

***PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY  
BOARD  
Agenda***

Date Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 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 or Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.
  2. CONTACT OFFICER for this agenda is Constitutional Services – email: [constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk](mailto: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, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
  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.

5           Minutes (Pages 3 - 6)

The Minutes of the meetings of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025 (to follow) and of the extraordinary meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025, are attached for approval.

6           Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 (Pages 7 - 48)

Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 – covering Quarter 3 (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)

7           Oldham Green New Deal Update (Pages 49 - 66)

Report and presentation updating Members on the Oldham Green New Deal

8           Creating a Better Place Update (Pages 67 - 74)

A report that briefs Members on the Creating a Better Place Programme

9           Grant Acceptance: Community Regeneration Partnership (Pages 75 - 94)

Report of Deputy Chief Executive (Place) – to accept grant funding.

10          Work Programme (Pages 95 - 98)

11          Key Decision Document (Pages 99 - 104)

Key Decision Document for the Cabinet meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025

12          Rule 13 and 14

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



**Oldham**  
Council

**Present:** Councillor J. Hussain (in the Chair)  
Councillors Ghafoor, Kouser, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Quigg  
(Substitute for Councillor Sharp), Shuttleworth, Wilkinson and  
Williamson

Also in Attendance:

Councillor Taylor	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Decent Homes
Councillor Kenyon	Calling-in Member
Neil Consterdine	Director of Communities
Steve Hughes	Assistant Director (Strategy & Performance)
Alex Bougatef	Interim Borough Solicitor
Simon Shuttleworth	Service Manager – Districts
Victoria Wood	Head of Housing Needs
Peter Thompson	Constitutional Services

## 1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Malik and Sharp (Councillor Quigg was attending as substitute for Councillor Sharp).

## 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 for this meeting of the Scrutiny Board to consider.

## 5 **CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

Resolved:  
That the Call-in Procedure be noted.

## 6 **OLDHAM MBC – TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FAIR SHARE POLICY**

The Chair reported that this special meeting of the Scrutiny Board had been considered to consider an item of Called-in business, from the Cabinet's meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Councillors Kenyon and Al-Hamdani, in accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules had called-in Minute 12 taken from the proceedings of the Cabinet's meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (Oldham MBC – Temporary Accommodation Fair Share Policy).

The grounds for the call-in, which Councillor Kenyon outlined to the Scrutiny Board meeting were that there not enough

information in the report for cabinet to take the decision that they did. There were, he reported, missing costs which affected an assessment of the likely success of the implementation of the policy. There was also no forecasted timescale for the implementation of the policy.

In addition, Councillor Kenyon added that, the report described a new policy, outlining an up-front investment by the Council and measured these costs against the value of a range of resultant returns. The report sought approval for these implementation costs.

The higher the actual cost of these unknown costs then there is an increasing requirement for a higher collection rate in order for the implementation of the policy to not only cover its own costs but also provide a surplus.

Councillor Kenyon requested that the report be rewritten to attach a value to all unknown costs along with a timeline, for the Cabinet to reconsider at a future meeting.

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024, the Cabinet had approved a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) that had asked members to consider enactment of a new policy, allowing for charges to be made for occupation of temporary accommodation (TA), based on appropriate affordability checks. The proposed policy sought to ensure fairness by focusing on: ensuring affordability for the resident; not discouraging residents from seeking employment; ensuring there are no disincentives to residents seeking to move on from temporary accommodation; making sure residents have access to the support that they need to move on and live independently; and recouping as much of the costs to the Council as is reasonable, while remaining in line with the above principles.

Residents being placed into TA would receive an affordability assessment, carried out by Housing Options, at the first point of contact. In addition, affordability assessments would also be carried out on current residents of TA, to assess whether they should be required to contribute to costs going forward.

In accordance with the protocol for dealing with Called-in business and in consideration of the Call-in, Members of the Scrutiny Board asked questions of the Cabinet Member for Decent Homes, Councillor Taylor and of the Director of Communities who both explained the reasons for the decisions made by the Cabinet, on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and the reasons for the recommendations that were contained in the submitted report.

Members of the Scrutiny Board also asked questions of the Calling-in member who was present, Councillor Kenyon, asking him for a fuller explanation of the reasons for the Call-in and whether he had asked the report author for answers to some of the questions that he posed, prior to the meeting?

The Scrutiny Board proceeded to consider the report in detail and afterwards the cabinet member, the Director and the calling-in Member were all given the opportunity to respond to the debate.



Resolved:

That the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board upholds the decision of the Cabinet made on 16<sup>th</sup> December in respect of the item: Oldham MBC – Temporary Accommodation Fair Share Policy (minute 12 refers), meaning that the decision of the Cabinet takes immediate effect.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.15pm

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## **Report to Place, Economic Growth & Environment Scrutiny Board**

### **Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 Q3 (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk)

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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#### **Reason for decision**

Scrutiny of corporate performance aims to provide assurance that:

- services are aligned to corporate priorities 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.

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## 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. PEGE CPR – Communities, Economy, Environment



# Report to Place, Economic Growth & Environment 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

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

**Report date:** 13th March 2025

**CPR collated by:** Performance Improvement Team [StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk)

# Place

## Key Performance Indicators

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RED

KPIs underperforming by more than 5%

AMBER

KPIs underperforming by less than 5%

GREEN

KPIs meeting or outperforming target

TEAL

KPIs with no targets set



# Communities

## Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

**Portfolio Holders:** Cllr Peter Dean (Communities, Districts, Libraries, Heritage and Arts) & Cllr Elaine Taylor (Housing Needs)

**Officer Contact:** Neil Consterdine, Director of Communities

### **Service Summary:**

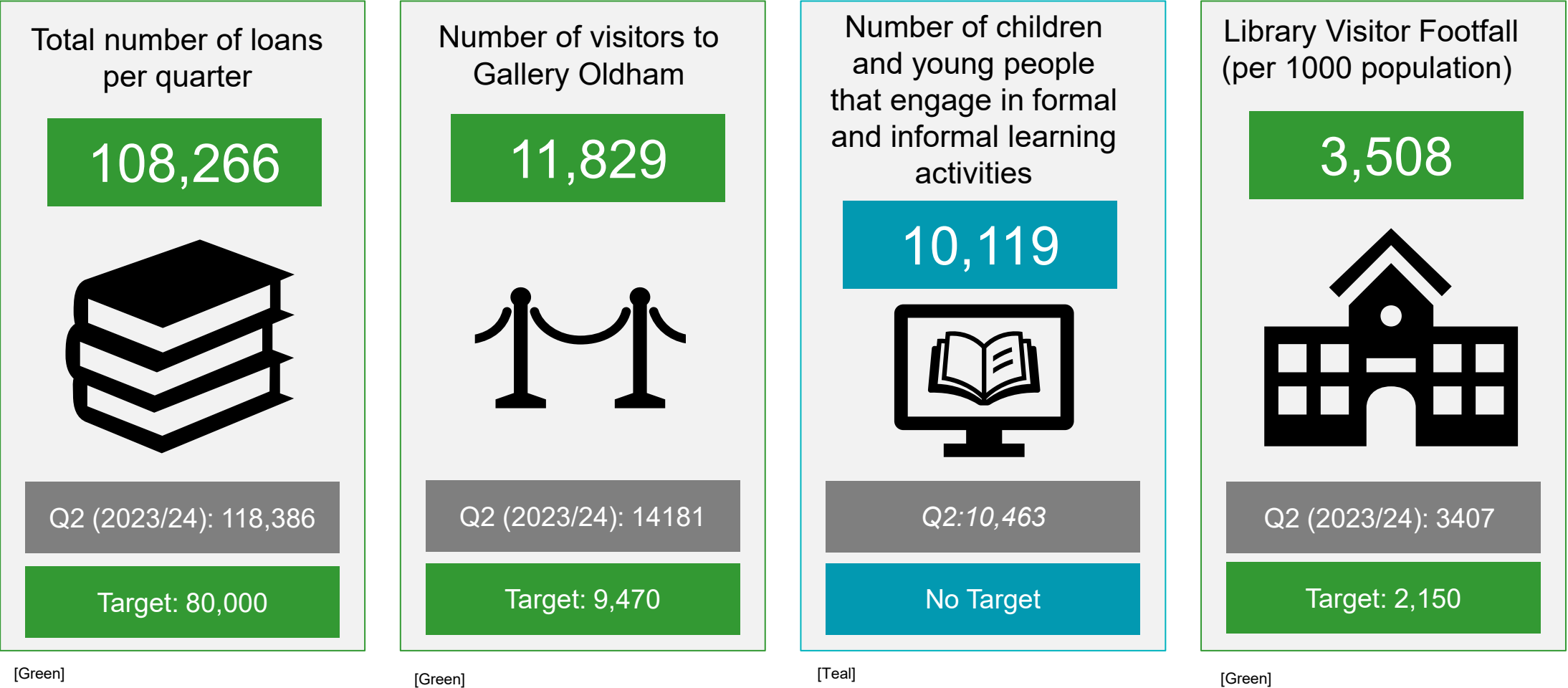
Delivery of a range of community services and provision including – Housing Needs, Youth Work, Heritage, Libraries and Arts, Community Development, Placed based and District Working, Community Safety and Stronger Communities. Resident focussed services closer to where people live.

***Note: Youth Services is now reported to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Board***



# Heritage, Libraries & Arts Key Metrics (against target where set)

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# Heritage, Libraries & Arts

## Successes/Areas of Development

<b>Successes</b>	<p>Delivery of the Live@thelibrary Christmas show in partnership with Oldham Theatre Workshop 'Tales of the ToyMender'.</p> <p>Secured £41k from Art Fund to redesign natural history gallery working in partnership with Family Hubs to ensure we are designing family friendly exhibition spaces.</p>
<b>Areas of Development</b>	<p>Capacity in procurement has delayed tender going live for several ACE Funded projects. Projects delayed by several months – have managed relationship with ACE and got permission for extensions</p>

# Heritage, Libraries & Arts Summary Comment

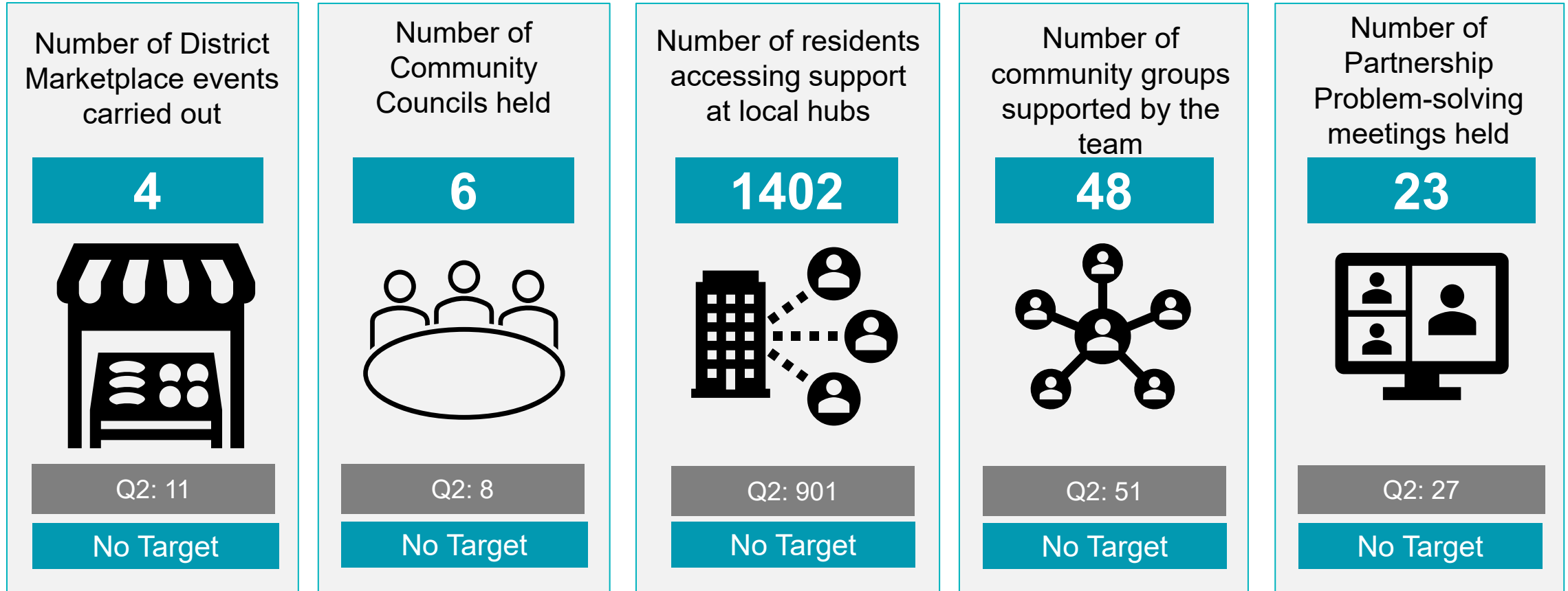
## **Q2 Summary Comment: Subnum Hariff-Khan (Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts)**

Performance for HLA targets remain on track. Gallery Oldham exhibitions programme popular with a range of audiences. Re-opening of Royton Library has increased footfall. The annual Summer Reading Challenge saw 1778 children sign up to boost their reading over the summer holidays, with 842 receiving a medal for completing the challenge.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Subnum Hariff-Khan (Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts)**

HLA performance targets remain on track. OTW delivered UKSPF funded satellite programme this quarter at the Ghazali Trust engaging boys and girls from South Asian communities. Library visitor footfall continues to increase with a range of Christmas and winter themed events and activities including Live@theLibrary shows.

## Districts Key Metrics (no targets set)



## Districts Successes/Areas of Development

<b>Successes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pension Credit campaign – effective partnership work to promote pension credit take-up. 70 referrals for support have been received by the team, and the Engagement Co-ordinators are directly supporting eligible residents to apply for pension credit via community hubs and other local venues, as well as home visits.</li><li>• Development of the offer from the District Hubs is seeing numbers accessing support continue to increase. Addition of new partners to the mix (e.g. midwifery offer from Failsworth Town Hall) is helping to drive this.</li></ul>
<b>Areas of Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-shaping of the service currently taking place – casework function being moved out of the service, and greater emphasis to be placed on development of partnership working and the resident offer at a District level.</li><li>• Capacity of partners to commit to quarterly marketplace events in each District is proving a challenge. There is a need to review this offer, potentially delivering fewer of these events, but continuing to engage via other local events and activities (e.g. HAF)</li></ul>



# Districts Summary Comment

## **Q2 Summary Comment: Simon Shuttleworth (Service Manager - Districts)**

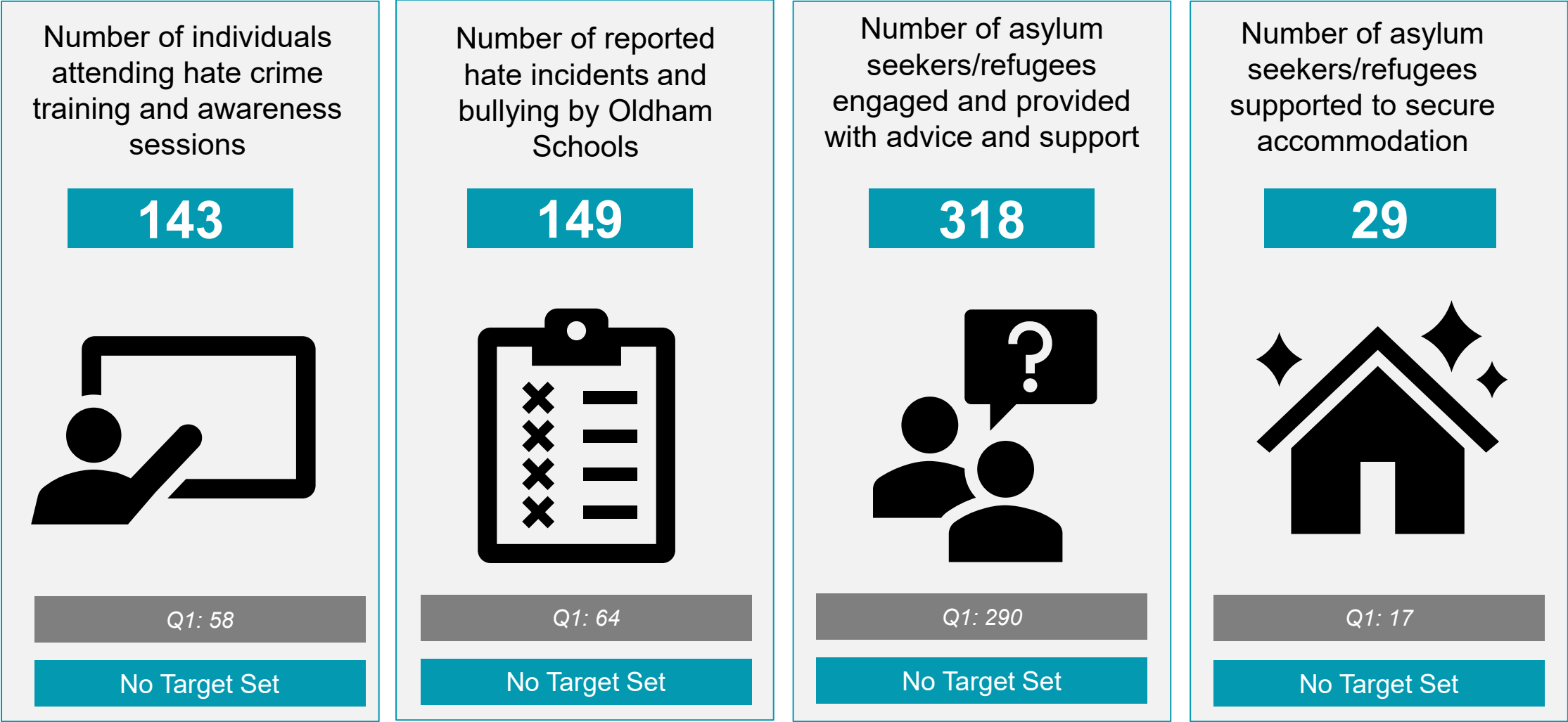
More consistent monitoring arrangements have been put in place with partners to capture delivery from the hubs, and we are now working to add capturing of case studies to this, both for reporting and for Comms purposes. Two rounds of Community Councils were held this quarter, and marketplace events have also started, creating regular community engagement events for local people to meet Elected Members and partner organisations. Local partnership meetings continue, and we are working to further standardise these, to ensure consistent delivery and understanding of the framework across partners.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Simon Shuttleworth (Service Manager - Districts)**

The capacity of the service has been stretched by voluntary redundancies and vacancies, but the team continues to develop and deliver a quality offer within the five Districts. The upcoming re-shaping of the service will allow for better alignment of capacity to key priorities, particularly in ensuring the continued development of the resident-facing offer at a local level.

# Stronger Communities Key Metrics (no targets set)

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# Stronger Communities Successes/Areas of Development

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<b>Successes</b>	<p>The mandatory Prevent e-learning has been undertaken by over 1000 members of staff within the Council.</p> <p>The benchmark assessment, due in January 2025 has been developed in readiness, showing significant progress on the recommendations made in 2024.</p> <p>The Homes for Ukraine Scheme has continued to provide accommodation and support.</p>
<b>Areas of Development</b>	<p>The face to face Prevent training needs to be developed. This will be progressed following completion of the restructure within the Communities directorate in early 2025.</p> <p>Work on the Cohesion Framework. This will also be progressed following the restructure.</p>

# Stronger Communities Summary Comment

## Q2 Summary Comment: Natalie Downs (Stronger Communities Manager)

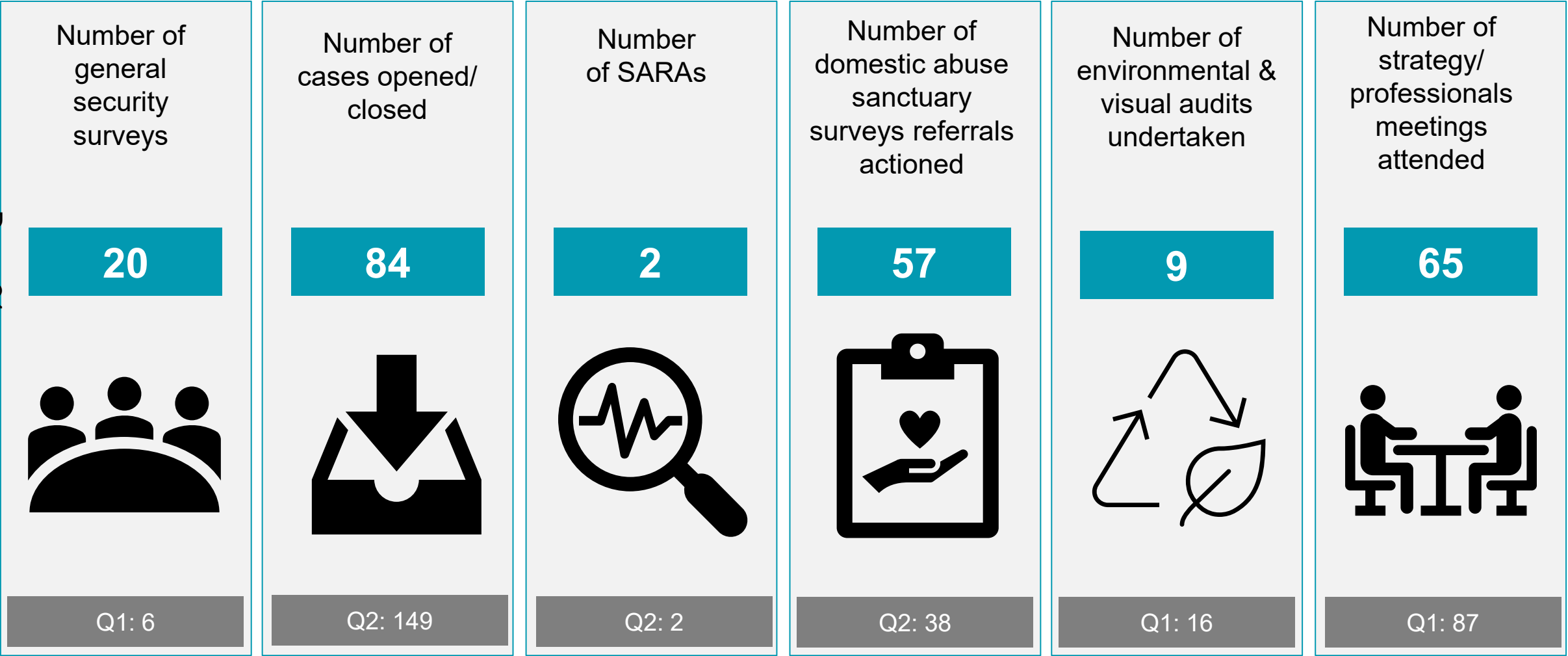
The number of asylum seekers receiving a Home Office decision on their asylum claim has started to increase and this is impacting on the caseloads being managed by the LAASLOs. The number of families/individuals receiving a positive decision will inevitably impact upon the number of referrals to homelessness for temporary accommodation/ABEN. Due to a lack of accommodation for single males, there is a likely to be an increase in the number becoming homeless and classified as destitute.

## Q3 Summary Comment: Lorraine Kenny (Head of Community Safety Services)

The Prevent Risk Assessment, Partnership Plan and preparation of the Prevent Benchmark Assessment have been the focus of the work by the Stronger Communities Manager, alongside handover of workstream areas pending the service restructure.

# Community Safety Key Metrics (no targets set)

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# Community Safety

## Successes/Areas of Development

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<b>Successes</b>	<p>Over 96% of new ASB Complainants have received a response within five working days. This is despite the team being short staffed.</p> <p>There continues to be a significant amount of victims of domestic abuse who are able to remain in their own homes due to the sanctuary surverys being carried out.</p>
<b>Areas for Development</b>	<p>The online reporting system still needs developing. This has been delayed due to the demands on management within the Service.</p> <p>Opportunities to secure feedback also need development.</p>

# Community Safety

## Summary Comment

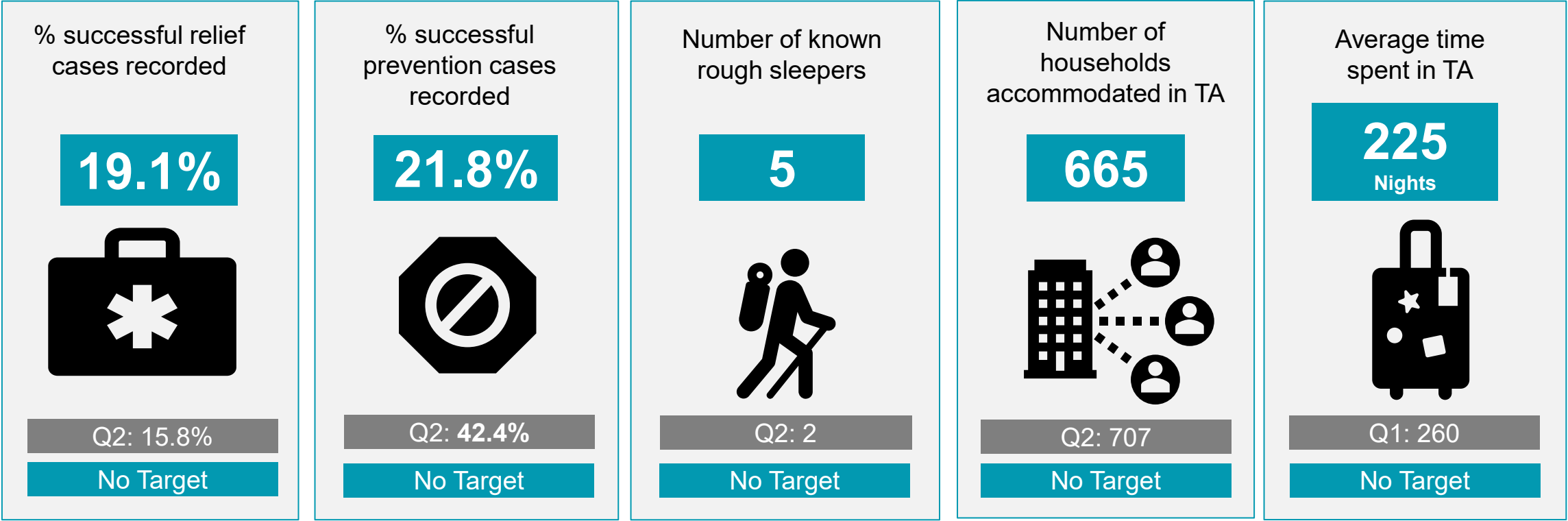
### **Q2 Summary Comment: Lorraine Kenny (Head of Community Safety Services)**

Demand remains significant and the team has continued to face issues with capacity due to the vacant post. Officers have been working cross Place area to meet demand. Capacity to undertake Environmental Visual Audits and security surveys, including domestic abuse sanctuary surveys has increased recently following the completion of the Crime Prevention Qualification by the Community Safety Officer who was recruited in July 2023. Both the Operational Manager and the Head of Service have supported complex case work activity.

### **Q3 Summary Comment: Lorraine Kenny (Head of Community Safety Services)**

Demand remains significant and the team has continued to face issues with capacity due to the vacant post. Work has been progressed to secure the 5 new Place PSPOs which will be finalised in Q4.

# Housing Key Metrics (no targets set)





# Housing Successes/Areas of Development

<p><b>The numbers in TA have started to slowly reduce. This is due to a more robust investigation with regards to homelessness presentations prior to any placement.</b></p>	<p>We have recently secured £210k additional funding from MHCLG to assist with the reduction of B&amp;B temporary accommodation. We will utilise this funding to firstly assist with preventing homelessness but where this is not possible, ensuring more suitable self contained accommodation is sought.</p>
<p><b>Customer feedback has now started to take place and the initial feedback is really positive.</b></p>	<p>The main reason for customer contact in relation to the feedback received is in relation to progress chasing. This is an area which can be workshopped to put measures in place so residents can either self-serve to understand where their application is up to and we can build in additional feedback mechanisms from officer to resident to offer the reassurance they need.</p>

# Housing Summary Comment

## Q2 Summary Comment: Victoria Wood (Head of Housing Needs)

Demand remains significant and the teams have continued to face issues with capacity due to the high level of vacant posts. The number of households requiring TA has increased again this quarter which is a reflection on the demand.

Service standards for Housing Options Services have now been agreed and implemented and customer feedback will now be captured so this can be monitored accordingly.

## Q3 Summary Comment: Victoria Wood (Head of Housing Needs)

Initial customer feedback in relation to the housing options service standards is really positive with 95% of residents feeling they have been listened to and helped accordingly, 98% felt they were treated with empathy and respect. The main reason for the residents visit was progress chasing either a housing application or homelessness application.

The consultation for the service re-design is now underway and is due to close on 5th March. Initial feedback from the team is generally positive and they welcome the additional capacity the proposed new structure will bring if implemented.

# Communities Director Comments

## Q2: Neil Consterdine (Director of Communities)

Demand continues to be significant across all services within the Communities Directorate. The opening of Royton Town Hall has been a significant success which has allowed a new library to open along with a wider resident offer. Resident feedback is really positive. A new Housing front door has also now opened to our residents and is working well. However, number of residents needing temporary accommodation is still rising. Mitigations to reduce those in temporary accommodation are in place. An extensive summer activity programme was delivered across the summer supported by Holiday Activity Funding. Priority in the directorate continues to be looking to reduce residents in temporary accommodation along with prevention.

## Q3: Neil Consterdine (Director of Communities)

Youth continues to run over 40 sessions per week and is stretched meeting the demand for Youth provision in the Districts. It is pleasing to see that Castleshaw Outdoor Education Centre has now had its new roof finished which was paid through external grant funding and will continue to allow over 8000 young people to continue to use the centre. Heritage Libraries and Arts has also been extremely successful this last period with some significant grant income which will improve the structure of some of our libraries but also allow more activity such as funding for illuminate. All PSPO's which the community safety manage have now been implemented. This involved consulting with over 8000 residents. The team also supported Operation Avro a Police led operation that saw some significant arrests and seizures. Demand in Housing continues to be a real issue although this quarter has seen a slight decrease. Mitigations continue to be implemented. Overall the Directorate is seeing high demand but has seen some real success across all services.

Signed Off: 28.01.2025

## Page 28

I'm pleased to see that footfall at our libraries continues to increase, our libraries offer a fantastic service to our residents and this has been recognised by being shortlisted for Library of the Year Award at the British book awards this week. Our districts and community safety service restructures are designed to make sure both services deliver better outcomes for our residents and I'm pleased with the progress we're making.

The Housing Needs service clearly continues to be in high demand and we continue to work to support residents in the best way we can, the service redesign mentioned in the comments by the Head of Housing needs is to ensure the team are in the best place to deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents, many of who come to us in crisis.

Signed Off:       xx

# Economy

## Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

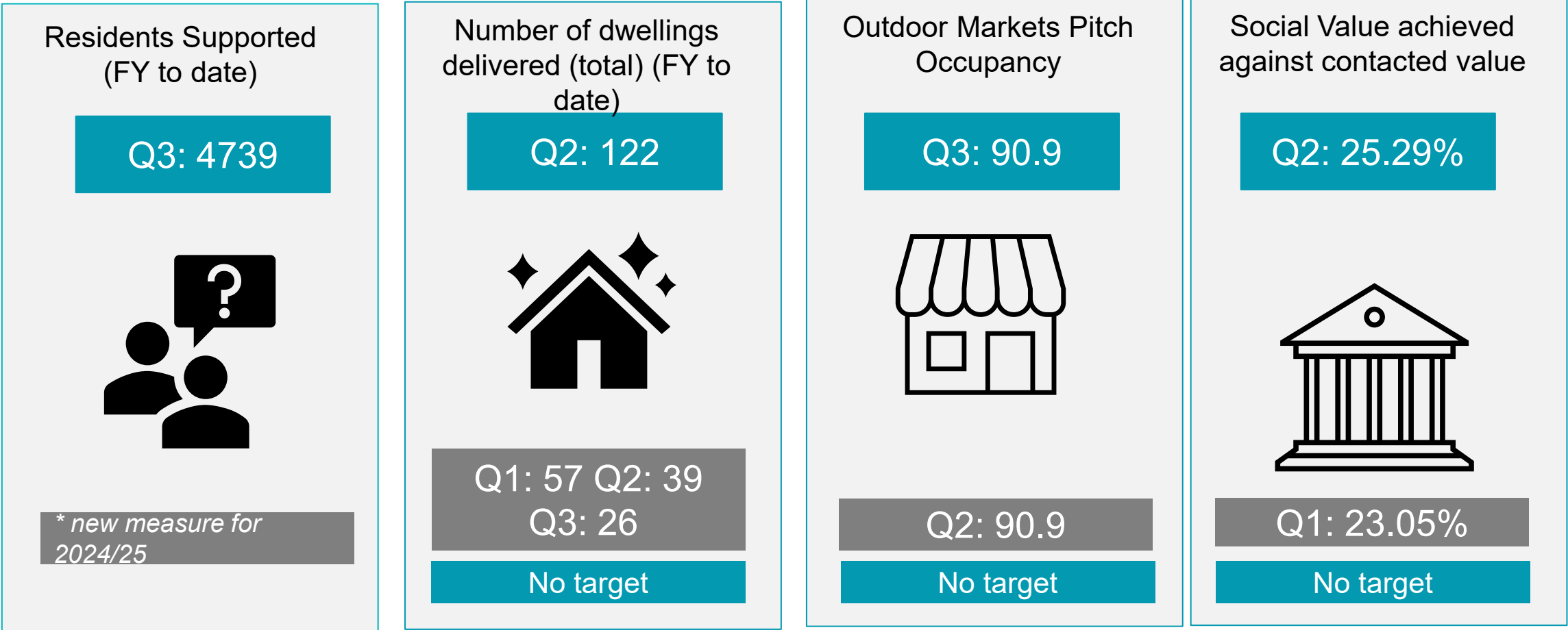
**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham and Cllr Elaine Taylor, Cabinet Member for Decent Homes

**Officer Contact:** Paul Clifford, Director of Economy

**Service Summary:** Economy consists of three functions: Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery; Estates and Place-Making; and Creating A Better Place.

# Economy Key Metrics (where targets set)

*FY to date = Financial year to date – numbers are added up as the year goes on*



# Economy Successes/Areas of Development

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<u>Title of Success/Area of Development</u>	Comment
Continued Progress on council-owned land for housing development	Oldham Town Centre Living Partnership with Muse progressing, with the finalisation of the Town Centre Development Framework and steps taken toward adding Prince's Gate to the agreement. Agreements over Southlink and Former South Chadderton School site reached with Vistry and Rowland Homes respectively.
Spindles Phase 3 office accommodation.	Strong progress being made on strategic accommodation with Spindles Phase 3 enabling Children services to relocate from Met Place into the Spindles which is currently on programme to be complete for the end of March 25. Benefits of the approach include Met Place to be released for redevelopment and increased collaboration between children services and other services and partners already located within the Spindles.
Oldham outdoor market	Publication of George Square as the location for the outdoor market, project team established, and early design work is underway. Stallholders will feed into the practicalities and logistics of the site design working with the market team.

# Economy Successes/Areas of Development

Royton Town Hall	Memorial stone unveiled at the John Hogan VC memorial garden. In addition, a special rededication service took place to officially commemorate the first world war memorial in its new home in the Library.
The Hive	The Hive is now fully open and hosting a range of events for businesses across Greater Manchester. Permanent tenants have moved into the offices spaces. The co-working offer has been soft tested and will be actively marketed across the region from February / March.



# Economy Summary Comments

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Chris Lewis (Assistant Director - Creating a Better Place)**

Strong progress continues on various Capital delivery schemes including the MEA Spindles development, Oldham Coliseum, Northern Roots Visitor/ Learning Centre, Old Library, Marlborough Street Centre and George Square which was publicly announced as the new location for Oldham's outdoor market. CaBP continues to deliver various benefits including Social value which to date totals £31.6m.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Maria Cotton (Assistant Director Place Making)**

Detailed progress made in planning for the stallholder move into the new market. Stalls are now being constructed ready for individual fit out. Similarly plans for the programme for the new event space and the move of the existing programme from Queen Elizabeth Hall are progressing well. Projects funded by the High Street Accelerator programme which is shaped and steered by the businesses in the town centre, are coming to fruition, with improved CCTV, event and street art all underway. Works to improve greening on Yorkshire Street are be planned for delivery in early Spring. The Hive is establishing itself well as the hub for the business community in Oldham with key events including the Bank of England using the space for meetings and seminars.

*Signed off: 12.02.2025*

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# Economy Summary Comment

**Q3 Summary Comment: Peter Richards (Assistant Director - Planning, Transport & Housing Delivery)**

Amidst various announced changes to the Planning system nationally, we continue to see new employment and residential development come forward in Oldham, with large new employment units being occupied at Broadway Green and several council-owned housing sites across the borough moving forward with partners. Higher numbers of planning applications being received suggest this growth is set to continue. The Transport team continues to work with TfGM to improve the Bee Network and bring forward new transport schemes across the borough.

*Signed off: 12.02.2025*

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## Economy Comments

**Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader & Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham:**

I'm delighted to report that Inspired Global Cuisine are set to move into one of the recently developed units off Lydia Becker way in Chadderton, bringing up to 750 jobs to Oldham – and 200 new opportunities for Oldhamers shows that the Council's approach was the right one with this site.

Contractors are making fantastic progress on our town centre regeneration works, including the market and events space at Spindles, the Coliseum and Old Library. 2025 will be a massive year of delivery for our Creating a Better Place Programme and Oldhamer's will finally see our bold vision come to life.

**Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Decent Homes:**

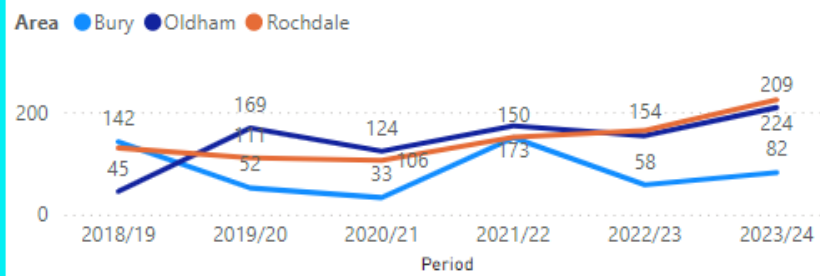
Huge steps are being taken to build the homes Oldhamers need across the Borough, the Oldham Town Centre Living Partnership with Muse is progressing, and Prince's Gate has now been added to the agreement. We've also reached agreements over with Vistry to build on Southlink and Rowland Homes at the Former South Chadderton School site.

# Supplemental Benchmarking Data

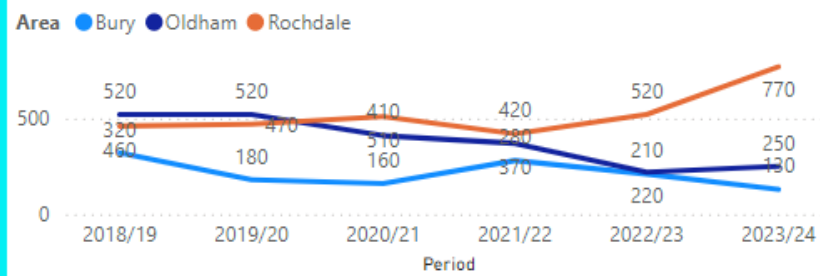
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## Economy - Homes and Planning

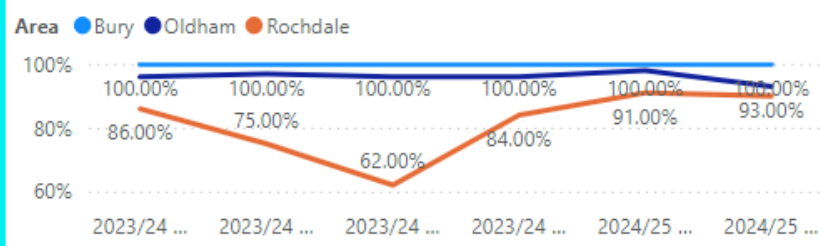
Additional completed affordable homes



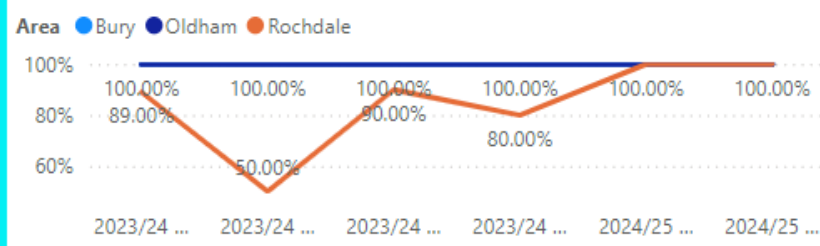
Total new dwellings



% of minor planning applications (PAs only) decided in time - Quarterly



% of major planning applications (PAs only) decided in time - Quarterly

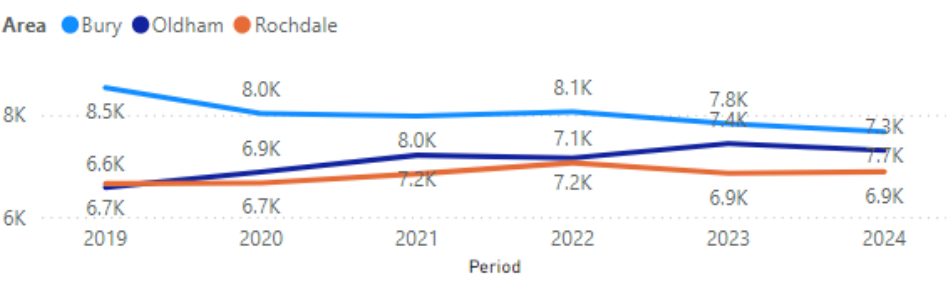


# Supplemental Benchmarking Data

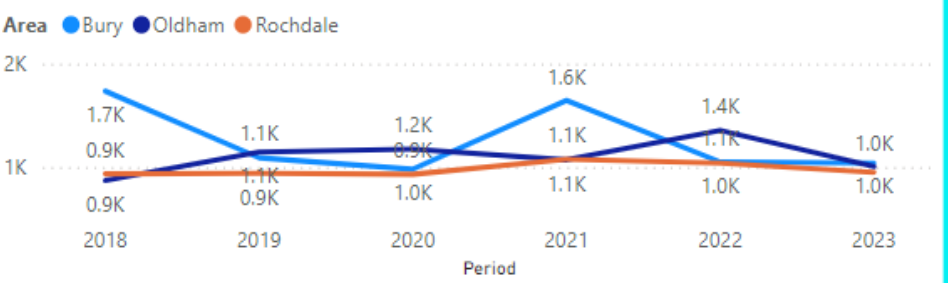
Economy - national  
organisation for local  
economies measures  
(CLES)

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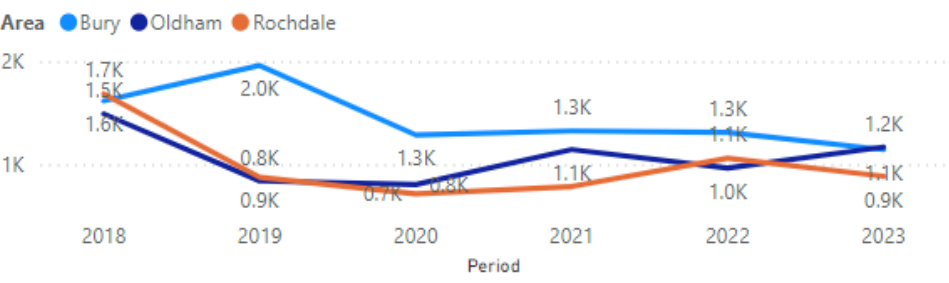
Number of enterprises



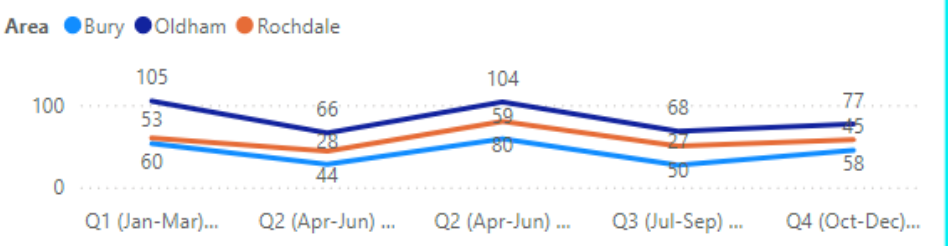
No. of births of new enterprises



No. of deaths of enterprises



Total number of publicly available electric vehicle charging devices at all speeds



# Environment

## Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham & Cllr Elaine Taylor, Cabinet Member for Decent Homes (Licensing)

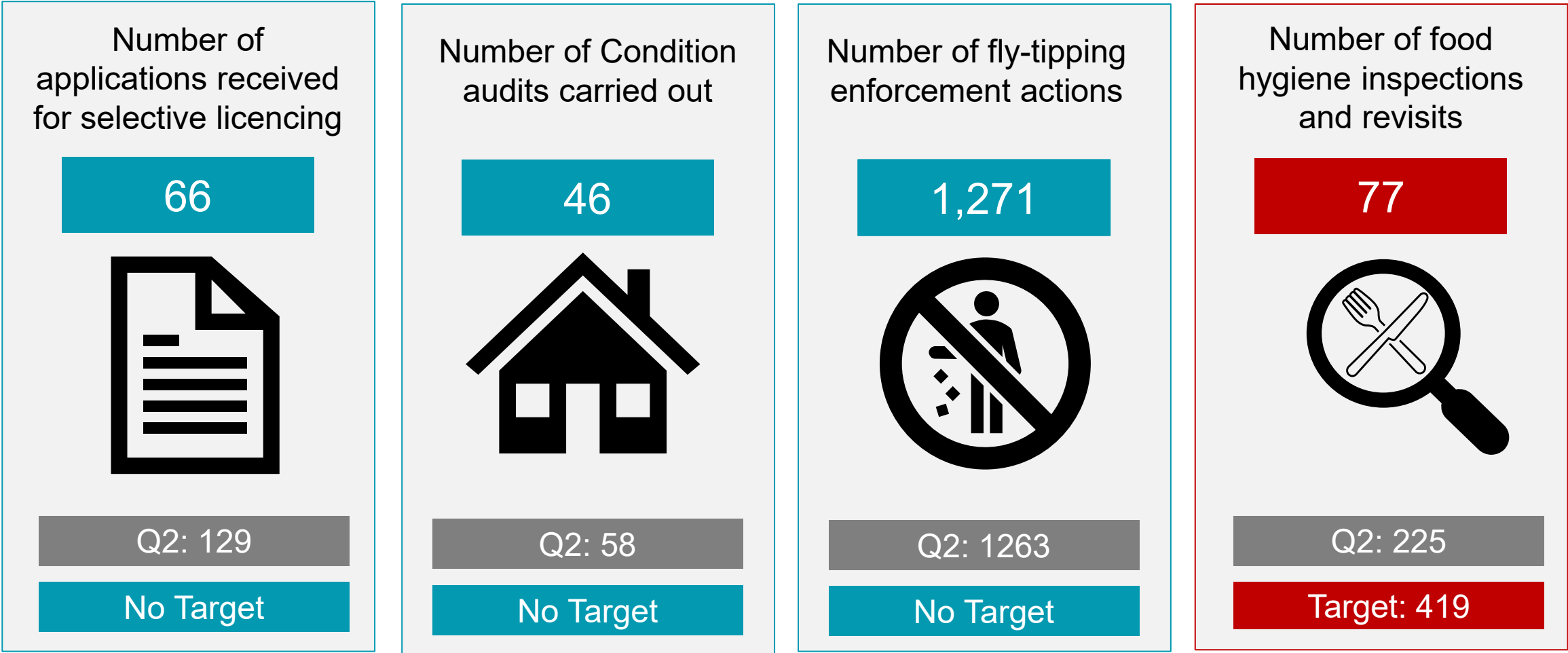
**Officer Contact:** Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

### Service Summary:

Environment consists of 3 main sub-directorates areas: Public Protection; Highways Engineering & Operations; Waste, Cleansing & Greenspace. In addition, the Streetlighting Maintenance and Replacement programme also sits in the Environment Directorate; each area has their own vision and 2023/27 Business Plan.

# Environment Key Metrics (against target where set)

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[Red]

# Environment   Successes/Areas of Development

Page 40

	Comment
<b>Successes</b>	<p>Noise prosecution allowing officers to remove the equipment affecting the adjacent resident.</p> <p>Govt agreement to the 'Investment led' Clean Air Plan – no Clean Air Zone. Signs to be removed.</p> <p>Most taxis are now compliant - Only 11 non-compliant Hackney Carriages from 85 licenced and only 63 non-compliant from 1885 private hire licenced vehicles.</p> <p>Register of all properties licensed in Selective license neighbourhoods now available online with updates live from back-office database</p>
<b>Areas for development</b>	<p>Focus the 'free' Pest control service for residents claiming means tested benefits.</p> <p>Ongoing work to prepare response to the implications from the Renters Rights Bill and changes to Council statutory duties.</p> <p>Respond to lack of capacity - examine opportunity to create and 'grow our own' professionals with career graded roles. Create the roles within the pending service reviews</p> <p>Create licensed HMO register online with live updates</p>



# Environment Summary Comment

## Q2 Comments: Neil Crabtree (Assistant Director - Public Protection)

The resource available to carry out the condition audits of all licensed rented properties in the Selective Licensing scheme will be increased to make sure all licensed properties have an audit carried out during the lifetime of the scheme ( to the end of June 2027). This will increase the numbers being delivered quarter by quarter as the scheme progresses

Working in partnership with the Government's Food Standards Agency, the Council is examining the possibility to bolster the current resource by using a combination of agency provision and the recruitment of fully qualified officers via a recruitment campaign . This will ensure the required Food Hygiene inspections are carried out in Oldham Food businesses maintaining and where necessary improving standards of food hygiene.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments: Neil Crabtree (Assistant Director - Public Protection)

665 Private rented properties are now licensed in phase 1 selective licensing scheme. Ongoing partnership working within the neighbourhoods to identify unlicensed privately rented properties and address neighbourhood issues.

The Env. Health team received 754 service requests during the quarter across all the disciplines from private housing disrepair, noise nuisance, food hygiene complaints and notifications of infectious diseases.

Agency provision has now been secured to ensure delivery of the required number of programmed Food Hygiene inspections of businesses on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.

Most taxis are now compliant with the Clean Air provisions - only 11 non-compliant Hackney Carriages from 85 licenced and only 63 non-compliant from 1885 private hire licenced vehicles. These remaining will become compliant this calendar year when licence is renewed.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q2 Comments : Darren McGrattan (Interim Assistant Director - Waste Cleansing and Greenspace)

**Fleet Management:** Have installed an additional MOT bay in the workshop at Moorhey Street Depot which will assist with the additional demand of new taxi vehicles being licenced in the Borough.

**Greenspace:** In addition to the tree planting, the Service will also aim to deliver a further 2.5 hectares of new woodland across the borough during the 2024/25 planting season. This programme is consistent with the aim of increasing woodland and tree planting year on year.

**Play Areas:** Parks play a vital role in promoting healthy lifestyles by providing well-maintained spaces that encourage positive user experiences. Staff are trained to horticultural standards, and partnerships with apprenticeships, schools, and volunteers help build community engagement. Collaborations with local groups also bring recreational and educational activities to parks, widening participation and promoting healthy living. Parks are continuously improved with funding from various sources, including investments in outdoor gym equipment, which are highly utilised.

**Cleansing:** Street Cleaning teams play a crucial role in maintaining public health, safety, and environmental quality under the banner of 'Don't Trash Oldham.' By removing litter, debris, and hazards from streets and public spaces, they prevent flooding, reduce pest infestations, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighbourhoods.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments : Darren McGrattan (Interim Assistant Director - Waste Cleansing and Greenspace)

### Fleet Management:

The additional MOT bay in the workshop at Moorhey Street Depot which will assist with the additional demand of new taxi vehicles being licenced in the Borough is expected to be operational in the spring.

### Business Waste:

The business Waste Collection team are introducing new services and bin sizes late spring, to support businesses in complying with Simpler Recycling.

### Greenspace:

The tree planting programme for Winter 24/25 is not drawing close to completion and plans for 25/26 will then start to be drawn up and funding sought.

The Species Survival project at Leesbrook aided by 250k of external funding started in earnest last week with significant woodland improvement works across several hectares of neglected and low-quality woodland.

This will be complemented by habitat creation works, tree planting, invasive weed control, in channel river works to improve fish passage and access and footpath works All over the next 12 months.

### Play Areas:

Parks are continuously improved with funding from various sources, including investments in outdoor gym equipment, which are highly utilised. They play a crucial role in supporting healthy lifestyles by offering well-maintained spaces that enhance visitor experiences. Our dedicated staff are trained to horticultural standards, and we actively collaborate with apprenticeships, schools, and volunteers to strengthen community engagement. Partnerships with local groups also introduce recreational and educational activities, increasing participation and promoting well-being.

We carry out 12,960 playground inspections annually to ensure the safety and quality of our play areas

### Cleansing:

Street Cleaning teams play a crucial role in maintaining public health, safety, and environmental quality under the banner of 'Don't Trash Oldham.' By removing litter, debris, and hazards from streets and public spaces, they prevent flooding, reduce pest infestations, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighbourhoods.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q2 Comments : Gordon Anderson (Assistant Director - Highways Engineering and Operations)

**Highways:** The Council's highways team continues to undertake a range of work across the borough. As part of the 2024/25 resurfacing programme, 6 schemes have been completed to date. A further 8 schemes will be completed before the end of March 2025. The routine safety inspection and maintenance of all the network is also ongoing. This is both in response to reports by residents via web forms and the contact centre, and also planned according to the network hierarchy to ensure the network is safe. Where repairs are needed, these are programmed and completed as soon as possible.

The highways team also inspects permits for all works on the highway to ensure that the contractor, whether our own or utilities', is following health and safety and highway safety practices. Where contractors fail to do this, the team undertakes legal action to ensure compliance. In extreme cases, the team also withdraws permission to work on Oldham's highways until it is satisfied that the contractor will be compliant and can meet the necessary standards.

**Winter Maintenance:** Preparations are complete for Winter Maintenance operations. Vehicles, materials, grit and the staffing resource is all in place to ensure that main roads are kept open during the winter months. Highways colleagues will be constantly monitoring forecasts, road conditions and will undertake gritting as necessary. If there is snow, as with previous years, our teams will be out to clear the roads as quickly as possible.

As far as reasonably possible, we will look to keep the primary highway network free of ice and snow at all times, to help ensure safe journeys. Our teams are out filling the borough's grit bins and we have contingency plans in place, including for heavy snowfall. The council has a good supply of grit which was bought earlier in the year when prices were lower – providing value for money for residents.

The council's social media accounts will also share up to date winter information, including traffic and road closure updates and more details about our winter work are on the council's website - <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/winter>. It features the news on gritting routes, locations of grit bins, and tips on how residents can stay safe and get help and support.

We will also update the winter webpage with any school closures that we are notified about. Schools also have a text messaging system to inform parents if they are closing for the day.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments : Gordon Anderson (Assistant Director - Highways Engineering and Operations)

Winter Maintenance activities have continued throughout this quarter with the only significant snow so far being over a few very cold days in the New Year following a very mild Christmas Holiday period. The cold snap in the New Year lasted for approximately a week requiring virtually 24hrs a day patrols with gritting / salt spreading of all the 6 primary routes covering over 230 miles of the network, requiring the use of all resources available, including all 7 gritter vehicles. The secondary routes and "lanes" routes were also gritted when resources allow and conditions required. More salt/grit has been recently purchased following this event to keep stocks at the suitable level.

As it was a very sudden "cold snap", although predicted, and was accompanied by a Met Office Amber Warning for cold, ice and snow, it was reported widely on the national news as a matter of possible national health concern – this resulted in the BBC requesting a live interview at the Moorhey St Depot and a segment was broadcast live, interviewing myself live and highlighting the Council's considerable efforts – this seemed to be very positively put forwards by the BBC, it was live on BBC Breakfast, with elements of the interview repeated throughout the day on the BBC News channel and the various national news programmes.

The council's social media accounts will continue to share up to date winter information, including traffic and road closure updates and more details about our winter work are on the council's website - <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/winter>. It features the news on gritting routes, locations of grit bins, and tips on how residents can stay safe and get help and support.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments: Councillor Chris Goodwin (Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham)

The environment directorate is one of the most important in the Council, it's the front facing services that residents expect us to deliver most. Our winter maintenance was once again a huge success, with the team working round the clock to keep Oldhamers safe wherever they needed to travel in the Borough.

Our parks team continue to do exceptional work to ensure that our parks are in the best possible condition and are truly assets Oldham should be proud of, I'm particularly pleased to see outdoor gym equipment installed at a number of sites across the Borough.

## Q3 Comments: Councillor Elaine Taylor (Cabinet Member for Decent Homes)

I'm pleased with the progress being made in to work with partners to identify unlicensed privately rented properties and address neighbourhood issues, under selective licensing phase 1. Work continues to develop phase 2 and we await further guidance from MHCLG.

The additional MOT bay at Moorhey street will be welcomed by the taxi trade as this is something they have been asking for to improve their experiences dealing with the licensing process. And I'm sure Cllr Jabbar will be delighted that the majority of Oldham's taxi fleet are compliant with clean air emissions standards and that the rest will soon be as part of the annual review process.

*Signed off: xx*

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## **Report to PLACE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

# **Oldham Green New Deal Update**

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Sustainability

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:** Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager

**Ext.** 6587

**2 April 2025**

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### **Purpose of the report**

To provide an update on the Oldham Green New Deal delivery programme and in particular the Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership initiative – only the third local authority initiative of its type in the UK and the first to combine a Strategic Energy Partnership approach with the delivery of a heat network zone and Community Led Energy Planning.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee notes progress and Oldham's leading position both regionally and nationally.

**Oldham Green New Deal Update****1 Background**

1.1 The Oldham Green New Deal (OGND) Strategy was adopted by the Council in March 2020. The Strategy set a number of objectives and pledges for delivery on environmental issues in a range of work areas, which broadly fit into three over-arching 'pillars':-

- Growing the green economy
- Low carbon infrastructure and a Local Energy Market
- Northern Roots

1.2 The OGND Strategy also set two carbon neutrality targets:-

- For Council Buildings and Street Lighting by 2025
- For the borough by 2030

1.3 For the financial year 2023/24, the Council's in-scope carbon footprint for the 2025 target was 6,224 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, made up of 4,541 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (Council Buildings) and 1,683 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (Street Lighting). This figure is a slight fall on emissions figures from 2022/23.

1.4 For the borough as a whole, total emissions for 2022 (latest year available) were 780.2 ktCO<sub>2</sub>, and per capita emissions were 3.2 tCO<sub>2</sub>, significantly down from 2021 (864.3 ktCO<sub>2</sub> and 3.6 tCO<sub>2</sub> respectively).

1.5 This report gives an update on the following Green New Deal activities:-

- Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership
  - Procurement of Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner
  - Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Group
  - Anchor project: Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network and Heat Network Zone
  - Potential Council-led pipeline projects
  - Expansion of Community Led Energy Planning approach and design of Community Partnership
  - Oldham Economic Vision Outcomes Framework and draft Oldham Green New Deal Council spend analysis
- Wrigley Head Solar Farm
- Net Zero Spindles
- Area-Based Housing Retrofit scheme for the Able to Pay sector
- Training for Council staff

Link to Corporate and Oldham Plans and Priorities

1.6 *Healthier, happier lives* – it is intended that the investment secured through the OGND Delivery Partnership will fund the improvement of activities which will improve health outcomes, such as improvements of local green spaces, walking and cycling routes, and better housing

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- 1.7 *A great place to live* – the investment secured through the OGND Delivery Partnership will improve Oldham’s energy infrastructure, building capacity in the borough
- 1.8 *Green and growing* – the OGND Delivery Partnership is the major initiative within the OGND delivery programme, Oldham’s climate change mitigation and economic development strategy. It will support realisation of the OGND Vision of “making Oldham a greener, smarter, more enterprising place”, securing investment in energy projects which Oldham’s local supply chain can play a part in implementing, growing Oldham’s green economy.

## 2 **Current Position**

### Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership

- 2.1 *Procurement of Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner.* In 2024, the Council secured £1.3m revenue grant from the GMCA / DESNZ Local Net Zero Accelerator, to implement an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership. The major part of this project is the procurement of a Strategic Energy Partner to bring investment and delivery capacity to Oldham borough to deliver the £5.6bn of low carbon energy infrastructure set out in Oldham’s Local Area Energy Plan. Oldham will be only the third local authority nationally to establish a Strategic Energy Partnership and will be the first to combine this approach with the delivery of a heat network zone as well as Community Led Energy Planning. The Council intends to begin the procurement process with a Market Engagement event in early April 2025, with publication of the full tender towards the end of May. The procurement will likely last around 12 months in a competitive dialogue process, culminating in the selection and appointment of a winning bidder for Oldham Green New Deal Delivery JV Partner.
- 2.2 *Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Group.* This cross-sector group of local and regional stakeholders has been running for around a year as a forum to enable networking amongst stakeholders who have an interest in the Oldham Green New Deal programme, and to receive presentations from a range of organisations to increase knowledge of the opportunities for Oldham’s green business sector. The Delivery Group is currently being re-framed to enable it to transition into a meaningful role as part of the assurance function relating to the Oldham Green New Deal Delivery JV.
- 2.3 *Anchor project: Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network and Heat Network Zone.* The “anchor” project for the procurement of the OGND Delivery Partnership is a £27m low carbon district heat network for Oldham town centre. In 2024 the Council secured £8.7m from the national Green Heat Network Fund to develop the heat network to RIBA Stage 3 for inclusion in the procurement of the Strategic Energy Partner. The proposed heat network will serve a range of buildings belonging to the Council and other key town centre asset owners and will constitute the core of a much larger heat network around Oldham, defined as Oldham’s heat network zone. Oldham is one of three GM local authorities taking part in the national Advanced Zoning Programme which is being run by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and which is preparing the UK heat network market for new national primary and secondary legislation, due to come into force in autumn 2025, which will mandate high energy use buildings to connect to district heat networks. The Outline Business Case for Oldham’s heat network zone shows an investment opportunity of around £265m. Oldham will be the first local authority nationally to combine a Strategic Energy Partnership approach with delivery of a heat network zone.
- 2.4 *Potential Council-led pipeline projects.* Additional projects to be included in the procurement of the OGND Delivery Partner include solar PV on Council buildings and land assets, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure on Council land, a potential Council wind farm and gasifying Combined Heat and Power unit which could use wood chips from the Council’s tree operations. These pipeline projects will need to be further developed from their current stage of feasibility by the OGND JV partner once appointed.

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- 2.5 *Expansion of Community Led Energy Planning approach and design of Community Partnership.* A key activity as part of the Local Net Zero Accelerator funded project is the expansion of the Community Led Energy Planning approach which was developed by Carbon Co-op in the Oldham Energy Futures project in 2021. Carbon Co-op are revisiting the methodology, which resulted in two comprehensive Community Led Energy Plans (CLEPs) for Sholver and Westwood, to streamline it and expand it to two new areas – St Mary's and Saddleworth. The CLEP approach puts residents and communities at the heart of the planning process for the low carbon transition, upskilling participants and giving residents the confidence to take part in the conversation on the energy transition, setting out the needs and priorities of local communities in terms of the energy infrastructure they want and need. It is hoped / envisaged that eventually the OGND Delivery JV Partner will support the roll-out of CLEP to the whole borough. Carbon Co-op are also working to identify a mechanism (known as the 'Community Partnership') whereby the community can play a meaningful role in the assurance function for the OGND Delivery JV partnership, to ensure that the community can have its say in how energy projects are brought forward, developed and implemented.
- 2.6 *Oldham Economic Vision Outcomes Framework and Oldham Green New Deal Council spend analysis.* Funded by the Innovate UK Net Zero Living Pathfinder Places programme, the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) are delivering a number of pieces of work to support the OGND programme and the Council's wider Economic Vision. CLES have developed an Outcomes Framework for the four pillars of the Economic Vision (People, Place, Planet and Prosperity) and have identified Key Performance Indicators for activities in each of the pillars. Some of these KPIs may be used in the procurement of the OGND Delivery Partner and bidders may be required to demonstrate how their approach to investment and delivery of low carbon infrastructure in Oldham will positively influence these KPIs. CLES are also carrying out an analysis of the Council's annual spend, looking at areas which are related to the OGND agenda in terms of types of companies benefiting from Council contracts. A headline finding is that of the Council's total spend of £270m for 2024, around £70m (25%) of that spend was on Green New Deal related sectors. This shows the potential for growth in Oldham's local green economy from Council spend alone, even without the private sector investment that the Council will secure through the commercial JV with a Delivery Partner.
- Wrigley Head Solar Farm
- 2.7 The project to deliver a Council-owned solar farm at Wrigley Head in Failsworth is progressing, but still faces a number of challenges. A new grid connection application has been received from Electricity North West after a change in the proposed Point of Connection for the solar farm. The change in the proposed location of the sub-station has also raised other challenges in terms of the cable route between the sub-station (now to be located to the South of the Metrolink tram line) and the solar farm which is to the North of the tram line. A number of Planning Conditions have been discharged and an official start on site has been made which means that the project has successfully met the Planning Permission deadline, but a number of issues remain to be resolved before the solar farm can progress to construction phase. It is hoped that the solar farm will be complete by autumn 2025.
- Net Zero Spindles
- 2.8 Work on the Spindles complex is nearing completion with the complete conversion of the heating systems to efficient electrical technology. This means that no gas or other fossil fuels will be used at all at Spindles. There are still carbon emissions associated with electricity use there but these will diminish over time due to the decarbonisation of grid electricity, and there may be an opportunity for the Spindles to be supplied with zero carbon electricity from Wrigley Head Solar Farm or other renewable energy developments in the borough, via Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).
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#### Area-Based Housing Retrofit scheme for the Able to Pay sector

- 2.9 The Council has collaborated with Connected Places Catapult (securing a £140K grant) and Carbon Co-op to produce a feasibility study looking at the potential to implement an energy efficiency retrofit scheme for the 'able to pay' sector in Oldham. Separately, the Council has an equity release scheme that residents can use to make improvements in the fabric of their home, the Home Improve Loan scheme. The Council is currently in discussion with the National Wealth Fund (formerly the UK Infrastructure Bank) and GMCA about a no-cost consultancy collaboration to develop a business model for a new scheme in Oldham, to be replicable across GM, which would combine equity release with deep retrofit.

#### Training for Council staff

- 2.10 As part of their work funded by the GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator, Carbon Co-op are developing a training package for Council teams which would enable officers to understand their role in interacting with the OGND Delivery Partnership, in order that the Council and borough can maximise the benefit of the partnership. The training will be delivered by the end of March 2026. Separately, a total of 2,135 Council staff have undertaken the Council's Carbon Literacy e-learning package.

### **3 Questions for Place Scrutiny Committee**

- 3.1 Does the Committee have a view on the proposed Council commitments to the Delivery Partnership set out in slide 8 of the presentation accompanying this report?
- 3.2 How can Elected Members support the Community Led Energy Planning activities being developed and delivered by Carbon Co-op in Westwood, Sholver, St Mary's and Saddleworth? How can Elected Members support the roll-out of this approach more widely over time?
- 3.3 How do we ensure that the OGND DP brings new access to opportunities for our residents and businesses?
- 3.4 How can the profile and awareness of Oldham's Green New Deal be raised more widely with Elected Members, to ensure that maximum benefit of the programme is secured for residents and businesses?

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# Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership - update

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**Place Scrutiny Committee**  
**April 2025**

Andrew Hunt  
Green Energy & Sustainability Manager



# Oldham Green New Deal

## The economic opportunities

Oldham's investment opportunity - £5.6bn of low carbon infrastructure needed to achieve Net Zero in the borough (Oldham Local Area Energy Plan)

Oldham already has around 100 Green Technology & Services businesses employing 2,000 people – great growth potential

### The Green New Deal Delivery Partnership will:-

- Secure large-scale private sector investment in Oldham's energy infrastructure
- Place Oldham well to benefit from new national schemes
- Grow Oldham's green economy, creating jobs & training opportunities
- Help residents and businesses to reduce energy bills
- Deliver Green New Deal and Greater Manchester Net Zero targets





# Oldham Green New Deal

## Strategic alignment – economic vision & national policy

### Our delivery pillars

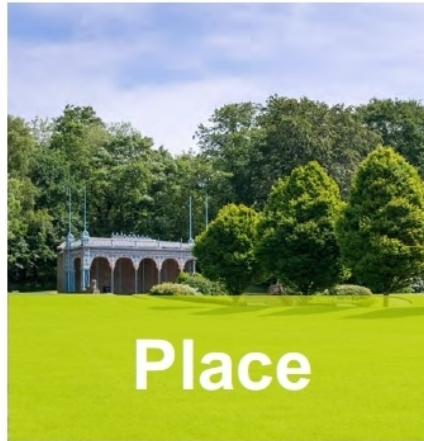


#### People

Empowering Oldham's community through education, innovation, and opportunity. We envision a future where every individual has the tools to thrive, contributing to a dynamic and inclusive economy.

Jobs and training opportunities in the growing, high value Green Technology & Services sector

Improved health and wellbeing outcomes from e.g. better housing, cleaner air



#### Place

Oldham, a beacon of heritage and progress. Our commitment is to enhance our town's unique character while building a resilient infrastructure that supports growth and connectivity.

Up to £5.6bn of investment in Oldham's energy infrastructure (Local Area Energy Plan)

Improvements in the local environment, walking & cycling infrastructure and green spaces



#### Planet

Championing sustainability, Oldham leads by example in the fight against climate change. Our green initiatives and environmental stewardship aim to preserve the planet for future generations.

Net Zero by 2030 (Oldham) and 2038 (Greater Manchester)

Oldham's communities positioned to benefit from **Great British Energy** and the **Local Power Plan**



#### Prosperity

Driving economic success, Oldham's strategic investments and business-friendly environment foster a flourishing local economy where prosperity is shared by all.

Lower energy bills for Oldham residents & businesses

The economic benefits of energy generation kept local

Involvement of local supply chain in infrastructure delivery

# Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership

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## Oldham's leading position

- The Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership will be only the third local authority initiative of its type in the UK, after Bristol City Leap and Coventry Strategic Energy Partnership
- A fourth initiative of this type is being developed by York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, who are being funded by DESNZ to determine if the Bristol City Leap model is transferable
- Oldham's proposed delivery model is the only one of these four to put residents at the heart of the energy planning process, via the Community Led Energy Planning approach developed by Carbon Co-op in the Oldham Energy Futures project and being further developed using DESNZ / GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator funding
- Oldham's initiative is also the only one to include delivery of a heat network zone as part of the JV Business Plan – taking advantage of new primary and secondary legislation to ensure that statutory heat network development rights are conferred on Oldham's procured JV partner for the £265m heat network zone around Oldham
- Oldham Council is being supported in the development of our Delivery Partnership by a number of industry experts including Carbon Co-op and Ernst & Young (who supported Bristol, Coventry and are also supporting York & North Yorkshire)
- Oldham is the only local authority in GM to be establishing a Strategic Energy Partnership aimed at the full-spectrum decarbonisation of the local authority area, and is a leading partner in the GM / DESNZ Local Net Zero Accelerator programme

# Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership

## Procurement of strategic Joint Venture partner

- Funded £1.35m from DESNZ / GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator programme
- Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network funded £8.7m from Green Heat Network Fund
- A public-private Strategic Energy Partnership for Oldham putting residents and businesses at the heart of the energy planning process
- Delivery of £27m Oldham Town Centre heat network leading to £265m HN zone
- An additional pipeline of project opportunities to inform the Business Plan for first five years of OGNDDP operations
- Market Transformation Commitments – use of Oldham's local supply chain in delivery

Market engagement – March-April 2025

Publication of tender – May 2025

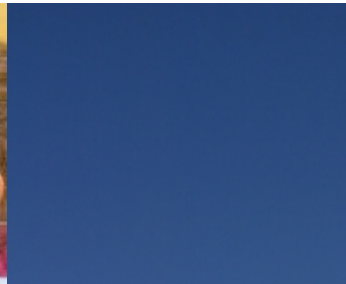
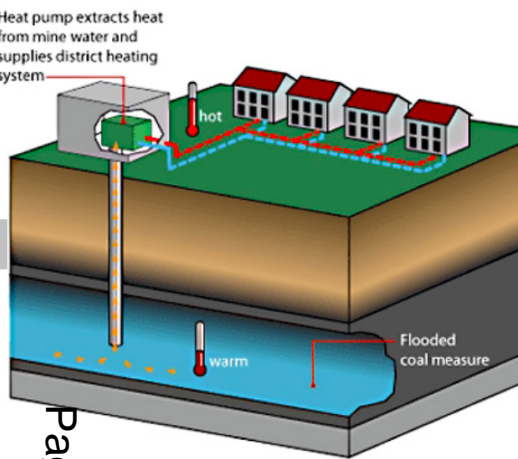
Dialogue sessions – July 2025 – January 2026

Appointment of winning bidder – July 2026



# Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership

## Potential projects for Joint Venture



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# OGND Delivery Partner procurement

## Delivery Partner commitments

- ▶ Responsible for identifying projects
- ▶ Responsible for funding feasibility work and developing projects
- ▶ Responsible for developing annual and strategic (5 year) business plans and longer term pipeline of projects
- ▶ Will offer a range of services covering funding, feasibility and delivery, to Oldham businesses and communities wishing to develop their own low carbon infrastructure projects
- ▶ Will embed social value in its operations, including use of local Oldham and GM supply chain companies, and work with communities to deliver against local needs and priorities
- ▶ Will drive engagement with local businesses, residents, communities and landowners
- ▶ Will work with the Council to ensure that the partnership is self-funding, through recycling of profits from energy projects

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# OGND Delivery Partner procurement

## Council commitments

- ▶ A dedicated co-working space in the Spindles Council offices
- ▶ Support and access to public sector funding routes
- ▶ Strategic integration with Council programmes e.g. regeneration, highways, property & assets, transport, housing, economic development
- ▶ Facilitation of community and wider stakeholder engagement e.g. through Districts teams
- ▶ Official endorsement and use of the Council logo
- ▶ Collaboration with GMCA, ENWL and other GM and national stakeholders
- ▶ Provision of resource from a range of Council services supporting governance of the Partnership
- ▶ Investment - the Council may choose to invest in individual projects but is not obligated to do so
- ▶ Connection of Council buildings to the new Oldham Town Centre Low Carbon Heat Network

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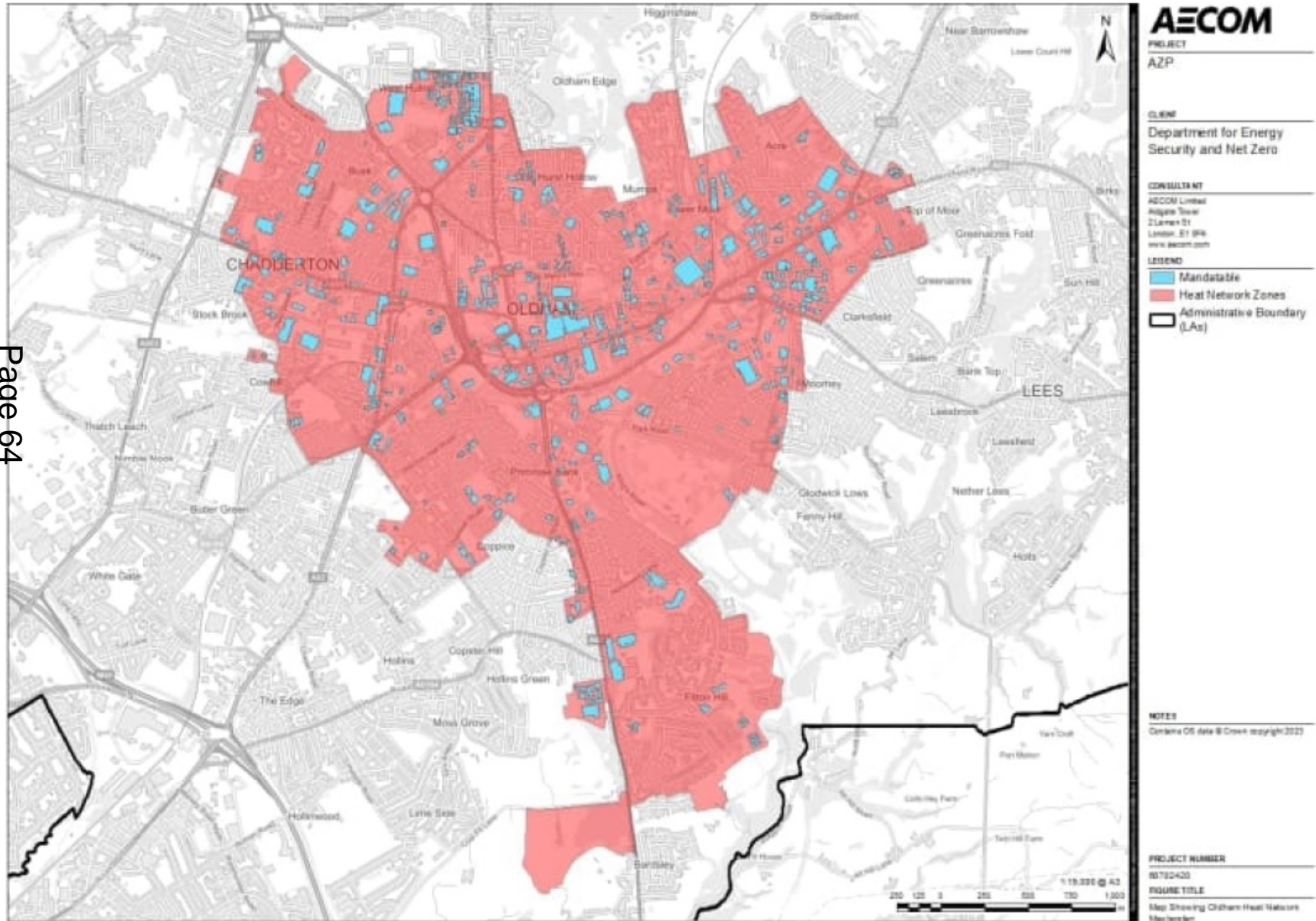
# OGND Delivery Partner procurement

## Anchor project – Low Carbon Heat Network

- The Council has been developing a new Low Carbon Heat Network project for the Town Centre for some years, benefiting from a number of rounds of grant funding from DESNZ. Currently the Council has secured £1m revenue grant for Commercialisation (RIBA 3 design) activities, and £7.8m capital grant for Construction activities
- The £27m new heat network will decarbonise heating for the major Council town centre buildings as well as The Oldham College, Oldham Leisure Centre and NHS ICC. It is the single most significant decarbonisation project in Oldham's Green New Deal programme
- The Council is also part of the national Advanced Zoning Programme for heat networks, and the Oldham heat network zonal OBC shows an investment opportunity of around £265m for the OGND Delivery Partner
- The new heat network is the “anchor” project for the procurement of the OGND Delivery Partner, and so delivery of the heat network project is the gateway to securing £265m investment for Oldham's heat network zone and the wider £5.6bn in Oldham's Local Area Energy Plan



# Oldham's Heat Network Zone – circa £265m





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# Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership

## Professional team and partners

- Carbon Co-op – updating and expanding the Community Led Energy Planning approach developed in the Oldham Energy Futures project and partnership governance
- Centre for Local Economic Strategies – working with Ernst & Young (see below) to develop KPIs for OGND Delivery Partnership as part of wider Oldham Economic Vision, to ensure Community Wealth Building principles and Social Value outcomes are fully embedded in the model
- GM Green Economy (GM Growth Hub) – will provide a range of support services for Oldham's Green Technology & Services sector to ensure maximum participation in, and benefit from, the OGND Delivery Partnership initiative
- First Choice Homes Oldham – creation of new Retrofit Assessor role to accelerate deployment of Warm Homes grant. Also plan to transfer the existing heat network at St Mary's, incl unused 3.5MW biomass boiler, into new Town Centre low carbon heat network
- Ernst & Young – supporting the Council to procure its commercial GND Delivery Partner and set up Joint Venture and will act as Independent Assurance Provider on an ongoing basis. Supported both Bristol & Coventry Strategic Energy Partner procurements
- Womble Bond Dickinson – providing Legal support for procurement of delivery partner and setup of JV, as well as for heat network Commercialisation and Advanced Zoning work
- Buro Happold – consultants providing RIBA Stage 3 design for Commercialisation stage of town centre low carbon district heat network, feasibility studies on Council Buildings, Full Business Case for Council connections and support with procurement of Delivery Partner

# Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner procurement

## Questions / discussion





**Report to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board**

## **Creating a Better Place Update**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Reform and Regeneration**

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:** Chris Lewis, Asst. Director - Creating a Better Place

**2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025**

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### **Reason for Decision**

Briefing on the Creating a Better Place Programme

### **Executive Summary**

Cabinet approval was first obtained in January 2020 for the Council's '***Creating a Better Place (CaBP)***' strategic framework and capital regeneration programme. This report is the annual update on progress of the programme.

The programme remains on track to deliver new homes, create jobs and deliver against our Green New Deal commitments ensuring Oldham is a great place to live, work and visit with lots of family friendly and accessible places to go. This report provides Place Scrutiny with an update on the strategic progress of the Creating a Better Place regeneration programme, including external funding opportunities secured, benefits realised, and the associated Social Value generated to ***Create a Better Place.***

### **Recommendations**

To review and note progress on the Creating a Better Place Programme

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## **Creating a Better Place Update**

### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The very best towns and cities around the world have one thing in common – they are both people and quality focused. Quality of place is paramount to thriving communities and we want Oldham to be a place where people feel they belong, they feel safe, proud and it is an exciting place where people can live, work and spend time.
- 1.2 Growing our economy through social enterprise, starting new business ventures and supporting the expansion of existing businesses, apprentice opportunities for work and skills development, and development and construction employment opportunities is increasingly more important to ensure residents have access to paid work to support themselves and their families through various challenges including rising inflation.
- 1.3 The Creating a Better Place programme has enabled a number of key partnerships to be strengthened ensuring Oldham has a strong narrative locally, regionally and nationally enabling Oldham, amongst other things, to secure substantial external funding to invest within the town and accelerate delivery of our regeneration activities to Create a Better Place. Alongside the Council strengthening our ability to secure funding we are also gaining a strong reputation for delivery.
- 1.4 The projects within the Town Centre will ensure its sustainability, including the development of the Spindles, that the Council acquired and the associated projects that have already been delivered including new public sector office accommodation, a new social enterprise 'Hive' supporting business launch and development and projects due to launch shortly including a new food court, new home for the indoor market and the Performance space. In addition, across the Town Centre we are establishing a new public park, the delivery of 2,000 new homes whilst also protecting and investing in our historical assets through the redevelopment of the Old Library and outside of the Town Centre the successful redevelopment of Royton Town Hall and Library.
- 1.5 CaBP also provides important Capital receipts and revenue saving opportunities to ensure the best use of public funds, value for money is demonstrated and social value is embedded into all projects for wider community benefits. The financial savings have been embed into the Council's Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Capital Programme. Separate annual reports are due for Cabinet consideration once again, which includes Creating a Better Place financial matters, as part of the annual budget setting procedures.
- 1.6 Strong progress is being made against the priorities identified through comprehensive and ongoing consultation with members, residents and businesses to deliver family friendly activities, improved accessibility, sustainability, green energy, new jobs and apprenticeships, new businesses, filling empty units, more things to do and places to visit. The update contained within this report and accompanying presentation evidences our progress in delivering against these key priorities.

### **2.0 Creating a Better Place: Strategic Updates**

- 2.1 The CaBP Programme continues to make a strong positive impact to the regeneration of the town, creating Social Value and delivering financial savings. The programme has delivered

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£3.5m of revenue savings to date with further additional savings projected over the next three years.

- 2.2 Working closely with various partners locally, regionally, and nationally Oldham's strong Vision, plans and ability to deliver schemes have resulted in the CaBP Programme securing external funding in excess of £70m to date with the Council continuing to identify additional funding opportunities moving forward. The Council is delivering strongly against spend and outputs particularly around jobs created ensuring we have a strong track record of delivery with funders placing us in a strong position for future grant funding opportunities.
- 2.3 Our Green New Deal continues to progress at pace with various schemes in development and delivery, these include large capital infrastructure schemes including the Oldham Town Centre Low Carbon District Heat Network and Wrigley Head Solar Farm. The Green New Deal Programme continues its strong track record of securing external funding that is detailed further within the report and includes grant funding to enable decarbonisation works to commence on the Spindles shopping centre in support of the Councils continuing drive to decarbonise the Council's buildings.
- 2.4 The programme continues to act as a catalyst for new jobs within Oldham through the various projects both planned and in delivery. The Broadway Green development is a prime example that includes 700,000sq feet of employment space now let, creating up to 2,000 new jobs and up to 500 new homes on the development. The development is clear evidence of the private sector investing in Oldham. Further evidence of private sector investment is the lease signed for the Egyptian room by the Northern Lights Group (NLG), who run a number of popular restaurants and entertainment venues across the North West which has created 80 jobs. Jobs and apprenticeships are also being created through the construction work both planned and underway within the Town Centre and across the town, with all opportunities supported where possible through Oldham Get Oldham Working service.
- 2.5 A key component of the CaBP programme is generating Social Value, which has substantial opportunity to benefit both individual residents and our wider communities. Social value is firmly embed within CaBP as part of our procurement processes and secures a contractual commitment from our contractors to deliver social value benefits. New apprenticeships, job creation and educational sessions at local schools and colleges are a few examples.

### **3.0 Creating a Better Place: Strategic Updates**

#### **3.1 Town Centre**

The CaBP programme was constructed following comprehensive consultation with our local communities and businesses to help clearly define and ensure wider awareness and engagement with our regeneration ambitions. This work has also helped ensure that local priorities, and ideas and suggestions from local communities and businesses were embedded into the Programme and associated project work in various stages from planning through to delivery.

The engagement process formed part of the Big Oldham Conversation, with specific consultation and engagement events both digitally and in person with specialist groups, residents, town centre businesses and market traders to help raise awareness and seek feedback on various town centre projects and the overall vision for the future of the town. Consultation continues as each project goes through the key stages of development.

Clear visible progress can be viewed with various communication channels being used on projects working their way through the planning process combined with those currently on

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site that is contributing to a real vibrancy within the Town Centre. These schemes include the new town centre park, Snipe gardens and the creation of much needed new homes. In addition, other schemes currently on site safeguarding and ensuring the future sustainability of historical buildings, include the Old Library and the refurbishment of the much loved Oldham Coliseum on Fairbottom Street. Whilst the CaBP vision and programme is clearly articulated we continue to explore further opportunities in parallel to ensure a sustainable town centre that is safer, cleaner and greener with an improved shopping experience and regular events for all generations within the Town Centre. Further details on the various schemes can be viewed here: [Creating a Better Place | Oldham Council](#)

Further project consultation will take place at the appropriate time in conjunction with standard practice for project development / planning application considerations, however feedback from residents, local business, visitors, and market traders continues to be positive and really helpful for shaping the following projects ahead of seeking approval for progression

The transformational plans can also be viewed via a fly through video, bringing the town centre plans to life with the film outlining what we plan to do and where – including the redevelopment of Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre, the creation of a brand-new town centre park and a dedicated cultural quarter with new theatre. The video can be viewed here [INSERT NEW VIDEO ONCE SIGNED OFF](#).

### 3.2 Housing

The CaBP programme continues with great success to deliver against ambitious housing targets to meet the housing needs of our residents in delivering various sizes and tenure of new homes. Delivery of these homes include various sites across Oldham as detailed below.

Helping to address the cost of living and housing crisis, the Council has committed to building 500 truly affordable homes over the next 5 years. These will be let at Local Housing Allowance Rates at rents residents can afford. Zero and low carbon housing is also being delivered to support the borough's pioneering Greener Oldham developments - supporting the Green New Deal by embedding sustainability with including new homes being built to the government's Future Homes Standard.

Key schemes within the CaPB Programme include:

**Town Centre** – Plans are taking shape with the Council's Strategic Development Partner Muse to deliver 2,000 new homes across a number of strategic sites within Oldham Town Centre. Over the last 12 months, the main successes include:

- The Partnership concluded a comprehensive public consultation exercise and successfully secured approval for the Town Centre Development Framework at Cabinet in November 24
- The Partnership secured approval to incorporate Prince's Gate into the MDA alongside delegated authority to progress and approve the associated agreements
- Places Matter design review panel was held in November 24 with positive and constructive feedback taken onboard to further develop the design of the masterplan
- Social Value Charter was completed via Social Value Portal which forms the basis of social value commitments and aspirations across the masterplan
- Enabling works funded via the One Public Estate grant funding commenced on the Former Leisure Centre site in November 24, with works to start on the Civic Centre and Former Magistrates Court sites in February and March 25

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Work is now progressing on submitting the planning applications for the masterplan in Spring 25, consisting of a fully detailed application for Prince's Gate and Phase 1 Civic Centre, alongside outline applications for the remainder of the Civic Centre, Former Leisure Centre site and Former Magistrates Court site.

**Joint Ventures at Broadway Green and Hollinwood Junction** - The Council entered into Joint Venture Projects to drive forward the regeneration of two key strategic sites within the borough to drive growth, create employment opportunities and provide new homes.

Broadway Green - alongside an employment site delivering valuable jobs for our residents of Oldham, the final residential phase (R3 – 102 homes) is being considered at Planning Committee in Spring 2025. A further residential phase (R4) is nearing completion with the first of 42 new affordable homes to be completed in March 2025. 392 mixed tenure homes have already been built and are now occupied.

The former Kaskenmoor School Site at Hollinwood Junction has capacity for around 150 zero/low carbon homes including a high percentage of truly affordable homes, this site is on track to be marketed in Spring 2025.

**Residential Pipeline** – Significant progress is being made with the Council's disposal programme of key sites including the following highlights.

Derker - Hive Homes have started construction of 132 low and zero carbon housing on brownfield land which will include a mix of truly affordable rented homes, shared ownership and private sale. The first homes will be ready for occupation in December 2025.

Southlink – Vistry Partnership have been appointed as the preferred developer on the former Oldham Mumps Station site, jointly owned with TfGM. A planning application to deliver 147 affordable apartments and houses built to the low carbon Future Homes Standard is to be submitted shortly.

South Chadderton – following a successful marketing exercise, Rowland Homes were appointed by Cabinet in January 2025 to deliver 150 new homes including 60 affordable at the former school site. All homes will be constructed to Future Homes Standard and Planning Application is expected to be submitted in April.

Foundry Street, Oldham Town Centre – In partnership with Jigsaw Homes, 14 specialist Supported Housing Accommodation Programme (SHAP) single flats aimed specifically at preventing homelessness amongst 18- to 23-year-olds are under construction on a vacant brownfield town centre site. The apartments should be ready in early 2026.

Other significant developments underway across the borough that the Council has helped bring forward include Fitton Hill (365 mixed tenure homes by Vistry), Vaughan Street, Royton (46 affordable homes by Great Places) and Maple Mill, Hathershaw (112 affordable homes by MCI/Great Places).

The Creating a Better Place programme will clearly continue to play a key role in response to the Housing Crisis within Oldham and the wider Council/partner response to this key agenda and challenge.

Creating new homes on such a large scale will bring about a huge range of benefits for the whole borough including within the Town Centre with increased footfall and boosting local businesses whilst maximising the opportunities presented by under-utilised sites. The approach to housing will also support the borough's pioneering Greener Oldham



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developments - supporting the Green New Deal by embedding sustainability and net zero carbon ambitions where possible. The schemes will also provide opportunities for employment, learning, skills and social contributions across the design, procurement, delivery, and operational phases of the projects.

The Creating a Better Place programme will clearly continue to play a key role in response to the Housing Crisis within Oldham and the wider Council/partner response to this key agenda and challenge.

### 3.5 Green New Deal

The Oldham Green New Deal (OGND) Strategy was adopted in March 2020 and deals with the upgrade of energy infrastructure in the Council's estate and Oldham borough to achieve stretching carbon neutrality targets. The strategy aims to achieve this by securing investment and delivery capacity in low carbon infrastructure to realise a range of benefits such as jobs and training opportunities for residents in this key growth sector, contracts for Oldham's local Green Technology and Services sector businesses, lower energy bills for businesses and residents and improvements in local green infrastructure for communities.

The OGND delivery programme comprises a range of initiatives and projects including large capital infrastructure schemes such as the Oldham Town Centre Low Carbon District Heat Network (£27m) and heat network zone (£265m), decarbonisation retrofit of Spindles (£4m) and Wrigley Head Solar Farm (£2m). With the exception of Wrigley Head, most of these capital schemes have either secured grant funded (e.g. via the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme) or the intention is that they will be funded and delivered by our private sector should the Council wish to proceed on this basis (e.g. Town Centre District Heat Network). This Town Centre Heat Network will form a strategic piece of energy infrastructure linking into the redevelopment of the Town Centre as a whole, including the new Master Developer partnership with Muse, and has already attracted significant grant funding and capacity support from the Department of Energy Security & Net Zero and the GM Combined Authority. First Choice Homes Oldham are also a key partner in that project, and we have the opportunity to transfer the existing heat network at St Mary's into the new town centre wide heat network scheme at a future point in time as part of the Council's procurement of an Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partner (see below).

Other projects within the OGND delivery programme include RED WoLF (demonstrating an innovative hybrid low carbon electrical heating system in 19 Council-owned social homes at Primrose Bank), Alexandra Park Eco-Centre (depot renovation), Northern Roots and the Oldham Green New Deal Delivery Partnership.

The OGND Delivery Partnership initiative is potentially the most significant of all of the projects within the OGND programme, and aims to establish a cross-sector investment and delivery partnership, and to this end the Council which will procure a major commercial infrastructure developer partner to work with Oldham's anchor organisations and communities to develop and deliver a pipeline of low carbon infrastructure projects which will aim to meet local needs and priorities (including the reduction of energy bills for residents and businesses). Oldham's Local Area Energy Plan (developed by Energy Systems Catapult as part of the GM Local Energy Market project) shows an opportunity for up to £5.6bn of low carbon infrastructure in the borough which will be required to reach carbon neutrality. The Council has carried out three market engagement exercises which have each showed significant interest from major market players in working in Oldham on a collaborative basis. The Council has now secured £1.3m from the GMCA / DESNZ Local Net Zero Accelerator programme to implement the OGND Delivery Partnership. The partnership will be designed to be self-funding on an ongoing basis. The main tender for



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the OGND Delivery Partner will be published over the coming months with the aim of establishing the strategic decarbonisation Joint Venture by summer 2026.

#### **4.0 Creating a Better Place: Project Updates**

- 4.1 An overview and further information on the progress of the CaBP Programme is provided within the accompanying presentation for scrutiny members to review, given the commitment to make timely progress and so local communities can see the projects brought to life on site and benefiting from our Social Value commitments.

#### **5.0 Consultation**

- 5.1 The CaBP programme was constructed following comprehensive consultation with our local communities and businesses to help clearly define and ensure wider awareness and engagement with our regeneration ambitions. This work has also helped ensure that local priorities, and ideas and suggestions from local communities and businesses were embedded into the Programme and associated project work in various stages from planning through to delivery.
- 5.2 The engagement process formed part of the Big Oldham Conversation, with specific consultation and engagement events both digitally and in person with specialist groups, residents, town centre businesses and market traders to help raise awareness and seek feedback on various town centre projects and the overall vision for the future of the town. Consultation continues as each project goes through the key stages of development.

#### **6.0 Key Decision**

- 6.1 No

#### **7.0 Background Papers**

- 7.1 Not Applicable

#### **8.0 Appendices**

- 8.1 CaBP PowerPoint Presentation

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## **Report to PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH & ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD**

### **Grant Acceptance: Community Regeneration Partnership**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton – Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:** Chris Lewis, Assistant Director for Creating a Better Place

**Date:** 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

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#### **Reason for Decision**

Following receipt of grant notification on 21 February 2025, from the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) on behalf of national government, this report seeks approval to accept £20,100,000 (twenty million, one hundred thousand pounds). Members will recall previous announcements about Oldham being included in the Levelling Up Partnership on behalf of national government. The notification has also confirmed that the programme has changed its name to the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership.

Within MHCLG, a sub-team called the Communities Delivery Unit (CDU) have led the work which began in April 2024, and included community engagement and, data insight and assessments to assess the “need” for Levelling Up Oldham. The CDU undertook further scoping work, desk-based research, literature reviews and work with analysts to develop an evidence base on the opportunities and challenges for Oldham.

Due to the timing of the General Election, the programme was paused from June to November 2025; however, all the work then resumed and informed a cross-government process to develop a long-list of policy options and interventions, as set out in this report. The finalised selection of projects / list of interventions was developed and confirmed by the CDU in February 2025, following ministerial sign off and approval: again, the detail of which is set out in the report.

On acceptance of the grant, the Council and the MHCLG will form the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership, and after reviewing the identified programme, the proposals are

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fully aligned with the Oldham Plan and Creating a Better Place framework to create jobs, build homes, and enhance buildings and communities across the borough.

## **Recommendations**

Cabinet members are requested to approve:

- Acceptance of the £20,100,000 grant funding award from the MHCLG.
- Approve a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with the MHCLG in respect of the grant award and establishment of the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership.
- Note the extensive consultation and work undertaken by the MHCLG's CDU Team to collect and assess the longlist of projects and ideas submitted by Oldham's communities and partners and to note the projects selected by the CDU (after passing MHCLG business case approval) for progression.
- Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham, the Director of Finance and the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to oversee and approve: the expenditure of grant funding for the projects selected by MHCLG; the onward award of the grant funding for any policy intervention or project listed by the CDU team; and, any associated partnership or programme of activity.
  - Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham, the Director of Finance and the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to approve the procurement and appointment of contractors and service providers (and to authorise any sub-contractors) to supply any works, supplies or services needed to deliver the programme of activity following procurements undertaken in compliance with the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (or Procurement Act 23, as of 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025).
  - Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to award onward grant funding and to enter into any associated grant agreements with delivery partners and / or community groups, as applicable, setting out clearly prescribed funding timescales, project scope as agreed with MHCLG and subject to appropriate terms and conditions, including any relevant provisions within the MoU entered into with the MHCLG.
  - Delegate authority to the Borough Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and/or his nominee to formalise any necessary legal requirements including signing and/or sealing any documentation required to give effect to the recommendations and/or delegations in this report.
  - Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) and Borough Solicitor and/or their nominee(s) to approve the appointment of external legal advisors required to protect the Council's interests and/or give effect to the recommendations in this report, and carry out all necessary legal formalities in respect of any activity approved by virtue of this report.

**Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership (ESR-03-25)****1.0 Background**

- 1.1 At the Spring Budget in 2023, twenty lower-tier local authority areas were selected for what was then known as Levelling Up Partnership Areas. Alongside the announcement of the programme, His Majesty 's Government, (HMG), published a methodology note on place selection. The list of twenty places was developed in accordance with the Levelling Up White Paper and examined a number of key metrics including skills, pay, productivity and health. Using the methodology outlined, Oldham ranked 13 on the list in terms of Levelling Up Need and was initially chosen for this round of engagement, to be conducted concurrently with Rochdale, Walsall, and Torridge.
- 1.2 The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have led on the Levelling Up Partnership for Oldham on behalf of national government, and most recently have confirmed that the programme is now known as the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership.
- 1.3 The overall objectives of the partnership are to:
- Support delivery of the objectives that address spatial inequalities in the UK and delivery of the missions. Improving outcomes in these 20 places is a necessary part of the overall progress of addressing inequalities.
  - Support places most in need of regeneration through a bespoke package of targeted support and complimentary policy interventions that provide tangible benefits to residents in the place within 24 months, and that align and contribute to long-term ambitions and strategies for places.
  - Share learning from partnerships across government to help establish and embed a culture place-based policy making, built on a deeper understanding of places and their unique needs.
- 1.4 The partnership's final policy package has also been developed with consideration of the government missions. The final policy package will, therefore, address the following in particular:
- Breakdown barriers to opportunity
  - Kickstart economic growth
  - Take back our streets
- 1.5 Within MHCLG, a sub-team called the Communities Delivery Unit (CDU) led the initial work and began initial scoping for the Oldham partnership in April 2024. Building on the scoping exercise, the CDU undertook a fieldwork phase, which took place over a three-day period where the team reached out to various community groups, partners,

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young people, communities across the borough. The CDU also engaged with business leaders, academics, small business owners and the VCFSE sector. MHCLG have also gathered insights from other government departments to inform this diagnostic phase, working particularly closely with teams who have a strong local understanding of Oldham.

- 1.6 After the initial engagement phase, MHCLG then reviewed all the place-based statistics and data, and all the feedback from the community/partner engagement to provide a formal assessment of the 'need' for Levelling Up. Scoping work involved desk-based research, literature reviews and work with analysts and the DPMs Data Unit, formerly the Spatial Data Unit, in MHCLG to develop an evidence base on the opportunities and challenges for Oldham. MHCLG supplemented this research with fieldwork and engagement with local stakeholders to gain a qualitative understanding of the issues faced in Oldham, situated in the place itself.
- 1.7 Due to the timing of the General Election, the programme was pause from June to November 2025. However, on recommencement, the findings from the scoping work then informed a cross-government process to develop a long-list of policy options and interventions across a broad range of policy areas. The CDU initially short-listed these based on the:
- Local strategic fit – When considering local strategic fit. The CDU consider how an intervention will address the qualitative and quantitative findings from the partnership, consider how it aligns with local economic and social plans but also how it fits with government objectives and priorities. A further benefit of the CDU approach is that judgements can be based on the interactions between several challenges.
  - Value for money – The CDU engaged with policy experts in MHCLG and across government to judge likely value for money, as well as to assess how well they would contribute to departmental and governmental objectives.
  - Deliverability – Following these assessments, the package is stress-tested with the local council and other stakeholders to ensure that the proposed package is deliverable – taking into account local capacity and capability as well as local accountability and delivery structures.
- 1.8 The finalised Oldham policy and targeted programme of works / selection of projects / list of interventions was developed and confirmed by CDU February 2025, following ministerial sign off and approval, and includes the associated capital and revenue funding as set out in this report.

## **2.0 Recommended Interventions from MHCLG**

### **Grant Award Projects**

- 2.1 The policy intervention list identified by CDU for Oldham covers the following seven key areas of activity:
- 2.3 **Town Centre Housing Delivery** - A capital contribution of £5,000,000 has been allocated from the total award to support the development of a planning strategy and

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associated pre-development costs for the four key town centre housing sites including Civic, Magistrates Court, Leisure Centre site and Princes Gate. The allocation of this funding will help to accelerate the development and delivery of sites leading to the provision of 2,000 new homes.

Significant progress continues to be made in conjunction with MUSE (who were compliantly procured by the Council) on the delivery of the identified new homes. This includes the adoption by Cabinet of the Spatial Development Framework for the Town Centre 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 following extensive consultation undertaken throughout the summer. Site enabling works funded by external MHCLG One Public Estate monies are currently well underway on the former leisure centre site with works expected to commence on the Civic Centre and Magistrate Court sites over the coming months.

MUSE were confirmed to be making significant progress on the wider supporting planning strategy for all core sites with applications to be submitted in 2025. The investment in the planning strategy is circa £7,000,000 and securing associated planning approvals will position all sites strongly in terms of securing wider investment to unlock delivery.

Cabinet approval was obtained on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2024 providing delegated authority for the Council to be able to explore a risk share funding mechanism in respect of the significant commitment that MUSE have made in respect on the planning strategy. It is intended that the allocated funding from the Oldham Regeneration Partnership will be utilised to contribute to the delivery of planning strategy eliminating any financial, procurement or legal risk for the Council. In the unlikely event that actual delivery does not progress within the Town Centre, the Council would see a significant uplift in the value of the core sites in respect of the associated planning permissions and an associated full suite of documentation. This intervention will therefore directly contribute to the delivery of 2,000 new homes within Oldham Town Centre.

The award of the funding is a major milestone in respect of the wider residential strategy as it positions the partnership strongly in terms of moving forward with actual delivery of homes within the next couple of years.

*Reference was made to an “underwriting” in the previous Cabinet report (November 2024): this was incorrect and an error at the time due to the early / limited feedback on this project from the CDU at that time, and reassurance needed for the draw down of the planning strategy funding for continued delivery. This report now confirmed that no Council funds are required for “underwriting” MUSE. This is an external grant award from MHCLG which has passed their assessments and business case development work, in order to support the pre-commencement works and risk share of the town centre housing projects (as with One Public Estate grant award, and the Brownfield Land Housing Fund grant award).*

- 2.4 District Growth Funding** - £4,400,000 of capital funding and £100,000 of revenue funding has been allocated to support the delivery of district growth priorities across Oldham. It is envisaged that this funding will compliment a £600,000 contribution from existing funding allocated through the Long-Term Plan for Towns, (subject to



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approval of the investment plan by government), in the West of borough providing a notional area of £1m funding for each of the five district areas across Oldham.

The utilisation of district growth funding will embed community-based decision making, building on the work of the recently established District Councils which include public / private / community groups / residents / third sector. This fund will build on the Long-Term Plan for Towns programme and provide a smaller roll-out of the principles established by the programme – funding to support local projects identified by local communities for local communities. These district growth projects will be co-produced with the District Councils and will ensure that all residents, communities and businesses are engaged with the creation of local priorities.

The current One Oldham Fund has been identified as the basis of an accountable system and extended offer from which the different district areas can draw down the allocated funds once their investment plans and grant programmes are confirmed. A further assessment on the suitability of the One Oldham Fund as a delivery vehicle will be undertaken following approval of this report to help finalise the funding draw-down arrangements for each District area. The focus in terms of end-users will build on Oldham Plan's existing three priorities established through extensive engagement with residents and partners:

- A Great Place to Live
- Healthier, Happier Lives
- Green and Growing

These priorities reflect our shared ambitions for Oldham: vibrant, safe neighbourhoods where people are proud to live; opportunities for healthier, more fulfilled lives; and a sustainable, thriving economy.

District Councils will have a menu of activities from which local initiatives could be aligned including Health and Wellbeing, Cost of Living Crisis Support, Children and Young People, Hate Crime Awareness and Developing Recovery Communities. Sports Clubs will be included given their reach, role in community cohesion and contribution to the Health and Wellbeing agenda; and there will be an additional focus on Net Zero and Sustainability.

The Programme may build on the existing well established One Oldham governance arrangements. It is envisaged that the capital programme will be split 80% for larger projects and 20% for small scale grants. Deliverability will be a selection criterion, alongside benefits to end-users and strategic fit with priorities.

The capital grant Programme will seek to increase the sustainability of third sector organisations and improving local access to services by users. The grant programme will be developed in support of the District Growth Plans that are being developed through extensive community consultation based on the approach adopted with the Chadderton Long Term Plan for Towns approach. Many third sector organisations operate from premises or units in need of upgrade or improvements that would increase their ability to meet user needs or bring underused community assets back into use. These range from small scale improvements (warmer premises through



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energy efficiency) to larger capital projects (creation/ fit out of additional space to meet demand).

- 2.5 Yorkshire Street and Implementation of the Cultural Co-Operative Model** – A £2,500,000 capital contribution has been secured and will be utilised to support the implementation of the Cultural Co-operative model which focuses on the redeveloped Fairbottom Street Theatre, (Towns Funding). This allocation will provide additionality and compliment the High Street Accelerator funding on Yorkshire Street by bringing back into use vacant retail units on Yorkshire Street providing rental income to support the sustainability of cultural assets across the Town Centre.

The initiative seeks to secure ownership and bring the void/vacant property back into commercial use. The future rental income accrued would then be ringfenced to help ensure the financial sustainability of the nearby Fairbottom Street Theatre. The Victorian theatre is a much-loved, treasured and culturally significant asset that sadly closed in 2023 and there is a significant public and political aspiration to bring the Theatre back into sustained use.

More widely, instigating a nighttime economy in Oldham Town Centre will ultimately contribute to wider place-making ambitions, including supporting the success of the major town centre regeneration underway, and the delivery of 2,000 new town centre homes.

- 2.6 Spindles Market Relocation** - Supported by a £2,000,000 capital allocation, this project seeks to support the Spindles Market relocation by establishing a new Grant Scheme to enable market traders to purchase modern, low-carbon fit-for-purpose kit.

The project also seeks to deliver renovation works up to six currently vacant commercial units within the Spindles Shopping Centre to enable the relocation of large market businesses which demonstrate growth potential and provide a complimentary offer to existing centre retail into more formal fit-for-purpose accommodation. A further aspect of the proposal will be to cover the costs of fixtures / fittings for a Pop-Up unit, marketing support for new tenants and other smaller project costs.

This initiative will ensure town centre vibrancy and vitality through the support of a diverse section of independent retail businesses.

- 2.7 George Street** – This project is closely linked to the Spindles Market project. It is proposed that £1,000,000 of capital funding will be allocated to the George Street project complimenting £1,000,000 of Oldham Council capital funding and seeks to radically transform George Square into a multifunctional high quality public space which will be the new home for the Oldham Outdoor Market.

George Street sits between the newly redeveloped Spindles shopping centre and is adjacent to two of the proposed Town Centre strategic residential sites. The site has excellent transport links being located adjacent to the bus station and newly delivered active travel routes.

Following the redevelopment of George Street, the area will become the home of Tommyfield Outdoor market and host the hugely popular Saturday Asian Market

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which helps to attract shoppers from across the North of England. A refurbished and flexible area of open space also provides additional opportunities in respect of the wider cultural and events programme helping to sustain the overall vibrancy of the Town Centre.

The current outdoor Tommyfield Market sits on a site identified for redevelopment through the establishment of a new Town Centre park. Consequently, the project seeks to both retain as many businesses as possible within the town centre, by relocating traders into a new location closely aligned to the wider retail core.

**2.8 SportsTown** – Landowners around Boundary Park Stadium (public and private sector) are working with a range of partners to establish an ambitious vision which defines plans to bring together Oldham’s sporting excellence, health care and much needed enhanced educational pathways through the creation of a new centre of excellence whilst also increasing participation for a wide range of users at the heart of the community.

Sporting excellence within Oldham is well defined through Oldham’s Rugby Club, Women’s netball, Darts and Cricket. Latics, the Women’s Football team and Oldham Rugby already utilise the facilities housed at the Boundary Park stadium / complex, which neighbours the Royal Oldham Hospital, for which there has been a working arrangement for hospital staff parking for some time.

The overarching vision builds on the recommendations from the Oldham Economic Review to create ambitious opportunities for growth in the borough and to accelerate skills pathways and job opportunities to create an exciting future for young people and future generations. The public/ private partnership overseeing the site want to drive forward SportsTown as a key asset in central Oldham providing opportunities and excellence in sport (in football, rugby, netball, darts and cricket), higher education skills provision, improved facilities and increased access and participation by local groups, contributing to social cohesion and addressing health inequalities.

A proposed capital allocation of £5,000,000 will be utilised to support the delivery of SportsTown Phase 1 which will include:

- Create new facilities for Higher Education, (HE), skills provision in the top floor of the Joe Royle Stand, including classrooms, access to specialist kit and changing facilities.
- Modification of the Joe Royle Stand to facilitate the above, including relocation of gym to create a new safeguarding access to the venue.
- Creation of new all-weather pitch on “Little Wembley” facility and 3G pitch, substantially increasing local use, access and participation.
- Provision of new outdoor netball court facilities (Oldham is a top-performer in netball) and University 5G.

There is a strong identified need for the project; HE lacks all-weather facilities in a central location to help develop its sports science and related HE offer; high levels of health inequalities; and high levels of income, crime and education deprivation.

The project is part of a longer-term plan for SportsTown, which includes a netball arena, indoor 3G sports facilities and further main stadium improvements. The overall investment package for Sports Town is circa £70m with a robust governance / partnership framework to formalise the public / private partnership land interests and investment into the joint vision. *(This will be reported separately on completion of due diligence due to the commercial nature of the partnership).*

- 2.9 Private Rented Sector Enforcement Pilot – Oldham Council & Greater Manchester Combined Authority, (GMCA),** have worked to develop a pilot project which seeks to use housing benefits as a lever for property improvement in Oldham. The project funding through a £100,000 revenue contribution will seek to roll out a substantial increase in use of Rent Repayment Orders, (RRO), where landlords have committed a relevant offence.

A core objective of the pilot scheme is to remove barriers to using RRO's through joint working between GMCA, Oldham Council, MHCLG and the Department for Work and Pensions, (DWP). It will consider how to most effectively use Housing Benefit and Universal Credit payments that have been clawed back to improve property quality and disincentivise poor landlord practice.

This project will ultimately aim to help to improve overall housing standards across the borough ensuring that our residents are able to live in safe, warm and secure homes.

## Grant Funding Awards

- 2.10 Below is a summary of the funding resource:

Project	Capital	Revenue
Town Centre Housing Delivery	£5,000,000	£0
District Growth Funding	£4,400,000	£100,000
Yorkshire Street and Implementation of the Cultural Co-Operative Model	£2,500,000	£0
Spindles Market Relocation	£2,000,000	£0
George Square	£1,000,000	£0
Sports Town	£5,000,000	£0
Private Rented Sector Pilot	£0	£100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£19,900,000</b>	<b>£200,000</b>

## 3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 There are two options:

**Option 1 (preferred option):** accept the list of projects identified by MHCLG and the proposed grant funding allocation as set out in this report which will create the opportunity to delivery significant outcomes across the borough aligned to the Oldham Plan priorities and expend the grant in accordance with the development and delivery plan approved in line with the delegations recommended in this report. Parts

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of the grant may be used by the Council to purchase works, supplies or services or it may be used to make onward grants to third parties.

**Option 2:** decline the offer of the external funding. This option is not supported or recommended as it would result in a significant missed opportunity to deliver a range of activity, across the borough, where funding does not currently exist and associated outcomes will not be achieved.

## **4 Consultation**

- 4.1 A set out in this report, the CDU have undertaken extensive engagement in the formulation of these proposals which including direct community engagement, desk top assessment, detailed fieldwork assessments within Oldham and cross government departmental consultation.
- 4.2 Extensive engagement has also been undertaken with market stallholders, businesses and various delivery partners.

## **5 Financial Implications**

- 5.1 The Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership grant funding totalling £20.1m is split as £19.9m capital funding and £0.2m revenue funding to support the projects detailed in the body of the report. The grant will be paid under Section 50 of the UK Internal Markets Act 2020, in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) entered into with MHCLG. The MoU applies until March 2027.
- 5.2 The Council will be the Accountable Body for the grant funding and will be required to report to MHCLG on progress on a quarterly basis. In addition, MHCLG will require the Council's Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) to confirm that the grant has been used to fund the delivery of the schemes described in the report.
- 5.3 The projects will require strong project management and oversight to ensure that the proposed schemes can be delivered. For projects delivered directly by the Council this can be ensured via established mechanisms as part of the Creating a Better Place Programme. Where delivery will be via the Council awarding grant funding to third parties, the Council will need to ensure that the grant funding conditions mirror the terms of the MoU with MHCLG and ensure that the outcomes and outputs of the project can be demonstrated to have been delivered.
- 5.4 Projects will need to be closely monitored to ensure that they can be delivered within the existing funding envelope as MHCLG will not fund any cost overruns and they will need to be financed from Council resources.

James Postle, Finance Manager

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## **6 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The MHCLG grant to the Council is of significant value and, therefore, gives rise to a number of legal considerations.
- 6.2 Regarding the acceptance of the grant, the memorandum of understanding produced and shared with the Council is non-enforceable and light touch. There are reporting obligations and a requirement to take part in any case studies, but nothing which would be considered to be onerous at this stage.
- 6.3 If the Council intends to spend the money on works, services or supplies, all procurement activity must be conducted in accordance with the Contract Procedure Rules, which make provision for compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Procurement Act 2023 and any associated regulations. The commissioning team must also liaise with the Commercial Procurement Unit to design and implement procurement activity.
- 6.4 The receipt of the grant funding from the MHCLG is not subject to any requirements, under the Constitution, save that the decision to accept or reject the grant must be taken to the correct decision maker, which is the Cabinet in this case.
- 6.5 In making an onward allocation of any part of the grant funding, the Council will need to comply with the MoU. The payment terms will need to consider how the grant monies will be paid to the Council and when they will be paid to any third party. All individual grant awards will be formalised in writing and all grant recipients will be required to enter into a grant funding agreement on fit for purpose terms and conditions. Relevant provisions from the MoU will be included in the grant funding agreement so that the Council can not only report to the MHCLG but also so it can take part in the case studies. Clawback provisions will be included in each grant agreement to protect the Council's position.
- 6.6 Prior to the award, by the Council, of an onward grant, a subsidy control analysis will need to be undertaken to determine if the grant funding award would amount to a subsidy and (if it would), whether the award would be deemed lawful when the subsidy control principles are applied. If required, specialist advice would be obtained on the application of the subsidy control regime and any reporting obligations to ensure full compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, the accompanying Statutory Guidance and any other relevant guidance.

Sarah Orrell – Commercial & Procurement Solicitor

- 6.7 S1 of the Localism Act 2011 gives Local Authorities a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do for the benefit of the authority, its area or persons resident or present in their area.
- 6.8 In terms of the exercise of its powers the Council must ensure that it acts reasonably in the exercise of its powers. It must take account of all relevant matters, disregard irrelevant matters, act for proper purposes, observe procedural requirements, not act in bad faith and not take a decision that no reasonable local authority could take.

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- 6.9 In addition to establishing powers the Council must also have regard to its duties whether relating to general public law duties such as:
- Wednesbury reasonableness
  - Rationality of decisions
  - Due process
  - Fiduciary duties – when making a decision the Council must properly consider the available options to determine which is the best means of delivering its functions having regard to the effectiveness of the option to deliver its proper objectives and the commercial, financial, risks and legal implications of each option.
  - Statutory duties – for example, rights under the Human Rights Act, securing best value, consultation, securing wider, social, economic and environmental benefits.
- 6.10 The Council must be satisfied it can meet the objectives and terms and conditions and milestones of funding imposed by any funding authority including any obligation to provide match funding and to monitor and keep any necessary records and file any necessary returns. Client Officers must also check the terms do not conflict with other funding conditions already in place.

Rebecca Boyle – Group Lawyer (Corporate)

## **7 Procurement Implications**

- 7.1 No specific procurement activity can be defined in this report where it predominantly relates to the acceptance and generally intended use of the grant funding outlined. Any goods, works or services requirements identified in utilising the grant funding need to be directed to CPU for appropriate support. Funds would need to be used compliantly with Council's own CPRs and relevant legislation (PCR2015, PA23 and any associated Regulations).
- 7.2 The Head of Commercial Procurement must be consulted to ensure the Council spends the money in a legally compliant way and doesn't make decisions which could lead to challenges particularly post 24th Feb 2025 when the Procurement Act 23 goes live and has been created with increased transparency requirements and exposure of the spending of public money and is therefore subject to higher levels of scrutiny. As such, it is recommended that a process be agreed as soon as possible, to ensure any potential spend plans are shared with CPU in advance of any engagement with potential suppliers and in order to ensure legally compliant use of the funds outlined in this report. As part of this process, CPU will assess the rules stipulated by the grant funder relating to the procurement of goods, works and services using the grant monies.

Jasmine Banks-Lee, Procurement

## **8. Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

- 8.1 A full EIA has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 1 to this document.

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## **9 Co-operative Implications**

- 9.1 The approval of the grant acceptance of the Oldham Community Regeneration Partnership supports a host of activities which are in line with the Council's cooperative agenda. The objectives of the Partnership include targeting support and interventions which will provide tangible benefits to residents. Fieldwork for the proposal was undertaken with local businesses and VCSE representatives. Within the proposal are policy interventions which include housing delivery, growth, a cultural co-operative, market support, public space projects, and the development of a multi-sport centre of excellence. These projects will deliver benefits to the lives of Oldham residents, primarily through employment, health and wellbeing, arts and culture provision, and pride in place. To conclude, the proposals in this report are highly supportive of the co-operative agenda.

James Mulvaney, Policy Manager

## **10 Key Decision**

- 10.1 ESR-03-25

## **11 Background Papers**

- 11.1 None

## **12 Appendices**

- 12.1 Appendix 1 EIA Assessment

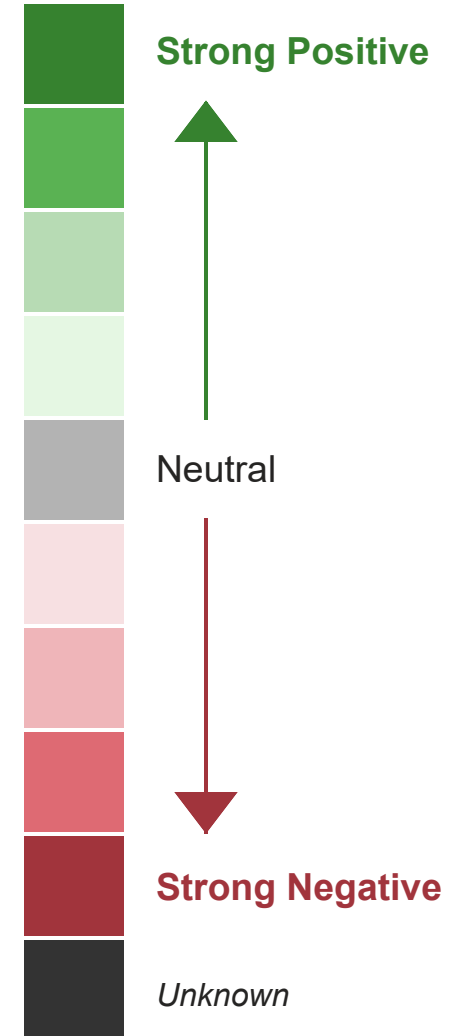
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# Community Regeneration Fund Partnership

completed/last updated by Chris Lewis on 03/01/2025

Portfolio
<b>Building a Better Oldham</b>
Directorate
<b>Place</b>
Service/Team
<b>Economy</b>
Is this IA related to a Budget Reduction proposal?
<b>Yes</b>



Equality Characteristics

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	Comment
Age	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Care leavers	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Disability	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Gender Reassignment	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Marriage and civil partnership	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Pregnancy and maternity	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Race	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Religion or belief	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Sex	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Sexual orientation	Strong Positive	Very Likely	Long Term	8	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.

Our Mission / Corporate Priorities

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	Comment
A Great Place To Live	Strong Positive	Possible	Long Term	4	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Green And Growing	Strong Positive	Possible	Long Term	4	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.
Happier Healthier Lives	Strong Positive	Possible	Long Term	4	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.

Negative Impacts

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	What action can be taken to mitigate the potential negative impacts?	Action(s)	Owner(s)	Timescale(s)	If the negative impacts can't be mitigated, why should the project/decision proceed?
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Strong Positive Impacts that are Possible

Category	Impact	Likely	Duration	Impact Score	What action can be taken to increase the likelihood that positive impacts are realised?	Action(s)	Owner(s)	Timescale(s)
A Great Place To Live	Strong Positive	Possible	Long Term	4	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.		Chris Lewis	
Green And Growing	Strong Positive	Possible	Long Term	4	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.		Chris Lewis	
Happier Healthier Lives	Strong Positive	Possible	Long Term	4	The Community Regeneration Fund Partnership allocation provides the ability to deliver a range of interventions which will have a significant positive and long lasting impact on all groups and corporate priorities.		Chris Lewis	

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# PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

## WORK PROGRAMME 2024/2025

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
<b>Wednesday, 24th July 2024</b>				
<i>Economic Plan</i>	<i>To review the refreshed Economic Plan.</i>	<i>Portfolio – Regen and Reform and Employment and Enterprise Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy</i>	<i>Strategic document for consideration and review</i>	
<i>High Street accelerator and Emerging Evening and Night-Time Economy</i>	<i>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</i>	<i>Portfolio– Regen and Reform Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy Head of Place Making</i>	<i>National Strategic Initiative</i>	
<i>Youth Services</i>	<i>Statutory Guidance for young people's service – Update on Progress to compliance. Youth services performance update CYP – Participation Framework</i>	<i>Portfolio – Communities Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Communities</i>	<i>Service Performance</i>	
<i>Library Services</i>	<i>Service performance reporting - Issues and opportunities</i>	<i>Portfolio – Communities Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Communities</i>	<i>Service Performance</i>	
<b>Thursday, 3rd October 2024</b>				
<i>Building Control</i>	<i>Service Performance against statutory duties</i>	<i>Portfolio – Decent Homes Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment</i>	<i>Service Performance</i>	

Oldham Town Centre Development Framework	To seek Scrutiny Board's input on the Draft Development Framework as part of the consultation, which will be ongoing at the time.	Portfolio – Regen and Reform Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	Strategic document for consideration and review	
<b>Thursday, 14th November 2024</b>				
Barriers to work	Review how we do things differently in Oldham and the role of the Council as an employer and as a change maker in the community	Portfolio – Enterprise and Employment Director for Education and Skills	Service Performance review	
Street Lighting Attachment Policy	To review prior to the implementation of the new policy	Portfolio – Decent Homes Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Strategic document for consideration and review	
Strategic Transport	To review progress of the Transport Strategy Implementation plan and to scrutinise proposals prior to their consideration within the CRSTS bidding application	Portfolio – Regen and Reform and Employment and Enterprise Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	Strategic document for consideration and review	
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024 – Special meeting</b>				
Inclusion of Oldham Mumps, Princes Gate into the Town Centre Development Partnership	Special meeting	Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	Special meeting	
Catering Review Implementation	Special meeting	Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Economy	Special meeting	
<b>Tuesday 21st January 2025</b>				
Annual Report - Emergency Planning	Review of response and future planning	Portfolio – Neighborhoods Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Review of corporate planning	



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	
<b>Thursday, 13th March 2025</b> <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025</b>				
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
Annual Report – Health & Safety	Review of corporate H&S performance	Portfolio – Neighborhoods Deputy Chief Executive (Place) Director of Environment	Review of performance	

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?	
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.

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
FCR-01-25	Newton Development Work	Chief Executive	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Newton Development work being undertaken across the Authority, on behalf of the Council.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Newton Development Work</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</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	Deputy Chief Executive (Place)	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Cabinet

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Planned and Preventative Maintenance Contracts, requesting direct awards for Interim Solutions and Planned Procurement of Long-Term Solutions being undertaken across the Council.</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 – Various</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>				
HSC-06-25	Public Health Budget Settlement 2025/26	Director of Public Health	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the Council's Public Health Budget Settlement 2025/26.</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Public Health Budget Settlement 2025/26</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</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>				

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
HSC-04-25	Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant	Director of Public Health	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Cabinet
<p>Description: The report provides an update on the provision of drug and alcohol treatments in accordance with requirements of the Recovery Improvement Grant</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</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>				
HSC-01-25	Future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services for people with Learning Disabilities, Complex Needs and/or Autism	Director of Adult Social Care/DASS	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Cabinet

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
<p>Description: The report provides options for the future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services, for people with Learning Disabilities, Complex Needs and/or Autism</p> <p>Proposed Report Title: Future Commissioning Arrangements for Supported Living Services</p> <p>Background Documents: Appendices – Various</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>				

### **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.
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>

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

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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### 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, 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

#### 1. 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.

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

##### 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.

#### 3. Public Health Budget Settlement 2025/26

##### 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 APRIL 2025

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
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### 4. Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant

**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.

### 5. Future commissioning arrangements for Supported Living Services for people with Learning Disabilities, Complex Needs and/or Autism

**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](mailto:constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk)