

# **Oldham Borough Council**



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025**



## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, for the following purposes:**

### Item No

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 12)  
  
To order that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 and of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025, be signed by the Mayor as correct records.
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council  
  
*(time limit 20 minutes)*  
There are no Petitions for this Council meeting to consider.
- 7 Youth Council  
  
*(time limit 20 minutes)*  
There is no Youth Council business for this Council meeting to consider.
- 8 Public Questions  
  
*(time limit 15 Minutes)*
- 9 Questions to Leader and Cabinet (Pages 13 - 78)  
  
*(time limit 90 minutes)*
  - a. Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth – including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025; the minutes of meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025; and the minutes of the meetings of the AGMA Executive Board held 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

- b. Statutory Deputy Leader and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder
- c. Deputy Leader and Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability Portfolio Holder
- d. Children and Young People's Portfolio Holder
- e. Adults, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
- f. Education and Skills Portfolio Holder
- g. Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder
- h. Enterprise Portfolio Holder
- i. Transport and Highways Portfolio Holder

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## Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

(Motion 1 is being hosted by the Administration)

### **Motion 1: Article 4(1) direction on small HMOs**

To be Moved by: Councillor Hince

to be Seconded by: Councillor Hindle

Residents are rightly concerned with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO's) which are currently being introduced across the borough.

We have always believed HMOs are a symptom of the housing crisis and not a solution. In some cases, exploiting some of the most vulnerable people within our community through substandard and unsafe accommodation.

Whilst it is not possible to prevent full planning applications from being submitted, we can act to close the loophole that allows for permitted development rights for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) where between three and six unrelated people share basic amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom.

Oldham Council currently permits, without the need for planning permission under 'permitted development rights', the change of use of a typical dwelling house occupied by a single household in use class C3, to a property used as a 'small' HMO that is shared by between three and six unrelated people in use class C4.

The Council can, however, adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove these permitted development rights. This will require a planning application to be submitted for change of use from class C3 to C4. This means due process will be applied giving residents a say in what happens in their communities.

We had hoped the government would introduce new legislation to make HMO developers more accountable and give residents a greater say by making it mandatory for small HMO developers to be licensed with the local authority.

In addition, the government has stated it is committed to removing all asylum applicants (approximately thirty thousand) from temporary hotel accommodation. We believe this action will inevitably mean further demand for HMOs.

We acknowledge and accept that the implementation of Article 4 borough wide

will have a significant impact on available resources particularly the Planning Department. Therefore, to enable the council to gear up to meet requirements, the Civil Parish of Shaw & Crompton and Failsworth are to be prioritised with the implementation of Article 4. With Article 4 being extended to the rest of the borough no later than twelve months thereafter.

This Council resolves to:

1. As soon as possible, Cabinet to consider and make a direction pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 on a borough wide basis prioritising the Civil Parish of Shaw & Crompton and Failsworth. Withdrawing the permitted development rights to convert a dwellinghouse (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (C4) is appropriate, and justified, to prevent harm to local amenity and promote the wellbeing of the aforementioned areas.
2. To delegate authority to OMBC Planning Department to carry out all necessary consultation and to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements.
3. That, the Shaw & Crompton Civil Parish and Failsworth wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. To implement Article 4(1) Direction borough wide, no later than twelve months after coming into effect in the aforementioned priority areas.

Oldham Council cannot rely on or hide behind government legislation on this issue. An Article 4(1) Direction can be used to manage HMO concentration and prevent the formation of imbalanced communities and negative impact on local amenity.

If the Council values resident's opinions and puts communities at the forefront of decision making, it must give residents a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views are heard.

The adoption of this motion demonstrates to the people of the borough that the council is prepared to act in their interests.

### **Motion 2: Fair Funding Review**

To be Moved by: Councillor Jabbar

To be Seconded by: Councillor Shah

This Council notes the devastating impact of Conservative/Liberal Democrat Coalition and Conservative Government austerity on Oldham Council and more widely on the people of Oldham. Due to austerity, Oldham Council had to make cuts of over £240m, leading to constant service reorganisation, loss of one third of Council staff and cuts in services for local residents. More widely, lack of investment in social and affordable housing contributed to rising homelessness; Oldham's Magistrate Court closed in 2016, County Court in 2017 followed by the Tax Office and the Department for Work and Pensions Office at Phoenix House in 2022.

**This Council welcomes**

1. the steps taken by the Labour Government in the 2025 Spending Review to repair the damage inflicted on the public services we all depend on by delivering Labour's Plan for Change: building strong foundations, kick-starting economic growth, cutting hospital waiting lists, giving children the best start in life, securing control of the country's borders, putting police back on the beat, building 1.5 million new homes, and securing home-grown energy.
2. The consultation on the Fair Funding Review 2.0 which seeks to simplify and reform central government funding for local councils, recognising the higher demands on local government services in areas like Oldham with high levels of deprivation and where a higher proportion of properties are in lower Council Tax Bands. The Review also proposes a new formula to address councils like Oldham's low Business Rate base and a three-year settlement which will enable stability in finances and proper planning as opposed to the past 6 years of annual settlements under the Conservative Government.
3. The recognition of the efforts made by Oldham Council to improve service delivery, despite the very real budgetary constraints arising from 14 years of central government funding cuts to 2024, being named the Most Improved Council at the Local Government Chronicle Awards 2025, a prestigious national award that recognises transformation and progress.

**This Council resolves to respond to the Fair Funding Review consultation supporting:**

1. The proposed changes to improve funding for councils like Oldham who have a lower tax base, a lower Business Rates base and a higher level of demand for their services.
2. A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning
3. A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.

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Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

**Motion 1: Adult Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Support**

To be Moved by: Councillor Bishop

To be Seconded by: Councillor Harkness

**The council notes that:**

There is currently no NHS provision for adults in Oldham who have a neurological condition such as Autism, ADHD or Dyspraxia, to access diagnostic or appropriate therapeutic support. There has been no statutory support offer for neurodivergent adults in Oldham for years, and the result has had severe repercussions for our mental health services, who see many presentations from people who fall into this category and have not been able to cope with their condition without therapeutic support and intervention. It has also meant additional pressure for their carers, parents or families who are left to pick up the pieces and try to manage as best they can, often with no training or support themselves.

Currently, Northern Care Alliance's (NCA) Paediatric Services provide assessment and diagnosis for children aged 0-18 years, diagnosing and planning the care management for children with neuro-developmental concerns, neuro-disabilities or complex health needs. Once diagnosed, children and young people with neurodevelopmental conditions have historically had an annual appointment with a consultant paediatrician, who assesses their ongoing needs and in turn signposts them to additional therapeutic services where appropriate. However, once they turn 18, they are discharged and there is no transitional support nor an adult equivalent service and those adults who are undiagnosed have no access to an assessment pathway at all.

On the NHS own website, it states, 'We know that with earlier, well-targeted community support, many admissions and long stays in mental health inpatient units could potentially be avoided.' So, this situation is not just an ethical one, it is also a pragmatic and a fiscally prudent one. With recognition and support, we could reduce the costs associated with mental health burnout, breakdowns and crisis presentations, as well as the number of people experiencing extreme distress.

Autism and other neurodevelopmental conditions are not something which only affect children. In fact, recent research has suggested that as many as 90% of adults who have Autism are undiagnosed. Additionally, according to a study by Willis Towers Watson (WTW), nearly three-quarters (70 per cent) of neurodivergent employees experience mental health issues. Therefore, there is a real impact upon productivity, absence rates and wellbeing in the workforce and avoiding addressing it is only compounding the problem.

Currently, if an adult visits their GP to request an assessment, they are directed towards the Right to Choose option, which invites them to access private provision. The problem with this is that it provides barriers to accessing future NHS support and medication if necessary. In other words, it is not a choice, and many vulnerable people are being failed, and our mental health services and economy are suffering the consequences, as well as those individuals experiencing distress.

**The council further notes that:**

- There is currently no diagnostic or therapeutic support pathway for adults with a neurodevelopmental condition in Oldham.
- The lack of such a service for adults with a neurodevelopmental condition is having a detrimental effect on the individuals themselves, their carers/families, mental health services and the local economy.
- A significant percentage of those people presenting at A&E in mental health crisis are neurodivergent and it is important for many reasons to take proactive steps to reduce this.

**The council resolves to:**

1. Work closely with the local health care authorities to support the expedition of the commissioning of a suitable assessment and therapeutic

- provision for neurodivergent adults in Oldham.
2. Work closely with local health care authorities to provide a timeframe for actioning the commissioning of this service and to provide a suitable strategy for dealing with the backlog that many years with a lack of this service has resulted in.
  3. Commission a report for scrutiny on supporting adults with neurological developmental conditions within the community in the borough of Oldham, with suggested approaches to for further ways to achieve this.

## **Motion 2: Investing in Coldhurst: Resurfacing West End Street Pitch and Reclaiming Merton Fields for Open Community Use**

To be Moved by Councillor Abdul Wahid

To be seconded by Councillor Montaz Ali Azad

### **Council Notes:**

1. **Historic and Ongoing Underinvestment in Coldhurst Community Facilities.** Coldhurst has experienced long-standing neglect in relation to youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre — followed by the sale of the site to a private developer — resulted in the permanent loss of a vital youth provision hub. The play space adjoining the site has since deteriorated and is now deemed unplayable.
2. **Condition of West End Street Weather Pitch.** The pitch at West End Street, once a popular and well-used grassroots football and recreation space, has fallen into disrepair. The surface is cracked, drainage is poor, and markings are faded — making it unsafe and unfit for its intended use.
3. **Community Effort and Engagement.** In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors began efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These community-led actions show a strong appetite for investment and governance of grassroots sports infrastructure.
4. **Council's SportsTown Investment and Community Commitments.** The Council has committed £6 million as part of the first phase of a £70 million "SportsTown" regeneration programme, which includes:
  - £5 million from the Community Regeneration Fund to develop a new 3G pitch at Little Wembley, a new stand at Boundary Park, and supporting facilities.
  - £1 million from Oldham Council for a new stitched pitch at Boundary Park and to secure a permanent base for Oldham Rugby League Football Club.
  - Public commitments that SportsTown will benefit community access borough-wide, including increased opportunities for education, health, and sport.
5. **Merton Fields – A Missed Opportunity.** Another key green space in Coldhurst, Merton Fields, has been leased to Hulme Grammar School. However, the land remains undeveloped and unused. In light of recent financial pressures facing private schools — including VAT changes on tuition fees — Hulme Grammar appears to be selling off assets rather than investing in facilities. This includes no plans for Merton Fields, which has significant potential to be developed as an open-access, community



field.

Council Believes:

- That open-access, local sports facilities such as West End Street pitch and Merton Fields should be fully explored as part of Oldham's wider ambitions for health, youth development, and community regeneration.
- That the borough's regeneration strategies must include local, ward-level opportunities for inclusive sport and recreation.
- That it is in the public interest for the Council to review existing leases, funding options, and strategic opportunities for both sites in consultation with community stakeholders

Council Resolves to:

1. Request that officers prepare a report for Cabinet and/or the Communities & Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee within **six months**, which will:
  - a. Assess the **current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of:**
  - b. Explore opportunities to:
  - c. Consider how existing and future **government regeneration funding** streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
  - d. Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
    - Merton Fields (Hollinwood)
    - **Secure investment** or external funding to improve access and quality of both sites
    - **Review or renegotiate lease arrangements** if aligned with community benefit
    - **Develop open-access use models** that prioritise youth, health, and local sport
2. Ensure that any resulting recommendations are **inclusive, transparent**, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst and Hollinwood.

**Motion 3: A revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing**

To be Moved by Councillor Byrne

To be seconded by Councillor Lancaster

This Motion asks for a revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing.

This Policy sounded wonderful at the outset of DTO – to have a team in your Ward to not only flush out gullies but to remove detritus in those overgrown and those long forgotten and even tarmacked over.

We are now in our 3<sup>rd</sup> fiscal year and last week my Ward of Saddleworth North has just begun. Alexandra Ward who were first must be suffering by now. In the past 18 months there has been some exceptional rainfall in the whole of the

borough and the consequences of not clearing gullies, unless it floods properties, is a false economy.

Water does two things – has a life of its own and flows downhill- so damage can be much lower down than the gully. These gullies that feed into culverts need cleaning annually as it used to be.

There are many culverts which are still old Victorian even Georgian ones and when not running clearly present problems and thus expense. During downpours the culverts overflow and can cause considerable damage – often to private property as well as danger to traffic on the roads it flows into.

During these downpours old hillside water courses spring into life and blocked gullies add to this problem endangering property and making road surfaces unsafe and downright dangerous. Oldham and Saddleworth has few flat bits and more hills and our engineers who know water should be listened to.

This policy while achieving at the beginning has now lost its momentum and the damage from consequential flooding- with its cost is no longer working as was intended.

- 12 Update on Actions from Council  
(*Report to follow*)

- 13 Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Plan: Decision Making Process  
(Pages 79 - 92)

To seek approval from Council to agree to the principle of the making of a joint development plan document with the other 9 Greater Manchester councils.

- 14 Update on Appointments to Committees (Pages 93 - 96)

Council is asked to consider changes in relation to appointments to Committees for 2025/2026.

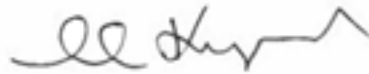
- 15 Update to pay policy statement and organisational framework (Pages 97 - 100)

Council is asked to consider proposed updates to the pay policy statement and the organisational framework for the authority.

- 16 Members' Allowances Scheme 2025/2026

Council is asked to consider the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel.  
(*Report to follow*)

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shelley Kipling', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

**Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive**

## **PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS** **NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

### **RULE ON TIMINGS**

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

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

## WITH AMENDMENT

