

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD Agenda

- Date Wednesday 6th December 2023
- Time 6.00 pm
- Venue Crompton Suite, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL
- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Paul Entwistle or the Constitutional Services team at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Peter Thompson, telephone 0161 770 5151 or mail peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk
 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12.00 noon on Monday, 4th December 2023.
 4. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

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Please also note the Public attendance Protocol on the Council's Website

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/homepage/1449/attending_council_meetings

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

Councillors Ghafoor, Hince, Hindle, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Kenyon, McLaren (Chair), Moores and Williamson

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)
The Minutes of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 8th November 2023, are attached for approval.
- 6 Oldham Economic Review Update (Pages 5 - 26)
- 7 Draft Local Plan (Pages 27 - 82)
- 8 Emergency Plan: Annual Review (Pages 83 - 90)
- 9 Economy Directorate - Performance Measures & Business Plan Report (Pages 91 - 104)
- 10 Work Programme (Pages 105 - 110)
To consider the Scrutiny Board's Work Programme 2023/24
- 11 Key Decision Document (Pages 111 - 130)
- 12 Rule 13 and 14
To consider any rule 13 or 14 decisions since the previous meeting.

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Present: Councillor McLaren (in the Chair)
Councillors Ghafoor, J. Hussain (Substitute for Councillor Ibrahim), Moores and Surjan (Substitute for Councillor Iqbal)

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Elaine Taylor – Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing

Paul Clifford – Director of Economy

Peter Richards – Head of Planning

Eleanor Sykes – Strategic Transportation Team Leader

Peter Thompson – Constitutional Services

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hince, Hindle, Ibrahim, Iqbal and Williamson (Councillors J. Hussain and Surjan attended the meeting as substitutes for Councillors Ibrahim and Iqbal respectively).

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for the meeting to consider.

5 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meetings of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board held 31st August 2023 and 26th September 2023 be approved as correct records.

6 **STRATEGIC TRANSPORT UPDATE**

The Scrutiny Board received a report of the Director of Economy that provided an overview for Members of the work areas of the Strategic Transport Team, including how these fit into the Greater Manchester (GM) picture and progress and delivery against Oldham's Transport Strategy aims. Areas to be covered included:

- GM Local Transport Plan (LTP)
- The Bee Network
- Bus Franchising
- Oldham Transport Strategy – Progress & Delivery
 - Schools Active Travel Infrastructure Audit
 - Transport studies around large development sites (PfE)
 - Development of a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)
 - City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS)

- School Streets
- Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI)
- Creating a Better Place
- Oldham Bee Network Committee
- Network Reviews
- Activation and Communication / Engagement

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) was a statutory document setting out long-term ambitions for transport. GM's current LTP is the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 (GMTS 2040), adopted in 2017 with a light refresh in 2021.

The LTP guides future investment and strategic policy decisions for transport across GM, demonstrating a clear rationale for intervention, high-level government funding and local investment for transport. All local and combined authorities need an up to date, LTP. GM were awaiting new LTP guidance to be issued by the Department for Transport (DfT). However, work to update the current LTP had already begun. GM2040 was highly regarded by the DfT, hence the intention to refresh rather than to fully revise the document.

Members were advised transport issues had significantly moved on and new policy areas had been identified since 2021, as well as wider factors such as inflation and the cost-of-living crisis. These issues and new policy areas would be a priority for consideration in the review and included: The Bee Network; Bus Franchising; Trailblazer deal with Government; Covid-19 Pandemic (impact and recovery from); Places for Everyone (PfE) and Growth Locations; and New funding models for transport.

TfGM were to coordinate work on the LTP on behalf of local authorities, GMCA and the Mayor of greater Manchester. GM local authorities were to be partners in the production of the refreshed LTP primarily through Transport Strategy Group (TSG) officers. TSG officers would be responsible for supporting engagement/consultation in their districts, briefing members, senior officers and BNC members to get local feedback and ensure 'buy-in' to the refreshed LTP vision, aspirations and policies that will eventually apply across GM.

Before the launch of bus franchising TfGM had developed the GM Bus Strategy. This set out a vision for the future bus network: to make the bus the first choice for more journeys. It established the ambition for a 30% increase in bus patronage by 2030 from 2022/23 levels This growth would be driven by improvements, including affordable fares, a more integrated, user-friendly and frequent network, and better infrastructure to provide more reliable bus journeys. This requires additional investment and the careful prioritisation of existing resources.

In addition, a rolling programme of area-based 'Network Reviews' was due to commence a few months after franchising is implemented to consider how different areas transport needs

can be better met. This was the Borough's chance to input and influence new routes, services and coverage for Oldham



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Bus franchising was supported by investment in the bus fleet (electric buses), infrastructure (bus priority measures – including bus lanes and signals, bus stop improvements, enhanced crossings and footway improvements) and technology (such as the Bee Network app and real-time information displays).

Oldham's Transport Strategy had been approved in January 2023. It included six clear ambitions for Oldham's transport system (healthy, safe, clean, connected, accessible and thriving) that complement GMTS 2040 aims

Key pieces of work progressing under the Transport Strategy included: Schools Active Travel Infrastructure Audit (due to be completed by November 2023); Transport studies/assessments at Places for Everyone development sites (work ongoing); Development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) - to identify short, medium and long-term improvements to create a comprehensive, useable network and assist with securing funding via bids or developments (ongoing until to Summer 2024); Oldham Bee Network Committee (reviewed monthly); Network Reviews – key role in achieving ambitions of the GM Bus Strategy.

The Transport Strategy should provide a mechanism to develop the bus network in a coordinated, planned and efficient manner. Franchising brings access to improved data/management information to better inform network reviews and future decisions.

Progress regarding the Transport Strategy had proved to be good including the development of: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI). This included the creation of Electric Vehicle Taxi Charging areas – 5 points, 3 locations (legal agreement finalised then open to use); Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) – government funding had been made available to support roll-out of on-street EVCI.

Revenue had been made available fund a post to move this work forward, as had funding to pump-prime less viable locations such as rural, on-street locations for terraced properties. In addition, there was to be CRSTS Capital EV funding for Oldham.

Resolved:

1. That the report and presentation be noted and welcomed.
2. That a report, updating Members on the introduction and the implementation of the Bee Network across Greater Manchester be submitted to the Scrutiny Board's meeting scheduled to be held on 19th March 2024.
3. That a further report, updating Members on the work areas of the Strategic Transport Team be submitted to a meeting of the Scrutiny Board in the summer (June or July depending on the 2024/25 municipal calendar) 2024.

7 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered its Work Programme for 2023/24.

Resolved:

That the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board's Work Programme 2023/24, be noted.

8 **KEY DECISION DOCUMENT**

The Committee considered the Key Decision Document, which records key decisions that the authority is due to take.

Resolved:

That the Key Decision Document be noted.

9 **RULE 13 AND 14**

The Chair reported that there was nothing to report under this heading.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.45pm



Report to Place, Economic Growth & Environment Scrutiny Committee

Oldham Economic Review Update

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Shah, Leader and Cabinet Member for Reform and Regeneration

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive – Place

Report Author: Paul Clifford, Director of Economy

6 December 2023

Reason for Report

For Scrutiny to note and discuss progress to date on the implementation of the recommendations from the Oldham Economic Review (OER).

Executive Summary

The Oldham Economic Review was undertaken at the request of the Leader of Oldham Council, with a remit to examine the town's approach to improving its economic prospects.

A summary of the recommendations from the OER are set out as below:

1. **THE LONG GAME:**

- Oldham must set out its long term ambitions and aspirations, with missions and targets, for the aims and ambitions for Oldham through to 2030.

2. **ECONOMIC PURPOSE:**

- Breaking Oldham's dependence on "foundational economy" employment should be a central target in reshaping its long term economic purpose. And Oldham needs to set out clear plans for how it intends to achieve this.
- Relentlessly anchor all future activity and projects back to the delivery of Oldham's long-term transformation, that it is organised through a set of coherent sub-strategies, with missions and targets which are directly connected to the delivery of that transformation.

3. **BUSINESS AND INNOVATION:**

- A clear strategy for productivity and business, which includes manufacturing, business support, enterprise and innovation, all within a single strategic framework, with a clear set of missions and targets around improving productivity, increasing wages and boosting standards of living.

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- Proactive engagement with neighbouring authorities in the Northern Gateway, and in particular the AMPI project to support manufacturing.
 - Liaise with Innovation GM for Oldham to play a leading role in extending the emerging innovation network in Greater Manchester, into Oldham town centre. Develop a “best practice” programme for anchor institutions.
 - Develop a broader strategy for social enterprise, including its engagement with Greater Manchester initiatives to build capacity, share and develop expertise.

4. INSTITUTIONS:

- Recognise the mutual importance of the six capitals in driving improvements and develop a strategy to capacity build and support key institutions.
- Set up a new overarching ‘levelling up’ board, with independent representation, to oversee the delivery of the 2030 vision, with clear reporting around the local “levelling up” Missions and targets, back to the Council and Oldham Leadership Board.
- Work with Greater Manchester partners to ensure transparency about the investment of resources and expertise into Oldham and the impact of these on Oldham’s levelling up vision for 2030.
- Work with the University and the college, and other key institutions, to develop a bespoke leadership and training programme, to focus the “common purpose” of all stakeholders around the 2030 vision for Oldham.

5. SKILLS AND JOBS:

- Take a lead in setting the missions and targets for adult skills, with negotiation with local providers (the two main ones are Oldham Council and Oldham College) and GMCA, which will shape the use of adult funding in the borough to 2030. This should include its own analysis of the challenge of adult skills, and the levels of investment needed to make the borough competitive in the labour markets of Greater Manchester.
- Capacity build its general further education college to maximise its impact, including the delivery of a coherent alternative set of pathways, both work-based and classroom based, for those young people and adults seeking to progress into careers outside of the residential three year degree route, should be a clear policy priority.
- Undertake a review of post-16 provision which assesses the positive and negative impacts of competition between providers throughout the post-16 phase (16-18, adult, apprenticeships and higher education), whether this is helping or hindering the pursuit of more effective provision, and what can be done to improve collective impact. Oldham should pilot and adapted the LSIP model, addressing skills supply and demand in a much broader economic context including business support and innovation. It recommended that this work is led through a partnership between Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Oldham College.

6. CIVIC PRIDE AND ‘A SENSE OF PLACE’:

- Receive and act on the Institute for Place Management diagnostic report on ways that town centre management can be improved.
- Continue to work with partners from all sectors to enhance private sector engagement in the regeneration of the town centre, and increase investment from all sources.

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- An assessment is built into all current and future projects, to ensure that their purpose is clear, and their contribution is robust, transparent and accountable to the “long game”.
 - Build on the mill strategy to a brownfield mill redevelopment project as a demonstrator of new technologies and materials (including environmental/net zero) of best practice and a site for future excellence in both high-level skills, apprenticeships and firm innovation.
 - Review the potential for a stronger neighbourhood approach to those areas where multiple indicators – education, skills, health and crime – appear to overlap and consider focussed partnerships to test out new approaches to improvement.
 - Develop a strategic plan to protect and develop its key voluntary, community, cultural and sporting institutions, and a strategy for how they, along with the anchor institutions, can work together to build the foundations of the long-term transformational plan.

While the key recommendations are summarized above, an executive summary has been appended to this document for ease ahead of the Scrutiny meeting, with the full report and evidence / analysis which provided the background to the OER Board can be found here - [LevellingUpOldhamFullReportFinal.pdf \(oerb.org.uk\)](https://oerb.org.uk/LevellingUpOldhamFullReportFinal.pdf)

Members will receive more detail on the progress to date through a presentation at the meeting, which will include following:

- Alignment and progress of the Oldham Economic Review Recommendations
- Overview of the Economic Board (membership / governance)
- Outline key activity currently being delivered by the Economic Board
- Overview of key focus moving forward

Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the following discussion topics to ensure the Board continue to focus on key priority areas:

- Views from scrutiny are welcomed in relation to the alignment of the Economic Board to the delivery of the core recommendations of the Oldham Economic Review
- Feedback from scrutiny welcome on the scope of the proposed supporting Economic Strategic Framework.

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LEVELLING UP OLDHAM

The Oldham Economic Review of
Economic Transformation and Civic Pride

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OERB | Oldham Economic
Review Board

MARCH 2022

FOREWORD

Oldham residents are rightly proud of the place we call home. From the monumental mills that remind us of our heritage in the cotton industry, to communities where the impulse to help out a neighbour is still strong, to the glorious Peaks on our doorstep, Oldham has a lot going for it.

There's no doubt, however, that we have potential that's currently untapped. Our position in Greater Manchester and the youth and talent of our population means Oldham could be a great place to base an ambitious, innovative and growing business. But like lots of other places in the UK we've faced challenges as the economy has changed. We need to do something different if our residents are to have the opportunities and successes they deserve. We want every young person in Oldham to know they'll have the chance of a great career without having to leave their hometown. We want to give people options when it's time for a career change, or they'd like to upskill. We want every family to have a decent income, as well as activities and opportunities on the doorstep to boost pride and make Oldham a fun place to live.

That's why I asked Alun Francis, the Principal at Oldham College, to lead a Commission to help us plot a brighter economic future for the borough. We need to make the

most of the great leaders we have in Oldham, and draw on expertise from elsewhere to turn the Government's Levelling Up mantra into a reality.

I'm grateful to the Commissioners for the time and insight they've brought to this process, and look forward to working with them and our valued partners across the borough to translate the vision set out here into reality.



Cllr Arooj Shah
Leader, Oldham Council



ABOUT THE REVIEW

The **Oldham Economic Review** has been undertaken at the request of Oldham Council, with a remit to examine the town's approach to improving its economic prospects.

It has been conducted through a partnership between Oldham College and the University of Manchester, which has helped ensure that the Review has access to the expertise it has required, but has also maintained its independence. Oldham Council contributed toward essential costs and this was matched by the University of Manchester, using CAPE funding. The Review has also leveraged in additional expertise to undertake further research which will help Oldham define and achieve its ambitions.

THE REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Review board has comprised 12 independent members, chosen from a range of public, private and voluntary organisations – in Oldham and its wider environs. It has been chaired by **Alun Francis**, Principal and Chief Executive of Oldham College and vice chair, **Rubbi Bhogal Wood**, Director of Wild and Form digital consultancy. **Andy Westwood**, Professor of Government Practice and Vice Dean for Social Responsibility, has led the input from the University side, and other members have included:

- **Bilal Rahman** (Business person, owner of ibreathe and KickSonic)
- **Cath Farrell** (Housing consultant, former CEO of First Choice Homes)
- **Clive Memmott** (Chief Executive, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce)
- **Donna McLaughlin** (Northern Care Alliance)
- **Emma Barton** (Director of Economy, Oldham Council)
- **John Wrathmell** (Director of Research, Strategy and Economy, Greater Manchester Combined Authority)
- **Kashif Ashraf** (Joint Chair and Founder of Asian Business Leaders)
- **Laura Windsor Welsh** (Oldham Action Together)
- **Richard Jones** (Chair in Materials Physics and Innovation Policy, University of Manchester)

The Review has been undertaken in the style of a parliamentary commission, with the Review board meeting on a monthly basis to hear evidence from national and local expert witnesses, before forming conclusions and making recommendations.

SCHEDULE OF EVIDENCE SESSIONS

21 October 2021		Witness
1	Devolution, from MIER to Towns Fund	Mike Emmerich (Metro Dynamics)
2	Levelling Up Oldham	Will Tanner (Onward) Jen Williams (MEN)
3	GM's strategy, levers and projects	Simon Nokes (GMCA)
4	Oldham's strategy, levers, projects	Emma Barton (Oldham Council)
11 November 2021		
5	Work, Skills and Levelling up	Jonathan Simons (Public First)
6	Breaking Oldham's Low Skills Equilibrium	David Goodhart (Policy Exchange)
7	Oldham's strategy, levers, projects	Jon Bloor (Oldham Council) Neil Thomas (Dudley College)
8	GM's strategy, levers, projects	Gemma Marsh (GMCA)
9	Employer training: what does the data say about good employers?	Stephen Evans (Learning and Work Institute)
25 November 2021		
10	Plan for the North: what do post-industrial places like Oldham do?	Steve Fothergill (Sheffield Hallam University, Industrial Communities Alliance)
11	A Plan for Oldham: underpinned by community wealth building?	Sarah Longlands (Centre for Local Economic Strategies)
12	What does Oldham Make?	Andy Gossage (Ultimate Products)
13	What could Oldham Make? Learnings from national policy initiatives: Industrial Strategy and Innovation	Giles Wilkes (Global Flint) Richard Jones (Innovation GM) Paul Swinney (Centre for Cities)
02 December 2021		
14	Town Centres and High Streets	Cathy Parker (MMU & Institute for Place Management)
15	Housing	Cllr Hannah Roberts (Oldham Council)
16	Crime	Inspector Nick Derbyshire (Greater Manchester Police)
17	Health	Katrina Stephens (Oldham Council)
09 December 2021		
18	Oldham's historic assets: Mills and wider assets	Catherine Dewar (Historic England)

THE POLICY CONTEXT

The Review began in September 2021 with the expectation that the Government's "Levelling Up White Paper"¹ was pending. It was planned for the Oldham Review to complement the direction of travel in the White Paper, as this alongside other local, regional and national policy agendas is likely to have a profound impact on the context in which Oldham will be operating.

The White Paper was delayed and was not published until February 2022, which meant that it was not available until the final phase of the Review was due to complete. There is however, considerable overlap between the method of approach taken in the White Paper, and the approach taken in the Review – with the former considering issues of geographical disparity from the perspective of national systems and policies, while the Review takes a "local" approach, focussing on the options for improving one particular place.

The Review has intentionally mirrored the themes in the Levelling Up White Paper. The aim is to help Oldham be clear about how it might engage positively in the new policy landscape, with a strong focus on the twin themes which have come to characterise the meaning of "levelling up": economic transformation and civic pride.

1. See <https://levellingup.campaign.gov.uk/>

STRUCTURE

The analysis of the Review will be published in the full report, containing the evidence presented by expert witnesses, a more detailed level of analysis, commentary and data.

The document is organised into six chapters, which explore the key challenges for Oldham, organised in terms of the key themes of “levelling up”. This document provides the detail and analysis which the Review board considered in arriving at its conclusions and recommendations.

The chapters are organised in the following order:

CHAPTER 1 Contextualises the problem

The Levelling Up White Paper provides an overview of the history and characteristics which shape and drive economic, social and geographical disparities in the country. This chapter provides an introduction to the way these issues are evident in Oldham, and how they relate to structure of its economy and the decline of some of its main industries. It describes Oldham’s main challenges, provides a summary of key data, and summarises recent trends including where progress has been made in the shaping of its future.

CHAPTER 2 Economic purpose

The White Paper sets out five pillars through which it intends to drive levelling up policy, alongside a set of six capitals and twelve policy ‘missions’. However, it is also clear about the ultimate destination, which is to create a “new model of economic growth, public and private investment and a high skill, high wage economy”. While successful places require strong public services and have a clear role for community and voluntary activity, the focus of policy is on “supporting the private sector” as the “real engine of wealth creation – to invest more, grow more and take more risks”. This chapter discusses the core challenge of defining Oldham’s economic purpose and why having a clear and relentless commitment to this is important in driving change over the long term.

CHAPTER 3 Business and Innovation

Improving productivity, pay and living standards are a core theme and objective of the White Paper, with a strong emphasis on growing the private sector, especially through business innovation and improving infrastructure such as transport and digital connectivity. This chapter focusses on the importance of private sector growth in Oldham and the role of private, public and voluntary sector partners in supporting employment and local enterprise.

CHAPTER 4 Skills and Jobs

Opportunities and improved public services, with a particular emphasis on education and skills, are central to the White Paper proposals. This chapter focusses primarily on skills, and the issues which Oldham needs to solve, in order to fulfil its ambitions.

CHAPTER 5 Civic Pride and ‘a Sense of Place’

The White Paper focusses a great deal of attention on restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, particularly around town centre regeneration, housing and crime. This chapter focusses on the related theme of ‘social fabric’, the role of ‘community wealth building’ and the importance of the town centre and the borough’s high streets and the role of civic pride within Oldham.

CHAPTER 6 Institutions

The White Paper makes very clear recommendations about systems for delivering change, alongside the importance of local institutions, capacity and clear “missions” and targets which provide a focus for action and a source of accountability. This chapter focusses on the systems for delivery within Oldham, as part of Greater Manchester, and what can be done to improve these.

SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

The starting point of this Review is that Oldham must establish a clear and shared sense of its longer term aims and ambitions as a place. These need to drive public, private and voluntary/community activity in Oldham itself, and also need to be the basis on which Oldham engages productively with neighbouring places as well as with the Greater Manchester city-region and with Government and its agencies at a national level.

It is also a defining principle of this Review that Oldham's aims and ambitions should focus on its long term transformation. The challenges which Oldham faces are many, but have their origins in structural changes in the economy, brought about by deindustrialisation and the shift to a new economy dominated by services rather than manufacturing. Without a clear and shared sense of the future shape of the town within this new context, it is difficult to marshal and coordinate the efforts of local stakeholders or to strongly articulate the needs of the place and its people within wider partnerships, either sub-regionally or nationally.

The Levelling Up White Paper

The Review echoes many of the themes and ideas recently published in the White Paper, "Levelling Up the United Kingdom" (LUWP). This was published during the final phase of the Review process and although it is not yet policy (it is subject to consultation), provides an indication of the likely policy context within which Oldham's leaders and institutions will be working at least for the next few years. There will be plenty of debates and arguments around how to resource and fund this approach, but we are not concerned with this level of detail in this Review. The focus of this Review is on the method and analysis. The LUWP sets out a useful framework within which Government can work with different places to address geographical disparities, with a focus on economic transformation and the renewal of civic pride. We think this framework also applies well to our own thinking and for Oldham as a whole. It is a good starting point, which must be built on in the future, if change is really going to happen.

The LUWP presents a clear analysis of the long-term economic changes which underpin geographical disparities. However, it recognises that the issues are not "simply economic". The framework which it proposes to evaluate those disparities recognises the interconnection between six related, but distinct, forms of capital. Alongside financial, physical and human capital, it recognises the role of intangible capital (a critical aspect of the new economy recognising the importance of R&D and innovation), as well as social and institutional capital – which are key to understanding the twin roles of civic pride and social fabric and Oldham's institutions and their collective capacity in shaping successful places. It presents a

cogent analysis of the way that deficiencies in one or more forms of the six capitals are evident in places which underperform, such that they become caught in a vicious cycle of persistently worse outcomes².

The LUWP is also helpful in the way that it proposes to address the long-term challenges of "levelling up". It does not seek to provide an "economic plan" for the country, but a framework within which resources can be devolved to local level, with a clear sense of purpose and achievable targets against which to focus efforts and measure success. These missions and targets focus on improving productivity, pay and living standards; spreading opportunities (with a focus on education, skills and health); and restoring a sense of community, pride and belonging. There is confidence in the role that public policy can play in coordinating efforts around these missions, in order to deliver economic transformation and a renewal of civic pride for people and places who are sometimes referred to as "left behind". And there is recognition of the role of local leadership in driving these solutions.

Cities and towns

However, the LUWP is also a reminder and a reinforcement of some of the challenges which Oldham has in establishing a clear identity and strong voice within a larger economic geography. The national Levelling Up strategy takes, as its focal point, the role of cities as the drivers of growth. "Levelling up" is envisaged as a process of devolving resources by building on the existing arrangements in city regions, rather than directly to individual towns or boroughs. In many respects, it aims to build on the foundations set out for devolution in the initial 2014 devolution deal in Greater Manchester. This is the framework within which Oldham has operated since then.

It is important to recognise and address the fact that there is still disagreement amongst some communities and actors that this is the best approach for places like Oldham. Nationally, there is a degree of scepticism about the benefits which city-region models of growth bring to surrounding towns and this view has gathered pace since the 2016 Referendum and the 2019 General Election. Indeed, the fact that previous approaches to regional disparities have not always delivered for everyone has been the major theme of policy in the last five years or so – enhanced by new economic and social consequences from Austerity, Brexit and Covid-19. This has been reflected in the changing status of towns within policy and public and political debate, particularly in the last five years. They have increasingly been seen less as an adjunct of neighbouring cities, and more as places in their own right.³ This has been reflected in funding streams such as the 'Towns' and 'Future High Street Funds' as well as 'Levelling Up Funds', which have been allocated directly to Oldham and places like it, rather than through intermediaries, such as combined authorities.

2. See Levelling Up White Paper (2022), page 88

3. See David Goodhart (2017) "The Road to Somewhere: The Populist Revolt and the Future of Politics" and Centre for Towns (2017) Launch Briefing <https://www.centrefortowns.org/reports/reports/launch-briefing>.

In many respects, the LUWP shifts the focus of policy back from a direct focus on individual places, to the wider economic units of which they are a part. It reasserts the model of economic renewal which focusses on cities and city-regions as the engines of growth. This Review is broadly supportive of this model. It is realistic to recognise that outer towns are unlikely to thrive independently, unless they position themselves to maximise the benefits of being situated within a larger economic entity. This is particularly the case in terms of private sector growth, which the LUWP identifies, quite rightly as the “real engine of wealth creation”. It also relates to the creation and ongoing importance of new institutions, powers and resources at the city-region level such as the Mayor and the Combined Authority and its family of city-region organisations. Places like Oldham owed their original economic purpose to the fact that they were part of a bigger, sub-regional economic unit. And any new economic purpose is not going to be forged alone, but as part of the drive to foster a stronger private sector across Greater Manchester as a whole.

Spillovers and trickle out?

This Review also acknowledges that much more needs to be done in Oldham and places like it for these benefits and advantages to be fully realised. There is scepticism about some of the ‘spill over’ or ‘trickle out’ effects from city centres and these need to be taken seriously if a new approach to levelling up is going to work and gain public support. This exists across the country, and in outer boroughs in Greater Manchester, including in Oldham.

It is important to consider this in context. Part of the problem is that, despite the progress which cities such as Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Birmingham and others have made in recent times, they continue to underperform economically compared to both the national averages in various measures and also to similar cities in Europe and North America. The transformation task remains significant and long-term, and the benefits will not be evident for everyone or everywhere in the short-term. However, these benefits do need to be

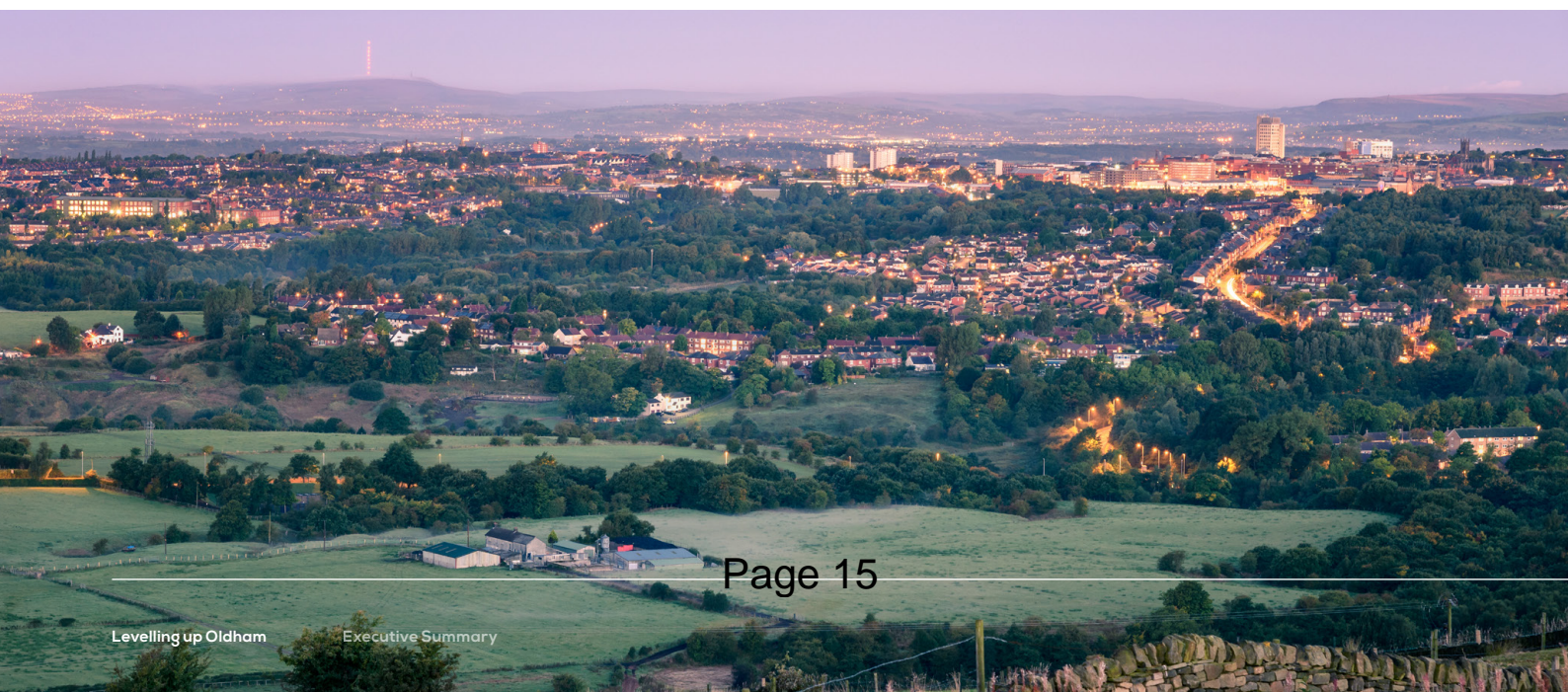
tangible and evident at some point. It is a measure of the maturity of strategies, partnerships, structures and processes within those devolved authorities, whether they can grasp the complexity of individual place-based needs, within the wider whole. The whole needs to be more than the “sum of the parts”. But the needs of individual “parts” must also be recognised and taken seriously, and not lost – or the “whole” becomes somewhat empty.

Making city led growth work better

Levelling up is clearly not easy, at national or local level, and is swamped in complexity. The question is how to deal with this. It is the firm finding of this Review, that this is best achieved by finding ways of making the model work better, rather than by seeking alternatives to it. A key theme of this Review is that stakeholders should think differently about the way that the benefits of the City-region can be made to work. This is often thought of in terms of spillovers from the core to the periphery, but this is not the only element of the model. There is also much to be gained by collaboration between neighbours in the peripheral areas. But this requires active, sustained effort and co-ordination across multiple partners. It cannot be laissez faire and nor can it be expected to weather the repeated shocks of external events such as the financial crash or the pandemic without help or effort.

It is also important to ensure that Oldham is able to articulate a strong and confident voice within the City-region, making more of its relationships within Greater Manchester and its role in its governance. First it must be clear about its own long-term vision. Second is to place a renewed sense of its economic purpose, as a place, at the centre of that vision. Then there is a need to think this through, as an organising framework, for how Oldham should deal with the issues of productivity, opportunity, civic pride, and institutional capacity.

The recommendations of this review are organised around how Oldham can shape a strategy which builds on these themes.



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THE LONG GAME

The Review heard evidence from a variety of witnesses on the wider “levelling up” challenges for Oldham and similar places, the ingredients for success, and the place of Oldham within the wider city region. A key theme was that Oldham needs to establish a clear long-term view of what success might look like. There may be an understandable reluctance to do this, given that so many are variable, external and internal, which can make ambitious missions and targets appear undeliverable and unrealistic. However, just as the Levelling Up White Paper does not seek to set out an economic plan for the country, this Review does not set out a detailed economic plan for Oldham. Instead, our aim has been to focus on general principles, backed up by analysis, systems and policies which are required, in the longer term, to understand the problems that need to be fixed, and to establish a platform to deliver confident, purposeful and optimistic solutions.

The single most important challenge is for Oldham to have a clear and sustained view of the “long game”.

The importance of this is precisely because so many factors will arise which potentially detract, divert or undermine the delivery of long-term change. The geographical disparities described in the LUWP, which particularly (but not exclusively) affect post-industrial towns like Oldham, have deep roots. There are no magic wands which will bring overnight change. It is important therefore to have something clear and systematic to focus on, which ensures that collective efforts do not become dissipated, or wander off course. A central theme in this Review, which is repeatedly echoed in the White Paper – has been that successful places – those which have transformed themselves and rebuilt their civic pride – have been driven by exactly this kind of vision, which they stuck to, and have relentlessly worked to deliver over a long period of time. Manchester city centre is the nearest local example. London Docklands, Barcelona, and Lille are all cited in the White Paper, as is East Germany, and a number of US cities.

This is not because the immediate here and now is not important. It is. It is evident that the short term “shocks” presented by events such as the 2008 financial crisis, “austerity” or the pandemic – and which may now be entering a new iteration due to inflation and war – have a significant impact. One of the features of places like Oldham is that they are not resilient in the face of these events. They are hit harder, and the damage lasts longer, than in other places. However, crisis management can obscure the wider challenge of long-term economic transformation. For Oldham, as for many other former industrial towns, the primary challenge is that it has lost its original economic purpose and has not yet found a convincing alternative. The key to its long-term future is to be clear about what its economic purpose is, bearing in mind the evolving context in which it operates.

2. ECONOMIC PURPOSE

The need for a clear “economic purpose and vision” was a persistent theme during the Review. Defining this is harder than it might seem. Oldham’s original role was relatively simple and easy to understand. It was part of a division of labour and specialisms with neighbouring areas, and its strengths were clear. Cotton and engineering not only provided local employment and wealth, they also helped to establish institutions and a civic pride, from housing through to notable buildings in the town centre, great local projects like Alexandra Park, and amenities such as the sports facilities at Avro. Oldham in the 19th and early 20th century offered a successful example of the LUWP’s ‘six capitals’ coming together to create an upward spiral of wealth, productivity and civic pride. The town ‘worked’.

Oldham’s more recent history has witnessed industrial and manufacturing decline and a decline in the relative levels of wealth within the borough. Accordingly, this has had a direct impact on other issues within Oldham – such as its high streets, its institutions and its social fabric. It is unrealistic to expect the complete substitution of previously strong sectors and institutions with new ones with a similar reach and impact. The future economy and labour market in Oldham (and Greater Manchester) is likely to be more diverse in its sectors, occupations and types of jobs and firms than in the past.

One of the findings of this Review is that up to 70% of current employment in Oldham is within the “foundational economy” (mainly, but not exclusively public sector). While it is important to acknowledge its importance and to improve conditions in this part of the economy, the disproportionate reliance on public sector funding, either through services, grants or central government, as well as on wealth transfers and welfare payments is problematic. It means that in “normal” times, Oldham is heavily dependent on the public or quasi-public sector for much of its activity, and that changes to public sector funding, often outside of Oldham’s direct control, have a disproportionate impact.

The Review has considered Oldham’s economic resilience (the findings are published in the Final Report) and it is not strong. **The economic transformation of Oldham must start by breaking the dependence which it has on the “foundational economy” employment. This should be a central target in reshaping its long-term economic purpose. And Oldham needs to set out clear plans for how it intends to achieve this.**

This is almost certainly going to be multifaceted. There is much to be said for the benefits of “community wealth building” initiatives. These encourage public, voluntary and community sector partners to think and work hard to maximise the impact of the “public pound” in bringing

greater economic and community benefits. It also makes a strong case for the importance of ‘anchor institutions’ and social value in the growth of the economy. This Review acknowledges that Oldham has made some strong recent progress in this respect and makes recommendations as to how this can be further developed and improved.

However, it is important to recognise that this approach, at its best, is only likely to operate at a limited scale⁴ and improve the use of the resources already in the town and will do less to address the fundamental challenge of creating and/or bringing more wealth to Oldham. **For this to be achieved, it must be coupled to a strong and clear strategy for supporting private sector business and employment, particularly in the parts of the economy that can create most wealth and value.**

When this challenge is placed at the centre of Oldham’s long-term vision, it becomes very important to be clear about what parts of the challenge can be met within Oldham’s own boundaries, and what parts require partnerships with neighbouring places and activities.

In terms of productivity and business, it is important to make much more of the successful private sector companies which still exist in Oldham, but also to recognise that much future employment is also likely to be in neighbouring areas. This means focussing efforts not just in Oldham, but also collaboratively with neighbours to support growth, while also working hard to make sure that Oldham residents are equipped to succeed in the wider sub-regional labour market. And this is not just about business and skills (financial, physical and human capital) in isolation. It is about making Oldham a place which is attractive to live in, invest in and visit – a place which all stakeholders can consider with pride. **A recommendation is that Oldham set out a clear statement of its economic purpose, which acknowledges what part of business growth and employment will be delivered in the town and what parts require a reshaping of its relationships to neighbouring areas within the City Region. Missions and targets need to be developed in relation to the restatement of Oldham’s economic purpose.**

This is not a completely new direction for Oldham. There has been considerable progress over the last decade in a number of areas, and there are a number of successes and strengths which can be built on in the future. **It is important, however, that future activity is relentlessly anchored back to the delivery of Oldham’s long-term transformation, that it is organised through a set of coherent sub-strategies, with missions and targets which are directly connected to the delivery of that transformation.** Such an approach will enable Oldham to clearly articulate its long-term ambitions, engage local, sub-regional and national stakeholders around delivering them, and have a clear set of accountabilities and measures to demonstrate progress.

The subsequent recommendations in this Review build on the analysis of long-term vision around economic repurposing, to suggest ways that Oldham can renew its strategy and realign stakeholders around the core levelling up themes of improving productivity; spreading opportunity; and renewing civic pride. It then concludes with a set of recommendations about institutional capacity.

3. BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

The need to grow enterprise and employment through private sector growth both in Oldham, and in partnership with neighbouring boroughs, is a central challenge for “levelling up”. To explore these issues, the Review heard evidence from successful local businesses, and from expert witnesses in the fields of post-industrial towns and their challenges, community wealth building, industrial strategy and innovation. The LUWP correctly identifies the private sector as fundamental to improving economic performance in every part of the country, and sets out proposals to redistribute research and development spending, support innovation accelerators, unlock and spread investment, support SMEs, and improve transport and digital infrastructure. Of these, the focus of this Review has been on measures to support innovation, develop enterprise and engage with business.

It is important to recognise that, although deindustrialisation dominates the story of Oldham’s recent economic history, it continues to be home to a significant number of manufacturing firms as well as successful private enterprises in other fields. More work needs to be undertaken to understand the nature and potential of the manufacturing sector. Different companies are in receipt of support from initiatives to improve manufacturing, such as ‘Made Smarter’, but there is no single umbrella strategy to bring these together and understand their overall impact. **A clear analysis of the opportunities for manufacturing in Oldham and a strategy to support the sector, is a recommendation of this Review.**

Similarly, Oldham is in receipt of a significant amount of business support, for manufacturing and non-manufacturing firms. This is mainly delivered by Greater Manchester partners, but it is not clear how well scrutinised this in terms of its contribution to Oldham’s plans, whether it shares the same specific priorities, or its level of integration with other initiatives. This is important because Oldham hosts its own enterprise initiatives and has an impressive track record of business start-ups. It has a less impressive record, however, in terms of the growth and survival of those new initiatives. There is a need to understand why this is the case, and this involves better understanding the impact of both enterprise activity and business support. **It is recommended that further work be undertaken to examine the impact of enterprise and business support initiatives, and that**

4. See GM Inequalities Commission: <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/equalities/independent-inequalities-commission/>

Oldham develops a clear strategy for enterprise, based on sound analysis of what works, in order to prioritise and evaluate the allocation of these resources.

This should moreover, be part of a wider strategy to coordinate work with businesses. In addition to business support and enterprise, Oldham has a range of stakeholders who, in different ways for different reasons (employment schemes, support programmes, skills supply, procurement and so forth) engage with local employers. However, this work is uncoordinated and so it is difficult to assess the size and scale of activity, whether there are gaps, or whether things could be done to improve impact. **It is recommended that, all employer facing partnership work be brought into a single strategic framework, with a clear set of missions and targets around improving productivity, increasing wages and boosting standards of living.**

This part of the challenge is very much about improving the coordination, focus and accountability of initiatives already being delivered within Oldham. It is also evident, however, that Oldham should be outward looking too. It can improve its engagement with neighbours where better support for private sector business is a shared priority. An obvious example, which was discussed extensively and repeatedly in the Review, was around manufacturing – as other boroughs, most notably Rochdale and Tameside, have a similar industrial legacy. The business led Advanced Machinery and Productivity Institute (AMPI) in Rochdale has become a focal point of Greater Manchester’s “Northern Gateway” plans. Oldham has not actively engaged in this project, but a strong recommendation of this Review is that it should.

It is recommended that Oldham proactively engages with neighbouring authorities in the Northern Gateway, and in particular the AMPI project to support manufacturing. There are considerable benefits to be gained by having a shared approach to manufacturing support across the North East of Greater Manchester, and in putting the joint strategies (planning, business support, skills) to maximise the impact of these initiatives across a broader geography.

A related theme is innovation and the potential for Oldham to pilot new initiatives to support innovation in the borough and in Greater Manchester. The new Innovation GM network is led by business and universities and is seeking to strengthen the links between research and development and to support the business application of inventions and innovations. Oldham does not have a university, but does have a further education college with a strong partnership with the University of Manchester, which is helping to lead Innovation GM. A proposed part of this project is to champion innovation in businesses across all sectors and at all levels, and a town centre pilot based in Oldham would help test this area of work which, within Greater Manchester, is currently underdeveloped.

It is recommended that Oldham seek to play a leading role in extending the emerging innovation network in Greater Manchester, into Oldham town centre, with details around governance, longevity and timescales to be negotiated with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

Finally, there is scope to accelerate and expand work with ‘anchor institutions’ working strategically, through local recruitment, the liberalisation of procurement rules, and a coherent strategy to maximise the impact of major public, voluntary and private partners on local business growth and employment. **It is recommended that a programme of dedicated work to exemplify “best practice” for anchor institutions in this regard, be an outcome of this Review.** It is also recommended that **Oldham develop a broader strategy for social enterprise, and support its social enterprises to proactively engage with Greater Manchester initiatives to build capacity, share and develop expertise in the sector.**

4. SKILLS AND JOBS

The Review heard extensive evidence on education and skills in Oldham, particularly the importance of alternative routes to higher skills for young people and adults, and the need to consider skills demand and the supply of jobs, rather than skills supply in isolation. The Review heard about the national priorities for skills, the challenge of improving low skills and the role of employers in investing in skills. It received a presentation on the Greater Manchester Skills and Work programme, and an excellent account from Dudley College of Technology on the renaissance of further education in their town, which has some similar challenges to Oldham, and the importance of having a strong general further education college to deliver a comprehensive package of skills interventions in post-16 learning.

The LUWP does recognise the central importance of education and skills in improving productivity and spreading prosperity, and makes recommendations to improve outcomes through Education Investment Areas, new post-16 providers with a focus on access to leading universities, a new UK National Academy to provide online tutoring, and a set of measures to improve post-16 skills outcomes. These include Local Skills Improvement Plans, an “in work” progression offer for those on low incomes, and the implementation of existing plans for reform and improve opportunities for adults to upskill and reskill.

The education and skills challenge facing Oldham is large and complex. The Review did not consider pre-16 performance in detail, due to the constraints of time. However, given that the LUWP places considerable emphasis on improving school performance, there are some observations that should be made in passing.

The Review did not closely consider education pre-16, so is not able to make detailed recommendations. Given

that Oldham is likely to become an Education Investment Area, within the Levelling Up proposals, it is important to note some issues in the pre-16 and post-16 phases which are worthy of further consideration. These include close analysis of differential performance across the borough, not just in terms of institutions, but by place, neighbourhood, and families (intergenerational); gaining a better understanding of current performance in terms of progression routes to high skills, including the conventional three year residential degree; a strategy for improving English and maths achievement by 16, including an analysis of the knock-on effect for learners in post-16 settings; and the improvement in performance in terms of qualifications acquired by the age of 19, contrasted with high levels of 16-24 year old unemployment. **It is recommended that these, and related issues around educational underachievement, are considered in future Education Investment Area planning.**

All of these have implications for the area that this Review has considered – which is post-16 learning and adult skills. Between 2005 and 2020 there has been a marked reduction in the numbers of adults who have no qualifications. However, it is not clear that this has made any difference to employment or income patterns. And comparative skills performance at all levels remain low compared to other boroughs, while employment remains a problem. There is a higher proportion of economically inactive residents and above average numbers on incapacity benefit. As with many other indicators, this is not evenly distributed throughout the borough. There is a strong concentration of lower levels of skills achievement, and low incomes, in specific neighbourhoods. Pay levels and household incomes are also low in these places.

A disappointing aspect of the LUWP is that it both undersells the scale of the reforms to further and technical education, and the contribution which they should make to levelling up plans, and underestimates what is needed for further education to maximise its potential impact. This is partly because the LUWP focusses too narrowly on adult skills. This makes sense, insofar as adult skills is the part of the skills system which has already been devolved, and is also the area where, through the Lifetime Guarantee and changes to adult funding rules, the national policy for skills is currently seeking to make a significant difference. However, adult skills policy remains very muddled, with a large number of priorities competing for a limited amount of resource with very little evaluation of impact to help focus efforts. There has been no evaluation of the impact of devolving adult skills, either at national or local level. This is partly, perhaps, because it has had few clear measures of success, either at the level of devolved authorities, or at local authority level. However, the LUWP offers a way to resolve this.

The introduction of the new missions and targets will, in this respect, be a step forward.

It is recommended that Oldham take a lead in setting its own missions and targets for adult learning, with negotiation with local providers (the two main ones are Oldham Council and Oldham College) and the Combined Authority, which will shape the distribution and use of adult funding in the borough to 2030. In so doing, it will need to separate out the local authority's strategic role in setting the aims and ambitions for the transformation of place, with its role as a skills provider. At present, this is confused, and the conflict of interest is neither acknowledged or managed. If this matter can be addressed, and effective targets set, then these can serve to focus local providers and the devolved authority on priorities and hold them collectively to account.

In forming such a plan, however, it will have to deal with the fact that the national targets, set out in the LUWP, may be unambitious compared to the scale of the problem of adult skills. Evidence received by this Review considered data relating to two similar areas – Oldham and Blackpool – and concluded that if these two areas were to improve their adult qualification rates to the national average, they alone would amount to over half of the 80,000 target for adult learners. This may, of course, amount to a claim for a larger allocation of adult funding, either from national or devolved sources. **It is recommended that Oldham's analysis of missions and targets should include its own analysis of the challenge of adult skills, and the levels of investment needed to make the borough competitive in the labour markets of Greater Manchester.** This should form the basis of its ongoing dialogue with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and, through it, to national government too.

Beyond adult skills, the LUWP is very positive about the need to “strengthen locally accessible institutions, notably the national network of further education colleges” and the wider proposals for an employer led skills system, as set out in the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill which is currently going through Parliament. This is a welcome recognition of the need for strong further education institutions, because of the role they place in the community, both in terms of skills delivery and their wider contribution. The example of Dudley suggests that this should be a priority for Oldham. Oldham College has followed a similar journey to Dudley, with considerable investment, improvement in the range and quality of provision, and establishing its wider role despite, until recently, and unfavourable policy environment, nationally and locally. **It is recommended that Oldham make a commitment to supporting its general further education to play its full role in the locality, and that it works with Greater Manchester partners and national government to secure this for the long run.**

At the centre of this work should be a clear strategy for delivering of a coherent alternative set of pathways, both work-based and classroom based, for those young people

and adults seeking to progress into careers without following the residential three year degree route. Part of the problem with the approach which the LUWP makes to skills is that it leaves a great deal of positive reforms out of the picture. These reforms, which include T levels, apprenticeships, Level 4 and 5 provision in the classroom and workplace, as well as changes to HE access rules and potential changes below Level 2, amount to a system shift for technical education and training. This should cumulatively provide the “alternative pathways” to high skills which are essential to Oldham’s “levelling up mission”, particularly given it has no university and depends on its FE college to deliver the major part of this system. This perspective on the wider skills system as a whole is often missing from devolved authorities (which tend to only focus on the funds they control and the provision they can commission), so the LUWP was a real opportunity to address what a new skills system might look like at a very local level.

This also means addressing two related issues: first, competition and second employer engagement. In terms of competition, there are a number of providers – in all phases of post-16 delivery – who are potentially working at cross-purposes and it is questionable whether this has always produced the best outcomes. **It is recommended that the strategy for skills should include consideration of the positive and negative impacts of competition between providers throughout the post-16 phase (16-18, adult, apprenticeships and higher education), whether this is helping or hindering the pursuit of more effective provision, and what can be done to improve arrangements.**

In terms of employer engagement, this aspect of technical and professional education and training is often misunderstood and misconceived in policy terms, both locally, regionally and nationally. The LUWP does propose, drawing on proposals in the Skills Bill, to create a stronger relationship between providers and employers through the introduction of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs). These are a positive move, but still very experimental. The current pilots are focussed on relatively small areas, and it is not clear that LSIPs would work at the level of a geographical area as big as Greater Manchester. As currently defined, moreover, LSIPs are relatively one dimensional. They conceive the problem of skills as a mismatch between supply and demand, with the plan helping to articulate what employers need, so that skills supply can be reformed to better meet demand. This potentially works well in areas where the economy is strong. In “levelling up” places, however, this is not the case. There is a profound problem of demand, and a need to work with employers in myriad ways to stimulate demand. Skills supply is a key aspect of this – but not just a passive respondent to a fully formed requirement. This makes the relationship between specialist

providers and employers a more profound partnership challenge, with a “two way” street between what is taught and how it is practiced. The current Local Skills Improvement Plans are unlikely to address this issue. **It is recommended therefore, that Oldham adapts the LSIP model, addressing skills supply and demand in a much broader economic context including business support and innovation. As in other LSIP pilots, it is recommended that this work is led through a partnership between Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Oldham College.**

5. CIVIC PRIDE AND ‘A SENSE OF PLACE’

This Review started from the position that improved economic performance, in the sense of stronger businesses, more enterprise, and greater competitiveness in labour markets are all central to Oldham’s future, but that “non-economic” factors are of equal importance in shaping and delivering successful places. The Review board heard evidence from expert witnesses on place management (focussed on town centres), housing, crime, health and civic identity and pride.

One of the reasons why the LUWP marks a step forward, is that it acknowledges the importance of social and institutional capital – and the interaction between them and the four other “capitals” (financial, human, intangible and physical) in order for “levelling up” to have any chance of working. It sets out a series of interventions designed to support the renewal of civic pride and a sense of community. This includes the ‘Shared Prosperity Fund’, which will invest in business and skills, but also communities and place; brownfield regeneration, further measures to improve town centres and high streets, securing access to green space, investing in grassroots sports and culture, introducing a ‘National Youth Guarantee’ and related measures to improve opportunities for young people, measures to relocate the Civil Service, a set of measures to improve housing and investment to tackle crime and antisocial behaviour.

The evidence presented in the Review illustrated the enormous impact of these “social fabric” issues on Oldham. The town centre featured strongly in these discussions, as it has in focus group work with local residents. Its importance is clearly acknowledged in the Council’s ongoing commitment to its redevelopment. This includes projects delivered, such as the Old Town Hall and Leisure Centre, projects in the pipeline such as the relocation of Tommyfields Market and the acquisition of Spindles Shopping Centre, and work taking place through the High Streets Fund and Towns Fund Board.

This is an area where the importance of having and holding to a long-term vision is particularly important, because the funding regime tends to be organised through competitive bidding rounds. This can lead to fragmentation and “pepper potting” of resources – particularly given the number and scale of regeneration

projects needed to complete the town centre's transformation. **It was encouraging that Oldham was actively engaged with the Institute of Place Management, which has produced a diagnostic report on ways that town centre management can be improved and it is recommended that the report is considered and implemented.** It is also encouraging that Oldham has recently strengthened private sector leadership in the Towns Fund Board. **It is recommended that the Council continue to work with partners from all sectors to enhance private sector engagement in the regeneration of the town centre, and increase investment from all sources.** It is also important however, that each and every project has a clear assessment in terms of how and what specifically it contributes to the long-term vision of Oldham, and how it contributes in terms of growing business, increasing employment, or improving Oldham as a place to live or visit. **It is recommended that this assessment is built into all current and future projects, to ensure that their purpose is clear, and their contribution is robust, transparent and accountable to the "long game".**

Housing emerged as one of Oldham's biggest challenges, but also as the single policy area where the strategy already appeared to grasp the complexity of the "long game". The strategy recognises that Oldham has to have very broad appeal – attracting and retaining those with higher incomes and high skills, while also working hard to improve the outcomes for those who do not. One of the enormous challenges for Oldham in improving the supply and variety of housing, is that it has significant constraints in terms of available land. The LUWP commitment to new approaches to developing brownfield sites may help open up possibilities here, and there is a case for Oldham, both in terms of housing and business, considering innovative options for redeveloping heritage provision.

The Review board heard evidence relating to heritage in Oldham and the potential for mill redevelopment. Focus groups confirm that heritage is one of the aspects of Oldham which local residents are most proud of – and that Oldham's industrial past plays a significant role in shaping its current reputation. In evidence relating to heritage – including the legacy of mills in the borough – a key theme was around making more of the past in order to shape the future. This is an area which may be underdeveloped in Oldham's current thinking, given that the town has had a unique place in the history of industrialisation, but there is relatively little for visitors to see which could tell that story. The Council has recently commissioned and is about to launch a strategy for renovating mills. This is a strong basis on which to build a strategy for heritage. **It is recommended that the Council implement a strategy for mill renovation, which could contribute to both business and housing needs, and fit with the wider national ambition to redevelop brownfield sites.** Part of this might be Oldham and university/college

partners bidding (eg through either 'levelling up' and/or 'strength in places' or 'Innovate UK' funding) to set up a brownfield redevelopment pilot, undertake a mill redevelopment as a demonstrator of new technologies and materials (including environmental/net zero), of best practice and a site for future excellence in both high-level skills, apprenticeships and firm innovation. Given the large stock of industrial heritage buildings across the city region and beyond this has the potential to be of regional/national specialisation and significance.

This leaves the challenge of neighbourhoods, which almost certainly sit at the centre of some of the most challenging "levelling up" issues, both within Oldham and nationally. Within Oldham there is a very heavy dependency on social housing, and poor housing stock, particularly in the areas near to the town centre, is a legacy of Oldham's industrial past. It is predominantly red bricked terraced properties, with few larger properties – or newer social housing, often in the same areas. There are a number of challenges around the extent of private landlords in specific neighbourhoods, and new arrivals to Oldham brought through the asylum system, or rehoused by other local authorities, because housing is relatively low cost. These residents are welcome, but often have support needs, and these are left for Oldham to provide. This is particularly challenging in neighbourhoods which already have high levels of concentrated poverty. It is not clear exactly how far this concentration of poverty is linked to the wider challenges of education, skills and health, but initial evidence suggests the link is strong, and that a "neighbourhood effects" approach to improving outcomes for the most disadvantaged may be worth pursuing. Crime and health also have distinct neighbourhood patterns. Crime is a major issue in some communities, and there are particular issues around the general public feeling safe in areas such as the Metrolink and the town centre. Health inequalities appear to mirror the neighbourhood patterns evident for other indicators of poor outcomes. **It is recommended that this issue is explored in further detail, sharing data on education, skills, health and crime, with a view to gaining a better understanding of "neighbourhood effects" and designing more coordinated neighbourhood interventions to improve multiple outcomes in an area.**

It is particularly important that this work recognises the different places, geographical disparities and communities within Oldham, and engages voluntary and community institutions, including sports clubs and cultural organisations, in building social capital across Oldham. It should also recognise the key importance of particularly institutions, such as Oldham Colosseum, Oldham Athletic Football Club and Oldham Rugby League Club, as well as grassroots community clubs and cultural organisations – along with the "anchor institutions" which deliver key public services.

It is recommended that Oldham produce a strategic plan to protect and develop its key voluntary, community, cultural and sporting institutions, and a strategy for how they, along with the anchor institutions, can work together to build the foundations of the long-term transformational plan.

6. INSTITUTIONS

As the LUWP recognises, institutional capital and capacity will play a vital part in improving economic and other conditions in Oldham. The Review agrees that Oldham needs to support and strengthen anchor institutions and their role within the borough. These include the Council itself, but also the Hospital and NHS Trust, the College and other institutions in the public, private and voluntary sectors. They need to be more than the sum of the parts and national policy needs to play its part in this support. Furthermore, institutional capacity and the role of anchor institutions also applies to Greater Manchester institutions such as those in the GMCA family that have Oldham in their footprints. They must be better joined up and their efforts and strategies more effectively co-ordinated. All need to own and buy in to the same long-term vision for Oldham.

It is unsurprising that many institutions and strategies within Oldham and Greater Manchester have suffered from fragmentation and poor co-ordination. One factor is that Government that runs too many separate and siloed policy frameworks with little effective joining up. The proliferation of one-off schemes and bidding competitions encourages further duplication and fragmentation – a problem acknowledged by the National Audit Office and the LUWP itself.

However there have also been too many uncoordinated strategies and bodies within Oldham too that have been established in parallel or abandoned along the way. Oldham and GMCA need to make extra effort to co-ordinate policy and strategy and for this to be part of a long term approach. This effort must make practical local sense of the rising numbers of strategies and funding rounds coming from different regeneration and local growth schemes operated nationally. This requires constant effort and grip as well as some rationalisation and clear accountability and transparency.

It requires a new simplified, strategic approach to economic development and levelling up in Oldham.

Neighbouring authorities such as Rochdale have established new economic development agencies and the Review board have been impressed with their ambition and actions (such as the support for AMPI for example). There are also precedents across Greater Manchester in the form of Mayoral Development Corporations, eg in Stockport, where high profile chairs and additional capacity are helping to drive long term strategies and individual projects.

Oldham should learn from these vehicles and adopt a similar approach, streamlining existing decision-making structures, creating new capacity and supporting its long-term economic vision by creating a single structure. It must rationalise previous and current activities and strategies to provide a single direction where the vision is set and maintained. It also needs to be the place where relationships with Greater Manchester agencies and institutions are governed too. Oldham Council is already in the process of rejuvenating its partnership structures.

It is recommended that this include deciding how best to take forward the key recommendations of this Review, in terms of business and innovation, skills and civic pride and how the collective partnerships will build capacity to deliver “levelling up”.

Whatever the specific model adopted, **it is recommended that the Council establish a “Levelling Up Board”, to oversee the delivery of a coherent Oldham plan, with detailed missions and targets to 2030, which can be used to oversee the work in Oldham, the work with City Region partners, and which can produce an annual progress report, which can be used as a basis for assessing the success of “levelling up” initiatives locally.**

It is also recommended that the Council work with Greater Manchester partners to ensure transparency about the investment of resources and expertise into Oldham and the impact of these on Oldham’s levelling up vision for 2030.

And it is recommended that the Council and Oldham Leadership Board consider building on this Review, by working with the University and the college, and other key institutions, to develop a bespoke leadership and training programme, to build capacity and expertise and to focus the “common purpose” of all stakeholders around the 2030 vision for Oldham.

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

THE LONG GAME

Oldham must set out its long term ambitions and aspirations, with missions and targets, for the aims and ambitions for Oldham through to 2030.

ECONOMIC PURPOSE

- Breaking Oldham’s dependence on “foundational economy” employment should be a central target in reshaping its long-term economic purpose. And Oldham needs to set out clear plans for how it intends to achieve this.
- Relentlessly anchor all future activity and projects back to the delivery of Oldham’s long-term transformation, that it is organised through a set of coherent sub-strategies, with missions and targets which are directly connected to the delivery of that transformation.

BUSINESS AND INNOVATION

- A clear strategy for productivity and business, which includes manufacturing, business support, enterprise and innovation, all within a single strategic framework, with a clear set of missions and targets around improving productivity, increasing wages and boosting standards of living.
- Proactive engagement with neighbouring authorities in the Northern Gateway, and in particular the AMPI project to support manufacturing.
- Liaise with Innovation GM for Oldham to play a leading role in extending the emerging innovation network in Greater Manchester, into Oldham town centre.
- Develop a “best practice” programme for anchor institutions.
- Develop a broader strategy for social enterprise, including its engagement with Greater Manchester initiatives to build capacity, share and develop expertise.

INSTITUTIONS

- Recognise the mutual importance of the six capitals in driving improvements and develop a strategy to capacity build and support key institutions.
- Set up a new overarching ‘levelling up’ board, with independent representation, to oversee the delivery of the 2030 vision, with clear reporting around the local “levelling up” Missions and targets, back to the Council and Oldham Leadership Board.
- Work with Greater Manchester partners to ensure transparency about the investment of resources and expertise into Oldham and the impact of these on Oldham’s levelling up vision for 2030.
- Work with the University and the college, and other key institutions, to develop a bespoke leadership and training programme, to focus the “common purpose” of all stakeholders around the 2030 vision for Oldham.



SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

SKILLS AND JOBS

- Take a lead in setting the missions and targets for adult skills, with negotiation with local providers (the two main ones are Oldham Council and Oldham College) and GMCA, which will shape the use of adult funding in the borough to 2030. This should include its own analysis of the challenge of adult skills, and the levels of investment needed to make the borough competitive in the labour markets of Greater Manchester.
- Capacity build its general further education college to maximise its impact, including the delivery of a coherent alternative set of pathways, both work-based and classroom based, for those young people and adults seeking to progress into careers outside of the residential three year degree route, should be a clear policy priority.
- Undertake a review of post-16 provision which assesses the positive and negative impacts of competition between providers throughout the post-16 phase (16-18, adult, apprenticeships and higher education), whether this is helping or hindering the pursuit of more effective provision, and what can be done to improve collective impact.
- Oldham should pilot and adapted the LSIP model, addressing skills supply and demand in a much broader economic context including business support and innovation. It recommended that this work is led through a partnership between Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Oldham College.



CIVIC PRIDE AND 'A SENSE OF PLACE'

- Receive and act on the Institute for Place Management diagnostic report on ways that town centre management can be improved.
- Continue to work with partners from all sectors to enhance private sector engagement in the regeneration of the town centre, and increase investment from all sources.
- An assessment is built into all current and future projects, to ensure that their purpose is clear, and their contribution is robust, transparent and accountable to the "long game".
- Build on the mill strategy to a brownfield mill redevelopment project as a demonstrator of new technologies and materials (including environmental/net zero) of best practice and a site for future excellence in both high-level skills, apprenticeships and firm innovation.
- Review the potential for a stronger neighbourhood approach to those areas where multiple indicators – education, skills, health and crime – appear to overlap and consider focussed partnerships to test out new approaches to improvement.
- Develop a strategic plan to protect and develop its key voluntary, community, cultural and sporting institutions, and a strategy for how they, along with the anchor institutions, can work together to build the foundations of the long-term transformational plan.





The report was published on 23 March 2022 and can be cited as Levelling Up Oldham: the Oldham Economic Review of Economic Transformation and Civic Pride (2022) Oldham Economic Review Board.

This report is the analysis and recommendations of the Review board collectively and does not necessarily represent the views of individual commissioners or their organisations. Within the limited capacity and time of the Review, robust efforts have been made to limit errors and omission including linking source material to encourage transparency.

The Review would like to thank Oldham Council for commissioning this independent report and for providing seed funding of £15,000, technical assistance through Jonathan Downs, Guy Parker, Mahmuda Khanom and maintaining the Review website (www.oerb.org.uk). The Review was also supported by the University of Manchester through the CAPE project with assistance from Dr Marianne Sensier and Jay Amin. Secretariat was provided by Oldham College who also hosted the Review Board meetings.

Special thanks go to the Witnesses who provided invaluable and thought-provoking insight as seen throughout the report. We are also very grateful to the think tank Onward who worked in partnership with the Review to provide in-depth research through focus groups in Oldham and Action Together Oldham for convening an engagement session with the local Community and Voluntary Sector.

LEVELLING UP OLDHAM

The Oldham Economic Review of
Economic Transformation and Civic Pride

AN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A copy of the full report is available from

oerb.org.uk

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Review Board

MARCH 2022

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Report to CABINET

Draft Oldham Local Plan for Public Consultation

Portfolio Holder:

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

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Report Author: Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Strategic Planning and Information

Ext. x.1672

11 December 2023

Reason for Decision

To approve the publication and consultation of the draft version of a new Local Plan for Oldham (referred to as the Draft Local Plan in this report).

Executive Summary

The council must prepare a Local Plan to ensure that we have an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework to support the borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. Oldham's Local Plan will guide development in the borough up to 2039. Once adopted, it will replace the current Local Plan (the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD) which was adopted in November 2011 and any saved older planning policies from the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006.

The Draft Local Plan follows on from public consultation that was carried out on the Issues and Options for a new Local Plan in Summer 2021. It builds upon the comments we received and has been informed by on-going studies and pieces of evidence that have been completed since the Issues and Options consultation.

The Draft Local Plan is accompanied by an Integrated Assessment (IA), which incorporates the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment, an

Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) and Health Impact Assessment (HIA), and by a Habitat Regulations Assessment. The Draft Local Plan and associated appendices, IA, IA Scoping Report Update, HRA, Consultation Statement and Issues and Options Comments and Response Schedule are attached at Appendix 1 to 8. Approval is sought to publish and consult on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents, with consultation commencing no earlier than 10 January 2024 for six weeks. Note, following approval there may be further formatting amendments made to the documents to address accessibility requirements prior to publication for consultation.

Topic Papers on key themes and the Site Allocations Background Paper will also be published alongside the Draft Local Plan and accompanying documents. These topic / background papers help to explain the current guidance and requirements and pull together the evidence available.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents, including the Integrated Assessment and Habitat Regulation Assessment, be approved for publication and consultation commencing no earlier than 10 January 2024 for six weeks.

Draft Oldham Local Plan for Public Consultation

1 Background

1.1 The council must prepare a Local Plan to provide an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework that will support the borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 set out the requirements for local authorities producing and consulting on their Local Plan. There are various stages in the production of a Local Plan and Oldham Council is at the 'Regulation 18' stage. As part of the Regulation 18 stage, consultation was undertaken on Issues and Options in summer 2021 and the proposed Draft Local Plan public consultation being sought approval for in this report provides a further opportunity for the local community and other stakeholders to shape the contents of the Local Plan.

1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the framework for the preparation of a Local Plan, with paragraph 16 stating that plans should be:

- prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development;
- be prepared positively, in a way that is aspirational but deliverable;
- be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees;
- contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, so it is evident how a decision maker should react to development proposals;
- be accessible, through the use of digital tools, to assist public involvement and policy presentation; and
- serve a clear purpose, avoiding unnecessary duplication of policies that apply to a particular area (including policies in this Framework, where relevant).

Oldham's current Local Plan

1.3 What is usually referred to as Oldham's Local Plan is actually a collection of Development Plan Documents (DPDs). Oldham's Local Plan currently comprises a series of documents which together provide the statutory development plan for the borough and are:

- The Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (Joint DPD), adopted in November 2011;
- Proposals Map, dated April 2013;
- The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan, adopted in April 2012;
- The Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan, adopted in April 2013.

1.4 In addition to the above, there are a limited number of policies from the Oldham Unitary Development Plan (2006) that have been 'saved'.

Places for Everyone and Oldham's Local Plan

- 1.5 Places for Everyone is the strategic spatial plan for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan, and as such sets out a collective planning policy framework. All policies within the Plan are 'strategic policies' and it:
- provides the strategic framework for the Oldham Local Plan;
 - sets out specific requirements to be taken forward through the Oldham Local Plan in relation to housing, offices, and industry and warehousing, and identifies the main areas where this will be focused;
 - identifies the important environmental assets which will be protected and enhanced;
 - allocates sites for employment and housing outside of the urban area – in Oldham this is JPA2 Stakehill, JPA12 Beal Valley, JPA13 Bottom Field Farm, JPA14 Broadbent Moss, JPA15 Chew Brook Vale, JPA16 Cowlshaw, JPA17 Land south of Coal Pit Lane' and JPA18 South of Rosary Road;
 - supports the delivery of key infrastructure, such as transport and utilities; and
 - defines a new Green Belt boundary the borough.
- 1.6 Once Places for Everyone is adopted it will form part of Oldham's development plan. As such Oldham's local plan will need to be consistent with it. As with the Local Plan, Places for Everyone will cover the whole of the borough of Oldham except that part which falls within the Peak District National Park.
- 1.7 The evidence that underpins the Places for Everyone Plan will also inform Oldham's local plan but, as a strategic plan, it does not cover everything that Oldham's local plan would. Therefore, Oldham's Draft Local Plan (see Appendix 1 and 2) sets out more detailed policies including both strategic and non-strategic policies, as appropriate, reflecting local circumstances.
- 1.8 As part of the public examination into the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan consultation on proposed modifications to the Plan is taking, or has taken, place between 11 October to 6 December 2023. Following the conclusion of the consultation, the Inspectors will consider all the representations made on the proposed main modifications before finalising the examination report and the schedule of recommended changes. If the Inspectors conclude that no further consultation is necessary following the modifications' consultation, the Plan will then go forward for adoption by each of the Full Councils of the nine participating local authorities.

The need for a review of Oldham's Local Plan

- 1.9 The Joint DPD is the currently the main DPD within this collection of documents, and this is now over 10 years old. A new DPD is therefore required to provide a succinct and up-to-date plan that:
- accords with Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (see below);
 - meets the latest national planning policy and guidance; and

-
- reflects changes in the council's ambitions for Oldham and our Creating a Better Place agenda.

This new DPD will be known as Oldham's Local Plan.

Progress to date

- 1.10 To begin preparation of the Local Plan the council carried out a Regulation 18 Notification between July and August 2017, through which we asked what the local community and other interested parties thought the Local Plan should contain, the key planning issues Oldham, and what the main aims of the Local Plan should be.
- 1.11 Following on from the Regulation 18 Notification Issues and Options were prepared and consultation was carried out on these from 5 July to 29 August 2021. Comments were also sought on the accompanying Integrated Assessment.
- 1.12 The Issues and Options document set out questions covering a range of topics to gather views about the future of the borough. These included questions on homes, economy and employment, our centres, addressing climate change, the natural environment and open land, green infrastructure, the built environment, transport and improving connectivity, communities and infrastructure. In total around 100 individuals and organisations submitted over 850 comments to the consultation. These comments have been considered in the formulation of the Draft Local Plan. There was general support for the vision, which was considered positive in its intent and ambition, and plan objectives. Encouraging an appropriate scale of housing and employment growth and protecting the natural and historic environment were supported. Whilst comments highlighted the need to include reference to improving health and wellbeing for the residents of Oldham. Pages 11 to 15 of the Draft Local Plan provide a summary of the issues raised and further details regarding the individual comments received can be found in the Issues and Options Response Schedule (see Appendix 3).
- 1.13 A Consultation Statement (see Appendix 4) has been prepared to demonstrate how consultation on the Local Plan review to date (so for the Regulation 18 Notification and Issues and Options stages) has been consistent with Oldham's Statement of Community Involvement. The Consultation Statement will be updated at each of stage of consultation and when the council submits the Local Plan to the Secretary of State for Independent Public Examination.

2 Current Position

Draft Local Plan

- 2.1 Oldham's Local Plan will guide development in the borough up to 2039, to reflect the plan-period of Places for Everyone. Underpinning the Plan will be the principles of sustainable development, and it will meet the needs of Oldham and its residents while also achieving high quality design, addressing climate change and increasing accessibility for all.
- 2.2 The Local Plan will cover the whole borough except that part which falls within the Peak District National Park and its main purposes will be to:

-
- Set out the policies through which the council will manage development coming forward and use to determine planning applications;
 - Identify designations for the protection of the borough's environmental and historical assets, our town centres, employment areas and infrastructure;
 - Allocate land to meet our future housing and employments needs; and
 - Support the development of supporting infrastructure, such as transport, education and utilities.
- 2.3 Upon adoption the Local Plan will replace the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, which was adopted in November 2011, and any saved planning policies from the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006.
- 2.4 The Local Plan will sit alongside the emerging Places for Everyone (see paragraphs 1.5 to 1.8 above), as part of a suite of documents that form the development plan for the borough that also includes the Greater Manchester Joint Waste and Minerals Plans (see paragraph 1.3 above). Together these documents will inform decision-making on planning applications in the borough of Oldham.
- 2.5 The policies contained within the Draft Local Plan are organised by theme, for example Homes, Economy and Employment, and Addressing Climate Change. Policy text is bold and shown within a 'policy box' for clarity, after which sits a reasoned justification that provides further detail regarding how the policy will be applied and what detail may be needed to accord with the policy requirements.
- 2.6 At the end of each policy and chapter there are linkages boxes. These boxes show:
- The plan objective(s) the policy is seeking to address;
 - The indicators through which the policy will be monitored;
 - Other policies within the Local Plan that may be relevant to the policy; and
 - Relevant PfE policies that regard should be had to.
- 2.7 Whilst these boxes have been inserted to provide clarity for the reader, it is important that the Local Plan, including Places for Everyone, is read as a whole, and this is made clear throughout the Draft Local Plan.

The Draft Local Plan and Creating a Better Place

- 2.8 The Local Plan provides an opportunity to bring together and express spatially those parts of The Oldham Plan and the council's Corporate Plan that can be shaped and delivered through the planning system. Their aspirations and priorities are the golden thread that runs through the Draft Local Plan, along with supporting and facilitating the delivery of the council's ambitious Creating a Better Place agenda which are also embedded into the planning framework provided through its policies. This relationship is illustrated in Figure BP1 (page 6) of the Draft Local Plan.
- 2.9 Underneath the overarching theme of Creating a Better Place there also sit several key issues that policies within the Local Plan seek to address such as the creation of healthy communities and tackling the climate emergency.

-
- 2.10 For example, through the policies contained within the Local Plan the council will encourage and facilitate development in the borough that provides opportunities for healthy lifestyles, contributes to the creation of healthier communities, and helps to reduce health inequalities. For example, they will help to:
- Create healthy, inclusive and safe places that are well connected to key services and facilities and high-quality open spaces and with sustainable and accessible transport that enables active travel.
 - Provide a diverse, and affordable, housing offer that addresses local housing needs with homes that are energy efficient and adaptable.
 - Support healthy eating and promote healthy food choices through, for example, increasing opportunities for community food growing spaces and restrictions on hot food takeaways.
- 2.11 The policies set out within the Draft Local Plan also provide a robust framework for ensuring that all development proposals mitigate the impact of climate change, make their contribution to meeting nationally binding targets to reduce greenhouse emissions and increase resilience, through:
- Ensuring that development is located in a way that takes account of flood risk and that it is designed in such a way as to increase water efficiency, reduce demand on water resources and protect water quality.
 - Encouraging the use of decentralised, renewable and low carbon energy and sustainable construction techniques so as to minimise energy consumption.
 - Ensuring the effective and efficient use of land and reducing the need to travel and promoting active travel.
- 2.12 Our approach to tackling the climate change emergency has many benefits and outcomes that link to our health and wellbeing priorities in that it will help to ensure Oldham residents can afford to live comfortably in their homes; will increase access to an enhanced Green Infrastructure network; and promote active travel choices, including walking and cycling.

The Green Belt, Local Green Space and Oldham's Draft Local Plan

- 2.13 PfE proposes the revised Green Belt boundary for each of the nine Greater Manchester PfE authorities, including Oldham, and these will be incorporated into the Local Plan, following the adoption of PfE. As such, the Local Plan does not address strategic Green Belt boundary revisions.
- 2.14 However, a 'tidy up' of Oldham's Green Belt boundaries has been carried out to identify minor changes of a technical nature that have arisen primarily from the move to GIS mapping. These minor technical boundary revisions proposed to the Green Belt are set out within the appendices of the Draft Local Plan.
- 2.15 Importantly, the council is not proposing to allocate greenfield sites in the Green Belt for development within this plan.
- 2.16 The Draft Local Plan proposes to designate areas as 'Local Green Spaces' (LGS) in line with national planning policy. Local Green Spaces are spaces that are

important to local communities due to their proximity to the community and because they are demonstrably special and hold local significance due to beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, or richness of its wildlife.

- 2.17 Most LGSs are currently designated Other Protected Open Land (OPOLs) in the adopted Joint DPD. A review of the current OPOL, available online at [Local Green Space Assessment | Oldham Council](#), has been undertaken against LGS criteria to ensure the policy approach is robust and up to date. As a result of this updated evidence:
- Some proposed LGSs include boundary changes to the OPOL boundaries currently designated. These are shown in the appendices of the Draft Local Plan.
 - A new LGS has also been identified in Sholver.
 - Five OPOLs are proposed to be de-designated, meaning they would lose their status as protected open land under the new Local Green Space policy:
 - Three of these OPOLs (OPOL 9; OPOL 10 and OPOL 22) are proposed to be de-designated through PfE as they form part of strategic allocations JPA14 Broadbent Moss, JPA12 Beal Valley and JPA16 Cowlshaw).
 - Two OPOLs are proposed to be de-designated through the Local Plan (Rumbles Lane and Land South of Oaklands Road).

Integrated Assessment

- 2.18 The Draft Local Plan is supported by an Integrated Assessment (IA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment, attached at Appendices 5 and 6 to this report, that incorporates the following:
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
 - Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA);
 - Oldham Impact Assessment Tool (including Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA); and
 - Health Impact Assessment (HIA).
- 2.19 The role of a SA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the emerging Local Plan against economic, environmental and social objectives (including opportunities for net gain). Significant adverse effects should be avoided and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed (or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered).
- 2.20 The purpose of a Habitat Regulations Assessment of land use plans to ensure that protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at the local level. The findings of the HRA will be integrated into the IA.
- 2.21 The Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to consider how different people will be affected by their activities, helping them to deliver policies and services which are efficient and effective, accessible to all, and which meet different people's needs. This is done as part of the Oldham Impact

Assessment Tool. In this instance through completion of the Oldham Impact Assessment Tool consideration has been given to the aims and effects of the Draft Local Plan on the following groups – Disabled people; Particular ethnic groups; Men or women (including impacts due to pregnancy / maternity); People of particular sexual orientation/s; People in a marriage or civil partnership; People who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process or part of a process of gender reassignment; People of low incomes; People in particular age groups; and Groups with particular faiths and beliefs. The findings of the Oldham Impact Assessment have been fed into the Integrated Assessment.

- 2.22 The HIA is not a statutory requirement however it is considered an important and necessary tool to evaluate and understand the health impacts of the Draft Local Plan.
- 2.23 In addition to the above, as part of the Issues and Options consultation that was carried out between July and August 2021 an IA Scoping Report was produced. The Scoping Report has been updated for the Draft Local Plan and can be found at Appendix 6. A Non-Technical Summary of the Integrated Assessment has been prepared and is available at Appendix 7.

Evidence

- 2.24 Since preparation and consultation on the Issues and Options report, further evidence has been produced to inform the review of the Local Plan. These are:
- The Oldham Green Infrastructure Strategy; and
 - The Oldham Employment Land Review.
- 2.25 These will be published alongside the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents.
- 2.26 Several thematic Topic Papers will also be published alongside the Draft Local Plan as part of the consultation. These pull together the evidence in one place and set out how this and previous consultations have helped to inform the Draft Local Plan and are on the following themes:
- Built Environment
 - Climate Change and Flood Risk
 - Communities
 - Employment and Economy
 - Housing
 - Natural Environment
 - Our Centres
 - Transport
- 2.27 A Background Paper will also be published on the Site Allocations.
- 2.28 Further evidence will continue to be prepared to support the preparation of the Local Plan.

Consultation on the Draft Local Plan

- 2.29 Consultation on the Draft Local Plan will be carried out in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement, most recently adopted 2021.
- 2.30 There are a range of consultation methods that the council could use to engage the community in the preparation of the Local Plan. However, it must be recognised that different consultation methods may be better suited to engaging different sections of the community. The consultation methods used may also depend on the type of Local Plan document in preparation and the stage it is at.
- 2.31 In line with paragraph 4.65 of the SCI 2021 the council will, as a minimum:
- Publish a Public Notice outlining details of the Draft Local Plan;
 - Issue a press release with details of the Draft Local Plan;
 - Publish the Draft Local Plan documents on the council's website;
 - Make the Draft Local Plan documents available at public libraries across Oldham and at the council's principal office; and
 - Inform those on our Local Plan mailing list, Oldham Partnership and Oldham Councillors that the Draft Local Plan documents are available for consultation and where they may be viewed.
- 2.32 In addition to those in paragraph 4.65 of the SCI, as outlined above, the council may also make use of additional engagement tools where appropriate as outlined in paragraph 4.67 and Table 1 of the SCI 2021.
- 2.33 The council will also make use of Engagement HQ, our council-wide web engagement platform.
- 2.34 A Statement of Common Ground (see Appendix 8) has also been prepared to support the review of Oldham's Local Plan. As part of the review and the preparation of Oldham's updated Local Plan, there is a requirement to co-operate effectively on strategic priorities that cross boundaries and the Statement provides the evidence of such co-operation to date. The Statement will be updated at each stage of the Local Plan review process, providing updates on cross-boundary matters, as we continue to work collaboratively with our neighbouring authorities and the relevant public bodies.

Oldham's Local Plan and the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023

- 2.35 The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 (LURB Act 2023) comes into force in December 2023. Further legislation is still required to implement those parts relating to the preparation of the Local Plan and we await revised national planning guidance.
- 2.36 Consultation has recently been carried out by central government on the implementation of the plan-making measures. They include proposals for making local plans more succinct, accessible and user friendly whilst being shaped by the local community and reflecting an areas priorities and ambitions and with a greater emphasis on the use of digital plans and tools through the introduction of standardised templates and a digital toolkit.

2.37 More significantly the changes proposed will see the:

- Use of gateway assessments at key stages, acting as ‘check-in points’ and culminating in a final ‘stop/go’ assessment before a local plan is submitted for examination;
- The introduction of a 30-month timeframe within which local plans should be prepared; and
- The removal of Supplementary Planning Documents and Area Action Plans, which will be replaced by Supplementary Plans that, with the exception of Design Codes, are intended to focus on site-specific matters.

2.38 The consultation also included the proposed transitional arrangements for moving from the current plan-making system to that which will be under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023:

- Confirmation that the latest date for plan-makers to submit (for examination) local plans under the current system will be 30 June 2025. With a need for these plans to be adopted by 31 December 2026.
- The introduction of the new-style local plans will be phased, in part to ensure there is sufficient resources and skills capacity to prepare them within the 30-month plan timeframe.

2.39 As such, Oldham’s Local Plan continues to be prepared in accordance with The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012 and NPPF and it will be necessary to finalise our Local Plan for submission for Examination before 30 June 2025, otherwise the council will have to start again in the preparation of the new Local Plan, and prepare it in accordance with the regulations and guidance for the new-style Local Plans.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 **Option 1** – To publish and consult on the proposed Draft Local Plan and supporting documents commencing no earlier than 10 January 2024 for six weeks.

Advantages - this will be in accordance with NPPF and provide certainty to residents and developers that work is under way on preparing an up-to-date Local Plan. It will also help to ensure that the council is keeping to its programme for preparing a new Local Plan for submission for Examination before 30 June 2025.

Disadvantages - there are no disadvantages to publishing and consulting on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents as it is positive to engage and seek the views of residents, businesses and stakeholders as we prepare such an important document for the council.

3.2 **Option 2** – To delay publishing and consulting on the proposed Draft Local Plan and supporting documents.

Advantages - if there are concerns by Members on any aspects of the proposed Draft Local Plan, there may be some advantages to working these concerns through before publishing for consultation.

Disadvantages - not publishing and consulting on the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents would likely mean that the council is not able to prepare a new Local Plan under the current regulations for submission for Examination by 30 June 2025. This will result in the council having to start Local Plan preparation again under the new regulations for the new-style Local Plan and mean that the Council would have to continue to rely on the Joint DPD (elements of which are somewhat out of date) and the high-level GM-wide policies in Places for Everyone when making decisions on planning application. This would mean that developers may be more likely to challenge our planning application decisions on appeal and be more likely to succeed with that challenge as the Joint DPD becomes more and more out of date.

3.3 **Option 3** – To not take forward a Draft Local Plan at this stage and cease work on a new Local Plan.

Advantages - this option would reduce costs for the council, given that preparing a new Local Plan does require significant investment in evidence studies, the preparation of the Local Plan and supporting documents, public consultation and the examination of the Local Plan by a Planning Inspector.

Disadvantages - not preparing a new Local Plan would not be in accordance with government guidance and planning legislation, which now requires councils to prepare a new Local Plan every five years. The council would also be reliant on the Joint DPD (elements of which are somewhat out of date) and the high-level GM-wide policies in Places for Everyone when making decisions on planning applications for the foreseeable future. This would mean that developers may be more likely to challenge our planning application decisions on appeal and be more likely to succeed with that challenge as the Joint DPD becomes more and more out of date.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 It is recommended that the Draft Local Plan and supporting documents, including the Integrated Assessment, be approved for publication and consultation commencing no earlier than 10 January 2024 for six weeks. Note, following approval there may be further formatting amendments made to the documents to address accessibility requirements prior to publication for consultation.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 Consultation on the Draft Local Plan will be carried out in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement, most recently adopted 2021. Further details can be found at paragraphs 2.24 to 2.28 above.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 The cost for the publication and consultation of the Oldham Draft Local Plan is expected to be circa. £5k and will be revenue expenditure.

6.2 These costs will be funded from the £257k earmarked reserve allocated for the implementation and management of the local plan within Strategic Planning.

(John Hoskins)

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 In accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation for Local Planning matters approved in 2022, approval of documents for public consultation as part of Regulation 18 of the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 is delegated to the Cabinet. Under Regulation 18(3) of the Regulations, in preparing the Local Plan the Council must take into account any representations made to it in response to the consultation.

(A Evans)

8. Co-operative Implications

8.1 The proposal to develop and establish Oldham's Local Plan is welcomed. The concept of a Local Plan aligns with the Council's Co-operative agenda as well as Corporate priorities, as the Plan is essential in guiding comprehensive planning objectives that are required to support the borough's economic, environmental and social objectives. Ensuring Oldham is an attractive place for residents to work and live in is a key Corporate priority. Additionally, the draft plan supports the Council's Creating a Better Place agenda and recognises and embeds Oldham's Resident First focus throughout, addresses climate change and accessibility for all

(Mahmuda Khanom, Policy Support Officer)

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 None

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 Oldham Council work within the National Planning Policy Framework and appropriate legislation, including the Town and Country Planning Regulations. The Local Plan aligns with the GM Places for Everyone Plan but reflecting Oldham's local circumstances and provides a plan which will guide development in the borough up to 2039. The refresh to the plan will provide more certainty for Oldham communities, business and investors and a framework for guiding decisions on individual planning applications.

Vicki Gallacher (Head of Insurance and Information Management)

11 IT Implications

11.1 None

12 Property Implications

12.1 The publication of the Oldham Draft Plan and consultation period will have no direct property implications. However, it should be noted that the Council's development of its own land and property assets will be subject to the planning policies set out in the Oldham Plan once it is adopted.

12.2 It is anticipated that a number of council owned sites might become allocations within the draft local plan which will impact on their potential future uses and values.

(Katy Webster)

13 **Procurement Implications**

13.1 None

14 **Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 The Draft Local Plan is supported by an Integrated Assessment (IA) that incorporates a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The role of a SA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the emerging Local Plan against economic, environmental and social objectives (see paragraphs 2.13 to 2.18 above). A HRA has also been carried out to ensure that protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at the local level. The findings of the HRA will be integrated into the IA.

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

15.1 In line with the Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act) an equalities impact assessment for the Draft Local Plan has been undertaken as part of the Oldham Impact Assessment Tool.

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

16.1 Yes. As set out at paragraph 2.13 the Draft Local Plan is supported by an Integrated Assessment (IA) that incorporates a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), Strategic Environmental assessment (SEA), Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA), Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and the conclusions of the Oldham Impact Assessment (OIA) which includes consideration of those equality characteristics previously considered through the equalities impact assessment.

17 **Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

18 **Key Decision Reference**

18.1 ESR-35-23

19 **Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Details of the previous stages in the preparation of the Local Plan review can be found online as follows:

- Regulation 18 Notification - [Local Plan Review Regulation 18 | Local Plan Review Regulation 18 | Oldham Council](#)
- Issues and Options - [Issues and Options | Issues and Options | Oldham Council](#)

Details of evidence prepared to date to inform the Local Plan review can be found online at [Evidence | Oldham Council](#).

20 **Appendices**

20.1 Attached to this report are the following appendices:

- Appendix 1 - Draft Local Plan
- Appendix 2 - Draft Local Plan Appendices
- Appendix 3 - Issues and Options Comments and Response Schedule
- Appendix 4 - Consultation Statement
- Appendix 5 - Integrated Assessment (incorporating the Sustainability Appraisal, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitat Regulations Assessment, Oldham Impact Assessment Tool and Health Impact Assessment)
- Appendix 6 – Integrated Assessment Scoping Report Update
- Appendix 7 - Non-Technical Summary of the Integrated Assessment
- Appendix 8 – Statement of Common Ground

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Oldham

Local Plan

**Local Plan Review: Draft Local Plan
Habitats Regulations Assessment**

December 2023

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Oldham
Council

Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Oldham Draft Local Plan 2022-2039

November 2023



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For

Oldham MBC

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Version 3.0

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Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Impact of Oldham Local Plan Policies and Proposed Allocations on the Natura 2000 Network; European Protected Sites

1. Introduction

European protected sites (also known as the National Sites Network) are of exceptional importance for the conservation of important species and natural habitats at a European scale.

The purpose of Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) of land use plans is to ensure that protection of the integrity of European protected sites is an integral part of the planning process at a regional and local level. The network of protected sites comprises Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar sites. Government guidance advises that potential SPAs (pSPA), candidate SACs (cSAC) and potential Ramsar (pRamsar) sites should also be included in HRAs.

Article 6(3) of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) 2019 dealing with the conservation of European protected sites states that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subject to assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

The Oldham Local Plan is regarded as a Plan which is considered likely to have significant effects on one or more European protected site and should therefore be subject to assessment.

Habitats Regulation Assessments can be seen as having a number of discrete stages:

- Stage 1 - Screening
- Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment
- Stage 3 – Assessment of Alternatives
- Stage 4 – Assessment where no alternatives are available

This document forms Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) process and contributes to the fulfilment of the Council’s statutory duty as regards Article 6(3). It is a **Screening Opinion and Assessment** concerned with reaching an opinion as to whether the Plan needs to be amended to avoid harm to European sites or needs to go forward for further, more detailed Assessment of impacts. It is not a stand-alone document and must be read in conjunction with the full Plan.

It is noted that the Plan being assessed is still at a developmental stage and will be subject to public consultation and likely further amendment. Further Assessments may therefore be required if further changes are made as a result of any further consultation or Examination.

This report has been prepared by ecologists from the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), as the specialist ecological adviser to Oldham Council. GMEU ecologists are familiar with the designated sites concerned and their special interests, and with the negative and positive factors affecting the integrity of these sites. The HRA has been undertaken using the professional judgement of GMEU ecologists.

1.1 Stage 1 – Screening

The purpose of the Screening stage of the HRA process is to identify the risk or the possibility of significant adverse effects on a European site which could undermine the achievement of a site's conservation objectives, and which therefore require further detailed examination through an appropriate assessment. If risks that might undermine a site's conservation objectives can clearly be ruled out (based on the consideration of objective information), a proposal will have no likely significant effect (LSE) and no appropriate assessment will be needed.

In order for a policy or an allocation in a Plan to be screened out of the HRA process a conclusion must be made 'beyond reasonable scientific doubt' that the policy or allocation will not have an LSE on the Natura 2000 site or its qualifying features.

Case law has established in relation to screening that:

- An effect is likely if it 'cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information' (Waddenzee C127-02 ∞ 45). This requires consideration and a conclusion made against known and presented data/survey or results/scientific evidence (for example, literature review).
- An effect is significant if it 'is likely to undermine the conservation objectives' [of the European protected site (Waddenzee (C127-02 ∞ 48))]. This excludes from consideration other impacts not related to the qualifying features and their conservation objectives.
- The Sweetman (case C258-11) also offers some simple guidance that the screening step 'operates merely as a trigger', in order to progress to further assessment stages through the process.

1.2 Stage 2 – Appropriate Assessment

In 2017 the decision of the Court of Justice of the European Union (People over Wind, case C323/17) concluded that it was not appropriate within the Screening Stage to consider measures that would mitigate for impacts on the qualifying or designated features of the Natura 2000 site. This ruling has resulted in an update to the Habitats Regulations 2017 as they have been translated into UK domestic legislation and updated to reflect the exit of the UK from the European Union.

In a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment, evidence and detail should be considered which can demonstrate that a Plan including any embedded measures or additional mitigation can result in a conclusion that there would be no 'adverse effect on integrity' (AEOI), when considering a Natura 2000 site's conservation objectives.

In applying the Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment the relevant competent Authority, in this case Oldham Council, must also consider whether there is a relevant planning mechanism (which may apply at a different level of the planning hierarchy) which can secure the necessary mitigation via either conditions or obligations.

In the case of a high level Strategic Plan the level of detail in land use plans concerning developments that will be permitted under the Plan at some time in the future is rarely sufficient to allow the fullest quantification of potential adverse effects. It is therefore necessary to be cognisant of the fact that HRAs for plans can be tiered, with assessments being undertaken with increasing specificity at lower tiers. This is in line with DCLG guidance and court rulings that the level of detail of the assessment, whilst meeting the relevant requirements of the Habitats Regulations, should be 'appropriate' to the level of plan or project that it addresses.

Current Government guidance says:

"The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend on the nature, location, duration and scale of the proposed plan or project and the interest features of the relevant

site. 'Appropriate' is not a technical term. It indicates that an assessment needs to be proportionate and sufficient to support the task of the competent authority in determining whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site."

That is, the Plan must make every effort to ensure that no Policies or Allocations will cause harm to the special nature conservation interest of European sites. However, where some doubt remains as to whether harm will occur the plan must show that sufficient safeguards will be in place in other levels of the planning hierarchy to ensure that no harm will be caused to the special interest of European sites.

A precautionary approach should always be taken.

1.3 In Combination Assessment

The Habitats Regulations also include a requirement for an assessment not only for a Plan alone but also for consideration of any LSE in combination with other projects or plans. An 'in combination' assessment should be undertaken for any impact that is shown to have an effect even where it might be considered 'de minimis' for the plan in isolation. In the application of the in combination test projects or plans are also considered to include reasonably foreseeable proposals (RFP), which may include projects, plans or schemes which have not concluded their passage through the development planning process, whether they are in full or outline or include other strategic planning documents.

1.4 Scope of the Assessment

This report examines the Oldham draft Local Plan and:

- Identifies by a Screening process any European site that could potentially be affected by the implementation of the Plan.
- Identifies Policies and Allocations that may have impacts on European protected sites.
- Identifies Policies and Allocations that may require further Assessment as part of the ongoing HRA of the Plan as it develops and makes recommendations, where necessary, on possible changes to the wording of future Policies in the Plan and/or changes to Allocations.

2. Brief description of the Plan

The Plan being assessed is the Oldham Draft Local Plan 2022-2039.

The primary purposes of the Plan are to –

- Set out the policies through which the Council will manage development coming forward and use to determine planning applications;
- Identify designations for the protection of the borough's environmental and historical assets, town centres, employment areas and infrastructure;
- Allocate land to meet future housing and employments needs; and
- Support the development of supporting infrastructure, such as transport, education and utilities.

The Local Plan covers the whole of the Borough of Oldham except that part which falls within the Peak District National Park

In line with the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan, the plan covers the period 2022-2039, although its contents may also be relevant after that date.

For the purposes of this Assessment the Plan is not complete; it is at Draft Plan stage, and further changes may take place at the Publication Plan stage and during the examination in public process. An opinion is being sought at this stage of the Plan's development to ensure that the requirements of the Regulations regarding Habitats Regulation Assessment are met and can be properly planned for and addressed within the policies.

The Plan sits beside a number of other planning documents that are also important when making planning decisions, which are considered here in the test of in-combination effects.

These plans will also include their own Habitats Regulation Assessments:

- Greater Manchester Joint Minerals DPD (2013)
- Greater Manchester Joint Waste DPD (2012)
- Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document for Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan (currently at Examination), the Composite plan was published in 2023
- Greater Manchester's Transport 2040,
- Oldham Council's forthcoming Local Plan,
- The Peak Park Management and Local Plans
- Neighbourhood Plans

3. Identification of European designated sites concerned

This Assessment has first screened all European protected sites in the North of England to generate a long list and decide which of these sites are likely to be affected by future development in Oldham. When assessing the impact of a Plan on European protected sites it is important to consider the impact on sites not only within the administrative area covered by the Plan but also those which fall outside the Plan boundary, as these could still potentially be affected by the Plan.

As a useful starting point, the Assessment has considered the suite of European sites assessed within Habitat Regulations Assessments of other, adopted Local Plans in and around Greater Manchester.

The long list of sites assessed is listed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2. This ensures that *all* European sites considered to have the potential to be affected by development in Oldham can be initially considered for assessment (screened).

The Screening Criteria

In carrying out this screening process, the Assessment has considered the main possible **sources** of effects on the European sites arising from the Plan, possible **pathways** to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive **receptors** in the European sites. Only if there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.

Possible sources and pathways for effects arising from development on the identified Sites and used in the screening of European sites are considered to be:

- Land take (direct habitat loss)
- Cultivation (agriculture)
- Diffuse and localised air pollution including dust and odour
- Noise disturbance
- Light spill or shading
- Human presence/disturbance
- Emissions to water (surface or ground water) containing pollutants or sediments
- Ground water depression or flow interception
- Decrease in surface water run-off e.g. through interception in a void
- Increase in surface water run-off
- Introduction and spread of invasive species
- Effects on functionally linked land*
- Changes to predator/prey relationships

**Areas of land or sea outside of the boundary of a European site may be important ecologically in supporting the populations for which the site has been designated or classified. Occasionally impacts to such habitats can have a significant effect upon the species interest of such sites, where these habitats are considered to be 'functionally linked' to the site.*

Guidance and precedence concerning distances at which significant effects on European sites are caused by water or air pollution has been taken into account during the screening of European sites. Recommended buffer zones for certain types of 'most damaging' operations (for example, the operation of landfill sites) have been used in the screening of sites. The buffer zones are based on distances before air pollution sources and water pollution sources become so diffuse as to be indiscernible or impossible to ascribe to particular point sources.

Outside of these buffer zones, significant effects on European sites arising from water and air pollution are considered unlikely to arise. The largest (most cautious) buffer zone considered is 15km; that is, most operations with the potential of causing direct water and/or air pollution

impacts located further than 15km from the boundary of a European site are considered very unlikely to have a significant effect on the special interest of that site.

Natural England also publish SSSI 'Impact Risk Zones' (IRZs) providing guidance on the types of development which should be considered for their possible impacts on SSSIs, and which impacts should be considered. All European designated sites are also designated as SSSIs. IRZs have also been taken into account when screening European sites that could be affected by the Plan.

Additionally, the screening has considered Impact Risk Zones as identified by Natural England for specific European Sites (September 2023). Whilst this is a tool to aid the consideration of *single* applications and their likely risks of impacts and consequently the need to consult Natural England, it acts as a useful guide in considering screening. However, it is not used exclusively in this HRA as the current process considers the policy framework rather than individual applications.

Although the guidance concerning buffer zones/risk zones has been taken into account when screening European protected sites in this particular assessment, the buffer/risk zones should be regarded as important but **not** as definitive; for example, this buffer zone may not be sufficient when assessing certain very large-scale developments or secondary impacts.

In particular applying a 15km buffer may not be appropriate for this Plan where there are unlikely to be direct impacts on any European sites, but where it is more likely that possible impacts will be caused by **diffuse air or water pollution or point-source air or water pollution** that may arise from development planned for Oldham, or where there are secondary **recreational** pressures on more distant protected sites arising from increased regional and sub-regional populations

Summary Results of Screening of Sites

3.20 The detailed results of the site Screening process are found in Appendices 1 and 2 of this document;

- Appendix 1 shows the likely effects of and the possible pathway & sources outlined above on the long list of European sites, from development in Oldham.
- Appendix 2 summarises the results of the Screening process, identifying a short list of Natura 2000 sites (screened in), which may be effected by likely effects from policies within the Plan. These are discussed further below.

3.21 From the Screening process, detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 the following European designated sites have been identified as having some potential to be affected by development proposed and planned for within the Oldham Draft Local Plan.

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA
- Manchester Mosses SAC

Other European sites in the UK are essentially considered too distant from Oldham for harmful effects to occur from the implementation of the Plan.

4 The Nature Conservation Interest of the “Screened In” European Sites

The following information is derived from information available from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and from information held by GMEU.

4.1 Rochdale Canal SAC

Description of Rochdale Canal SAC

The Rochdale Canal SAC extends approximately 20 km from Littleborough at Ben Healey Bridge to Failsworth, passing through urban and industrialised parts of the Metropolitan Boroughs of Rochdale and Oldham and the intervening areas of agricultural land (mostly pasture). Water supplied to the Rochdale Canal in part arises from the Pennines. This water is acidic and relatively low in nutrients, while water from other sources is mostly high in nutrients. The aquatic flora of the canal is thus indicative of a mesotrophic waterbody (i.e. is moderately nutrient-rich) although there is evidence of some local enrichment. The canal continues through Failsworth and terminates at Castlefield in Manchester City, although this section of the canal is not included within the SAC.

Primary Reason for Designation of Rochdale Canal

Qualifying and notifiable features associated with the Rochdale Canal SAC comprise a single species of aquatic plant: floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*). The Rochdale Canal supports a significant population of floating water-plantain (*Luronium natans*) in a botanically diverse water plant community, which also holds a wide range of pondweeds (*Potamogeton* spp). The Canal has predominantly mesotrophic water. This population of *Luronium* is representative of the formerly more widespread canal populations of north-west England, although the Rochdale Canal supports unusually dense populations of the plant.

Floating water-plantain; description and ecological characteristics

Luronium natans is a species of aquatic plant commonly known as floating water plantain. It is native to western and central Europe, from Spain to the UK to Norway, and east as far as Ukraine. *Luronium natans* occurs as two forms: in shallow water with floating oval leaves, and in deep water with submerged rosettes of narrow leaves. The plant thrives best in open situations with a moderate degree of disturbance, where the growth of other aquatic and emergent vegetation is held in check. Populations fluctuate greatly in size, often increasing when water levels drop to expose the bottom of the water body; this could be because falls in water levels affect competing species more than the *Luronium natans*.

The operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC that have to be considered include:

- Application of pesticides
- Dredging
- Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
- Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
- Erection of permanent structures next to the Canal (shading)
- Diffuse air pollution
- Diffuse water pollution
- Increased boat movements (recreation)
- Climate change

4.2 South Pennine Moors SAC/SPA (Phases 1 and 2)

Description of the South Pennine Moors SAC

This very large site forms part of the Southern Pennines lying between Ilkley in the north and the Peak District National Park boundary in the south. The majority of the site is within West Yorkshire, but it also covers areas of Lancashire, Greater Manchester and North Yorkshire. The largest moorland blocks are Ilkley Moor, the Haworth Moors, Rishworth Moor and Moss Moor. The underlying rock is Millstone Grit that outcrops at Boulsworth Hill and on the northern boundary of Ilkley Moor. The moorlands are on a rolling dissected plateau between 300m and 450m AOD with a high point of 517m at Boulsworth Hill. The greater part of the gritstone is overlain by blanket peat with the coarse gravely mineral soils occurring only on the lower slopes. The site is the largest area of unenclosed moorland within West Yorkshire and contains the most diverse and extensive examples of upland plant communities in the county. Extensive areas of blanket bog occur on the upland plateaux and are punctuated by species rich acidic flushes and mires. There are also wet and dry heaths and acid grasslands. Three habitat types that occur on the site are rare enough within Europe to be listed on Annex 1 of the EC Habitats and Species Directive (92/43) EEC. These communities are typical of and represent the full range of upland vegetation classes found in the South Pennines.

This mosaic of habitats supports a moorland breeding bird assemblage, which, because of the range of species and number of breeding birds it contains, is of regional and national importance. The large numbers of breeding merlin (*Falco columbarius*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*) and twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*) are of international importance.

Description of the South Pennine Moors SPAs

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are strictly protected sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds, also known as the Birds Directive, which came into force in April 1979. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species. The South Pennine Moors SPA includes the major moorland blocks of the South Pennines from Ilkley in the north to Leek and Matlock in the south. It covers extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats including upland heath and blanket mire. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding bird species including birds of prey and waders.

Primary reason for designation of the South Pennine Moors SAC

The site supports the following important habitats:

- European Dry Heath
- Blanket Bog
- Old Sessile Oak Woods

Primary reason for the designation of the South Pennine Moors SPAs

The site qualifies for the designation by supporting populations of European importance of the following species listed on Annex I of the Directive:

For Phase 1 during the breeding season:

- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), at least 3.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), at least 5.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus*), at least 1.4% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Short-eared owl (*Asio flammeus*), at least 2.5% of the breeding population in Great Britain

The SPA supports an internationally important assemblage of birds. During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*), Dunlin (*Calidris alpina schinzii*), Twite (*Carduelis flavirostris*), Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*), Curlew (*Numenius arquata*), Wheatear (*Oenanthe oenanthe*), Redshank (*Tringa totanus*), Ring ouzel (*Turdus torquatus*), Lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*)

For Phase 2 during the breeding season:

- Golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), at least 1.9% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Merlin (*Falco columbarius*), at least 2.3% of the breeding population in Great Britain
- Breeding Bird Assemblage

Conservation Objectives of the South Pennine Moors SAC

Natural England lists the conservation objectives for the South Pennine Moors SAC as follows:

To maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of Annex 1 species[^] of European importance, with particular reference to:

- blanket mire
- dwarf shrub heath
- acid grassland
- gritstone edges

[^]golden plover, merlin, short-eared owl

To maintain*, in favourable condition, the

- blanket bog (active only)
- dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
- transition mires and quaking bogs
- old oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles

*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.

The operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC/SPA which have to be considered include:

- Cultivation
- Grazing
- Mowing or cutting
- Application of manure, fertilisers or lime
- Application of pesticides
- Burning
- Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
- Extraction of minerals including peat, topsoil and subsoil
- Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables

- Erection of permanent structures
- Use of vehicles likely to damage the vegetation
- Diffuse air pollution
- Diffuse water pollution
- Introduction or spread of invasive species
- Climate change

4.3 Manchester Mosses SAC

Description of the Manchester Mosses SAC

Mossland formerly covered a very large part of low-lying Greater Manchester, Merseyside and southern Lancashire, and provided a severe obstacle to industrial and agricultural expansion. While most has been converted to agriculture or lost to development, several examples have survived as degraded raised bog, such as Risley Moss, Astley & Bedford Mosses and Holcroft Moss on the Mersey floodplain. Their surfaces are now elevated above surrounding land due to shrinkage of the surrounding tilled land, and all except Holcroft Moss have been cut for peat at some time in the past. While past drainage has produced dominant purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*, bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and birch *Betula* spp. scrub or woodland, wetter pockets have enabled the peat-forming species to survive. Recent rehabilitation management on all three sites has caused these to spread.

Primary reason for the designation of the site

The site supports the following important habitats –

7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

Conservation Objectives for the Manchester Mosses SAC

To Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; –

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and,
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely

Qualifying Features: H7120. Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration

The operations that may damage the special interest of the SAC which have to be considered include:

- Cultivation
- Grazing
- Mowing or cutting
- Application of manure, fertilisers or lime
- Application of pesticides
- Burning
- Drainage, both within and outside the boundaries of the site
- Extraction of minerals including peat, topsoil and subsoil

- Construction or removal of roads, tracks, walls, fences, hardstands, banks, ditches or other earthworks or the laying or removal of pipelines and cables
- Introduction or spread of invasive species

Initial Screening Opinion

5.1 The Screening Criteria

The first stage of an HRA is a Likely Significant Effect Test (Screening). This is essentially a risk assessment to decide whether a particular Policy or Allocated site can be effectively 'screened out' from further, more detailed assessment or needs to go forward for more detailed Assessment.

The essential question to ask is –

“Is the Policy or the development of the proposed Allocated Site, either alone or in combination with other relevant Policies and Plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon the integrity of European sites?”

In carrying out this Screening process the Assessment has considered the main possible sources of effects on the European sites arising from the implementation of the Plan, possible pathways to the European sites and the effects on possible sensitive receptors in the European sites. Where -

- The source is the direct or indirect changes (land take, emissions to air or water, hydrological changes) potentially occurring as a result of the development at an identified site.
- The pathway is the route or mechanism by which any likely significant effect would manifest in the environment and would reach the receptor.
- The receptor is the European Site and more specifically the qualifying features and conservation objectives for the site.

Only if there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.

Possible sources and pathways for (unmitigated) effects used in the screening of potential policy impacts on European sites are considered to be:

- Land take
- Diffuse and localised air pollution including dust and odour
- Noise
- Light spill
- Human presence/disturbance (including recreational disturbance)
- Emissions to water (surface or ground water) containing pollutants
- Ground water depression or flow interception (i.e. hydrological impacts)
- Decrease in surface water run-off e.g. through interception in a void (i.e. hydrological impacts)
- Introduction or spread of invasive species

5.2 The results of the Screening are shown in the 'Screening Summary' tables below.

5.3 Each of the Policies have been assessed to determine whether they are:

- Unlikely to have an effect on a European Site – Screened Out
- Could have a potential positive effect on a European Site – Screened Out
- Could have a potential negative effect on a European Site – Screened In
- Would be likely to have a significant negative effect on a European Site – Screened In

Only Policies and Allocated Sites with potential negative effects or significant effects have been “Screened In” for further Assessment. This assessment has been made based on the content and type of each Policy and the HRA must be read together with the Plan.

- 5.4 The timescales over which effects (both stand-alone and in-combination) have been considered are the lifetime of the Plan and the lifetime of any proposals (including operational and restoration timescales) that may come forward during the Plan.

Table 5.1 Initial Screening Summary of impacts of Oldham Draft Local Plan on the National Sites Network - POLICIES

Policies screened into this Assessment identified in red text.

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
Homes			
H1	Delivery of a Diverse Housing Offer	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H2	Housing Mix	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H3	Density of New Housing	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H4	Homes for Older People	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H5	Homes for Disabled People	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in	Screened In

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
		increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	
H6	Homes for Children and Care Leavers	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H7	Affordable Housing	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H8	Vacant Building Credit	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
H9	Rural Exception Sites	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H10	Houses in Multiple Occupation	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
H11	Custom self-build and community-led housing	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
H12	Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened In
H13	Housing and Residential-led Mixed use Allocations	Additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects	Screened In
Economy and Employment			
E1	Business and Employment Areas (identifies locations within the Borough for the expansion of business and employment)	Possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows). Possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal	Screened In
E2	Exceptions within Business and Employment Areas and other existing employment sites (proposes a narrow range of exceptions where other land uses may be allowed within Business and Employment Areas)	Possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows) Possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal	Screened In
E3	Reuse and redevelopment of Mill Buildings	Possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows) Possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal	Screened In

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
E4	Allows the allocation of new office, industry and warehousing allocations	Possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows) Possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal	Screened In
Tourism			
TM1	Tourism – provides support for more tourism related development, makes specific reference to the Rochdale Canal corridor	Possible cause of increase in recreational disturbance, both to the Canal and to the South Pennine Moors	Screened In
TM2	Farm Diversification (supporting the rural economy)	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Centres			
C1	Our centres – promotes and enhances the vitality and viability of the Boroughs urban centres	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
C2	Local Services and Facilities	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
C3	Retail and Leisure Impact Assessments and Sequential Tests – aims to resist service provision outside of centres	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
C4	Changes of use and redevelopment within centres – aims to protect and enhance service provision within centres	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Oldham Town Centre			
OTC1	Oldham Town Centre – aims to continue the enhancement, redevelopment and regeneration of Oldham town centre	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OTC2	Protecting and Enhancing Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OTC3	Creating a better public realm in Oldham town centre	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OTC4	Conserving and enhancing Green Infrastructure within and around Oldham town centre	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OTC5	Creating better vehicular parking and drop-off facilities in Oldham town centre	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Addressing Climate Change			

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
CC1	Sustainable construction, energy efficiency and retrofitting	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CC2	Renewable and low-carbon energy	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CC3	Managing Flood Risk	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CC4	Sustainable Drainage – Foul and Surface Water	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CC5	Water Efficiency	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CC6	Groundwater Source Protection Zones	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Natural Environment and Open Land			
OL1	Consideration for the Peak District National Park	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OL2	Protecting and enhancing Oldham's Green Belt	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OL3	Extensions and alterations to existing buildings within the Green Belt	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
OL4	Local Green Space	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
OL5	Protecting dark skies and tranquillity	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency			
N1	Protecting Nature	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
N2	Restoring nature	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
N3	Enhancing Green Infrastructure through development	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
N4	Tree Replacement	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Oldhams Historic Environment			

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
HE1	The Historic Environment	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
HE2	Securing the Preservation and Enhancement of Oldham's Historic Environment	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Conservation Areas			
HE3	Development Proposals affecting conservation areas	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
HE4	Oldham's Mills	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
HE5	Canals – protects the Rochdale Canal	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Creating a Better and Beautiful Oldham			
D1	Promoting a design-led approach for residential and residential-led mixed use development	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
D2	Promoting a design-led approach to non-residential, commercial and employment developments	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
D3	Design Scrutiny	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
D4	Creating better views, gateways and taller buildings	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
D5	Improving the quality of advertisements and signs in Oldham	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
D6	Creating a better public realm in Oldham	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
D7	Development within the curtilage of a dwelling house	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

Creating a sustainable, active, accessible network for Oldham

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
T1	Delivering Oldham's transport priorities	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
T2	Creating sustainable streets	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
T3	Car parking standards in Oldham	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
T4	Providing for electric vehicle charging points	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
T5	Provision for travel plans	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Communities			
CO1	Protection of existing open spaces	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
CO2	Providing new and enhanced open spaces	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CO3	Open space standards	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CO4	Provision of Cultural, Community and Health Facilities	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CO5	Education and Skills provision	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CO6	Securing educational provision through new residential development	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CO7	Health Impact Assessments in New Development	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
CO8	Hot Food Takeaways	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
CO9	Creating sustainable and accessible communities	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Protecting our Local Environment			
LE1	Noise pollution and vibration in new development	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
LE2	Ground conditions and contaminated land	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
LE3	Air Quality	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
Masterplanning, Infrastructure and Delivery in Oldham			
IN1	Creating successful masterplans in Oldham	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

POLICY	BRIEF POLICY DESCRIPTION	POSSIBLE IMPACTS ON EUROPEAN SITE	SCREENING OUTCOME
IN2	Digital infrastructure and telecommunications	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
IN3	Planning obligations	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out
IN4	Delivering social value and inclusion	No Likely Significant Effect on any European Site is anticipated from the operation of this Policy.	Screened out

Table 5.2 Initial Screening Summary of impacts of Oldham Local Plan 2024 on the National Sites Network - HOUSING and MIXED USE and EMPLOYMENT (OFFICE, INDUSTRY AND WAREHOUSING ALLOCATIONS)

Allocations Screened In to this Assessment identified in **red text**.

Site Ref (refers to SHLAA/HLA)	Site Name	Comments	Screening Outcome
HOUSING AND MIXED USE ALLOCATIONS			
HLA2088	Baily Mill Delph	<p>Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects.</p> <p>Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites</p> <p>Proximity to South Pennine Moors necessitates assessment of site as potential functionally linked land</p>	Screened In
HLA2094	Lilac View Close Crompton	<p>Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects.</p> <p>Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites</p>	Screened In
HLA2234	Land at Springhey Mill	<p>Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects.</p> <p>Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites</p>	Screened In

HLA2452	Blackshaw Lane Royton	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA2785	Thornham Mill Oozewood Road Royton	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA2856	Former territorial army centre Rifle Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA0021	Land between Prince Street Oldham Way and Mumps Metrolink	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA0040	Land at former Broadway House Broadway	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA0164	Shaw Health Centre	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA1225	Land at Higher Memorial Park Joseph Street Failsworth	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In

SHA1372	Former Lancaster House Rochdale Road Royton	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA1630	Former Cromford Mill Site	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2017	Land at Flint Street, Marble Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2147	Land at Mumps and Wallshaw Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2148	Land at Waterloo Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2001	Magistrates and Chambers	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2155	Henshaw House	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In

HLA2351	Pretoria Road	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA0076	Land at Ripponden Road Denshaw	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA0029	Ashton Road Woodhouses	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA2662	Land at North Werneth	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA2663	Land at Hartford Mill / Edward Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA2664	Land at Abbotsford Road Derker	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA3982	Land adjacent to Huddersfield Road Diggle	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In

		Proximity to South Pennine Moors necessitates assessment of site as potential functionally linked land	
SHA0899	London Road Derker	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA0976	South Chadderton School Butterworth Lane	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites Proximity to the Rochdale canal SAC could cause harm to the special interest of the Canal	Screened In
SHA1029	Kaskenmoor School Roman Road Failsworth	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA1033	Higher Lime Recreation Ground Limeside	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA1162	Saddleworth School Uppermill	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites Proximity to South Pennine Moors necessitates assessment of site as potential functionally linked land	Screened In

SHA1759/SHA1998	Tommyfield Market, former Leisure Centre and Linear Park	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2000	Civic Centre West Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2002	Bradshaw Street Car Park	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2162	Hilda Street, Oldham	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2044	James Street Failsworth	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA3147	Ward Lane Diggle	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2163	Foundry Street	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In

SHA2016	Southlink	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2153	Royton Wastewater Treatment Works	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
SHA2161	Southlink Phase 2	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA0112	Land at Knowls Lane	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
HLA3981	Shaw Distribution Centre Linney Lane	Increases in population could result in increased road traffic resulting in increased air pollution effects. Increases in population could result in increased recreational disturbance on European sites	Screened In
EMPLOYMENT – OFFICE, INDUSTRY AND WAREHOUSING ALLOCATIONS <i>Reference numbers relate to those in the existing Core Strategy and SHLAA/HLA</i>			
B1.1.21	Former British Gas site Higginshaw Lane	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
B1.1.3	Land at Mersey Road North / Albert Street	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In

B1.1.5	Sellers Way	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
B1.1.7	Land at Greenside Way	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
B1.1.8	Land at Greengate Chadderton	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
B1.2.6	Land at Albert Street Failsworth	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
FOXEMP/OLD0051	Land at Foxdenton	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution Proximity to the Rochdale Canal SAC could cause harm to the special interest of the Canal during development	Screened In
SHA1728	Former Windsor Mill Hollins Road Failsworth	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA1	Wrigley Street Failsworth	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution Close to the Rochdale Canal SAC (within 200m) development could result in direct impacts on the Canal	Screened In
BEA2	Hawksley Street	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA3	Greengate/Broadgate Chadderton	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In

		Close to the Rochdale Canal SAC (within 200m) development could result in direct impacts on the Canal	
BEA4	Busk Chadderton	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA5	Primrose Bank	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA6	Hathershaw	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA7	Higginshaw	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA8	Shaw Road Royton	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA9 ¹	Shaw	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA11	Greenacres	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA12	Hollinwood	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution Close to the Rochdale Canal SAC (within 200m) development could result in direct impacts on the Canal	Screened In

¹ In the Draft Local Plan this has been split into BEA9 Shaw and BEA10 Linney Lane to taken into account the potential allocation at Shaw Distribution Centre, Linney Lane.

BEA13	Broadway Green	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA14	Chadderton	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA15	Oak View Mill Manchester Road Greenfield	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA16	Hey Bottom Mill Greenfield	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA17	Chew Valley Road Greenfield	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA18	Boarhurst Lane Greenfield	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA19	Waterside Mill Greenfield	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA20	Delph New Road Delph	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA21	Valley Mills Huddersfield Road Delph	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA22	Wharf/Ellis Mills Huddersfield Road Diggle	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In
BEA23	Greenbridge Lane	Could result in increased road traffic resulting in increases in air pollution	Screened In

6.0 Summary of Screening Opinion

The following designated sites were screened in as likely to be affected by the operation of the Plan –

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

A number of Policies in the Plan, and all of proposed allocations, were screened in as likely to cause effects on designated sites as a result of –

- Air Pollution
- Recreation
- Effects on Functionally Linked Land
- Direct effects on the special interest of the Rochdale Canal

Appropriate Assessment is therefore required.

7.0 Appropriate Assessment

The initial Screening process identified the following sources as potentially likely to have a likely significant effect (LSE) on European designated Sites:

- Effects on functionally linked land
- Recreational pressure
- Air pollution (arising from increased road traffic)
- Direct impact (sites within 200m of the Rochdale Canal SAC)

Therefore, these LSE need to be Assessed.

7.1 Functionally Linked Land (FLL)

Functionally linked land' (FLL) is a term often used to describe areas of land or sea occurring outside a designated site which is considered to be critical to, or necessary for, the ecological or behavioural functions in a relevant season of a qualifying feature for which a Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)/ Special Protection Area (SPA)/ Ramsar site has been designated. These habitats are frequently used by SPA species and support the functionality and integrity of the designated sites for these features.

In the case of Oldham, sites outside of the designated upland areas of the South Pennines may be used by significant numbers of qualifying bird species associated with the SPA for feeding or resting.

Allocated sites within Oldham which are within 2.5km of the South Pennines SPA and are not part of the urban or suburban fabric are considered to have the potential to be functionally linked. This is because urban and suburban sites are considered too disturbed to act as FLL and because more than 2.5km from the designated site it would be very difficult to show that birds using more distant sites were in fact birds moving to and from the designated sites.

Only four allocations are considered to have the potential to act as FLL because of their proximity to the South Pennine Moors SPA and their semi-rural locations. These are –

- Bailey Mill Delph
- Saddleworth School Uppermill
- Land East of Huddersfield Road Diggle
- Land at Ward Lane Diggle

Assessing each of these –

Bailey Mill Delph

This site does not support habitats suitable for use as FLL by SPA qualifying bird species. LSE can be discounted.

Saddleworth School, Uppermill

This site does not support habitats suitable for use as FLL by SPA qualifying bird species. LSE can be discounted.

Land East of Huddersfield Road Delph

This site has been surveyed and assessed as part of a recent planning application. It was concluded from these surveys that the site is not FLL because of a lack of records of qualifying bird species and because the habitat was considered unsuitable for supporting significant numbers of qualifying bird species.

Land at Ward Lane Diggle

The site is considered too small, too disturbed and does not support appropriate habitats to act as FLL.

Conclusion

The operation of the Oldham Draft Local Plan will have no Likely Significant Effects on Functionally Linked Land

7.2 Recreational Disturbance

7.2.1 Rochdale Canal SAC

Policy TM1 (Tourism) is considered to have potential to cause increased disturbance of the Rochdale Canal by potentially causing an increase in canal boat movements.

The Rochdale Canal is managed by the Canal and Rivers Trust. Following a major Canal restoration project in 2003, the Trust undertook to monitor the status of the protected plant *Luronium natans* along the canal, established reserves along the Canal where the conservation of *Luronium natans* is promoted, and monitored boat movements along the Canal to determine possible impacts on *Luronium natans*. The Trust has powers to restrict canal boat movements if boat movements are at any time considered to be causing harm to *Luronium natans*.

Any applications for new boat moorings along the Canal will need to be subject to project level HRAs. The Plan will offer a high level of protection for the Canal through the operation of Policy N1

Conclusion

It is concluded that there are sufficient safeguards in place to effectively avoid any Likely Significant Effects on the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from the operation of Policy TM1

7.2.2 The South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

The operation of the Plan is considered likely to cause recreational disturbance effects on the above upland designated sites, because new homes planned for in the Plan may cause an increase in local populations, and these population increases may in turn cause increased recreational disturbance as people pursue leisure activities in the uplands

This impact has already been Assessed as part of the HRA of the Places for Everyone Plan for Greater Manchester (*GMCA 2021*). The Places for Everyone HRA Assessed the impacts of the projected increases in housing numbers on recreational disturbance on the South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA across the whole of the Plan area, which included Oldham.

Reference –

[Greater Manchester “Places for Everyone” Plan: Habitats Regulations Assessment Appendix 2: Air Quality HRA \(hwa.uk.com\)](#)

Of most relevance to this Assessment is Appendix 3 of the PfE HRA, ‘*Recreation Study for the Greater Manchester Places for Everyone Plan*’, Ricardo Energy and Environment 2022.

It was concluded in the PfE HRA that mitigation was required for impacts arising from recreational disturbance.

While there have been marginal changes in the projected housing numbers to be delivered in Oldham during the Draft Local Plan period as compared to the housing numbers assessed in the PfE HRA, these changes are considered to be *de minimis* in relation to potential recreational disturbance impacts on the upland designated sites (+/- 0.06%).

- Projected housing numbers as per 2021 PfE housing land supply = 13,131 (2020 – 2037)
- Projected housing numbers as per 2023 Composite Plan housing land supply = 13,186 (2022-2039)

The conclusions and recommendations of the HRA of the PfE are therefore considered to also apply to this Plan, and the proposed mitigation for these impacts is also considered to be applicable to the Oldham Draft Local Plan.

Proposed Mitigation

To mitigate for increases in recreational disturbance in the uplands, the HRA of PfE recommends that a Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) is developed and Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) is provided to mitigate recreation pressure impacts on the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC, which new development within 7km of the SPA/SAC will need to contribute towards providing.

SANGS are areas of greenspace established with the aim of providing access to greenspace and outdoor recreation in order to reduce pressure on sensitive ecological

sites. They are an established mechanism for mitigating recreational disturbance effects on designated sites. The SAMMS can provide details of the required mitigation and could include:

- On-the-ground dedicated staff to supplement existing warden efforts.
- Education and awareness raising programmes and materials to change visitor perceptions of the Moors and to influence visitor behaviour.
- The creation of new volunteering opportunities for habitat and visitor management.
- New infrastructure, including signage, dog bins, footpath improvements etc.
- Monitoring of visitor usage of SANGs and South Pennine Moor SAC/SPA.
- Monitoring bird populations and distribution within the SPAs

The SAMMS and SANG measures will be funded through developer contributions on planning permission for new development. It is anticipated that the full details of the developer contribution funding mechanism could be developed through a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) outlining –

- The amounts of required contributions.
- The type and size of development to which developer contributions would apply to.
- Further details about the costs of mitigation activities.
- The SPD could also set out a framework for the provision of SANG.

These mitigation proposals are also applicable to the potential impacts of the Local Plan.

The recommended SPD is currently in preparation (*as at November 2023*) in collaboration with Rochdale and Tameside Councils and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Other Relevant Plan Policies

Notwithstanding the above conclusion, there are a number of Policies within the Draft Local Plan which will act to mitigate any possible increases in recreational pressures, and which will serve to protect designated sites. These Policies include –

- Policy N1 – specifically protects designated sites from any harm
- Policy N3 - will enhance local green infrastructure, reducing the need to travel for outdoor leisure

7.3 Air Pollution Effects

Air pollution from increased road traffic can cause harm to sensitive habitats, including habitats associated with the designation of the South Pennine Moors and the Peak District Moors.

7.3.1 Rochdale Canal SAC

The Conservation Objective of the Canal is to maintain or restore the habitats, population and distribution of the qualifying plant species, *Luronium natans*.

There is no evidence to indicate that elevated nutrient nitrogen deposition or acidity associated with road traffic emissions directly affect the conservation of *L. natans*.

Natural England has advised that measures to maintain the status of Rochdale Canal SAC are being carried out. This is confirmed in Natural England's Supplementary Advice document for the SAC, which notes that the target for this site is to "maintain the distribution and continuity of the feature [*L. natans*] and its supporting habitat." Measures

which are being carried out to achieve this include “ensure the supporting water bodies are sufficiently free of other competing vegetation to allow space for this early successional species to thrive.”

In accordance with the advice provided in the national Air Pollution Information System (APIS), no critical load for nitrogen deposition should apply at this site. Any slight increases in nitrogen deposition at this site due to the development of sites close to the Canal will not undermine the ability of the measures which are currently under way to achieve the site’s conservation objectives.

It is concluded that increased traffic movements in the vicinity of the Canal and arising from the development of sites close to the Canal will not have a harmful effect on the special interest of the Canal – that is, no adverse effect on the integrity of this site will arise. On this basis, it is concluded that any increase in nitrogen deposition above the screening thresholds at this site will not have any adverse effect on the measures currently being implemented to achieve the site’s conservation objective.

7.3.2 The South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

The operation of the Plan is considered likely to have the potential to cause effects on the above upland designated sites through increases in air pollution, because new homes planned for in the Plan may cause an increase in traffic flows on certain routes

This impact has already been Assessed as part of the HRA of the Places for Everyone Plan for Greater Manchester (*GMCA 2021*). The Places for Everyone HRA Assessed the impacts of the projected increases in housing numbers and employment land use on air pollution in the South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA across the whole of the Plan area, which included Oldham.

Reference –

[Greater Manchester “Places for Everyone” Plan: Habitats Regulations Assessment Appendix 2: Air Quality HRA \(hwa.uk.com\)](#)

While there have been marginal changes in the projected housing numbers to be delivered in Oldham during the Local Plan period as compared to the housing numbers Assessed in the PfE HRA, these changes are considered to be *de minimis* in relation to potential air pollution impacts on the upland designated sites (+/- 0.06%).

- Projected housing numbers as per 2021 PfE housing land supply = 13,131 (2020 – 2037)
- Projected housing numbers as per 2023 Composite Plan housing land supply = 13,186 (2022-2039)

Similarly the projected changes in employment land use between the quantum of development Assessed in the PfE HRA are considered to be *de minimis* in relation to the potential air pollution effects on the upland designated sites (+/- 0.6%)

- Projected floorspace as per 2021 PfE employment land supply = 339,067 sqm (2020 – 2037)
- Projected floorspace as per 2023 employment land supply Composite Plan = 360,920 sqm (2022 – 2039)

The conclusions and recommendations of the HRA of the PfE are therefore considered to also apply to this Plan. The HRA of the PfE concluded that there would be no Likely Significant Effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA resulting from air pollution.

The PfE HRA did conclude that there may be air pollution impacts from the operation of the Plan on part of the Manchester Mosses SAC (Holcroft Moss) and advised that mitigation was required for this impact as follows –

'Planning applications which are required to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment will need to consider air quality impacts on Holcroft Moss, within the Manchester Mosses Special Area of conservation (SAC). Any proposals that would result in increased traffic flows on the M62 past Holcroft Moss of more than 100 vehicles per day or 20 Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) per day must devise a scheme-specific range of measures to reduce reliance on cars, reduce trip generation and promote ultra-low emission vehicles and provide a contribution towards restoration measures in accordance with the Holcroft Moss Habitat Mitigation Plan.'

The proposed mitigation would apply to developments within Oldham.

The Holcroft Moss Habitat Mitigation Plan is currently in preparation (Nov 2023), in partnership with Warrington Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Other Relevant Plan Policies

Notwithstanding the above conclusion, there are a number of Policies within the Local Plan which will act to mitigate any possible increases in air pollution, and which will serve to protect designated sites. These Policies include –

- Policy N1 – specifically protects designated sites from any harm
- Policy N3 - will enhance local green infrastructure, reducing the need to travel for outdoor leisure
- Policy LE3 – seeks to improve air quality within the Borough
- Policy T1 – facilitates walking and cycling in the Borough
- Policy T2 – promotes walking, cycling and the use of public transport
- Policy T4 - promotes the use of electric vehicles
- Policy T5 - requires the preparation of travel plans and transport assessments

It is concluded that, providing the mitigation described above is applied, and providing that the mitigating Policies in the plan are implemented, the Plan will not have any harmful effects on the special interest of the South Pennine Moors through any increases in air pollution.

7.4 Direct Impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC

Certain allocations within 200m of the Rochdale Canal may have direct impacts on the special interest of the Canal, including –

- Water pollution resulting from site drainage
- Shading of canal waters

Beyond 200m these effects are considered unlikely to arise.

There are a number of allocations within 200m of the Canal –

- Former Junction Mill
- Land at Foxdenton
- Former South Chadderton School
- Greengate/Broadgate Chadderton
- Hollinwood Business District

- Wrigley Street Failsworth

Both effects from diffuse water pollution and shading could be readily avoided by using established mechanisms, although it is recommended that detailed planning proposals for these sites are informed by project-level HRAs.

Policy N1 would apply to developments on these sites and this Policy would serve to avoid significant effects on the special interest of the Canal.

8 Consideration of ‘In Combination’ Effects with Other Plans and Proposals

It is recognised that the Oldham Draft Local Plan forms part of a wider Plan hierarchy, sitting beneath the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE) and above Neighbourhood Plans.

As previously discussed, the PfE has been separately subject to its own HRA process. The PfE Assessed potential significant cumulative effects of development across the wider PfE area, and including development in Oldham.

The HRA of PfE concluded that PfE would not have any Likely Significant Effects on designated sites, *providing* that mitigation plans were prepared for

- Potential cumulative recreational impacts of future development on the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC.
- Potential cumulative air pollution effects on the Manchester Mosses SAC.

The required mitigation will apply to the Oldham Draft Local Plan and has been taken into account in this HRA.

The mitigation proposed for recreational disturbance impacts takes the form of a Supplementary Planning Document which is being prepared by Oldham, Rochdale and Tameside Council's, in collaboration with GMCA, to address the requirements of Policy JP-G9 within PfE, and the following criterion now part of PfE:

Criteria:

7. Ensure that new development does not have an adverse impact on protected habitats of the South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA from urban edge effects, loss of and/or disturbance to functionally linked habitats and recreation disturbances.

This will be implemented by:

- (a) Within 400m of the SAC and SPAs boundaries, no development will be permitted, unless, as an exception, the development and/or its use would not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC or SPAs;
- (b) Within 2.5km of the SAC and SPAs boundaries, applications for new development should be accompanied by an assessment to determine if the development site provides foraging habitats for the qualifying bird species of the SPAs. If foraging habitats are found on site, appropriate avoidance and/or mitigation measures will be required;
- (c) Within 7km of the SAC and SPAs boundaries, new residential development will be required to mitigate recreation disturbance impacts on the SAC and SPAs through:
 - (i) the provision of on-site suitable alternative natural greenspace or financially contribute to off-site provision of such greenspace; and
 - (ii) A financial contribution to the implementation of a Strategic Access, Monitoring and Management Strategy for the SAC and SPAs.

Upon adoption of Places for Everyone JP-G9 the SPD that is being prepared will become part of Oldham's Local Plan and be applied to relevant developments coming forward in Oldham.

The mitigation proposed for cumulative air pollution effects on the Manchester Mosses SAC (Holcroft Moss) takes the form of a Policy requirement within the PfE,

'Planning applications which are required to be accompanied by a Transport Assessment will need to consider air quality impacts on Holcroft Moss, within the Manchester Mosses Special Area of conservation (SAC). Any proposals that would result in increased traffic flows on the M62 past Holcroft Moss of more than 100 vehicles per day or 20 Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) per day must devise a scheme-specific range of measures to reduce reliance on cars, reduce trip generation and promote ultra-low emission vehicles and provide a contribution towards restoration measures in accordance with the Holcroft Moss Habitat Mitigation Plan'.

This Policy is also relevant to the implementation of the Oldham Local Plan.

Since the HRA of the PfE has already considered in-combination effects which could arise from other developments, it can be said that cumulative impacts have been considered, with a conclusion that no in-combination effects will arise from the operation of the Oldham Local Plan, **providing** that mitigation is provided for recreational disturbance effects on the South Pennines SAC/SPA and for air pollution effects on the Manchester Mosses SAC.

9.0 Summary and Recommendations

Screening of European sites has established that the following European sites have the potential to be affected by development in Oldham as proposed by the Oldham Local Plan:

- Rochdale Canal SAC
- South Pennine Moors SAC
- Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA
- South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA
- Manchester Mosses SAC

Further, more detailed Assessment of the possible effects of the operation of Policies included in the Plan, and of the effects of the development of allocations put forward in the Plan, on the European Sites identified in the Screening process has been undertaken.

A number of the Policies and Allocations within the Plan were initially Screened In as potentially having a damaging effect on European Sites due to increased recreational use, air pollution effects, effects on functionally linked land and possible direct effects (in relation to the Rochdale Canal SAC).

Following further Assessment, air pollution effects and potential effects on functionally linked land were ruled out as not likely to have any significant effects on European designated sites, providing that mitigation measures are adopted and applied.

Increased recreational disturbance was also considered to be likely to cause significant effects on European designated sites and this impact was considered to require further mitigation.

Mitigation has been proposed, in the form of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which proposes mitigation for recreational disturbance effects and for possible impacts on functionally linked land. It is **recommended** that this SPD, once completed, is required to be adopted as part of the Oldham Local Plan, and becomes material to the implementation of the Local Plan in addition to the PfE Plan.

Mitigation for effects of air pollution on part of the Manchester Mosses SAC (Holcroft Moss) has also been proposed, in the form of potential contributions to the Holcroft Moss Habitat Mitigation Plan to be made by qualifying developments.

The development of some allocations very close to the Rochdale Canal SAC were Screened In as having the potential to cause harm to the Canal through local impacts, including direct harm, increases in water pollution and increases in shading. However, it is concluded that Policies in the Plan (particularly Policy N1) will provide protection to the SAC sufficient to avoid any likely significant effects. Further (project level) HRAs are **recommended** to be prepared as part of detailed planning applications which may come forward for the allocations concerned.

It is **recommended** that if any changes are made to the Plan as a result of either the public consultation or during any future Examination in Publication, the HRA will need to be revisited and revised to ensure that these changes would not result in a significant effect on any European Site.

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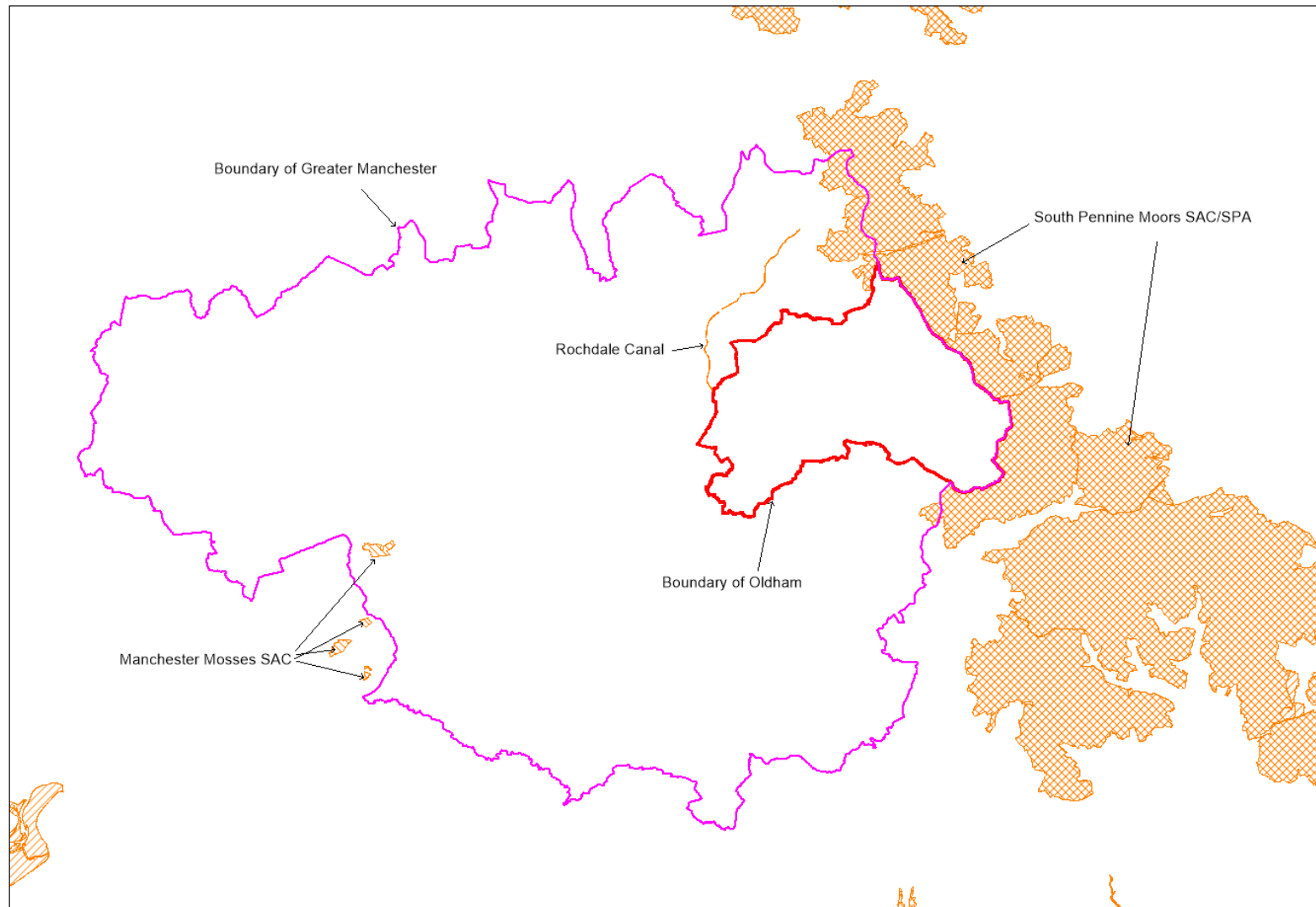
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Map 1 Showing Natura 2000 Network European sites in relation to the boundary of Oldham Borough



APPENDIX 1: European designated sites within the Northern England and possible effects from development within Oldham. Those highlighted sites in red have been 'screened in' to this Assessment

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Asby Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Bolton Fell Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direction disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Bowland Fells	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – identified species are highly unlikely to utilise habitats within Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Clints Quarry	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - Species population too distant to be affected by any development with Greater Manchester and species dispersion known to be less than 2km.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - Species found in Cumbria is distinct national population, with adults being sedentary. Species not known to occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Drigg Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham. Oldham rivers do not discharge into Drigg Estuary
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats in SAC are restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Hydrological connectivity with Thirlmere considered as part of United Utilities strategic HRA of WRMP (2013). No pathway for water borne pollution to SAC.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats or species
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA and Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	Possible effects through diffuse air pollution
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be significantly effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any hydrological pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	Site classification details unavailable but there are unlikely to be any atmospheric pathways between SPA and land within Oldham
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – no information available as to species site selected for but type of species present highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham (based on knowledge of Greater Manchester bird populations).
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
<i>Midland Meres & Mosses Phase 1 & 2</i>	2 x Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	SAC/Ramsar/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham. Oldham rivers do not discharge into Morecambe Bay
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats in SAC/SPA/Ramsar Site are restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester. Dispersion of Great Crested Newts is known to be less than 2km. Bird species unlikely to be effected by habitat changes within Oldham.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Morecambe Bay Pavements	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Habitats and species in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Naddle Forest	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitats in SAC are generally restricted to habitat types that do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC/SPA and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC/SPA.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Species unlikely to be effected by changes to habitats in Oldham.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Oak Mere	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant from for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Air Pollution	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Direct land take	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - Hydrological connectivity with Thirlmere considered as part of United Utilities strategic HRA of WRMP (2013). No pathway for water borne pollution to SAC.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Eden	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
River Ehen	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - No hydrological connections and main species (fresh water pearl mussel) does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
River Kent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None – no hydrological connectivity between the site and Oldham. Water bodies on site are fed by rain water.
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None - Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Rochdale Canal	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Impact Risk Zones identifies discharge of water or liquid waste as potential risks
		Air Pollution	Possible – Impact Risk Zones identifies air pollution from certain livestock & poultry units, slurry lagoons & digestate stores and combustion process as potential risks
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between Ramsar site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching Ramsar site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – habitats and species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Sefton Coast	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Shell Flat & Lune Deep	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species. Habitat types do not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Solway Firth	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
South Pennine Moors	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham.
		Air Pollution	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Direct land take	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	Water Quality/Hydrology	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham.
		Air Pollution	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham.
		Direct land take	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham.
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham.
		Increased recreational Pressure	Possible – Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham.
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Tarn Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats. Habitat not found in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SPA/Ramsar Site and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SPA/Ramsar Site.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – species identified highly unlikely to be effected by any habitat changes in Oldham
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Walton Moss	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Wast Water	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitat. Habitat does not occur in Greater Manchester
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Type of Effect	Likely Effects
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Water Quality/Hydrology	None - No hydrological pathways between SAC and land within Oldham
		Air Pollution	None – No atmospheric pathways and any pollutants are likely to have dispersed prior to reaching SAC.
		Direct land take	None
		Habitat/Species Disturbance	None – Site too distant for any direct or indirect disturbance to habitats and species.
		Increased recreational Pressure	None – site is too distant and numerous recreational facilities closer to Oldham

APPENDIX 2: Screening Summary of European designated sites within the Northern England and possible impacts from development within Oldham

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Asby Complex	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Bolton Fell Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Border Mires, Kielder – Butterburn	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Borrowdale Woodland Complex	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham HRA
Bowland Fells	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Calf Hill & Cragg Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Clints Quarry	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Cumbrian Marsh Fritillary Site	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Dee Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Drigg Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Duddon Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Esthwaite Water	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Irthinghead Mires	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Lake District High Fells	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Leighton Moss	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Liverpool Bay	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Manchester Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Martin Mere	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Mersey Estuary	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Mersey Narrows & Wirral Foreshore	SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Midland Meres & Mosses – Phase 1 & Phase 2	2 x Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Moor House – Upper Teasdale	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary	SAC/Ramsar/ SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Morecambe Bay Pavements	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Naddle Forest	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
North Pennine Dales Meadows	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
North Pennine Moors	SAC/SPA	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
Oak Mere	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)	SPA	In	Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham boundary
Ribble & Alt Estuaries	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by Oldham's HRA
River Dee & Bala Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
River Derwent & Bassenthwaite Lake	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and strategic impacts considered by United Utilities WRMP (2013)
River Eden	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
River Ehen	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
River Kent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Rixton Clay Pits	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Rochdale Canal	SAC	In	Possible impacts from water/liquid waste discharges, air pollution and/or combustion process
Rostherne Mere	Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Roudsea Wood & Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Sefton Coast	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Shell Flats & Lune Deep	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Solway Firth	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
South Pennine Moors	SAC	In	Parts of the SAC lie within the Oldham boundary
South Pennine Moors Phase 2	SPA	In	Parts of the SPA lie within the Oldham boundary
South Solway Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise
Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Tarn Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA

Site Name	Designation	Screened in/out	Justification
Tyne & Nent	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Ullswater Oakwoods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Upper Solway Flats & Marshes	SPA/Ramsar	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Walton Moss	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Wast Water	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
West Midlands Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Witherslack Mosses	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA
Yewbarrow Woods	SAC	Out	Site considered too distant for significant effects to arise and no strategic impacts or pathways identified in Oldham's HRA

Appendix 3 – List of Other Relevant Plans and Projects Considered as part of the Assessment

Plans Assessed under the Terms of the Habitats Regulations

District	Plan	Outcome of Assessment
Rochdale MBC	Local Development Framework - Core Strategy 2010	No effect on the integrity of Manchester Mosses SAC, Rixton Clay Pits SAC and River Mersey SPA
Rochdale MBC	Draft Allocations Plan 2018	No effect on the integrity of Manchester Mosses SAC, Rixton Clay Pits SAC and River Mersey SPA
Trafford MBC	Core Strategy 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Bolton MBC	Core Strategy 2011 and Site Allocations Plan 2014	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Stockport MBC	Core Strategy 2011	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Oldham MBC	Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies 2011	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Wigan MBC	Core Strategy 2013	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Manchester City Council	Core Strategy 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
All GM Districts	Combined Minerals Plan 2013	No effect on the integrity of European sites
All GM Districts	Combined Waste Plan 2012	No effect on the integrity of European sites
Greater Manchester	Places for Everyone	No effect on the integrity of European sites subject to recommended mitigation

Appendix 4

Summary Policy Assessment Categories From Chapter F of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA Publications, 2019)

Abbreviation	Category/Policy Type
A	General statements of policy / general aspirations (screened out)
B	Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals (screened out)
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan (screened out)
D	General plan-wide environmental protection / site safeguarding/ threshold policies (screened out)
E	Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects(screened out)
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change (screened out)
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site (screened out)
H	Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects) (screened out)
I	Policy or proposal which may have a likely significant effect on a site alone (screened in)
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant effect alone so need to check likely significant effects in combination
K	Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination (screened out after the in combination test)
L	Policy or proposal which might be likely to have a significant effect in combination (screened in after the in combination test)
M	Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European Site (screened in)

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Oldham

Local Plan

**Local Plan Review: Draft Local Plan Integrated
Assessment Non-Technical Summary**

December 2023

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Oldham
Council

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Introduction

- 1.1 This is a non-technical summary of the Integrated Assessment (IA) that has been prepared for the Local Plan review: Draft Plan.
- 1.2 The IA includes the following:
 - a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
 - a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)
 - an Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA); and
 - a Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

The Purpose of Integrated Assessment

- 2.1 The purpose of the IA is to assess the environmental, social and economic performance of the local plan. The assessment is an iterative process that is carried out as the Local Plan progress. This is a Non-Technical Summary of the IA of the Draft Local Plan.
- 2.2 The Oldham Local Plan will apply to the whole borough, except for that part of the borough that is the planning responsibility of the Peak District National Park Authority.

Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.3 The role of a SA is to promote sustainable development through assessing the emerging Local Plan against economic, environmental and social objectives. Significant adverse effects should be avoided and wherever possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where significant adverse impacts are unavoidable, suitable mitigation measures should be proposed or, where this is not possible, compensatory measures should be considered.
- 2.4 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) requires the council to carry out a SA of each of the proposals in a Local Plan and to prepare a Local Plan with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development. The council is also required, under European Directive 2001/42/EC (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) and The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, to carry out an environmental assessment.
- 2.5 In recognition of the linkages across the various assessments (that is the SA / SEA, HRA, EIA and HIA) these have been brought into a single 'Integrated Assessment' report. Each element of the IA is explained below.

The Integrated Assessment Process

- 3.1 The stages of the IA are set out in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Stages of the Integrated Assessment Process

DPD: Evidence gathering and engagement

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

- Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
- Collect baseline information
- Identify sustainability issues and problems
- Develop the IA framework
- Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the IA report

DPD: Production and consultation

IA Stages and tasks

Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects

- Test the DPD objectives against the IA framework
- Develop the DPD options including reasonable alternatives
- Evaluate the likely effects of the DPD and alternatives
- Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
- Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the DPD

Stage C: Preparing the IA Report and the publication version of the DPD

Stage D: Seek representations on the IA report and the publication DPD from consultation bodies and the public.

Submit draft DPD and supporting documents for independent examination

Outcome of examination / Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

Local Plan adopted

Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring

- **Prepare and publish post adoption statement**
- **Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan**
- **Respond to adverse effects**

Findings of the Integrated Assessment

Stage A

- 4.1 The Scoping Report is Stage A. It includes a section on each of the following:
- Relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives;
 - Baseline information;
 - Sustainability issues and problems;
 - The IA framework; and
 - How the prescribed consultation bodies have been consulted on, and fed into, the scope of the IA report.
- 4.2 A summary of the key issues and environmental, social and economic problems identified through the Scoping Report Update 2 are set out in Table 1 below. These have been identified through Stage 1 'Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives' and Stage A2 'Collect baseline information' documented in Appendix 1 and 2 of the IA. The

Table 1: Summary of key issues and environmental, social and economic problems

Biodiversity / Fauna / Flora / Soil
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity and ecological networks and a multi-functional green infrastructure network • protect and enhance soils and remediate contaminated land
Landscapes (including Townscapes and Design)
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that development makes a positive contribution to landscape and townscapes, local distinctiveness and sense of place • ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land • promote high-quality, beautiful design through establishing local design expectations
Cultural Heritage (including Historic Environment)
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, including their wider settings and to preserve and conserve archaeological heritage
Population
There is a need to ensure the needs of the future population are met through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs • an appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs • promoting inclusive sustainable communities and community cohesion <p>There is also a need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve education and skills attainment • promote economic growth • enhance the vitality and viability of the borough's centres • promote sustainable tourism and recreation

Human Health
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities across the borough • promote quality and accessible open spaces • protect and improve local environmental quality
Water
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid and mitigate against flood risk • sustainably manage water resources and protect and enhance water quality • adapt and be resilient to climate change
Air / Climatic Factors
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continue improving air quality • reduce energy use, promote energy efficiency, and promote renewable and low carbon energy • promote access to key services to reduce the need to travel • encourage walking and cycling • promote a sustainable low emission, integrated, efficient transport system that supports growth in the borough
Material Assets
There is a need to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote sustainable waste management through the waste hierarchy • manage minerals sustainably

4.3 The issues and problems listed in Table 2 above have then been translated into the proposed IA Objectives. These are accompanied by corresponding indicators so that the issues and problems can be assessed and monitored. The proposed IA Objectives are set out in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Proposed IA Objectives

1	To protect, conserve and enhance a high-quality multifunctional green infrastructure network, including biodiversity and geodiversity, that is ecologically connected.
2	To promote quality and accessible open spaces.
3	To protect and enhance the character and appearance of landscapes and townscapes, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place.
4	To protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment, heritage assets and their setting.
5	To promote high-quality, beautiful design that meets local design expectations.
6	To ensure land and buildings are used in an effective and efficient manner, maximising the use of brownfield land.
7	To ensure appropriate provision of supporting infrastructure to meet development needs.
8	To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.
9	To minimise and mitigate against flood risk and adapt to the effects of flood risk.
10	To protect and improve the quality of water bodies and river corridors and availability of water resources.
11	To protect and improve soil quality, best and most versatile agricultural land, and remediate contaminated land.
12	To minimise energy use, promote energy efficiency and the use of renewable and low carbon energy.

13	To ensure communities and infrastructure are resilient to the effects of climate change.
14	To protect and improve air quality.
15	To protect and improve local environmental quality.
16	To promote an integrated and improved transport system that provides sustainable transport choices and improves connectivity, including the walking and cycling network and the protection and enhancement of the PROW Network.
17	To promote accessibility to key services and reduce the need to travel.
18	To promote regeneration and reduce levels of deprivation and disparity.
19	To promote sustainable economic growth and job creation.
20	To protect and enhance the vitality and viability of Oldham Town Centre and the centres of Chadderton, Failsworth, Hill Stores, Lees, Royton, Shaw and Uppermill.
21	To promote sustainable tourism and leisure.
22	To improve education attainment and skill levels.
23	To provide a sustainable housing land supply and an appropriate mix of sizes, types and tenures to meet local housing needs.
24	To ensure the prudent use and sustainable management of minerals.
25	To manage waste sustainably in line with the waste hierarchy.
26	To promote mixed, balanced and inclusive sustainable communities.

4.4 To enable monitoring of these proposed IA Objectives a set of IA Monitoring Indicators have been proposed. These can be found in Section 16 of the IA Scoping Report Update 2.

Stage B

4.5 As illustrated in Figure 1 above, Stage B of the IA process is where the options are developed and refined, and their effects are assessed. Details of Stage B at both Issues and Options and Draft Plan stage is provided below.

Issues and Options

4.6 A summary of the IA appraisal carried out at the Issues and Option stage can be found in Section 6 of the IA Report.

4.7 At Issues and Options stage, several spatial options were assessed including reasonable alternatives. The likely effects of each of these options / alternatives were considered and any mitigation / enhancements to maximise beneficial effects identified. Table 3 below provides a summary of the options, the outcome of the IA process and how the options have informed the preferred approach.

Table 3: Summary of IA Appraisal of Spatial Options

Spatial Option	Appraisal Summary	How this has informed the Draft Local Plan policy
AFFORDABLE HOMES		
<p>A: Should an affordable housing requirement be applied borough-wide?</p> <p>B: Should there be a different affordable housing requirement for different parts of the borough, depending on their need?</p>	<p>Option B (targeted approach to affordable housing) results in more positive outcomes overall than Option A (boroughwide approach).</p>	<p>The preferred approach is outlined in the Draft Local Plan in Policy H7 Affordable Housing.</p> <p>Option B scored higher in the Issues and Options IA and this option has been taken forward as the preferred approach.</p> <p>The policy has set out three zones which reflect different value areas. Within each of these value areas different affordable housing requirements are required.</p> <p>Option A has not been taken forward as this does not lead to as many positive impacts as Option B.</p> <p>In the IA of the Draft Local Plan this proposed policy has scored neutral, positives and significantly positives scores.</p>
HOMES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION		
<p>A: If there is found to be a concentration of HMOs within a particular area, would you agree with the introduction of an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights for HMOs in specific areas, as necessary?</p> <p>B: If there is found to be a concentration of HMOs within a particular area, would you agree with the introduction of an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights for HMOs boroughwide?</p>	<p>The IA appraisal for Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Spatial Options A and B both scored the same.</p>	<p>The approach to HMOs is outlined in the Draft Local Plan Policy H10 Houses in Multiple Occupation.</p> <p>The IA did not indicate a stronger performing option.</p> <p>The draft policy sets out criteria for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to meet. In addition, permission will not be granted where the proportion of HMOs result in them representing 10% or more of residential properties within a 50m radius measured from the centre of the application site. This boroughwide approach would reflect Spatial Option B.</p>

Spatial Option	Appraisal Summary	How this has informed the Draft Local Plan policy
		<p>There is further policy stated for Oldham Town Centre, which recognises that HMOs are best suited to locations that are well-connected to services, facilities and public transport.</p> <p>However specifically in relation to Article 4 Directions as per the options the supporting text to the policy indicates that a Direction may be sought for Oldham Town Centre or other specific parts of the borough. However, as the policy has not introduced an Article 4 Direction at this point in time, considering evidence, neither option has, at this point, been taken forward.</p> <p>The IA on the preferred option – the draft plan policy scored a mixture of neutral, positive and significantly positive scores.</p>
HOUSING ALLOCATIONS		
<p>A: Should Oldham focus the identification of housing allocations within the urban area – in Oldham Town Centre, the borough’s other centres, key public transport corridors, on previously developed land, vacant and under-utilised buildings (including the re-use of employment sites and mills, where appropriate)?</p> <p>B: Should Oldham focus the identification of housing allocations within the urban area as in Option A, but also include within the scope open spaces (where identified as surplus to requirements through the council's open space study), land currently designated as Other Protected Open Land where it does not meet LGS criteria, and previously developed land in the Green Belt where this meets national planning policy.</p>	<p>The IA of the housing allocation spatial options shows at this stage generally there are more uncertainties around Option B (brownfield / urban area plus greenfield) than Option A (brownfield / urban area), which would need to be further appraised and mitigated where required, if this option was selected.</p>	<p>Option B has been taken forward. It incorporates option A and makes the most of sites in the urban areas, whilst ensuring that we are identifying a sufficient variety of sites through the inclusion of some greenfield sites where appropriate. Nevertheless, the majority of development that will come forward will be within the urban area and the release of open land would be the exception.</p> <p>If a greenfield site is identified within a council regeneration programme (e.g. the council’s Residential Delivery Strategy) it has been considered, as deliverability is indicated by this work. In addition, some sites which are mixed (that is where they include greenfield and brownfield land) have also been considered. Previously developed land within the Green Belt is also considered where appropriate. Some of these sites may already benefit from an extant planning permission.</p> <p>The approach of Option B is reflected in the potential housing allocations proposed in Draft Local Plan Policy H1 – Housing and</p>

Spatial Option	Appraisal Summary	How this has informed the Draft Local Plan policy
		<p>Mixed-Use Allocations. The focus of the potential allocations is on brownfield land, particularly opportunities within Oldham Town Centre. Whilst recognising that it is important to identify a range of allocations across the borough that reflect the council's priorities and provide the opportunity to address local housing need through offering a range of scale, location and mix.</p> <p>Option A was therefore not solely taken forward as it would not in itself provide the same range of allocations.</p>
EMPLOYMENT ALLOCATIONS		
<p>A: To focus more on the connectivity to our existing employment sites and neighbouring districts key employment sites.</p> <p>B: A combination of providing some new employment land and improving connectivity to existing and neighbouring districts key employment sites.</p>	<p>The IA of the employment allocation options shows that at this stage there are more uncertainties with Option B (new employment land improving employment connectivity to existing employment sites), which if taken forward as an option would need further assessment and mitigation if required in comparison to Option A (improve connectivity to existing employment sites). The spatial options were enhanced by making reference to sustainable connectivity.</p>	<p>Option B has been taken forward. It incorporates Option A and it is considered important that our residents have access to job opportunities within the borough, while also having improved connectivity to existing and neighbouring districts key employment sites. This option maximises the job opportunities available to our residents.</p>
HEALTH AND WELLBEING		
<p>A: Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways within 400m of a school?</p>	<p>Option A, B and C scored neutral against most IA objectives. However,</p>	<p>The preferred approach is outlined in the Draft Local Plan Policy CO8 Hot Food Takeaways.</p>

Spatial Option	Appraisal Summary	How this has informed the Draft Local Plan policy
<p>B: Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways in areas with high levels of obesity?</p> <p>C: Should there be a policy which restricts the location of hot food takeaways within 400m of a school and in areas with high levels of obesity?</p>	<p>Option B and C scored a significantly positive impact against the IA objective 'To improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities'. Option C scored significantly positive against a further two IA objectives relating to local environmental quality and centres and therefore higher overall.</p>	<p>The policy sets out the parameters for approving hot food takeaways. Outside of centres within 400m of the principal entry point to a secondary school or sixth form college hot food takeaways will only be granted where they would not result in a proliferation of said uses.</p> <p>(Primary Schools have not been selected as this would include the majority of the borough and children at primary school are less likely themselves to visit independently).</p> <p>The policy also requires that applications for hot-food takeaways must be supported by a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Where an unacceptable adverse impact on health is established, planning permission will not be granted.</p> <p>Therefore, looking at the reasonable alternatives Option A has been incorporated. Consideration of obesity has also been incorporated as part of Options B and C but in the form of requiring a HIA, rather than a blanket restriction in areas of high obesity.</p> <p>As such, it is considered that a hybrid of options, including the highest scoring option as the HIA should consider factors such as obesity / deprivation, has been incorporated as the preferred option.</p> <p>The IA undertaken on this preferred approach has scored a mixture of neutrals, positives and a significantly positive score in relation to improving health and well being.</p>

Draft Plan

- 4.8 The remainder of this Non-Technical Summary provides details of the IA appraisal accrued out on the Draft Plan.
- 4.9 This stage appraised the vision, plan objectives, draft policies and site allocations in the Draft Plan stage of the Local Plan review. A summary of the findings is set out in Tables 4, 5 and 6 below, where details of scoring can be found as well as any adverse and beneficial effects that may need to be mitigated or maximised. Full details can be found in Section 7 of the Integrated Assessment.

Table 4: Summary of the appraisal of the Oldham Draft Local Plan Vision and Plan Objectives

Part of Draft Local Plan assessed	Scoring	Adverse effects	Beneficial effects
Vision	The vision scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to the vision. The vision scored positively / significantly positive against 24 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO1 Building quality homes to meet local needs and diversify the housing offer	PO1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 positive or significantly positive scores.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 1. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO2 Providing opportunities to learn and gain new skills	PO2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 18 neutral scored and 8 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 8 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact. The objective scored a lot of neutrals given its specific nature. The plan objective was enhanced as a result of the IA process in relation to IA6 on the efficient use of land. This was to clarify that the plan objective applies to existing facilities and not just new facilities. Wording was amended from 'new sites' to 'suitable sites'.
PO3 Boosting northern competitiveness by providing access to employment opportunities and growing local businesses	PO3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 3. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 13 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO4 Supporting the regeneration of Oldham Town	PO4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 4. The plan

Part of Draft Local Plan assessed	Scoring	Adverse effects	Beneficial effects
Centre and creating thriving centres	positive scores. There were 3 neutral scored and 23 positive or significantly positive.	were required to mitigate adverse effects	objective scored positively / significantly positive against 23 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO5 Protecting and enhancing Oldham's landscapes	PO5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 7 neutral scored and 19 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 5. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 19 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO6 Protecting, restoring and enhancing the natural environment	PO6 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 3 neutral scored and 23 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 6. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 23 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO7 Promoting sustainable development that mitigates and adapts to climate change	PO7 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 9 neutral scored and 17 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 7. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 17 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO8 Uplifting the health and well-being of our residents and local communities	PO8 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 6 neutral scored and 20 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 8. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 20 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact
PO9 Improving and valuing a better built environment	PO9 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 10 neutral scored and 16 positive or significantly positive.	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to mitigate adverse effects.	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 9. The plan objective scored positively / significantly positive against 16 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.
PO10 Promoting accessible and sustainable transport choices	PO10 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There	No adverse effects were identified therefore no changes were required to	No enhancements were identified to plan objective 10. The plan objective scored

Part of Draft Local Plan assessed	Scoring	Adverse effects	Beneficial effects
	were 11 neutral scored and 15 positive or significantly positive.	mitigate adverse effects.	positively / significantly positive against 15 IA objectives where it would have a beneficial impact.

Table 5: Summary of the appraisal of the Oldham Draft Local Plan Policies

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
HOMES			
Policy H1: Delivering a Diverse Housing Offer	Policy H1 scored a mixture of potentially negative, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 12 positive or significantly positive.	<p>A negative score was given as sites in the housing land supply could include open spaces. Mitigation would be provided through Policy CO1.</p> <p>The policy has been screened in by HRA as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address any likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy H2: Housing Mix	Policy H2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy H3: Density of New Housing	Policy H3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 12 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy H4: Homes for Older People	Policy H4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic)	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
		and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	
Policy H5: Homes for Disabled People	Policy H5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 16 neutral scored and 10 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	In relation to IA17 the IA identified that the policy reasoned justification could reference accessibility to key services and public transport to improve effectiveness. Reference to accessibility and policies H1 and CO9 was added to the reasoned justification of the policy.
Policy H6: Homes for Children and Care Leavers	Policy H6 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 14 neutral scored and 12 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	
Policy H7: Affordable Housing	Policy H7 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 18 neutral scored and 8 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	
Policy H8: Vacant Building Credit	Policy H8 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 16 neutral scored and 10 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy 9: Rural Exception Sites	Policy H9 scored a mixture of potentially negative, uncertain, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There	A negative score was given as rural exception sites are likely to be in the Green Belt and possibly including	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	<p>were 17 neutral scored and 3 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>There was a mixed score of +/- against IA 18 (regeneration)</p>	<p>greenfield sites. However, policy OL2 would need to be met.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	
Policy H10: Houses in Multiple Occupation	<p>Policy H10 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive.</p>	<p>The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy H11: Custom / Self-Build and Community-led Housing	<p>Policy H11 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 20 neutral scored and 6 positive or significantly positive.</p>	<p>The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy H12: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	<p>Policy H12 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 19 neutral scored and 7 positive or significantly positive.</p>	<p>The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy H13: Housing and Mixed-Use Allocations	<p>Policy H13 scored a mixture of potentially negative, uncertain, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 9 neutral scored and 14 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>A X/? score was given against IA 1(green infrastructure) and a +/? score was given for IA11 (soil) due to loss of soil / green infrastructure as some sites may include greenfield sites / open space.</p>	<p>No mitigation required as Policies N1 to N3 and CO1 mitigates loss of open space.</p> <p>The HRA has screened the policy as additional houses could result in increases in population, resulting in increased air pollution (from road traffic) and recreational disturbance effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT			
Policy E1 – Business and Employment Areas	<p>Policy E1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 neutral scored and 9 positive or significantly positive.</p>	<p>The HRA has screened the policy, and the individual Business Employment Areas proposed for designation through Policy E1, in as there may be possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows).</p> <p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy E2 – Exceptions within Business and Employment Areas and other existing employment sites	<p>Policy E2 scored a mixture of uncertain, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 20 neutral scored and 5 positive or significantly positive.</p>	<p>The HRA has screened the site in as there may be possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows).</p>	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
		<p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	
Policy E3 – Reuse and redevelopment of Mill Buildings	Policy E3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 21 neutral scored and 5 positive or significantly positive.	<p>The HRA has screened the site in as there may be possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects (increased traffic flows).</p> <p>There may also be possible direct impacts on the Rochdale Canal SAC from development within 200m of the Canal.</p> <p>The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.</p>	None
Policy E4 – Office, Industry and Warehousing Allocations	Policy E3 scored a mixture of uncertain, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 20 neutral scored and 5 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy in due to possible impacts on European sites arising from air pollution effects. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
TOURISM			
Policy TM1 – Tourism	Policy TM1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 10 neutral scored and 16 positive or significantly positive.	The HRA has screened the policy in due to possible cause of increase in recreational disturbance, both to the Canal and to the South Pennine Moors. The HRA identifies mitigation measures to address likely significant effects.	None
Policy TM2 – Farm Diversification	Policy TM2 scored a mixture of uncertain, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 19 neutral	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	scored and 6 positive or significantly positive.		
CENTRES			
Policy C1 – Our Centres	Policy C1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy C2 – Local Services and Facilities	Policy C2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 neutral scored and 9 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy C3 – Retail and Leisure Impact Assessments and Sequential Tests	Policy C3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 16 neutral scored and 10 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy C4 – Changes of use and redevelopment within the borough's centres	Policy C3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive. In relation to IA18 (regeneration) and IA19 (economic growth) the effects increase from + in the short term to ++ in the long term.	None	None
OLDHAM TOWN CENTRE			
Policy OTC1: Oldham Town Centre	Policy OTC1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 3 neutral scored and 23 positive or significantly positive.	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	IA6 (Efficient use of land); IA15 (local environmental quality); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism) and IA26 (inclusive communities) increased in effects over time from + in the short term to ++ in the long term.		
Policy OTC2: Protecting and Enhancing Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area	Policy OTC2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 8 neutral scored and 18 positive or significantly positive.	None	Policy amended from 'appropriate greening' to 'appropriate multi-functional green infrastructure' to ensure many benefits are delivered from greening against IA objectives 1 on green infrastructure, IA2 on open space and IA9 on flood risk.
Policy OTC3: Creating a Better Public Realm for Oldham Town Centre	Policy OTC3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 10 neutral scored and 16 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy OTC4 - Green Infrastructure within and around Oldham Town Centre	Policy OTC4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 6 neutral scored and 20 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy OTC5 - Creating better vehicular parking and drop off facilities in Oldham Town Centre	Policy OTC5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 neutral scored and 9 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE			

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CC1 – Sustainable Construction, Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting	<p>Policy cc1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 14 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>IA8 (health), IA14 (air quality) and IA18 (regeneration and disparity) scored + in the short term to ++ in the long time.</p>	None	None
Policy CC2 Renewable & Low Carbon Energy	<p>Policy OTC5 scored a mixture of potentially negative, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Mixed scores of --/x were given against IA2 (open space) and IA11 (soil) as the policy partially met the objective. IA18 also scored --/x as minerals is not included within the criteria.</p> <p>IA18 (energy) scored + in the short term to ++ in the long term</p>	<p>For IA2 the policy was mitigated by ensuring that open space is included within the criteria.</p> <p>For IA11 the policy was mitigated by ensuring that loss of high-quality soil and agricultural land was included within the criteria.</p> <p>For IA24 a new criterion referring to Minerals Safeguarding Areas has been added.</p>	None
Policy CC3 - Managing Flood Risk	<p>Policy CC3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 14 neutral scored and 12 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	None
Policy CC4 - Sustainable Drainage – Foul and Surface Water	<p>Policy CC4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	None
Policy CC5 - Water Efficiency	<p>Policy CC5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.</p>	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	There were 17 neutral scored and 9 positive or significantly positive.		
Policy CC6 Groundwater Source Protection Zones	Policy CC6 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 22 neutral scored and 4 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND OPEN LAND			
Policy OL1 Consideration for the Peak District National Park	Policy OL1 scored a mixture of potentially negative, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 neutral scored and 8 positive or significantly positive.	IA12 scored negative as policy could constrain renewable energy, in particular wind energy, however mitigation is not required as this area is unlikely to be acceptable for wind turbines and other plan policies address energy.	None
Policy OL2 Protecting and enhancing Oldham's Green Belt	<p>Policy OL2 scored a mixture of potentially negative, uncertain, neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 8 neutral scored and 17 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>IA12 (energy) scored a mixed score of X/? as the policy could constrain some types of low carbon energy in the Green Belt.</p> <p>IA16 scored a mixed score of +/? As the policy may enhance the Green Belt including walking and cycling routes but specific improvements are not identified.</p>	For IA12 mitigation is not needed as it may not be acceptable for renewable schemes, particularly wind turbines, to be permitted and proposals needs to be determined on their own merits in line with plan policies. Other policies address energy including CC1 and CC2.	None
Policy OL3 Extensions and alterations to	Policy OL3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.	None	For clarity, in relation to IA4 design was mentioned twice in the policy criteria and therefore to remove repetition

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
existing buildings within the Green Belt	There were 22 neutral scored and 4 positive or significantly positive.		reference to design was removed form criterion 1.
Policy OL4 Local Green Space	Policy OL4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 8 neutral scored and 18 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy OL5 Protecting dark skies and tranquillity	Policy OL5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 neutral scored and 9 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
ADDRESSING THE BIODIVERSITY EMERGENCY			
Policy N1 Protecting Nature	Policy N1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 14 neutral scored and 12 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy N2 Restoring Nature	Policy N2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 5 neutral scored and 21 positive or significantly positive.	None. Uncertainty was expressed as there may be overlap between BNG and minerals. Any offset sites would not be able to be worked for minerals but wouldn't necessarily sterilise as such. Therefore, no mitigation needed and Minerals DPD addresses minerals.	None
Policy N3 Enhancing Green Infrastructure through development	Policy N3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 5 neutral scored and 21 positive or significantly positive. IA13 (resilience) scores + in the short term to ++ in the long term.	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy N4 Tree Replacement	<p>Policy N4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>IA8 (health), IA9 (flood risk), IA11 (soil quality), IA13 (climate change) and IA14 (air quality) scored neutral in the short term to positive in the medium and long term as in the short term, any tree loss that is compensated will not give significant benefits when first planted to health, flood risk mitigation, soil quality, climate change resilience and air quality.</p>	None	None
OLDHAM'S HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT			
Policy HE1 – The Historic Environment	Policy HE1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 9 neutral scored and 17 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy HE2 Securing the Preservation and Enhancement of Oldham's Heritage Assets	Policy HE2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 10 neutral scored and 16 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy HE3 Development proposals affecting conservation areas	Policy HE3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 14 neutral scored and 12 positive or significantly positive.		
Policy HE4 Oldham's Mills	Policy N4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	<p>There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>IA20 (centres) scored + in the short term to ++ in the medium and long term as conservation areas should be enhanced over time).</p>		
Policy HE5 Canals	<p>Policy HE5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 11 neutral scored and 15 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	In relation to IA1 (biodiversity and green infrastructure) and IA2 (open space) the policy wording was amended from open space to green infrastructure.
CREATING A BETTER AND BEAUTIFUL OLDHAM			
Policy D1 – A Design-Led Approach for Residential & Residential-Led Mixed-Use Development	<p>Policy D1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 8 neutral scored and 18 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA7 (infrastructure; IA8 (health); IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); IA17 infrastructure; IA20 (centres); and IA23 (housing).</p>	None	None
Policy D2 – A Design Led Approach to Non-Residential, Commercial and Employment Developments	<p>Policy D2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 10 neutral scored and 16 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA7</p>	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	(infrastructure; IA8 (health); IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); IA17 infrastructure; and IA18 (regeneration);		
Policy D3 - Design Scrutiny	<p>Policy D3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 9 neutral scored and 17 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA2 (open spaces); IA7 (infrastructure; IA12 (energy); IA13 (climate change); and IA16 (transport).</p>	None	None
Policy D4 – Creating Better Views, Gateways and Taller Buildings	<p>Policy D4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 18 neutral scored and 8 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA17 infrastructure; and IA18 (regeneration); IA 20 (centres); and IA26 (inclusive communities).</p>	None	None
Policy D5 – Improving the Quality of Advertisements and Signage in Oldham	<p>Policy D5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 22 neutral scored and 4 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA 20 (centres); and IA26.</p>	None	None
Policy D6 – Creating a Better Public Realm in Oldham	<p>Policy D6 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.</p>	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
	<p>There were 10 neutral scored and 16 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); and IA14 (air quality).</p>		
Policy D7 - Development within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse	<p>Policy D7 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 20 neutral scored and 6 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	None
CREATING A SUSTAINABLE, ACTIVE, ACCESSIBLE NETWORK FOR OLDHAM			
Policy T1 – Delivering Oldham’s Transport Priorities	<p>Policy T1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 12 neutral scored and 14 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	None
Policy T2 – Creating Sustainable Streets	<p>Policy T2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 9 neutral scored and 17 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA1 (green infrastructure); IA2 (open space); IA9 (flood risk); IA13 (climate change); IA15 (environmental quality); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); and IA26 (inclusive communities).</p>	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy T3 – Car Parking Standards in Oldham	<p>Policy T3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 14 neutral scored and 12 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA5 (design); IA6 (efficient use of land); IA7 (infrastructure); IA9 (flood risk); IA8 (health); IA14 (air quality); IA17 (access to key services); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism); and IA26 (inclusive communities).</p>	None	None
Policy T4 – Providing for electric vehicle charging points	<p>Policy T4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 20 neutral scored and 6 positive or significantly positive.</p> <p>Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA7 (infrastructure); IA15 (local environmental quality); and IA16 (sustainable transport).</p>	None	None
Policy T5 – Transport Statements, Assessments and Travel Plans in New Development	<p>Policy T5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 16 neutral scored and 10 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	None
COMMUNITIES			
Policy CO1 - Protection of Existing Open Spaces	<p>Policy CO1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 7 neutral scored and 19 positive or significantly positive.</p>	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
Policy CO2 - New and Enhanced Open Spaces	Policy CO2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 7 neutral scored and 19 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy CO3 - Open Space Standards	Policy CO3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 8 neutral scored and 18 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy CO4 Cultural, Community and Health Facilities	Policy CO4 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 16 neutral scored and 10 positive or significantly positive. Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA3 (landscapes and townscapes); IA4 (heritage); IA8 (health); IA18 (regeneration); IA19 (economic growth); IA20 (centres); IA21 (tourism); IA22 (education); and IA26 (inclusive communities).	None	None
Policy CO5: Education and Skills	Policy CO5 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 13 neutral scored and 13 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy CO6: Securing Educational Places through New Residential Development	Policy CO6 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 20 neutral scored and 6 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy CO7 – Health Impact Assessments	Policy CO7 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores.	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
in New Development	There were 18 neutral scored and 8 positive or significantly positive.		
Policy CO8 Hot Food Takeaways	Policy CO8 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 21 neutral scored and 5 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy CO9 Creating Sustainable and Accessible Communities	Policy CO9 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
PROTECTING OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT			
Policy LE1 - Noise Pollution and Vibration in New Development	Policy LE1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 15 neutral scored and 11 positive or significantly positive. Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA8 (health) and IA15 (environmental quality).	None	None
Policy LE2 - Ground Conditions and Contaminated Land	Policy LE2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 18 neutral scored and 8 positive or significantly positive. Effects increase from + to ++ over time against IA18 (regeneration);	None	None
Policy LE3 - Air Quality	Policy LE3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 17 neutral scored and 9 positive or significantly positive.	None	None

	Scoring	Mitigation	Enhancement
INFRASTRUCTURE AND DELIVERY			
Policy IN1 Digital Infrastructure and Telecommunications	Policy IN1 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 22 neutral scored and 4 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy IN2 – Planning Obligations	Policy IN2 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 5 neutral scored and 21 positive or significantly positive.	None	None
Policy IN3 - Delivering Social Value and Inclusion	Policy IN3 scored a mixture of neutral, positives and significantly positive scores. There were 19 neutral scored and 7 positive or significantly positive.	None	None

Allocations

- 4.10 Each proposed site allocation for development in the Draft Plan has been appraised. The full IA appraisal can be seen in Appendix 17 of IA, where details of mitigation and/or enhancements can be seen. However, generally mitigation is provided through other plan policies either in Places for Everyone (Pfe) or other Local Draft Plan policies as the plan should be read as a whole. Examples of the policies that would help provide mitigation have been expressed in the full IA in the appendix.
- 4.11 A summary of the IA findings for each potential allocation can be found in Table 43, Section 7, of the IA Report. Details of the site selection methodology can be found in the site selection topic paper.

Table 6: Summary of the appraisal of the Oldham Draft Local Plan potential allocations

Housing and Mixed-Use potential allocations	Based on the IA and HRA assessment the site would appear acceptable to progress through the next stages of the Local Plan Review.
Office, Industry and Warehousing potential allocations	Based on the IA and HRA assessment the site would appear acceptable to progress through the next stages of the Local Plan Review.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 4.12 The Equality Duty requires consideration of how different people will be affected by public sector activities, helping the sector to deliver policies and services which are efficient and effective; accessible to all; and which meet different people's needs.
- 4.13 The EIA process considers the effects of the Local Plan review on the following groups - Disabled people; Care leavers; particular ethnic groups; men or women (including impacts due to pregnancy / maternity); people of particular sexual orientation/s; people in a marriage or civil partnership; people who are proposing to undergo, are undergoing or have undergone a process, or part of a process, of gender reassignment; people of low incomes; people in particular age groups; and groups with particular faiths and beliefs.
- 4.14 For the purposes of assessing the Draft Local Plan the EIA is addressed through the Oldham Impact Assessment (OIA) tool. The OIA tool has been developed by Oldham Council and is used to assess the impact of relevant policies, programmes and decisions on the equalities characteristics, our corporate priorities and the Future Oldham aims.
- 4.15 The OIA concluded that there was no negative impact from the Draft Local Plan on the equality characteristics. The Plan also scored positively in relation to several of the council's Corporate Priorities and all of the Future Oldham aims.

Health Impact Assessment

- 4.16 The role of a HIA is to assess the potential health and well-being impacts of the Local Plan review.
- 4.17 The assessment has assessed the Draft Local Plan against the following themes:
- Housing design and affordability;
 - Social infrastructure and accessibility;
 - Access to open space and nature;
 - Air Quality, noise and neighbourhood amenity;
 - Accessibility and active travel;
 - Crime reduction and community safety;
 - Access to healthy food;
 - Access to work and training;
 - Social cohesion and inclusive design;
 - Minimising the use of resources; and
 - Climate Change.
- 4.18 It is considered that there are no gaps where the Draft Local Plan has not addressed the above themes. As such, it is concluded that health impacts have been sufficiently addressed by the Draft Local Plan to support the need to improve health and well-being and reduce health inequalities.

Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 4.19 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been prepared on the Draft Local Plan by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU). Through the Screening and Appropriate Assessment the HRA has assessed whether the Draft Local Plan needs to be amended to avoid harm to European sites or if a more detailed Assessment of impacts is required.
- 4.20 The HRA identifies that the following European designated sites have the potential to be affected by development proposed and planned for within the Oldham Draft Local Plan:
- Rochdale Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
 - South Pennine Moors SAC
 - Dark Peak Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) Special Protection Area (SPA)
 - South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA

The findings of the ‘Screening’

- 4.21 The first stage of the HRA is to carry out a Likely Significant Effect Test, otherwise known as Screening. This is essentially a risk assessment to decide whether a particular policy, or proposed site allocation, can be effectively ‘screened out’ from further, more detailed assessment, or if it needs to go forward for more detailed Assessment (and therefore ‘screened in’).
- 4.22 Through this process the policies in Table 7 below have been ‘screened in’.

Table 7: ‘Screened in’ Draft Local Plan policies

Homes
Policy H1: Delivering a Diverse Housing Offer
Policy H2: Housing Mix
Policy H3: Density of New Housing
Policy H4: Homes for Older People
Policy H5: Homes for Disabled People
Policy H6: Homes for Children and Care Leavers
Policy H7: Affordable Housing
Policy H9: Rural Exception Sites
Policy H10: Houses in Multiple Occupation
Policy H11: Custom/ Self-Build and Community-led Housing
Policy H12: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople
Policy H13: Housing and Mixed-Use Allocations
Economy and Employment
Policy E1: Business and Employment Areas
Policy E2: Exceptions within Business and Employment Areas and other existing employment sites
Policy E3: Reuse and redevelopment of Mill Buildings
Policy E4: Allows the allocation of new office, industry and warehousing allocations
Tourism
Policy TM1: Tourism

- 4.23 All the potential allocations for housing and mixed-use development identified in Draft Local Plan Policy H13 and all the potential allocations for office, industry and warehousing identified in Draft Local Plan Policy E4 were ‘screened in’ for further Assessment.

- 4.24 As part of the assessment of Draft Local Plan Policy E1 all Business Employment Areas have been individually assessed and ‘screened in’.

The findings of the ‘Appropriate Assessment’

- 4.25 The initial Screening process identified the following sources as potentially likely to have a likely significant effect (LSE) on the European designated sites listed at paragraph 4.20 above:

- Effects on functionally linked land
- Recreational pressure
- Air pollution (arising from increased road traffic)
- Direct impact (sites within 200m of the Rochdale Canal SAC)

- 4.26 These likely significant effects have therefore been considered as part of the Appropriate Assessment, with the following conclusions drawn:

- Having assessed the potential site allocations identified in Draft Local Plan policies H13 and E4 it is considered that the operation of the Oldham Draft Local Plan will have no Likely Significant Effects on Functionally Linked Land.
- With regards to recreational pressure:
 - Draft Local Plan Policy TM1 Tourism is considered to have potential to cause increased disturbance of the Rochdale Canal by potentially causing an increase in canal boat movements. It is concluded, however, that there are sufficient safeguards in place to effectively avoid any Likely Significant Effects on the Rochdale Canal SAC arising from the operation of Policy TM1.
 - The operation of the Oldham Draft Local Plan is considered likely to cause recreational disturbance effects on the above upland designated sites of the South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA. This is because new homes planned for in the Draft Local Plan may cause an increase in local populations, and these population increases may in turn cause increased recreational disturbance as people pursue leisure activities in the uplands. This impact has already been assessed as part of the HRA of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and it is considered that its conclusions, recommendations and proposed mitigations measures also apply to the Oldham Draft Local Plan:
 - To mitigate for increases in recreational disturbance in the uplands, the HRA of PfE recommends that a Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Strategy (SAMMS) is developed and that Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) is provided to mitigate recreation pressure impacts on the South Pennine Moors SPA/SAC, which new development within 7km of the SPA/SAC will need to contribute towards providing. The SAMMS and SANG measures will be funded through developer contributions on planning permission for new development and further detail regarding how this will be implemented is to be set out in a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
 - In addition to these PfE measures there are also a number of policies within the Oldham Draft Local Plan which will act to mitigate any possible increases in

recreational pressures, and which will serve to protect designated sites. These Policies include:

- Policy N1 Protecting Nature; and
 - Policy N3 Enhancing Green Infrastructure through development
- With regards to air pollution it is recognised that air pollution from increased road traffic can cause harm to sensitive habitats, including habitats associated with the designation of the South Pennine Moors and the Peak District Moors. The Assessment concludes that:
 - Increased traffic movements in the vicinity of the Rochdale Canal SAC and arising from the development of sites close to the Canal will not have a harmful effect on the special interest of the Canal – that is, no adverse effect on the integrity of this site will arise. On this basis, it is concluded that any increase in nitrogen deposition above the screening thresholds at this site will not have any adverse effect on the measures currently being implemented to achieve the site’s conservation objective.
 - The operation of the Oldham Draft Local Plan is considered likely to have the potential to cause effects on the above upland designated sites through increases in air pollution, because new homes planned for in the Plan may cause an increase in traffic flows on certain routes. This impact has already been assessed as part of the HRA of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan and it is considered that its conclusions, recommendations and proposed mitigations measures also apply to the Oldham Draft Local Plan. In this instance the HRA of Places for Everyone concluded that:
 - There would be no Likely Significant Effects on the South Pennine Moors SAC, the Peak District Moors SPA and the South Pennine Moors Phase 2 SPA resulting from air pollution.
 - There may be air pollution impacts from the operation of the Plan (that is Places for Everyone) on part of the Manchester Mosses SAC (Holcroft Moss) and advised that mitigation was required for this impact. The necessary mitigation has been incorporated into Places for Everyone Policy JP-C7 Transport Requirements of New Development, which states that planning applications which are required to be accompanied by a Transport assessment will need to consider air quality impacts on Holcroft Moss, within the Manchester Mosses Special Area of conservation (SAC). As such, the proposed mitigation would apply to relevant developments within Oldham in accordance with JP-C7.
 - In addition, there are several other policies proposed in the Oldham Draft Local Plan which will act to mitigate any possible increases in air pollution and serve to protect designated sites.
 - Finally, with regards to Direct Impact (where sites are within 200m of the Rochdale Canal SAC) several potential allocations were assessed in this regard and it was concluded that both effects from diffuse water pollution and shading could be readily avoided by using established mechanisms, although it is recommended that detailed planning proposals for these sites are informed by project-level HRAs. Draft Local Plan Policy N1 Protecting Nature would apply to developments on relevant sites which further serve to avoid significant effects on the special interest of the Canal.

The conclusions of the Integrated Assessment

- 5.1 The IA has incorporated the SEA/SA requirements and also the EIA, HRA and HIA. Together these demonstrate that the Oldham Draft Local Plan results in many positive outcomes which should lead to a net gain in sustainability benefits.
- 5.2 Some mitigation and enhancements as part of the IA process have been identified for specific plan objectives, plan policies and proposed site allocations. Generally, however mitigation, where required, would be provided through Places for Everyone (upon its adoption) and other policies in the Draft Local Plan. The Local Plan must be read as a whole.
- 5.3 The HRA has screened the Draft Local Plan and undertaken appropriate assessment. The HRA has also outlined measures to mitigate any significant effects.
- 5.4 The IA is an iterative process and is reviewed and updated as the Local Plan is prepared. As such, a further IA will be undertaken on the Local Plan Review at Publication stage.

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Report to Place, Economic Growth & Environment Scrutiny Committee

Emergency Planning Annual Report and Proposed On-Call Rota Changes from January 2024

Portfolio Holder: Cllr C Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

Officer Contact: Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

Report Author: Darren McGrattan, Head of Emergency Planning
Ext. 5494

6th December 2023

1. Reason for report

This annual report provides an update on the current emergency response on-call structures and potential areas to review. The keys areas reviewed include:

1. Emergency Planning Structure
2. Current on call structures for Gold, Silver and Bronze Officers
3. Possible changes to Gold, Silver and Bronze Structures from January 2024
4. Summary of incidents 2023
5. Completed Training 2023
6. Planned Training 2024

2. Current On-Call Emergency Preparedness Arrangements for Oldham Council

Oldham Council has an emergency response team on call 365 days a year, which is managed and activated via the Control Room at Sir Robert Peacock House (T - 0161 628 2000).

The response structure is made up of the following roles/officers:

- **GOLD OFFICER** – *Chief Executive or representative called upon to provide the strategic response and to lead the recovery of a major incident*

-
- **SILVER OFFICER (DUTY CONTROLLER)** – *The on-duty Silver officer will be informed of or called out to provide the tactical response to an incident/emergency*
 - **BRONZE OFFICER (FORWARD INCIDENT OFFICER)** *is called on to provide the initial response to an incident/emergency, often attending the scene*

3. Greater Manchester (GM) Response

First Response staff based at Sir Robert Peacock House provide a 24 hour 365 days per year service that is used to activate the Greater Manchester Authorities Gold officers in any large scale regional emergency and call out the necessary officers from the civil contingencies resilience unit (CCRU) during a major incident.

4. Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit

The Civil Resilience function is responsible for ensuring effective partnership working is in place and that this is maintained to ensure business continuity and safety for the people of Oldham. The Council works with partners across the region through the Civil Contingencies and Resilience Unit to ensure that the Council is effectively undertaking its Civil Contingences Act functions and duties.

The overall purpose is to ensure the local authority and borough can be resilient by preparing for and responding to emergencies. The Council has several plans in place that sets out the response and recovery arrangements that are in place for Oldham Council to deal with incidents and emergencies, ranging from minor incidents through to large scale incidents. It identifies the responders and key officer's that will undertake these roles during the response and recovery phase.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

Key roles and responsibilities are outlined as below that are deployed during an emergency incident. The key roles identified in the Oldham Council emergency response plan are:

- **First Response Control Staff** – *Usually the first people notified of an incident and will stand up all duty officers and support these officers during the response phase of an incident. Will inform relevant Council officers and members of incidents.*
- **Forward Incident Officers** – *The duty officer called on to provide initial response to an incident/emergency, often attending the scene of an incident.*
- **Bronze Duty Officers** – *The out of hours duty lead officer for a specific area of response or recovery when dealing with an incident/emergency*
- **Silver Duty Officers** – *The out of hours duty Silver Officer informed of, or called out, to provide the operational response to an incident/emergency during an out of hours incident*
- **Silver Lead Officers** – *Key Silver Officers identified to support emergency response to incidents during normal office hours.*

- **Gold Officers** – *The Chief Executive or representative called upon to provide the strategic response and to lead the recovery phase of a major incident.*
- **Recovery Lead Officers** – *The senior management leads identified to manage the recovery phase of an incident.*
- **GM Resilience Unit** – *The Greater Manchester team set up to support Councils to plan and respond to emergencies and incidents.*

6. Emergency Planning Team Structure

- SRO – Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)
- Chief Officer - Darren McGrattan, Head of Emergency Planning, Events and Highways Operations
- Service Manager - Neil Crabtree, Head of Public Protection
- Service Director – Nasir Dad, Director of Environment
- Leader Portfolio Holder – Cllr Chris Goodwin, Neighbourhoods
- GM Resilience Business Partner: Caitlin Evans
- Bronze / FIOs (Tactical) are at a manager level all based within Public Protection
- Silver / Operational are at Directors, Assistant Directors and Head of Service level
- Gold Officers – Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive’s and Directors

7. Current on call structures for Gold, Silver and Bronze Officers

Below are the current (2023) and proposed (2024) emergency planning structures:

<u>Gold Officers (Strategic Leads):</u>	
1. Harry Catherall 2. Bruce Penhale 3. Gerard Jones 4. Emma Barton 5. Sayyed Osman 6. Paul Entwistle 7. Anne Ryans / Sarah Johnson 8. Jane Ratcliffe 9. Shelley Kipling	1. Emma Barton 2. Bruce Penhale 3. Gerard Jones 4. Sayyed Osman 5. Shelley Kipling 6. Jayne Ratcliffe <u>Reserve:</u> Nasir Dad
<p>Rationale for Proposed Change: Reducing the gold structure from 9 to 6 officers by removing the Chief Executive and Directors of Legal and Finance as they are notified / called upon in the event of any major emergency</p> <p>For resilience, we are adding a reserve officer from Silver to learn Gold duties in readiness should additional support be required</p>	
<u>Silver Officers – Duty Controller (Operational Leads):</u>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Darren McGrattan 2. Neil Crabtree 3. Alex Bougatef 4. Bryn Cooke 5. Nasir Dad 6. Paul Clifford 7. Rebecca Fletcher 8. Matthew Bulmer 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Darren McGrattan 2. Neil Crabtree 3. Alex Bougatef 4. Bryn Cooke 5. Nasir Dad 6. Paul Clifford 7. Rebecca Fletcher 8. Matthew Bulmer 9. Neil Consterdine
<u>Reserve</u> – Steve Hughes	
<p>Rationale for Proposed Change: Increase silver team to nine officers for added resilience and support when multiple events / incidents require support at the same time.</p> <p>For resilience, (as with Gold), we are adding a reserve officer should additional support be required</p>	
<u>Bronze Officer – Forward Incident Officers (Tactical / On Site Support):</u>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Garforth 2. Harry Mullen 3. Tony Milward 4. Jack Child 5. Daniel Moore 6. Vacant 7. Vacant 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John Garforth 2. Harry Mullen 3. Tony Milward 4. Jack Child 5. Daniel Moore 6. New officer 7. New officer
<p>Rationale for Proposed Change: Following officer retirement, we are currently recruiting to fill two vacancies (from internal workforce) within the Bronze / FIO / site management team</p>	

8. Meetings/Forum:

Emergency Planning Resilience Group is chaired by the Head of Emergency Planning and GM Resilience business partner. It takes place every 2 months, and aims to bring together senior officers from key departments across the council. The departments include Adult Social Care, Highways, Risk and Resilience, Comms, HR. The forum looks at plans, training needs and maintains an overview of the distinct emergency planning and resilience work streams. Key topics for regular review include:

- Flood meeting attended by CCRU business partner.
- Health Protection meeting attended by emergency planning manager
- NE Sector HERG expand attended by business partner

9. Summary of Incidents 2023

Below is a list of incidents that have occurred during 2023 and the emergency response plan has been activated.

- 21/03/2023 @ 1647hrs. Gas leak at 47 Longfield Crescent.
- 22/03/2023 @ 1228hrs. Explosive device on Drake Close. Found to be a commercial firework.
- 08/05/2023 @ 1704hrs. House fire at 6 Water Street. Family put in hotel overnight.
- 24/06/2023 @ 1700hrs. House fire St Thomas street north. One fatality and a number of properties damaged.
- 27/06/2023 @ 2106hrs. Smoke plume / commercial fire on West End street.
- 17/11/2023 @ 2205hrs. Dangerous building after vehicle crash.

10. Emergency Response Mandatory Training Programme (2023)

A training audit was completed in January 2023 for all gold, silver and bronze officers to identify the training needs of the on-call team and to ensure compliance in the event of a public inquiry. Below is a list of training events that have been completed this year.

- Electricity Power Outage Workshop – January 2023
- Oldham Voluntary Sector Workshop – March 2023
- Exercise Might Oak – March 2023
- Resilience Direct Training – August 2023
- Resilience Direct Training – September 2023
- ACT Awareness Training – October 2023
- Loggist Training – October 2023
- METHANE & JESIP Training – November 2023
- Reception Centre Training – November 2023
- Cyber Training - November 2023
- New Emergency Planning Dashboard Roll Out – various 2023

11. Proposed / Planned Training Programme (2024)

Following discussions and feedback from duty officers, partners and lead external training providers, the following proposals have been mapped out for 2024.

- Members Training / Awareness – January 2024
- Hazardous Material Exercise – February 2024 (Silver & Bronze Officers)
- Moorland Fires Exercise – April 2024 (Gold, Silver & Bronze Officers)
- Vulnerable People Exercise – July 2024 (Gold, Silver & Bronze Officers)
- Stan Edge Tunnel Exercise – Oct 2024 (Silver & Bronze Officers)

12. Standby and Call-Out Payments

Definition: Standby payments are claimed by officers up to SM1 (SCP 63) in recognition that they are expected to be available for on-call duties outside of normal hours of work, in person, by telephone, or on Teams to respond to an incident / task that is usually associated with a statutory obligation.

Where 'standby' is a requirement of the post this will be specified in the contract of employment. Officers must be:

- contactable at all times when on standby duty;
- available to respond to the call to work;
- available to get into Oldham to attend site / meetings within an hour of being called; and,
- remain fit and capable to undertake the duties required. The 'standby' rota is set by the Head of Emergency Response, with a formal handover to the next rota duty every Monday morning at 09:00.

Formalities built into the On-Call Duty JD/PS - a standby shift should not be shorter than 12 hours or longer than 16 hours on a weekday. Saturday and Sunday are both 24 hour shifts. The standby payment is £25.00 per shift. Saturday and Sunday are two shifts each. So, a 'normal' weekly standby rota payment would be $9 \times £25.00 = £225.00$

Bronze and Silver officers (up to Head of service level) receive the standby allowance for being on call 24/7 during the week of their allocated duties which is £225 per week (as set out above). Officers AD and above do not benefit from the additional payment, as this is part of JD/PS under "additional senior management duties as required".

All on call changes will be recharged to the emergency planning cost centre (22760). Payments are made on a claims basis and are not paid when officers are unavailable to work due to sickness or annual leave.

Standby – remaining at home: This is where officers are on standby at home, but are not required to leave home to deal with the incident/problem/issue. Here the standby payment covers the first hour of work per shift (taking calls, recording the incident, taking appropriate action to resolve and completing the relevant paperwork).

If the incident requires time and support beyond the initial one hour per shift – this is recorded formally and claimed at the end of the standby rota with additional time paid at time and a half.

Standby – required to leave home: This is where officers are on standby at home, but are then required to leave home to deal with an incident/problem/issue on site within the borough. When this occurs, there is a minimum payment of two hours at plain time for the first call-out of the shift. The time commences as soon as the telephone call is received and includes travel time. Time beyond the first two hours or from the second call-out that shift must be accumulated throughout the week and then claimed at the end of the standby rota; these hours will be paid at time and a half.

Executive Summary

This annual report provides an update on the current emergency response on-call structures and potential areas to review. The keys areas reviewed include:

-
1. Emergency Planning Structure
 2. Current on call structures for Gold, Silver and Bronze Officers
 3. Possible changes to Gold, Silver and Bronze Structures from January 2024
 4. Summary of incidents 2023
 5. Completed Training 2023
 6. Planned Training 2024

Recommendations

Overview and Scrutiny are asked to note the content of this report and to feed back to the Head of Emergency Response on any opportunities for training / awareness or resilience needed over the next twelve months to strengthen and support on-call duties when needed to support Oldham's communities.

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Economy

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Elaine Taylor

Officer Contact: Paul Clifford, Director of Economy


Service Summary: Economy consists of 5 functions; Economic Growth, Housing, Planning, Property & Projects and Creating A Better Place. Each area has their own vision and 2023 – 2027 Business Plan.

Economy Successes

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KPIs	Comments
Number of people supported through the warm homes Oldham scheme	<p>In September, the team's workload saw a 48% increase (From 248 people supported to 343) the team were able to help the residents of Oldham in crisis be supported in the right way for them.</p> <p><i>People helped with energy advice, food vouchers, fuel vouchers, boiler repairs, home visits, referrals to other agencies including children in need, Age Uk and the SIT Team</i></p>
Percentage of major planning applications determined in time	<p>100% of major planning applications were completed in time or to an extended agreed time in Q2.</p> <p><i>Percentage of major applications completed within 13 or 16 weeks or with an agreed Extension of Time</i></p>

Economy Key Metrics

Key:
 Target met 
 Higher than target 



Annual
404

Total new homes competed

70 total completions for Q2.
Running total for 2023/24 - 116



Target
25%

Percentage of completed homes that are affordable

90% for Q2 - proportioned over months as individual months not known



Q1

Number of people supported through the warm homes Oldham scheme

829 People in Q2 helped with energy advice, food vouchers, fuel vouchers, boiler repairs, home visits, referrals to other agencies including children in need, Age Uk and the SIT Team



Target
60%

Percentage of Appeals for non-major planning applications allowed

Q2 - 229 non-major decisions, 15 appeals, 5 allowed, 10 dismissed



Target
60%

Percentage of major planning applications determined in time

July (4/4 in time or ext agreed);
Aug (1/1 in time or ext agreed);
Sept (2/2 in time or ext agreed)



Target
60%

Percentage of non-major planning applications determined in time

July (81/84 in time or ext agreed); Aug (69/69 in time or ext agreed); Sept (68/76 in time or ext agreed)



Target
100%

Internal Gateways completed for schemes - progress from design through to delivery

Internal Gateway process to review business case viability at each stage of Strategic, Outline and Full Business Case stages.



Target
10%

Social Value commitment against Construction Contract Value

Evidences the Social Value add in addition to construction of physical assets

Economy

Areas for Development

Page 172

KPIs	Comments
<p>Implement the TA mitigation strategy to reduce the level of spend and ensure suitable accommodation is provided for residents who find themselves homeless.</p>	<p><i>The demand for housing services is at an all time high. This has resulted in an increased need for temporary accommodation and therefore created a significant budget pressure within the service. It is important that we continue to deliver the efficiency savings and cost avoidance proposals set out within the TA Mitigation Plan. This includes bringing new units of TA on-line using a longer-term leasing model (moving away from nightly paid accommodation), reviewing our own asset register to look at opportunities to re-purpose our own stock, and work with our strategic housing partnership to review stalled strategies and outdated policies to maximise existing resources.</i></p>
<p>Review the proposed target operating model for housing options services to ensure this is fit for purpose and can robustly contribute to managing demand for services.</p>	<p><i>The proposed target operating model focuses on reducing demand and duplication by implementing a managed access model. This includes promoting digital self help services, signposting to relevant partners who can provide advice and support. This will free up capacity to work in a more prevention focussed way. This will allow officers to undertake casework, offer home visits (where appropriate) and work out in the community through the PBI.</i></p>

Economy

Areas for Development

Page 173

KPIs	Comments
<p>Implement the new software system (Locata) to assist with the effective delivery of the Housing Register and Allocations service.</p>	<p><i>The number of households registering for social housing on the Council's Housing Register is at an all time high. We currently have c7,000 live housing applications on the housing register and c11,000 in a backlog waiting to be assessed and registered before they can become live.</i></p> <p><i>The new system will allow residents to register for re-housing in a more self-serve, structured approach, prompting the resident to provide the necessary information (eg I.D). Residents will be able to upload the documentation themselves rather than requiring assistance from an officer. The system will also allow the resident to self serve as they will be able to progress chase their own application (check their banding status, if they have been successful for a bid etc). This in turn should reduce demand for service (telephone enquiries and footfall through AO).</i></p>
<p>Create stability within the team by reducing staff turnover and review the level of resources required to operate safe working practices.</p>	<p><i>We have a number of grant funded fixed term posts within the service. That coupled with the demand for service has been sighted as the reason for staff terminating their employment. The service is drastically under resourced and operating at unsafe practice levels. The average caseload per officer is now c200. A fundamental review is required with regards to service delivery, resourcing and ensuring statutory compliance.</i></p>

Paul Clifford, Director of Economy (Service Head)

The Warm Homes team deliver an invaluable service to our residents and it is great to see the number of residents that have been supported to date against to the backdrop of real financial challenges for households. The planning team continue to perform at a high level reach a 100% determination rate for the second quarter in a role on some of the more complex applications that help to deliver growth.

Unfortunately, the housing position locally within Oldham is not unique to the borough and is replicated across the country. From an Oldham perspective a number of clear mitigating actions have been identified with the objective to facilitate the team to move into a prevention space helping to reduce instances of homelessness and the number of households in temporary accommodation. In addition to this, partners both within the Council and more widely across the borough are supporting our work in this area. However, this is clearly an unprecedented situation where unfortunately there is no quick solution.

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Signed Off: 21/11/2023

Glossary:

red	0
amber	2
green	6

Environment

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Chris Goodwin

Officer Contact: Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

Service Summary:

Environment Directorate consists of 5 Service areas; Environmental Services, Public Protection, Highways & Engineering, Waste and Fleet and Street Lighting. Each area has their own vision and 2023 – 2027 Business Plan.

Environment Successes

KPIs	Comments
Trading Standards -Tobacco Enforcement	Joint Operation between Oldham Council and GMP resulted in the seizure of illegal vapes with a street value of £27,000. Legal action to follow.
Street Lighting	Annual investment programme on track and over 99% of lights are working. Festive Lighting installed at 31 sites boroughwide.
Food Safety Enforcement	3 Successful prosecutions of food businesses which were closed due to significant public health risks.

Environment Key Metrics

Key:

Lower than previous quarter
(No quarter target set) ↓

Higher than previous quarter
(No quarter target set) ↑

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Q1
133

Number of food hygiene inspections and revisits

174 food hygiene inspections and revisits carried out



Q1
473

Total number of fly-tipping enforcement actions

417 fixed penalty notices issued, prosecution outcomes in court and legal notices served



Q1
94

Number of applications received for selective licensing

Monitoring of number of applications received for selective licensing: Q2: 95



Q1:
47

Number of condition audits carried out

Q2: 90 audits carried out



Q1
168

Number of New Taxi Driver Applications made to the Council

Q2: 849 This increase in new driver applications is in response to the new policy changes. Further changes to the vehicle age may impact positively to ensure a more comprehensive local licence control of the Taxi fleet



Q1:
83

Number of private landlord licenses granted

Q2: 89 private landlord licenses granted

Environment

Areas for Development

KPIs	Comments
Number of food hygiene inspections	Push in quarter 4 evident (419) to ensure Food Standards Agency targets were delivered for 22/23. Need to focus officer delivery to catch up with programme
KPI review	Historical and statutory KPIs have been used to report on Economies performance, there is area for improvement in the breadth of the KPIs to be more representative of the service.

Environment

Comments

Nasir Dad, Director of Environment (Service Head)

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The Directorate continues to face significant demand for service across all respective areas. Demand has continued to increase and especially in areas of waste/fly tipping, pest control (since the service became free) and housing related complaints are also increasing due to the change in weather conditions and are expected to continue to increase over winter months. To deal with the demand, the housing standards team has been fully staffed after a successful recruitment exercise. In addition, waste and winter maintenance services continue to deal with seasonal demands and pressures. Service areas have supported the recent Bonfire and Remembrance Sunday events and preparation for Xmas lights and events is ongoing.

Service reviews are also continuing, both to ensure a set up that ensures future service delivery and also meet the budgetary challenges that have been identified.

Signed Off: 21/11/2023

Glossary:

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amber	1
green	5

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PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME 2023/2024

Work Programme 2023/2024				
15 June 2023	<i>Assurance Framework on Grant Funded Programmes</i>		<i>Mark Stenson</i>	
	<i>Place Directorate Overview of service provision, priorities and challenges</i>	<i>Member request</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Executive Director Place and Economic Growth</i> <i>Director of Environment</i> <i>Director for Economy</i> 	
31 st August 2023	<i>Cems & Crems</i>	<i>Issues and opportunities – requested by members</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Portfolio – Neighbourhoods</i> <i>Executive Director Place and Economic Growth</i> <i>Director of Environment</i> <i>Glenn Dale – Head of Service</i> 	<i>Service performance reporting</i>
	<i>Environment Strategy: Climate Change and Adaptation</i>	<i>To scrutinise the draft strategy and implementation plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Portfolio – Green and Neighbourhoods</i> <i>Executive Director Place and Economic Growth</i> <i>Director of Environment</i> 	<i>New strategy for consideration</i>
	<i>Housing – Temporary Accommodation DLUHC Deep Dive Work</i>	<i>To scrutinise the demand challenges and current issues / options for mitigation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Portfolio for Housing</i> <i>Exec Director for Place and Economic Growth</i> <i>Director for Economy</i> <i>Bryn Cooke / Vicky Wood</i> 	
26 th September 2023	<i>Joint Places for Everyone</i>	<i>To scrutinise the proposals following public examination of</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Portfolio – Regeneration and Reform, Housing and Licensing</i> 	<i>Policy Framework item - Final consideration after Public</i>

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

<p><i>** special meeting</i></p>	<p><i>Development Plan Document (DPD)</i></p>	<p><i>PfE prior to their consideration by Council and/or Cabinet; and To scrutinize proposals in respect of the Oldham Local Plan prior to their consideration by Council and/or Cabinet.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Executive Director Place and Economic Growth</i> • <i>Director of Economy</i> • <i>Peter Richards – Head of Planning</i> • <i>Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Team Leader – Strategic Planning</i> 	<p><i>Examination / prior to formal adoption. Update on Local Plan development - draft for consultation</i></p>
<p><i>8th November 2023</i></p>	<p><i>GM 2040 Strategy and Sub-Strategies (inc GM Streets for All)</i></p>	<p><i>To receive updates in the Strategy and be briefed/scrutinise a number of draft GM 2040 sub-strategies / funding mechanisms</i></p> <p><i>GM2040 Sub Strategies are still in development. Timescales to be confirmed but likely:</i></p> <p><i>a. Freight and Servicing and Road Danger Reduction will likely come forward for January 2023</i></p> <p><i>b. Local Bus Strategy and Streets for All Guidance is likely to be available in February 2023</i></p> <p><i>c. GM Streets for All</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Portfolio – Regen and Reform</i> • <i>Deputy Chief Executive (Place)</i> • <i>Director of Economy</i> • <i>Peter Richards – Head of Planning</i> • <i>Eleanor Sykes - Transport Strategy Manager</i> 	<p><i>Regional / Local policy update</i></p>
<p><i>6th December 2023</i></p>	<p><i>Economic Review: Update and emerging vision</i></p>	<p><i>To scrutinise the Economic Review implementation plans ahead of the new vision being determined</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Portfolio – Regen and Reform and Employment and Enterprise</i> • <i>Deputy Chief Executive (Place)</i> • <i>Director of Economy</i> 	<p><i>Part of the Employment, Work and Training – ‘themed’/significant issue consideration</i></p>

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jon Bloor, Assistant Director Economic Growth 	
	Emergency Plan – annual review	Annual report/presentation on progress/activities/initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Neighbourhoods • Deputy Chief Executive (Place). • Director of Environment • Darren McGrattan 	Annual Report consideration/ Service performance reporting.
	Place Directorate Performance Report (Q2) Update	Service performance reporting - Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – various • Deputy Chief Executive (Place) • Director of Environment • Director of Economy • Performance Team 	Service performance reporting
	Local Plan	To scrutinise proposals in respect of the Oldham Local Plan prior to their consideration by Council and/or Cabinet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Housing and Licensing • Deputy Chief Executive (Place) • Director of Economy • Peter Richards – Head of Planning • Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Team Leader – Strategic Planning 	Update on Local Plan development - draft for consultation
19 th March 2024	Creating a Better Place	To scrutinize the annual update regarding Creating a Better Place and development of Oldham town centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Leader of the Council • Deputy Chief Executive (Place). • Director of Economy 	Update report requested previously by the Committee
	District Growth Zones	Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Regen and Reform 	Local policy update

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Chief Executive (Place) • Director of Economy • Peter Richards – Head of Planning 	
	Taxi & Hackney Carriage Licensing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues and opportunities – requested by members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Housing and Licensing. • Deputy Chief Executive (Place) • Director of Environment • Neil Crabtree – Head of Public Protection • John Garforth – Licensing Manager 	Service performance reporting
29 November '23 With partners	Housing strategy & Homelessness	Workshop session ahead of TA deep dive and overview of the challenges currently facing residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio for Housing • Deputy Chief Executive (Place). • Director for Economy • Bryn Cooke / Vicky Wood 	Update report requested by the Portfolio holder
21 Dec 2023 With community reps / cllr champions	Don't Trash Oldham	Annual report/presentation on progress/activities/initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio –Neighbourhoods 	Service performance reporting
31 Jan 2024 With youth council	Green New Deal and Climate Change – joint performance / progress report	Issues previously considered include funding arrangements, GMCA and government priorities and initiatives in green/low carbon issues; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Neighbourhoods / Finance and Low Carbon • Deputy Chief Executive (Place). • Director of Economy & Environment 	The Committee has given particular attention to this issue in previous years as a 'major issue'

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

		developing a strategic partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy Hunt – GND Manager 	
12 March 2024	Selective Licensing	Annual report/presentation on progress/activities/initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio for Housing • Deputy Chief Executive (Place). • Director for Environment • Neil Crabtree 	Update report requested by the Committee
ITEMS FOR CHAIRS DISCUSSION				
	Oldham Skills Strategy	To receive updates in the Strategy and be briefed / scrutinise the emerging thematic areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – Business, Employment and Enterprise / Education and Skills • Deputy Chief Executive (Place) • Director of Economy • Director of Education, Skills and LLL • Jon Bloor, AD Economic Growth 	Regional / Local policy update

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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
	Construction and Highways Works & Services (CHWS) Framework Agreement - Existing Framework		13 th November 2023	Cabinet
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
	Pot Hole Funding 2023/24		13 th November 2023	Cabinet
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
Page 189	Grant Acceptance: One Public Estate (OPE) Brownfield Land Release Fund – Round 2	Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth	13 th November 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: Oldham Council has secured capital funding for the remediation of three sites in the town centre; the Civic Centre and QE Hall, the former leisure site and the former Magistrates Court</p> <p>The purpose of this report is to confirm the value of the grant available to Oldham Council and notify Cabinet of the intention to bring this additional resource into the capital programme to commence detailed negotiations leading to the site clearance and remediation of all 3 sites</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Cabinet report - public</p>				
	UKSPF: Inclusive Employment and Skills		13 th November 2023	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
	Sustainable Oldham Strategic Partnership Agreement	Director of Economy	13 th November 2023	Cabinet
Description: A new single Partnership Agreement to award Transport related civil engineering projects for City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) bids, Levelling Up 2 bids and other related civil engineering related projects. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Cabinet report to follow				
Page 190	Report of the Director of Finance – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25	Director of Finance	13 th November 2023	Cabinet
Description: To determine the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2024/25 Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25 Background Documents: Appendices – Various Report to be considered in Public				
	Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Quarter 2	Director of Finance	13 th November 2023	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Page 191	<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council’s 2023/24 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 30 September 2023 (Quarter 2) Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Quarter 2 Background Documents: Appendices – Various Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Mid -Year Review 2023/24	Director of Finance	13 th November 2023	Cabinet
	<p>Description: Review of the performance for the first half of the financial year in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2023/24. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Mid-Year Review 2023/24. Background Documents: Appendices Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	Report of the Director of Finance – Proposed Consultation for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25	Director of Finance	13 th November 2023	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: To update on the proposed consultation process to be undertaken by the Council with regard to the 2024/25 Council Tax Reduction Scheme. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Proposed Consultation for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25 Background Documents: Appendices – Various Report to be considered in Public</p>				
<p>New!</p>	<p>Remodelling Children’s Centres Around Our Family Hubs</p>	<p>Director of Education, Skills & Early Years</p>	<p>27th November 2023</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>
<p>Description: The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for a remodelled and improved delivery model for children’s centres in Oldham. If approved, we are seeking agreement to hold a public and staff consultation during the autumn of 2023. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report to CABINET Remodelling Children’s Centres Around Our Family Hubs</p>				
	<p>Waste Collection Service</p>	<p>Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth</p>	<p>Before December 2023</p>	<p>Cabinet Member - Neighbourhoods</p>
<p>Description: Review of Waste Collection Service for domestic and trade. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: N/A</p>				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
TBC	Oldham Theatre Planning Application	Director of Economy	December 2023	Cabinet Member - Business, Employment and Enterprise
Description: Submission of a planning application for the proposed Oldham Theatre Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Planning application (public)				
TBC	Cultural Quarter Public Realm Planning Application	Director of Economy	December 2023	Cabinet Member - Business, Employment and Enterprise
Description: Planning application for the proposed Cultural Quarter Public Realm Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Planning application (public)				
	VCFSE Investment Fund (One Oldham Fund)	Director of Public Health	Before December 2023	Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care
Description: Decision to invest Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) into the One Oldham Fund. Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
New!	Local Development Scheme 2023 Update	Director of Economy	December 2023	Executive Director - Economy, Skills & Neighbourhoods
<p>Description: The council has a statutory requirement to prepare a Local Plan to ensure that we have an up-to-date and comprehensive planning framework to support the borough’s economic, environmental and social objectives. The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the project plan for the Local Plan. It sets out details and timetables about the planning documents we will prepare. Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				
New!	Annual Monitoring Report & Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022-23	Director of Economy	December 2023	Executive Director - Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods
<p>Description: Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) and Infrastructure Funding Statement (IFS) for 2022-23. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Annual Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement</p>				
New!	Youth Justice Service Extension to contract from 1st April 2024		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
New!	Extension of contract for the delivery of the Young People’s Integrated Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service	Director of Public Health	11 th December 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: Purpose of the report is to enact the permitted 2 year extension of the current contract for the provision of a Young People's Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service as per the initial contract terms.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Cabinet Report - to be shared once internal governance has been completed.</p> <p>Private as per Paragraph 3 - commercial/business sensitivity</p>				
New!	Adult Social Care Strategy	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	11 th December 2023	Cabinet

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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: Adult Social Care has devised a vision and strategy for the future delivery of statutory services in the borough for our adult residents. It is intended to launch and roll out across the borough once endorsed. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Public: Appendix 1 Adult Social Care Strategy Equality Impact Assessment Appendix 2 Adult Social Care Strategy – resident facing version Appendix 3 The Oldham Plan Appendix 4 Oldham Council Corporate Plan Appendix 5 Health and Wellbeing Strategy Appendix 6 Market Position Statement</p>				
	Temporary Accommodation Long Term Leasing Options		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				
	Future Commissioning intentions for the Hospital to Home Service (Care at Home)		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:</p>				
	Care at Home services		11 th December 2023	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
New!	Construction and Highways Works & Services (CHWS) Framework Agreement - NEW Framework		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
	Gallery Oldham 'Priority Maintenance Works'		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
New!	Oldham Draft Local Plan	Director of Economy	11 th December 2023	Cabinet
Description: Approval of Oldham's Draft Local Plan for public consultation. Oldham's Local Plan will guide development in the borough up to 2039. The main purposes of the Plan are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set out the policies through which the council will manage development coming forward and use to determine planning applications; - Identify designations for the protection of the borough's environmental and historical assets, our town centres, employment areas and infrastructure; - Allocate land to meet our future housing and employments needs; and - Support the development of supporting infrastructure, such as transport, education and utilities. Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
(HSC-14-23)	Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund - Workforce Fund and Urgent and Emergency Care Support Fund		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
	Report of the Director of Finance and Director of Education, Skills and Early Years – Schools Funding Formula	Director of Finance	11 th December 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: Schools funding formula for 2024/25 in relation to the National Funding Formula</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Report of the Director of Finance and Director of Education, Skills and Early Years – Schools Funding Formula</p> <p>Background documents: Various Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in public.</p>				
	Adoption and publication of Oldham Council's Social Value Policy	Deputy Chief Executive -	11 th December 2023	Cabinet
<p>Description: To approve the adoption and publication of a corporate social value policy to support Oldham Council and the wider Borough.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Social Value Policy - Public</p>				
	Targeted Impartial Information Advice and Guidance		11 th December 2023	Cabinet
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
New!	Annual Monitoring Report & Infrastructure Funding Statement 2022-23	Director of Economy	11 th December 2023	Executive Director - Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods
Description: Annual Monitoring Report and Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2022-23. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: N/A				
New!	Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2023	Director of Economy	11 th December 2023	Executive Director - Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
New!	Brownfield Register 2023	Director of Economy	11 th December 2023	Executive Director - Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods
Description: Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
	Alexandra Park Eco Centre Update	Director of Economy	January 2024	Cabinet
Description: Update regarding the new Eco Centre at Alexandra Park Depot. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Cabinet Report (Private). Restricted Paragraph Part 3 report				
	Carriageway Investment Funding	Director of Environment	January 2024	Cabinet
Description: Additional funding for carriageway surfacing/treatments Document(s) to be considered in public or private:				
Page 200	Report of the Director of Finance Budget 2024/25 – Determination of the Tax Bases for Council Tax Setting and for Business Rates Income Purposes	Director of Finance	January 2024	Cabinet
Description: The Determination of the Tax Bases for Council Tax Setting and for Business Rates Income for use in 2024/25 budget deliberations. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance Budget 2024/25 – Determination of the Tax Bases for Council Tax Setting and for Business Rates Income Purposes Background Documents: Appendices - Various –Report to be considered in Public				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
	Oldham Council's inclusion within the Greater Manchester Business Rates Pool 2024/25.	Director of Finance	January 2024	Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Resources
<p>Description: The report seeks formal approval for the Council's inclusion in the Greater Manchester Business Rates Pool for the financial year 2024/25. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Oldham Council's inclusion within the Greater Manchester Business Rates Pool 2024/25 Background Documents: Various Appendices Report to be considered in Public</p>				
	Non-Domestic Rates Tax Base 2024/25	Director of Finance	January 2024	Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Resources

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Page 2022	<p>Description: Report setting out information to determine the Non-Domestic (Business Rates) Tax Base for 2024/25, using the most up to date information and estimates available. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed report title: Non-Domestic Rates Tax Base 2024/25</p> <p>Background Documents: Various Appendices and Council Tax Tax Base and Non-Domestic Rates Tax Base Forecast 2024/25 (Presented to Cabinet on 22 January 2024)</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25	Director of Finance	February 2024	Cabinet
Page 2022	<p>Description: To consider the Council’s Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 - including Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement, Annual Investment Strategy and Prudential Indicators Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2024/25</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>–Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29	Director of Finance	February 2024	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Page 203	<p>Description: To consider the Administration’s detailed revenue budget for 2024/25 and budget reduction proposals, together with the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29, incorporating the current policy landscape and Local Government Finance Settlement. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29</p> <p>Background Documents: Various appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	Report of the Director of Finance – Capital Programme & Capital Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29	Director of Finance	February 2024	Cabinet
	<p>Description: To consider the Council’s Capital programme and capital strategy. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Capital Programme & Capital Strategy for 2024/25 to 2028/29</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>–Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Month 8	Director of Finance	February 2024	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Page 204	<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council’s 2023/24 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 30 November 2023 (Month 8) Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Month 8 Background Documents: Appendices – Various Report to be considered in Public</p>			
	<p>Joint Report of the Executive Director Place and Economic Growth and Director of Finance – Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2024/25 to 2028/29 and Projected Outturn for 2023/24.</p>	<p>Director of Finance, Executive Director for Place & Economic Growth</p>	<p>February 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>
<p>Description: The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Outturn Estimates for 2023/24, the detailed budget for 2024/25 and the Strategic HRA Estimates for the four years 2025/26 to 2028/2 Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Housing Revenue Account Estimates for 2024/25 to 2028/29 and Projected Outturn for 2023/24 Background Documents: Appendices –Report to be considered in Public</p>				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
	Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Quarter 3	Director of Finance	March 2024	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council’s 2023/24 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 31 December 2023 (Quarter 3) Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2023/24 Quarter 3 Background Documents: Appendices – Various Report to be considered in Public</p>				
	Report of the Director of Finance - Local Taxation and Benefits Discretionary Policies 2024/25	Director of Finance	March 2024	Cabinet
<p>Description: To confirm the Council’s Local Taxation and Benefits Discretionary Policies for 2024/25 Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Local Taxation and Benefits Discretionary Policies 2024/25 Background Documents: Appendices Report to be considered in public</p>				
	Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management 2023/24 – Quarter 3 Report	Director of Finance	March 2024	Cabinet

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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: The Quarter 3 review of Treasury Management activity during the third Quarter of 2023/24. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Treasury Management Review 2023/24 – Quarter 3 Report</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				
<p>New!</p>	<p>Report of the Director of Finance – Debt Recovery Policies</p>	<p>Director of Finance</p>	<p>March 2024</p>	<p>Cabinet</p>
<p>Description: To provide clear guidance for Council Officers, local taxpayers, and organisation who use Council services on recovery of monies owed to the Council. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Report of the Director of Finance – Debt Recovery Policies</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p>				

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Key:

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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New! - indicates an item that has been added this month

Notes:

1. The procedure for requesting details of documents listed to be submitted to decision takers for consideration is to contact the Contact Officer contained within the Key Decision Sheet for that item. The contact address for documents is Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH. Other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker.
2. Where on a Key Decision Sheet the Decision Taker is Cabinet, the list of its Members are as follows: Councillors Arooj Shah, Abdul Jabbar MBE, Elaine Taylor, Shaid Mushtaq, Fida Hussain, Peter Dean, Barbara Brownridge, Chris Goodwin and Mohon Ali.
3. Full Key Decision details (including documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration, specific contact officer details and notification on if a report is likely to be considered in private) can be found via the online published plan at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=144&RD=0>

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Notice of Private Reports

(In accordance with Part 2 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012)

Oldham Borough Council intends to hold a private meeting (or part thereof) of the Cabinet on Monday, 11th December 2023

Decision to be taken (Agenda Item) Decisions proposed to be taken in private at Cabinet on 11th December 2023:

- a. Remodelling Children's Centres around Family Hubs
- b. Youth Justice Extension to Contract (from 1st April 2024)
- c. Extension of Contract for the Delivery of the Young People's Integrated Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service
- d. Adult Social Care Strategy
- e. Temporary Accommodation Long Term Leasing Options
- f. Future Commissioning Intentions for the Hospital to Home Service (Care at Home Service)
- g. Construction and Highways Works & Services (CHWS) Framework Agreement - NEW Framework
- h. Gallery Oldham Priority Maintenance Works

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 DECEMBER 2023

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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- i. Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund
- j. Adoption and Publication of Oldham Council's Social Value Policy
- k. Targeted Impartial Information Advice and Guidance

Reason

The meeting (or part thereof) will be held in exempt session on the grounds that the reports and background papers will contain the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) – information relating to the financial or business affairs of the Council and a third party.

Representations

If you wish to make representations against the intention to hold a private meeting, please send these to Constitutional Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Oldham, O11 1UL or email: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

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