

GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY BOARD

Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda

Date Tuesday 25 March 2025

Time 6.00 pm

Venue Lees Suite, Civic Centre, Oldham, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1NL

- Notes
1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Alex Bougatef at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
 2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Andrew.mather@oldham.gov or email constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk
 3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Friday 21st March.
 4. FILMING - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP OF THE GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY BOARD

Councillors Aslam, Azad, Harkness, Hughes, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Lancaster, McLaren (Chair), Moores (Vice-Chair), Rustidge and Williamson

Item No

- 1 Apologies For Absence
- 2 Urgent Business
Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair
- 3 Declarations of Interest
To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.
- 4 Public Question Time
To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.
- 5 Minutes of Previous Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board Meeting (Pages 3 - 10)
The Minutes of the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board held on 29th January and 6th February 2025 are attached for approval.
- 6 Corporate Performance Report Q3 2024/25 (Pages 11 - 52)
To scrutinise the Council's performance against agreed performance measures.
6a Oldham Council Leavers - Deep Dive Presentation (Pages 53 - 64)
- 7 Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10 (Pages 65 - 96)
To scrutinise the Council's financial performance against the agreed Budget.
- 8 Work Programme (Pages 97 - 102)
- 9 Key Decision Document (Pages 103 - 112)
- 10 Rule 13 and 14
To consider any rule 13 or 14 decisions taken since the previous meeting.

Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Aslam, Azad, Harkness, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Kenyon
(Substitute), Lancaster, Moores (Vice-Chair), and Rustidge

Also in Attendance:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Cllr A Shah | Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Reform & Regeneration |
| Cllr M Ali | Cabinet Member for Education & Skills |
| Cllr B Brownridge | Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care |
| Cllr P Dean | Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture |
| Cllr C Goodwin | Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods |
| Cllr A Jabbar MBE | Cabinet Member for Finance & Corporate Resources |
| Cllr S Mushtaq | Cabinet Member for Children and Young People |
| Matthew Bulmer | Director Education Early Years and Skills |
| Emma Barton | Deputy Chief Executive (Place) |
| Paul Clifford | Director of Economy |
| Neil Consterdine | Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities |
| Nasir Dad | Director of Environment |
| Julie Daniels | Director of Children's Services |
| Rebecca Fletcher | Director of Public Health |
| Steve Hughes | Assistant Director for Strategy & Performance |
| Sarah Johnston | Director of Finance |
| Chris Kelsall | Assistant Director of Finance (Capital & Transformation) |
| Jayne Ratcliffe | Director of Adult Social Care |
| Lee Walsh | Finance Manager - Capital and Treasury |
| Vickie Lambert | Finance Manager |
| Andrew Mather | Constitutional Services |

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Williamson
(Cllr Kenyon substituting)

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions

5 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY BOARD MEETING**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2024 be approved as a correct record.

6 **REVENUE MONITOR AND CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2024/25: QUARTER 3 DECEMBER 2024**

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources made an introductory statement setting out the background and context including pressures faced in the current year and developing the budget for 2025/26.

The Director of Finance presented a report which provided the Scrutiny Board with an update as at 31 December 2024 (Quarter 3) of the Council's 2024/25 forecast revenue budget position (included at Annex 1 of the report) alongside the financial position of the capital programme together with the revised capital programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 (included at Annex 2 of the report).

The forecast overspend position based on the Quarter 3 profiled budget was £10.634m which if not addressed would result in a year-end overspend of £14.178m (£20.390m at Month 8). The financial monitoring report followed on from the previously reported positions and warned on the potential year end position if no further action was taken to reduce net expenditure. The management actions already implemented for 2024/25 had been factored into the current forecasts. Work continued across the organisation to address the position and it was anticipated that by the year end, the current outturn deficit position should reduce even further. An update on the Quarter 3 2024/25 position was detailed within Annex 1 of the report.

The report also outlined the most up to date capital spending position for 2024/25 to 2028/29 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2024/25 is £87.260m at the close of Quarter 3 (£99.553m at Month 8), a net reduction of £12.293m. Actual expenditure to 31 December 2024 was £53.478m (61.23% of the forecast outturn).

RESOLVED: that the Report be accepted and commended to Cabinet

1. The forecast profiled revenue budget, being an adverse position of £10.634m at Quarter 3 and the forecast potential adverse position by year end of £14.178m, with mitigations in place to reduce expenditure as detailed at Annex 1 of the report.
2. The revised capital programme for 2024/25 including the proposed virements and the forecast for the financial years to 2028/29 as at Quarter 3 as outlined in Annex 2 of the report.

REVENUE BUDGET 2025/26 AND 2026/27 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2025/26 TO 2029/30



Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which provided the Scrutiny Board with the budget reduction requirement and the Administration's budget proposals for 2025/26 and a forecast of the 2026/27 position having regard to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (PLGFS) published on 18 December 2024. The report also presented the financial forecasts for the remainder of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) period 2026/27 to 2029/30.

It was reported that the starting point for preparing the 2025/26 revenue budget estimates is the underlying base budget of £289.1m. The 2024/25 revenue budget forecast outturn position highlights a current unfavourable projected variance of £14.2m; which will need to be financed from reserves. This is in addition to the general contribution from reserves of £10.8m towards the 2024/25 budget approved by Council in February 2024, plus contributions from other Earmarked Reserves for specific projects/initiatives of some £4.6m. This means the total contribution from reserves in 2024/25 will be some £29.5m: a situation that is not sustainable and which has significantly reduced the financial resilience of the Council.

The report advised that the Council Tax position for 2025/26, was:

- The Council Tax Base is 59,501, up from 58,380 in 2024/25 and slightly under the position assumed in February 2024.
- A 2.99% increase in general purpose Council Tax increase is proposed together with a 2% increase for the Adult Social Care Precept.
- An increase of 4.99% would not require a Council Tax referendum as it would be within the referendum criteria issued by the Government in the PLGFS.
- The Council proposes to continue to provide no Council Tax Empty Property Discount and increase the Empty Property Premium from 1st April 2025.
- Total Council Tax to be generated for use by the Council based on the Tax Base and the 4.99% increase (including the Adult Care Social Precept) is £122.5m in 2025/26.
- Note that the Council Tax levels for precepting Authorities or Parish Councils' respective Council Tax levels for 2025/26 will be confirmed during January or February 2025

The report outlined the proposed savings that were required to balance the 2025/26 budget. There were a total of 25 savings proposals presented in accordance with Political Portfolios. Overall, approximately 120 FTE posts were affected, of which over 80% were currently vacant.

The Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members each presented the budget reduction proposals within their individual Portfolio area. Scrutiny Board members were able to ask questions of the portfolio holder to seek further information and clarification of the proposals following which all of the proposals were endorsed to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: that the Report and the following recommendations be accepted and commended to Cabinet

1. The policy landscape and context in which the Council is setting its revenue budget for 2025/26;
2. The financial forecasts for 2025/26 and 2026/27 having regard to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement and associated funding announcements;
3. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts at a value of £2.6m for 2025/26 and 2026/27;
4. A proposed overall 2025/26 Council Tax increase of 4.99% for Oldham Council services (2.99% for general purposes and 2% Adult Social Care Precept) resulting in the charges set out at Table 12 of the report;
5. The 2025/26 Budget Reduction proposals at a value of £8.8m;
6. The proposed transfer of reserves of £1.05m to improve the financial robustness of the Council;
7. The proposal to draw on the Collection Fund for major preceptors of £137.0m for Borough Wide services and £122.5 m for Council services (subject to confirmation);
8. The proposed net revenue expenditure budget for 2025/26 for the Council, set at £320.8m;
9. The proposed fees and charges as set out in the schedule included at Appendix 6;
10. The level of general fund balances supporting the 2025/26 budget of £18.9m underpinned by the agreed policy on Earmarked Reserves.

8

CAPITAL STRATEGY AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2025/26 TO 2029/30 AND MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the Capital Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30 and thereby the proposed 2025/26 capital programme, including identified capital investment priorities, together with the indicative capital programme for 2026/27 to 2029/30, having regard to the resources available over the life of the programme.

The 2024/25 month 8 capital monitoring position presented alongside the report included expenditure projections that were a key determinant of the 2025/26 programme. The projected outturn spending position for 2024/25 was £99.553m. The Place and Economic Growth Directorate, which manages all of the major regeneration projects, constitutes the main area of expenditure. Grants and Other Contributions (£45.406m)

provides the main source of financing followed by Prudential Borrowing (£45.236m). Actual expenditure to 30 November 2024 was £46.557m (46.77% of the forecast outturn), a lower spending profile than that in previous years. The position would be kept under review and budgets will continue to be managed in accordance with forecasts.

The Council had set out its capital programme for the period 2025/26 to 2029/30 based on the principles of the Capital Strategy. The Capital Programme and Capital Strategy were influenced by the level of resources considered available. The level of prudential borrowing included reflects the financing available in the revenue budget, capital receipts align with forecasts and grant funding and other contributions are based on already notified allocations or best estimates at the time of preparation. If additional resources become available, projects that meet the Council's strategic capital objectives would be brought forward for approval. As at the month 8 the anticipated capital expenditure over the five year life of the 2024/25 to 2028/29 strategy was £241.179m, taking 2024/25 aside (£99.553m) this leaves £141.627m for the remainder of the approved 2025/26 to 2028/29 capital programme. The revised capital programme included proposed expenditure for 2025/26 of £108.501m of which the largest category is £80.617m of expenditure on regeneration, schools, transport and infrastructure projects within Place and Economic Growth Directorate. Total expenditure decreases to £29.991m, £29.680m, £ 6.647m and £5.219m in 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29 and 2029/30 respectively.

RESOLVED that that the following recommendations be accepted and commended to Cabinet:

1. The Capital Strategy for 2025/26 to 2029/30 at Appendix 1 of the report.
2. The capital programme for 2025/26 and indicative programmes for 2026/27 to 2029/30 at Annex C of Appendix 1 of the report.
3. The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy as presented at Annex D of Appendix 1 of the report.
4. The Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement 2025/26 and method of calculation and Prudential Indicators detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

9

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES FOR 2025/26 TO 2029/30 AND FORECAST OUTTURN FOR 2024/25

The Director of Finance submitted a report setting out the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the detailed budget estimates for 2025/26, the strategic estimates for the four years 2026/27 through to 2029/30 and outturn estimate for 2024/25. The report also set out the recommended dwelling, non-dwelling rents and service and concierge charges to be applied from April 2025.

After taking all relevant issues into account, the projected financial position for 2024/25 was estimated to be a £1.643m favourable variance when compared to the original budget forecast for 2024/25 approved at the Budget Council meeting, 28 February 2024. Of this variance, £0.531m was due to increased rental income (mainly backdated rental income in relation to Holly Bank and Primrose Bank), £0.492m is a reduction in forecast capital spend., and the balance is across a number of areas, but mainly utility charges and aids and appliances.

The HRA balances brought forward into 2024/25 were also £0.222m greater than had been forecast. The estimated balances at the end of 2024/25 were projected to be £21.214m, which would be sufficient to meet future operational commitments and the potential financial pressures identified in the risk assessment.

The 2025/26 position has been presented after allowing for a proposed increase in dwelling rents of 2.7%, an increase in non-dwelling rents in line with individual contracts, a nominal increase of 2% on service charges and the setting of Extra Care Housing concierge charges to fully recover costs.

The financial projections for the HRA over the period 2024/25 to 2029/30 show an overall reduction in the level of balances from £21.106m at the start of 2024/25 to £14.625m at the end of 2029/30. These would be supplemented by a new smoothing reserve that will be created to allow for a change in the Council's Minimum Revenue Provision Policy (MRP), approved in December 2024. Although this will see a significant increase in overall HRA reserves each year until 2036/37, the balances accrued in this reserve will be fully required to pay MRP over the proceeding ten years.

RESOLVED that that the following recommendations be accepted and commended to Cabinet:

1. Forecast HRA outturn for 2024/25 (as per Appendix A)
2. Proposed HRA budget for 2025/26 (as per Appendix B)
3. Strategic estimates for 2025/26 to 2029/30 (as per Appendix D)
4. Proposed increase to dwelling rents for all properties of 2.7%.
5. Proposed increase to non-dwelling rents as per individual contracts.
6. Proposal that service charges are increased by 2%.
7. Proposal to set Extra Care Housing concierge charges to fully recover actual costs

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillor McLaren (Chair)
Councillors Aslam, Harkness, Iqbal, Kenyon (Substitute), Kouser (Substitute), Lancaster, Moores (Vice-Chair) and Rustidge

Also in Attendance:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Chris Kelsall | Assistant Director of Finance (Capital & Transformation) |
| Lee Walsh | Finance Manager - Capital and Treasury |
| Vickie Lambert | Finance Manager |
| Andrew Mather | Constitutional Services |

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ibrahim (Councillor Kouser substituting), Hughes and Williamson (Councillor Kenyon Substituting)

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

5 **LIBERAL DEMOCRATS BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSALS 2025/26**

Consideration was given to a report outlining the Liberal Democrat Budget Amendment Proposals for 2025/26. The report presented the suggested amendments to the Administration's Budget proposals and offered forward-looking proposals to achieve savings in future years.

Councillor Al-Hamdani, Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability, introduced the report and highlighted the challenges posed by the tight budget timeframe. The Liberal Democrat proposals identified additional savings of £0.645m for investment in 2025/26 and a further £0.340m in 2026/27, with suggested additional budget allocations for Youth Services, Crime and Safety, Highways, and Green Spaces. Budget reductions were proposed across several areas, including mileage budgets, Trade Union Facilities, car allowances, stationery, training budgets and additional vacancy management.

The report also proposed significant changes to the Capital Programme to increase capital investment in Council owned temporary accommodation which was intended to reduce reliance on more costly alternatives and deliver medium-term

revenue savings, and a platform to increase revenue savings further in the future.

The Director of Finance had confirmed in the report that the budget amendments were robust and deliverable but noted the inherent risks of alternative proposals due to limited time for risk assessment.

Resolved:

1. That the Liberal Democrat budget reduction proposals be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

6

CONSERVATIVE GROUP BUDGET PROPOSALS 2025/26

A report was submitted presenting Conservative Group proposals for amendments to the Administration's Budget for 2025/26. Councillor Quigg attended and took questions on the proposals, emphasising the Group's commitment to freezing Council Tax and making efficiency savings.

The proposals included restructuring District Partnerships, reducing Communications costs, introducing an additional vacancy management factor, and reducing executive pay. The Conservative Group also proposed capital investments in Royton, an Opportunity Zone initiative, highways, and a Saddleworth Health Centre.

The Director of Finance had assessed the proposals and expressed concerns in the report regarding the long-term impact of freezing Council Tax and the feasibility of proposed savings and considered the risk level for the proposals was high.

Resolved: That Conservative Budget Amendment Proposals be not recommended to the Cabinet for consideration.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 6.45 pm



Report to Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board

Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 Q3 (1st October to 31st December 2024)

Portfolio Holder (CPR):

Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

Officer Contact (CPR):

Steve Hughes, Assistant Director Strategy & Performance

Overview Report Author (CPR):

Gail M. Stott, Performance Improvement Lead, Strategy & Performance

CPR collated by: Performance Improvement Team, Strategy & Performance

Contact: StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk

Date: 25th March 2025

Reason for decision

Scrutiny of corporate performance aims to provide assurance that:

- services are aligned to corporate priorities and the needs of our residents (resident focus)
- our services are good, or are on track to good
- any services that are not on track, or have identified risks, are being supported or challenged to rectify this
- any demand indicators or resource pressures are being noted and service provision is being re-assessed accordingly
- the organisation has robust performance management processes in place.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of corporate performance against agreed service business plan measures for the relevant reporting quarter.

Recommendations

Scrutiny Board members are asked to:

- note the progress in implementing the business plan objectives
- celebrate areas of consistent good performance
- note the comments on progress
- consider areas for review (good or poor) that could produce learning for the organisation
- note the interconnection of these actions with ongoing activities in other portfolio and Scrutiny Board remits and key projects.

Appendix:

1. Resources CPR - Finance; Legal Services; Corporate Resources

Report to Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board

Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 for Quarter 3: 1st October to 31st December 2024

Portfolio Holder (CPR): Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a
Better Oldham

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Officer Contact (CPR): Steve Hughes, Assistant Director of Strategy & Performance

Report date: 25th March 2025

CPR collated by: Performance Improvement Team
StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk

Core Resources

Key Performance Indicators

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- RED** KPI underperforming by more than 5%
- AMBER** KPI underperforming by less than 5%
- GREEN** KPI meeting or outperforming target



Corporate Resources:

Service areas include:

- Communications and Research (Strategy and Performance)
- Customer Experience (Customer Services and Complaints)
- HR and OD
- IT (Operations)

Communications & Research

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

Officer Contact: Smyth Harper (*Interim Head of Communications and Research*)

Service Summary:

The Communications and Research team strategically plans, manages and delivers all communications and research activity for Oldham Council, focused on achieving agreed corporate priorities. Communications and engagement activity is delivered across a range of digital and traditional channels, including through the press, social media, web content, face to face engagement, out of home collateral and more; all tailored to our diverse external and internal audiences and adapted for the channels they use.

Communications & Research Strategic priorities

We have four agreed strategic priorities for 2023/24.

These will be fully evaluated as new metrics are available in 2024/25.

Interim activity against each of the measurables is detailed on the following slides, followed by a quarterly snapshot of metrics on our key digital channels.

Increase pride in the borough from the Resident Survey of 2022/23. In that survey, 74% of respondents said they were satisfied with their local area but only 35% said they would recommend it as a tourist destination. We'll increase these to at least 79% (LGA average) and 40% by the next Resident Survey.

Increase resident satisfaction with Council communications - We'll measure this by aiming to reduce the number of people who say they don't receive any information from the Council (21% in the 2022/23 Resident Survey) to less than 20%.

Improve two-way engagement with our workforce. In our most recent Staff Survey only 41% of staff said senior management "communicate effectively with me". We aim to improve that to at least 50% by the next Staff Survey via the implementation of a strategic Internal Communications Strategy. The strategy will also act as our 'golden thread' of engagement touchpoints we have with staff in 2023/24.

Manage key reputational issues in an honest, transparent and people-focused way. We will ensure our residents have access to factual and timely information and enable media to produce fair and balanced reports.


Communications & Research

Key Metrics (no targets) - Social Media

Page 18

Facebook followers (End of Quarter)

35,779




Q2: 34,516

No Target

Instagram followers (End of Quarter)

5389



Q2: 5206

No Target

LinkedIn followers (End of Quarter)

10,275




Q2: 9708

No Target

Residents' Newsletter Subscribers (End of Quarter)

8,459




Q2: 8355

No Target

X followers (End of Quarter)

31,147



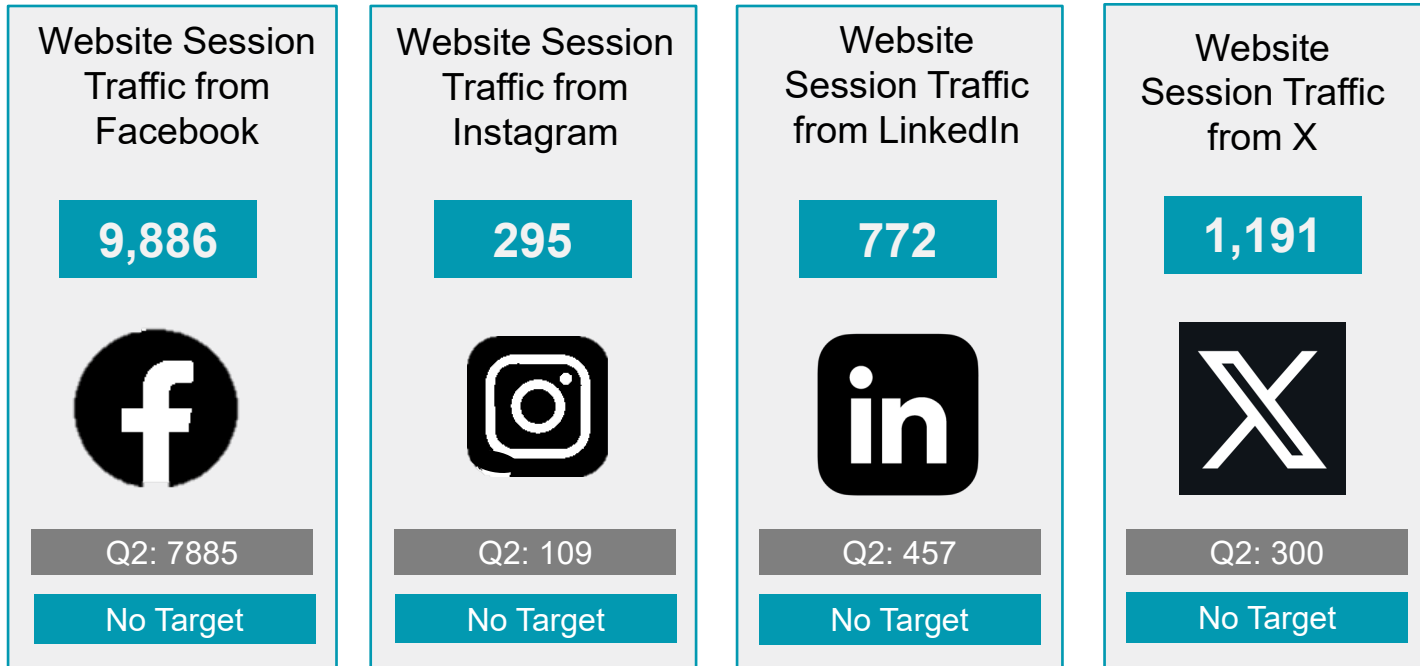
Q2: 31,222

No Target

Communications & Research

Key Metrics (no targets) - Web Figures

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* Figures are an average over 3-month period

Communications & Research

Progress Against Key Annual Priorities

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| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Increase pride in the borough</p> | <p>We promoted a range of autumn and winter events including a hugely successful Bonfire Night fireworks in the town centre and an even bigger Christmas lights switch-on event (as part of a wider "Give the Gift of Oldham this Christmas" campaign) which saw thousands of families enjoy the festivities. As well as demonstrating pride in the borough, it also created significant footfall with Spindles seeing a 10% increase in shoppers compared to last year's event. Other events we promoted included fun activities such as Nostalgic Oldham and poignant commemorations to mark Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>We also had a well-received campaign to celebrate Oldham's 175th birthday.</p> |
| <p>Increase resident satisfaction with Council Communications</p> | <p>We have had remarkable success on social media when sharing stories about real Oldhamers benefiting from our services. Examples include our Family Hubs where stories such as one about a single father accessing the hubs have not just had good traction on social media but have led to an increase of people using the hubs.</p> |

Communications & Research

Progress Against Key Annual Priorities

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Improve two-way engagement with our workforce</p> | <p>We continue to improve our internal comms channels so staff are regularly updated on key council activities. This quarter included the launch of our new corporate plan and a refresh of our values and behaviours.</p> <p>We held three budget collaboration sessions which were attended by 200 colleagues. This was on the back of a promise the CEO made that staff would have a forum to discuss ideas for budget savings. Attendees ranged from Spindles staff, front line workers such as social workers and teams who usually work fully remotely. All feedback and a plan of which ideas we'll be taking forward for the next financial year is being developed. We also had two successful staff events to celebrate Oldham's 175th birthday.</p> |
| <p>Managing key reputational issues</p> | <p>Oldham was at the centre of public discourse around the historical practice of stillborn babies being buried in communal unmarked graves. The council's response was to provide factual information, and also develop a plan to memorialise those stillborn babies, and all other children and adults, laid to rest in unmarked graves in the borough's cemeteries.</p> |

Communications & Research

Comments

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Q2: Smyth Harper (Interim Head of Communications and Research)

We have successfully embedded a more people-focused approach to social media with positive and inspirational stories about Oldham people.

A number of milestones were reached, including the opening of all of the Family Hubs and the successful launch of the Oldham Gift card.

Preparations underway for a service redesign for the communications service to deliver financial savings and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the service which is fully aligned with Council strategic priorities.

Q3: Smyth Harper (Interim Head of Communications and Research)

This was a busy and successful period for the communications service, promoting our services, celebrating our successes and encouraging staff and residents alike to show pride in our borough.

The formal consultation for the communication service redesign was conducted successfully and Q4 will see the implementation move forward with the new structure operational from 1 April 2025. Given that there is a significant reduction in the service establishment, and the levels of uncertainty and unsettlement restructures always create, it is a credit to the team that they have conducted such a successful quarter in a challenging environment.

Signed Off: 12.02.2025

Communications & Research

Portfolio Holder Comment

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Q2: Cllr Arooj Shah (Leader & Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham)

The people focused comms approach is welcomed, and the Communications team have played vital roles in a number of key milestones for the Council over Q2, including continuing to support our Family Hubs programme and increasing awareness of the services on offer and the launch of the Oldham gift card, increasing the money spent in Oldham.

Q3: Cllr Arooj Shah (Leader & Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham)

There has been a reduction in capacity in the Comms team created by both voluntary redundancies and the restructure, but I do not think this has had a material impact on the output as yet. Lots of hard work has gone into continuing to promote Oldham and encourage more pride in our Borough.

Signed Off: DDMMYY

Customer Experience

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Peter Dean, Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture

Officer Contact: Fran Lautman, Assistant Director of Customer Experience

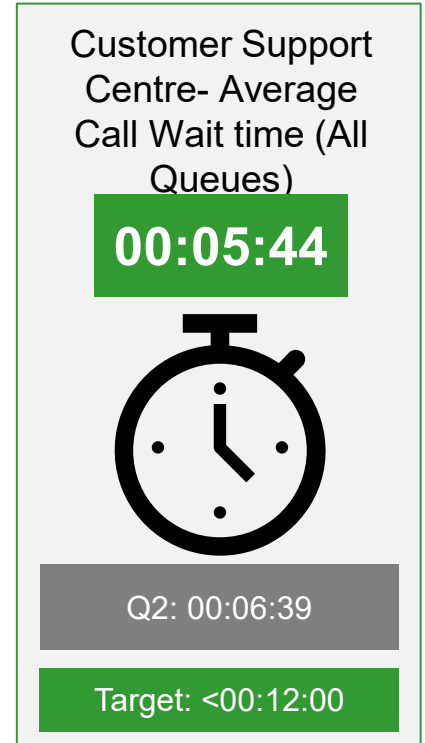
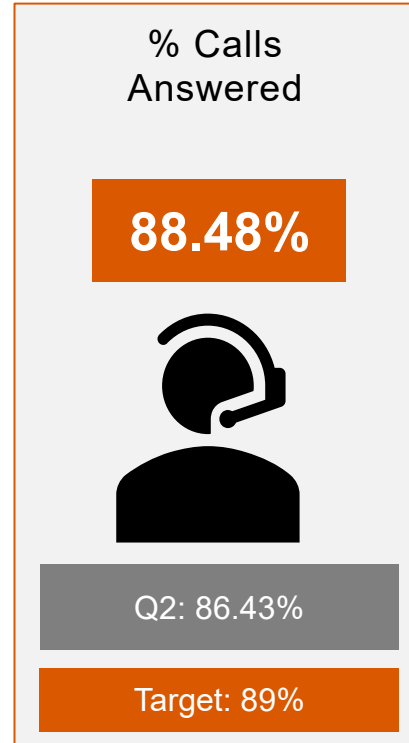
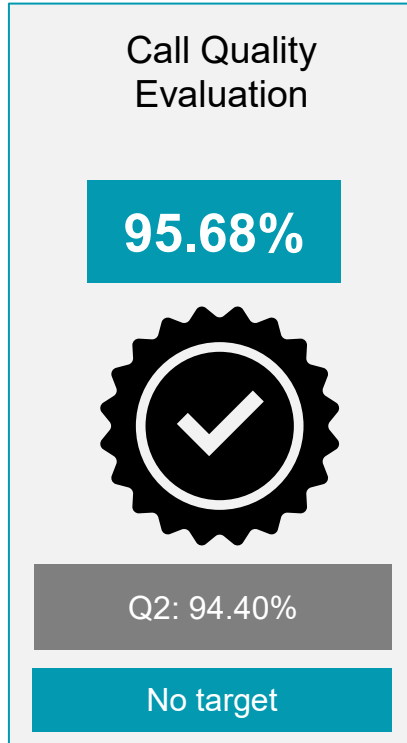
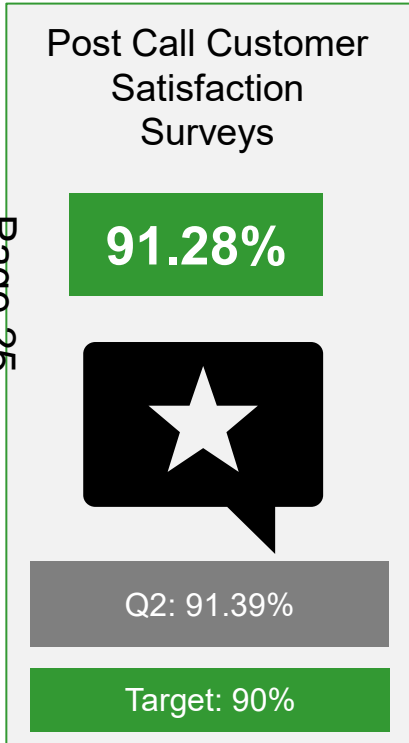
Service Summary: Customer Experience provides the following services:

- Customer Support Centre (Contact Centre)
- Customer Service Centre at Spindles
- Blue Badges
- Local Welfare Provision
- Household Support Fund
- Complaints
- Registrars

Customer Experience

Key Metrics (against target where set)

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[Green]

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[Green]

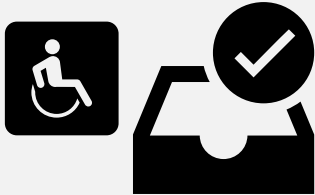
Customer Services

Key Metrics (no targets)

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Blue Badge: Average number of days taken from Application to decision

33 days



Q2: 33 days

No target

Blue Badge: Average number of days taken from Referral for IMA to decision

16 days




Q2: 15 days

No target

Customer Service Centre - Average wait time (combined services)

00:10:26



Q2: 00:07:35

No target

Complaints

Key Metrics (against target where set)

Page 27

Adults - Complaints responded within timescales

69%



Q2: 29%

No Target

Children's - Complaints responded within timescales

57%



Q2: 50%

No Target

Resources - Complaints responded within timescales

83%



Q2: 64%

No Target

Place - Complaints responded within timescales

64%



New Measure*

No Target

Overall - Complaints responded within timescales

64%



Q2: 50%

Target: 75%

Customer Services

Successes

Page 28

| | |
|--|--|
| Customer Support Centre- Call Quality Evaluation | Quarter 3 performance increased by 1.28% compared to Quarter 2. |
| Blue Badge- Average working days from referral to appointment | Quarter 3's performance has increased by one day from Quarter 2. |
| Customer Support Centre- Call Wait Times | 00:05:44 - Quarter 3 performance was the strongest yet at under 6 minutes |
| Customer Service Centre- Call wait times | 0:10:26 - November and December were both below 8 minutes. Average wait time during October was 15 minutes, 28 seconds with October being the busiest month following the move to the new location in July 2024. |

Customer Services

Areas for Development (across all metrics)

Page 29

| | |
|--|---|
| Customer Support Centre-Customer Satisfaction | Quarter 3 performance dipped by 0.11% compared to Quarter 2. |
| Calls Answered | Quarter 3 performance narrowly missed target by 0.52%. Target was met during December 2024 with a monthly performance of 90.54%. Quarter 3 performance was 2.05% higher than Quarter 3. |

Customer Services

Comments

Q2 Comments: Fran Lautman (Head of Customer and Digital Experience)

The Customer Service Centre based at Spindles opened in July. As the central 'Working for You' site the location includes access to a range of partner services. We have received really positive feedback about the new location.

This period has seen some changes to service alignment. Welfare Rights and Support and Inclusion have moved to Revenues and Benefits due to the synergy with the service area around financial support. Complaints became part of the service in June and Registrars joins Customer Service from 1st October.

A service review of Complaints has taken place over the summer. Several areas for improvement have been identified and the Service Manager is working closely with each directorate to support and embed the changes as part of our commitment to work with a resident focus and improvement the quality and timeliness of Complaints.

Moving forward, all teams within Customer Services are preparing for the launch of the council's Winter communications campaign. This includes delivery of Household Support Fund 6 and supporting residents with Pension Credit uptake.

Q3 Comments: Fran Lautman, Assistant Director of Customer Experience

I am pleased to report marked improvements in complaints performance since Q2: Adults' responses rose from 29% to 69%, Children's from 50% to 57%, Resources from 64% to 83%, and overall from 50% to 64% (target 75%). These gains reflect considerable focus and efforts in this period including implementing improved processes and procedures, delivering training, cleansing historic cases, reorganising corporate complaints into Resources and Place and introducing regular complaint forums in both Children's and Adults' services. We are also finalising self-serve Power BI dashboards for Adults, Childrens, Resources and Place which will provide real-time performance data to further drive transparency and improvement as we work towards achieving the 75% target.

Signed Off: 28/01/2025

Customer Services

Portfolio Holder Comments

Q2 Comments: Cllr Peter Dean, Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities & Culture

There is considerable work to do to ensure compliance to our targets in regards to complaints, this has been raised with Cabinet colleagues and Management Board to ensure we continue to uphold high-standards for the service our residents receive from the Council across portfolios and service areas.

The opening of the central 'Working for You' site in Spindles is important as it gives residents a place to come and resolve seek support/advice in person, which is vital and cannot be underestimated.

Q3 Comments: Cllr Peter Dean, Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities & Culture

Welcome progress has been made in the performance of responding to complaints since Q2, I'm grateful to Cabinet colleagues and Chief Officers for this but there is still more to do to work towards being a resident focused council.

Glossary:

- CSC: Customer Support Centre
- LWP: Local Welfare Provision
- IMA: Independent Mobility Assessment
- PERP: Pre-Election Restriction Period

Human Resources & Organisational Development

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Value for Money & Sustainability

Officer Contact: Wendy Jackson, Interim Assistant Director of Human Resources

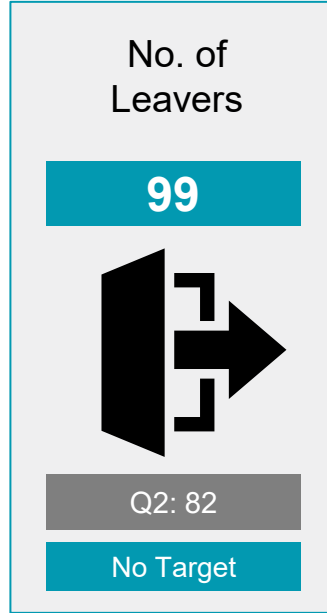
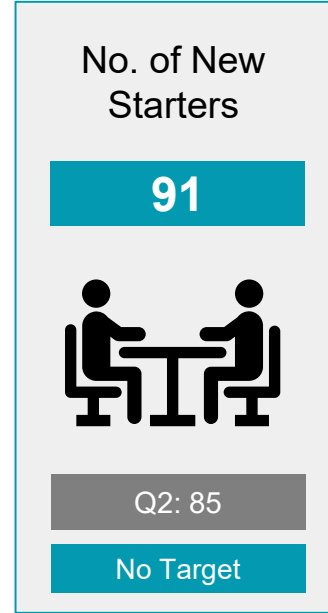
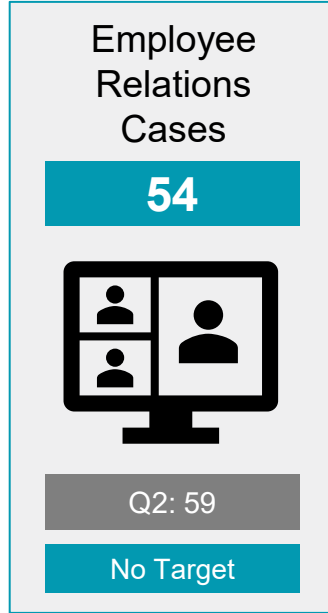
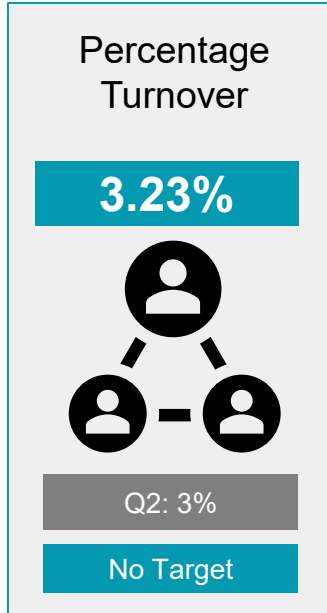
Service Summary: The service provides a range of workforce related functions that support good employment practice and workforce engagement for the Council and external paying customers

- HR advisory, policy & employee relations
- Job Evaluation
- Recruitment
- Workforce systems, workforce data & statutory workforce reporting
- Payroll, pensions & HR transactional
- Learning & Development
- Apprenticeships
- Workforce Wellbeing
- Organisational development & design
- Employee engagement
- Workforce planning

HR & OD

Key Metrics (no targets)

Page 34



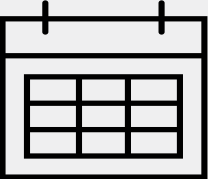
HR & OD

Key Metrics (no targets)

Page 35

**Sickness
Absence Rate**

5%
working days lost



Q2: 5.33%

No Target

**Committed*
Levy Spend**

£182,061




Q2: £210,001

No Target

**Number of new
apprenticeships
(current workforce)**

17



Q2: 16

No Target

**Number of new
apprenticeships
(new starters)**

3




Q2: 8

No Target

**% New starters
completing
induction**

96.3%



Q2: %

No Target

**Spend over the duration of the apprenticeships learning programme*

HR & OD

Successes/Areas of Development

Page 36

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| Apprenticeships | As the recruitment freeze has been in place we have seen a drop in new apprenticeship vacancies across the organisation however, there has been an increase on spend due to utilising funds to upskill our current colleagues via the apprenticeship levy. We are still on track to recruit our ambition of 20 new apprentices this year. |
| | |
| | |

HR & OD

Comments

Q2: Wendy Jackson (Interim Assistant Director of Human Resources)

Work is underway to address sickness and absence reporting across teams. Although figure indicating sickness at 5% this is likely to be higher.

Q3: Wendy Jackson (Interim Assistant Director of Human Resources)

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Signed Off: DD/MM/YY

IT (Operations)

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Value for Money & Sustainability

Officer Contact:

Service Summary:

The role of the IT team is to deliver seamless and reliable IT services and projects that drive the success of Oldham Council. IT are committed to enhancing operational efficiency, supporting all departments, and embracing innovation to meet the evolving needs of our organisation.

IT (Operations)

Key Metrics (against target where set)

Page 39

Breached Tickets

133



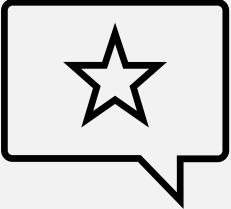
Q2: 121

Min target: <75

[Red]

Customer Satisfaction

98.63%




Q2: 99.31%

Min target: 80%

[Green]

First Contact Resolution rate (60 min)

79.35%




Q2: 82.24%

Min target: 60%

[Green]

Service Level Agreement Compliance

96.02%



Q2: 96.27%

Min target: 90%

[Green]

Contact Centre Telephone Availability

100%



Q2: 99.45%

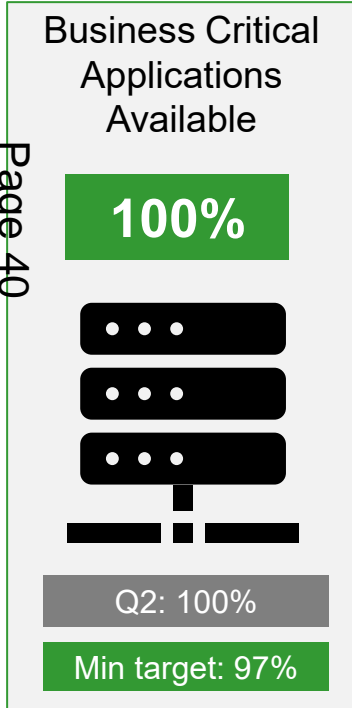
Min target: 97%

[Green]

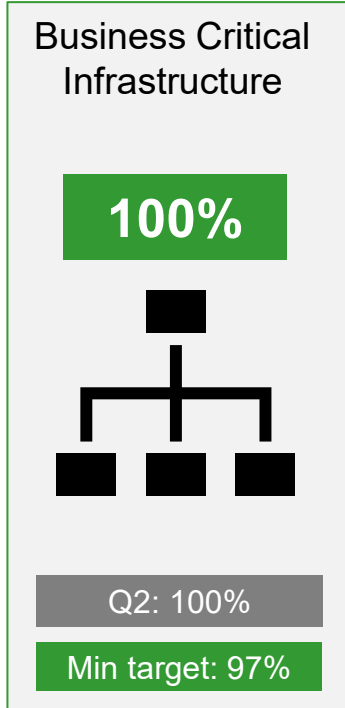
IT (Operations)

Key Metrics (against target where set)

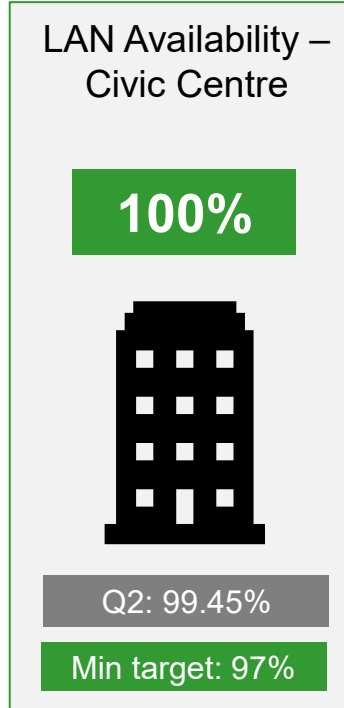
Page 40



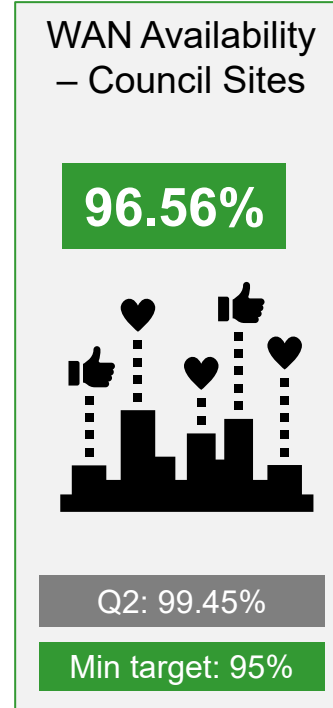
[Green]



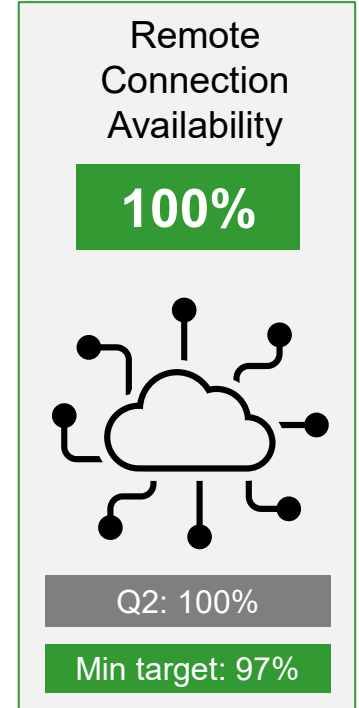
[Green]



[Green]



[Green]



[Green]

IT (Operations) Successes/

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Contact Centre Telephone Availability | Gone up since Q2. |
| LAN Availability – Civic Centre | Increased since Q2. |

IT (Operations)

Areas of Development

Page 42

| | |
|--|--|
| Breached Tickets | Gone up since Q2. Has been flagged as a risk relating to the amount of available resource dedicated to BAU tasks. |
| First Contact Resolution rate (60 min) | Decreased since Q2. This is tied into other key areas like software patching and network issues that we are also looking at ways to fix, such as a dedicated patching management solution. |
| WAN Availability – Council Sites | Decreased since Q2. |

IT (Operations)

Comments

Q2: Mark Edgar (*Service Assurance and Compliance Manager, Head of IT Operations and Cyber Security*)

The Spindles site has now settled into normal operation, with the issues encountered during the early stages of occupation fully resolved. The technical difficulties that affected network performance, including intermittent outages and compatibility challenges with existing infrastructure, have been addressed. As a result, we've seen a significant improvement in network stability and availability, particularly at the Spindles location, bringing performance back to expected levels.

We are about to deploy new council laptops across the organisation. This rollout is expected to reduce the number of hardware-based support calls in the coming years, as the new devices will provide enhanced reliability and performance, alleviating some of the strain on IT support resources. With a fresh fleet of laptops, we anticipate fewer device failures, which should positively impact our service metrics and user satisfaction. In summary, Q2 has demonstrated continued improvement across most KPIs, with breached tickets on a downward trend, moving us closer to our optimal targets. The team's efforts to resolve technical issues and proactive initiatives like the laptop rollout place us in a strong position as we enter the next quarter.

Q3: Lindsey Al-Basri (*IT Head of Projects*)

The 3 months from October witnessed more Council teams and partners coming into Spindles further proving the new infrastructure. The build of the new Primary Comms Room is progressing, ready for completion in early Q4, when we commence a major milestone of migration from the old data centre in the Civic, to Spindles. The laptop refresh project has now started with IT being the first department to be implemented and with early adopters across the Council being progressed, but the expected and welcome impact of having a fresh estate has not yet reached a point to reduce device failures but Q4 and into 25/26 will see the benefit of reduced service calls from this. However, our initiative to improve Wifi across council sites is progressing well, and due to finish in Q4 as is the implementation and migration of sites onto the new GMA Network which continues and is gathering pace.

Signed Off: 28/01/2025

Finance

Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Value for Money & Sustainability

Officer Contact: TBC (*Assistant Director Revenues & Benefits*)

Service Summary:

The Finance Service provides a wide range of functions primarily focussed on the delivery of financial management information, advice and support to Council officers and Members, but also members of the public, Central Government and other partner organisations.

Finance

Key Metrics (against target where set)

Page 45

Average time taken to process *New Claims - Housing Benefits*

23 days



Q2: 20 days

Target: 27 days

[Green]

Average time taken to process *Change in Circumstances - Housing Benefit*

4 days



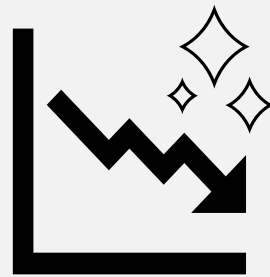
Q2: 6 days

Target: 27 days

[Green]

Average time taken to process *New Claims - Council Tax Reduction*

22 days



Q2: 30 days

Target: 20 days

[Red]

Average time taken to process *Change in Circumstances- Council Tax Reduction*

7 days



Q2: 8 Days

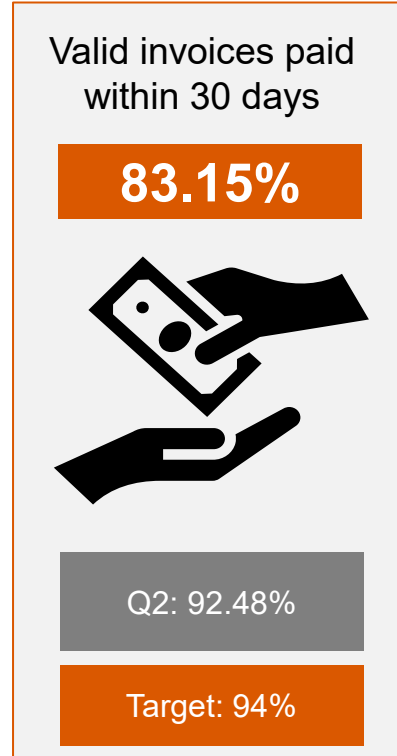
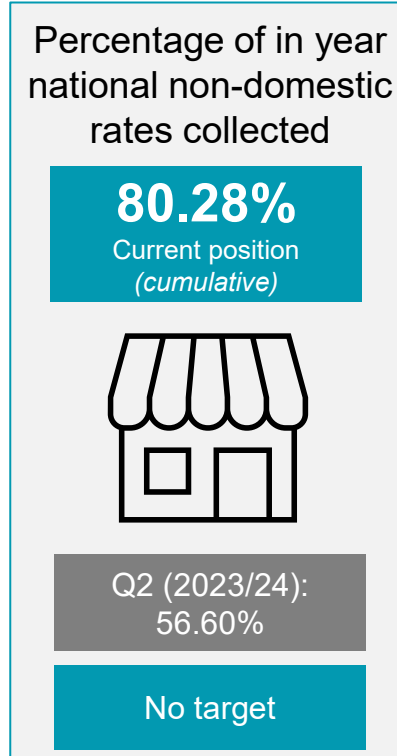
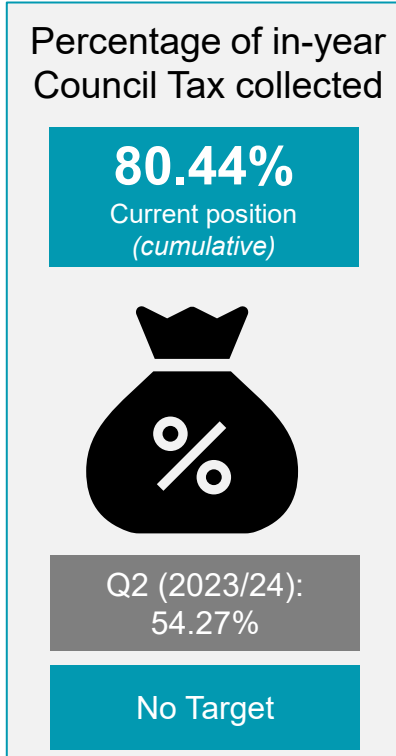
Target: 20 Days

[Green]

Finance

Key Metrics (against target where set)

Page 46



[Amber]

[Green]

Finance

Summary Update

The annual audit of accounts is now complete and the 2023/24 accounts have been submitted to the Audit Committee for approval on 26th February. Once approved, Oldham will be one of a minority of local authorities to have its accounts audited by the statutory deadline of 28th February.

The Budget for 2025/26 was approved by Cabinet on 10th February. This follows extensive work during the year and, for the first time in a number of years, the Council is not forecast to call to reserves in order to balance its budget.

Collection Rates for Council Tax and NNDR as of January 2025 were both at 89.0%, ranking 5th in Greater Manchester in each case. The Council budgets to achieve an overall collection rate for the year of 96.5% for Council Tax and 97.5% for Business rates and is on target to achieve this.

Procurement

Summary Update

Page 48

- Commercial Procurement Unit undertaken Procurement Act 23 (PA23) training in readiness for 'go live' of the Act on 24 Feb 2025
- CPU drafting revised PA23 templates with agreement for internal legal review
- Procurement training sessions to be run by STAR procurement to senior managers during Feb/Mar 25 covering procurement generally and PA23. This will be split by 2 sessions strategic/operational procurement implications
- CPU continues to be understaffed with only 2 perm members of staff. Revise structure proposed and due to comment consultation later in Feb once discussed with incoming FD

Finance

Comments

Q2: Julie Smethurst (Assistant Director Revenues & Benefits)

The withdrawal of the e-invoicing module by our suppliers at the beginning of August has adversely impacted on the accounts payable team. Invoices that were previously paid automatically now need to be processed manually. The benefits team have had a couple of processing staff off on long term sick, which has impacted on processing times for new CTRS claims.

Q3: Adam Parsey (Interim Head of Revenues)

The accounts payable team has been impacted by staff sickness resulting in an increase in the average time to process invoices. Universal Credit migration and an increase in change of circumstances notifications from the DWP has increased workload for the benefit team. The focus has been to ensure Housing Benefit processing remains within DWP targets, however the team are working to bring Council Tax reduction new and change of circumstances back in line.

Signed Off: 14/02/2025

Finance Glossary:

- FOI: Freedom of Information
- EIR: Environmental Information Regulations
- CTR: Council Tax Reduction
- SPD: Single Person Discount
- CPU: Commercial Procurement Unit

Finance / Procurement / HR & OD / IT

Portfolio Holder Comments

Q2: Cllr Abdul Jabbar (Cabinet Member for Value for Money & Sustainability)

Significant work has been undertaken to manage in year budget pressures which has resulted in good progress. The imminent rollout of new laptops and the associated decrease in hardware issues should enable our staff to maximise their productivity and better serve residents across the Borough.

Q3: Cllr Abdul Jabbar (Cabinet Member for Value for Money & Sustainability)

I'm incredibly proud to report that once again Oldham is one of the few authorities in the country to have submitted our accounts for 2023/24 to audit by the statutory deadline, this is no easy task but the team have worked tremendously hard under difficult circumstances to complete this work.

While the average time to process new CTR claims isn't yet where we'd like it to be I'm glad progress has been made back towards the target from its high of 30days in Q2.

Signed Off: DDMMYY

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Oldham Council Leavers Deep Dive

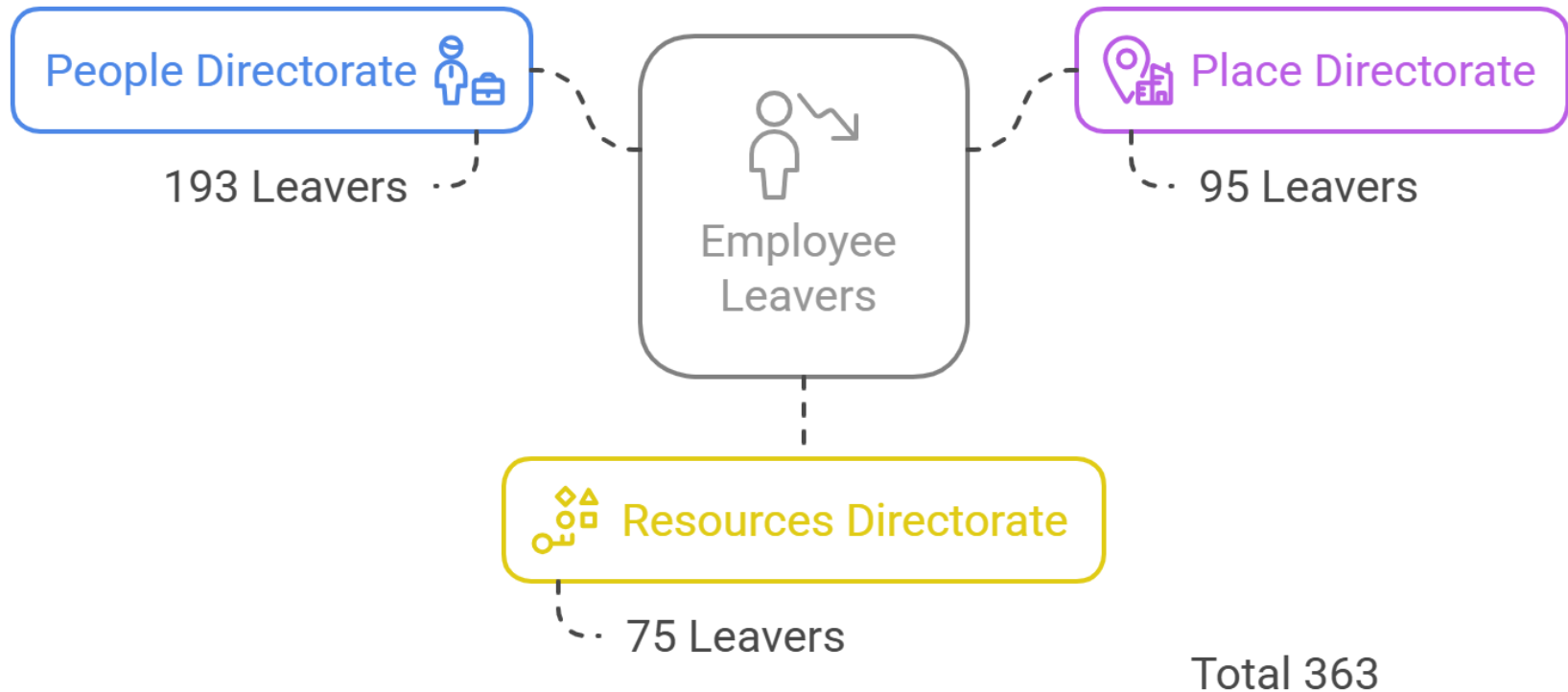
25 March 2025

National picture - Local Government leavers

- Over the last ten years every other parts of the public sector has grown more than local government which has, lost around 40 per cent of its workforce. Head of Workforce, Naomi Cooke Local Government Association (LGA)
- Sector-wide workforce survey showcases 28% of employees at an earlier stage in their career plan to leave local government in next four years. Local Government Chronicle (LGC)
- Research by the County Councils Network (CCN), carried out by PwC, Workforce of the Future, shows that workforce capacity is 'one of the biggest challenges' facing local government in England, worsened by over a decade of funding challenges and exacerbated in recent years by post-pandemic trends.
- Research by the Local Government Association (LGA) finds that almost three quarters of local authorities face social worker retention problems.

Oldham Council Leavers

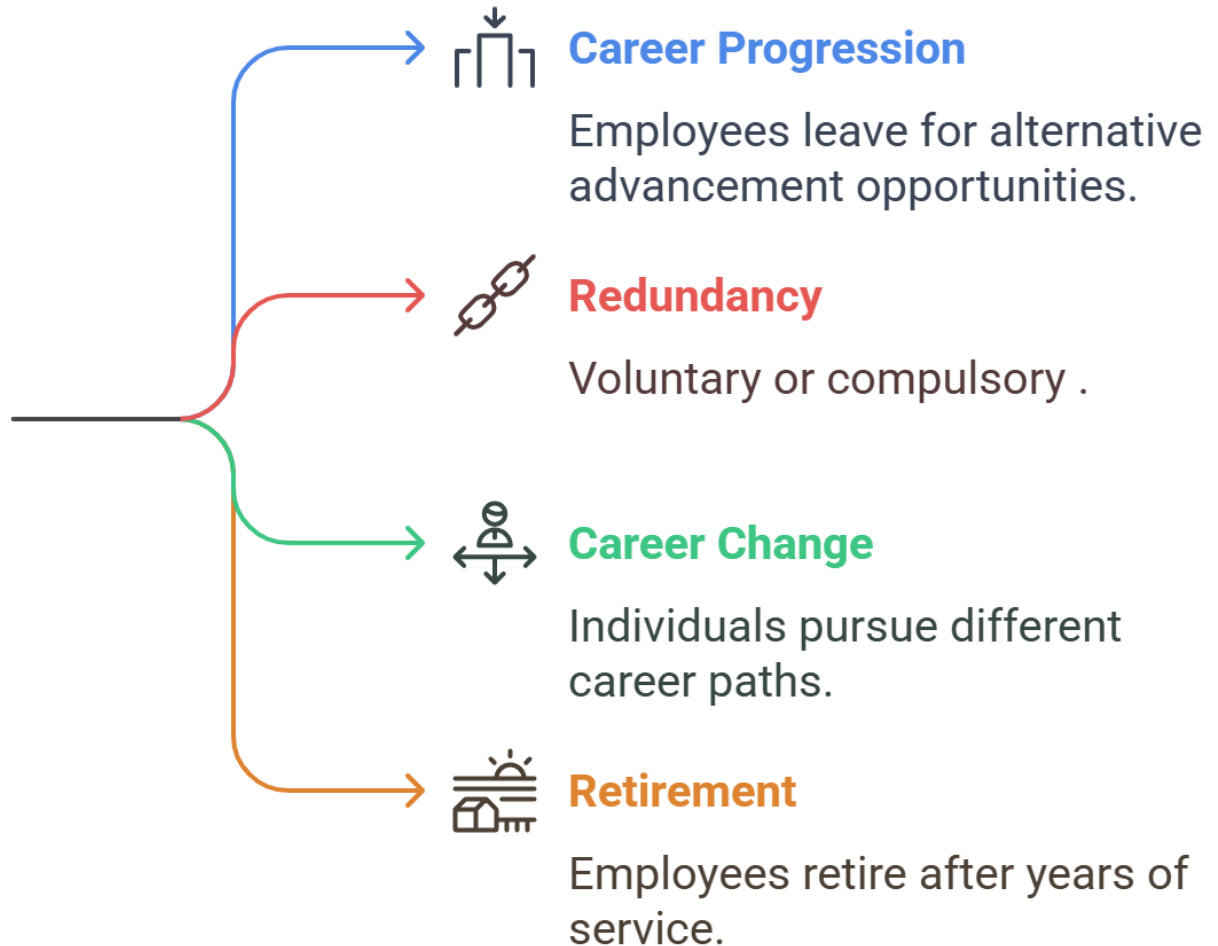
Employee Leavers by Directorate: April 2024 - February 2025



Leavers broken down

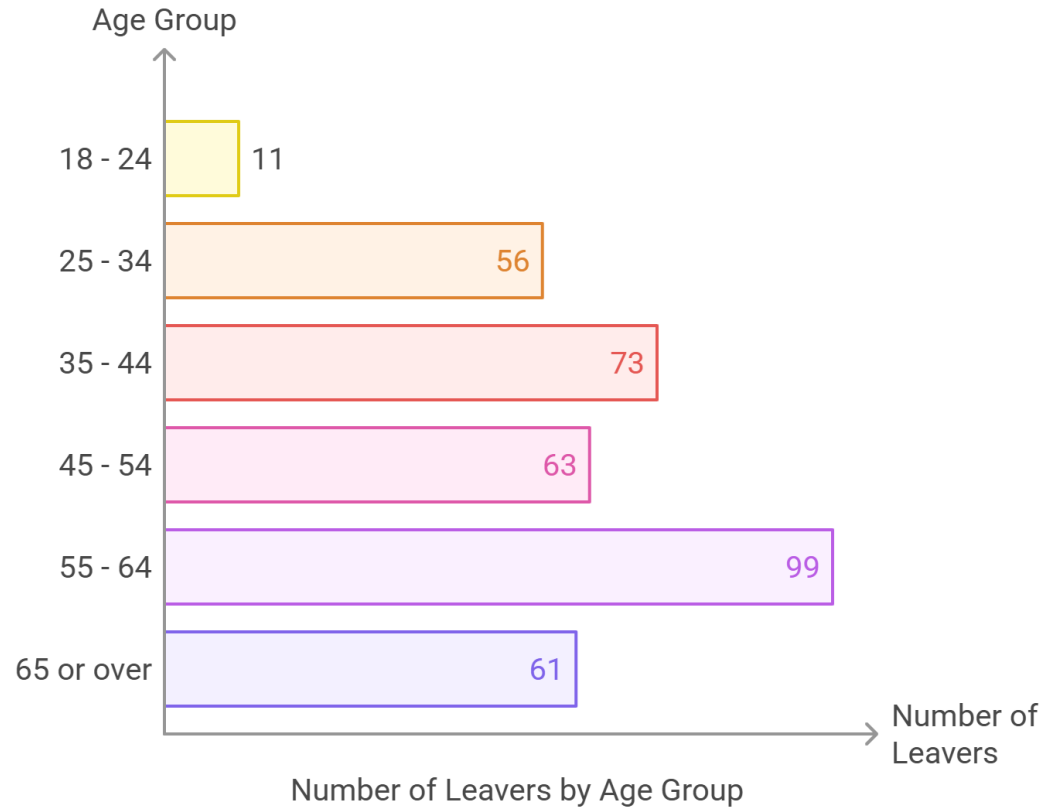


What is the main reason for employee turnover?



Leavers broken down

Length Of Service

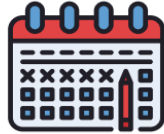


Feedback from Leavers

- “I loved working with and supporting residents!”
- “I really like that everyone was so welcoming and non-judgmental. I like the different blend of cultures here and during my time I can honestly say I heard no rude, offensive oppressive or discriminatory language. People seem to be very respectful of each other”
- “I absolutely loved working for Oldham Council and most importantly was proud to shout out about Oldham. The people (colleagues) who all supported one another and where friendships have been made which will last forever”
- “My colleagues. Their hard work, dedication and commitment to providing the best service they could with ever diminishing resources”

Oldham Council Staff Survey

You said, we did, together we will...



The staff survey took place from the **29 January to 15 March 2024** and **59%** of the workforce took part.



A total of **1,204** staff completed the survey. The service with the highest number of responses was **Transformation** with **90%** of staff completing the survey.



The highest scoring questions were...

I understand how my work helps Oldham residents – 91%
I am trusted to carry out my job effectively – 91%
I am respected by my colleagues – 85%



The survey highlighted that staff are most proud of

- helping the local community
- teamwork
- service delivery

Together, we make a difference!



37% of staff who took part in the survey said they take great pride in the positive impact their work has on residents and local communities.

Oldham Council Staff Survey

You said, we did, together we will...



The greatest concerns raised by staff were...

- Pay
- Workload pressures
- Access to training and development



37% of staff felt their pay did not reflect their level of responsibility



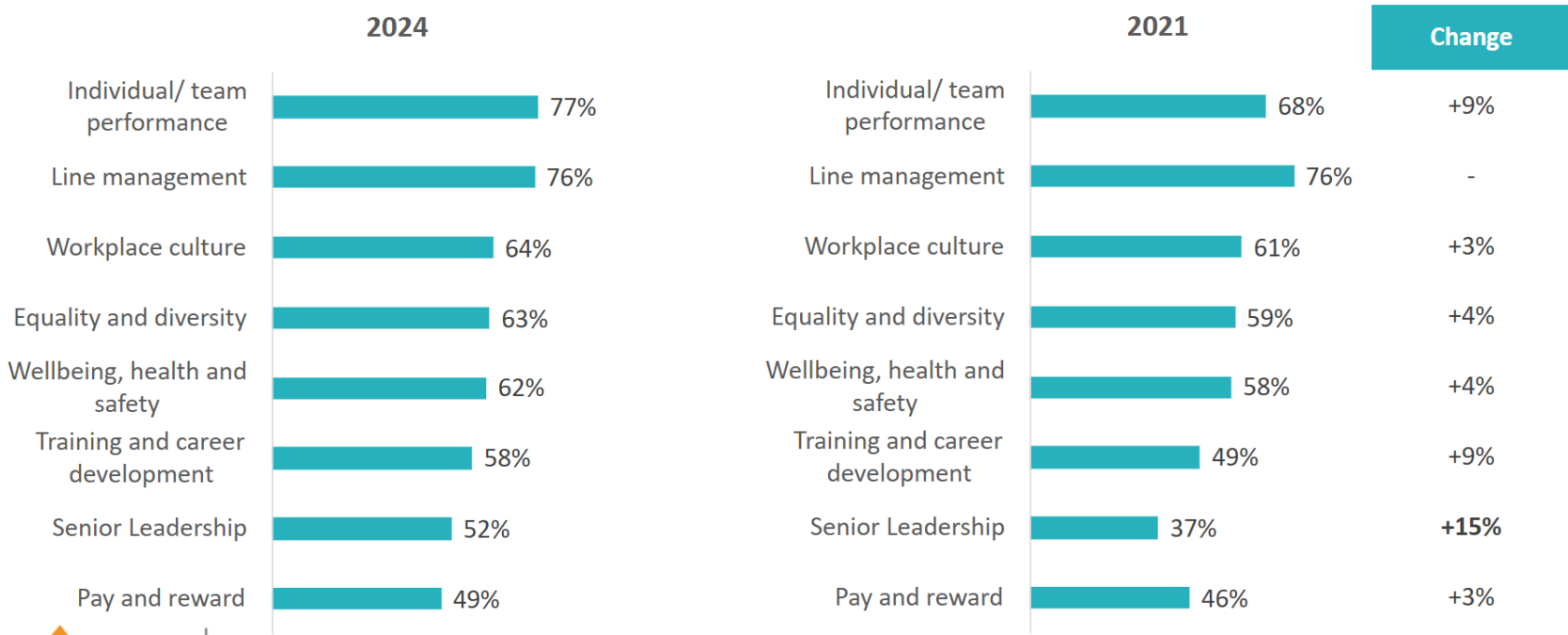
34% of staff felt their pay was not comparable to others doing a similar job in other organisations.



65% of staff felt that they could challenge inappropriate behaviour at work, such as bullying or personal insults.

Staff Surveys – Past & Present

Average agreement for themes addressed within the survey



What we are doing to address recruitment & retention

- Incorporate inclusive recruitment practices
- Review and add to our employee benefits package
- Continue communicating our wellbeing offer and access to Mental Health First Aiders and counselling sessions.
- Adding to our employee voice channels to help colleague feedback on what we can do better. Staff survey, change champions and launching peer support groups to ensure colleagues are connected and supported.
- Support with learning and development opportunities
- Review our staff and manager induction

Early careers and preparing for the future

- Through our early career's strategy, we will aim to successfully promote opportunities in the Oldham Council to students and school leavers as a good place to work.
- Our strategy will demonstrate the wide variety of paths into the sector including apprenticeships, supported internships and graduate schemes, T levels & work experience placements
- We will continue build on our strong partnerships with schools, colleges and universities.
- Our early careers strategy will help shape the future workforce, create a recruitment pipeline and develop the skills and experience of existing staff.

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Report to Governance, Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board



Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10 – January 2025

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability

Officer Contact: Lee Walsh, Assistant Director of Finance

Report Author: Vickie Lambert, Finance Manager

25 March 2025

Reason for Decision

The report provides Governance, Strategy & Resources Board with an update as at 31 January 2025 (Month 10) of the Council's 2024/25 forecast revenue budget position (at Annex 1) alongside the financial position of the capital programme together with the revised capital programme 2024/25 to 2028/29 (at Annex 2).

Executive Summary

Revenue Position

The forecast overspend position based on the Month 10 profiled budget is £12.164m which if not addressed would result in a year-end overspend of £14.597m (£14.178m at Month 9).

This financial monitoring report follows on from the previously reported positions and details the potential year end position if no further action is taken to reduce net expenditure. The management actions already implemented for 2024/25 have been factored into the current forecasts and have had a positive impact on the adverse position from that reported at Quarter 1 (£26.033m). Work continues across the organisation to address this position and reduce this position even further.

An update on the Month 10 2024/25 position is detailed within Annex 1.

Information on the forecast year end position of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG), and Collection Fund is also outlined in the report.

Capital Position

The report outlines the most up to date capital spending position for 2024/25 to 2029/30 for approved schemes. The revised capital programme budget for 2024/25 is £87.460m at the close of Month 10 (£87.260m at Month 9), a net increase of £0.200m. Actual expenditure to 31 January 2025 was £59.145m (67.63% of the forecast outturn).

Recommendations

That Governance, Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Board:

1. Notes the contents of the report.
2. Notes the forecast profiled budget, being an adverse position of £12.164m at Month 10 and the forecast potential adverse position by year end of £14.597m, with mitigations in place to reduce expenditure as detailed at Annex 1.
3. Notes the use of general earmarked reserves to fund any year end revenue overspend for 2024/25.
4. Notes the forecast positions for the Dedicated Schools Grant and Collection Fund.
5. Notes the revised capital programme for 2024/25 including the proposed virements and the forecast for the financial years to 2029/30 as at Month 10 as outlined in Annex 2.

Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10 – January 2025

1 Background

1.1 The Authority's 2024/25 revenue budget was approved by Council on 28 February 2024 at a sum of £299.818m to be met by government grants, Council Tax, Business Rates, and the use of General Earmarked Reserves. This report sets out the updated revenue financial position at Month 10.

1.2 The outturn projection reflects the evolving position of the impact of management actions put in place to mitigate in-year pressures, new developments and changes in the profile of planned expenditure and any additional grants that are announced from the Government.

2 Current Position

2.1 As with the monitoring report previously presented, a cautious approach has generally been taken when preparing the current forecasts. However, the continued impact of management actions have been included.

2.2 This Month 10 revenue monitoring report continues to give a general direction of travel and highlights any significant areas of concern which may not just impact on the current year, but if not addressed will impact on the delivery of balanced position in 2025/26. A projected overspend based on the Month 10 profiled budget is £12.164m which if not addressed has a year-end forecast of £14.597m (£14.187m at Month 9).

2.3 The main areas of concern identified in the Month 10 monitoring report (based on the Month 10 profiled budget) are the same as those reported at Month 9 and are:

- Adult Social Care an adverse position of £8.122m,
- Children's Services estimated overspend of £10.171m; and
- Strategic Housing, in particular Temporary Accommodation a forecast overspend of £4.632m.

2.4 The projected net adverse variance is of concern and as a result, management mitigations were and have continued to be actioned and are contributing to the forecast position reported, however demand pressures continue to impact the financial position. Further detail on the mitigations implemented are detailed in Annex 1 and are essential to support the financial resilience of the Council.

2.5 Every effort will be made to reduce the forecast variance by the year end to mitigate any potential impact on the 2025/26 budget, together with the projected budget gap for the following year.

2.6 The original capital programme for 2024/25 totalled £99.683m. The revised capital programme as at Month 10 taking into account any approved carry forwards, approved new funding, new schemes and variations and proposed variations/ re-phasing gives projected revised expenditure of £87.460m (£87.260m as at Month 9). Actual expenditure at Month 10 was £59.145m (67.63% of the forecast outturn).

Further details of expenditure and schemes within the capital programme can be found in Annex 2.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 The options that Governance, Scrutiny & Resources Scrutiny Board might consider in relation to the contents of this report are;

- a) to consider the forecast revenue and capital positions presented in the report.
- b) to propose alternative forecasts.

4 Preferred Option

4.1 The preferred option is that the Board considers the forecasts and changes within this report; option (a) at 3.1.

5 Consultation

5.1 Consultation with the services within the Council and the Director of Finance.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The full financial implications are detailed in the report.

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 There are no legal issues at this time.

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 Improving the quality and timeliness of the financial information available to citizens of Oldham supports the co-operative ethos of the Council.

8.2 The revenue budget and capital strategy/ programme have been prepared so that they embrace the Council's co-operative agenda with resources being directed towards projects that enhance the aims, objectives and co-operative ethos of the Council. Ongoing budget monitoring is key to ensuring this objective is met.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 There are no Human Resource implications.

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 The risk is that the proposed management actions are not achieved in full. Should this be the case then alternatives will be sought and implemented.

11 IT Implications

11.1 There are no IT implications.

12 Property Implications

12.1 There are no Property implications.

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 There are no Procurement implications.

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 There are no Environmental and Health and Safety implications.

15 Equality, Community Cohesion and Crime Implications

15.1 There are no Equality, Community Cohesion and Crime implications.

16 Implications for Children and Young People

16.1 There are no direct implications for Children and Young People

17 Equality Impact Assessment Completed

17.1 An equality impact assessment has been included at Annex 3.

18 Key Decision

18.1 Yes

19 Key Decision Reference

19.1 FCR-22-24

20 Background Papers

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

File Ref: Revenue Background Papers are contained in Annex 1 including Appendix 1

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File Ref: Capital Background Papers are contained in Annex 2

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REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2024/25**Month 10 – January 2025****1 Background**

- 1.1 The Authority's 2024/25 revenue budget was approved by Council on 28 February 2024 at a sum of £299.818m to be met by government grants, Council Tax, Business Rates, and the use of General Earmarked Reserves. This report sets out the updated revenue financial position at Month 10.
- 1.2 Under established budget procedures all services are required to monitor and review their approved budgets during the financial year. As part of this process, a forecast of the year-end position has been prepared by all services. The forecast is reported based on a comparison of profiled budgets as at the end of Month 10 which in turn forecasts a potential year end position. The services forecasts include all known commitments, issues, and planned management actions.

2 Outlook and Budget Context

- 2.1 The budget for 2024/25 was set against a backdrop of challenging economic and fiscal conditions, with inflationary pressures, high interest rates and low levels of economic growth impacting on local and national finances. The lingering impact of the Covid 19 pandemic and the ensuing cost of living crisis has meant that locally demand for services and the cost of providing those services has been increasing over the last couple of years which has placed further strain on the Council's budgetary position. In addressing these pressures, the Council sought to deliver savings of £19m and apply £10.8m of usable reserves to help balance the need to provide services and to set a balanced budget. In setting the budget it was acknowledged that significant financial pressures remained on the Council over the medium term due to the longer-term impacts of high inflation and demand.
- 2.2 At the 6 February Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting, the Bank of England voted to cut the Base rate by 0.25% from 4.75% to 4.50%. The Bank of England has therefore cut the Base rate for the third time in just over six months, a move that was widely anticipated by the markets following the decision to hold the Base rate at the December meeting. The latest inflation report shows prices rose by 3% in January 25, the highest level since March 24 up from the 2.5% reported in December 24. Many analysts expected a slight increase in inflation however, overall, the headline figure has increased by a further 0.5% from the December 24 figures and is now 1% over the Bank of England 2% target rate. Whilst this is still significantly lower than previous highs and does bring a slight relief to households and business within the borough, that have been struggling with higher mortgage costs and debt repayments, future interest rate cuts in the short term remain uncertain. Given the latest inflation data, many commentators are now indicating that the pace of previously anticipated cuts will ease and a more gradual approach to reducing the Bank Rate will be taken by the Bank of England. Markets are now expecting that the base

rate is more likely to be 3.50% at the end of 2025 as opposed to the previous forecast of 3%, therefore indicating any changes will be slower and more measured. Moreover, the impact of high inflation on the cost of utilities, fuel and food is such that these costs remain significantly higher than they were a couple of years ago which presents an ongoing challenge in boroughs like Oldham where high levels of deprivation are widespread. The pressures are unlikely to reduce, and the impact is such that these will continue to affect budget setting for future years.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 The current net revenue budget of £302.677m remains unchanged from that reported at Month 9.
- 3.2 Following the Month 9 report, the details within this revenue monitoring report outline the general direction of travel for the financial year and highlight any significant areas of concern which may not just impact on the current year, but also when preparing future budgets. An overspend position based on the Month 10 profiled budget is £12.164m which if not addressed is projected to lead to a year-end deficit of £14.597m. This is an adverse movement of £0.419m from that reported at Month 9 which was a forecast adverse variance for the year of £14.178m.
- 3.3 The forecast position at Month 10 is detailed in the table below. Increased demand for services continues to have an impact on the projected position despite several Management actions being implemented during the financial year. Officers are continuing to seek out and implement further actions wherever possible to reduce this gap however there still remains a significant projected budget overspend which has had an impact on the size of the budget gap identified and addressed for 2025/26 and the level of projected Earmarked Reserves.

Table 1 – Summary of Month 10 Profiled Budget Position

| Directorate | Profiled Budget at Mth 10 £000 | Profiled Forecast at Mth 10 £000 | Profiled Variance at Mth 10 £000 | Outturn based on Mth 10 Variance £000 |
|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Community Health and Adult Social Care | 64,011 | 72,133 | 8,122 | 9,747 |
| Children's Services | 61,753 | 71,924 | 10,171 | 12,205 |
| Public Health | 19,668 | 19,594 | (75) | (90) |
| Place and Economic Growth | 57,474 | 63,344 | 5,871 | 7,045 |
| Corporate Services | 28,609 | 26,070 | (2,539) | (3,047) |
| NET DIRECTORATE EXPENDITURE | 231,505 | 253,065 | 21,550 | 25,860 |
| Capital, Treasury and Technical Accounting | 20,714 | 11,995 | (8,720) | (10,464) |
| NET COUNCIL EXPENDITURE | 252,230 | 265,060 | 12,830 | 15,396 |
| Financed by Locally Generated Income and Government Grants | (252,230) | (252,896) | (666) | (799) |
| NET VARIANCE | 0 | 12,164 | 12,164 | 14,597 |

Notes: * Forecast Outturn figures assume reserves movements shown in Table 3.

Significant revenue variances by Directorate

- 3.4 There are significant variances contained within the projected net overspend position.
- 3.5 As included within previous reports, there are currently three areas which are forecasting significant pressures;
- Adult Social Care is reporting a pressure of £8.122m at Month 10 with an estimated adverse year end position of £9.747m (£9.300m at Quarter 3).
 - Children's Services is reporting a pressure of £10.171m and is forecast to be overspent by £12.205m at the year-end (£11.897m at Quarter), this continues to be the most significant contributing factor to the Council's adverse variance.
 - Within Place and Economic Growth, Strategic Housing and in particular Temporary Accommodation is reporting a pressure of £4.632m for Month 10 and an outturn forecast of £5.558m (£5.823m at Quarter 3).

Adult Social Care adverse variance at Month 10 of £8.122m, estimated Year End adverse position of £9.747m (£9.300m at Month 9)

- 3.6 The Community Health and Adult Social Care service continues to report significant pressures forecast to be £4.771m (£4.770m at Month 9). The service is reporting significant pressures predominantly for people with physical disabilities accessing care at home and short stays following a hospital stay.
- 3.7 The Mental Health service is reporting an adverse position of £2.038m (£1.860m at Month 9). This is a £0.179m adverse movement in the forecast position between the two reporting periods. There has been an increase of five new residential placements between months, alongside backdated payments for support in this area as cases have progressed through the system.
- 3.8 The Learning Disability service is reporting an overspend position of £3.093m (£2.812m at Month 9) which is an increase to the adverse variance of £0.281m. There has been an increase in Supported Living costs as a result of a rate change, with additional Select Support fees, additional costs for direct payments and a reduction in the amount of contribution income being received.

Children's Services adverse variance at Month 10 of £10.171m, estimated Year End adverse position of £12.205m (£11.897m at Month 9).

- 3.9 As highlighted within previous budget monitoring reports, Children's Services demand and cost pressures have continued from previous financial years into this year. Increases in the number of Children Looked After having resulted in increased pressures for differing placements particularly residential, where costs for this provision are significant. Alongside Children Looked After placement costs, the continued reliance on agency staff and an increase in demand for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) provision is having an impact on the services' financial position.

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- 3.10 The pressures relating to Children Looked After (CLA), has increased significantly in the last few years. As previously reported in June 2023 there was 550 which had steadily increased to 614 by the end of June 2024. The current number of CLA has reduced and is 591 as at January 2025. Overall, children in residential placements and Children's Social Care, has had an adverse forecast of £12.125m an increase of £0.497m from the £11.629m reported at Month 9. The main reasons for this adverse movement are due to a net increase in placement costs, fostering costs and direct payments between reporting periods.
- 3.11 The Education Skills and Early Years service is projecting a year end adverse variance of £0.186m (£0.369m at Month 9). Between reporting periods, there has been a reduction in the projected costs for Home to School Transport based upon the routes currently in place, along with staff vacancies and additional income for the music service.

Public Health favourable variance of £0.075m as at Month 10, estimated favourable variance at year end of £0.090m (£0.078m at Month 9)

- 3.12 Public Health is projecting a favourable position by the financial year end of £0.090m. This position is due to lower than budgeted costs for GP Health Checks and staff vacancies across Leisure Services.

Place and Economic Growth adverse variance at Month 10 of £5.871m, estimated Year End position at an adverse variance of £7.045m (£7.361m at Month 9)

Communities

- 3.13 The Communities service area is projecting an adverse position of £5.077m (£5.394m at Month 9) of which Strategic Housing and in particular Temporary Accommodation (TA) are the main driver for this overspend at £5.558m (£5.823m at Month 9). The forecasted year end pressure reported for this service area has reduced by £0.318m between reporting periods due to a reduction in placements and further work with certain TA providers which has resulted in a reduction in the average unit cost that has been factored into the forecasts.
- 3.14 The number of individuals and families in Temporary Accommodation during 2024/25 has continued to follow the recent trajectory. The numbers in temporary accommodation as previously reported at Month 9 was 727, the current number in temporary accommodation is 637. The adverse position reported is as a direct result of the placement cost in hotels, B&B's and other temporary accommodation to house the increased demand.
- 3.15 The Housing Recovery programme is continuing to investigate more cost-effective delivery models of temporary accommodation through leasing, commissioning, and working in partnership with external partners to better meet our resident's needs. The Council is also reviewing its income maximisation opportunities and as part of those opportunities, the Council will implement a policy whereby residents will be asked to contribute towards the cost of their temporary accommodation following an affordability assessment.

Economy

- 3.16 The Economy Directorate is reporting a £0.545m projected adverse variance by the financial year end previously £0.448m at Month 9. The main reasons for the increase in adverse variance between periods are additional costs for bus lane contracts and a reduction in parking income. The Estates service area is still reporting a significant adverse position of £1.317m, (£1.393m at Month 9), mainly due to unachieved budget reductions, pressures within repairs and maintenance budget and the impact of delays in the disposal of assets. Projections for Estates at Month 9 continue to indicate that there will be an adverse variance by the end of the financial year, however, mitigations to reduce the projected overspend have positively reduced this adverse position from that reported at Quarter 1 (£2.450m).

Environment

- 3.17 The Environment service is forecast to be in an adverse position of £1.422m (£1.533m at Month 9) by year end. The main reasons for the reduction in the adverse position at month 10 of £0.110m is additional income received in the Public Protection service and a reduction in the overspend within the Highways service as a result of only essential work being completed. Overall, within the service the adverse variance continues to be due to agency costs, underachievement of income and other related costs.

Corporate Services – favourable variance at Month 10 of £2.539m and estimated favourable position at year end of £3.047m (£3.038m at Month 9)

- 3.18 Corporate Services is projecting a favourable variance at Month 10 which has increased by £0.009m from that reported previously. This main reason for change in forecast position is due to vacant posts not being recruited to as part of the ongoing Management actions introduced to reduce in year budget position.

Capital, Treasury and Technical Accounting – favourable variance at Month 10 of £8.720m and estimated favourable position at year end of £10.464m (£10.464m at Month 9)

- 3.19 The Capital, Treasury and Technical Accounting directorate holds the budgets associated with the Council's Treasury Management activities including interest payable on borrowing and interest receivable on investments and is reporting an underspend of £10.464m at Month 10 which has not changed from that previously reported.
- 3.20 A revised Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy was presented and subsequently agreed at the Council meeting of 20 January 2024 which is the largest contributing factor to the favourable variance within this area.
- 3.21 As previously reported, there is a favourable variance of £0.799m for Council financing resulting from a review of Grants in lieu of Business Rates against the budgeted provision. This favourable variance is offsetting the reported pressures detailed within this report to result in an overall adverse variance of £14.597m.

3.22 A detailed revenue table is attached at Appendix 1.

4 Mitigation of Current forecast Budget Position

4.1 The Local Government Act 1988 specifies that a Local Authority must set and maintain a balanced budget. Failure to do so results in the Council's Section 151 officer having to issue a Section 114 notice to indicate that a Council's forecast income is insufficient to meet its forecast expenditure for that year.

4.2 As detailed in previous reports, in response to the phased overspend and projected outturn position, a series of management actions were implemented to identify options for reducing the projected overspend. The Council's Senior Leadership has been working within their service areas to reduce the in-year pressure through the introduction of a recruitment freeze, and through additional controls on discretionary expenditure. Alongside this, services have been reviewing their ways of working, structures and costs to reduce spend based on a thematic approach:

- Centralising, restructuring and reducing corporate and support services;
- Reviewing and reducing management and administration;
- Reviewing service operations and processes;
- Income maximisation; and
- Reviewing placements, contracts and commissioned services.

The changes identified to date will drive both in year savings and contribute to delivering a balanced position in future years.

4.3 The effectiveness of management action and corporate procedures will continue to be closely monitored by Management Teams up until the end of this financial year. Implementation and management of these actions has seen the projected adverse position reduce from £26.033m at Quarter 1 to £14.579m as detailed in this report. It is important that these actions are continued into the coming financial year to ensure a balanced position for 2025/26.

5 Progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 Approved Budget Savings

5.1 Table 2 below presents the progress on the delivery of the 2024/25 approved Budget savings which has been updated to reflect the position at Month 10. For savings rated as Amber, work is ongoing to achieve the saving or alternative delivery and in year mitigations are being identified to cover any potential shortfalls which may occur. The Red savings are included in the adverse forecast revenue Month 10 outturn position for 2024/25. If these Red rated budget savings are mitigated downwards, it would have a favourable impact on the forecast position for 2024/25. In addition, savings rated as Red have impacted on the preparation of the 2025/26 revenue budget and work must continue to mitigate any impact on the current financial year.

5.2 In terms of savings, £17.561m of the £20.408m approved budget reduction targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered (Green & Amber), representing 86% of the total

savings target with a further 14% or £2.847m with a high risk of not being achieved within this financial year. The table below summarises the progress by Directorate:

Table 2 – Summary on progress on delivery of 2024/25 Approved Budget Reductions

| 2024/25 Impact of Approved Budget Reductions | Green £000 | Amber £000 | Red £000 | Total £000 |
|--|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Adult Social Care | (7,100) | (350) | 0 | (7,450) |
| Children's Services | (1,961) | (123) | (2,137) | (4,221) |
| Public Health | (175) | 0 | 0 | (175) |
| Economy | (1,883) | (100) | (610) | (2,593) |
| Environment | (1,974) | 0 | (100) | (2,074) |
| Communities | (234) | 0 | 0 | (234) |
| Corporate | (3,661) | 0 | 0 | (3,661) |
| TOTAL | (16,988) | (573) | (2,847) | (20,408) |

Significant Budget reduction variances by Directorate

- 5.3 As can be seen in the table above, £2.137m of Children's Services budget reductions are rated Red which remains unchanged from the last reported position. These budget reductions are in relation to certain proposals that were aimed at reducing high-cost placements and a proposal for Home to School Transport.
- 5.4 At Month 10, the Place & Economic Growth Directorate budget reductions rated Red are reported at £0.710m which has not changed between reporting periods. As previously reported, these budget reductions are with regard to the disposal of assets and the capitalisation of staff costs for highways and regeneration.
- 5.5 Mitigations for the Red budget reductions continue to be explored with updates to be provided within future reports but given timeframe these are highly unlikely to be achieved.
- 5.6 There has been a £0.350m increase in those budget reductions now rated as Green within the Adult Social Care Directorate. Work will continue of the current £0.573m of budget reductions currently rated as Amber across the council and it is hoped that the majority will continue to move to Green over the remaining two months of the financial year. The Delivery Board will continue its work on the unachieved budget reductions to mitigate the impact on 2024/25 and future years.

6 Reserves and Balances

- 6.1 On 1 April 2024, Reserves totalled £72.540m, split between Earmarked Reserves of £49.646m and other reserves such as Revenue Grant Reserve, Schools Reserve and DSG Surplus reserves totalling £22.894m. The General Fund Balance stood at £18.865m. Of the total Earmarked Reserves, approximately 28% are forecast to be spent in 2024/25.

Table 3 – Summary on Reserves Position

| Directorate | Opening Balance £000 | Use of Reserves £000 | Contribution to Reserves £000 | Anticipated Year End Position £000 |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Adult Social Care | (3,766) | 2,366 | - | (1,400) |
| Children's Services | (814) | - | - | (814) |
| Public Health | (1,114) | 242 | (385) | (1,257) |
| Place & Economic Growth | (3,057) | 580 | (50) | (2,527) |
| Corporate | (4,530) | 487 | - | (4,044) |
| Capital, Treasury and Technical Accounting | (19,712) | 597 | (2,115) | (21,230) |
| Balancing Budget 2024/25 | (10,753) | 10,753 | - | - |
| Health & Social Care Integration Pooled Fund | (5,900) | 1,491 | - | (4,409) |
| Total Earmarked Reserves | (49,646) | 16,516 | (2,550) | (35,680) |
| Revenue Grant Reserves | (7,799) | 2,209 | (350) | (5,941) |
| Total Reserves | (57,446) | 18,725 | (2,900) | (41,621) |

6.2 The above position has changed by £0.030m between reporting periods due to the reprofiling of the use of the local plan reserve into 2025/26. The current forecast is a 2024/25 year-end balance for Earmarked Reserves at £35.680m and £5.941m of Revenue Grant Reserves.

6.3 There are significant management actions being implemented to address the projected in year deficit which should continue to help reduce the overall gap by the year end, however to the extent that mitigations do not cover the deficit, there would need to be a further call on reserves. Any additional call on reserves to offset any unmitigated forecast deficit in year will adversely impact the financial resilience of the Council and is not sustainable.

7 Dedicated Schools Grant

7.1 The table below shows the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) current forecast position for 2024/25 and 2025/26 as reported to the Schools Forum on 15 January 2025.

Table 4 - Dedicated Schools Grant

| DSG Summary 2024/25 to 2025/26 | 2024/25 Forecast £000 | 2025/26 Forecast £000 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Balance brought Forward | 3,702 | (573) |
| Grant Income | 350,546 | 383,370 |
| Expenditure | | |
| Delegated to Schools | 315,491 | 337,373 |
| Retained Centrally | 38,689 | 47,904 |
| Early Years | 641 | 867 |
| Total Expenditure | 354,821 | 386,144 |
| In Year Movement | (4,275) | (2,774) |
| Closing Balance Surplus / (Deficit) | (573) | (3,347) |

- 7.2 This table shows an in-year projected deficit of £4.275m for 2024/25 which reverses the 2024/25 opening cumulative surplus of £3.702m to give a projected outturn deficit for 2024/25 of £0.573m. The adverse position is forecast to increase with an in year 2025/26 forecast deficit of £2.774m; leading to an overall deficit balance of £3.347m at the financial year-end being carried forward into 2026/27.
- 7.3 There has been a significant increase in the level of actual and anticipated net expenditure within the High Needs Block in both 2024/25 and 2025/26 with the largest increases being in relation to funding for special schools (£1.638m), the number and cost of Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's- £1.600m) and the cost of Out of Borough provision (£1.265m). These trends are set to continue into 2025/26.
- 7.4 It is an important element of the financial management of the Authority that the DSG, wherever possible is not in a deficit position, notwithstanding which, clearly the financial position of the DSG has worsened with a deficit now being forecast for 2024/25 (£0.537m) and 2025/26 (£3.347m). Implementation of the programme of work funded under the Delivering Better Value in SEND combined with the complimentary work undertaken in the North West Change Partnership Programme (NWCPP) and the Early Language Support for Every Child initiative (ELSEC) will be pivotal in the consolidation and future sustainability of the of the DSG in Oldham and work will continue during the remainder of 2024/25, throughout 2025/26 and beyond to ensure that the current position is mitigated as far as is possible going forward.

8 Collection Fund

- 8.1 The tables below show the forecast outturn position for the Collection Fund (the technical account within which Council Tax and Business Rates (National Non-Domestic Rates (NDR)) are managed) and the forecast position in relation to the share of balances between the Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority precepting Authorities.

Table 5 – Collection Fund Forecast Position

| Collection Fund Balance | Council Tax £000 | NDR £000 | Total £000 |
|---|---------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Balance Brought Forward | 190 | (1,140) | (950) |
| Release of estimated (deficit) / surplus carried forward from 2023/24 | (332) | 1,039 | 707 |
| Prior Year Balance Brought Forward | (142) | (101) | (243) |
| Deficit for the Year | 1,329 | 131 | 1,460 |
| Net Deficit Carried Forward | 1,187 | 30 | 1,217 |

Table 6 – Collection Fund – 2024/25 Share of Balances; Forecast Position

| Collection Fund Balance | Council Tax £000 | NDR £000 | Total £000 |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Share - Oldham Council | 1,000 | 30 | 1,030 |
| Share – Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Mayoral Police and Crime Commissioner | 130 | - | 130 |
| Share – Greater Manchester Combined Authority - Mayoral General Precept (including Fire and Rescue Services) | 57 | 0 | 57 |
| Total Deficit | 1,187 | 30 | 1,217 |

- 8.2 Council Tax and Business Rates are a significant source of funding for Council services. However, income from these areas can be volatile. The 2024/25 financial year is no different with the on-going impact of the cost-of-living crisis having an impact on Council Tax collection. As such, the financial position of the Collection Fund is under constant review.
- 8.3 The Greater Manchester 100% Business Rates Retention Scheme has continued into 2024/25. Any financial benefits arising from membership within the pilot scheme will continue to be monitored, any beneficial financial resource will be used, if possible, to support the Council's budget and has informed the Budget setting process for 2025/26.
- 8.4 As highlighted in Table 5 and 6 above, current year end Collection Fund projections are showing an overall deficit of £1.217m, with the Council's proportion of this deficit being £1.030m. This deficit position has been reflected within the 2025/26 base budget that was approved by Council on 6 March 2025.

9 Summary

- 9.1 The current projected position at Month 10 has increased the adverse variance since the last reporting period by £0.419m and is reporting a potentially significant overspend position by the end of the financial year. The main reasons for this change in reporting periods are additional placements within Children's Social Care and additional placements and increased costs in Adult Social Care. The reduction in temporary accommodation is encouraging, and it is hoped that as work continues in this area, this position will reduce further by the financial year end. The implementation of management actions particularly around staffing and essential spend have been key in keeping the projected outturn position lower than the position first reported at Quarter 1, however the impacts of demand on certain Council services is evident. As previously reported and can be seen within the council's 2025/26 budget setting papers, these are not just local issues and follow the trend across GM and the country. The projected position is of great concern for the Council and work must continue to reduce this further by the end of the financial year. Due to the significant overspend in 2023/24 and with a challenging budget set for 2025/26, the Council's ability to mitigate the in-year position through short term use of reserves is reduced.

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- 9.2 Whilst 86% of savings are on track to be delivered or are delivered, given the overall financial pressures facing the Council, the uncertainty around the deliverability of the remaining 14% of savings is still of concern and the non-achievement of savings has an impact on the current year and implications on future years budgets. Work is still ongoing in the services areas to develop mitigations, however given that there is only two months of the financial year remaining those currently rated as Red are unlikely to be achieved. Work to ensure those rated as Amber are moved to Green will continue and will be closely monitored through the monthly Delivery Board meetings.
- 9.3 Any use of reserves impacts on the financial resilience of the Council, and detailed within this report is the proposed net use of £13.966m of Earmarked Reserves and £1.859m of Revenue Grant Reserves excluding any use to fund the projected overspend. It is crucial that the use of reserves is kept to an absolute minimum. As highlighted within this report, the use of general reserves to fund any overspend is not sustainable and every effort should be made to ensure that this does not continue into the next financial year.
- 9.4 In view of the adverse variance reported it is important that mitigations are continued to be found and implemented to address the in-year position but also to reduce any impacts on the 2025/26 position.

APPENDIX 1 - Directorate Summary Financial Positions

| DIRECTORATE | SERVICE AREA | 2024 Mth 10 Profiled Budget £000 | Mth 10 Profiled Forecast £000 | Mth 10 Profiled Variance £000 | Annual Forecast Variance £000 |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Adult Social Care | Commissioning | 13,715 | 13,886 | 172 | 206 |
| | Community Business Services | 1,104 | 921 | (183) | (219) |
| | Clusters | 2,599 | 2,529 | (71) | (85) |
| | Community Health & Social Care | 23,095 | 27,071 | 3,976 | 4,771 |
| | Director Adult Social Care | 1,372 | 1,392 | 20 | 25 |
| | Learning Disability | 12,919 | 15,496 | 2,577 | 3,092 |
| | Mental Health | 8,347 | 10,046 | 1,699 | 2,038 |
| | Safeguarding | 860 | 792 | (68) | (81) |
| Adult Social Care Total | | 64,011 | 72,133 | 8,122 | 9,747 |
| Children's Services | Children in Care | 34,684 | 44,492 | 9,808 | 11,770 |
| | Childrens Safeguarding | 2,535 | 2,360 | (175) | (210) |
| | Fieldwork & Family Support | 9,924 | 10,920 | 996 | 1,195 |
| | Children's Services Intergration | 2,952 | 2,427 | (525) | (630) |
| | Central Education Services | 656 | 699 | 43 | 52 |
| | Community / Adult Learning | 250 | 250 | (1) | (1) |
| | Inclusion Service | (70) | (263) | (193) | (232) |
| | Learning Services | 266 | 234 | (32) | (38) |
| | Learning Services - Early Years | 953 | 953 | (0) | (0) |
| | Post 16 Service | 34 | 35 | 1 | 1 |
| | School Support Services | 43 | (12) | (55) | (66) |
| | SEND Services | 6,263 | 6,650 | 387 | 464 |
| | Skills and Employment | 264 | 269 | 5 | 6 |
| | Early Help | 2,991 | 2,902 | (88) | (106) |
| | Troubled Families | 7 | 7 | (0) | (0) |
| Schools | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Children's Services Total | | 61,753 | 71,924 | 10,171 | 12,205 |
| Public Health | Public Health (Client and Delivery) | 16,412 | 16,377 | (35) | (41) |
| | Leisure Services | 3,256 | 3,216 | (40) | (48) |
| Public Health Total | | 19,668 | 19,594 | (75) | (90) |
| Place & Economic Growth | Business Growth | 179 | 137 | (41) | (50) |
| | Creating a Better Place | (171) | (171) | 0 | 0 |
| | Estates | (227) | 871 | 1,098 | 1,317 |
| | Facilities Management | (250) | (476) | (226) | (271) |
| | Planning | 280 | 187 | (93) | (111) |
| | Property Management | (1,824) | (1,911) | (87) | (105) |
| | Strategic Housing | 279 | 174 | (105) | (126) |
| | Town Centre and Markets | 1,058 | 966 | (91) | (109) |
| | Building Control | 39 | 261 | 221 | 266 |
| | Environmental Management | 6,435 | 6,844 | 409 | 491 |
| | Fleet Management | (248) | (248) | (0) | (0) |
| | Highways | 3,506 | 3,573 | 67 | 81 |
| | Public Protection | 1,085 | 1,393 | 308 | 370 |
| | Strategic Transport | 14,393 | 14,393 | 0 | 0 |
| | Street Lighting | 3,570 | 3,533 | (36) | (43) |
| | Waste Disposal Authority | 14,908 | 14,908 | 0 | 0 |
| | Waste Management Service | 3,831 | 4,047 | 216 | 259 |
| | Heritage, Libraries and Arts | 5,199 | 5,199 | 0 | 0 |
| | Community Safety | 412 | 371 | (42) | (50) |
| | District Partnerships | 1,330 | 1,026 | (304) | (365) |
| Strategic Housing | 2,870 | 7,501 | 4,632 | 5,558 | |
| Stronger Communities | 165 | 106 | (59) | (71) | |
| Youth Services Client | 658 | 661 | 4 | 4 | |
| Place & Economic Growth Total | | 57,474 | 63,344 | 5,871 | 7,045 |

| DIRECTORATE | SERVICE AREA | 2024 Mth 10 Profiled Budget £000 | Mth 10 Profiled Forecast £000 | Mth 10 Profiled Variance £000 | Annual Forecast Variance £000 |
|--|--|---|--|--|--|
| Corporate Services | Partnership Support (Borough and GM) | 1,704 | 1,581 | (122) | (147) |
| | Strategic Customer Service | 309 | 142 | (167) | (200) |
| | Chief Executive Management | 1,667 | 1,668 | 2 | 2 |
| | Communications and Research | 756 | 745 | (11) | (13) |
| | Customer Services | 1,811 | 1,444 | (367) | (440) |
| | ICT | 4,058 | 4,108 | 50 | 60 |
| | Executive Support | 471 | 418 | (54) | (64) |
| | Audit | 3,060 | 2,475 | (585) | (702) |
| | Commissioning and Procurement | 491 | 321 | (170) | (204) |
| | External Funding | 49 | (46) | (95) | (114) |
| | Finance | 2,301 | 1,994 | (307) | (369) |
| | Housing Benefit Payments | 328 | 260 | (68) | (81) |
| | Revenues and Benefits | 3,735 | 3,835 | 100 | 120 |
| | Transformation and Reform | 548 | 9 | (538) | (646) |
| | HR Strategy | 2,616 | 2,282 | (333) | (400) |
| | Organisational Development | 554 | 395 | (159) | (191) |
| | Democratic and Civic Services | 1,455 | 1,533 | 79 | 94 |
| | Elections | 361 | 454 | 93 | 112 |
| | Legal | 1,467 | 1,777 | 310 | 372 |
| | Registrars | 29 | (77) | (106) | (127) |
| Strategy and Performance | 840 | 750 | (91) | (109) | |
| Corporate Services Total | | 28,609 | 26,070 | (2,539) | (3,047) |
| Capital Treasury and Technical Accounting | Corporate Expenses | 13,907 | 5,077 | (8,830) | (10,596) |
| | Interest and Investment Expenditure and Income | 5,670 | 5,780 | 110 | 132 |
| | Corporate and Democratic Core | 836 | 836 | 0 | 0 |
| | Parish Precepts | 301 | 301 | 0 | 0 |
| Capital Treasury and Technical Accounting Total | | 20,714 | 11,995 | (8,720) | (10,464) |
| Financing | Grants in Lieu of Business Rates | 0 | 0 | (666) | (799) |
| Grand Total | | 252,230 | 265,060 | 12,164 | 14,597 |

CAPITAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

2024/25 MONITORING REPORT

Month 10 – January 2025

1 Background

- 1.1 The original capital programme for 2024/25 reflected the priorities outlined in the capital strategy as approved at Cabinet on 12 February 2024 and confirmed at the Council meeting on 28 February 2024.
- 1.2 The position at the end of Month 10 (January 2025) is highlighted in this report.
- 1.3 For the remainder of the financial year, the programme will continue to be monitored and revised to take account of any new developments and changes in the profile of planned expenditure.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Table 1 below shows the approved capital programme for 2024/25 and a further four years to 2028/29, and reflects the priorities outlined in the capital strategy as approved at Cabinet on 12 February 2024 and confirmed at the Council meeting on the 28 February 2024.

Table 1 – 2024/29 Capital Strategy

| Directorate Budget | 2024/25 £000 | 2025/26 £000 | 2026/27 £000 | 2027/28 £000 | 2028/29 £000 | Total £000 |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Community Health and Adult Social Care | 4,443 | 1,000 | - | - | - | 5,443 |
| Children's Services | 4,724 | 5,058 | 3,188 | 2,000 | - | 14,970 |
| Communities | 100 | 173 | - | - | - | 273 |
| Place and Economic Growth | 83,226 | 68,621 | 26,601 | 17,859 | 1,000 | 197,307 |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | 628 | 95 | - | - | - | 723 |
| Corporate/Information Technology (IT) | 2,919 | 2,809 | 2,039 | 3,661 | 1,000 | 12,428 |
| Capital, Treasury & Technical Accounting | 2,600 | - | 125 | 10,120 | - | 12,845 |
| Funding for Emerging Priorities | 1,043 | 3,318 | 2,885 | 2,000 | - | 9,246 |
| Total Expenditure | 99,683 | 81,076 | 34,838 | 35,640 | 2,000 | 253,237 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

| Funding | 2024/25 £000 | 2025/26 £000 | 2026/27 £000 | 2027/28 £000 | 2028/29 £000 | Total £000 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Grant & Other Contributions | (43,834) | (28,633) | (6,494) | (4,054) | - | (83,015) |
| Prudential Borrowing | (49,638) | (51,646) | (27,851) | (31,494) | (2,000) | (162,629) |
| Revenue Contributions | (630) | (95) | - | - | - | (725) |
| Capital Receipts | (5,581) | (702) | (493) | (92) | - | (6,868) |
| Grand Total | (99,683) | (81,076) | (34,838) | (35,640) | (2,000) | (253,237) |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

The estimated additional costs (annualised) associated the prudential borrowing are outlined below:

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Estimated annual additional revenue costs associated with prudential Borrowing (cumulative) | 2,234 | 4,816 | 6,209 | 7,784 | 7,884 |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

3. 2024/25 – 2029/30 Capital Programme

3.1 Following the approval of the Month 9 capital programme, a number of new funding and contributions and realignments/rephasing approvals have taken place as follows:

| Table 2 - New Grants /Contributions | 2024/25 £000 |
|--|-----------------|
| DFG- Boroughwide Private Contributions | 6 |
| S106 Contribution – Failsworth Tow Path | 33 |
| Additional CRSTS funding - BPP - Red Route bA62 | 121 |
| Additional CRSTS funding - Bus Stop Enhancements | 39 |
| TOTAL | 199 |

| Table 3 - Re-phasing / Re-alignment | 2024/25 £000 |
|--|-----------------|
| Local Investment Fund (LIF) – Reallocation to Scheme | (30) |
| Stoneleigh Park Play Area – Relocation from LIF | 30 |
| TOTAL | - |

3.2 Following the approved changes since M09 and assuming grant offers are approved, and rephasing resulting from updating the 5 Year Capital Strategy the revised Capital Programme 2024/5 as at M10 is a net Increase of £0.199m.

3.5 2024/25 Capital Programme

The table below shows the movements in the 2024/25 Capital programme since the Capital Strategy was set and all approved virements to date, together with those proposed since the last reporting period.

Table 4 – 2024/25 to 2029-30 Capital Programme

| Directorate | Capital Strategy 2024-29 | Approved Virements to M09 | Approved Virements M10 | Proposed Virements M10 | Revised Budget M10 | Spend to M10 |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Budget | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Community Health and Adult Social Care | 4,443 | (1,543) | 6 | - | 2,906 | 1,987 |
| Children's Services | 4,724 | 2,046 | - | - | 6,770 | 1,796 |
| Communities | 100 | 116 | (30) | - | 186 | 40 |
| Heritage Libraries and Arts | - | 460 | - | - | 460 | 4 |
| Place and Economic Growth | | | | | | |
| - Corporate Property | 8,574 | (4,380) | - | - | 4,194 | 2,659 |
| - Environment | 343 | 1,295 | 63 | - | 1,701 | 1,132 |
| - Housing | 150 | 378 | - | - | 528 | 334 |
| - Regeneration | 57,781 | (12,726) | - | - | 45,055 | 40,760 |
| - Transport | 16,378 | 1,024 | 160 | - | 17,562 | 7,813 |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | 628 | (428) | | - | 200 | - |
| Corporate / Information Technology (IT) | 2,919 | 379 | - | - | 3,298 | 2,620 |
| Capital, Treasury & Technical Accounting | 2,600 | 2,000 | - | - | 4,600 | - |
| Funding for Emerging Priorities | 1,043 | (1,043) | - | - | - | - |
| Grand Total | 99,683 | (12,421) | 199 | - | 87,460 | 59,145 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

- 3.6 Given that this is the position as at Month 10 and in view of the current challenges being faced including the pressure caused by the economic position, there must remain an element of uncertainty about the forecast position. A further breakdown of Table 4 on a service-by-service area basis is shown at Appendix 1 (A to I).
- 3.7 Actual expenditure to 31 January 2025 was £59.145m (67.63% of the proposed forecast outturn). This is lower than spending profile last year's (72.38%) at the same period. As would be expected the majority of this spend is within the Place & Economic directorate which amounts for 89.10% of the total 2024/25 Capital Programme spend to date. The position will be kept under review and budgets will be managed in accordance with forecasts.
- 3.8 The revised capital programme for 2024/25 to 2029/30, considering all the above amendments in arriving at the revised forecast position, is shown in Table 5 together with the projected financing profile.
- 3.9 Contrary to previous updates in the year, the table below includes the current year plus the 5 year capital strategy period.

2024/25 to 2029/30 Current Capital Programme

Table 5 - 2024/25 – 2029/30 Capital Programme @ M10

| Directorate Budget | 2024 £000 | 2025 £000 | 2026 £000 | 2027 £000 | 2028 £000 | 2029 £000 | Total £000 |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Community Health and Adult Social Care | 2,906 | 4,106 | 3,000 | 3,000 | - | - | 13,012 |
| Children's Services | 6,770 | 10,482 | 3,151 | 2,000 | - | - | 22,402 |
| Communities | 186 | 338 | - | - | - | - | 523 |
| Heritage Libraries and Arts | 460 | - | - | - | - | - | 460 |
| Place and Economic Growth | | | | | | | |
| - Corporate Property | 4,194 | 3,818 | 3,287 | 3,343 | 2,055 | - | 16,696 |
| - Environment | 1,701 | 121 | 1,116 | 100 | - | - | 3,038 |
| - Housing | 528 | 5,677 | - | - | - | - | 6,205 |
| - Regeneration | 45,055 | 57,417 | 3,692 | 12,059 | - | - | 118,223 |
| - Transport | 17,562 | 13,584 | 6,903 | - | - | - | 38,049 |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | 200 | 3,193 | 206 | 210 | 215 | 219 | 4,243 |
| Corporate/Information Technology (IT) | 3,298 | 3,165 | 3,123 | 2,595 | 1,877 | - | 14,058 |
| Capital, Treasury & Technical Accounting | 4,600 | 3,600 | 2,628 | 4,373 | 2,500 | 5,000 | 22,702 |
| Funding for Emerging Priorities | - | 3,000 | 2,885 | 2,000 | - | - | 7,885 |
| Grand Total | 87,460 | 108,500 | 29,990 | 29,680 | 6,647 | 5,219 | 267,495 |

| Funding | 2024 £000 | 2025 £000 | 2026 £000 | 2027 £000 | 2028 £000 | 2029 £000 | Total £000 |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Grant & Other | (32,783) | (60,800) | (9,736) | (9,558) | (780) | - | (113,657) |
| Prudential Borrowing | (47,566) | (39,855) | (17,480) | (17,660) | (3,343) | (3,000) | (128,904) |
| Revenue | (233) | (3,193) | (206) | (210) | (215) | (219) | (4,768) |
| Capital Receipts | (6,878) | (4,653) | (2,567) | (2,252) | (2,309) | (2,000) | (20,659) |
| Grand Total | (87,460) | (108,500) | (29,990) | (29,680) | (6,647) | (5,219) | (267,495) |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

Capital Receipts

- 3.10 The capital programme assumes the availability of £6.878m of capital receipts in 2024/25 for financing purposes. This includes £4.600m to support transformational activity in the General Fund using the flexibility allowed by Government.
- 3.11 The total net usable capital receipts currently received in year is £0.629m, the first call being against the £4.600m outlined above in respect of use of Flexible Receipts.
- 3.12 The capital receipts position as at 31 January 2025 is as follows:

Table 6 – Capital Receipts 2024/25

| | £000 | £000 |
|---|---------|--------------|
| Capital Receipts Financing Requirement | | 6,878 |
| Usable Capital Receipt b/fwd. | - | |
| Actual capital receipts received to date | (629) | |
| Identified in year capital receipts remaining | (4,510) | |
| Further Required in 2024/25 | | 1,739 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

- 3.13 Given the significant amount of capital receipts needed to finance the capital programme in this and future years it is imperative that the capital receipts/disposal schedule is adhered to. This is monitored at the monthly Capital Receipts meeting and will be subject to on-going review throughout the year. It is of course recognised that the ongoing economic instability with higher interest rates and the impact on borrowing costs, coupled with the increase cost of living will continue to impact on business/economic activities making capital disposals more challenging.
- 3.14 The Capital Strategy and Capital Programme 2024/29 incorporates an expectation of the level of receipts that is anticipated in each of the respective years and therefore an estimate as to the resultant level of over or under programming in order to present a balanced budget. As can be seen below, the most recent review has produced a forecast which is below the financing projections included in Table 3. Should the currently estimated position prevail then the position would be as illustrated in the table below:

Table 7 – Capital Receipts 2024/25 to 2028/29

| Capital Receipts | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Capital Receipts Carried Forward | - | 1,739 | (2,498) | (1,372) | (1,696) | 613 |
| Identified Capital Receipts | (4,510) | (8,890) | (1,440) | (2,577) | - | - |
| Received in year | (629) | | | | | |
| Total Receipts | (5,139) | (7,151) | (3,938) | (3,949) | (1,696) | 613 |
| Capital Receipts Financing Requirement | 6,878 | 4,653 | 2,567 | 2,252 | 2,309 | 2,000 |
| Over/(Under) programming | 1,739 | (2,498) | (1,372) | (1,696) | 613 | 2,613 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

- 3.15 Although the capital receipts forecast is currently lower than the required amount, given that this is the month 10 position and there is the opportunity for the forecast to improve, at this stage it is considered appropriate to retain the original forecast and review this during the course of the current year. The consequence should the level of capital receipts fall is either, a corresponding increase in the level of prudential borrowing and hence an impact on the revenue budget, or a reduction in the overall capital programme.

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 A detailed review of the capital programme has been undertaken and realigned and reprofiled across the programme. In addition, further reviews have taken place as part of the overall Capital Strategy and Annual Budget Setting process, and we will continue to reflect developments relating to individual projects/schemes, across all years and re-profile accordingly.
- 4.2 The capital programme is being continually monitored and is reported to Members on a regular basis.

5 Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1A - Summary - Month 10 - Community Health and Adult Social Care
Appendix 1B - Summary - Month 10 - Children's Service
Appendix 1C - Summary - Month 10 - Communities
Appendix 1D - Summary - Month 10 - Heritage Libraries and Arts
Appendix 1E - Summary - Month 10 - Place and Economic Growth
Appendix 1F - Summary - Month 10 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA)
Appendix 1G - Summary - Month 10 - Corporate/Information Technology
Appendix 1H - Summary - Month 10 - Capital Treasury & Technical Accounting
Appendix 1I - Summary - Month 10 - Funding for Emerging Priorities

APPENDIX 1: SUMMARY OF CHANGES

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) - Community Health and Adult Social Care

APPENDIX 1A

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|---|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Adult Services | 4,443 | (1,435) | (108) | 6 | - | 2,906 | 1,987 |
| Community Health and Adult Social Care Total | 4,443 | (1,435) | (108) | 6 | - | 2,906 | 1,987 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) – Children’s Services

APPENDIX 1B

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) | - | 1,717 | 130 | - | - | 1,847 | 691 |
| Schools - General Provision | 3,545 | (1,028) | - | - | - | 2,517 | 828 |
| Schools – Primary | 1,084 | 518 | - | - | - | 1,602 | 38 |
| Schools – Secondary | 85 | 3,696 | (3,009) | - | - | 772 | 231 |
| Schools – Special | 10 | 21 | - | - | - | 31 | |
| Schools – New Build | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| Children’s Service Total | 4,724 | 4,925 | (2,879) | - | - | 6,770 | 1,796 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) – Communities

APPENDIX 1C

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Local Investment Fund | 100 | 116 | - | (30) | - | 186 | 40 |
| Communities Total | 100 | 116 | - | (30) | - | 186 | 40 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) – Heritage Libraries and Arts

APPENDIX 1D

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Heritage Libraries and Arts | - | 460 | 0 | - | - | 460 | 4 |
| Heritage Libraries and Arts Total | - | 460 | 0 | - | - | 460 | 4 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) – Place and Economic Growth

APPENDIX 1E

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|--|----------------------------------|--|---|---|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Asset Management – Corporate Premises | 5,705 | (1,487) | (691) | - | - | 3,527 | 2,581 |
| Asset Management - Education Premises | 2,869 | (2,202) | - | - | - | 667 | 78 |
| Corporate Property Total | 8,574 | (3,689) | (691) | - | - | 4,194 | 2,659 |
| Boroughwide District Projects | 17 | (7) | - | - | - | 10 | - |
| Cemeteries and Crematorium | - | 46 | (46) | - | - | - | - |
| Countryside | 91 | (13) | 70 | - | - | 148 | 148 |
| Parks | 235 | 410 | 250 | 30 | - | 925 | 502 |
| Playing Fields & Facilities | - | 584 | - | 33 | - | 617 | 482 |
| Environment Total | 343 | 1020 | 274 | 63 | - | 1,701 | 1,132 |
| Private Housing | 150 | 378 | - | - | - | 528 | 334 |
| Housing Total | 150 | 378 | - | - | - | 528 | 334 |
| Boroughwide Developments | 18,868 | 4,278 | (7,181) | - | - | 15,965 | 13,396 |
| Strategic Acquisitions | 4,669 | (3,258) | (500) | - | - | 911 | 428 |
| Town Centre Developments | 34,244 | (12,565) | 6,500 | - | - | 28,179 | 26,935 |
| Regeneration Total | 57,781 | (11,545) | (1,181) | - | - | 45,055 | 40,760 |
| Accident Reduction | 516 | 541 | (315) | - | - | 742 | 308 |
| Bridges & Structures | 3,926 | 1,496 | 52 | - | - | 5,474 | 1,462 |
| Fleet Management | 370 | 298 | 615 | - | - | 1,283 | 1,005 |
| Highway Major Works/Drainage schemes | 11,188 | 1,847 | (4,517) | 160 | - | 8,678 | 4,178 |
| Minor Works | 227 | 675 | (123) | - | - | 779 | 345 |
| Miscellaneous | 151 | 507 | (52) | - | - | 606 | 516 |
| Transport Total | 16,378 | 5,364 | (4,340) | 160 | - | 17,562 | 7,813 |
| Place and Economic Growth Total | 83,226 | (8,472) | (5,938) | 223 | - | 69,040 | 52,698 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) - Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

APPENDIX 1F

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Housing Revenue Account | 628 | 64 | (492) | - | - | 200 | - |
| HRA Total | 628 | 64 | (492) | - | - | 200 | - |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY Month 10 (January 2025) – Corporate/Information Technology (IT)

APPENDIX 1G

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Information Technology | 2,919 | 3,254 | (2,875) | - | - | 3,298 | 2,620 |
| Information Technology Total | 2,919 | 3,254 | (2,875) | - | - | 3,298 | 2,620 |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) – Capital Treasury and Technical Accounting

APPENDIX 1H

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cross Cutting /Corporate | 2,600 | 2,400 | (400) | - | | 4,600 | - |
| Capital Treasury and Technical Accounting Total | 2,600 | 2,400 | (400) | - | | 4,600 | - |

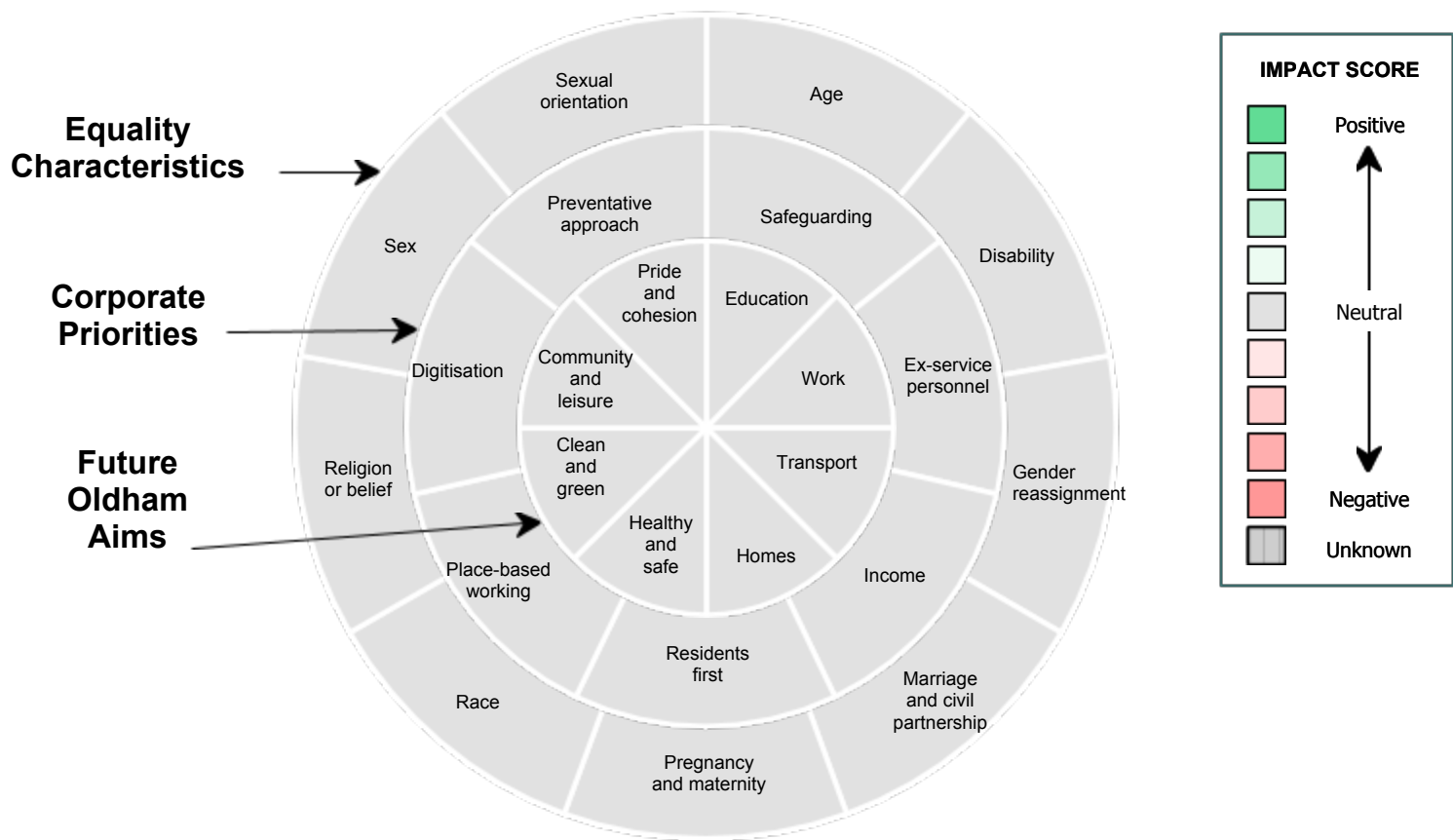
(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)

SUMMARY – Month 10 (January 2025) - Funding for Emerging Priorities

APPENDIX 1I

| Service area | Capital Strategy £000 | Approved Changes /Virements to M08 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M09 £000 | Approved Changes /Virements M10 £000 | Proposed Virements M10 £000 | Revised Budget M10 £000 | Expend to M10 £000 |
|--|--------------------------|--|---|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Funding for Emerging Priorities | 1,043 | (1,043) | - | - | | - | - |
| Funding for Emerging Priorities Total | 1,043 | (1,043) | - | - | | - | - |

(subject to rounding – tolerance +/- £1k)



| Annex 3- EIA: Financial Monitoring 24/25 (Mth 10) | | | | |
|---|---------|------------|------------|---|
| | Impact | Likelihood | Duration | Comment |
| Equality Characteristics | | | | |
| Age | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | The report considers the 2024/25 financial position of the Council at Month 10 (31 January 2025) and as such, in isolation has no direct impact on Equality |
| Disability | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Gender reassignment | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Marriage and civil partnership | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Pregnancy and maternity | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Race | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Religion or belief | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Sex | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Sexual orientation | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Corporate Priorities | | | | |
| Safeguarding | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | The report considers the 2024/25 financial position of the Council at Month 10 (31 January 2025) and as such, in isolation has no direct impact on Equality |
| Ex-service personnel | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Income | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Residents first | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Place-based working | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Digitisation | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Preventative approach | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Future Oldham Aims | | | | |
| Education | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | The report considers the 2024/25 financial position of the Council at Month 10 (31 January 2025) and as such, in isolation has no direct impact on Equality |
| Work | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Transport | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Homes | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Healthy and safe | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Clean and green | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Community and leisure | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |
| Pride and cohesion | Neutral | Possible | Short Term | As Above |

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GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025

| Agenda item | Purpose | Portfolio lead & officer lead | Method of scrutiny | Additional information |
|--|---|--|---|------------------------|
| Wednesday 19th June 2024 | | | | |
| Workforce strategy update | To scrutinise last financial years workforce performance and get insight into forward years plan. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources Assistant Chief Executive / AD: HR & OD | Service performance reporting | |
| Review of Oldham Community Leisure and the operation of the Leisure Contract | Scrutiny of OCL and their key performance indicators | Portfolio – Culture and Communities Deputy Chief Executive. Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities | Scrutiny of performance as presented in the Annual Report | |
| Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Mth 2 | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance against the agreed Budget. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Services Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | Budget performance reporting | |
| Wednesday 31st July 2024 | | | | |

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| Corporate Health and Safety Policy | To scrutinise the Council's health and safety arrangements | Portfolio – Culture and Communities Deputy Chief Executive. Neil Consterdine, Assistant Director Youth, Leisure and Communities Nasir Dad, Director of Environment | Service performance reporting. | |
| Performance Report Quarter 4 – 2023/24 | To scrutinise the Council's performance against agreed performance measures | Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. | Service performance reporting | |
| Local Government Ombudsman – Annual Report (initial draft) | To scrutinise the Council's position regarding complaints and complaints pursued through to the Ombudsman. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources Assistant Chief Executive. | Consideration of initial draft of Annual Report | |
| Draft 2023/24 Annual Statement of Accounts | To scrutinise the Council's Draft Annual Accounts for 2023/24 | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance | Scrutiny of annual report | |
| Wednesday, 9th October 2024 | | | | |
| Performance Report – Quarter 1, 2024/25 | To scrutinise the Council's performance against agreed performance measures | Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. | Service performance reporting | |
| Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 4 | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance against the agreed Budget. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Services Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | Budget performance reporting | |
| Local Government Ombudsman – Annual Report (final draft) | To scrutinise the Council's position regarding complaints and complaints | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources | Consideration of Annual Report | |

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| | pursued through to the Ombudsman. | Assistant Chief Executive. | | |
| Wednesday 4th December 2024 | | | | |
| Performance report – Month 6, 2024/25 | To scrutinise Council performance against agreed performance measures. | Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. | Service performance reporting | |
| Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Quarter 2 | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance against the agreed Budget. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | budget performance reporting | |
| Partnership Risk Dashboard | To assess the overall risk on partnerships to the Council. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources. Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | Budget performance reporting | |
| Wednesday 29th January 2025 (Administration Budget) | | | | |
| Revenue, Monitor and Capital Investment Programme | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance and proposals | Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | | |
| Revenue Budget report 2025/26 and Medium Term Financial Strategy | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance and proposals | Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | | |
| Capital Strategy and Capital Programme | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance and proposals | Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | | |
| Treasury Management Strategy 2025/26 | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance and proposals | Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | | |
| Housing Revenue Account | To scrutinise the Council's financial performance and proposals | Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | | |
| Thursday 6th February 2025 | | | | |
| Opposition Budget | To scrutinise the opposition budget proposals for the coming financial year | Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance | | |

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|---|--|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Tuesday 25th March 2025 | | | | |
| Performance report Quarter 3, 2024/25 | To scrutinise Council performance against agreed performance measures | Portfolio – Leader of the Council. Assistant Chief Executive. | Service performance reporting. | |
| Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10 | To scrutinise the Council’s financial performance against the agreed Budget. | Portfolio – Finance and Corporate Resources Sarah Johnston, Director of Finance. | Budget performance reporting | |
| Poverty Truth Commission | To examine progress with the work of the Commission | Portfolio - Health and Social Care Amanda Richardson | Service Performance reporting | Deferred to June 2025 meeting |

Task and finish group deep dives:

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| Deep dive area: | Expanded proposal: |
| Communicating with customers and Customer experience of the council. | Given the council focus on residents, this task and finish group will explore how the council currently communicates with residents and will interrogate how customers feel about their contact experiences with customers |

TO BE SCHEDULED (additional session)

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| TO BE SCHEDULED (additional session) | | | | |
| TBC | The impact of the proposed health integration on the Council and its future operations. | To be confirmed | Budget and Performance Monitoring. | |
| TBC | Update on contract monitoring within the Council for a selected operational area (report on the performance of E-on) | To scrutinise the Council’s health and safety arrangements | Scrutiny of the street lighting contract that the Council has with Eon – Director of Environment/Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods | |

| REMOVED | | | | |
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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|--|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| FCR-01-25 | Newton Development Work | Chief Executive | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: To report on the Council's engagement with Newton.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Newton Development Work</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| ESR-30-24 | Planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts – Direct Award for Interim Solutions and Planned Procurement of Long-Term Solutions | Director of Economy | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

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| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <p>Description: To report on planned and preventative maintenance contracts.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts – Direct Award for Interim Solutions and Planned Procurement of Long-Term Solutions</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| FCR-22-24 | Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10 | Director of Finance | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council’s 2024/25 forecast revenue budget position and the financial position of the capital programme as at the period ending 31 January 2025 (Month 10)</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Month 10</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public</p> | | | | |
| HSC-03-25 New! | Development of the Willow House Supported Living service | Director of Adults Social Care/DASS | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|--|---|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <p>Description: To report on the development of the Willow House Supported Living Service.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Willow House Supported Living Service</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| EE-04-24 New! | OCL Utilities | Director of Neighbourhoods | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: To report on the Oldham Community Leisure’s (OCL) utilities contracts</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: OCL Utilities</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| ESR-08-25 New! | Oldham’s Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) | Director of Economy | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

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| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <p>Description: The report seeks approval to publish the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2025 on the council website (the documents attached at Appendix. Delegation is also sought for the approval of future updates of the Strategy to the relevant portfolio holders.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Oldham’s Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025)</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| NEI-01-25 | Bin Replacement Programme | Deputy Chief Executive (Place) | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: To report on the Borough’s bin replacement programme</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Bin Replacement Programme</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| NEI-02-25 | Fleet Stores Procurement | Deputy Chief Executive (Place) | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <p>Description: To report on the procurement exercise relating to the Fleet Stores.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Fleet Stores Procurement</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| ESR/03/25 | Grant Acceptance Place Partnership | Deputy Chief Executive (Place) | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: Approval of report on a accepting a grant for the Place Partnership</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: PUBLIC</p> | | | | |
| NEI/11/24 | Parking Service Review and Contract | Director of Environment | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

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| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <p>Description: To report on the Borough’s Parking Service Review and Contract.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Parking Service Review and Contract</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices</p> <p>Report to be considered in Public/Private: NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and it is not in the public interest to disclose the information because it relates to the financial or business affairs of the Council or a third party.</p> | | | | |
| ESR-13-25 New! | In Work Progression - grant acceptance | Deputy Chief Executive (Place) | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: approval of grant</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: PUBLIC</p> | | | | |
| ESR-07-25 | Complying with the Biodiversity Duty – Our Policies and Objectives for Thriving Wildlife in Oldham | Director of Economy | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: Approval of report on complying with the Biodiversity Duty – Our Policies and Objectives for Thriving Wildlife in Oldham</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: PUBLIC</p> | | | | |
| ESR-06-25 | Adoption of Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document | Director of Economy | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|--|---|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <p>Description: Adoption of the Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which applies across the whole Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (PfE Plan) area and has, therefore, been prepared jointly by the nine PfE Plan authorities (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan). The SPD provides further guidance on how criterion 17 (in particular) of Policy JP-C8: Transport Requirements of New Development of the PfE Plan will be implemented.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: PUBLIC</p> | | | | |
| ESR-05-25 | Adoption of South Pennine Moors Supplementary Planning Document | Director of Economy | 24 th March 2025 | Cabinet |
| <p>Description: Adoption of the South Pennines Moors Supplementary Planning Document which supports three of Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan Document (PfE) authorities - Oldham (not including the area covered by the Peak District National Park), Rochdale and Tameside in the implementation of Policy JP-G5 Uplands.</p> <p>Document(s) to be considered in public or private: PUBLIC</p> | | | | |

Key:

New! - indicates an item that has been added this month

Notes:

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|

1. The procedure for requesting details of documents listed to be submitted to decision takers for consideration is to contact the Contact Officer contained within the Key Decision Sheet for that item. The contact address for documents is Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH. Other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker.
2. Where on a Key Decision Sheet the Decision Taker is Cabinet, the list of its members are detailed on the Council's website
3. Full Key Decision details (including documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration, specific contact officer details and notification on if a report is likely to be considered in private) can be found via the online published plan at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=144&RD=0>

Notice of Private Reports

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

Oldham Borough Council intends to hold a private meeting (or part thereof) of the Cabinet on Monday, 24th March 2025

Decision to be taken (Agenda Item) Decisions proposed to be taken in private at Cabinet on 24th March 2025:

a. Parking Service Review and Contract

Reason:

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

b. Planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts – Direct Award for Interim Solutions and Planned Procurement of Long-Term Solutions

Reason:

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|

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

c. Fleet Stores Procurement

Reason:

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

d. Oldham Community Leisure (OCL) Utilities

Reason:

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

e. Bin Replacement Programme

Reason:

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

f. Newton Development Work

Reason:

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

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 1 MARCH 2025

| Key Decision Reference | Subject Area For Decision | Led By | Decision Date | Decision Taker |
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|
|------------------------|---------------------------|--------|---------------|----------------|

g. Oldham’s Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025)

Reason:

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

h. Development of the Willow House Supported Living service

Reason:

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

Representations:

If you wish to make representations against the intention to hold a private meeting, please send these to Constitutional Services, Level 3, Civic Centre, Oldham, OL1 1UL or email: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk