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PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD Agenda

Date Thursday 3rd October 2024

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 or the Constitutional Services team at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
- 2. CONTACT details for this agenda are available from the Constitutional Services team 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 12.00 noon on Monday, 30th September 2024.
- 4. FILMING The Council, members of the public and the press may record/film/photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

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

MEMBERSHIP OF THE PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

Councillors Ghafoor, J. Hussain (Chair), Kouser, Malik, McLaren (Vice-Chair), Moores, Murphy, Sharp, Shuttleworth, Wilkinson 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.
- Minutes of Previous Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board Meeting (Pages 3 10)
 - The Minutes of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 24th July 2024 are attached for approval.
- 6 Building Control (Pages 11 16)
- 7 Oldham Town Centre Development Framework (Pages 17 32)
- 8 Work Programme (Pages 33 38)
- 9 Key Decision Document (Pages 39 50)
- 10 Rule 13 and 14

To consider any rule 13 or 14 decisions since the previous meeting.

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 5

Council

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD 24/07/2024 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor J. Hussain (Chair)

Councillors Ghafoor, Kouser, McLaren (Vice-Chair), Moores,

Sharp, Shuttleworth and Wilkinson

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Peter Dean - Cabinet Member for Thriving

Communities and Culture

Paul Clifford - Director of Economy

Neil Consterdine – Director of Communities Jodie Barber – Head of Youth Services

Subnum Hariff-Khan – Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts

Peter Thompson – Constitutional Services

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 1

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Murphy and Williamson. Apologies were also received from Councillor Mushtag (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People).

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME 4

There were no public questions for this meeting of the Scrutiny Board to consider.

5 **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held 19th March 2024, be approved as a correct record.

YOUTH SERVICES 6

Members of the Board scrutinised a report of the Director of Communities and an associated presentation from the Youth Service, which provided an update on Oldham Council Youth Service Performance, highlighting Key work streams.

The youth service provided an informal education service, working with people (aged 11 – 25 yrs.), enabling young people to develop holistically, working in partnership with young people to support and facilitate their personal, social, political and educational development. The service provided opportunities for young people to develop their voice, influence and place with society and supports them to make positive choices and reach their full potential as individuals, members of their community and members of society.

The service provided a comprehensive range of youth work programmes, projects and opportunities and comprised three distinct teams.

Oldham

- The detached youth work team,
- The district youth work team
- The Boroughwide team.

The Service worked to the national youth work curriculum which provided 10 thematic curriculum areas that sets out the educational process which underpin the quality youth work that they delivered. It was not a prescribed syllabus but rather a framework to support and develop their practice as a catalyst for learning. The National Youth Work Curriculum is a flexible framework which allowed youth workers to identify how their interventions and activities can be used to support the personal, social and political development of young people. Above all, their Curriculum responded to the diversity of young people's needs, interests and to the concerns of young people.

In 2021 the service received a core investment of £80,000 to support the establishment of a core youth work offer across all five districts of Oldham. The service underwent a restructure to secure alignment with the Places based model of working within Oldham and to deliver a consistent youth work offer across Oldham.

The key objectives of the services were identified as:

- To meet the identified needs of young people in Oldham via a range of high-quality youth work programmes and interventions, with delivery aligned to placed based working approaches.
- To raise aspirations and attainment of young people through informal and non-formal education and community-based learning opportunities
- To support young people to have a voice and influence in all matters that affect their lives.
- To support the wider youth sector to contribute to the wider youth offer, have a shared voice, and promote collaborative and effective partnership working.
- The service is gradually getting back to pre-pandemic levels which is in line with regional and national trends. Oldham, after Manchester, has highest visitor footfall in Greater Manchester.

As part of the Youth Service's Strategic leadership, they had developed a children and young people's participation Framework for Oldham to enable the service to build on a culture of positive participation. A Children and Young People's Participation framework has been developed which is aimed at supporting the development of a culture of participation across all services working with and on behalf of children and young people. This will guarantee the place of children and young people participation as a long-term priority with its principles reflected and embedded in all future strategies and in turn practice. The Framework includes:

- Provision of shared definitions and language.
- The multiple benefits of participation with children and young people.
- Legal and legislative drivers around the rights and requirements of participation work with children and young people.
- Clear principles that should be underpinning all participation work.
- A charter, devised by young people around putting principles into practice.
- A series of shared objectives around participation.
- Information around our existing participation work both collective and individual.
- A preferred model for participation as adopted across Greater Manchester.
- Application of the model to our current whole system approach to participation.
- Useful tools and links to further support participation work with children and young people.

The Framework is underpinned with a preferred participation Model – the LUNDY model, as this has been adopted within GM as the preferred model for children and young people's participation and ensures our participation work in Oldham is aligned and compliments wider work across the GM system. The Framework has been developed with engagement from a range of key stakeholders, Including:

- Young people supporting the development of the framework via workshops with our youth voice family.
- A range of stakeholders including Childrens Social Care, Childrens Commissioning, Education, Youth Services and Strategic Youth Partnership.

Members of the Scrutiny Board considered the report and presentation in some detail seeking clarification on a number of issues including budgetary provision and funding, measures to tackle anti-social behaviour, use of facilities – including community centres and an analysis of what young people considered to be the current key issues, which included vaping and violent crime and anti-social behaviour.

Resolved:

- 1. That the report be noted and welcomed.
- 2. That the Youth Service be invited to attend the Scrutiny Board in approximately 12 months to update members on their activities and progress against achieving their key objectives.

7 LIBRARY SERVICES

Members of the Scrutiny Board considered a report of the Director of Communities that provided an update on Oldham Council Libraries' Performance, highlighting capital and revenue programmes.



The Scrutiny Board was informed that between April 2021 and July 2022 Heritage, Libraries and Arts (HLA) had become an integrated service. This was undertaken to ensure the service could meet required budgetary savings and become a more agile organisation, meeting the needs of its diverse service users. The total recurring savings achieved amounted to £250k.



The HLA service was therefore an integrated team that combined the offer of the following services:

- Gallery Oldham
- Oldham Libraries
- Oldham Local Studies and Archives
- Oldham Theatre Workshop

The declared mission was to make a positive difference to people's lives by connecting them to high-quality information and creative experiences. The integrated team have worked together to develop a new HLA Strategy.

It was reported that the service was gradually getting back to 'pre-pandemic' levels which was in line with regional and national trends. Oldham, after Manchester, had the highest visitor footfall in Greater Manchester. However, it was noted that Royton library had been operating from a temporary site offering limited service, which affects total visitor footfall.

Flexible and resident focused, libraires had adapted to support and deliver services as needs arise, including being at the forefront in responding to the Cost-of-Living Crisis by providing warm, safe spaces and signposting residents to essential services, and more recently delivering the Housing Support Offer from Oldham Library, working closely with housing and doorstep engagement teams. Oldham Libraires were also an integral part of the Family Hub offer, working closely with Children Services to ensure families have access to a range of services across the 0-19 offer. Also, to try and tackle the high levels of digital exclusion, Oldham Libraries are playing a critical leading role in supporting residents to gain digital access, skills and knowledge. For example, libraries supported residents to complete the 2021 Online Census and have developed the digital device lending scheme.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, libraries were recognised by central government as being essential service and remained open during lockdown to offer access to essential PC use and click and collect book service, supporting digital inclusion and mental wellbeing. In addition, libraries played a critical role in supporting the covid response, from being used as community testing centres, distributors of lateral flow tests, working with partner agencies to deliver covid emergency response services and an anchor site for the community engagement teams.

All library staff were part of the first phase of training to support new ways of working. The Council's management have facilitated training sessions to support cultural change. This builds on work we are already undertaking with key partners to deliver services from Oldham Libraries including health and community partners.



Members of the Scrutiny Board considered the report in some detail seeking clarification on several issues noting the large amount of volunteering and work-experience opportunities that existed in the Borough's libraries and the prevalence of accessible ICT facilities including ready access to the internet. Members also noted how libraries had developed from being in years gone by, a book lending service to being now such a central and integral community service that reaches out to so many sectors and groups within the Borough.

Resolved:

- 3. That the report be noted and welcomed.
- 4. That officers from the Council's Library Service be invited to attend the Scrutiny Board in approximately 12 months to update members on their activities and progress against achieving their key objectives.

ECONOMIC PLAN 8

The Scrutiny Board received a report of the Director of Economy which updated Members on the emerging Economic Plan for Oldham. The Oldham Economic Plan built on the original Oldham Economic that was published in March 2022. The Plan aimed to set out the strategic context for economic growth within the borough covering the period up to 2030.

The Oldham Economic Review, (OER), was originally published in March 2022 and was undertaken by an independent panel of experts with a focus on examining the opportunities for sustained and positive economic growth within Oldham. Building on the OER work, the Oldham Economic Board was established in July 2023 sitting within the context of the wider Oldham Economic Partnership. The Economic Board consists of a range of stakeholders from business, education, and wider public sector partners. The board provides a vehicle to drive forward OER recommendations and seeks to ensure that sustained and good growth is achieved across Oldham.

The emerging Oldham Economic Plan will be owned by the Economic Board and aims to set out the strategic growth context for the Town covering the period up to 20300.

The draft Economic Plan had been prepared (and was attached to the submitted report at Appendix A) by council officers, with the wider support of the Oldham Economic Board. Members were advised that the emerging Plan consisted of a number of key areas including:

- a. The history of the Towns Economy.
- b. An overview of the levelling opportunities and need within Oldham.
- c. Seeks to recognise the strength in our diverse communities.

- d. A recognition of Oldham as a green borough both in terms of natural capital but also the emerging economic strengths arising from the bold and ambitious Oldham Green New Deal strategy.
- Oldham Council
- e. Alignment to wider regional growth strategy within Greater Manchester which is critical in terms of unlocking both future regional resource through devolution and national resource through wider government initiatives.
- f. Connectivity and mobility.

It was envisaged that future growth activity would be aligned to the above key areas which will be underpinned by clear outcome measures helping to evidence direction of travel during in the life of the plan.

The plan also sought to recognise the current and future strategic growth opportunities that exists within the borough with an appreciation that wider projects and initiatives will be identified and developed throughout the life of the plan. The priority areas of opportunities identified included: Atom Valley, town centre developments and district growth plans.

It was considered critical that evidence of the delivery of the plan be provided to demonstrate progress. Therefore, the Economic Plan set out a number of potential outcome measures. Over the coming months, work will focus of the development of a robust measurable performance and monitoring framework which will include a baseline position and 2030 targets.

It was envisaged that the Economic Board will receive quarterly performance progress reports across all metrics helping to provide full visibility on progress to date. Where applicable, it is also envisaged that key success measures will be embedded into the wider corporate performance report and it was further envisaged that the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board will receive an annual report providing an opportunity for a further deeper assessment on delivery progress.

Resolved:

- That the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board supports and endorses the Oldham Economic Plan, as outlined in the Director of Economy's report.
- 2. That the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board shall receive an annual report providing an opportunity for a further deeper assessment on delivery progress and the submission of interim reports if the need arises.

9 HIGH STREET ACCELERATOR AND EMERGING EVENING AND NIGHT-TIME ECONOMY

Members scrutinised a report of the Director of Economy, which outlined that the previous Government had announced the High Street Accelerator Programme in September 2023 and had

invited Oldham Council to submit an expression of interest in participating, due to the high level of vacant premises in the town centre.



The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had confirmed ten towns to participate in a High Street Accelerator pilot. Oldham's High Street Nomination Form had been completed for Union Street and Yorkshire Street as the pilot high streets for this funding based on existing data, notably: that in 2019, Oldham town centre was identified as one of the top 20 town centres in the country most 'at risk' from key consumer trends (Oldham Economic Review). Geographically, Oldham had historically struggled with leakage of jobs, visitors and spending to central Manchester and surrounding towns, and employment opportunities had fallen consistently in recent years, leading to vacant retail and eatery units; according to CACI Retail Footprint Data, the flows to Oldham town centre have retracted significantly and the spend profile for Oldham reduced from £170m in 2010 to £156m in 2017.

The Council was looking to seek approval to accept Oldham's pilot grant allocation of £500,000 from the Green Spaces Fund held by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), and to approve the programme of spend for the various projects it will fund. There would be an option to accept the Green Spaces Fund grant of £500,000 from DLUHC, to progress the proposed projects detailed in the Director's report and to expend the grant monies as detailed in the report's funding breakdown section.

The Cabinet, later in 2024, would receive a report which would recommend the acceptance of an external Green Spaces Fund grant and to expend the funding on progressing the proposed High Street Accelerator programme projects.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and that the Cabinet be encouraged to accept the recommendations in the report, when they give consideration to this matter.

10 WORK PROGRAMME

The Scrutiny Board considered its Work Programme for 2024/25.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

11 KEY DECISION DOCUMENT

The Scrutiny Panel gave consideration to the Key Decision Document which outlined key decisions that the Cabinet was due to take at its meeting on 19th August 2024 and at future meetings.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

12 **RULE 13 AND 14**

The Chair advised that there was nothing to report in relation to this item.



The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.45pm



Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Building Control

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes

Officer Contact:

Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

Report Author:

Neil Crabtree, Assistant Director Public Protection

3 October 2024

Purpose of the Report

To provide an update on the latest position regarding the national changes that have directly impacted on the Building Control profession and to inform members on how these changes have impacted on the Council's building control service, current pressures, challenges, and options for addressing the varying issues.

Recommendations

To note the update and consider the proposed approach.

3rd October 2024

Overview and Scrutiny Board

Building Control

1 Background

- 1.1 Building control continues to operate in a challenging environment and unlike most regulatory services, both individuals and commercial developers have the choice and option to decide on whether to engage the services of the local authority or a private provider for any work that requires building regulation approval.
- 1.2 The exception to this, under the new building safety regulation regime, is work to, or construction of high-rise buildings (HRB) where the new Building Safety Regulator oversees applications and decides who delivers the function.
- 1.3 Requirements placed on local authorities when carrying out building control functions are set out in the Building Act 1984, the Building Safety Act 2022 and in the Operational Standards Rules, published by the new Building Safety Regulator (BSR).
- 1.4 As well as this competitive market described above, where contractors and homeowners can chose to use the Council's service, the Council has to provide the statutory function element of the work and this involves a duty to pursue and take formal action for any contravention of the regulations, as well as respond to reports of dangerous buildings.
- 1.5 The Council is often referred to as the "inspector of last resort" as the Council has no choice over the work it receives, either by exercising its enforcement powers, or by having to receive work when a private provider can no longer complete the inspections and the work is "reverted back" to the Council to resolve.

2 **Current Position**

- 2.1 The service can charge for a limited and restricted number of activities through the various charging regulations and the client pays a fee for this service. This is similar to the private providers, and as such, the Council must remain competitive to retain and sustain income for the service and Council.
- 2.2 Many other functions of the service, classed as statutory in nature, such as maintaining various registers and carrying out formal enforcement action where necessary, are not chargeable functions. The service also has to maintain an out of hours response to respond to concerns of dangerous buildings.
- 2.3 During the period 19 September 2023 to 18 September 2024 (1 year) the **Council** received 300 requests to carry out the full Building control function for a client/

- homeowner. During the same period, the Council was informed of **570 initial notices from private building control providers** who were acting on behalf of homeowners/contractors carrying out works in Oldham.
- 2.4 This shows, that in 12 months, the Council was only acting on 34% of all applications requiring Building Control supervision across the Borough, with the other 66% being supervised by the private sector.
- 2.5 Where works are found to be defective, and the chosen private Building Control provider is unable to resolve the contraventions, there is a process available for the applications to be reverted to the local authority for potential formal action that can include prosecution. These applications are called 'reversions'.
- 2.6 A reversion can also be made where the approved private inspector is unable to continue their function as they are no longer able to trade due to losing their registration.
- 2.7 Recently, the Council has received a large number of reversions from one private building control company that ceased to trade following their failure to re-register (as a result of the change in regulations). In this instance alone, over 60 applications, at various stages of work, with some already complete, have been reverted to the Council for action. This means the applicant must apply again with the cost of the application to the Council having to be paid again. Officers then have to assess the work completed, the records kept and complete inspections with a view to issuing a completion certificate.

3. Latest national legislative changes

- 3.1 Following the Grenfell tragedy and the independent review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety by Dame Judith Hackitt, published in May 2018, the Government established the Building Safety Regulator (BSR) as the Building Control Authority in England.
- 3.2 The inquiry and the resulting changes strive to deliver improvement of the various building standards as well as to implement a new, more stringent, regulatory regime, introduce more powers to order remedial works and the use of enforcement 'stop notices'.
- 3.3 The journey to change the way building control and construction projects are delivered continues; further changes will inevitably follow as the recommendations and actions outlined in the phase 2 enquiry report are introduced.
- 3.4 There is an expectation that the Building Control function will return to a regulatory role, stop operating in the commercial world as well introducing a clear expectation through statutory reporting indicators, that the Council is taking appropriate enforcement against non-compliance.

4.0 Staffing and resource issues

- 4.1 The BSR oversees the provision of the Building Control function nationwide and has the power to direct a Local Authority to support its work. The authority must ensure all staff involved have the appropriate competence, skills, knowledge, experience, and behaviours. Certain activities (Restricted Activities) for example, inspections for purposes of Building Control, can only be undertaken by an appropriately qualified and Registered Building Inspectors.
- 4.2 The Regulator has established and maintains a register of Building Inspectors as well as one for the private sector Building Control Approvers (formerly called Approved Inspectors).
- 4.3 The service has supported current full-time staff members in registering with the regulator and undertaking the challenging competency requirements that are now imposed. There is an ongoing requirement for registered individuals to renew registration every 4 years and to comply with the operating standard rules and codes of conduct. Action will be taken against individuals and organisations if they are found to be failing. The authority has a duty to support individuals in maintaining requirements and ensuring CPD is achieved.
- 4.4 The registration process has resulted in many building control practitioners leaving the industry and retiring from the profession. The register of building inspectors is a public document and can be viewed online; all staff currently employed are registered and able to practice at the appropriate level.
- 4.5 Before a Restricted Function (issuing of certificates or notices) is undertaken, the Local Authority must obtain the advice of a suitably competent Registered Building Inspector (RBI) and must employ staff who are RBIs at the respective grades and levels to undertake the activity at that level. In respect of other buildings, the Regulator can set minimum performance standards for local authority building control bodies and Registered Building Control Approvers and has powers to investigate and sanction non-compliance or poor performance.
- 4.6 There is a resultant vacuum in the profession and the building control world with an acute shortage of surveyors available for employment.
- 4.7 The authority has not been able to recruit to permanent posts in Building Control despite efforts over the last 3 years. This is echoed in many neighbouring authorities as well as nationally. The Council currently operates with one full time permanent Building Control officer and 2 administrative members of staff with the remaining Building Control Officer vacancies (3 FTEs) being covered by the use of agency staff at significant cost to the Council.
- 4.8 It is unlikely that this will change in the short to medium term as recruitment drives have delivered no suitable applicants. The cost and hourly rate to employ agency staff continue to increase and place a large financial burden on the service.

- 4.9 Salaries attached to current posts are not competitive and do not meet current expectations within the industry. Many neighbouring authorities incentivise posts with higher salaries, retention payments and market rate supplements.
- 4.10 In response to this crisis in the industry, the Council is in the process through the national Local Authority Building Control body (LABC), the organisation representing all local authority building control services, of employing a trainee, however, resourcing and supporting this opportunity without permanent staff will be a challenge. Current Agency staff are willing and supportive of the process and prepared to assist in training and developing individuals so hopefully this initiative may go some way to resolve staffing issues but this will take 2/3 years before the individual is fully competent. This in in addition to an imminent restructure of the service to review grades/roles with a view to attracting and retaining more personnel.
- 4.11 Following successful recruitment and training, it is crucial that job offers need to be available to retain trainees through competitive conditions and salaries as many authorities report frustrations with private providers 'cherry picking' staff once they are trained and fully operational.
- 4.12 Internally, the service recognises the need to provide additional resource and capacity to support the necessary changes required through creating more efficient internal processes, quality management system (QMS) and the use of an electronic back-office recording system.
- 4.13 There are new statutory requirements imposed as part of the Building Safety Act 2022 through additional Key Performance indicators (KPIs) and revisions to national operating standard rules. Also contained within the Act are service codes of conduct and requirements to carry out visits and draft reports every 28 days for every current job.
- 4.14 To ensure Council's are carrying out these additional functions the BSR will be carrying out audits at some point in the future. We await the first audits of local authorities to understand the implications and expectations of the regulator. Currently the service is analysing where it requires improvements such as to the back office system where there is a requirement to maintain electronic recording as part of the quality management system.

5 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- The new regime imposed via legislation introduces more stringent requirements on individuals who practice as registered Building control officers and the local authority like others across the region is struggling to recruit fully qualified officers. There is a reliance on agency staff at the moment to deliver the service and this comes at an increased cost to the Council.
- 5.2 More far-reaching enforcement powers are also now available with an expectation that they will be used. The current structure has 3 FTE Building Control Officer

- vacancies that are backfilled with agency staff and although the Council is looking to employ a trainee it is this immediate resource issue together with the changes to the legislative requirements that are causing concern as the service tries to respond to the issues it faces.
- 5.3 There is a national shortage of qualified building control officers with many leaving the profession and it is how the Council responds to this with attractive conditions, renumeration so that the structure in place can be fully staffed and the reliance on agency support reduced.
- 5.4 Consider and the proposed approach for additional recruitment of substantive officers, reduce reliance on agency staffing, reduce the overspend and ultimately, provide a viable service that is able to meet the new regulatory regime and the needs of local residents and developers.



Report to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board

Oldham Town Centre Development Framework

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive for Place

Report Author: Peter Richards, Assistant Director for Planning,

Transport & Housing Delivery

Ext. 1917

3 October 2024

Reason for Decision

The item is for information only.

Executive Summary

As part of the Council's Creating a Better Place programme to transform Oldham Town Centre, including the delivery of 2,000 new homes, Cabinet approved the appointment of Muse Place Ltd as our long-term Strategic Delivery Partner in June 2023, following an extensive OJEU compliant competitive procurement exercise.

Since this time, a Master Development Agreement (MDA) between the Council and Muse has been entered into in September 2023 and a Detailed Business Plan for the partnership was approved by the Council in March 2024.

A key element of the Detailed Business Plan covers how the core Town Centre housing sites, including the Civic Centre, Former Leisure Centre and Former Magistrates Court will be taken forward. The first stage of this is the production of a draft Town Centre Development Framework, which will help to guide future planning and development

proposals in the Town Centre. A draft Town Centre Development Framework was consulted upon from 24th July until 11th September (seven weeks in total).

The draft Development Framework itself and the full range of consultation material can be viewed at https://oldhamtownliving.co.uk.

The following presentation therefore outlines some further detail of the Development Framework Community Conversation that took place over the seven-week period and provides a summary of the feedback received on the proposals through the public consultation.

Recommendations

That the consultation proposals for the Town Centre Development Framework and the feedback received from the consultation be noted.

Oldham Development Framework

Feedback Summary

Executive Summary

In Numbers

514

Responses to the survey form

Made up of 143 online survey forms, 37 hard copy survey forms, 343 Youth Council gathered feedback

9

In person dropin events

6 – Spindles Shopping Centre

- 1 Sainsburys
- 1 Sonali Supermarket
- 1 Oldham Athletic FC

1

Live public webinar

Recorded and uploaded to the conversation website

3

Engagement sessions held with local groups

Held with Oldham Youth Council, OL1 Business Network Meeting and Oldham Personal Advocacy Limited (OPAL)

In Numbers

Over 70

Locations received hard copy materials

Including leisure centres, GP surgeries, libraries, community centres, family hubs, education facilities Information shared across a range of channels

Reaching Council staff, elected members, businesses, residents, housing groups and community stakeholders 38,200

Reach on the Oldham Town Living social media channels

1,071 clicks to the website

75,891

Impressions from 4 paid media ads and 1 native article in the Oldham Times

A viewing time of 169 hours, 802 clicks to the consultation website and 843 Facebook post engagements

Key Themes



Parking



Safety



Housing Provision & Mix



Accessibility



Trust & Confidence



Community & Character



Green Space

Community Conversation

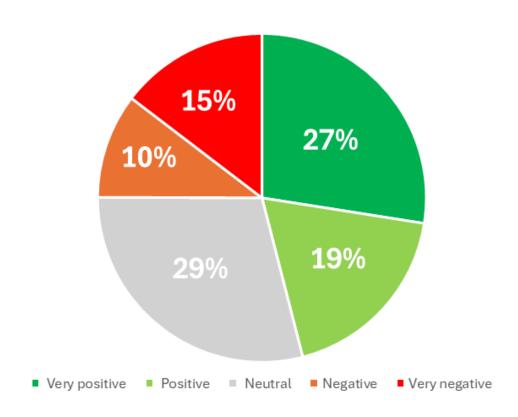


Key feedback from in-person events at Spindles

- A mix of housing types is required social/affordable housing as well as apartments and how these will be designed
- The requirement for improved local services
- Mixed views about greenspace provision and maintenance
- Support for more retail spaces
- Safety and security when using the Town Centre
- Accessibility for wheelchair users, the elderly and buggies
- Public transport and parking
- Confidence in delivery and the associated timeline

Survey Feedback

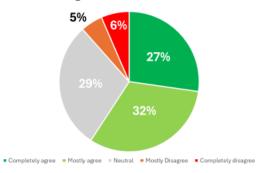
How do you feel about the Development Framework's aim to deliver up to 2,000 new homes in the Town Centre?



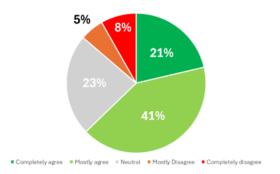
Survey Feedback

Do you agree with the Development Framework's proposals for the five character areas of the Town Centre?

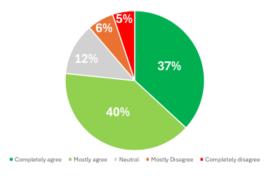
Western Edge & Educational Quarter



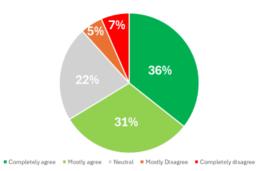
Civic & Residential Character Area



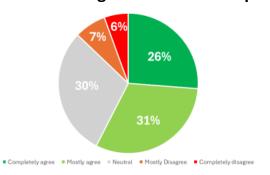
Retail Core Character Area



Cultural & Creative Quarter



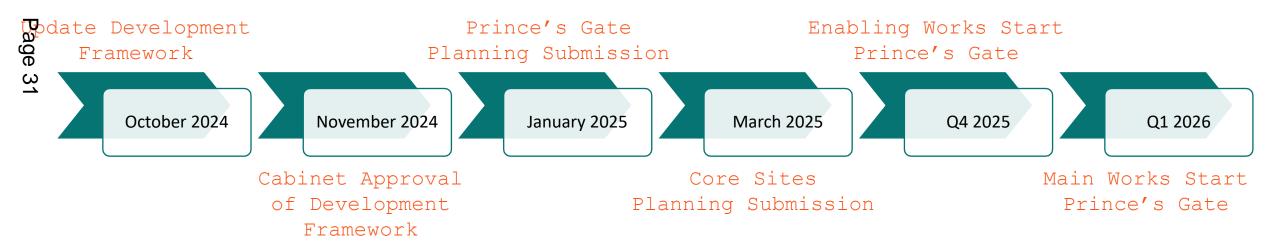
Eastern Edge & Oldham Mumps



Next Steps

Once feedback has been received from the project team, Muse will produce a "You said, we're listening" section which will provide a response to all key themes and points made throughout the consultation period and how this will be actioned and/or included within the development framework. This will be a separate section in the final report to be issued.

Programme



Note: programme subject to change and should be viewed as a guide

MUSE

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
Wednesday, 24th July 2024	l	lead	Scruciny	
Economic Plan	To review the refreshed Economic Plan.	Portfolio – Regen and Reform and Employment and Enterprise Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	Strategic document for consideration and review	
High Street accelerator and Emerging Evening and Night Time Economy	To review progress to date on the National High Street Accelerator pilot currently focused on Oldham Town centre and the focus on developing the Evening and Night Time Economy	Portfolio – Regen and Reform Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy Head of Place Making	National Strategic Initiative	
Youth Services	Statutory Guidance for young people's service – Update on Progress to compliance. Youth services performance update CYP – Participation Framework	Portfolio – Communities Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Communities	Service Performance	
Library Services	Service performance reporting - Issues and opportunities	Portfolio – Communities Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Communities	Service Performance	

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Building Control	Service Performance	Portfolio – Decent	Service	
Ballating Control	against statutory duties	Homes Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Performance	
Oldham Town Centre Development Framework	To seek Scrutiny Board's input on the Draft	Portfolio – Regen and Reform	Strategic document for	
	Development Framework as part of the consultation, which will be ongoing at the time.	Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	consideration and review	
Thursday, 14th November 2024				
Place Directorate Performance	Service performance	Portfolio – various	Service	
Report (Q1 – 2024/25) Update	reporting - Issues and opportunities	Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment Director of Economy Director of Communities Performance Team	performance reporting	
Chadderton Long Term Plan for Towns	To review the progress and planned activity in relation to the formulation and implementation of the Long Term Plan for Towns.	Portfolio – Regen and Reform Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery	National strategic initiative	
Strategic Transport	To review progress of the Transport Strategy Implementation plan and	Portfolio – Regen and Reform and	Strategic document for	

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	to scrutinise proposals prior to their consideration within the CRSTS bidding application	Employment and Enterprise Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	consideration and review	
Tuesday, 21st January 2025				
Annual Report - Emergency Planning	Review of response and future planning	Portfolio – Neighborhoods Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Review of corporate planning	
Annual Report - Health & Safety	Review of corporate H&S performance	Portfolio – Neighborhoods Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Review of performance	
Licensing	Service delivery	Portfolio – Decent Homes Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Delivery review & Review of Policy Implications	
Annual Report – Community Safety	Review of corporate response, issues, community tensions and future planning	Portfolio – Neighborhoods Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Communities	Review of performance and response	

Creating a Better Place	To scrutinize the annual update regarding Creating a Better Place, the development of Oldham town centre and other town centres in the Borough	Portfolio – Leader of the Council Deputy Chief Executive (Place). Director of Economy	Review of performance	
Green New Deal / Environment Climate Change Strategy	An annual update on the Green New Deal initiative and the Environment Plan (for climate change and adaptation)	Portfolio – Neighborhoods / Finance and Low Carbon Deputy Chief Executive (Place). Director of Economy Director of Environment	Review of performance	
Housing Strategy Refresh	To review the refreshed Housing Strategy	Portfolio – Housing and Planning Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Communities	Strategic document for consideration and review	Moved as it relates to new Bills being issued from Govt
Local Plan	To scrutinise proposals in respect of the Oldham Local Plan prior to their consideration by Council and/or Cabinet.	Portfolio – Housing and Licensing Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery	Update on Local Plan development - draft for consultation	Moved as it depends on Council decision November 2024

Task and finish group deep dives:

Deep dive area:	Expanded proposal:
Maintenance and repairs for housing associations	To understand maintenance and repairs program and to explore improvements following investigation
What is the legacy of Don't Trash Oldham?	
Barriers to work	How do we do things differently to get the core group of people out of work into employment, and what is the role of the council, as an employer, and/or as a change maker in the community.

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Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker	
FCR-12-24	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2025/26	Director of Finance	14 th October 2024	Cabinet	
Document(s Council Tax Background	e the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2025/26) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Re Reduction Scheme 2025/26 Documents: Appendices – Various considered in Public	eport Title:			
FCR-13-24	Treasury Management 2024/25 – Quarter 1 Report	Director of Finance	14 th October 2024	Cabinet	
Description: The Quarter 1 review of Treasury Management activity during the first Quarter of 2024/25. Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title: Treasury Management Review 2024/25 – Quarter 1 Report Background Documents: Appendices Report to be considered in Public					
ESR-18-24	Approval of draft Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy for consultation	Director of Economy	14 th October 2024	Cabinet	

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Document(s	the draft Greater Manchester Local Nature Recover to be considered in public or private: considered in public	ry Strategy for consultatio	on	
New! ESR-10-24	Approval of draft South Pennines Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document for consultation	Director of Economy	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
Document(s	draft South Pennines Mitigation Supplementary Pla) to be considered in public or private: considered in public	nning Document for cons	sultation	
New! ESR-11-24	Approval of draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document	Director of Economy	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
documents (stakeholders Document(s	the draft Holcroft Moss Planning Obligations Supple Appendices 2, 3 and 4) for a six-week public consuments to have the opportunity to provide comments on the considered in public or private:	ultation commencing not e	earlier than 1 November 2024. T	his will enable
New! HL-04-24	Local Authority Housing Fund	Director of Economy	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: Acceptance	of grant and allocation of council resources to aid p	project viability.		
NOT FOR P	to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of st to disclose the information because it relates to t			
New! HL-05-24	Selection of Preferred Developer for Southlink	Deputy Chief Executive	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
Description: Document(s)	to be considered in public or private:			
New! ESR-20-24	Eton Star - A New School in Oldham Town Centre	Deputy Chief Executive	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
Description:	Proposals for a new education facility in Oldham			
NOT FOR P	to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of at to disclose the information because it relates to t			
New! EE-03-24	Oldham MBC Charging Policy	Deputy Chief Executive -	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description:	a report proposing a new charging policy for the Bo	orough		
NOT FOR P	to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of s at to disclose the information because it relates to the			
New! ECR-17-24	Oldham Community Leisure (OCLL) Buildings Capital Requirements	Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Communities	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
Description:	Proposals for the development of OCLL infrastruct	ure.		
NOT FOR P	to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of s at to disclose the information because it relates to the			
New! FCR-17-24	Utilities Procurement 2024 - 2028	Deputy Chief Executive -	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
Description:	a report detailing a plans for procuring utilities over	a four year period startin	g in 2024/25	
NOT FOR P	to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of s at to disclose the information because it relates to t			
New! CHS-06-24	Additional UKSPF Skills Funding Allocations	Director of Education, Skills & Early Years	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description:	a report detailing options for additional sources of l	JKSPF Skills Funding		
NOT FOR P	to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of s st to disclose the information because it relates to t			
NEI-04-24	Street Lighting Attachments Policy	Director of Environment	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet
Document(s)	net to formulate and agree a Streetlighting attachment to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of states to disclose the information because it relates to the	Schedule 12A of the Loca		
NOT FOR P	UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of		ffairs of the Council and a third	
New! EDS-06-24	Greater Manchester Work Well Partnership – Oldham's Local Delivery	Director of Education, Skills & Early Years	14 [™] October 2024	Cabinet
Description:	a report detailing Oldham's contribution to the Grea	ater Manchester wide 'Wo	ork Well' Scheme.	
Document(s) to be considered in public or private: 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 and a third party				
New! EDS-07-24	Music Hub Partnership Agreement	Director of Education, Skills & Early Years	14 TH October 2024	Cabinet

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Document(s)	a report detailing a Music Hub Partnership. to be considered in public or private: Private - UBLICATION by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of			
FCR-18-24	st to disclose the information because it relates to the Financial Update and working capital requirements for 2024/25 – Oldham Total Care	Director of Adults Social Care (DASS)	18 TH November 2024	Cabinet
	a report providing a Financial Update considered in Public			
NEI-12-24	Parking Service Review and Contract	Director of Environment	18 TH November 2024	Cabinet
•	Review of Parking in the Borough to be considered in public or private: public			
New! FCR-19-24	Treasury Management Strategy Mid -Year Review 2024/25	Director of Finance	18 TH November 2024	Cabinet
Document(s) Treasury Ma	e performance for the first half of the financial year to be considered in public or private: Proposed R nagement Strategy Mid -Year Review 2024/25 Documents: Appendices		ry Management Strategy for	2023/24.

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
New! FCR-20-24	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Quarter 2	Director of Finance	18 TH November 2024	Cabinet

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 30 September 2024 (Quarter 2)

Document(s) to be considered in public or private: Proposed Report Title:

Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2024/25 Quarter 2

Background Documents: Appendices - Various

Report to be considered in Public

Key:

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

Notes:

1. The procedure for requesting details of documents listed to be submitted to decision takers for consideration is to contact the Contact Officer contained within the Key Decision Sheet for that item. The contact address for documents is Oldham Council, Civic Centre, West Street, Oldham, OL1 1UH. Other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker.

Key Decision	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Reference				Takei

- 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 if 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, 14th October 2024

Decision to be taken (Agenda Item) Decisions proposed to be taken in private at Cabinet on 14th October 2024:

a. Local Authority Housing Fund

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.

a. Wireless Infrastructure Upgrade

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. Selection of Preferred Developer for Southlink

Reason:

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

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. Eton Star - A New School in Oldham Town Centre

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 MBC Charging Policy

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. Oldham Community Leisure (OCLL) Buildings Capital Requirements

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. Utilities Procurement 2024 - 2028

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	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Reference				Takei

g. Additional UKSPF Skills Funding Allocations

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. Street Lighting Attachments Policy

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.

i. Greater Manchester Work Well Partnership - Oldham's Local Delivery

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.

j. Music Hub Partnership Agreement

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	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker]
Reference				ianei	l

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

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