other, services had failed and where possible, to establish who was accountable for any failure and to make recommendations for the future.

So that trust can once again be rebuilt in this borough, survivors finally have their testimonies heard and those that abused our children and those also that covered up the abuse are brought to justice,

This Council Resolves:

1. To approve the commissioning and implementation of a non-statutory independent inquiry into all aspects of historical and current instances of child sexual exploitation within the borough.
2. To instruct council officers to commission such an inquiry immediately.

AMENDMENT:

Councillor Hince **MOVED** and Councillor Ball **SECONDED** the following **AMENDMENT**:

The systematic grooming and sex abuse of some of the most vulnerable within the borough will live with the victims, their families, carers, and friends for life. The reputation and confidence in this council and other agency's ability to serve the needs of the community, protecting those who need protecting most damaged seemingly beyond repair.

Rather than working toward recapturing that confidence and trust by implementing a full independent inquiry into historic child sex abuse within the borough. As repeatedly called for by opposition parties, independent groups, and campaigners. The controlling Labour administration chose to commission a GM Mayors Assurance review. Which by association and political allegiances could not be asserted as impartial or independent. The victims were promised the GM Mayors Assurance review would be a comprehensive review of historic CSE giving victims a chance to tell their stories with the promise lessons would be learned.

Unfortunately, the findings of GM Mayor's so-called Assurance Review neither provided assurance nor sufficiently reviewed what had taken place. Despite claiming there was no cover up, and that lessons had been learned, allegation after allegations have proven to be true.

As recently as this January, the highly respected Maggie Oliver referenced the Oldham Assurance Review and told its authors Malcom Newsam & Gary Ridgway that in Oldham they had been prevented from getting to the truth. This is after it emerged that survivors had been prevented from giving testimony to the Review Team. The individual identified within the Assurance Review as responsible for preventing survivors from testifying is a senior Oldham Council employee.

Given Maggie Oliver's most recent statement, and the failure of Operation Sherwood to so far charge a single offender, it is time

that this Council looked to itself to secure justice for the as of yet unknown number of children that this council failed.

The commissioning of a non-statutory inquiry, an action within the powers of this Council, will allow the opportunity for victims, survivors and whistleblowers to give evidence in private and free from any other pressures or interference. This is especially important because of the up to now less than candid role of both Oldham Council and Greater Manchester Police. Such arrangements will hopefully also encourage other victims to come forward and once and for all lift this dark cloud that has hung over this town for too long.

The Council notes:

That since the review in 2022, little has been done to bring to account those responsible, both within the Council and other authorities and externally by way of criminal prosecutions.

That survivors deserve to see the full powers of law enforced on perpetrators and facilitators.

We as a council, and as such members herein, have a duty to protect children and vulnerable people of the borough and beyond. The reality is, until we get to the root of the issue, we cannot move forward as we are unable to ensure that failings highlighted in the review are not continuing.

It is beyond question that the failure of the council to act in accordance with the wishes of both victims and growing public opinion, means that calls for an independent inquiry grow ever stronger.

Therefore, a Judge Led non-statutory independent inquiry enquiry is clearly in the public interest and will give the council chance to finally satisfy its publicly perceived moral obligations. The purpose of the Inquiry should be to fully investigate and establish the facts of child sexual exploitation across the Borough of Oldham, to identify if, and where, public, and other, services had failed and where possible, to establish who was accountable for any failure and to make recommendations for the future.

So that trust can once again be rebuilt in this borough, survivors finally have their testimonies heard and those that abused our children and those also that covered up the abuse are brought to justice, and lessons learned.

This Council resolves:

1. To approve the commissioning and implementation of a non-statutory independent inquiry into all aspects of historical and current instances of child sexual exploitation within the borough.
2. To ensure the inquiry has a clear and transparent terms of reference, with unimpeded access to employees, records and any such material deemed relevant to the enquiry.
3. To ensure victims are treated with the upmost dignity and are central to the inquiry and its outcomes.
4. To instruct council officers to commission such an inquiry immediately.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was LOST.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION as follows:



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

		(MAYOR)	
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On a recorded VOTE being taken 26 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 32 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore LOST.

13 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 13th December 2023.

Resolved:
That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 13th December 2023 be noted.

14 **ANNUAL REPORTS 2023**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SCONDED a report which presented the Member Annual Reports for 2023.

As part of the ongoing work to strengthen accountability to local people and their role as a Councillor in a co-operative borough, Elected Members were asked to produce an annual report that presented information regarding their work in the community over the last 12 months. Individual reports included ward priorities, work in the community and contact information.

Members were informed that their Reports were available to view under the Councillors' section on Oldham Council's website.

Council was advised that those Members with reports outstanding had until 31st March 2024 to submit them.

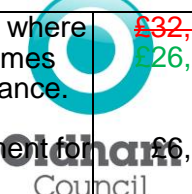
RESOLVED:
That the Member Annual Reports for 2023 be noted.

15 **MEMBERS ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2024/25**

Council considered a report of the Director of Legal Services, which advised that the Members Allowances Scheme for 2024/25 required Council approval. The Independent Remuneration Panel had considered the scheme and their report and recommendations thereon were contained at Appendix 1, to the submitted report.

AMENDMENT
Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Woodvine SECONDED the following AMENDED MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME for 2024/25:

Position	Index	Explanatory Note	Amount
All Members of the Council		BASIC ALLOWANCE	£10,922
All Positions set out below		SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCE (SRA)	



Executive Leader	100%	Fixed point for the SRA's where indicated, to be set at 3 times the basic members allowance. Combined Authority Element for CA duties	£32,766 £26,214 £6,552
Deputy Leader	70%		£22,937 £13,937
Main Opposition Leader	50%		£16,383 £5343
Deputy Main Opposition Leader	20%		£6,553 £0
Executive Members	60%		£19,659 £10,659
Chairs of: Licensing Planning Each Overview and Scrutiny Board Health and Well-being Board	30%		£9,830 £0
Deputy Executive Member	25%		£8,192
District Leads: Appointed Deputy District Lead			£6,553 £0 £1,353 £0
Minority Opposition Leader (provided the group has 6 members)	15%		£4,915 £0
GM Scrutiny Panel Member Substitute Member Variable for every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group attended			£3,228 £536 £134.52
GM Transport Committee			£4,392
Co-opted/Independent Members of Audit and Independent Persons on Standards Committee	n/a		£446
Chair of Audit Committee	n/a		£2,415
Chair of Standards Committee	n/a		£763
Refreshment Allowance		Subsistence when absent from normal place of residence	£8 £14
Mileage			45p per mile for first 10,000 miles, outside the borough,

			per annum and a rate of 25p per mile over
Mayoral Allowance	n/a		£17,135 £8567.50
Deputy Mayoral Allowance	n/a		£3,129 £0

On being put to the Vote the AMENDED MEMBERS ALLOWANCE SCHEME for 2024/25 was LOST.



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RESOLVED:

1. That the recommendations detailed in the report, with the revised appendix be approved.
2. That the Basic Allowance for members remain unchanged in 2024/25.
3. That the Special Responsibility Allowances, in 2024/25 remain unchanged, except for the Chair of MioCare.
4. That the annual increase for 2024/25 should be the percentage increase for a local government officer at grade SCP 49.
5. That all other aspects of the Scheme, as detailed at Appendix 2 of the submitted report, remain unchanged.

16

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS UNDER LOCALISM ACT 2011 - STANDARDS

Councillor Holly Harrison MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services which notified Members that Council is required, under the Localism Act 2011, to appoint at least one Independent Person(s) to assist with Standards matters. Council had previously agreed to have four Independent Persons and there were current vacancies which had been advertised. The duties of the Independent Person include being consulted at various stages of standards conduct allegations against members and undertaking duties if required on matters relating to the dismissal of relevant officers under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) Regulations 2015.

A panel comprising of a member representative from each of the three largest groups, namely, Councillors Dean, Hamblett and Sheldon, assisted by the Director of Legal Services, conducted the interviews to make a recommendation to Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That Gillian McCarthy and Mark Reynolds be appointed as Independent Persons for a four-year term.
2. That the term of office for the current Independent Person, Karen Williams, term of office be extended for a four-year period from June 2024.

17

REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services which advised that Council had received notification that Councillor Aftab Hussain had joined the Labour Group and that Councillor Hurley had resigned from The Independent 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.

Considering this, the Council was 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 for the remainder of the municipal year.



RESOLVED

1. That the composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1, of the submitted report, be noted.
2. That the number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2023/24 Municipal Year as detailed in paragraph 1.5, of the submitted report, be approved including those committees which are not strictly politically balanced as previously agreed by Council earlier in 2023/24 – the Scrutiny Boards.
3. That any outstanding appointments, where a Group is entitled to a committee seat, be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 10.48pm.