

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

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, M Ali, Z Ali, Arnott, Aslam, Azad, Ball, Bashforth, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Chowhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Ghafoor, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, Harrison, Hince, Hindle, Hobin, Hughes, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Kouser, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Navesey, Quigg, Rustidge, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodvine

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lancaster.

2 TO ELECT THE MAYOR FOR THE 2025/26 MUNICIPAL YEAR

Councillor Shuttleworth MOVED, Councillor McLaren SECONDED and Councillor Mushtaq SUPPORTED the election of Councillor Eddie Moores, as Mayor of the Borough and Chair of Council, for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

On being put to the vote, the nomination was CARRIED.

Councillor Moores signed the declaration required by law, which enabled him to act in the Office of Mayor.

The retiring Mayor (Councillor Zahid Chauhan) invested the newly elected Mayor with the chain of office; the Mayor's Consorts were presented with their chains.

(The Mayor, Councillor Moores, in the Chair).

The Mayor then made a speech of acceptance of office.

RESOLVED

1. Councillor Eddie Moores be appointed Mayor of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and Chair for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.
2. The sincere thanks and appreciation of the Council be recorded to Councillor Zahid Chauhan for his valuable services during his term of office as Mayor of the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

3 VOTE OF THANKS TO THE OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a vote of thanks to the retiring Mayor, Councillor Chauhan and his Consorts.

Councillors Ghafoor, Woodvine and Sykes addressed the Council paying tribute to Councillor Chauhan.

The Mayor then invited Councillor Chauhan to address the Council.

TO APPOINT THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR 2025/26

Councillor Hindle MOVED and Councillor Navesey SECONDED the appointment of Councillor Hobin as Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Woodvine SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“That the nomination of Councillor Brian Hobin as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2025/26 be amended to instead nominate Councillor Alicia Marland, in line with the 50-year custom of this Council which has ensured the political neutrality of the Mayor’s Office.

That Councillor Alicia Marland be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2025/26.”

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Fida	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Zaheer	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Azad Montaz Ali	FOR	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Kouser Aisha	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Lancaster Luke	APOLOGIES
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Chowhan Naveed	FOR	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR

Dean Peter	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hughes Jade	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 28 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 31 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION (to appoint Councillor Hobin as Deputy Mayor and Vice Chair of Council for the forthcoming Municipal Year), as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	AGAINST	Hussain Fida	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Zaheer	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Aslam Naseem	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Azad Montaz Ali	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Kouser Aisha	AGAINST
Bishop Helen	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	APOLOGIES
Bashforth Marie	FOR	Malik Abdul	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Chowhan Naveed	FOR	Navesey Lisa	FOR

Davis Peter	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Dean Peter	FOR	Rustidge Ken	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harkness Garth	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Holly	FOR	Sykes Howard	AGAINST
Hince Marc	FOR	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hindle Neil	FOR	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	AGAINST
Hughes Jade	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hurley Maggie	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 31 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 28 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Hobin be appointed Deputy Mayor for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council and Vice Chair for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

5 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 9TH APRIL 2025 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED:

That subject to an amendment to Minute 10 (Questions to Leader and Cabinet), to reflect that Oldham Rugby League Club had reached the semi-final of the 1895 Cup and not the Challenge Cup, as stated, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 9th April 2025, be approved and signed by the Mayor, as a correct record.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

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

There were no matters of urgent business to report.

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

There were no communications relating to the business of the Council to report.

9 **LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Governance which reminded

Members that under the Leader and Cabinet model of governance, Councillor Shah had been elected as Leader of the Council on 24th May 2023 for a period that would end on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement, as a Councillor unless: she resigned from the office; was no longer a Councillor; or she would be removed from office by a resolution of the Council.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid SECONDED the following AMENDMENT.

'That Council note the election of Councillor Arooj Shah as the Leader of the Council from 24th May 2023 and ending on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting of the Leader's normal day of retirement as Councillor as outlined at paragraph 1.2 of the report.

It is noted that the report references the appointment of the Leader of the Council, Cllr Arooj Shah, made at the Council meeting held on 24th May 2023. However, a Leader may be removed from office by resolution of the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (the Council).

This amendment seeks to REMOVE Cllr Arooj Shah as the Leader of the Council with immediate effect, and that a new Leader be elected by the Council at the Annual Council Meeting on Wednesday, 21st May 2025.

The mover and seconder of this amendment hereby nominate Cllr Kamran Ghafoor to be elected as the new Leader of the Council."

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Fida	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Zaheer	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Azad Montaz Ali	FOR	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Ball Sandra	FOR	Kouser Aisha	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Lancaster Luke	APOLOGIES
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR

Barbara			
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Chowhan Naveed	FOR	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hughes Jade	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 28 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 31 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

10

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER, CABINET MEMBERS AND DEPUTY CABINET MEMBERS AND ALLOCATION OF PORTFOLIOS AND DELEGATION OF EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Leader of the Council which detailed the Cabinet portfolios and the appointments to the Cabinet for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that the appointment of the Deputy Leaders, Cabinet Members, Deputy Cabinet Members, the allocation of portfolios to Cabinet Members and the determination of delegations to executive functions for 2025/2026 be noted as outlined below:

Councillor Arooj Shah	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth
Councillor Elaine Taylor	Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Abdul Jabbar	Deputy Leader and Cabinet

Councillor Shaid Mushtaq	Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability
Councillor Mohon Ali	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Barbara Brownridge	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor Peter Dean	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Fida Hussain	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
Councillor Chris Goodwin	Cabinet Member for Enterprise
Councillor Holly Harrison	Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways
Councillor Aftab Hussain	Deputy Cabinet Member for Resident Focus
Councillor Lisa Navesey	Deputy Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Community Safety
Councillor Marie Bashforth	Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Safeguarding
Councillor Umar Nasheen	Deputy Cabinet Member for Adults with Learning Disabilities
Councillor Nazrul Islam	Deputy Cabinet Member for Skills
Councillor Josh Charters	Deputy Cabinet Member for Get Oldham Working
	Deputy Cabinet Member for Bee Network Delivery

Note - the executive functions are those as described in Part 3 of the constitution as amended by item 15.

11

MAIN OPPOSITION NOMINATIONS TO THE SHADOW CABINET

RESOLVED:

That the appointment of the main Opposition Leaders and the Shadow Cabinet, members, as set out below, be noted:

a. Liberal Democrat Group

Leader – Councillor Howard Sykes

Deputy Group Leader – Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani

Liberal Democrat Group Shadow Cabinet:

Councillor Howard Sykes	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth
Councillor Garth Harkness	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Sam Al-Hamdani	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability
Councillor Diane Williamson	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Helen Bishop	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor Louie Hamblett	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Alicia Marland	Cabinet Member for Culture and

Councillor Mark Kenyon	Leisure
Councillor Dave Murphy	Cabinet Member for Enterprise
	Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways



b. Oldham Group
 Leader – Councillor Kamran Ghafoor
 Deputy Group Leader – Abdul Wahid

Oldham Group Shadow Cabinet:

Councillor Kamran Ghafoor	Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth
Councillor Abdul Wahid	Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Councillor Nyla Ibrahim	Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability
Councillor Zaheer Ali	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People
Councillor Naveed Chowhan	Cabinet Member for Education and Skills
Councillor Aisha Kouser	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Councillor Graham Sheldon	Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure
Councillor Montaz Ali Azad	Cabinet Member for Enterprise
Councillor Shoab Akhtar	Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways

12

APPOINTMENT TO COMMITTEES AND COMPOSITION OF POLITICAL GROUPS

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Governance which sought a review of the political composition of committees and the composition of political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8(1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government Housing Act 1989.

RESOLVED:

1. The composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1, of the report, be noted.
2. The committees detailed in paragraph 1.2 of the report be appointed with the Terms of Reference and delegated powers as detailed in the Constitution.
3. The number of seats on the various Committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.5, of the report.
4. Council confirms unanimously the allocation of seats to the political groups and makes appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report, as far as is practicable.
5. Council appoints a Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the various Committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as

detailed in Appendix 1, to the submitted report, except for the Appeals Committees.

6. The Council appoints District Lead and Deputy Lead Members as follows:
 - i. Central District Lead – Councillor Malik (no Deputy Lead Member required)
 - ii. North District Lead – Councillor Hince and Deputy Lead – Councillor Adams
 - iii. East District Lead – Councillor Cosgrove and Deputy Lead – Councillor Bishop
 - iv. South District Lead – Councillor Hindle (no Deputy Lead Member required)
 - v. West District Lead – Councillor Shuttleworth (no Deputy Lead Member required)
7. The Co-opted Members detailed at paragraph 1.9 of the report be appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board and the Co-optees be given full voting rights in respect of education matters only.
8. Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.
9. Council ratifies the Leader's nominations to the Health and Well-being Board, as listed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

13

APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2025/26

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Governance which detailed the appointments to Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2025/26.

RESOLVED that:

1. The appointments to the Outside Bodies as listed in the Appendices as circulated for the 2025/26 Municipal Year be agreed.
2. Any outstanding appointments be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leaders of the main Opposition Groups.

14

COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Interim Borough Solicitor, which invited Council to re-affirm the Council's Constitution as a matter of good governance.

RESOLVED:

That Council re-affirms the Council's Constitution.

15

COUNCIL MEETINGS AND MUNICIPAL CALENDAR 2025/26

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director of Governance which set out the Calendar of Meetings for the 2025/2026 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that:

1. The meetings of Full Council be held on the undermentioned dates during the 2025/2026 Municipal Year, commencing at 6.00pm unless otherwise shown:

16th July 2025
17th September 2025
12th November 2025
10th December 2025
4th March 2025
18th March 2026

2. The Council's calendar of meetings for 2025/2026 be approved.
3. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Group Leaders.

16 **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

There were no items of Opposition Business to consider.

17 **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

There were no items of Administration Business to consider.

The meeting started at 11.15am and ended at 1.50pm