

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024**



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:**

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 8)
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There are no petitions for this meeting of Council to consider.

- 7 Youth Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

There is no Youth Council business.

- 8 Public Questions

*(time limit 15 Minutes)*

- 9 Reports of the Leader and Cabinet Members (Pages 9 - 88)

*(Time limit 90 minutes)*

Leader and Cabinet Members to present their reports.

Non-executive members may ask questions.

- a. Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham – including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 and the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024
- b. Deputy Leader and Decent Home Portfolio Holder
- c. Deputy Leader and Value for Money and Sustainability Portfolio Holder
- d. Children and Young People's Portfolio Holder
- e. Education and Skills Portfolio Holder

- f. Enterprise Portfolio Holder
- g. Adults, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
- h. Don't Trash Oldham Portfolio Holder
- i. Thriving Communities and Culture Portfolio Holder

10 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

**Motion 1 - A voice for those affected by Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham**

to be Moved by Councillor Hobin

Seconded by Councillor Hince

In June 2022, the Greater Manchester Independent Assurance Review in relation to Child Sexual Exploitation published its second report which looked into the effectiveness of safeguarding practice in the borough of Oldham.

Since that time survivors, advocates and campaigners have articulated a series of areas which they believe the assurance review was unable to cover due to its restricted terms of reference. These are;

- That the Assurance Review team heard limited testimony from those affected by Child Sexual Exploitation in the Borough of Oldham and that, as a result, other survivors and their families were not provided with the opportunity for their cases to be reviewed or to have their voices heard.

and

- That the time-period and scope set by the Independent Assurance Review was too limited.

Concerns have also been raised that some of those who claimed to have evidence relating to abuse and exploitation did not engage with the review and/or refused to share that evidence.

Since the publication of the Assurance Review in June 2022 numerous calls have been made to the Home Office for a wider Public Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in the Borough of Oldham. To date, these calls have been rejected. The Home Office saying that it is within the power of the Local Authority to commission an Independent Inquiry.

The survivors should be the first consideration and their questions and concerns answered. There should also be a pathway for perpetrators and facilitators to be brought to account.

Oldham Council resolves:

- To write to the Home Secretary requesting a Home Office led Public Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in the borough of Oldham.
- To continue the work with survivors and others affected in preparing the framework and to commission an Independent Inquiry should the Home Office refuse the above request.

- That any Inquiry should provide a voice for those affected by Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham and provide the very best support and protection to those who wish to come forward with their testimony.

### **Motion 2 - Get Veterans Moving More**

To be Moved by Councillor Shah

Seconded by Councillor Rustidge

According to the 2021 Census, approximately 6,000 Oldham residents are former members of either the UK regular or reserve armed forces. This Council believes that these veterans should be eligible for discounted membership at Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) facilities.

This Council notes:

- The percentage of physically active adults in Oldham in 2021/22 was 62.7% compared to the 67.3% in England, and the Council and our partners on the Health and Wellbeing Board are committed to getting Oldham's residents 'Moving More'.
- Making it easier for Oldham's veterans' population to access OCL provision across the Borough will support the 'Moving More' strategy in particular the strand: 'Supporting VCF organisations to be able to provide services and work with their communities to increase Physical Activity'.
- Increased physical activity amongst veterans will lead to positive outcomes for their own health and wellbeing and generate further benefits via social value.

This Council resolves:

- To ask the Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture, the Director of Public Health and the Director of Communities to liaise with Oldham Community Leisure on the implementation of a concessionary membership for veterans of HM Armed Forces.
- To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Defence asking the Ministry of Defence to explore further opportunities for discounted gym/leisure passes nationally.

## 11 Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

### **Motion 1: Removing Oldham Borough from Places for Everyone**

To be moved by Councillor Sykes

Seconded by Councillor Woodvine

**This council recognises that:**

- Places for Everyone is based on 'housing need' calculations which are already the better part of a decade old.
- Places for Everyone does not give guarantees with regards to the delivery of affordable and socially rented homes.
- 'Places for Everyone' represents a developer-led approach.
- It would see the irreparable loss of Green Belt sites and green spaces which is not necessary.
- It uses Green Belt for the delivery of a housing strategy focused solely on

developer profit.

- It does not deliver the right mix of affordable housing types and tenures in the places people want to live.
- We also believe the Adoption Statement for the Plan presented at the last Full Council meeting in March 2024 was misleading by implying that all the main modifications had been consulted on. This was not the case, as none of the main modifications related to HS2 have been consulted upon.

**This council resolves to:**

1. Request the new Secretary of State to revoke the Plan 'Places for Everyone' in the interest of all Oldham's residents, businesses and other stake holders for the reasons stated above.
2. In order for Council to consider this decision at its next meeting in September, the relevant council officers are requested to present a full report on the planning, legal, equalities and all other considerations of such a revocation.
3. Should the request be approved Oldham Council' withdraw engagement and support for the defence of the judicial review of 'Places for Everyone'.
4. Should the Plan be revoked the Green Belt boundaries should be restored to their pre-adoption state.
5. If the Plan is revoked develop an Oldham-led housing strategy that prioritises brownfield and ex-industrial sites, while protecting greenbelt and green spaces for future generations.

**Motion 2: Request for a public inquiry into historic and current CSE within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council area**

To be moved by Councillor Quigg

Seconded by Councillor Al-Hamdani

People in positions of power at both Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) and Greater Manchester Police (GMP) have yet to be held to account for their failure to protect our children from child sexual exploitation (CSE).

People of all communities in Oldham have as result of delay, obstruction and passage of time lost trust in OMBC and GMP.

As recently as January 2024, the highly respected Maggie Oliver referenced the Oldham Assurance Review and told its authors Malcom Newsam & Gary Ridgway that in Oldham they had been prevented from getting to the truth. This is after it emerged that survivors had been prevented from giving testimony to the Review Team.

The findings of the Mayor of Greater Manchester's Assurance Review neither provided assurance nor sufficiently reviewed what had taken place. Despite claiming there was no cover up, and that lessons had been learned.

**This Council notes:**

Survivors deserve to see the full powers of law used to bring the criminals of these depraved acts to justice, no matter their rank politically, in the community, at OMBC or GMP.

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

There is a significant groundswell of opinion that an independent public inquiry is needed.

**This Council resolves:**

- To write to the Home Secretary of His Majesty's Government to demand that a public inquiry into historic and current CSE within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council area. That any such investigation will investigate the failure of OMBC, GMP and all associated bodies or groups in Oldham which failed to protect our children.

**This Council further resolves that:**

- If the Home Secretary refuses a public inquiry that OMBC approves the commissioning and implementation of a non-statutory independent inquiry historic and current CSE within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council area. That any such investigation will investigate the failure of OMBC, GMP and all associated bodies or groups in Oldham which failed to protect our children and to instruct OMBC officers to commission such an inquiry immediately.

**Motion 3: Extend Burial Times in Oldham Cemeteries**

To be moved by Councillor Zaheer Ali

Seconded by Councillor Kouser

We believe that Oldham Council needs to extend the operational hours of all cemeteries within the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council area to 22:00, seven days a week. This proposal aims to introduce a fixed tariff for burial services during operational hours (9:00 – 17:00) at all hours of operation, benefiting all Oldham's residents.

Currently, Oldham cemeteries operate from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday to Friday. The costs associated with burials within these hours vary, with additional fees applied for out-of-hours services, such as evenings and weekends. These fees can significantly increase the financial burden on grieving families and at a time of cost-of-living crisis, we believe it is important to have one fee throughout the week.

Currently, we have a booking system which is Monday to Friday and the cut-off time to book a burial slot for the same day is 10:00. Furthermore, the documentation required by the registration office has a cut-off time of noon, this bureaucracy of paperwork and facilitation of burials is needlessly time restricted, this motion is seeking to extend both the booking for burials and the registration of burials to 17:00 in line with all other council services, giving the family of the bereaved sufficient time to arrange same day burials.

This motion aligns with our commitment to cater to the diverse needs of our community and enhance the quality of life for all Oldhamers.

**This Council notes that:**

- These changes mirror other boroughs and councils throughout the Northwest and West Yorkshire and bring Oldham in line with these councils.

- Extended hours provide greater flexibility for all Oldham residents, accommodating those with varied schedules, and allowing families to plan funerals outside of standard working hours.
- Weekend and evening options reduce the stress of arranging burials during the workweek, fostering a more compassionate approach to bereavement.
- Comparative Analysis:

<b>Service Hours</b> Weekdays Weekdays Out of Hours Weekends	<b>Current Times</b> 9.00 – 16 :00 15 :00 – 17 :00 Out-of-hours	<b>Proposé Times</b> 9.00 – 17:00 17:00 – 22:00 9:00 – 22:00
<b>Cost Structure</b> Weekdays	<b>Current Costs Proposed Fixed Tariffs</b> Standard fees Fixed (9 :00 – 17 :00)	Same (may require readjustment of out of hour fees to incorporate additional cost of extended times – subject to review)
Evenings/Weekends	Out-of-hours fees	Out of Hour Fees (may require readjustment of out of hour fees to incorporate additional cost of extended times – subject to review)

***The Council resolves to:***

- Immediately begin a pilot scheme in Chadderton Cemetery for twelve months and run a comprehensive review to ascertain the feasibility of the new timings.
- That from the comprehensive review the Council will determine the appropriate fixed tariff, ensuring it covers the operational costs while remaining affordable.

***Following a successful outcome of the pilot scheme the Council will further resolve:***

- To extend burial times to 10:00 daily and introduce the fixed tariffs so that Oldham Council can provide a more inclusive, supportive, and equitable service for all residents. By giving considerably more time for bookings and paperwork, we are enabling funeral directors and families to be able to book a burial within the same day.
- That cemeteries in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham are to remain open until 22:00, seven days a week.
- That the extension includes evening and weekend services without the need for special out-of-hours arrangements.
- To introduce a fixed tariff for burial services during the extended hours. This fixed rate aims to provide transparency and financial predictability for all families. The changes will remain cost-neutral and not add extra costs to the council and in the long run save the Council money.

**Motion 4: Save Oldham Coliseum**

To be moved by Councillor Wilkinson  
Seconded by Councillor Ball



Oldham Coliseum Theatre was a treasured local asset that has drawn audiences from across the country to Fairbottom Street for more than 135 years. The Coliseum was a training ground for a host of stars - from Bernard Cribbins, who joined at 14 and stayed for seven years, to Coronation Street's Jean Alexander (Hilda Ogden), Barbara Knox (Rita Sullivan), William Roache (Ken Barlow) and Julie Hesmondhalgh (Hayley Cropper)

Others to have trod its boards include Happy Valley's Sarah Lancashire, Doctor Foster's Suranne Jones, new Doctor Who companion Millie Gibson, and Olivia Cooke from HBO's House of the Dragon.

Many theatregoers and those from across the country, as well as some of the biggest names in UK performing arts have raised their voices and concerns over the closure of the Oldham Coliseum.

The closure of the Coliseum on Fairbottom Street has left a hole in our boroughs cultural offering. There have sadly been numerous failures along the way which have contributed to the closure of the theatre, from a failure to secure a long-term future for the site and missed opportunities linked with the numerous regeneration projects.

**This Council notes that:**

- Oldham Coliseum was one of only a handful of producing theatres outside of London.
- In February 2023, that the former Council Leader regrettably made comments claiming that the Fairbottom Street theatre "is at the end of its lifespan" and is "no longer fit for purpose".<sup>1</sup>
- In September 2023, despite the then leadership of this Council publicly stating otherwise, a study commissioned by the Coliseum Board concluded that the Fairbottom Street building was not beyond repair and could be used again and brought up to a modern standard with the appropriate investment.
- In April 2024 the Leader of the Council stated that there were proposals for how the Council could bring the Fairbottom Street site back to life and would be producing plans for what a future for that building could look like.<sup>2</sup>

**This Council resolves:**

- 1) To bring forward the proposals and feasibility of refurbishing the Fairbottom Street building to house the Oldham Coliseum Theatre so it can reopen at Fairbottom Street.
- 2) To aggressively seek other funding streams to finance the redevelopment of the existing venue, including the reallocation of funds from other initiatives linked with the future of Oldham Coliseum.
- 3) To write to and demand that the [Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport](#), the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the Art's Council fast-track any grants available and provide any and all assistance their offices can offer to help bring the Fairbottom Street back to life.
- 4) To bring a report to full Council as soon as possible outlining the steps that this Council can take to support the Oldham Coliseum Theatre to remain at home, on Fairbottom Street.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.theoldhamtimes.co.uk/news/23352598.oldham-coliseum-council-reckless-save-theatre/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/theatre-news/oldham-coliseum-rescue-very-much-29064042>

5) That this Council will exhaust all options in order to reopen Oldham Coliseum Theatre at Fairbottom Street.

12 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 89 - 150)

To notes actions taken arising from Council meetings.

13 Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups (Pages 151 - 160)

A report that reviews the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups represented on the Council.

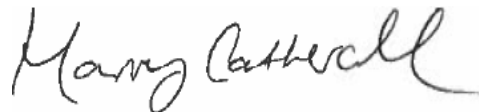
14 Constitution Update (Pages 161 - 196)

To approve updates to the Council's Constitution

15 Appointment of Independent Members on the Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 197 - 198)

To approve the appointment of Independent Members on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

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

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

**Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive**

**PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**  
**NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

**RULE ON TIMINGS**

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

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

## WITH AMENDMENT

