

Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting
Wednesday 21st May 2025
(Annual Meeting)**

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 13th May 2025

You are hereby summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 21st May 2025, at 11.05 am, or at the rising of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council (that starts at 11.00 am), whichever is the later, in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To elect the Mayor for the 2025/26 Municipal Year
- 3 Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor
- 4 To appoint the Deputy Mayor for 2025/26
- 5 To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 9th April 2025 be signed as a correct record (Pages 1 - 34)
- 6 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 7 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 8 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 9 Leader of the Council (Pages 35 - 38)

To note the appointment agreed by Council on 24th May 2023

- 10 Appointment of the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members and Allocation of Portfolios and Delegation of Executive Functions (Pages 39 - 42)

To receive a report detailing:

- a. The number of Councillors to be appointed to the Cabinet.
- b. Appointments made to the Cabinet.
- c. The appointment of the Deputy Leader.
- d. The allocation of responsibilities (Portfolios).
- e. The appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members).

Appendix to follow

- 11 Main Opposition Nominations to the Shadow Cabinet

Report to follow

- 12 Appointment to Committees and Composition of Political Groups (Pages 43 - 52)

To appoint to committees of the Council in accordance with the Local Government and

Housing Act 1989 and to give consideration to some committees that are not allocated strictly in accordance with proportionality under the Act.

Appendix to follow

13 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2025/26 (Pages 53 - 56)

To appoint Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies in 2025/26

Appendices to follow

14 Council Meetings and Municipal Calendar 2025/26 (Pages 57 - 68)

- a. To confirm the meetings of Full Council to be held on the undermentioned dates during 2025/26, commencing at 6.00pm, unless otherwise stated:

Wednesday, 16th July 2025

Wednesday, 17th September 2025

Wednesday, 12th November 2025

Wednesday, 10th December 2025

Wednesday, 4th March 2026 (Budget Meeting)

Wednesday, 18th March 2026

- b. To approve the calendar of Meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

15 Council Constitution (Pages 69 - 72)

To re-affirm the Constitution

16 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)


None received

17 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

None received.

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



**Shelley Kipling
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS **NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



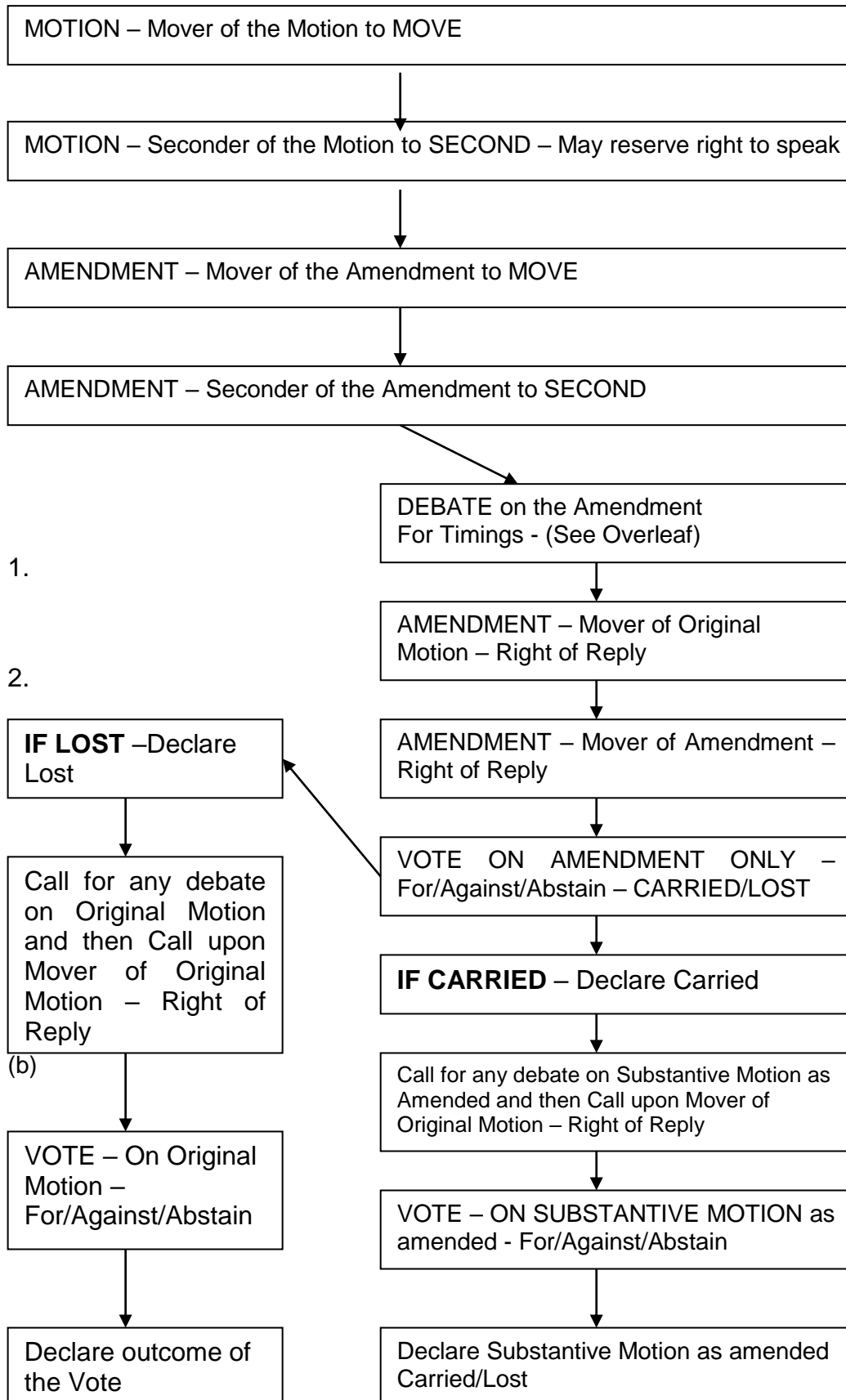
Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT



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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, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Kouser, Lancaster, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Nasheen, Navesey, Quigg, Rustidge, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Wilkinson and Woodvine.

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hurley, Mushtaq and Williamson.

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held 18th December 2024 (reconvened to 20th January 2025), 12th February 2025 (Extraordinary Meeting – Request for an inquiry into CSE), 12th February 2025 (Extraordinary Meeting – Places for Everyone), 6th March 2025 (appointment of Chief Executive and the designation of Section 151 Officer) and 6th March 2025 (Budget Meeting), be approved as correct records.

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

Councillor Ghafoor declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Motion 1 – Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and he left the room during the consideration of this Motion.

Councillor Chowhan declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 10 (Motion 1 – Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's) and he left the room during the consideration of this Motion.

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

The Mayor thanked members of the Council for their patience and understanding during his two-year term as Mayor of the Borough of Oldham.

The Mayor advised Council that Motion 2, at agenda item 11 (Expressing disappointment at government failure to compensate WASPI Women) would be moved by Councillor Marland, rather than by Councillor Bishop, as previously indicated on the meeting's agenda.

The Mayor indicated that he was minded to vary the order of the agenda, insofar as item 13 (Review of Political Balance on Committees) would be considered after agenda item 6 (Petitions). Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Ghafoor SECONDED this variation to the agenda and, on being put to the vote, it was CARRIED.

5 TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

Further to recently received correspondence from Jess Phillips MP, Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls (a copy of which was contained in the supplementary agenda), the Mayor allowed the Chief Executive to speak, updating members on issues relating to the CSE enquiry.

The Mayor allowed the Leader, Councillor Shah, to address members, further to the decision by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, to refuse the request from the Council to withdraw from Places for Everyone.

The Mayor reported that the timings for the Motions to be considered at item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business) be allocated as follows: Oldham Group's Motion – 10 minutes, Liberal Democrat's Motion - 10 minutes, Conservative's Motion – 5 minutes and the Independent Councillor's Motion – 5 minutes.

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

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

7 YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council PROPOSED the following MOTION:
Young People's Mental Health

Since 2012, young people have been telling the youth council that mental health is an issue that they face every day and that they need support now. Since this time we have only seen the need for mental health services increase, especially since the COVID pandemic, and although spending on Mental Health services has increased, it has not dented the need for support seen across Oldham and in the UK.

At the last election, Labour had several manifesto points to improve mental health support for children and young people and we would like to see these implemented as soon as possible.

Council recognises that over the past few years the Oldham Youth Council have made 'Mental Health' a priority issue, with it coming in the top 5 issues for Make Your Mark. The council also recognises that we have undertaken much work in this area to improve the experiences of Oldham's young people. This includes:

- Oldham Youth Council first commissioned Kooth.com, an online mental health counselling service, for Oldham's young people.
- 2013 motion to Council asking for an overview and scrutiny of mental health services.
- 2017 motion asking to ensure that adequate funding is made available to schools and colleges to allow them to invest in the early intervention mental health services.
- 2021 motion asking to secure mental health funding for Oldham.
- Our work with Oldham Theatre Workshop, highlighting mental health and how professionals can work with young people called Standard Day.
- Our work with Oldham Theatre Workshop, highlighting self-harm, called Boy in the Black.
- Our campaign called SNAP that promoted Kooth.com and the support they provide for depression, stress/anxiety and eating disorders.
- Our campaign 'I Love Me', raising young people's self-esteem and confidence.

Council notes:

- That mental health issues have risen, with a 12% increase in cases since pre COVID.
- That consultation undertaken by the Youth Council would suggest schools and teachers are still not able to fully support young people's mental health.
- That according to several official sources the average waiting time to get an appointment for Mental Health assessments in Oldham is 16-18 weeks.
- That consultation undertaken by the Youth Council would suggest that while the average wait time is 16-18 weeks some young people could wait for up to 6 months for an initial assessment and that the wait for treatment could be over a year after that appointment.
- In 2022/23, just under £1B was spent on Children and Young People's mental health compared to the £12.8B on all mental health services. This was despite the understanding that 50% of mental health illnesses in adults start showing symptoms by the age of 14, and 75% experience symptoms before they are 24.
- Labour's manifesto said that in the first term they would invest in front line services recruiting 8,500 new staff to reduce waiting times.
- That the manifesto also said that labour's new Young Futures Hubs would have open access to mental health support for children and young people in every community

Therefore, we propose that **Council resolves** to complete an overview and scrutiny study of Mental Health service's waiting times (including CAMHS) and ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of state for Health to request an increase to children and young people's mental health services spending without reduction in spending on adult mental health; to again ask the Government to ensure that adequate funding and resources are made available to schools and colleges to allow them to invest in the early intervention services; and for an update on their manifesto commitments.

Councillor Harrison spoke in support of the Motion
Councillor Bishop spoke in support of the Motion

RESOLVED

Council resolves to:

1. Complete an overview and scrutiny study of Mental Health service's waiting times (including CAMHS).
2. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Prime Minister and to the Secretary of State for Health to ask for an increase in children and young people's mental health services spending without any reduction in spending on adult mental health; to again ask the Government to ensure that adequate funding and resources are made available to schools and colleges to allow them to invest in the early intervention services; and for an update on their manifesto commitments.

8

REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Strategy and Performance that advised members that since the last ordinary meeting of the Council, on 18th December (adjourned until 20th January 2025), the Chief Executive had received notification that Councillors Adams, Arnott and Sheldon had resigned from the Conservative Group. Councillors Adams and Arnott were to henceforth sit as Independent Members, whilst Councillor Sheldon had joined the Oldham Group on 27th March, having sat as an Independent Member since his resignation from the Conservative Group in January 2025. In this regard, Councillor Ghafoor addressed Council, welcoming Councillor Sheldon into the Oldham Group.

Considering this, the Council reviewed the political composition of committees and considered the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the remainder of the 2024/25 municipal year. The effect, in terms of committee places was that the Conservatives would cede seats on the Planning Committee, Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board, Employment Committee and the Highway Regulation Committee to the four Independent Members (Councillors Adams, Arnott, Ball and Wilkinson) and their seat on the Commons Registration Committee to the Oldham Group. The Independent Members would cede their seat on the Audit Committee to the Oldham Group.

RESOLVED

1. That the revised composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 be noted.
2. The number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2024/25 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.5.

3. Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.
4. That nominations for one seat on each of the Planning Committee, Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board, Employment Committee and the Highway Regulation Committee be sought from the four Independent Members who are not aligned to a political group and nominations for seats on the Commons Registration Committee and the Audit Committee be sought from the Oldham Group.

9

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Christine Turner

There are exceptions to Permitted Development legislation that allow elected and unelected officials to support residents with negotiating telecom infrastructure, such as, planning dropped kerbs, building driveways, and householders' deeds, which restrict overhead infrastructure. Are officials aware they can support their constituents in these circumstances?

IXW's poor practices have recently endangered ENW engineers and the public by installing poles too close to electricity lines. Is Oldham Council willing to risk constituents' safety by allowing this company's reckless behaviour?

Can cabinet members confirm any changes to the Government's guidance for telecoms companies on best practices for installing new equipment?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes replied thanking Ms. Turner for her question, noting that the Council was aware of concerns raised about IX Wireless' infrastructure and how their contractors are installing it. However, unfortunately, there are no exceptions to permitted development legislation that allow the council as local planning authority to intervene, as you suggest.

In relation to highways permits, council officers have liaised with IX Wireless recently on the installation of their infrastructure by contractors and, for a time, withdrew all permits to IX Wireless whilst they provided comfort to us that they and their contractors would improve their procedures for installations. They have now done so, and we are granting highways permits, where appropriate, to IX Wireless again.

In terms of guidance from the Government for telecoms companies on best practice for such installation of new equipment, ultimately, we as a local planning and highways authority are governed by legislation and regulations, and none of the relevant planning and highways related legislation and regulations for communications infrastructure have recently changed.

2. Question from Mark Rowe

During the recent council meeting Councillor Shuttleworth raised an important point on housing development. The council lead did not have the information to hand but promised to supply councillors Shuttleworth with the information. How will the answer to that question be conveyed to the residents and voters of Oldham?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes replied, thanking Mr Rowe for his question. The council recently published its Annual Monitoring Report, which includes data on planning applications and housing permissions, such as that asked about by Cllr Shuttleworth.

Ordinarily questions we receive advance notice of are published on the Council's website after the Council meeting, however in this case there was an honest mistake made in the proceedings and even though Cllr Shuttleworth had given notice of his question. In relation to Cllr Shuttleworth's specific questions, he asked:

1. Within the last five years, how many housebuilding applications have been granted?

Over the past five years (2019-2024), a total of 420 applications (for 3,854 homes) have been granted.

2. In which districts have such applications been submitted and for how many properties?

Applications have been approved in all districts (the most in North – 1,251 homes, and the least in West – 410 homes).

3. How many approved developments have yet to see a spade in the ground?

73% of the homes granted permission have either been completed or are under construction, leaving only 27% of the homes granted permission on sites where we are yet to see "a spade in the ground".

3. Question from Nicola Brown

In February 2024 Councillor Sykes wrote to the CEO and Leader asking as only 13 councillors had valid DBS checks what actions they would take to ensure due diligence was carried out and by when it would be expected for all to have one. Twelve months on can the Leader confirm the number of Councillors who have valid DBS checks? If below 60, are steps being taken to address this, and when can we expect all 60 Councillors to have one? Should any Councillor fail the DBS check, will this information be shared and will they be removed from office?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability replied thanking Ms Brown for a really important question.

Council can't force members to complete a DBS check but we do encourage them to do so, it also means Council can't remove a member from Office should they 'fail' a DBS check.

What's clear is that there have been some issues recently regarding member DBS checks and as a result Officers are

currently working on a new member DBS Policy that will require all members to have a DBS check and all Cabinet and Committee members to have an enhanced DBS. This report will be finalised within the next few months and brought to cabinet seeking approval later in the year.

The new policy will mean that we are going above the recommendations of the Independent Review carried out by Simon Bailey to ensure we operate to the highest standards and the public can have confidence in political representatives.

We will engage the group leaders for their support and take the policy to Standards Committee to make a recommendation to Council. We will look at the practical ways that we can support Councillors to apply for a DBS check to make the process as smooth as possible.

4. Question from Shadab Qumer

I've seen publicity about Tommyfield Market traders moving soon to their new home in the Spindles. Could the Leader of the Council clarify when this is taking place and what range of market stalls will be trading from the new venue?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham replied, thanking Mr Qumer for his question. The Council is currently planning the move with market stallholders and a final moving date will be decided and confirmed once the specific fitouts of the individual stalls are all confirmed and agreed.

We expect the actual move to be in the summer and we will announce a formal opening date once this is jointly agreed with the stallholders.

I'm really pleased that to reconfirm as we did when we announced the Community Regeneration Fund, we'll be covering some of the moving costs and new equipment for traders, and the market will include over 50 businesses from the current Tommyfield Market, with others moving into larger units in Spindles and other areas of the Town Centre.

Our market traders are a really important part of our town centre and I'm pleased, on a personal level, about how we've managed to work closely with them over the last two years. I can't wait until the new market opens this summer and for our residents to get in there and support them to thrive as we begin this new chapter.

5. Question from Hannah Roberts

The Millgate Theatre in Delph is a community theatre offering live theatre, music and film run by and for local people based in a historic building in a Conservation Area. The Saddleworth Players will be 100 years old in 2027. What support can the Council give towards the Building for the Future fundraising campaign to preserve and extend the work at the Millgate including developing the Saddleworth Players youth group?

Councillor Dean, Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture replied, thanking Hannah for her question. The Council are currently in the process of transferring the freehold of the property to the Arts Centre to allow them to apply for external funding to complete the structural works to the building and preserve it for future generations.



6. Question from Kathryn Phillips

I am really dismayed that WH Smith has put up all of their high street shops for sale, including the one in the Spindles. This was announced just after it became public the Post Office is also under threat. What can the Council do to make sure there is an easily accessible Town Centre Post Office? Is it possible for a Crown Post Office to be reopened?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham replied thanking Kathryn Phillips for her question.

I was really disappointed to see that WH Smith had decided to close their Oldham shop, it's unfortunate that another big high street brand has taken the decision to step away from town centres. But we've already had inquiries about the future use of the space and I'm hopeful that we'll attract a retailer that Oldhamers want to shop at and conversations are ongoing. Turning to the matter of the town centre post office, the Post Office have been working towards appointing a new Post Master for the town centre since WHSmith announced their decision to close their store in Spindles. They are following their usual application process for the new opportunity, which we have been told by those who know slightly more about this that it can be a lengthy process.

Applicants are required to submit a business plan which includes details of the premises in which they operate or plan to operate. So, because the council is keen to retain the Post Office within the town centre we have worked via our appointed letting agents to help this process as much as we can.

We have received a number of enquiries from interested parties about details of available units in Spindles for a new post office, and our letting agents have agreed costs and lease terms with a number of potential franchisees.

It is now up to the Post Office to select their preferred Post Master. This is a confidential process with the Post Office and unfortunately, we can't provide an update until the Post Office confirms they have appointed a new operator.

7. Question from Lewis Farnworth

My question is about pip payments due to the cuts on PIP that those unable to work are you going to carry on taking pip contribution to care despite the National Labour party reducing PIP payments which will leave the most vulnerable in poverty?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults Health and Wellbeing replied thanking Mr Farnworth for his question. People in receipt of adult social care services are required to be means tested to determine eligibility for financial assistance with care costs.

Through the financial assessment process people are asked about their earnings, including pensions and benefits they are in receipt of to calculate their individual financial situation.

As a result of the recent announcements and changes to Personal Independence Payments it is likely that people in receipt of this benefit will need to be reassessed, as a result of their income changing. As per the legislation we're operating within we have a duty to continue to financially assess people and the income they are in receipt of, which is a consistent and fair approach.

Essentially, we need to remember, that this is a change that is being processed through a Green Paper, and as such opportunities for consultation will take place.

8. Question from Mark Rowe

During council debates the use of Jargon particularly by portfolio leads in my experience is prolific. Whilst councillors may well understand the jargon used the general public, including me, do not. Can the council explore ways of limiting the jargon used. There are a number of cost effective solutions to this issue. For example a crib sheet for attendees, or a jargon notes list on the You Tube channel.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham, replied thanking Mr Rowe for his question, noting that it raises an important point. Elected members are public representatives, and council officers are public servants. For both the key word there is "public", and we should all remember that the public should always come first. We should therefore always try to speak in plain English. We should always avoid jargon. Sometimes we may need to use technical language but when we do, we should always explain it. The Local Government Association has a glossary which sets out some of the commonly-used, but often not understood, terms in local government and I would recommend it to members of the public. It is available at lga.gov.uk/glossary. But, more importantly, I'll take this opportunity to remind my Cabinet colleagues and the officers present that we should always strive to speak in a way that the public understands.

10

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

In respect of this agenda item Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Lancaster SECONDED that Council Procedure Rule Part 4a, section 2.1.3 be suspended to permit Councillor Woodvine to ask a question to the Leader of the Council, if time runs out on this item. On being put to the vote, the Motion was LOST.

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



a. Councillor Shah, Leader and Building a Better Oldham Portfolio – including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 2nd December 2024, 16th December 2024, 20th January 2025 and 3rd March 2025, Urgent Decisions taken during 2024/25, the Minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 29th November 2024, 13th December 2024, 31st January 2025 and 7th February 2025 and the minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held 7th February 2025.

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Question 1: Labour's Austerity Politics

Thank you, Mr Mayor. The new Labour Government has been in office for nearly a year now. Let's have a look at their record so far.

Labour started by refusing to lift the two-child cap on universal credit. A measure that would have taken more than 11,000 children in our Borough out of poverty.

Next, they plunged 85% of pensioners in our Borough into uncertainty by announcing cuts to winter fuel payments, including nearly 8,000 pensioners who are over the age of 80. Then came the hike in National Insurance tax for employers. One of the side effects has caused the cost of social care services to rocket in our Borough. And put a real squeeze on small businesses. We also have the scandalous cuts to Personal Independence Payment (PIP) – which is a lifeline for so many people across our Borough. It's there for a reason, to support people who can't work because they have health conditions that aren't going to get better, like Parkinson's and MS!

Labour nationally have also abandoned their support for WASPI Women.

My question for the Leader is a simple one. Nearly a year into this Labour Government. Almost a year of Austerity with a red rosette... is this what she thinks people voted for?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that the government had only been in office, so far, for nine months and had inherited a very bad situation from the outgoing Conservative government. The country's economic outlook was much more serious than first anticipated. Councillor Shah added that the current administration was committed to providing proper levels of support for the residents of the Borough of Oldham.

Question 2: Getting the Basics Right

Thank you, Mr Mayor,

The most common issues that fill our inboxes are to do with potholes, overgrown footpaths, blocked drains or the state of our local parks and green spaces.

These are the basics. And if my inbox is anything to go off...

Oldham Council is dreadful at getting the basics right.

In July 2023, Oldham Labour voted down a Liberal Democrat Motion which aimed to improve basic frontline services through cross party working.

In fact, for many years now, Oldham Labour have consistently voted against plans put forward by the Liberal Democrats to invest more in roads, footpaths, parks and green spaces.

Worse still... Labour have cut environmental services staff which will mean the basics will get worse not better across the Borough.

That's certainly true when it comes to the state of the gullies and pavements.

For months now, the council's fleet of six small sweepers has been consistently breaking down and, on some days, there has been no functioning sweeper at all. I understand there might be some light on the horizon but why have we waited for our fleet to be clapped out and broke before we start to replace it?

Meanwhile, littering and dog-fouling offences continue unabated, with the Council failing to issue Fixed Penalty Notices with any meaningful consistency or to come up with stronger solutions to tackle the issue.

Oldham Borough is deemed to be one of the fly-tipping hot-spots of the North-West.

Does the Leader accept that this Council is failing to get the basics right?

And does she agree with me that a real way to show Leadership would be to make these basic services the subject of a Scrutiny Review this summer so that councillors of all parties and none can get involved and drive improvements together for the benefit of the citizens we all serve?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that the responsibility for the reduced levels of service, referred to in the question, rests with the former Conservative government, that consistently reduced local government funding during the years that they were in power from 2010 until their defeat at the 2024 General Election.

- b. Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes

Councillor Taylor presented her report.

Councillor Woodvine referred to the reply from the Secretary of State Housing, Communities and Local Government, which rejected Oldham Council's request to withdraw from the Places for Everyone scheme, further to the joint letter of the Leader and Chief Executive, which had sought withdrawal from the scheme, following the extraordinary Council meeting held on 6th March. Councillor Woodvine suggested that the joint letter did not fully represent the wishes of the Council that had voted to withdraw from Places for Everyone.

Councillor Taylor replied, rejecting Councillor Woodvine's comments, adding that the Council had sought independent legal advice which had found that there was no justification for the Borough of Oldham withdrawing from Places for Everyone.

Question from Councillor Akhtar, which welcomed the recent announcement from the Cabinet Member regarding £3 million investment to tackle the Borough's housing crisis, seeking confirmation that a previous commitment to establish a cross-party working group to look at this still applied.

Councillor Taylor undertook to provide a written answer to Councillor Akhtar.

Question from Councillor Arnott – the old Oddies Bar in Royton was, he believed being converted into a hotel as was another former bar/public house in Royton, close by. Councillor Arnott asked, if there were any plans to use either, or both, of these premises, to house asylum seekers?

Councillor Taylor replied that she would meet with Councillor Arnott, in the near future, to discuss this matter with him.

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani - the Housing Act 2004 clarifies the definition of a house in multiple occupation (HMO), replacing the definition under the Housing Act 1985. The definition of an HMO is found in Part 7 of the 2004 Act. There are three tests that can be carried out to see if a building is an HMO: the standard test for HMOs; the self-contained flat test; and the converted building test.

How many buildings has Oldham Council defined as an HMO, by year, excluding those which are defined as such by licensing or by planning, since 2020?

Councillor Taylor undertook to provide Councillor Al-Hamdani with a written answer to his question.

Question from Councillor Nasheen - The Labour Government removed the need for Secretary of State approval of wider Selective Licensing schemes last December. What plans does the Council have to use this new freedom to improve private sector standards across the borough?

Councillor Taylor replied that having secured additional funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Oldham Council is looking to expand the selective licensing scheme in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Mayor.

In order to ensure guidance is followed and the scheme is correctly applied, a research exercise has been commissioned to determine the extent of the areas that will fall within a selective licensing scheme.

We anticipate that this exercise will be completed later this year and in accordance with the guidance, the scheme will come into effect in early 2026.

In the meantime, the private sector housing team continues to respond to a range of issues raised by tenants in Oldham and uses a range of legal powers to ensure compliance and property standards.

c. Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability

Councillor Jabbar presented his report

Question from Councillor Quigg - Oldham Councillors voted to sell shares in the Greater Manchester Councils Pension fund because they invest in British defence, fuel and mining companies that may sell goods to and in Israel.

Companies like BAE systems help keep Britain's Armed Forces equipped. They help keep the Royal Navy afloat, Trident Nuclear submarines deployed and the RAF in the sky. At this time of global threats should this Council not be proudly investing in British defence companies?

Can the Cabinet member responsible clarify:

1. What discussions were held before the vote or after the vote to sell holdings in perfectly legal British companies, and whether a valuation has been carried out on the sale of existing shareholdings and the value such as sale would have on staff pensions and what the cost would be to sell this many shares in fees, commission and tax due to the sale of existing holdings?
2. Given it concerns staff pensions can they confirm what legal advice was provided and why no impact report was provided to advise members on the implications of such a decision?
3. Will the Council be demanding that Oldham erase its proud history with BAE systems who once provided hundreds of skilled jobs, and does Oldham Council not want Boeing and Honeywell, Shell, BP and Glencore to bring jobs and investment to Oldham all to appease those who hate Britain?

Councillor Jabbar replied stating that he believed that Cllr Quigg had fundamentally misunderstood what the motion passed at Council called for.

The motion in question asked that GMPF outline a divestment plan from fossil fuels and arms to ensure that members pensions are aligned with Oldham's and GMCAs climate goals. In short:

1. No such discussions were held as the motion did not mandate the sale of shares in any companies. It requested that GMPF begin a process of divestment. The Pension Fund can choose not to do so.
2. Impact reports are not usually provided on motions to Council, unless they specifically ask for it.
3. No of course not, this is performative nonsense once again from Cllr Quigg. To suggest that wanting ethical investments is paramount to hating Britain is shameful.

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani - recent years, the Council has been using local small businesses to pay out Household Support Vouchers, who then claim the money back from the Council.

I have been approached by a number of businesses who have found the very small payments available for managing the scheme not worth the amount of time it takes. They are faced by hostile claimants, and they have to keep cash on site which makes them vulnerable, and they have to wait to get the money back once they have paid it out.

I have also been told – but not yet had verified – that there have been some businesses who have been charging claimants an administration fee for processing the claim.

Will the Cabinet Member consider finding an alternative way to manage providing this money to residents?

Councillor Jabbar replied, thank you for sharing the feedback from the businesses you have spoken to. We were advised by our supplier that the outlets were provided 1½ weeks' notice to prepare for issuing the cash. The method of payment was identified for residents to access the monies locally. We hope that the additional footfall to the outlets supported local businesses.

For any potential future schemes, we will assess whether additional measures are required, such as improving communication with residents and considering alternative payment methods to support a cash first approach wherever possible.

d. Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

In the absence of Councillor Mushtaq the report was moved by Councillor Mohon Ali, with a request that any specific questions arising from the report be submitted in writing to Councillor Mushtaq.

e. Councillor Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Councillor Mohon Ali presented his report.

Question from Councillor Bishop - Schools will be receiving only a 0.7% rise in funding. This is below inflation and will nowhere near cover the rising costs. Many local councils are in a deficit in terms of high needs funding and Oldham council has just gone into this category. Thanks to inaction by government, SEND funding continues to be a ticking time bomb and with spending reviews like this so will school funding overall.

Will the cabinet member be lobbying his colleagues in government to fund schools properly and to address the SEND funding crisis?

Councillor Mohon Ali replied that there was significant financial pressure on schools generally and specifically in relation to services for children with SEND. As stated in my council motion, I welcome the steps being taken by this Labour Government to finally review and reform the SEND system in England. Additionally, however, I can assure the Cllr that I, along with all my fellow cabinet members, will continue to ask government, as part of its comprehensive spending review, to address the deficit in High Needs Spending by Local Authorities and put spending to support children with SEND on a sustainable footing.

Question from Councillor Iqbal – I think Oldham Virtual School supports the education of children looked after, as well as the initiatives in the report can the Cabinet Member outline what else this service delivers?

Councillor Mohon Ali replied that Oldham Virtual School supports the education of children looked after and has recently extended its duties for children previously looked after and those in kinship care. Education is monitored through Personal Education Plans and there is an extensive programme of Raising Aspirations. Examples include courses in skills like cookery and university visits. More details are available in the Virtual School Annual Report which was presented to the Corporate Parenting Panel in January 2025.

Question from Councillor Davis - It is great to see that the NEET figures are dropping thanks to targeted intervention. Is this something that will continue to be a priority for the council or are we at risk of this figure creeping back up?

Councillor Mohon Ali replied that The Council is focussed on supporting young people to progress into education, employment and training. For instance, we have recently worked hard to attract both the YMCA and North Lancs Training back into Oldham. This means we now have more training opportunities available for our young people. We continue to work hard with our commissioned partners, Positive Steps, to support all our young people into employment and training opportunities. Our ambition is to build upon this positive trend with the development of the Government's Get Britain Working Youth Guarantee when it is rolled out.

f. Councillor Fida Hussain, Cabinet Member for Enterprise

Councillor Fida Hussain presented his report

Question from Councillor Quigg - : Can the relevant Cabinet member please confirm: - If background checks (including criminal record checks for fraud and criminality) are completed on those who use the HIVE in the Spindles?

- If any elected members have any conflict of interest with any business that uses the HIVE in the Spindles?
- If the Council is permitting use of the HIVE in the Spindles to be used as a registered business address?

Councillor Fida Hussain replied that the Hive co-working space is managed by Upturn Enterprise and is open to any business to join as a member, with access levels of daily, weekly and monthly membership. Oldham Council is not involved in assigning co-working space.

We're proud to work in partnership with Upturn who have an amazing track record in supporting Oldham businesses.

We're sure that Upturn would be more than happy to show councillors around The Hive and demonstrate how valuable the space is to Oldham's business community.

Question from Councillor Kenyon - as the UK copes with the impact of Trump's 10% tariffs on exports to the US, does the Cabinet Member have any idea how many Oldham and Greater Manchester businesses and jobs are reliant in on trading with the US?

What is the council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority doing to help them? What is the council's assessment of President's Trump's actions?

Councillor Fida Hussain – that the recent announcements from the United States are a concern for the UK and we are working with our partners across Greater Manchester to assess and understand potential impacts on our businesses.

We are mindful that with the tariffs in the UK being lower than those imposed on other areas including the EU at 20% and many Asian countries also being much higher, there may also be new opportunities for UK businesses to compete including local businesses, and we are keen to ensure our business community are prepared to seize any opportunities that might emerge.

We are echoing the advice of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, by asking that our local companies proactively assess how they will be impacted across supply chains, understanding rules of origin and putting in place a duty management plan.

Business can contact us via invest@oldham.gov.uk and we can connect them with specific support at this time.

Question from Councillor Sajed Hussain - I'm delighted to see in the report that good, skilled jobs are coming to Oldham with the opening of a facility in Fitton Hill by Cygnet Health Care. Are there other opportunities that the council is pursuing to ensure that more good jobs come into the borough?

Councillor Fida Hussain replied that the investment by Cygnet Health Care and their collaboration with the Get Oldham Working team has meant that Oldham residents secured 61% of the jobs created.

As a Council we are committed to creating jobs through our Creating a Better Place strategy and through the development of new areas for businesses, such as Atom Valley.

Question from Councillor Woodvine – has the Council undertaken equality impact assessments, in respect of recently introduced government policies designed to facilitate economic growth, to help to safeguard local businesses?

Councillor Fida Hussain replied that, whilst he was aware that the number of businesses operating in Oldham had recently increased by around 15%, he would present Councillor Woodvine with a detailed written answer to his question.

g. Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing

Councillor Brownridge presented her report.

Question from Councillor Harrison, the report highlights the ongoing consultation on the NHS plan – what examples of good practice from Oldham can be included to help improve the NHS more widely?

Councillor Brownridge replied that she was pleased to be able to say that Oldham is already well ahead of the Government on this agenda.

Our integrated care partnership is the style of model the 10 Year Plan is likely to advocate.

This is enabling us to work collaboratively to shift activity out of hospitals and closer to communities.

Our Community Diagnostic Centre is one example of this. With the Council working to unlock planning, the NHS committing to Capital development we now have one of the most envied CDCs in the region which means people are now accessing diagnosis tests for things like cancer much faster and closer to where they live.

Question from Councillor Harkness – I have been contacted by a long-standing community campaigner and former parish councillor in Saddleworth around the topic of loneliness.

He has produced a document with significant amount of work in this area and has asked questions of the council, such as how can lonely individuals readily gain information about organisations that help the lonely – especially with access to digital services?

Are hard copies of helpful information available? Or PDF versions that could be shared?

Through the Health & Wellbeing Board, would the council consider conducting an assessment into existing schemes and services targeting loneliness and isolation across the borough? Identifying any examples of ‘good practice’ and establish a plan of promoting and enabling these to work.

Councillor Brownridge replied that there are a wide range of social activities available in communities locally. Action Together, our local infrastructure organisation for the voluntary and community sector, have a searchable database of community activities on their website. There are also a range of activities hosted in local libraries and leisure centres, information is available in those centres and on their respective websites.

The Council commissions a Social Prescribing service which is available to residents experiencing social isolation or loneliness. Leaflets are available (and can be shared) providing residents with the details of how to access the service directly, or via a referral from their GP, social worker or other professional. The service works with approximately 3,000 residents per year, supporting them to build confidence and access activities and support in their communities.

We will take the item to a future health and wellbeing board for further partnership discussion and will seek to include representation from the ICB who lead on the Living Well Approach - which seeks to help people achieve good mental health in community settings.

h. Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham

Councillor Goodwin presented his report

Question from Councillor Lancaster which sought clarification on signage on highways relating to the Clean Air Zone – a proposed scheme that was finally dropped in January 2025. Councillor Jabbar replied to this question, adding that plans were afoot to remove the signage referred to by Councillor Lancaster to be removed.

Question from Councillor McLaren - Can you give an update on the council's road maintenance programme as I saw in the paper that if we don't demonstrate that we are fixing potholes we might lose some funding?

Councillor Goodwin replied that the approved 2024/25 capital highways programme was completed according to schedule and we are currently putting together the overall capital infrastructure highways programme for 2025/26. This will include the carriageways programme and details will be shared/approval sought in the coming weeks.

The Council has a team of specialist Highways safety inspectors who constantly carry out inspections across all 800km of the highways network according to planned and risk assessed routes based on national standards. Among other issues, potholes are identified and repaired according to timescales determined by individual risk assessments. Members' and residents' queries are investigated and actioned in parallel.

As to the government's recently announced initiative, the reporting required is likely to be much more than simply pothole data – we have provided significant information to central government for many years – as a result of this reporting, Oldham Council has received its full share of capital funding.

As a result, and although the reporting requirements are changing, details of which are awaited, we do not expect to lose out on additional financial support as we are meeting the existing criteria.

Question from Councillor Akhtar which sought clarification as to whether Ward Councillors will be consulted on the borough-wide gulley cleaning initiative?

Councillor Goodwin replied that he had spoken to the Officers responsible for delivering the gulley cleaning scheme and Ward Councillors would be consulted thereon.

Question from Councillor Shuttleworth - following the change in October as to which items can now be placed in the brown recycling waste bin, has there been any significant increase in items sent for recycling and a reduction to that which goes to landfill?

Councillor Goodwin replied that the Council recognises the need to improve recycling and help local communities to recycle more by recycling the right objects in the right bins.

The recent changes mean that residents can now recycle plastic pots, tubs and trays – previously, these had to be returned to the store for recycling, and this meant that they were being added to the general waste collections, or they were being thrown in the recycle bin which was contaminating the load.

The new changes mean that less waste is being landfilled or incinerated and it is much easier for residents to know which items can go in which bin. Many of the additional items being recycled are lightweight items, and given the existing volume that re recycle, the overall tonnage of recycling hasn't increased significantly.

We will continue to work with partners across the region to support greater recycling and will response to changes in policy and practices to support our residents.

i. Councillor Dean, Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture

Councillor Dean presented his report.

Question from Councillor Cosgrove - after Operation Vulcan launched in March, residents have come to me with lots of positive feedback about the action they have seen taking place. Can you give an update on the results that have been achieved and what the long-term plan is for Derker when GMP end the operation?

Councillor Dean replied that he was pleased to hear the positive resident feedback. I can report in the first month of Vulcan Derker, there has been:

- A stakeholder launch with over 100 delegates giving commitments to the project.
- A community launch held in the heart of Derker at Mayfield Primary School involving a presentation on the project, with questions and answers from the residents of Derker.
- 3 days of action with partners
- 5 warrants executed
- 29 stop searches
- 25 arrests
- 2 safeguarding referrals
- £11,000 cash seized
- £50,000 worth of class A and class B drugs seized
- 7 weapons seized
- 21 vehicles, including e-bikes seized

Vulcan has a three-strand approach – clear, hold and build. The project is currently in the clear stage with planning starting for the hold and build stages. The Neighbourhood Policing Team will have a continued presence in the area with proactive partnership working continuing when the Vulcan Team move to another location.

Question from Councillor Arnott who asked if the Cabinet member will join him in congratulating Oldham Rugby League Football Club on reaching the semi-final of the Challenge Cup, meaning they are just one game away from an appearance in the final at Wembley.

Councillor Dean replied congratulating Oldham Rugby League Football Club on their success and wished them the best of luck for their upcoming semi-final.

Question from Councillor Byrne noting the activities being undertaken by community and voluntary organisations across the Borough and asked if the Cabinet Member would support their work.

Councillor Dean replied stating that he was happy to fully endorse and support the work and activities being undertaken by community and voluntary organisations across the Borough.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Leader and Portfolio Holder reports be noted.
2. That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 2nd December 2024, 16th December 2024, 20th January 2025 and 3rd March 2025; Urgent Decisions taken during 2024/25; the Minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 29th November 2024, 13th December 2024, 31st January 2025 and 7th February 2025; and the minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held 7th February 2025, be noted.

11

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's)

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Davis SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes with concern the increasing number of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Oldham and the impact this has on local communities, housing standards, and infrastructure. While HMOs can provide an important source of affordable accommodation, their proliferation in certain areas has led to issues including overcrowding, pressure on local services, and a decline in housing quality. In the past 5 years the number of licensed HMOs in Oldham has almost doubled.

This Council further notes that current national planning regulations allow certain HMOs (Class C4, up to six residents) to be established without the need for planning permission. This limits the ability of local authorities to manage their spread and ensure they are appropriately located and regulated.

This Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Chancellor of an additional £2 billion for social and affordable housing. This funding provides an opportunity to address the shortage of genuinely affordable homes and to ensure that people in Oldham have access to safe, secure, and high-quality housing.

This Council calls on the new Labour Government to reverse the changes introduced by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government in 2010 which removed the requirement for planning permission for small houses of multiple occupation.

This council further requests that the Chief Executive writes to the borough's 3 MPs and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, asking for their support in reversing the aforementioned changes.

AMENDMENT 1

Councillor Sharp MOVED and Councillor Quigg SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

This Council will immediately implement a Borough wide Article 4 Direction which would require planning permission for a change of use.

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Ali Zaheer	ABSENT	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Azad Montaz Ali	AGAINST	Kouser Aisha	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	FOR	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	ABSENT
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	FOR	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	APOLOGIES

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

On a recorded VOTE being taken 17 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of AMENDMENT 1 with 36 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. AMENDMENT 1 was therefore LOST.

AMENDMENT 2

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

This Council notes with concern the increasing number of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in Oldham and the impact this has on local communities, housing standards, and infrastructure. While HMOs can provide an important source of affordable accommodation, their proliferation in certain areas has led to issues including overcrowding, pressure on local services, and a decline in housing quality. In the past 5 years the number of licensed HMOs in Oldham has almost doubled.

This Council also notes that:

- On 1 November 2023, it resolved to direct officers to “collect and collate evidence on the number of HMOs in each ward across the Borough, identifying clusters and report back to the relevant cabinet member if any case can be made for an Article 4 direction”.
- Current national planning regulations allow certain HMOs (Class C4, up to six residents) to be established without the need for planning permission. This limits the ability of local authorities to manage their spread and ensure they are appropriately located and regulated.

- No figures are currently available on the number of HMOs in the

borough – only for the number of licenced HMOs (which meet one definition) or for HMOs which have received planning permission (which meet a separate definition).

- There are standard tests which allow the Council to define whether any building is an HMO, as defined under the Housing Act 2004.
- Councillors have been told that they cannot be informed of forthcoming HMOs for licensing, due to data privacy.
- Councillors have no right to make a representation to the Council on HMO licence applications and renewals.
- The Council has let licenses for HMOs lapse on multiple occasions, sometimes for up to a year.

This Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Chancellor of an additional £2 billion for social and affordable housing. This funding provides an opportunity to address the shortage of genuinely affordable homes and to ensure that people in Oldham have access to safe, secure, and high-quality housing.

This Council calls on the new Labour Government to reverse the changes introduced by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government in 2010 which removed the requirement for planning permission for small houses of multiple occupation.

This council further requests that the Chief Executive writes to the borough's 3 MPs and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, asking for their support in reversing the aforementioned changes.

This Council calls on the Cabinet Member responsible to provide a report back to Council at the soonest opportunity on the work that has been carried out to establish whether a case can be made for an Article 4 direction; to continue efforts to establish that case, and to report back on a regular basis.

This Council will wherever possible ensure that any building being used as an HMO is defined as such, with a view to ensuring that any work towards an Article 4 direction is provided with the best available information.

This Council will provide information on forthcoming HMO applications, with any personal information removed.

The Council will establish a right for Councillors to make representations to the Council on HMO licence applications and renewals.

A vote was taken on AMENDMENT 2 which was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

1. This Council welcomes the recent announcement by the Chancellor of an additional £2 billion for social and affordable housing. This funding provides an opportunity to address the shortage of genuinely affordable homes and to ensure that people in Oldham have access to safe, secure and high-quality housing.
2. This Council calls on the new Labour Government to reverse the changes introduced by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government in 2010 which removed the requirement for planning permission for small houses of multiple occupation.
3. This council further requests that the Chief Executive writes to the borough's 3 MPs and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, asking for their support in reversing the aforementioned changes.
4. This Council calls on the Cabinet Member responsible to provide a report back to Council at the soonest opportunity on the work that has been carried out to establish whether a case can be made for an Article 4 direction; to continue efforts to establish that case, and to report back on a regular basis.
5. This Council will wherever possible ensure that any building being used as an HMO is defined as such, with a view to ensuring that any work towards an Article 4 direction is provided with the best available information.
6. This Council will provide information on forthcoming HMO applications, with any personal information removed.
7. The Council will establish a right for Councillors to make representations to the Council on HMO licence applications and renewals.

Motion 2: Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND)

Councillor Mohon Ali MOVED and Councillor Nasheen SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes that In Oldham, as of January 2024, there were **8,694 pupils identified with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)**. This represents **18.8% of the school-age population** in the area. Among these, **6.0% have an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)**, while **12.9% receive SEN support**.

The positive improvements to services for children and young people with SEND in Oldham continue at pace, led by the SEND Local Inclusion Partnership Executive Board chaired by Dame Christine Lenahan. This new governance structure has improved strategic planning and focused on: improved access to health services; better quality and more timely Education, Health and Care Plans and Annual Reviews; smooth transitions between early years, children's and adult services. This has been achieved by focusing on co-production with parents,

carers, and young people. Our aim is to ensure children with SEND are safe, healthy, happy, and able to achieve their potential



The Department for Education has confirmed Oldham has made good progress.

There is significant pressure on the services for children with SEND in Oldham and across England, and this Council welcomes the steps being taken by the Labour Government to reform the system put in place in the 2014 Children and Families Act.

This Council further notes the launch of '*Inclusion in practice*' evidence-gathering project to help shape a reformed SEND system that delivers better experiences and outcomes for all children focused on identifying and sharing practical, scalable solutions for inclusion in mainstream schools.

This Council welcomes the commitment to produce a White Paper to overhaul the SEND system with the aims of ensuring: support is put in place far more quickly for children who need additional support; much earlier identification of need; much more timely intervention and support.

This Council resolves to:

- Encourage Oldham Schools to submit examples of good practice to '*Inclusion in practice*'
- Support the LGA's call for urgent action in the Spending Review to address the deficit in High Needs Spending by Local Authorities and put spending to support children with SEND on a sustainable footing.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

The Council resolves to:

1. Encourage Oldham Schools to submit examples of good practice to '*Inclusion in practice*'
2. Support the LGA's call for urgent action in the Spending Review to address the deficit in High Needs Spending by Local Authorities and put spending to support children with SEND on a sustainable footing.

12

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Tackling Fly-Tipping and Exploring Free Bulky Waste Collection to Reduce Costs

Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid SECONDED the following Motion:

Council Notes:

1. Fly-tipping is a persistent and worsening issue in Oldham, causing environmental damage, attracting anti-social behaviour, and placing a significant financial burden on the Council.

2. In the last year alone, Oldham Council responded to **5,672 fly-tipping incidents**, costing over **£600,000** in cleanup and enforcement efforts.
3. **Over 69% of fly-tipping in Oldham occurs in back alleyways (53%) and on highways (16%)**, with a significant proportion of this waste consisting of bulky household items such as sofas, mattresses, and white goods.
4. Currently, residents must pay **£23 to dispose of up to three bulky waste items**, plus **£7 per additional item** and **£10 per fridge/freezer**. This financial barrier discourages responsible disposal and contributes to illegal dumping.

Council Believes:

1. The cost of clearing fly-tipped waste often **far exceeds** the revenue generated from bulky waste collection charges.
2. Reintroducing a **free three-item bulky waste collection service** could significantly reduce the number of items being illegally dumped in alleyways and on highways.
3. If, for example, **10,000 households** accessed the free service annually, the lost revenue would be **£230,000 per year**. However, if this measure led to a substantial reduction in fly-tipping, it could generate net savings by reducing cleanup and enforcement costs.

Council Resolves to:

1. Commission an urgent cost-benefit analysis comparing the potential savings from reduced fly-tipping against the costs of reintroducing a **free three-item bulky waste collection service** for residents.
2. Explore external funding opportunities or efficiency measures within waste management services to support this initiative.
3. Request that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services reports back to full Council within **three months** on the financial implications and potential impact of this policy change. By taking a proactive approach, this Council can tackle the root causes of fly-tipping, keep our alleyways and highways clean, and ensure taxpayers' money is spent more effectively.

On being put to the Vote the Motion was LOST.

Motion 2: Expressing disappointment at government failure to compensate the WASPI Women

Councillor Marland MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following Motion:

The 1995 and 2011 Pension Acts saw the State Pension age for women rise from 60 to 66 but the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) consistently failed to adequately communicate these changes. As a result, tens of thousands of women were plunged into poverty. One-in-four affected women struggled to buy food and one third fell into debt. This was an avoidable scandal.

A landmark Ombudsman report in March 2024 told the Government to pay compensation and apologise to 3.6 million,

women born in the 1950's who were affected by the lack of communication in relation to their State Pension age. The report concluded ministers failed to properly notify those impacted by the changes. However, the DWP – under the new Labour Government - has indicated it does not accept the findings of the report.



Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) calls for fair and fast compensation for the financial and emotional hardship caused by DWP failures. WASPI argues for the highest level of compensation for the worst affected, i.e., women who had the shortest notice of the longest increase to their state pension. The worst affected women received just 18 months' notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. WASPI continues to call for: *All Members of Parliament to support the urgent delivery of fair and fast compensation to all those affected; and compensation scheme proposals should be brought before MPs to vote on as quickly as possible.*

This Council notes that more than 11,600 WASPI women across Oldham Borough stand to lose out on compensation after the Labour Government decided to ignore the independent ombudsman's assessment and go against their long-held policy to support WASPI women. It is estimated that the compensation owed to impacted women across Oldham Borough would be a minimum of £11,642,500.

This Council notes that previous Labour Leaders of this Council have referred to the situation facing WASPI women as "an injustice" and as recently as March 2023, Oldham Labour were still campaigning to put that injustice right.

This Council reasserts its support for the WASPI women and regrets the decision of the Labour government to ignore an independent ombudsman's assessment that compensation should be paid to them.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Liz Kendall MP asking her to look again at this decision.

Council further resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the three MPs who represent Oldham Borough as well as the Greater Manchester Mayor Andy Burnham, calling on them to publicly support justice for WASPI women.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Harrison MOVED and Councillor Nasheen SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

The 1995 and 2011 Pension Acts saw the State Pension age for women rise from 60 to 66, the 2011 Act being supported by the Coalition Government and steered through Parliament by the Pensions Minister, Liberal Democrat MP, Stephen Webb.

Unfortunately, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) consistently failed to adequately communicate these changes from 2011 despite the Act bringing forward to November 2018 an increased pensions age for women to 65. As a result, tens of thousands of women were plunged into poverty. A recent survey by the WASPI Campaign of its members found that one-in-four affected women struggled to buy food and one third fell into debt. This was an avoidable scandal.

A landmark Ombudsman report in March 2024 told the Government to pay compensation and apologise to 3.6 million, women born in the 1950s who were affected by the lack of communication in relation to their State Pension age. The report concluded ministers from the Coalition and Conservative Governments failed to properly notify those impacted by the changes.

However, the DWP – under the new Labour Government - has indicated it does not accept the findings of the report. Compensation to up to 3.5m women ranging from £1,000 to £2,950 each would cost between £3.5bn and £10.5bn. A 2006 survey found that 90% of affected women knew about the planned changes in pension age.

Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) calls for fair and fast compensation for the financial and emotional hardship caused by DWP failures. WASPI argues for the highest level of compensation for the worst affected, i.e., women who had the shortest notice of the longest increase to their state pension. The worst affected women received just 18 months' notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. WASPI continues to call for: All Members of Parliament to support the urgent delivery of fair and fast compensation to all those affected; and compensation scheme proposals should be brought before MPs to vote on as quickly as possible. However, the Ombudsman's report only addressed the issue of communicating the planned changes and did not recommend compensation for the change itself.

This Council notes that more than 11,600 WASPI women across Oldham Borough stand to lose out on compensation after the Labour Government decided to ignore the independent ombudsman's assessment and go against their long-held policy to support WASPI women. It is estimated that the compensation owed to impacted women across Oldham Borough would be a minimum of £11,642,500.

This Council notes that previous Labour Leaders of this Council have referred to the situation facing WASPI women as “an injustice” and as recently as March 2023, Oldham Labour were still campaigning to put that injustice right.

This Council also notes that despite the parlous state of the public finances and scorched earth policy pursued by the previous Conservative Government, the current Labour Government has committed to the ‘triple’ lock on the state

pension which means the state pensions is rising by £470 a year in April 2025.



This Council reasserts its support for the WASPI women and regrets the previous Conservative Government's delay in responding to the Ombudsman's report leaving the incoming Labour government to decide whether the independent ombudsman's assessment that compensation should be paid to them.

Council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions Right Hon Liz Kendall MP asking her to look again at this decision.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

1. This Council notes that more than 11,600 WASPI women across Oldham Borough stand to lose out on compensation after the Labour Government decided to ignore the independent ombudsman's assessment and go against their long-held policy to support WASPI women. It is estimated that the compensation owed to impacted women across Oldham Borough would be a minimum of £11,642,500.
2. This Council notes that previous Labour Leaders of this Council have referred to the situation facing WASPI women as "an injustice" and as recently as March 2023, Oldham Labour were still campaigning to put that injustice right.
3. This Council also notes that despite the parlous state of the public finances and scorched earth policy pursued by the previous Conservative Government, the current Labour Government has committed to the 'triple' lock on the state pension which means the state pensions is rising by £470 a year in April 2025.
4. This Council reasserts its support for the WASPI women and regrets the previous Conservative Government's delay in responding to the Ombudsman's report leaving the incoming Labour government to decide whether the independent ombudsman's assessment that compensation should be paid to them.
5. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Right Honourable Liz Kendall MP, asking her to look again at this decision.

Motion 3: Local Government Review

Councillor Lancaster MOVED and Councillor Woodvine SECONDED the following Motion:

Local Government in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham needs to be more democratic, more accountable, and more local.

The cabinet system was imposed on all but the smallest districts under the Local Government Act 2000. The Localism Act 2011 allowed councils to opt for the committee system and created a route for communities to call a referendum on governance arrangements.

Sheffield City Council, Sutton London Borough Council, Kingston-upon-Thames Royal Borough Council, Reading Borough Council, Basildon Borough Council, and Worcester City Council have done this.

We believe that Councillors need to work together and have better decision-making powers.

Therefore, the Conservative Group on Oldham Council request that this Council resolves to:

1. End the cabinet or strong leader model on the Council and revert to a committee system where all councillors, from all parties, will be represented on the council, and will have to take responsibility for key decision-making.
2. The Council immediately begins the appropriate processes needed to implement a committee system on Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Sharp SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

1. Formally write to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England inviting them to carry out a review of:
 - a. The number of councillors needed at Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, but with a specific focus of reducing members.
 - b. Formally request that they look at reducing the number of Councillors by 20. This will save £220,000 per annum.
 - c. The warding arrangements in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council with any change or reduction in Councillors to better reflect their makeup as well as reviewing the electoral cycle.

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST

Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Ali Zaheer	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Azad Montaz Ali	AGAINST	Kouser Aisha	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	FOR	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	FOR	Moore's Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	APOLOGIES
Chowhan Naveed	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hughes Jade	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hurley Maggie	APOLOGIES	Williamson Diane	APOLOGIES
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 19 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 38 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

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

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Ali Zaheer	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Azad Montaz Ali	AGAINST	Kouser Aisha	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	FOR	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	FOR	Moore Eddie (Deputy Mayor)	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	APOLOGIES
Chowhan Naveed	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sharp Beth	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hughes Jade	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hurley Maggie	APOLOGIES	Williamson Diane	APOLOGIES
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	AGAINST	Chauhan Zahid (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 19 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 39 VOTES cast AGAINST and

there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore LOST.

Motion 4: Council Tax Reduction for Special Constables
Councillor Wilkinson MOVED and Councillor Ball SECONDED
the following Motion:

The Special Constabulary consists of volunteer officers, who give up their spare time to assist with the policing of Greater Manchester and Oldham, by increasing the effectiveness of local police initiatives.

Special Constables are considered to be a vital part of the police service, helping to prevent crime and interacting with the diverse communities they serve. Greater Manchester Police are fully supportive of introducing this Special Constable council tax discount.

Noting that in Rochdale, a 50% discount is given and in Trafford a 100% discount is given.

I am aware that there is only Thirteen Special Constables serving in Oldham. If we took an average figure of £2000 per special, then we are only talking of a figure of £26.000 if they claimed the 100%. Of the thirteen, it may well be that not all of them live in Oldham.

To qualify for this reduction, special constables must meet the following criteria. Liable to pay council tax, live in Oldham, volunteer in Oldham and complete a probation period and complete at least 1 year of service in Oldham. (same criteria as Trafford)

I have received statistics for the last 3 years that Special Constables have worked.

2022- 5696 hours £99.680

2023- 4444 hours £77.770

2024- 3392 hours £59.360

This has been calculated on a 2/3 year pay scale of £17.50 per hour of a full time Police Officer

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Chief Finance Officer produces a report within 28 days for approval to Cabinet to provide a 100% discount from the payment of Council Tax to Special Constables who live and serve in the Borough of Oldham.
2. The creation of a Section 13A (Local Government Finance Act 1992) policy and procedure to include the discount above, be approved.

A vote was taken on the MOTION which was LOST.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Interim Borough Solicitor which updated members on actions taken following the meeting of the Council held on

18th December 2024 (adjourned to 20th January 2025) and also on any updated responses from meetings held in the last 12 months.



RESOLVED:

That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council held on 18th December 2024 (adjourned to 20th January 2025), be noted and confirmed.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.15pm



Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

The election of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

Recommendations

1. That Council notes its previous decision on 24 May 2023, to elect Councillor Arooj Shah as Leader of the Council, and the term of office will end on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Leader of the Council

1 Background

- 1.1 The Council has adopted the Leader and Cabinet model of governance.
- 1.2 Councillor Shah was elected by the Council as Leader of the Council on 24th May 2023 and the term of office will end on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor unless:
- a) she resigns from the office, or
 - b) she is no longer a Councillor, or
 - c) she is removed from office by the resolution of the Council. A successor will be elected at that meeting or subsequent meeting.
- 1.3 Under the arrangements, all Executive functions are vested in the Leader and it is her responsibility to determine how such functions shall be delegated. This responsibility can be a simple reaffirmation of the existing delegation of executive functions to the Cabinet, Executive Members and Officers. This includes determining the size and membership of the Cabinet (provided the membership comprises between two and nine Members, not including the Leader). The Leader shall also determine the remit of each portfolio. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard. The Leader will circulate a report for Council to note.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 The Council elected Councillor Arooj Shah as Leader of the Council from the 24th May 2023 and ending on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 1.2 above.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 N/A.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 N/A.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 N/A.

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

- 7.1 None.

8 Key Decision

-
- 8.1 No.
- 9 **Key Decision Reference**
- 9.1 N/A.
- 10 **Appendices**
- 10.1 None.
- 11 **Background Papers**
- 11.1 None.

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Appointment of Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Deputy Cabinet Members, Allocation of Portfolios to Cabinet Members and Determination of the Delegation of Executive Functions

Report of: The Leader of the Council

Report Author: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance
Ext. 0041

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

The Leader of the Council is able to modify Cabinet responsibilities and has undertaken to notify Council of any such changes. The Leader holds the responsibility for determining the size and membership of the Cabinet and the roles that individual cabinet members may undertake, including any delegations that are specific to them, together with any delegations of the executive functions.

Recommendations

That Council receives for information, details of the Leader's appointments to the role of Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member positions and the allocation of portfolios to Cabinet Members, Deputy Cabinet Member positions and the delegation of the executive functions for 2025/2026.

Appointment of Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members, Deputy Cabinet Members, Allocation of Portfolios to Cabinet Members and Determination of the Delegation of Executive Functions**1 Background**

The Council's Executive functions are devolved to the Leader. It is the responsibility of the Leader to appoint Cabinet Members to assist in the execution of the executive functions and to notify Council of the necessary appointments and any variations.

The Leader of the Council has responsibility for the appointment of members to the Cabinet, the allocation of portfolios and the delegation of executive functions. The scheme of delegation is made pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 as amended by the Localism Act 2011. The Leader may in respect of those functions not specially allocated under the scheme of delegation discharge any of those functions himself/herself or arrange for the discharge of those functions:

- a) by the Executive;
- b) by another Member of the Executive;
- c) by a Committee of the Executive;
- d) by an Area Committee
- e) by an Officer of the Council.
- f) by a Joint Committee

In accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Cabinet is not required to be politically balanced.

The executive portfolios are detailed as attached at Appendix 1 to the report. The delegation of executive functions are confirmed to be:

- Those described in the relevant sections of Part 3 of the Constitution ("Responsibility for Functions").
- To permit Executive Members to make decisions individually in accordance with their portfolios areas in consultation with the relevant Chief Officer, in relation to contracts which have a value of £100k-£250k.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 Council to note the information.

3 Preferred Option

3.1 n/a

4 Consultation

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and councillors.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 The Members' Allowance Scheme contains special responsibility allowances for the Leader, Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members.

6 **Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal comments (Alex Bougatef)

7 **Equality Impact including implications for Children and Young Persons**

7.1 No

8 **Key Decision**

8.1 No

9 **Key Decision Reference**

9.1 n/a

10 **Background Papers**

10.1 There are no background papers to this report on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11 **Appendices**

Cabinet Portfolios 2025/2026

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

The Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The Council is asked to constitute and appoint members to serve on the several committees detailed in the constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

Recommendations

- (a) The composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 of the report be noted.
- (b) 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.
- (c) The number of seats on the various committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as detailed in paragraph 1.6 of the report be approved.
- (d) Council confirms the allocation of seats to the political groups and makes appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as detailed in Appendix 1 as far as is practicable.

-
- (e) Council appoints a Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the various Committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 1, except for the Appeals Committee and appoints five District Leads and Deputy District Leads for only the North and East Districts.
 - (f) The Co-opted Members detailed at paragraph 1.9 of the report be appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board, and be given full voting rights in respect of education matters only.
 - (g) Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.
 - (h) Council ratifies the Leader's nominations to the Health and Well-being Board, as listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

1 Background

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

1.1 Political Groups

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

(i)	Labour Group	27	Members
(ii)	Liberal Democrat Group	9	Members
(iii)	Oldham Group	9	Members
(iv)	Conservative Group	5	Members
(v)	Failsworth Independent Party	2	Members
(vi)	The Independent Group	2	Members
(vii)	Royton Independents	2	Members
(viii)	Royton Local Group	2	Members

There are 2 Independent Members not aligned to a political group.

- a. The Labour Group will comprise: Councillors Shah (Group Leader), Taylor (Statutory Deputy Leader), M. Ali, Aslam, Bashforth, Brownridge, Charters, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Goodwin, Harrison, A. Hussain, F. Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar (Deputy Leader), Malik, McLaren, Moores, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Rustidge and Shuttleworth.
- b. The Liberal Democrat Group will comprise: Councillors Sykes (Group Leader), Al-Hamdani (Deputy Leader), Bishop, Hamblett, Harkness, Kenyon, Marland, Murphy and Williamson.
- c. The Oldham Group will comprise: Councillors Ghafoor (Group Leader), Wahid (Deputy Leader), Akhtar, Z. Ali, Azad, Chowhan, Ibrahim, Kouser and Sheldon
- d. The Conservative Group will comprise: Councillors Woodvine (Group Leader), Byrne (Deputy Leader), Lancaster, Quigg and Sharp.
- e. The Failsworth Independent Party will comprise: Councillors Hobin (Group Leader) and Hindle.
- f. The Independent Group will comprise: Councillors Hince (Group Leader) and Navesey.
- g. The Royton Independents will comprise: Councillors Hurley (Group Leader) and Hughes.
- h. The Royton Local Group will comprise Councillors Arnott (Group Leader) and Adams.
- i. Councillors Ball and Wilkinson are independent members not aligned to a political group.

1.2 Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

Council is asked to constitute and appoint members to serve on the several Committees detailed in the Constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report, namely:-

- (i) The Regulatory Committees:-
Licensing
Planning
Appeals
Commons Registration
Highway Regulation Committee
Charitable Trust Committee
- (ii) The Overview and Scrutiny Boards:-
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board
- (iii) The Audit Committee
- (iv) The Standards Committee
- (v) The Appointments Committee
- (v) The Employment Committee

The terms of reference, and delegated powers where applicable, are as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Council is also asked to ratify the Leader's nominations to the Health and Well-being Board. The Board is not a politically balanced Committee of the Council and is listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

1.3 **Political Balance**

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

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

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

on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

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

Labour Group (L)	$27/60 \times 100 = 45\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 45\% = 56.25$	56 seats
Liberal Democrat Group (LD)	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 15\% = 18.75$	19 seats
Oldham Group (OG)	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 15\% = 18.75$	19 seats
Conservative Group (C)	$5/60 \times 100 = 8.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 8.33\% = 10.41$	10 seats
Failsworth Independent Party (FIP)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	4 Seats
The Independent Group (TIG)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	4 seats
Royton Independents (RI)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	4 seats
Royton Local Group (RLG)	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$125 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.16$	4 seats

There are 2 Independent Members not within a Group. Unallocated seats will be offered to them.

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

COMMITTEE SIZE	L	LD	OG	C	FIP	TIG	RI	RLG
16	7.20	2.40	2.40	1.33	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53
15	6.75	2.25	2.25	1.24	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
14	6.30	2.10	2.10	1.16	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46
13	5.85	1.95	1.95	1.08	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43
12	5.40	1.80	1.80	0.99	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39
11	4.95	1.65	1.65	0.91	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36
10	4.50	1.50	1.50	0.83	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33
9	4.05	1.35	1.35	0.74	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29
8	3.60	1.20	1.20	0.66	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26
7	3.15	1.05	1.05	0.58	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23
6	2.70	0.90	0.90	0.49	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19
5	2.25	0.75	0.75	0.41	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16
4	1.80	0.60	0.60	0.33	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13
3	1.35	0.45	0.45	0.24	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10

- 1.5 Under the political balance rules after these percentages have been applied to the total number of seats on Committees of the Council any remaining seats must be allocated to members who are not members of any political group. Applying political balance as detailed above, the allocation of seats, to the current committee structure, would be as follows:-

Committee	Seats	L	LD	OG	C	FIP	TIG	RI	RLG	Ind
Planning	16	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Audit Committee	9	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	125	56	20	20	10	2	2	2	2	0

The above calculation leaves 11 committee places to be allocated.

1.6 Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance the number of seats must be allocated to accord with the rules above. It is therefore proposed that the number of seats on the various Committees for the 2025/26 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

Committee	Seats	L	LD	OG	C	FIP	TIG	RI	RLG	Ind
Planning	16	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board*	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board*	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board*	11	5	1	2	1	0	0	1	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board*	11	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	1
Audit	9	4	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Commons Registration	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Appointments Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Standards Committee	7	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	125	56	19	19	11	4	4	4	4	4

The above Calculation ensures as far as is practicably possible equality of seats for groups and Independent Members:-

- The Health and Wellbeing Board is not included in the calculation above. Although the Committee is appointed by Council, the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide for the disapplication of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.
- Council is also asked to appoint a District Lead and for each District Area and 2 Deputy District Leads for North and East District.
- It is recommended that the Standards Sub-Committee dealing with assessments or hearings consist of 5 members, with 2 Members from Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat, 1 Oldham Group and 1 Conservative to be represented on the Standards Committee on the Standards Sub- Committee.

-
- 1.7 Substitutes are to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the Substitute Scheme contained in the Constitution. Substitutes for Overview and Scrutiny Boards may be nominated up to a maximum of the number of Members of that Group serving on the Board. Substitutes are not permitted for Licensing. For the Planning Committee, up to 14 substitutes are to be nominated in accordance with the political balance of each Committee. Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Highway Regulation Committee.
- 1.8 Council is asked to review the political composition of the Committees; to determine the allocation of seats to political groups; and to make the appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations. Adoption of the proposals requires Council approval with no Member voting against.

- 1.9 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Board has Co-opted Members serving as follows:

Statutory Co-opted Members

Jean Hurlston	Manchester Church of England Diocese
Vacant	Salford Roman Catholic Diocese
Vacant	Parent/Governor Secondary Schools

Council is asked to approve that the Co-opted Members listed above be re-appointed. Statutory Co-opted members may attend for the whole of the meeting and may speak on all matters if they so wish.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 To not approve the report; however this would impact on the effective governance arrangements within the Council.

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 To approve the report and the committees make up and membership at Appendix 1.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and Councillors.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 n/a

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal comments (Alex Bougatef).

7 Equality Impact including implications for Children and Young Persons

- 7.1 No

8 Key Decision

- 8.1 No

9 **Key Decision Reference**

9.1 n/a

10 **Background Papers**

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act: Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Contact Peter Thompson – peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk, Level 4 Civic Centre
Oldham, OL1 1UL

11. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Membership of Committees.

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Appointments to Outside Bodies 2025/2026

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

To confirm various appointments as nominated by the Political Groups represented on the Council, to be made to a number of Outside Bodies for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, as outlined in the appendices to this report.

Recommendations

1. That appointments to the Outside Bodies listed in the Appendices, for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, be agreed.
2. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to make any in-year changes to appointments where notified.

Outside Bodies 2025/2026

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is represented on a variety of trusts, limited companies, joint boards, joint committees and other outside bodies.
- 1.2 At the annual meeting of the Council, Elected Members are required to make appointments to the various bodies. The Appendices set out the number of Elected Members the Council can appoint to each body, and any particular requirements over which Members are eligible for appointment.
- 1.3 Upon accepting the appointment and in some circumstances, Members should note that they may find themselves taking on additional legal duties, e.g. as a trustee of a charity or a director of a company, where they will, in essence be obliged to act in the best interests of that organisation. The exact nature of these legal duties will depend upon the nature of the organisation in question and the role they are appointed to. There is also potential for future conflicts of interests between such a role and their role as an Elected Member.
- 1.4 Any Member appointed is requested to undertake, as required, any Member training arranged on the appointment to the outside body, and the associated legal duties of directors and trustees.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and councillors.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 n/a

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

5 Equality Impact including implications for Children and Young Persons

- 5.1 None.

7 Key Decision

- 7.1 No

8 Key Decision Reference

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9 Appendices

9.1 The proposed appointments to outside bodies are detailed in appendices 1 -6 to the report.

10 **Background Papers**

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

Outside Bodies - 2024/25 and 2025/26 files

Any person wishing to inspect copies of the above background papers should contact the Constitutional Services: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Council Calendar 2025/26

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

This report sets out the calendar of meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The Council's calendar of meetings for 2025/26 be approved, as set out at Appendix 1.
2. The approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates or times to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

Council Calendar 2025/26**1 Background**

- 1.1 This report sets out the Calendar for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, an earlier version of which was agreed by the Council at the meeting held 18th December 2024 (adjourned until 20th January 2025). There has been one change since the last report to Council, to include an additional Planning Committee on Wednesday, 2nd July 2025.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 The Council can amend any of the dates/times in the calendar but should note it is required to approve a version of the calendar at its annual meeting, as set out in the Council's Constitution. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates or times are to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

3 Preferred Option

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

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and Councillors.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 n/a

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

7 Equality Impact Assessment, including implications for Children and Young People

- 7.1 No

8 Key Decision

- 8.1 No

9 Key Decision Reference

- 9.1 n/a

10 **Background Papers**

- 10.1 There are no background papers to this report, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11 **Appendices**

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Council Calendar 2025/26

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

28 APRIL 2025 - 31 MAY 2026

MAY, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
5 Bank Holiday	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	22	23
26 Bank Holiday School holiday starts	27	28	29	30
JUNE, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 School holiday ends 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Mandatory Training for Planning Committee Members	3 9.30am Licensing Committee	4 6.00 pm Planning Committee	5 10.00am Appeals Committee	6
9	10 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	12 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	13
16 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	17 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	18 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	19 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	20

23 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	24 6.00pm Standards Committee	25	26 2.00pm Joint O&S – Northern Care Alliance	27
30 3.30pm Leadership				
JULY, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1	2 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	3 10.00am Appeals Committee	4
7 3.30pm Leadership	8 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	9 6.00 pm Planning Committee	10	11
14	15 9.30am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Employment Committee	16 6.00 pm Council	17 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (development session)	18
21 School holiday starts 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	22 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	23 6.00pm Audit Committee	24 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	25
28	29 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	30 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	31 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	
AUGUST, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13 6.00 pm Planning Committee	14	15
18 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

Bank Holiday				
SEPTEMBER, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 School holiday ends	2 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	3 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	4 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Standards Committee	5
8 3.30pm Leadership	9 9.30am Licensing Panel	10 6.00 pm Planning Committee	11 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board	12
15	16 2.00pm Employment Committee	17 6.00 pm Council	18	19
22 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	23	24 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	25 2.00pm Joint O&S – Northern Care Alliance 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	26
29	30 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board			
OCTOBER, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	3
6 3.30pm Leadership	7 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and	8 6.00 pm Planning Committee	9 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	10

	Health Scrutiny Board			
13	14	15	16	17
20 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	21 9.30am Licensing Committee 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	22 6.00pm Audit Committee	23	24
27 School holiday starts	28	29	30 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board	31
NOVEMBER, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 School holiday ends 3.30pm Leadership	4 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	5 6.00 pm Planning Committee	6 10.00am Appeals Committee	7
10	11 9.30am Licensing Panel	12 6.00 pm Council	13 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	14
17 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	18	19 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	20 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	21
24	25 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	26	27 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	28
DECEMBER, 2025				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet (Budget)	2 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00pm Employment Committee	3 6.00pm Standards Committee	4 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (development session) 6.00pm Governance Strategy	5

	6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee		and Resources Scrutiny Board	
8	9 9.30am Licensing Panel	10 6.00 pm Council	11 10.00am Appeals Committee	12
15 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	16	17 6.00 pm Planning Committee	18 2.00pm Joint O&S – Northern Care Alliance	19
22 School holiday starts	23	24	25 Bank Holiday	26 Bank Holiday
29	30	31		

JANUARY, 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Bank Holiday	2
5 School holiday ends 3.30pm Leadership	6	7	8	9
12	13 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	14 6.00 pm Planning Committee	15 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	16
19 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	20 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	21 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	22 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	23
26	27 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	28 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	29 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	30

FEBRUARY, 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3	4 6.00pm Audit Committee	5 6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	6
9 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet (Budget)	10 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	11 6.00 pm Planning Committee	12 10.00am Appeals Committee	13
16 School holiday starts	17 9.30am Licensing Panel	18	19	20
23 School holiday ends 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	24 9.30am Licensing Committee	25	26 2.00pm Joint O&S – Northern Care Alliance	27
MARCH, 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	3 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00pm Employment Committee	4 6.00 pm Council (Budget)	5 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Standards Committee	6
9 3.30pm Leadership	10 9.30am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11 6.00 pm Planning Committee	12 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	13
16	17 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	18 6.00 pm Council	19 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	20
23	24	25	26	27

3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	6.00pm Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel 6.00pm Audit Committee	5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	
30 School holiday starts	31			
APRIL, 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2 10.00am Appeals Committee	3 Bank Holiday
6 Bank Holiday	7 9.30am Licensing Driver Panel	8	9	10
13 School holiday ends	14 9.30am Licensing Panel	15 6.00 pm Planning Committee	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	
MAY, 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1
4 Bank Holiday	5	6	7 Elections	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	21	22
25 Bank Holiday	26	27	28	29



Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Council Constitution

Officer Contact: Alex Bougatef, Interim Borough Solicitor

21st May 2025

Reason for Decision

To invite the Council to re-affirm the Council Constitution as a matter of good governance.

Recommendations

1. That the Council re-affirms the Council Constitution.

Council Constitution**1 Background**

- 1.1 While the Council's Constitution can be amended by the Council during the course of the Municipal Year, it is suggested that as a matter of good governance the Council should re-affirm the Council Constitution on an annual basis.
- 1.2 The Council's Constitution is published on the Council's website and is up to date with all Constitutional matters considered and agreed by the Council up to and including the meeting held on 11th September 2024. The Constitution can be accessed via the link below:

[Oldham Council Constitution](#)

Update to the Constitution

- 1.3 It is proposed to undertake a review of the Constitution through the member Constitution Working Group, and a report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.
- 1.4 As detailed in the Constitution and included in the Terms of Reference of Council, it is a requirement to adopt a scheme of members' allowances. The Independent Remuneration Panel has recently met. It is recommended that the existing Member's Allowance Scheme, continue into 2025/26, when the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel will be presented to the Council for consideration at the Council meeting on 10th July 2025.

2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 To not agree to re-affirm the Council Constitution.

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 The preferred option is to re-affirm the Constitution to ensure that the Council's governance framework remains valid and the Constitution can be relied upon in law.

4 Consultation

- 4.1 Discussion has taken place with the Leader and Leaders of the Main opposition groups.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 N/A

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Legal comments are provided in the body of the report.

7 Equality Impact including implications for Children and Young Persons

- 7.1 N/A

8	Key Decision
8.1	No
9	Key Decision Reference
9.1	N/A
10	Background Papers
10.1	None.
11	Background Papers
11.1	None.
12	Appendices
12.1	None.

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