

# **Oldham Borough Council**



**Council Meeting  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September  
2025**

## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 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 - 38)  
  
To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 be signed as a correct record.
- 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 39 - 108)  
  
*(time limit 90 minutes)*
  - a. Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth – including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025; the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025; and the minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held 27<sup>th</sup> June 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: Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza**

To be Moved by Councillor Mushtaq

to be Seconded by Councillor Taylor

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7<sup>th</sup>, leaked data from the IDF's own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza war that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state "That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time." When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties.

The number of civilians impacted by this war in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

#### **This Council notes:**

- The UK Government's announcement on 29 July 2025 that it will formally recognise the State of Palestine in September.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government's aid delivery model as "dangerous, fuelling instability and depriving Gazans of human dignity," and called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire".
- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as "inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability," and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.
- That the famine is a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict,

displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access.

**This Council believes:**

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region.
- That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life.
- That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the famine.
- That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution, but the time for action has never been more apparent given that a famine has been declared.
- That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues.
- That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.
3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.
4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.

**Motion 2: Setting out our ambition to become a 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough**

To be Moved by Councillor Brownridge  
to be Seconded by Councillor Rustidge

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is one of the most urgent and time-critical medical emergencies — and without swift intervention, it is almost always fatal. Community defibrillators are a vital public health asset, offering immediate, life-saving support in those critical first minutes before emergency services arrive. Thanks to the growing number of defibrillators across our borough, lives are already being saved. But we cannot afford to be complacent. The evidence is clear: rapid access to a defibrillator dramatically increases the chances of



survival. Every second counts — and every community deserves to be protected. By working in partnership with local organisations and empowering residents with the tools and knowledge they need, we can make Oldham a national leader, and potentially the first ‘Defibrillator Friendly’ borough in England.

**This Council notes:**

- Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of sudden death in the UK.
- Around 55 incidents occur per 100,000 people every year, and tragically, eight out of ten of these cardiac arrests happen at home.
- Survival rates remain desperately low, with only around 9% of patients surviving to hospital discharge.
- In these moments, every second counts, early CPR and access to a defibrillator can be the difference between life and death.

**This Council further notes:**

- Here in Oldham, we face a stark reality: 64 of our community defibrillators are currently offline.
- The local registered charity, Defibrillators Save Lives, has already proven its capability in supporting communities across Oldham, they have installed, maintained, and checked dozens of defibrillators.
- They work directly with the North West Ambulance Service to ensure these devices are correctly registered on The Circuit and activated in an emergency.

**This Council resolves to work in collaboration with Defibrillators Save Lives to:**

- Map and monitor all public-access defibrillators across the borough,
- Ensure offline devices are repaired, restored or replaced and brought back into service,
- Establish a routine checking and reporting system using The Circuit,
- Provide education and awareness so that residents not only know where defibrillators are but also how to use them with confidence, similar to the hugely success Defib Day they ran in The Spindles 9<sup>th</sup> August.

**This Council further resolves:**

- To firmly state our ambition for Oldham to become the first ‘Defibrillator Friendly’ Borough in the England.

11

Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

**Motion 1: Provision of Free School Travel for all Children in Temporary Accommodation**

To be Moved by Councillor Akhtar

To be Seconded by Councillor Chowhan

**1. Reason for Motion**

To ensure that children living in temporary accommodation (TA) in Oldham are not disadvantaged by their housing situation and can maintain stability in education.

*“No child should be punished for their family’s housing situation”.*

## **2. Background (Latest Facts)**

### **Oldham picture**

- At 31 March 2025, there were 562 households in temporary accommodation in Oldham (Table TA4).
- In Q1 2025 (Jan–Mar) there were 310 households with children (748 Children between 0-18) in TA (most recently published government data).
- TA is intended to be short-term (around six weeks), but Oldham data show many households remain beyond 6 months across B&B and nightly-paid placements.
- Composition (Oldham, 31 Mar 2025):
  - o B&B: 173 households (incl. cases over 6 months).
  - o Nightly paid, self-contained: 259 households (many 6–12 months and 1–2 years).
  - o Hostels: 5 | Private sector leased: 87 | LA/HA stock: 38.

### **National/GM context**

- England total: 131,140 households in TA (31 Mar 2025).
- Law already provides free school travel if:
  - a. >2 miles (under 8) or >3 miles (8+), or
  - b. no safe walking route, or
  - c. child cannot walk due to SEND/disability/mobility needs.
- Locally, children with an EHC Plan are supported from a SEN perspective and continue to receive travel assistance where already in place.
- GM operating practice: when a family is in paid nightly TA in another GM borough, they can apply for bus passes from the host borough, but only if they meet standard distance criteria—leaving a gap for many placed nearer than the mileage thresholds yet far from their original school.

**Political momentum: The Manchester Evening News campaign** calls for free bus passes for children in TA living >30 minutes' walk from school. As of 25 Aug 2025, six GM MPs publicly back the campaign. No GM local authority has yet adopted a borough-wide concession.

### **Why discretionary action is needed**

Children rehoused (often suddenly) can face long, complex, and costly journeys to their existing school—leading to lateness, absence, and stress. The statutory mileage rules do not cover many TA cases; discretionary support is therefore required to protect educational continuity.

## **3. Current Position in Oldham**

Oldham complies with national transport duties and supports pupils eligible under distance/safety/SEND criteria. Children in TA who fall short of mileage thresholds (or are rehoused across GM) face a policy gap. Acting now would make Oldham the first GM authority to introduce a dedicated concession for children in TA.

#### 4. Proposal

This Council resolves:

1. To extend free school travel (bus pass or taxi, as appropriate) to all school-aged children living in TA in Oldham, irrespective of statutory mileage thresholds.
2. To instruct officers in Children's Services, Education and Transport to:
  - a. Define eligibility based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM).
  - b. Develop delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid models), with clear safeguarding standards.
  - c. Assess financial implications and identify funding sources (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding; partnership with TfGM and operators; targeted charitable/hardship support).
3. To report back to Cabinet within 12 weeks with:
  - a. A recommended delivery model.
  - b. Estimated budget and funding options.
  - c. An implementation timetable aiming to begin before the next academic term.
4. To ensure the scheme embeds safeguarding, equality and inclusion, and aligns with existing SEND/EHC travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.
5. **Additional resolution** – The Council further resolves to:
  - a. Call on Oldham's two Members of Parliament to publicly support the campaign for free school travel for children in TA across Greater Manchester.
  - b. Urge the Mayor of Greater Manchester to introduce a region-wide scheme that guarantees free transport for children in TA, ensuring no child is penalised for their families housing situation.

#### 6. Expected Outcomes

- a. Improved attendance and punctuality for children in TA.
- b. Educational continuity and wellbeing during periods of acute housing instability.
- c. Oldham leadership in closing a known policy gap ahead of GM peers.

#### 7. Recommendation

That Oldham Council supports this motion, becoming the first authority in Greater Manchester to guarantee free school travel for children in temporary accommodation, setting a clear and compassionate standard for others to follow.

#### **Motion 2: Oldham Borough deserves a state-of-the-art police station which must include a custody suite**

To be Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani

To be Seconded by Councillor Marland

The Council notes that:

- With the closure of custody suites at both Oldham and Chadderton, Oldham Borough currently has no dedicated facilities open to process detainees.
- Additional services lost include the Magistrates Court, County Court, and police stations in Failsworth, Chadderton and Royton, with other facilities having no face-to-face service, and access to other sites removed, such as in Shaw.
- Current processes mean that officers are required to process detainees at Tameside, which means additional travel time of over an hour for each arrest.
- The current police station in Oldham has been beyond its service life for a number of years, with the current chief constable in 2021 describing the building as comparing the building to those in the old East Germany.
- The Chief Constable also noted that: “custody facilities being tethered to the right operating base is really important”.

The Council further notes the most recent report of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on custody provision in Manchester, including that:

- Leadership for custody provision isn’t strong enough to make sure the service is provided well and achieves appropriate outcomes for detainees. There is limited prioritisation of custody by senior officers or engagement in how custody is provided. There hasn’t been enough improvement since our previous inspection. Significant concerns remain.
- The position is exacerbated by a large increase in the number of detainees entering custody. This makes it difficult for staff to fulfil all their duties and meet detainees’ needs.
- The force should deal with detainees promptly and minimise the time they spend in custody by - booking detainees into custody promptly and prioritising them appropriately, especially children and those who are vulnerable; ...

And finally, the Council notes that:

- Oldham Council has been in discussions with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Police for a number of years over a new site for a police station, with no location having currently been identified.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Kate Green has acknowledged in a written response to enquiries from the Liberal Democrats that: “there is no immediate intention to locate a custody suite in Oldham, but it may be sensible to future-proof the design of the site to enable this in future if needed”.

Therefore, the Council resolves:

1. To formally note its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.

2. Set a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, to provide a report to the appropriate scrutiny committee detailing:
  - a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.
  - b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.
  - c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.

### **Motion 3: The Old Library: An Anti-Democratic Debacle**

To be Moved by Councillor Woodvine

To be Seconded by Councillor Byrne

On 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 the Leader of Oldham Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, announced she had unilaterally decided to rename the Old Library on Union Street the 'J. R. Clynes Building' to the bemusement of many residents of Oldham Borough.

This follows a £30+ million renovation project, yet the Council Tax paying public of Oldham were not given an opportunity to express their preference on the title that this public building would take.

The Conservative Group on Oldham Council believe this is not only anti-democratic but also shameful.

#### **Therefore, this Council notes:**

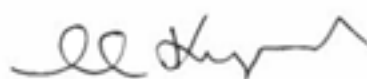
- That no public consultation took place in the naming process of the Old Library building.
- That the Leader of the Council shamefully and willfully excluded democratically elected Councillors and the taxpaying public from the naming process.
- That the first decision to come out of the Borough's new Council Chambers is an anti-democratic diktat by Councillor Arooj Shah, which has no popular consent from the public.

#### **This Council resolves:**

1. To reveal all information, including associated costs, in relation to the naming process of the Old Library.
2. To review the naming process and suitability of 'J. R. Clynes' as the title of the building.
3. To consult the wider body of democratically elected Members of Oldham Council from across the Borough.
4. To present a suitable short list of names to the public of Oldham to give them a voice in the naming process of a building which should be the Borough's beating heart of democracy.

- 13 Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25 (Pages 135 - 152)
- 14 Introduction of Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation (Pages 153 - 196)
- 15 Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26 (Pages 197 - 228)
- 16 Appointment of Vice Chair of Audit Committee - 2025/26 (Pages 229 - 232)  
Appointment of the Vice Chair of the Audit Committee 2025/26
- 17 Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places (Pages 233 - 266)

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



**Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive**

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

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



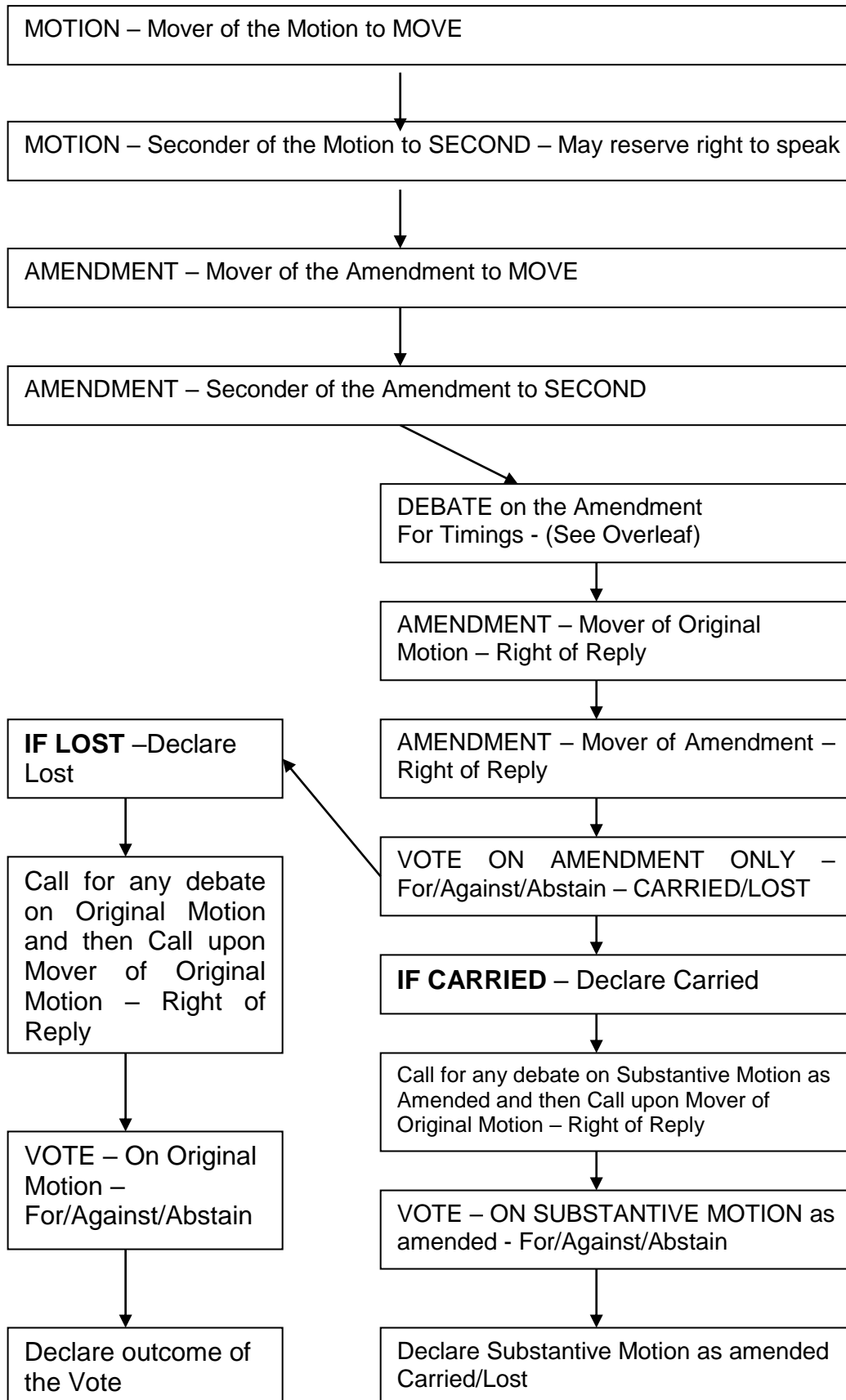
Declare outcome of the VOTE

### **RULE ON TIMINGS**

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

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

## WITH AMENDMENT





**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Moores (in the Chair)

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, M Ali, Z Ali, Arnott, Aslam, Azad, Ball, Bashforth, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Chowhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, Harrison, Hince, Hindle, Hobin, Hughes, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kouser, Lancaster, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Navesey, Quigg, Rustidge, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodvine

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Chauhan, Ghafoor and Kenyon.

2 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 (Extraordinary Meeting and Annual Meeting), be approved as correct records.

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

There were no declarations of interests.

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

The Mayor advised that item 16 (Member's Allowances Scheme 2025/26) had been withdrawn from the agenda and would be considered at a future meeting.

5 **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

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

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

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There was no Youth Council business for this meeting of the Council to consider.

8 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question from Roger Blackmore

Will Oldham Council's plans for the former Saddleworth School site include space for social housing and genuinely affordable housing? This site is still waiting to be developed and its position close to the centre of Uppermill could provide a significant contribution to local housing needs. Residents in Saddleworth, especially young people, find it increasingly hard to find genuinely affordable homes. Will Saddleworth be receiving a reasonable share of the 500 social homes the Council is aiming to deliver in the next five years as part of the Housing Delivery Action Plan?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member of Growth replied, thanking Mr Blackmore for his question, adding that whilst full demolition and a number of site surveys have now been completed on the former Saddleworth School site, there are certain property issues that are still being worked through before the site can be taken forward for disposal.

The site does however remain allocated for residential development, and as the property matters are resolved, specific plans with regards to the exact number or type of new homes to be delivered will be drawn up.

I can however assure you that this will include a significant proportion of affordable and social homes, as well as all properties being low carbon housing, thereby supporting the borough's pioneering Green New Deal, with all new homes on Council sites being built to the government's Future Homes Standards on sustainability.

This is a very important site for Saddleworth, given how little land there is under Council control that's suitable for housing in this part of the borough, and we will therefore do all that we can to ensure that we get the right type of housing that benefits as many local residents as possible.

2. Question from Magd Sachs

Six months ago Oldham Council committed itself to ensuring ethical investment by the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. With reference to investment in fossil fuels, the urgency of action, in view of the increasing intensity of climate breakdown, is clear.

What update can you provide on the creation a plan for stepping up divestment in fossil fuel companies, and also on ensuring transparency on the investment decisions taken by the Fund?

Who is taking the lead on the actions in the motion?

Can you provide a timetable of actions taken and planned?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability replied thanking Magda for the question, adding that we all recognise that the climate emergency is one of the biggest challenges facing our times and everyone has a responsibility to do their part.

The Greater Manchester Pension Fund does invest in companies such as Shell and BP as part of its commitment to ensure the best return for members of the scheme. The Fund does recognise the need to ensure that it balances sound investment with an ethical approach and has committed to net

zero by 2050. We can all agree that they should move faster towards this goal and align it better to the Greater Manchester target of 2038.

It believes in constructive engagement with the companies it invests with, arguing for greener practices.

They also invest in renewables which as we all know is the way to a sustainable future.

But we can all agree that they need to go further, faster and I will continue to make that case as Oldham's representative on the body.

### 3. Question from Hannah Roberts

NHS England has pledged to eradicate cervical cancer by 2040 – it affects 3,200 women annually in the UK, and 800 die.

Unfortunately, HPV vaccination rates are below the target of 90%, and the cervical screening target of 80% is also not reached.

Those who miss screening tests will receive home testing kits from January 2026. Can the Cabinet Member for Adults Health and Wellbeing confirm the take up rate of HPV vaccinations in Oldham and what the Council can do to encourage more young people to be vaccinated and to support those who receive home testing kits to use them?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing replied that vaccinations are an essential approach to preventing and reducing spread of disease and infections.

Although HPV vaccination rates are lower than where we would like, Oldham has seen an increase in HPV vaccination coverage for both males and females in Year 8 between 2022/23 and 2023/24. The service is commissioned through Greater Manchester but Oldham continues to promote the vaccine through our school nurses.

In the 2023/24 academic year, 71.1% of 12–13-year-old females in Oldham received at least one dose of the HPV vaccine, which is only very slightly below the national average of 71.3%.

In the 2023/24 academic year, 67.7% of 12–13-year-old males in Oldham received the HPV vaccine, which is also slightly below the national average.

Oldham continues to take a data led approach to identify groups with low uptake for screening programmes including cervical screening. In Oldham, uptake is lowest in some of our ethnic minority communities, and noticeably in our most deprived areas. Greater Manchester commissions the Answer Cancer programme delivered by a number of partners to increase cervical screening rates in areas of lowest uptake. When the home tests become available, the Council will actively work with partners and community groups to promote this.

### 4. Question from Jenny Harrison

The Oldham Times reported that Greater Manchester will receive a £2.5 billion boost to transport spending, including 1000 new electric Bee Network buses and a new tram stop at Cop Road, between Derker and Shaw and Crompton. Can the Cabinet Member for Transport give us any further information

about how this funding will benefit Oldham and when we can expect the Cop Road stop to open?



Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied that on 4<sup>th</sup> June 2025, the Chancellor of the Exchequer visited Rochdale to announce devolved 'Transport for City Regions' funding for regional transport infrastructure. The Chancellor's announcement confirmed that Greater Manchester is set to receive £2.5 billion of a national £15.6 billion pot – the full amount set out in the previous government's indicative allocation in October 2023. This funding runs from March 2027 to March 2032 and will form part of Greater Manchester's Integrated Settlement.

The indicative programme for Transport for City Regions funding sets out an aspiration to deliver 1000 new electric buses on to the network in Greater Manchester. This will include the continued deployment of more electric buses onto the network in Oldham, which will provide benefits such as reduced CO2 emissions and improved air quality. The investment will also improve the journey quality for residents through newer vehicles.

In terms of the new stop at Cop Road, council officers are supporting TfGM in progressing designs and a business case for the new stop. This business case will set out strategies for funding and delivery. The target date for the stop opening is 2030/2031, subject to successful completion of the design, approval of the business case and securing the necessary funding for delivery.

In terms of other projects, Oldham will benefit from projects such as the proposed Tram-Train Pathfinder, which will connect Oldham, Rochdale, Heywood and Bury. Oldham will also benefit from GM's plans to integrate local rail services into the Bee Network, which will fully join up travel with buses, trams and active travel.

This newly announced funding commitment is just the start of work to deliver Greater Manchester's integrated pipeline ambition. Work to identify, develop and deliver the specific infrastructure priorities in every area of Greater Manchester will take time and work will now progress at pace with local authority leaders. Priorities include:

- Works to enable local regeneration
- Highways maintenance
- Active travel infrastructure
- Vision Zero interventions (including school streets and crossings)
- Bus priority measures.

##### 5. Question from Stephen Ingham

I'd like to congratulate Oldham Athletic on their win at Wembley and promotion back to the Football League. I recently saw an article about work starting at Boundary Park on 'SportsTown' - can the Leader of the Council confirm what benefits SportsTown will bring to the borough and young people in our community?

Councillor Shah, leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth replied, thanking Stephen for his question, adding that

SportsTown is a public-private venture between the landowners around Boundary Park to provide enhanced educational, health and sports facilities for Oldham's communities.

This includes new further education and higher education courses which specialise in routes to jobs connected with either health and / or sports – early examples include sports coaching, sports sciences, physiotherapy and other community health provisions like radiography as the facilities are developed.

SportsTown is also about ensuring the professional standard facilities are made available for community clubs and sports to provide enhanced facilities for Oldham's young people aspiring to be the best in their field, and to allow a wider range of sports to benefit like netball, darts, and cricket.

As the works on site develop, I will ensure there is more information available for Oldham's communities about what will soon be available as part of the SportsTown offer.

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## **QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET**

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

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

a. Councillor Shah, Leader and Building a Better Oldham Portfolio Councillor Shah presented her report, including the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025 and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025, the Minutes of the 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 meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

### **Councillor Wahid, Deputy Leader of the Oldham Group**

#### **Question 1: Genocide by Israel in Gaza**

Councillor Wahid refers to what he describes as the ongoing genocide of the Palestinian people, by Israeli forces, in Gaza. The Oldham Group have, he adds, consistently displayed solidarity with the citizens of Gaza, since the beginning of the conflict in October 2023, whereas Labour have remained quiet. He asked if the Leader of the Council will acknowledge that actions taken by Israeli forces amount to genocide and will she lobby the United Kingdom's government to do the same. In the same vein, Councillor Wahid, asks if the leader will lobby the government to ensure that British citizens who have participated in the genocide, by Israeli forces, are prosecuted under International Law.

Councillor Shah, in replying to Councillor Wahid acknowledged that his question did not relate to the contents of the report that she presented to this Council meeting, included in the agenda pack for this meeting. Councillor Shah stated her heartfelt



sorrow for the suffering of the Palestinian people in Gaza but refused to allow Oldham Council to politicise this issue.



**Oldham**  
Council

Question 2:

Survivors and family member of survivors welcome the U-turn by the Government to initiate a national enquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation. Councillor Wahid refers to earlier meetings of the Council's Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group where, he stated, that Councillor Shah had said that people calling for a National Enquiry were jumping on a bandwagon and also described campaigning on this issue as fashionable. Does, Councillor Wahid asked, Councillor Shah regret making those remarks and will she take the opportunity to apologise for making them?

Councillor Shah replied that the issues referred to by Councillor Wahid were raised in a private meeting of the Council's Child Sexual Exploitation Steering Group, which was attended by leaders of the Council's political groups. The information that Councillor Wahid has included in his question should not have been addressed in a public forum, in the way that it was, without context and which misrepresents the discussions that were held in that meeting.

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

Councillor Taylor presented her report.

Question from Councillor Shuttleworth: An article last month, in The Independent, stated that 21% of private rented homes - more than 1m homes - do not meet the Decent Homes Standard, with almost 500,000 privately rented homes affected by category 1 hazards, reserved for issues that pose a serious and immediate risk to health and safety.

What checks do the local authority undertake to ensure that such properties within the borough meet the Decent Homes Standard?

Councillor Taylor replied that the Decent Homes Standard is a set of criteria for social housing in England to ensure properties are safe, in a reasonable state of repair, have modern facilities, and provide a comfortable living environment. The standard is currently under review, with potential implications for the private rented sector through the introduction of the Renters' Rights Bill.

Locally, the Environmental Health team respond to private rented disrepair cases and undertake a detailed Housing Health and Safety rating System inspections to identify category 1 and 2 hazards. So, everyone is aware, category 1 hazards are very serious and the law dictates enforcement action must be taken by the Council when these sorts of hazards are found.

In 2024/25, **910** service requests regarding Housing Standards were reported to the Council and investigated.

In addition, since the introduction of Selective licensing, **477** audits of privately rented properties have been conducted to address Housing Standards.

Question from Councillor Lancaster: Question to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods regarding rewarding volunteers

from the local VCFSE sector?

Councillor Taylor replied that each year Volunteer's Week is held in early June, it is a time to celebrate and thank volunteers. Oldham's VCFSE infrastructure organisation Action Together work with the sector to celebrate the amazing contributions of volunteers across our communities. They shine a light on the power of volunteering, showcase local volunteers and their impact, and thank those who give their time to make a difference. (Volunteer stories can be found here: [Volunteers' Week | Action Together](#))

Alongside volunteering week, Action Together launched the Volunteer Celebration Fund. The grants give VCFSE groups the opportunity to say thank you to their volunteers, recognising the importance of their contribution & commitment. The fund may also be an opportunity for groups to focus on recruitment of new volunteers & in particular to consider how they might look to diversify their team of volunteers by engaging with under-represented communities. There is a fund of £20,000 and groups can bid for up to £500 grants, with 33 groups awarded grants so far this year.

(There are case studies from last year's fund here: [Volunteer Celebration Fund | Case Studies 2024-25 | Action Together](#))

Throughout the year Action Together provide support to volunteer managers across the sector through the volunteering hub. This includes a wide range of training and resources for organisations to support them in implementing good practice in managing volunteers, which includes keeping volunteers engaged and inspired, treating them fairly and rewarding appropriately. (More information about this here: [Volunteer Manager Zone | Action Together](#)) They also provide training for volunteers to prepare them for taking on volunteering roles. During 24-25 1,139 new volunteers registered with the volunteer hub, 750 applied to new roles, and 1,752 people were engaged through volunteering events.

According to the last State of the Sector review (2021) there are 45,720 volunteers in Oldham (including committee and board members) giving 166,910 voluntary hours each week estimated to be worth £82m per annum.

Question from Councillor Murphy: Given the state of our drains, parks and roads and a rising number of missed bin collections – and given the fact that weeds seem to be going untreated, with no suitable maintenance arrangement in place for well over a year now. What does the Cabinet Member propose to do to demonstrate to residents that the council can get a grip of the basics. And will confirm that following the latest round of cuts we will be left with even fewer Environmental Services staff than we currently have?

Councillor Taylor undertook to provide Councillor Murphy with a detailed written response to his question.

- c. Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Resources and Sustainability

Councillor Jabbar presented his report.

Question from Councillor Woodvine: Councillor Woodvine stated that the spending powers for local authorities under the current

Labour government were reducing, so the Council lobby the government in this regard and would Council Tax in the Borough of Oldham continue to rise and, if so, by how much? Councillor Jabbar replied that the Council lobby the government, on an ongoing basis, to provide more funds for essential services in the Borough.

Question from Councillor Charters: Given the continued pressures in Social Care and Temporary Accommodation, how is the Council planning to strengthen financial resilience in those areas for 2025/26?

Councillor Jabbar replied that the aim of the Council is to reduce financial pressures in these areas by both improving how we work and working in a more preventative way, in order to reduce demand.

In terms of Temporary Accommodation (TA), for example, we have worked to reduce the number of households in TA by almost a quarter since numbers peaked, and will continue to build on this work to ensure as many families as possible are able to stay in their current homes, or find an alternative as quickly as possible.

At the same time, we are working with housing partners to identify ways to reduce cost by using different models of procuring TA (for example by leasing housing), and also to improve supply of move-on accommodation to get people out of TA more quickly.

The Council is working proactively to address the rising demand across Social Care services. For example, we are building internal capacity in Children's Services to avoid using costly external placements outside of the borough. We are working with partners on the enablement offer to residents in Adult Social Care and looking at using new technology and building capacity in Borough as part of the Transformation agenda.

As approved at Budget Council in March 2025, the demand growth in these areas was £18m and the Council will continue to robustly monitor and review the delivery of approved savings in these areas. Updates will be included in the Budget Monitoring reported to Cabinet.

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

Councillor Mushtaq presented his report.

Question from Councillor Bishop: Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the latest developments regarding the local inquiry into historic child sexual exploitation in Oldham, which is to be led by Thomas Crowther KC? Additionally, is the Cabinet Member confident that the powers granted to the Crowther Inquiry are sufficient to fully implement the recommendations of the Casey Report? How is the Council ensuring that these recommendations will be effectively addressed through this process?

Councillor Mushtaq replied that, the Home Office is currently working at pace to establish the national inquiry as recommended by Baroness Casey in her Audit, published on 16 June. The national inquiry will be established under the Inquiries Act 2005 and will comprise a national commission that will



initiate local investigations with statutory powers. We are expecting the Home Office to announce further details of the national inquiry shortly and will confirm then what that means for the next steps on a local investigation in Oldham.

Question from Councillor Malik: Can the Cabinet Member confirm how residents can find out about and join in with HAF activities this summer? What kind of activities will be on offer and who will be eligible?

Councillor Mushtaq replied, confirming that the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is running again this summer, and it's a fantastic way for children and young people to stay active, healthy, and connected during the school holidays.

The programme is free for families eligible for benefits-related free school meals, and there's a wide range of activities on offer—everything from sports, drama, and dance to outdoor adventures, arts, crafts, and cooking. A healthy meal is provided each day too.

Families can find out more and book places online through the Council's website or by searching "Oldham HAF". Information is also being shared through schools, children's centres, and community partners, so keep an eye out locally.

Places are going quickly, so we're encouraging eligible families to get involved and make the most of what's on offer this summer.

Question from Councillor Charters: The Castleshaw Air bnb looks to be a brilliant scheme that allows the council to make money from one of its best assets - how are we ensuring that Castleshaw remains primarily a facility for young people in the borough?

Councillor Mushtaq replied that, the focus of the work done at Castleshaw will absolutely remain young people focused with the majority of the adventurous activity continuing to be led by the team.

Over 8,000 young people use the centre each year for all types of activity including walking, hill scrambling, climbing, camping, kayaking and more recently paddleboarding to name a few activities.

The centre is also available for team building and as you mention when there is down time is taking bookings for Air bnb stays.

Question from Councillor Rustidge: The report says 597 children are in the care of the local authority – how many of these children are in in house foster care? And can the Cabinet Member explain what a Mockingbird Hub is and how it can help to support Oldham's Foster Carers?

Councillor Mushtaq replied that 54% of children looked after are placed within internal foster care. This is a number that is comparatively higher than our statistical neighbours.

Mockingbird is a well-established evidence-based initiative designed to support foster carers providing advice and respite from an experienced 'hub' carer who links with up to eight other foster carer placements. The initiative is designed to support

foster carers and provides an extra layer of support to prevent placement breakdowns.

Oldham is progressing well with their Mockingbird project, with two 'hub' carers established and supporting foster families, with a third recently recruited.

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED that Council Procedure Rule 14 (Rules of Debate) be suspended, for the remainder of this agenda item, to enable more time for non-executive members to put questions to Portfolio Holders. On being put to the vote the Motion was LOST.

e. Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing  
Councillor Brownridge presented her report.

Question from Councillor Ibrahim: Councillor Ibrahim sought clarification on actions that were being taken to stop the spread of measles, following recent outbreaks in the North-West region, especially with regard to vaccinations?

Councillor Brownridge replied that Measles is very infectious and can spread from person to person quickly. Little can be done to prevent measles spreading if people are unvaccinated. The MMR vaccination is the most effective way to control the spread of measles.

We need 95% of the population to be vaccinated or immune to measles to stop the spread of the infection. Nationally, regionally and locally, we do not achieve this. There are outbreaks currently in other parts of the UK, including Liverpool. We had an outbreak recently which mainly involved young children in Oldham. We had seven cases in total. Public Health, UKHSA, NHS GM, and the NCA worked closely to manage the outbreak and stop the spread. We work closely with healthcare workers to ensure that they can recognise measles and respond appropriately. We have a strategic group in Oldham to improve vaccination rates. It is important for everyone of all ages to be fully vaccinated with two doses of MMR to fully protect everyone from measles

Question from Councillor Davis: It is excellent that Oldham does not have a waiting list for care at home services - how will the Council maintain or improve that record during the transition to the new commissioning framework?

Councillor Brownridge replied that the Council was proud that Oldham currently had no waiting list for care at home services. This achievement reflected the strength of the commissioning model introduced in 2019, the dedication of our Adult Social Care teams, and the commitment of our local care providers. It's important that we do need to re-tender the services, not only as the contract is due to expire in March 2026, but also as it provides an excellent opportunity for us to approach the local market. As we move into the new commissioning framework, we will be retaining the same core model, because it works. It

has proven effective in supporting timely, high-quality care, and we are determined to maintain this success.

The new framework will build on this strong foundation, with improvements that include:

- Sustaining close partnerships with providers, ensuring continuity of care during the transition.
- Retaining our commitment to the Real Living Wage, and having this as a contractual requirement, which supports recruitment and retention by valuing care workers fairly.
- Maintaining flexibility in our commissioning model, allowing us to respond quickly to changing needs and demands.
- Strengthening monitoring and oversight, so we can intervene early if pressures emerge (for example, hospital discharges).
- Ensuring social value and benefit to Oldham is realised in communities across the borough, maximising positive social, economical, and environmental impacts on residents and the local area.
- Continuing to develop care at home services alongside health commissioners, that are able to meet complex needs.
- Continue to work with health partners to develop and expand the 'blended role' service offer in the borough.

Through this approach, we are confident that Oldham will continue to deliver responsive, person-centred care at home, with no to little waiting list and a strong, supported care workforce.

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

Councillor Mohon Ali presented his report.

Question from Councillor Harrison: The rollout of Universal Free School Meals and the National Breakfast Club is clearly a welcome step in tackling child hunger and supporting families. However, with only seven schools currently offering free breakfasts in Oldham, how do you plan to ensure this initiative reaches all eligible children across the borough—particularly in areas of highest deprivation—and what early evidence is there that it's having the desired impact on attendance and attainment?

Councillor Mohon Ali replied, that is a really important challenge, and one we've been focused on from the very start. The MegaHub isn't just about introducing young people to the world of tech—it's about breaking down the systemic barriers that have historically kept too many of our residents, especially from disadvantaged backgrounds, locked out of these high-growth industries. By being the first borough in Greater Manchester to invest in this programme, we've been clear: Oldham's young people shouldn't have to leave the borough to access world-class opportunities.

That's why we've partnered with industry leaders like IBM, Microsoft, and QinetiQ—not just for prestige, but to give our students direct routes into real careers. These aren't theoretical opportunities—they're tangible pipelines into apprenticeships, training, and jobs.

We're embedding this work into our schools and colleges and making sure the CyberFirst and MegaHub programmes are accessible, not just to the academically gifted, but to all young people with potential. That includes those who may not see themselves in tech—yet. We're working with community groups, parents, and educators to shift that narrative and raise aspirations. And we're thinking long-term. This isn't a one-off project; it's a strategic investment in Oldham's economic future. We want our borough to be known as a centre of innovation, where local talent thrives and stays. It's about giving young people the skills, the confidence, and the networks to succeed—not in 10 years, but right now.

Question from Councillor Harkness: As a leader of a Resourced Provision, I welcome the introduction of a Resourced Provision, SEND unit and alternative provision. The cost to this project appears to exceed what I have experienced with similar schemes in Manchester. Can you provide a breakdown of costs? Is the plan to build new extensions rather than regeneration of the existing buildings? What will be the criteria for these provisions? Will students require an EHCP and will places be available for young people across the borough or is it for the local catchment area of the individual schools?

Councillor Mohon Ali replied, thanking Councillor Harkness for his question and for his ongoing support for the development of Resourced Provision in Oldham.

The new developments are an important part of our strategy to expand inclusive education and improve outcomes for children and young people with additional needs. We have an extensive capital programme of which the three projects you have enquired about form part.

#### 1. Breakdown of Costs

The costs for the development of these provisions vary by site, reflecting differences in building condition, required adaptations, and scale of provision. We will provide you with a more detailed site-specific breakdown in writing for all three projects agreed at Cabinet on 9 June.

#### 2. New Extensions vs Regeneration

Across the wider programme we are seeking to adapt and reconfigure existing school buildings. However, in several cases, extensions or modular builds are necessary due to:

- Lack of suitable space within the existing footprint
- Accessibility and safeguarding considerations
- The need for purpose-built sensory or therapeutic spaces

We are balancing cost-efficiency with delivering long-term, inclusive and high-quality learning environments.

#### 3. Admission Criteria and EHCP Requirement

- Children placed in these provisions will require an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and

placements will be made via the local authority's SEND panel.

#### 4. Access and Catchment

Places in all provisions will be centrally commissioned and allocated via Oldham's SEND placement process. They are borough-wide provisions, not restricted to local school catchment areas. This ensures equitable access based on assessed need rather than postcode.



Question from Councillor Quigg: Could the Cabinet member responsible for education advise what is being done to address the increasing language barriers pupils face in schools given that a number of schools in Oldham no longer have English as their first language. One school in Oldham was found to have 97% of pupils where English is no longer the first language for the majority of pupils.

Can the Cabinet member also confirm if the Council produces material and any translation costs in non-English languages and how much that has cost over the last three financial years?

If it will be discontinuing such services given the cost to the taxpayer and the need for residents to be able to communicate with local service providers in English.

Councillor Mohon Ali replied that school censuses from 2023, 2024 and 2025 show that the proportion of pupils for whom English is an Additional Language is broadly static at 68.5%, 68.1% and 68% respectively. So, the data does not indicate that there are increasing language barriers faced by school pupils. English as an Additional Language refers to learners whose first language is not English. These pupils often speak another language at home and may require support to develop proficiency in English, often alongside their first language. This support is provided in school.

21 of 107 schools have the proportion of pupils with English as an Additional Language over 50%, i.e. a majority. School level data on English as an Additional Language range from 0% to 98.5%.

The Council's Communications Team doesn't produce materials in non-English languages.

g. Councillor Dean, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure  
Councillor Dean presented his report

Question from Councillor Iqbal: The free gym and swim offer for 14–16-year-olds is fantastic; is there an intention to continue or expand this beyond summer, particularly during other school holidays?

Councillor Dean replied that the free gym and swim pass for 14-16 year olds rolls out again this summer for those eligible to attend HAF provision. This offer has been available for over a year and will continue for the foreseeable future. The passes also include access to fitness classes at any Oldham Active site. The passes are active for 2 months and are renewed when activated, meaning that access to the gym, swim and classes are funded for the whole year.



Question from Councillor Marland: Please could the Cabinet member give an update on the work being done to progress getting Diggle clock tower and loom works back into use? Local councillors had an update some time ago, but we have not heard anything recently. This community asset had funding ring fenced to eventually bring this back into future use as part of the Saddleworth School moving to the Diggle site. Can you confirm that all this funding is still available for the eventual future use of this listed building?

Councillor Dean replied, thanking Councillor Marland for her question, adding that I should just start by saying that I absolutely love this building, and I'm also constantly asking for updates on where we're up to during portfolio meetings because I think it deserves a proper use.

What I can say is that a programme of works has been undertaken to stabilise the fabric of the building. Refurbishment proposals are still under consideration and engagement with the school is on-going as to any future potential use of building. Obviously given the close proximity to the Saddleworth School there are safeguarding issues that need to be taken into account with regard to future uses.

Question from Councillor Arnott: Councillor Arnott sought an explanation as to why the swimming pool in Royton would be closed over the summer months, including the school holiday period.

Councillor Dean replied that due to contractual arrangements with the firm undertaking the works, the earliest date that they could get on site, to carry out the essential remedial work, was 5<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

h. Councillor Fida Hussain, Cabinet Member for Enterprise  
Councillor Hussain presented his report

Question from Councillor Murphy: The Labour Government's belated U-turn on the Welfare Bill after significant political pressure is very welcome news. Does the Cabinet Member agree that it is regrettable the Government chose to target people on 'in-work' benefits rather than focus on energy giants, social media companies, or water company bosses? What steps is the Council taking to strengthen access to welfare for those who need it most, including pensioners and people living with disabilities?

Councillor Fida Hussain replied that while national policy decisions are ultimately for Government, here in Oldham we're focused on ensuring residents who need support — including those on low incomes, with disabilities, and older people — get practical help to thrive.

Through Get Oldham Working, we provide wraparound support including skills training, therapy, and in-work progression. We're also working closely with Disability Employment Advisors at the Jobcentre, and developing new projects like the Trailblazer programme and MEA, which aims to relaunch subsidised jobs for people with disabilities.

Our approach combines employment, health and welfare advice, so people can access the right support at the right time —

including pensioners, carers, and those furthest from the labour market.

The Council also offers support through the Welfare Rights team to make sure that residents are able to access the benefits that they are entitled to.



Question from Councillor Sajed Hussain: The feedback from people who have used Get Oldham Working is powerful and shows the impact that the council has on people's lives when dealing with difficult circumstances. Is there any way we can get feedback from employers to see how Get Oldham Working has supported them too?

Councillor Fida Hussain replied, that the Council is incredibly proud of the feedback we receive from individuals who've been supported by Get Oldham Working (GOW), especially those who've overcome significant personal challenges to move into training or employment. But you're right—employers are a vital part of that success story, and their feedback is just as important, and alongside the positive feedback from residents, we've also had strong feedback from local employers about the impact of Get Oldham Working.

We provide free recruitment support, host sector-based training academies, and run bespoke jobs fairs to help employers find job-ready candidates.

One care home manager told us, "We hired 10 people in a month thanks to GOW."

We supported Cygnet Kenney House to fill over 135 roles and continue to help employers with staff retention, wellbeing, and wraparound support like therapy and coaching.

We're also working with schools, the NHS, and exploring 700 new jobs through Iceland's relocation.

Our approach was praised during our recent Matrix reaccreditation, where the assessor highlighted the strength of our employer partnerships.

We also welcome any suggestions or ideas on how we can further enhance our feedback processes — including gathering more insights from employers to continue improving our offer.

Question from Councillor Harrison: The fall in unemployment is very welcome. Can the Cabinet Member explain more about the work done by the Restart Programme and Vanguard? Who takes part and what do the programmes offer?

Councillor Fida Hussain replied, that the fall in unemployment has seen 420 fewer universal credit claimants since March – which is welcome news. Programmes like Restart and Vanguard have helped in supporting residents back into work.

The Restart Programme supports residents who've been out of work for 9+ months, offering personalised help with job searching, CVs, interviews, and wellbeing. Participants have contact at least every two weeks, often weekly, with workshops and tailored support. The aim is for 36% of participants to earn over £5,000, verified through HMRC.

The Vanguard Programme focuses on residents in work but struggling. It offers 1:1 coaching, access to 26 weeks of therapy, gym passes, and strong links with Oldham's social prescribing.

The goal is to help people stay in work, improve wellbeing, and progress their careers.

Both programmes are about more than just finding a job—they're about helping people build skills, overcome obstacles, and move towards a better future at their own pace. And we're seeing real success stories across Oldham as a result.

- i. Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Councillor Goodwin presented his report.

Question from Councillor Al-Hamdani: The Government has put forward plans to invest in regional transport infrastructure, but as of yet there is no indication of any solid plans for high-speed infrastructure which connects Liverpool–Manchester section to the Hull–East Yorkshire section. What will Oldham Council be doing to ensure that plans do not reduce the number of trains running to already underserved stations in and around Oldham including Saddleworth?

Councillor Goodwin replied agreeing that national plans for high-speed rail have had fluctuating commitments, Oldham Council has been actively working to protect and enhance local transport links through its Transport Strategy and Delivery Plan.

Oldham's Transport Strategy aligns with Greater Manchester's 2040 vision, aiming for connections that support sustainable growth and equitable access.

So, while high-speed links between Liverpool and Hull may remain uncertain, Oldham Council is actively working to ensure that local stations like Greenfield are not left behind and, where possible, are better served in the future.

Question from Councillor Akhtar asking for clarification on the list of gullies that have been cleaned across the borough on a ward-by-ward basis.

Councillor Goodwin replied undeeaking to provide a written response to Councillor Akhtar.

Question from Councillor Aslam: The new EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy is a welcome development, but how will you ensure equitable access across wards, particularly in areas without off-street parking?

Councillor Goodwin replied that the council is acutely aware of the challenges that we face in parts of Oldham regarding pavement parking, limited off-street parking and EV Charging facilities. We are working with GMCA colleagues and other district areas who are facing similar issues to help find solutions and work this through.

We are also awaiting an announcement later this week from the Department of Transport which may assist us with new solutions to these concerns, as the announcement is expected to include £25 million funding support to allow cross-pavement charging solutions. This is a huge development in the nationally agreed highway standards and will allow residents without driveways to safely run cables beneath pavements for home charging access.



There's also the promise of modernised EV signage on major roads, grants for depot charging, and support for NHS fleet electrification, all as part of a broader £63 million investment to accelerate EV infrastructure nationwide.



Question from Councillor Iqbal: Given the significant number of streets visited and inspections conducted, are there opportunities to share that proactive inspection data with residents to demonstrate improvements?

Councillor Goodwin replied that throughout the year, the Highways service proactively inspects the over 800km of adopted highways according to a planned, risk assessed and prioritised regime – this aligns directly with national standards. This results in all adopted roads/streets being visited as a matter of course, with inspection regimes of monthly, 3 monthly and annually, depending on the assessed category of the road. For example, in the last financial year over 3,750KM of network was inspected by the Council's inspection team equating to 8,588 streets visited. This extensive regime of planned inspections, when combined with ad hoc inspections because of member/public enquiries directly results in constant and ongoing repairs to the highway to ensure the continued safety of our communities.

The data from these inspections, together with annual condition inspections, speed and traffic volume surveys, inform the capital programme process, leading to targeted use of resources to improve the highway condition, and introduce effective safety engineering schemes.

We will review your request to provide better visibility of this data as part of the ongoing review of performance reporting.

Question from Councillor Hamblett: IX Wireless is currently under investigation by Ofcom. Rochdale Council have had poles installed by them removed, as have Bolton. While the Internet Service Providers Association has set out guidance for companies to follow when installing, IX Wireless are not a member. There have been health and safety issues with IX Wireless work in Oldham, and the company have refused to respond to concerns from residents and councillors. When will Oldham Council do the right thing, and support residents in stopping this company from having apparently free reign to do what they like on our streets?

Councillor Goodwin replied that for some time now the council had fully recognised both resident and member concerns regarding IX wireless operations.

From a Planning perspective, IX Wireless have generally followed proper process and applied for Prior Approval for their Masts before installing them. I understand this has not always been the case in Bolton and Rochdale, which led to some IX Wireless Masts being removed. However, the vast majority of IX Wireless infrastructure involves telegraph poles, which do not require planning permission, and so, Local Authorities cannot require their removal under Planning legislation.

From a Highways Permit perspective, where issues were identified during their operations in Oldham that didn't comply with highway safety, Council Officers took prompt and effective

action, resulting in the suspension of IX permits and operations until inspectors were satisfied that they were compliant with legal requirements. Operations were only allowed to restart once compliance was achieved.

We continue to have meetings with IX on a regular basis, just as we do with other major utilities to encourage collaboration and lessons learnt. During all stages, members and residents were updated.

We will continue to monitor the outcome of the Ofcom investigation for implications/learning from an Oldham perspective.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Leader and Portfolio Holder reports be noted.
2. That the Minutes of the meetings 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, be noted.

10

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

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

Councillor Hince MOVED and Councillor Hindle SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

AMENDMENT 1

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Davis SECONDED the following AMENDMENT 1



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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.

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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.

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. 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 Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. To put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

Oldham Council does not intend to 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.

As a resident focused Council, we value residents' opinions and put communities at the forefront of decision making. We are committed to giving 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.

On being put to the vote AMENDMENT 1 was CARRIED.

#### AMENDMENT 2:

Councillor Arnott addressed Council and announced that he was WITHDRAWING AMENDMENT 2 to the MOTION, that was to be seconded by Councillor Adams.

#### AMENDMENT 3

Councillor Sharp MOVED and Councillor Quigg SECONDED AMENDMENT 3

4. This Council will immediately implement a Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction alongside the aforementioned priority areas.

On being put to the vote AMENDMENT 3, was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION, as AMENDED by AMENDMENT 1, was CARRIED unanimously.

#### RESOLVED:

1. That, as soon as possible, Cabinet be requested 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. 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. That authority be delegated to the OMBC Planning Department to carry out all necessary consultation



and to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements.

3. That, the Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. That to put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

Oldham Council does not intend to 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.

As a resident focused Council, we value residents' opinions and put communities at the forefront of decision making. We are committed to giving 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**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED the following Motion:

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**

- a. 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.
- b. 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.

- c. 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.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

That 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.

11

**NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

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

Councillor Bishop MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following Motion:

**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's 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.

**AMENDMENT**

Councillor Brownridge MOVED and Councillor Rustidge SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

**The council notes that:**

Currently the NHS provision for adults in Oldham who have a neurological condition such as Autism, ADHD or Dyspraxia, to access diagnostic or appropriate therapeutic support is provided by Right to Choose. Optimise Health Care is in the process of being contracted to undertake ADHD and autism diagnosis work in Oldham. This is to ensure continuity of support in the borough until NHS Greater Manchester puts a new triage process and pathway for assessment and diagnosis in place across the county.

Currently, Northern Care Alliance's (NCA) Paediatric Services provide assessment and diagnosis for children aged 0-8 years, take referrals up to the age of 8 years old for those with ADHD and/or autism, and Oldham CAMHS, provided by Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust support those over the age of 8. There are pathways in place to support the transition into adulthood, including in relation to medications, and at 18 they would be able to access services via Right to Choose, and going forward, Optimise Healthcare.

On the NHS's 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.

There has nationally been a rise in demand for ADHD and autism assessments, and as mentioned, NHS Greater Manchester is working on a new model for this as part of re-doing the entire pathway for adults, which is currently being consulted on with the public, and we need to be part of shaping these proposals for our residents so that access to assessments and treatment is timely, and also that the support provided is of a high quality.

**The council resolves to:**

1. To work closely with NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults.
2. To ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was CARRIED.

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

**RESOLVED:**

**The council resolves to:**

1. That the Council works closely with NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults.
2. That the Council requests that NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.

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

Councillor Wahid MOVED and Councillor Azad SECONDED the following Motion:

**Council Notes:**

- a. **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.

- b. **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.
- c. **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.
- d. **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.
- e. **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 consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
  - c. 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.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Malik MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

#### Council Notes:

- Coldhurst, like many working-class communities across the country, has suffered from years of national government austerity and underinvestment in youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre and the loss of the adjoining play space reflect the wider challenges imposed by more than a decade of cuts to local government budgets.
- 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.
- Coldhurst's Labour councillors — notably Cllr Abdul Jabbar and Cllr Abdul Malik — have worked consistently to highlight these challenges and advocate for improvements at West End Street, in close collaboration with local residents, volunteers and youth groups.
- That thanks to an intervention by Cllr Jabbar, the West End Street pitch was included in Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) agreed by Cabinet in March this year.
- In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors — including longstanding Labour representatives — continued efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These actions build on work led by Coldhurst Labour councillors and Jim McMahon MP, who have been working on a masterplan to bring this asset

back into full community use through the establishment of a community co-operative.



- The Council has endorsed £6 million as part of the first phase of a £70 million “SportsTown” regeneration programme, which includes:
  1. The Council administered a £5 million grant from the Government’s Community Regeneration Fund to develop a new 3G pitch at Little Wembley, a new educational centre at Boundary Park, and supporting community facilities.
  2. £1 million was invested for a new stitched pitch at Boundary Park and to secure a permanent base for Oldham Rugby League Football Club and enhanced community use.
  3. Public commitments that SportsTown will benefit community access borough-wide, including increased opportunities for education, health, and sport.
- These investments demonstrate the Council’s commitment to ensuring regeneration funding reaches communities like Coldhurst, building resilience and opportunity where it’s most needed.

**Council further notes:**

- That West End Street Pitch and associated changing rooms exist because of the work of Cllr Abdul Jabbar to secure a grant from Sports England and SRB1 in 1998.
- Both Cllr Malik and Cllr Jabbar have consistently raised the condition of West End Street pitch with officers and Cabinet colleagues and continue to explore opportunities for resources to improve the facility for the community.
- That in February 2025 all five of Oldham’s district community councils had the opportunity to input into Oldham’s Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) and there was unanimous agreement amongst elected members that West End St pitch is a vital community resource and must be protected and enhanced.
- That a community consultation day will be held over the future of West End Street pitch over the summer.

**Council Believes:**

- That open-access, local sports facilities such as West End Street pitch should continue to 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.
- That residents themselves should have a meaningful say in the use and future of these facilities, and that a

community cooperative model should be explored for the West End Street pitch — governed by and for the people who use it.

- The current plan, devised by the Council, ward Councillors and supported by Jim McMahon MP to create a co-operative ownership model, will successfully bring this asset back into community use.

**Council Resolves to:**

- Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.
- Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:
  - a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of: West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
  - b. Explore further opportunities to:
    - Consider how existing and future **government regeneration funding** streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch.
    - Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.
    - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.
- Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.
- Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and confirm what the government can do to support this.
- Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.



A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was CARRIED.

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

**RESOLVED:**

**The council resolves to:**

1. Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.
2. Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:
  - a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of: West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
  - b. Explore further opportunities to:
    - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch.
    - Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.
    - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.
3. Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.
4. Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and confirm what the government can do to support this.
5. Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.

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

Councillor Byrne MOVED and Councillor Lancaster SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

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

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>		<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Fida	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Zaheer	FOR	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Azad Montaz Ali	ABSENT	Kenyon Mark	APOLOGIES
Ball Sandra	FOR	Kouser Aisha	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Lancaster	FOR



		Luke	
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	APOLOGIES	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Chowhan Naveed	FOR	Navesey Lisa	ABSTAINED
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	FOR
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	APOLOGIES	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Harkness Garth	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hince Marc	ABSTAINED	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	FOR	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hobin Brian	ABSTAINED	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hughes Jade	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hurley Maggie	FOR	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 27 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 26 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 3 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Director of Environment be requested to carry out a revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing.

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**UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Interim Borough Solicitor which updated members on actions taken following the meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and also on any updated responses from meetings held in the last 12 months.

**RESOLVED:**

That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025, be noted and confirmed.

13

**GREATER MANCHESTER JOINT MINERALS AND WASTE PLAN: DECISION MAKING PROCESS**

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that sought approval to agree to the principle of the making of a joint development plan document with the other nine Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan), to cover planning for minerals and waste across Greater Manchester.

The ten Greater Manchester Council leaders, at the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) Executive Board meeting on 28th March 2025, had agreed to the production of a statutory Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Plan (GMJMWP).

The submitted report asked Council to consider the necessary steps required in relation to seeking approval from all the Greater Manchester districts to commence preparation and to delegate its preparation to the AGMA Executive Board.

The existing Greater Manchester Minerals and Waste Plans required to be updated in full because they were out of date having been adopted over ten years ago. Their replacement with a single, joint minerals and waste plan would ensure efficient compliance with national planning policy.

1. That Council agrees to the principle of the making of a joint development plan document with the other nine Greater Manchester councils (Bolton, Bury, Manchester, Rochdale, Salford, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan), to cover planning for minerals and waste across Greater Manchester.
2. That Council notes that the Cabinet will be asked to agree to a recommendation, to delegate the formulating and preparing of the draft joint development plan document to the AGMA Executive Board.
3. That it is noted that there will be further reports to future meetings of the Council in respect of, matters, which are within the remit of the Council including adoption of the joint development plan document.

14

## **UPDATE ON APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Interim Executive Director of Resources, which asked Members to consider changes in relation to appointments to Committees for 2025/2026, which were detailed at Appendix 1 of the submitted report.

The report advised Members that since the annual meeting of the Council, several changes had been proposed to appointments to Committees. These appointments did not affect the Council's overall political balance.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the changes to the appointments to Committees, as set out in Appendix 1 to the submitted report, for the 2025/26 Municipal Year, be agreed.

2. That the Chief Executive be granted delegated authority to make any in-year changes to appointments, where notified.

## **UPDATE TO PAY POLICY STATEMENT AND ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED a report of the Chief Executive, which advised members that the Council's corporate plan 'Ready for the Future' had established ambitions to drive change by focusing on three missions: healthier, happier places; great place to live; and green and growing. To turn the ambitions into reality, the Council needed to have appropriate organisational leaderships arrangements in place for it to deliver against the ambitions set out in the plan, but to also continue to deliver statutory services and priorities.

The Council's Appointments Committee had met and considered revisions to the Council's senior management team structure and the submitted report detailed recommendations from that Committee for Full Council's consideration.

To ensure that the right organisational leadership arrangements were in place, in May 2025, the Council's Appointments Committee met to consider changes to the Council's senior management team structure. The structure proposed changes to some roles and to move to a senior management structure of four executive director roles comprising:

- Executive Director of Place (Deputy Chief Executive).
- Executive Director of Resources.
- Executive Director of Health and Social Care (Deputy Chief Executive).
- Executive Director of Children and Young People.

The Appointments Committee agreed to this structure and to commence recruitment to the vacant role of Executive Director of Resources role; together with recruitment to a number of other senior management team roles, some of which have interim arrangements in place.

In line with the Council's Pay Policy Statement, Council is required to consider the case for any salary in excess of £100,000, prior to any appointment to the chief officer posts that it relates. The salary package will be defined as basic salary, any performance related pay, fees, routinely payable allowances and benefits in kind, that are due under the contract. The roles of Director referred to in the submitted report were graded at Director level and would be appointed on a spot salary between £104,337 to £115,105 and the roles of Executive Director have been graded at Executive Director level and the vacant role would be appointed on a spot salary of £144,160. The Appointments Committee approved a market supplement of up to £10,000 for the roles of Director of Growth and Director of Digital in light of a benchmarking exercise to attract the right candidates for the roles.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council notes the decision of the Appointments Committee to move to a senior management structure of four executive directors.
2. That Council notes that the Appointments Committee have redesignated the vacant role of Assistant Chief Executive to Executive Director of Resources.
3. That Council notes that the Appointments Committee have approved the redesignation of the Director of Economy to the Director of Growth and approved the recruitment to this post, and should it be required, to apply a market supplement of up to £10,000.
4. That Council notes that the Appointments Committee have renamed the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the Executive Director of Children and Young People.
5. That Council notes that the Appointments Committee have approved the renaming of the Director of Technology to the Director of Digital, and should it be required, to apply a market supplement of up to £10,000.
6. That Council notes that the Appointments Committee have agreed to the recruitment to the role of Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help.
7. That Council approves the designation of the Director of Finance as the Council's Chief Finance Officer for the purposes of s114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and shall fulfil all the statutory duties of that post and in accordance with S151 of the Local Government Act 1972 shall be the officer with responsibilities for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, and the Constitution be updated where required.
8. That Council approves the designation of the Director of Legal as the Council's Monitoring Officer/Borough Solicitor for the purposes of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Constitution be updated where required.
9. That Council notes that the Appointments Committee have redesignated the Deputy Place Lead and Deputy Chief Executive Health and Care Integration to the Executive Director of Health and Care (Deputy Chief Executive), with responsibilities including public health, adult social care and retaining the Deputy Place Lead role for the Integrated Care Board, and that this post will transfer to the Council's terms and conditions.
10. That Council considers the case for any salary in excess of £100,000, prior to any appointment to the chief officer posts, and, in this regard, approves the roles of Executive Director of Resources, Executive Director of Health and Care (Deputy Chief Executive), Director of Growth, Director of Digital, Director of Children's Social Care and Early Help, Director of Finance and Director of Legal.
11. That Council agrees to update the Pay Policy Statement to reflect these changes.
12. That Council agrees to update the Constitution to reflect the changes outlined above.

**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES SCHEME 2025/2026**

The Mayor advised that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda and would be considered at a future meeting.



The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.20pm

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## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth.

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

**Growth:** The Greater Manchester Strategy 2025-35 was published in July 2025, which is the GM collective vision for the next decade is to see a thriving city region where everyone can live a good life, and where economic and social progress continue to go hand in hand. This refresh includes a commitment for Oldham to benefit from a Mayoral Development Zone for our key growth areas to help accelerate regenerations and realise benefits for residents sooner. The five key priority areas within this MDZ are: Atom Valley-Stakehill, Oldham Town Centre Living, SportsTown, Northern Roots, and Chadderton Plan for Neighbourhoods.

**Creating a Better Place:** As part of our ongoing commitment to retain, invest and ensure future sustainability of historic buildings for local communities, the town and future generations it was a great privilege to open the refurbished Old Library. On Saturday 16 August, hundreds of people joined us at the special open day for Oldham's much-loved Old Library now named the J.R. Clynes Building – honouring one of Oldham's most important sons. John Robert Clynes started work in a cotton mill at just 10 years old and went on to become a Member of Parliament, Leader of the Labour Party, Leader of the House of Commons and Home Secretary. His story of ambition, determination and social justice has inspired generations.

The day was a real celebration, with guided tours of the stunning restoration, live music, performances, children's activities, and a first look at the new community garden that will host public events moving forward throughout the year.

The Grade II-listed building is now fully reopen as a vibrant civic and cultural hub – home to the Council Chamber where we will hold our next Council meeting in November, Mayor's Parlour, Oldham Theatre Workshop's new studio, and art gallery. The approach is another step to vacating the Civic Centre enabling the site to be repurposed for much needed new homes within the town. Just as the Old Library inspired and educated so many Oldhamers over the decades, The J.R Clynes Building will now stand as a symbol of ambition for the town.

This significant development is one of many being delivered as part of the council's Building a Better Oldham programme, transforming historical buildings and key sites across the borough to create jobs, provide opportunities to learn and gain new skills, grow local businesses and improve health and wellbeing.

Alongside the investment in our historic buildings, we are making it easier, safer and more enjoyable to travel around the town centre – especially for cyclists and pedestrians through our Accessible Oldham scheme which is transforming streets around Oldham, by improving roads, footpaths and public areas.

The scheme is already making a huge difference to the look and feel of our town centre, complimenting the wider regeneration works underway. The Accessible Oldham public realm improvements programme is currently in various stages from design through to delivery. The first phases, Albion Street and Henshaw Street, West Street, Cheapside and Fountain Street are now complete with Market Place currently underway and other sites starting soon.

The scheme will progress throughout the Town Centre, creating new rain gardens, seating areas and quality clean public space that will complement the other projects planned and already underway, including the new paving works in Parliament Square complimenting the works in creating the new Market, Event Space and Archives.

**Housing Delivery:** With regards the town centre living partnership with Muse, following the granting of planning permission to the six applications submitted by Muse (as reported at July Council), Muse held a successful supplier event with local businesses on 14<sup>th</sup> August and are continuing to progress



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the Prince's Gate site, with enabling works commencing this Autumn in readiness for a start of the actual development in early 2026.

On wider housing delivery projects across the borough, following on from our above target housing completions last year (578 homes, compared to the 404 home target in PfE), as we step up in the requirement this year (to 680 homes a year), I'm really pleased to share that our forecasts for this year are indicating we will exceed our target again, seeing completions of around 750 homes. This is only a forecast, and a lot can happen between now and the end of March, but I'm so pleased to see developers and our various partners stepping-up to build these much-needed homes in the borough.

Crucially, around a third of the completions last year, and of the forecast completions this year, will be on council-owned or council-facilitated housing sites, such as the ongoing developments at Fitton Hill, Broadway Green, the sites in Derker, Vaughan Street and Foundry Street. In particular, these sites are making a major contribution to the increased levels of affordable and social housing delivery in the borough. We're on target to exceed the 500-home target I set for new social homes in 2024-2029, with a massive jump set to be seen from only 7 social homes delivered last year, to 120 being delivered in 2026/7.

**Place Making:** The town centre shop front grant scheme was launched with budget from the Shared Prosperity Fund in June and to date 45 applications have been submitted from businesses keen to jointly invest in improving their premises in the town centre. Works should start from late Autumn once grants have been approved and plans agreed. This will further enhance the works and investment already underway in key parts of the town centre.

The Evening and Nighttime Economy group, made up of local town centre businesses, launched the Oldham Bar Hop at the start of August with 14 venues taking part including a pop-up beer festival in Billingtons. This built on the success of Oldham Live throughout June which saw local musicians performing live in venues across the town centre.

The Ale Hop is one of a series of trails that people can take part in, others include a coffee trail, food trail, activity trail, and the augmented reality Time Trek adventure launched in June for families to enjoy. All these trails show just how much our town centre has to offer from independent businesses to fantastic entertainment and our rich heritage, and this is all supported by the High Street Accelerator funding, led by a partnership of local businesses.

Saturday 27 September see the return of Nostalgic Oldham which took place for the first time last year and was hugely successful. Our winter events programme will be launched in the coming weeks, with the ever-popular Halloween Trail and the Halloween Half, the Christmas Switch-On and brand new this year is a spectacular fire festival taking place in Parliament Square.

**Strategy, Policy and Performance:** I was proud to chair the latest Leading Oldham Board meeting on 5 September, where we focused on the vital issue of community cohesion. Oldham is a diverse borough, and our strength lies in the way we bring people together. The Board discussed how we can build stronger, safer, and more connected communities, making sure that everyone feels a sense of belonging. It was inspiring to hear the commitment from partners and community leaders to work with us in creating a more cohesive Oldham.

Finally, I am delighted to report that Oldham Council has received the Armed Forces Gold Award – the highest level of recognition for our commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. This is a huge achievement for our borough and a clear signal of our dedication to supporting service personnel, veterans, and their families. It reflects the hard work of colleagues across the Council and our community partners in ensuring that the Armed Forces community is valued and supported in Oldham.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.

**Present:** Councillor Shah (in the Chair)  
Councillors M Ali, Brownridge, Dean, Goodwin, F Hussain,  
Jabbar, Mushtaq and Taylor

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Brownridge and Jabbar each declared a 'registerable interest' in agenda items 12 and 22 (Creating a Better Place – Update) by virtue of the fact that they were both Council appointed Trustees of Northern Roots. Councillors Brownridge and Jabbar both left the room during the consideration and determination of these agenda items.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

5           **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025 be approved as a correct record.

6           **GMCA REFUGEE SUPPORT PROJECT - SANCTUARY SEEKERS IN OLDHAM**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education, skills and Early Years that requested the formal acceptance of a grant award of £276,888 from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) on behalf of Oldham Council, for the purpose of delivering the Refugee Support Project via the Get Oldham Working programme, over a two-year period commencing in May 2025.

The report advised that Oldham Council had secured £276,888 from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to deliver a two-year Refugee Support Project starting in May 2025. Developed in partnership with Action Together, the programme would enhance support for refugees and people seeking asylum through English language education, digital inclusion, volunteering, and employment support.

The projects were to be delivered in collaboration with the local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector, aiming to support 250 individuals and improve integration and employment outcomes. A detailed mobilisation plan was in place, and all stakeholders — including elected members, council services, and delivery partners — had been consulted and were fully supportive.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1: To accept the Grant and Proceed with Project Delivery Under this option, Oldham Council would formally accept the £276,888 grant funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and proceed with the implementation of the Refugee Support Project as outlined in the approved proposal. Delivery would be undertaken in partnership with Action Together and the local Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector. This approach would enable the Council to address identified local needs by enhancing support for refugees and individuals seeking asylum through an integrated model focused on language skills, digital inclusion, volunteering, and employment support. Accepting the funding would contribute to the borough's wider ambitions for community cohesion, inclusion, and socio-economic resilience. It would also demonstrate a continued commitment to collaborative working with local partners and the GMCA.

Option 2: to decline the Grant and Withdraw from Project Delivery. The Council could choose not to accept the grant funding and, as a result, would not proceed with the delivery of the Refugee Support Project.

The preferred Option was Option 1.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet agrees to accept the £276,888 grant funding from the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and to proceed with delivery, enabling Oldham to meet identified local needs and strengthen community cohesion.

7

## **GET BRITAIN WORKING HEALTH AND WEALTH TRAILBLAZER**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years which presented a request that funding, provided by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), to participate in and deliver the Get Britain Working Health and Wealth Trailblazer be accepted and the associated grant funding agreement be agreed. Agreement was sought from the Cabinet to utilise the funds in the various schemes that were being proposed in the submitted report.

The GMCA had confirmed that Oldham will receive 6.6% of the £10 million allocated to GM for the Trailblazer. Following management and evaluation costs the actual amount to be allocated from GMCA to Oldham Council was £566,475.

The trailblazer had set criteria for working with residents who are economically inactive and those further away from the labour market. The aim was to prioritise residents who were economically inactive due to a long-term health condition or learning difficulties and disabilities and those who are looking after the home. These represent two of the most significant groups within our population who are economically inactive, and for whom there is not currently a comprehensive employment support offer.

Therefore, as part of this pilot, the Council will not be focusing on other groups of residents that are “economically inactive” as per the definition, for example, students or those residents who are retired.

The trailblazer should provide the Council with an opportunity to build on existing assets, knowledge, relationships with the VCFSE, and experience to test approaches to supporting these residents to progress towards employment.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 – To accept the funding and proposed projects up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and deliver the Economic Inactivity Trailblazer for Oldham residents. This option secures additional support for economically inactive residents and community organisations in Oldham that would not normally be available.

Option 2 - To decline the funding and proposed projects up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. This option effectively removes the provision, resource and support for residents who are economically inactive, provides capacity to the VCSF sector and supports the Oldham Partnership to embed LiveWell.

The preferred Option was Option 1.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet accepts the funding from GMCA, in the sum of £566,475, along with acceptance of the associated grant agreement.
2. That the Cabinet agrees to use funds as set out in the submitted report report.

8

### **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING - FUNDING EXTENSION**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years that sought an extension to the funding provided by GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) as part of the UKSPF skills funding allocation for NEET support be accepted and that any variations to the original contract agreement be agreed.

In August 2023, a Cabinet report (attached at Appendix 1) was considered and Members agreed to accept funding from the UKSPF Skills funding via GMCA to support NEET young people to re-engage and return to the EET (Education, Employment and Training) pathway. This funding was a total of £720,000.

The report outlined the intention for the funding to be attached to the existing TIIAG (Targeted Independent Information, Advice and Guidance) contract as this would provide the most effective use of the additional resource. This became the “Empower Oldham” project currently being delivered by Positive Steps. This grant agreement, contract and funding was made available until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The Cabinet was advised that in December 2023, Oldham Council had applied to receive some additional funding from the UKSPF fund. This request originated from GMCA and was

known as “Growth Fund”. Oldham was awarded an additional £19,000 (which increased our monitoring outputs by 10 young people reached). The agreed use of this additional funding was to support the rental costs for the new provision Oldham College are developing at Positive Steps. In July 2024, Oldham Council was notified of GMCA’s intention to extend UKSPF funding and outcomes to September 2025. The extension will provide an additional £240K to cover the costs of the programme. A Cabinet report (attached at Appendix 2 to the submitted report) was taken and agreed to accept the extension.

The GMCA had recently confirmed their intention to continue to provide NEET support funding and have confirmed funding up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. Therefore the total amount of the additional funding requested, from the Cabinet, to be accepted, was £240,000.00.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 - To accept the extension to the funding up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and continue to deliver Empower Oldham for our NEET young people. This option secured additional support for young people in Oldham that would not normally be available.

Option 2 – To decline the extension to funding up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. This option would effectively remove provision, resource and support for young people who were an identified vulnerable group.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet agrees to accept the additional funding, of £240,000.00, to deliver the extension to the scheme, known locally as “Empower Oldham” provided for the Brough of Oldham’ ‘NEET’ young people - this option provides additional support to our young people in Oldham, that would not normally be available.

9

## **HIGH NEEDS PROVISION IN MAINSTREAM SETTINGS**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years that sought approval for three capital projects that would offer additional places and enhance provision for pupils with additional needs that are based in mainstream settings. The report also sought approval for the allocation of funding from Basic Need Grant towards the schemes.

The Cabinet was advised that the report related to three projects that would enhance existing provision and provide additional provision for pupils with additional needs. These proposals were now developed sufficiently for costs and proposals to be placed before the Cabinet for a final decision. The three projects would create a total of 55 places in mainstream primary and secondary schools for children with additional needs. The three projects were proposed to be implemented at Woodlands Primary School, North Chadderton Secondary School and at Weneth Primary School.



Currently the Local Authority has around £4.7million of Basic Need funding and £8.3million of High Needs Capital Allocation Funding. It was proposed that where projects will generate additional places that these projects be funded from the Basic Need Grant.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 – To approve the above capital investment for the projects listed above to deliver the ambitions of the Send and Inclusion Strategy 2023 - 2027.

Option 2 – To not approve the projects and therefore risk not fulfilling the above strategy.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

That Cabinet grants approval for the three projects, that were detailed in the Director of Education, Early Years and Skills' report, to be funded from the Basic Need Grant.

10

### **FAMILIES FIRST PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director for Children and Young People which sought to support the Council to deliver the Children's Social Care reforms outlined in the Children's Wellbeing and School Bill and Families First Partnership Programme guide March 2025, Oldham Council had received a £2.2m Prevention Grant from the Department for Education (DfE).

The Cabinet were informed that the conditions of the grant, outlined expectations that up to 30% of the grant should be utilised for transformation resources, which would support the Local Authority to deliver significant reforms, as well as to support the delivery of partnership services under a new operating model. The submitted report also outlined how the new policy change and programme were to be delivered in Oldham and sought approval of the resources required to ensure a smooth implementation in line with the national guidance.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 – To not recruit and/or procure additional programme resource, deliver the programme in Oldham within existing transformation and service capacity. This was not the recommended option as the required pace and scale of change will be hindered if existing staff were to deliver the programme whilst continuing with business-as-usual activity and competing priorities.

Option 2 – To approve the governance arrangements and the recruitment and/or procurement of the additional resources detailed in this report, as required to deliver the programme at pace and in line with national guidance.

Option 2 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme across the Borough of Oldham, be noted.

2. That the Cabinet approves the governance arrangements, detailed in the submitted report, to oversee the co-design and implementation of the Families First Partnership Programme in Oldham.
3. That the Cabinet approves the use of part of the Prevention Grant to recruit the roles as identified in the report to drive design and delivery.
4. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children and Young People and/or their nominee, to procure a Systems Transformation Lead in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules.
5. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority for future decisions regarding the delivery of the programme, resources and use of the Prevention Grant to the Executive Director Children and Young People, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder and the Director of Finance.
6. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Borough Solicitor and/or their nominees to carry out all necessary legal formalities.

11

## **HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SERVICE- CONTRACT EXTENSION**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health that was seeking to ensure that Oldham residents continued to have access to high quality health improvement services, including smoking cessation support and specialist weight management services. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend the contract with the current provider, ABL Health Ltd, for another two years.

The Cabinet were advised that Local authorities had responsibility for improving the health and wellbeing of their local population and to reduce health inequalities across, including the provision of public health advice on smoking and tobacco, obesity and physical activity. Oldham's adult population is less physically active, smokes more, and carries more excess weight than the England average, which contributes to higher numbers of people with recorded diabetes, and deaths from smoking-related diseases, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

The Council's Public Health service, in collaboration with NHS ICB, commission a Health Improvement and Weight Management Service (HIWM Service). The service is currently delivered by ABL Health Ltd, under the service name of 'Your Health Oldham'. Your Health Oldham provide our specialist health improvement service through delivery of a range of interventions, including healthy weight, low level mental health and smoking cessation offers.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1- to extend the contract with ABL Health Ltd for another two years. This service has been performing well in the context of a high volume of referrals. Targeting those with greatest need, they achieve positive changes which contribute towards a healthy weight and smoking cessation. This contributes towards



the prevention of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and other preventable health conditions thus improving quality and longevity of life for the residents of Oldham and diverting pressure from NHS resources and addressing health inequalities.

Option 2- to not extend the contract with ABL Health Ltd and cease the health improvement and weight management service. The service is reaching capacity for certain elements due to high demand, such as adult weight management. The service received 1475 referrals in the last quarter. Out of those, 882 referrals were for weight management. Therefore, ceasing this contract could result in high numbers of lost opportunities for people to receive support and change health behaviours. It could also result in increased demand on the rest of the system, in particular the NHS, as people try to access support to stop smoking, lose weight and/or move more from elsewhere. If people are not able to seek effective, evidence-based support, there is a potential that there will be greater demand on health and social care to support people living with preventable smoking or obesity related health conditions. For the NHS and wider public services, the lifetime value of a person stopping smoking, maintaining a healthy weight, and being physically active, is considerable.

Option 3- to commence a procurement process. As an integrated service with specialist weight management services, this service delivers good value for money compared with other areas and delivers comparable or better outcomes than other providers. Not extending the contract and instead going out to the market is unlikely to provide better value for money. The preferred Option was Option 1.

Resolved:

That the contract with ABL Health Ltd, be extended for a further two years.

12

## **CREATING A BETTER PLACE - UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Director – Creating a Better Place which informed members that the Creating a Better Place (CaBP) programme continued to be on track delivering significant transformational projects across the borough, to build much needed new homes, to create jobs and support businesses to grow, and to 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.

In alignment with previous recommendations from the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, the submitted report provided the Cabinet with a formal update on the strategic progress of the CaBP regeneration and redevelopment programme, including external funding opportunities secured, benefits realised for specific projects and the associated social value generated to Create a Better Place.

The submitted report was seeking approval on the recommendations for various projects following a review of the

Council's regeneration and redevelopment capital programme, including outcome delivery, social value capture, positive opportunities and impacts for Oldham's residents and local businesses, and where applicable note the challenges and mitigations in place linked to reprofiling of capital resource to allow the continued delivery and completion of flagship projects.

The Council and partners continue to make significant progress on the delivery of the CaBP programme which will ultimately reshape Oldham Town Centre but also reaches out across the borough. The submitted report sought to provide a comprehensive update on delivery achieved, it acknowledges the successes to date and sets out key milestones in respect of the flagship projects across the programme either in development or currently in delivery.

Options/alternatives:

Option 1 – to approve the report.

Option 2 – to reject the recommendations in the report.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet will consider the confidential recommendations, detailed in the report, at agenda item 22.

13

## **LOCAL GROWTH AND PLACE FLEXIBLE GRANT ACCEPTANCE**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Director – Creating a Better Place which asked members to approve and accept the £2,175,336.90 Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant Programme (LGPFG) grant allocation, previously known as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), following confirmation of award from the Integrated Settlement Fund and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) in April 2025.

The Cabinet were advised that the Borough of Oldham had been allocated a £2.175m grant from LGPFG. The Council had focused its proposals on accessible public realm; rehabilitation of green space including infrastructure for community and visitor use; town centre infrastructure and cultural events programme and supporting local business growth to improve the local shopping environment.

The proposed programme was drawn from the Creating a Better Place strategy and action plan and would support a range of projects that will meet the core 3 interventions, namely:

1. E1 – Accessible Oldham –
  - a. Jubilee Park Phase 1 – increase accessibility into and around the town centre park.
  - b. Town Centre Park Staff Members – facilitate the expansion of the town centre green space that has been created in the Town Centre
2. E6 – Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme

- a. Co-design cultural events to support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. Creating a safe, welcoming and vibrant town centre with wayfinding and town centre wardens/ambassadors.
3. E22 – Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support
  - a. Providing financial assistance to owners and tenants who wish to enhance their shopfronts. Supporting local business growth, improves the local shopping environment and raises the town's appeal.

Option 1: To do nothing. Failure to accept the grant allocation from the LGPFG would reflect negatively on the perception of the town and its ambitions. It would have significant implications for delivery of the project budgets and, therefore, the achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.

Option 2: Formally accept the LGPFG award allocation for £2.175m and enter into the Grant Funding Agreement as set out in this report.

The preferred Option was Option 2.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet will consider the confidential recommendations, detailed in the report, at agenda item 23.

14

## **OLDHAM COUNCIL (NON-LFFN) SITES**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Interim Director of IT and Digital which followed-on from the Oldham Council Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Cabinet report (dated 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022), which approved capital funding to deliver a LFFN Fibre network into 71 Oldham Council assets/buildings. The submitted report to this meeting provided costs for the 45 Non-LFFN (dubbed Oldham One) Council buildings deemed out of scope for the Greater Manchester One LFFN project but will benefit from a more cost-effective network solution via the Greater Manchester One contract.

Options/alternatives considered:

The options and alternatives, that the Cabinet considered, were detailed in the confidential report, relating to this matter, at agenda item 24.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet will consider the confidential recommendations, detailed in the report, at agenda item 24.

15

## **LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND (LAHF) - ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Assistant Director of Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery which advised that the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government

(MHCLG) had launched a third round of the Local Authority Housing fund (LAHF) to run over the financial years of 2024-25 and 2025-26.



In October 2024, Oldham Council had accepted a funding allocation of £1,506,000 to deliver 16 homes.

In January 2025, an Expression of Interest process was launched by MHCLG for additional funding and Oldham Council had secured a further £372,000 to provide four additional homes.

The Council had only received interest from Cromwood Housing to deliver the additional homes, as detailed in the submitted report. To deliver the homes, Cromwood required an additional £320,574 and without this additional funding the project would not be deliverable.

A revenue cost from the Council of £40k per annum would achieve a revenue saving of £61k per annum by virtue of a one-off capital investment therefore delivering an annual revenue saving of £21k.

The Cabinet was informed that the report had been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where the recommendations were supported and endorsed.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 – Award grant monies to Cromwood Housing to enable Cromwood to deliver the housing project. If the Council passported the £372,000 grant monies from MHCLG and it provided Cromwood with additional grant funding of £320,574 from its own budget monies, Cromwood would identify, purchase, refurb, manage and maintain the homes. The homes would be available for letting by December 2025 at the latest. Cromwood have a strong track record of delivery from the previous LAHF Programmes.

Option 2 – Council to Self-Deliver. If the Council were to retain the MHCLG Grant and self-deliver the programme, this option would require the Council to find an additional £0.5M. The Council would be responsible for finding the home, purchasing, completing refurbishment works and all on-going management and maintenance. The Council would own the properties and retain rental income. Capacity and skills for managing the works outlined above would also need to be identified.

Option 3 – To decline the grant. The Council could decline to accept the MHCLG grant and not take part in the scheme. Any grant received through signing the MoU would be returned to MHCLG.

Option 1 was the preferred option.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet will consider the confidential recommendations, detailed in the report, at agenda item 25.

## PLANNING APPLICATION VALIDATION CHECKLIST



The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive, which asked the Cabinet to consider the Draft Validation Checklist for planning applications submitted to the Council and to approve it for public consultation.

The Cabinet was advised that officers, having reviewed the existing Validation Checklist, given its age (it was last updated in 2011) and the recent changes in legislation, national policy and local planning policy, there was a need to update the Checklist. The proposed revised Validation Checklist is attached at Appendix 1, to the submitted report.

The submitted report was therefore seeking approval to publicly consult on the revised Validation Checklist. The consultation would be an open consultation on the council's consultation platform, with any member of the public or interested party able to comment. A specific invitation to comment via the consultation will be sent out to planning agents and consultants who regularly use our Planning Service, given they are most affected by the Validation Checklist.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 - To approve the public consultation on the revised Validation Checklist. There were no disadvantages to this preferred option, as it was considered positive to review the Validation Checklist regularly and consult on the revisions. Conversely, the advantages were considered significant, to facilitate the efficient validation of planning applications, and ensure that appropriate information is submitted with an application so that their determination is not delayed.

Option 2 – To do Nothing, and continue to use the March 2011 Validation Checklist. This option brought no benefits and would continue to create delays in the processing of applications, both at validation stage and in determining planning applications caused by the fact that the authority does not receive the necessary information with an application when it is first submitted.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Draft Validation Checklist be approved for public consultation.
2. That authority to agree amendments to the Validation Checklist to take onboard comments from the public consultation and to then adopt the Validation Checklist be delegated to the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

## HOUSING DELIVERY INTERIM PLANNING POSITION

The Cabinet received a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that sought approval for the publication of the Housing Delivery Interim Planning Position



Paper on the council's website, to assist in the interpretation and implementation of existing planning policies in Oldham's Local Plan.



Cabinet was advised that the Interim Planning Position Paper supported the implementation of policies within Oldham's Local Plan – The Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Development Plan Document, adopted November 2011. The paper supersedes the previous 'Affordable Housing Interim Planning Position Paper' published by the council in March 2022.

The submitted report sets out the council's updated position in relation to:

- a. Housing mix – size, type and tenure – including housing mix for affordable housing;
- b. Affordable housing requirements, including affordable housing thresholds and exceptions (including the application of Vacant Building Credit).
- c. Housing in the Green Belt including the application of the affordable housing 'Golden Rule'.

The paper was intended to be used as guidance for developers in preparing development proposals and as a material consideration when assessing planning applications and development proposals for residential development.

The report was intended to be read alongside PfE and the Local Plan as a whole, but in particular - PfE policy JP-H2 'Affordability of New Housing', JP-H3 'Type, Size and Design of New Housing' and also policy 3 'Address of Choice', policy 10 'Affordable Housing' and policy 11 'Housing' of Oldham's Local Plan.

The report was therefore informed by the council's Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) (2024). The LHNA was a key evidence base document and sets out information on local housing needs of different groups (including affordable housing, provision for older people and disabled people), housing mix – including size, tenure and type, and sets out recommendations and policy guidance.

The council's approach to updated national guidance and local evidence will be considered further and inform policy preparation as part of the Local Plan Review.

The Cabinet was informed that the report had been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where the recommendations were supported and endorsed.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 - To approve the Housing Delivery Interim Planning Position Paper for publication on the council's website, to assist in the interpretation and implementation of existing planning policies in Oldham's Local Plan.

Option 2 – To not approve the Housing Delivery Interim Planning Position Paper for publication on the council's website. Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board endorsement and support for the recommendations, detailed in the submitted report, on this item, from their meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
2. That the Cabinet notes that this item will be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Constitution, as the report has already been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board.
3. That the Cabinet approves the Housing Delivery Interim Planning Position Paper for publication on the council's website, to assist in the interpretation and implementation of existing planning policies in Oldham's Local Plan.

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### **HOUSING DELIVERY TEST ACTION PLAN 2025**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that was seeking approval for the publication of Oldham Council's Housing Delivery Test Action Plan (2025 update)

The Cabinet was advised that this report provided an update on the Housing Delivery Test (HDT) position in respect of Oldham. It also sets out an updated position to the previous Housing Delivery Test Action Plan published in July 2024.

The HDT was introduced by the Government as a monitoring tool to demonstrate whether local areas are building enough homes to meet their housing need. The HDT measures net additional dwellings provided over the past three years against the homes required over the same period. The thresholds for consequences for under-delivery remain as per the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The latest HDT results (and which will be reported in the HDT Action Plan 2025) were published 19 December 2024.

Oldham Council had delivered 91% of its housing need over the past three years (2021/22 to 2022/23). This was the same as the 2021 and 2022 measurement result (91%) and an improvement from the 2020 result of 80%.

The pass rate for the HDT was now 95%. There were consequences of not achieving 95% in the HDT that require some form of action, as set out in the NPPF.

As Oldham had delivered 91% of the housing required, we are required to prepare an Action Plan to address housing delivery. Oldham's previous Action Plan was published in July 2024, as such it is proposed to update the Action Plan as required. Action Plans should be published within six months from the measurement publication date.



This is Oldham Council's fifth Action Plan, drawn up in response to the Housing Delivery Test: 2023 Measurement, published December 2024.



The Cabinet was informed that the report had been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where the recommendations were supported and endorsed.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 – To approve the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2025 for publication in line with the requirements of the Housing Delivery Test: 2023 Measurement results (published December 2024).

Option 2 – To not approve the Housing Delivery Test Action Plan 2025 for publication. This would not comply with the requirements of the Housing Delivery Test Rule Book and the Housing Delivery Test: 2023 Measurement results (published December 2024).

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board endorsement and support for the recommendations, detailed in the submitted report, on this item, from their meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
2. To note that this item will be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Constitution, as the report has already been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board.
3. To approve the Housing Delivery Action Plan 2025 (Part One and Part Two) for publication in line with the requirements of the Housing Delivery Test: 2023 Measurement results.

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## **GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that sought approval that the Council would be content for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to be published, on the Council's website and to authorise the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to confirm the same in writing to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Mayor of Greater Manchester (GM), as the responsible body for the GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The Environment Act 2021 introduced the requirement for Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) to cover the whole of England, to set out where and how efforts should be focused locally to contribute to halting and reversing the decline in biodiversity.

The GM LNRS represented an opportunity to set out a long-term vision for a greener city region, where nature is returning, and more people have better access to greenspace.

The strategy covered the following:

- a. A shared vision for nature recovery in Greater Manchester
- b. Shared priorities and targets for nature recovery
- c. Actions we can all work towards to help deliver them
- d. Maps of a Greater Manchester Nature Network made up of:
- e. Core local nature sites - existing valuable areas for nature
- f. Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas - opportunity areas where action should be focused across the city-region.

Officers at Oldham Council had inputted into the LNRS through various workshops and meetings. The LNRS was also publicly consulted on between November 15<sup>th</sup> 2024 and January 31<sup>st</sup> 2025.

The Cabinet was informed that the report had been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where the recommendations were supported and endorsed.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 - Oldham Council to agree that they are content for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to be published; and authorise the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to confirm the same in writing to the GMCA and the Mayor as the responsible body for the GM LNRS. This would allow support for the GM LNRS to be expressed, allowing the LNRS to be published once all supporting authorities have confirmed their support. There are no disadvantages to this option.

Option 2 - Oldham Council to disagree that they are content for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to be published; and to give a publication advisory notice to the responsible authority outlining that they disagree with the publication of the strategy based on one the grounds under article 15 of the LNRS regulations within 28 days of the receipt of the final LNRS. This would allow for any valid objections to be raised and considered but would delay a nature recovery network being published.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board endorsement and support for the recommendations, detailed in the submitted report, on this item, from their meeting held on 12th June 2025.
2. That Cabinet notes that this item will be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Constitution, as the report has already been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board.
3. That the Cabinet approves the content for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy to be published.
4. That the Cabinet authorises the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to confirm the same in writing to the GMCA and the Mayor as the

## **OLDHAM ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE (EVCI) STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/ Deputy Chief Executive that sought adoption and publication the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan.

The Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan sets out the future direction for EVCI in Oldham. It would ensure that the Council's plans will align with relevant national, regional and local policies, as well as Oldham's goals to decarbonise the borough by 2030.

The strategy outlined how Oldham Council was committed to making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents - a significant step in overcoming the barriers to EV ownership and helping to make the borough a more attractive place to live and work.

The Action Plan outlined a phased approach over the next three years of smaller work packages that lay the foundations for larger, more ambitious schemes. Each action works towards the overall vision of the strategy and will utilise grant funding where available, whilst acknowledging the role commercial charge-point operators will also play.

The Oldham EVCI Strategy and Action Plan was intended to support the borough's ambitions for growing the EVCI network across the borough, with key actions set out over the next three years to support this.

The Cabinet was informed that the report had been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025, where the recommendations were supported and endorsed.

Options/alternatives considered:

Option 1 - To adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan for the borough. To use the strategy and action plan to guide us towards our vision of making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents. To use currently available and future grant funding opportunities to improve the EVCI offer across Oldham.

Option 2 – To not adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan for the borough. To not use the strategy and action plan to guide us towards our vision of making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents. To not use currently available and future grant funding opportunities to improve the EVCI offer across Oldham.

Option 1 was the preferred Option.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board endorsement and support for the recommendations, detailed in the submitted report, on this item, from their meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
2. Cabinet notes that this item will be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Constitution, as the report has already been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board.
3. That the Cabinet authorises the adoption and publication of the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan for the borough.
4. That the Cabinet agrees to use the strategy and action plan to guide us towards our vision of making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents.
5. That the Cabinet agrees to utilise currently available and future grant funding opportunities to improve the EVCI offer across the Borough of Oldham.

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## **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting, for the following four items of business, on the grounds that they contain exempt information under paragraph 3 Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and it would not, on balance, be in the public interest to disclose the reports.

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## **CREATING A BETTER PLACE - UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to agenda item 12: 'Creating a Better Place – Update'.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes and approves the progress being made in relation to the Creating a Better Place (CaBP) Programme that supports revenue savings generated, progress towards the borough's carbon reduction targets, creation of new jobs, apprentice opportunities, new homes for Oldham's residents and increased social value.
2. That the Cabinet notes and approves the social value gained for Oldham's residents and communities through the design, development and delivery of the projects within the CaBP programme.
3. That the Cabinet notes and approves the technical, legal and commercial recommendations for certain projects are contained within this report., including the relevant financial, contractual or legal recommendations for each of the projects within the Council's CaBP capital programme as set out in section 4 of the submitted, confidential, report.
4. That the Cabinet notes and approves the recommendations following a further review of the CaBP capital programme assessing the risks, impacts of change, deliverability, financial impact and contractual

challenges to identify any potential opportunities to ensure alignment of the projects with the political priorities of the Council.

5. That the Cabinet approves the delegation of approval to the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holders and the Directors of Growth, Finance and Legal for any further contractual, technical or financial decisions for the delivery of the CaBP projects referenced (all of which follow previous Cabinet approvals on the holistic detail and parameters for project delivery, contractual obligations and financial management) in full consultation with the relevant portfolio holder(s).
6. That the Cabinet approves the delegation of authority to the Interim Borough Solicitor, or his nominees, 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.

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## **LOCAL GROWTH AND PLACE FLEXIBLE GRANT ACCEPTANCE**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to agenda item 13: 'Local Growth and Place Flexible Grant Acceptance'.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves the acceptance of the £2,175,336.90 LGPFG grant against the three interventions approved for funding by GMCA broken down as follows:
  - a. E1 – Accessible Oldham – allocation £1,131,786.90.
  - b. Jubilee Park Phase 1 – increase accessibility into and around the town centre park.
  - c. Town Centre Park Staff Members – facilitate the expansion of the town centre green space that has been created in the Town Centre.
  - d. E6 – Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme – allocation £543,550.
  - e. Co-design cultural events to support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. Creating a safe, welcoming and vibrant town centre with wayfinding and town centre wardens / ambassadors.
  - f. E22 – Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support – allocation £500,000.
  - g. Providing financial assistance to owners and tenants who wish to enhance their shopfronts. Supporting local business growth, improves the local shopping environment, and raises the town's appeal.
2. That the Cabinet notes that as accountable body for LGPFG, GMCA has issued a Funding Agreement in respect of the grant, which has been reviewed by the Council's legal services.



3. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive to agree the terms of the Funding Agreement issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Interim Borough Solicitor and to approve appointments of professional teams and contract award in respect of the agreed budgets.
4. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Interim Borough Solicitor, or his nominated representative, to finalise and enter into the Funding Agreement issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award subject to the completion of any necessary due diligence on subsidy control compliance and authority to agree and complete any project change requests under the Funding Agreement.
5. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Interim Borough Solicitor, or his nominated representative, to formalise any necessary legal requirements including signing and/or sealing any documentation referred to and/or required to give effect to the recommendations and/or delegations in this report.
6. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Growth, or their nominated representative, to agree approval of spend, works or individual grants for the Accessible Oldham projects, Town Centre Infrastructure and Cultural Events Programme projects and Town Centre Shop Front Business Grants and Support project.
7. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Growth, or their nominated representative, to agree monitoring and evaluation of defined outputs and negotiations thereupon as required over the grant delivery period of 2025–2026.
8. That the Cabinet notes and endorses that the internal governance and administration for the LGPFG grant will be performed via the Creating a Better Place Programme Board (CAPB) structures.

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### **OLDHAM COUNCIL (NON-LFFN) SITES**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to agenda item 14: 'Oldham Council (Non-LFFN) Sites'.

Resolved:

That the cabinet agrees that that Oldham Council shall enter into a collaboration agreement with Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the network provision to the non-LFFN (Oldham One) council sites via a three-year (with options for year 4 and 5) contract.

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### **LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING FUND (LAHF) - ACCEPTANCE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to agenda item 15: 'Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) - Acceptance of Additional Funding'.



Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board endorsement and support for the recommendations, detailed in the submitted report, on this item, from their meeting held on 12th June 2025.
2. That Cabinet notes that this item will be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Constitution, as the report has already been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board.
3. That the Cabinet approves acceptance of the additional £372,000 grant from MHCLG.
4. That the Cabinet approves a capital grant of £320,574 to be awarded by the Council to Cromwood Housing Limited from the Flexible Housing Fund.
5. That the Cabinet agrees to delegates authority to the Director of Growth, or their nominee, to agree and enter into a grant agreement with Cromwood Housing Limited under which:
  - a. Up to £692,574 (£372,000 MHCLG grant and £320,574 Council grant) would be payable to Cromwood in grant monies to bridge the funding gap for Cromwood's design and delivery of its own housing scheme in the Oldham Borough.
  - b. Cromwood's housing scheme will deliver 3 homes for temporary accommodation and 1 home under the re-settlement co-hort.
  - c. Cromwood's housing scheme will align with the LAHF priorities.
  - d. Fit for purpose grant terms and conditions are imposed.
6. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Interim Borough Solicitor, 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 the submitted report.
7. That the Cabinet agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Growth, or their nominee, to approve the appointment of external legal advisors, as required, to protect the Council's interests and give effect to the recommendations in the submitted report.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.40pm

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY HELD ON FRIDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

GMCA Deputy Mayor	City Mayor Paul Dennett (in the Chair)
GM Deputy Mayor	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Eleanor Wills
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair of VCSFE Leadership Group	Warren Escadale
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**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Group Chief Executive Officer	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
Group Chief Finance Officer	Steve Wilson
Secretary	Sarah Horsman
Bolton	Sue Johnston
Bury	Paul Lakin
Manchester	Paul Marshall
Oldham	Shelley Kipling
Rochdale	James Binks
Salford	Melissa Caslake

Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Harry Catherall
Trafford	Sarah Saleh
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

### **1. APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received from Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester), Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Lynne Ridsdale (Bury), Tom Stannard (Manchester) & Sara Todd (Trafford).

### **2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR 2025/26**

That it be noted that Andy Burnham, as the Mayor of Greater Manchester, under Part 5A, section 4 of the Constitution, is the Chair of the GMCA (ex-officio).

### **3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRS 2025/26**

1. That it be noted that City Mayor, Paul Dennett, Deputy Mayor, is automatically appointed as a Vice Chair of the GMCA, under Part 5A, section 4, of the Constitution.

2. That it be noted that that Councillor Mark Roberts is automatically appointed as a Vice Chair of the GMCA, under Part 5A, section 4, of the Constitution.

3. That the appointment of Councillor Bev Craig as a Vice Chair of the GMCA, under Part 5A, section 4, of the Constitution be approved.

#### 4. GMCA CONSTITUTION

That the revised constitution accompanying this report as the Constitution of the GMCA be adopted.

#### 5. APPOINTMENTS TO GREATER MANCHESTER BODIES

1. That the appointments by Greater Manchester Local Authorities of members and substitute members to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for 2025/26 be noted as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
<b>GMCA</b>	Andy Burnham	-
<b>Bolton</b>	Nicholas Peel (Lab)	Jackie Schofield (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)	Lucy Smith (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Bev Craig (Lab)	Joanna Midgley (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Arooj Shah (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Neil Emmott (Lab)	Daalat Ali (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Paul Dennett (Lab)	Tracy Kelly (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Mark Roberts (Lib Dem)	Jilly Julian (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Eleanor Wills (Lab)	Andrew McLaren (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Tom Ross (Lab)	Liz Patel (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	David Molyneux (Lab)	Nazia Rahman (Lab)

2. That the appointment of Sarah Horseman, Interim Deputy Director of Governance & Scrutiny, as the Secretary of the GMCA be approved.
3. That the appointment of the following members to the GMCA Standards Committee for 2025/26 be approved:

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
1.	Arooj Shah	Oldham (Lab)
2.	Eleanor Wills	Tameside (Lab)
3.	Nick Peel	Bolton (Lab)
4.	Tom Ross	Trafford (Lab)
5.	Mark Roberts	Stockport (Lib Dem)

4. That the appointment of the following members to the GMCA Resources Committee for 2025/26 be approved:

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>
1.	Paul Dennett	Salford (Lab)
2.	Tom Ross	Trafford (Lab)
3.	Eamonn O'Brien	Bury (Lab)
4.	Bev Craig	Manchester (Lab)
5.	Andy Burnham	GMCA (Lab)
6.	David Molyneux	Wigan (Lab)
7.	Mark Roberts	Stockport (Lib Dem)

5. That the appointment of the following members and substitute members to the GMCA Audit Committee for 2025/26 be approved:

	<b>Member</b>	<b>Local Authority</b>

1.	Olly Baskerville	Trafford (Lab)
2.	Elliott Moss	Bury (Lab)
3.	Colin McLaren	Oldham (Lab)
4.	Martyn Cox	Bolton (Con)
	<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
1.	Emily Mort	Bolton (Lab)
2.	John Merry	Salford (Lab)

6. That 15 members and 15 substitute members be appointed to the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee for 2025/26 as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Richard Silvester (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Bury</b>	Gareth Staple-Jones (Lab)	To be confirmed
	Alan Quinn (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Manchester</b>	Lee-Ann Igbon (Lab)	To be confirmed
	Shaukat Ali (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Ken Rustidge (Lab)	Pamela Byrne (Con)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Aasim Rashid (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Paul Heilbron (Lib Dem)	Arnold Saunders (Con)
	Barbara Bentham (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Stockport</b>	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)	Grace Baynham (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Liam Billington (Con)	To be confirmed
	Laura Boyle (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Trafford</b>	Dylan Butt (Con)	Simon Lepori (Lib Dem)



	Stephen Adshead (Lab)	To be confirmed
	Sue Maitland (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Wigan</b>	N/A	

7. That the appointment of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to the Bee Network Committee for 2025/26 be noted.
8. That Tom Ross (Lab) (Trafford) be appointed, to act as the substitute member for the Mayor of Greater Manchester, to the Bee Network Committee for 2025/26.
9. That Eamonn O'Brien (Lab) (Bury) be appointed to act as the GMCA member on the Bee Network Committee member for 2025/26, and that Neil Emmott (Lab) (Rochdale) be appointed to act as GMCA substitute member on the Bee Network Committee for 2025/26.
10. That the Bee Network Committee be requested to appoint five members from the Committee (4 Labour and 1 Conservative) to the Greater Manchester Accessible Transport Ltd (GMATL) Board.
11. That the appointments to the Bee Network Committee by the 10 GM Local Authorities for 2025/26, be noted, as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Hamdi Khurram (Lab)	Sean Fielding (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Alan Quinn (Lab)	Gareth Staples-Jones (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Tracey Rawlins (Lab)	Anthony McCaul (Lab)

<b>Oldham</b>	Joshua Charters (Lab)	Chris Goodwin (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Phil Burke (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Paul Dennett (Lab)	Mike McCusker (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Grace Baynham (Lib Dem)	Michaela Meikle (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Stephen Homer (Lab)	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Aidan Williams (Lab)	Stephen Adshead (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)	John Vickers (Lab)

12. That it be noted that the Mayor will appoint up to 4 additional members to the GMCA Bee Network Committee.

13. That 20 members and 20 substitute members be appointed to the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee for 2025/26 as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member (x20)</b>	<b>Substitute (x20) Pool</b>
Bolton	John Walsh (Con)	Nadim Muslim (Con)
	Peter Wright (Independent)	Mohammed Ayub (Lab)
Bury	Russell Bernstein (Con)	Martin Hayes (Lab)
	Imran Rizvi (Lab)	Gavin McGill (Lab)
Manchester	John Leech (Lib Dem)	Alan Good (Lib Dem)
	Mandie Shilton-Godwin (Lab)	Olusegun Ogunbambo (Lab)
	Basil Curley (Lab)	Basat Sheik (Lab)
Oldham	Colin McLaren (Lab)	Louie Hamblett (Lib Dem)

	Ken Rustidge (Lab)	Graham Shuttleworth (Lab)
Rochdale	Terry Smith (Lab)	Aiza Rashid (Lab)
	Dylan Williams (Lab)	Mohammad Arshad (Lab)
Salford	Lewis Nelson (Lab)	Maria Brabiner (Lab)
	Tony Davies (Lab)	Neil Reynolds (Lab)
Stockport	Helen Hibbert (Lab)	Rachel Wise (Lab)
Tameside	Sangita Patel (Lab)	Michael Smith (Lab)
	David Sweeton (Lab)	Christine Beardmore (Lab)
Trafford	Shaun Ennis (Lib Dem)	Nathan Evans (Con)
	Will Jones (Lab)	Jill Axford (Lab)
Wigan	Samantha Brown (Lab)	Debra Wailes (Lab)
	Mary Callaghan (Lab)	Fred Walker (Lab)

14. That the Portfolio Lead for Culture be appointed to the GM Culture & Social Impact Fund Committee.

15. That the appointments made by the GM Local Authorities to the GM Culture & Social Impact Fund Committee for 2025/26 be approved as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
<b>GMCA Portfolio Lead</b>	Neil Emmott	
<b>Bolton</b>	Nadeem Ayub (Lab)	Karen Hon (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Charlotte Morris (Lab)	Michael Rubinstein (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Tim Whiston (Lab)	Leslie Bell (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Peter Dean (Lab)	Aftab Hussain (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Hannah Robinson-	Joshua Brooks (Lab)

	Smith (Lab)	
<b>Stockport</b>	Dan Oliver (Lib Dem)	Jilly Julian (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Leanne Feeley (Lab)	Hugh Roderick (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Eve Parker (Lab)	Rose Thompson (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Keith Cunliffe (Lab)

16. That the Portfolio Lead for Green City Region be appointed to the Green City Region Board.

17. That the appointments to the Green City Region Board as nominated by the 10 GM Local Authorities for 2025/26 be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>GMCA Portfolio Lead</b>	Tom Ross (Lab)
<b>Bolton</b>	Richard Silvester (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Gareth Staple-Jones (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Tracey Rawlins (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Tricia Ayrton (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Mike McCusker (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Laura Boyle (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Aidan Williams (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)

18. That the GMCA Green-City Region Portfolio Leader be appointed to the Greater Manchester Green City Region Partnership Board for 2025/26.

19. That the Portfolio Lead for Housing First be appointed to the GMCA Homelessness Board.

20. That the appointments to the Greater Manchester Homelessness Board as nominated by the 10 GM Local Authorities for 2025/26 be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>GMCA Portfolio Lead</b>	Paul Dennett (Lab)
<b>Bolton</b>	Sean Fielding (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Clare Cummins (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Joanna Midgely (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Holly Harrison (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Tracy Kelly (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Andrew McLaren (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	George Devlin (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Susan Gambles (Lab)

21. That the Portfolio Lead for Children & Young People be appointed to the GMCA Children's Board.

22. That the appointments to the GMCA Children's Board as nominated by the 10 GM Local Authorities for 2025/26 be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>GMCA Portfolio Lead</b>	Mark Roberts (Lib Dem)
<b>Bolton</b>	Martin Donaghy (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Lucy Smith (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Julie Reid (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Shaid Mushtaq (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Rachel Massey (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Jim Cammell (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Wendy Meikle (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Teresa Smith (Lab)

<b>Trafford</b>	Karina Cater (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Dane Anderton (Lab)

23. That the appointments from the GM Local Authorities to the Clean Air Charging Authorities Committee for 2025/26 be noted as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Richard Silvester (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Bury</b>	Alan Quinn (Lab)	Gary Staples-Jones (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Tracey Rawlins (Lab)	Anthony McCaul (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Trisha Ayrton (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Mike McCusker (Lab)	Jane Hamilton (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)	Grace Baynham (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Laura Boyle (Lab)	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Aidan Williams (Lab)	Stephen Adshead (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Samantha Brown (Lab)

24. That the Portfolio Leader for Clean Air be appointed to the Air Quality Administration Committee.

25. That the appointments from the GM Local Authorities to the Air Quality Administration Committee for 2025/26 be noted as follows:



<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>GMCA</b>	Eamonn O'Brien	
<b>Bolton</b>	Richard Silvester (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Bury</b>	Alan Quinn (Lab)	Gary Staples-Jones (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Tracey Rawlins (Lab)	Anthony McCaul (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Tricia Ayrton (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Mike McCusker (Lab)	Jane Hamilton (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)	Grace Baynham (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Laura Boyle (Lab)	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Aidan Williams (Lab)	Stephen Adshead (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Samantha Brown (Lab)

26. That the appointments from the GM Local Authorities to the GM Clean Air Scrutiny Committee for 2025/26 be noted as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Martin Donaghy (Lab)	Shafaqat Shaikh (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Elliot Moss (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Manchester</b>	Mandie Shilton Godwin (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Graham Shuttleworth (Lab)	Junaid Hussain (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Tom Besford (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	John Mullen (Lab)	Stuart Dickman (Lab)

<b>Stockport</b>	Frankie Singleton (Lib Dem)	Jeremy Meal (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	David Sweeton (Lab)	Christine Beardmore (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Jill Axford (Lab)	David Jarman (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Christine Roberts (Lab)	To be confirmed

27. That the appointments from the GM Local Authorities to the Police Fire and Crime Panel for 2025/26 be noted as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Rabiya Jiva (Lab)	Abdul Atcha (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Sandra Walmsley (Lab)	Ummrana Farooq (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Garry Bridges (Lab)	Rabnawaz Akbar (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Aftab Hussain (Lab)	Holly Harrison (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Barbara Bentham (Lab)	Gina Reynolds (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Dan Oliver (Lib Dem)	Helen Foster-Grime (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Stephen Homer (Lab)	Jacqueline Owen (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Rose Thompson (Lab)	Simon Thomas (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Kevin Anderson (Lab)	Yvonne Klieve (Lab)

28. That the appointments from the GM Local Authorities to the Police Fire and Crime Steering Group for 2025/26 as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Rabiya Jiva (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Sandra Walmsley (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Garry Bridges (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Aftab Hussain (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Janet Emsley (Lab)

<b>Salford</b>	Barbara Bentham (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Dan Oliver (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Stephen Homer (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Rose Thompson (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Kevin Anderson (Lab)

29. That the Portfolio Holder for Healthy Lives be appointed to the GM Integrated Care Partnership Board.

30. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the GM Integrated Care Partnership Board be noted as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute</b>
<b>GMCA</b>	GM Mayor	
<b>Bolton</b>	Sean Fielding (Lab)	Jackie Schofield (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Tamoor Tariq (Lab)	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Bev Craig (Lab)	Thomas Robinson (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Barbara Brownridge (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Daalat Ali (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	John Merry (Lab)	Mishal Saeed (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Keith Holloway (Lib Dem)	Helen Foster-Grime (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Eleanor Wills (Lab)	Tafheen Sharif (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Jane Slater (Lab)	Tom Ross (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Keith Cunliffe (Lab)	David Molyneux (Lab)

31. That it be noted that the Mayor of Greater Manchester be appointed to the GM Business Board.

32. That Arooj Shah (Lab) (Oldham), Bev Craig (Lab) (Manchester) and Eamonn

O'Brien (Lab) (Bury) be appointed to the Greater Manchester Business Board (formerly Local Enterprise Partnership) for 2025/26.

33. That Stephen Adshead (Lab) (Trafford) be appointed, and Aiden Williams (Lab) (Trafford) be appointed as the substitute member to act as the GMCA's appointment to the Transport for the North Audit & Governance Committee.

34. That Paul Prescott (Lab) (Wigan) be appointed, and Colin McLaren (Lab) (Oldham) be appointed as the substitute member to act as the GMCA's appointment to the Transport for the North Scrutiny Committee.

35. That Councillors Eleanor Wills (Lab) (Tameside), Bev Craig (Lab) (Manchester), Nazia Rehman (Lab) (Wigan), Arooj Shah (Lab) (Oldham) and Liz Patel (Lab) (Trafford) be appointed to the Growth Company Board for 2025/26.

## **6. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - 2025/26**

That the following schedule of meetings for 2025/26 be noted:

### **2025**

22 August 2025 (replacing 25 July meeting)

26 September 2025

7 November 2025 (replacing 31 October meeting)

28 November 2025

13 December 2025

### **2026**

30 January 2026

13 February 2026

27 February 2026 (if required)

27 March 2026

27 May 2026

26 June 2026

## **7. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS**

There were none.

## **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **a) MINUTES OF THE GMCA MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2025**

That the minutes of the meeting of the GMCA held on 30 May 2025 be approved as a correct record.

## **9. MINUTES OF THE BEE NETWORK COMMITTEE HELD ON 29 MAY 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Bee Network Committee held on 29 May 2025 be noted.

### **a) ADOPTING A NEW GREATER MANCHESTER STRATEGY**

1. That the draft Greater Manchester Strategy be approved for adoption.

2. That the draft Greater Manchester Strategy Performance Framework be approved.

3. That the proposed next steps with the intention to develop a Delivery Plan in coming months be noted.

### **a) GREATER MANCHESTER VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY, FAITH AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE ACCORD: UPDATE AND FORWARD STRATEGY**

1. That the challenges outlined in the report, faced by many VCFSE organisations at this time, and the resulting risks to delivery of the Greater Manchester Strategy ambition, including programmes led by GMCA, its partners and constituent local authority members, be noted.
  2. That the proposed VCFSE Accord Delivery Plan for 2025/26 be noted.
  3. That the proposed forward strategy for GMCA collaboration with the VCFSE sector be endorsed.
  4. That the comments highlighted by the Chair of the Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group be received
  5. That the GMCA record its thanks to the Greater Manchester VCFSE Leadership Group for their work on the forward strategy.
- b) RACE EQUITY FRAMEWORK: IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE AND FUTURE AREAS OF FOCUS

1. That the collective progress in implementing the Race Equity Framework be noted.
  2. That the collective key deliverables for the next 12 months be approved.
  3. That the GMCA will continue to lead, support and challenge implementation of the framework within their organisations and Portfolios, and champion racial equity at every opportunity.
- a) DELIVERING BETTER BUS SERVICES FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

1. That the report and the publication of the 'Delivering Better Bus Services for Greater Manchester – report on early results, June 2025' be noted.
2. That it be noted that the National Audit Report will be shared with members of the GMCA.



3. That officers be requested to submit a further update to the GMCA in due course.

4. That endorsement of the network review schedule by the Bee Network Committee be noted.

5. That the GMCA record its thanks to Bee Network officers for the route changes that have been made to date to improve the network.

b) CITY REGION SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT SETTLEMENT  
REPRIORITISATION STRATEGY

1. That the current position in relation to the transport infrastructure pipeline be noted.

2. That the proposals for the reprioritisation of CRSTS1 capital funding, as detailed within Section 3 of the report, be approved.

3. That the proposals for the allocation of CRSTS1 revenue funding for 2025/26, as set out in section 3 of the report, be approved.

4. That the proposals for additional Highways Maintenance funding, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be approved.

5. That the proposals to review arrangements for Highways Network Management, as set out in Section 4 of the report, be noted.

6. That the proposed list of prioritised schemes to support the delivery of the Integrated Pipeline, detailed in Section 5 and Appendix 1 of the report, be approved.

7. That the proposed list of prioritised schemes for the receipt of funding to support the delivery of the Bee Network, detailed in Section 6 and Appendix 2 of the report, be approved.

8. That the outline proposals for the funding to support the delivery of Active Travel improvements, set out in Section 7 of the report, be noted and that officers be requested to submit detailed proposals on the prioritisation of these allocations to the next meeting of the GMCA.
  9. That the proposals in relation to the Potential Capital to Revenue 'switch', as set out in Section 8 of the report, be noted.
  10. That the allocation of the of the additional CRSTS1 revenue funding, set out in Section 9 of the report, be approved.
  11. That the next steps, as set out in Section 10 of the report, be approved.
  12. That it be noted that a drawdown of capital funding of 15% of the budgeted cost for each scheme, detailed in Appendix One and Two of the report, has been sought from the Bee Network Committee, subject to the approval of Recommendations 5 and 6 to facilitate the immediate progression of these schemes.
  13. That it be noted that a drawdown of capital funding totalling £10.2m for Local Authority Highways Maintenance, which represents the portion of the overall £25m allocation, detailed in Section 4 of this report, derived from headroom in the CRSTS1 pipeline, has been sought from the Bee Network Committee, subject to the approval of Recommendation 4.
- a) **RE-COMMISSIONING OUR PASS EXCLUSIVES: ELIMINATING COST BARRIERS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ACCESS CULTURAL, LEISURE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**
1. That the update regarding promotion of Our Pass and the Exclusives offer be noted.
  2. That it be noted that the completed impact assessments show that areas relevant to the Our Pass Promotion and Exclusives contract show emphatically positive impacts overall. There were no negative impacts in the areas reviewed, with

no need for caveats or mitigations to make this offer worthwhile to young people in Greater Manchester.

3. That the proposals for re-commissioning, as set out in this report, be endorsed.

4. That, Paul Dennett, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, acting in place of the Mayor, agreed that the Exclusives offer should continue and the approach to re-commissioning being taken by officers.

5. That, Paul Dennett, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, acting in place of the Mayor, delegated authority to the Group Chief Finance Officer (in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer Lead and Portfolio Lead for Education, Skills and Work) to approve the award of the new contract and any post-award.

a) IMPROVING RENTING STANDARDS AND ENFORCEMENT ACROSS GREATER MANCHESTER

1. That the three proposed areas of focus for the implementation of the Property Check be approved and that the £1 million for implementation from the Housing First retained business rates 2025/26 allocation be noted.

2. That officers be requested to explore the possibility of Greater Manchester becoming a pilot area for the national landlord database with Greater Manchester councils and government officials.

3. That the update on the launch of the Good Landlord Charter be noted.

4. That the use of Retained Business Rates, that have already been committed to Housing First in 2025/26, should a decision be made to extend the Good Landlord Charter Implementation Unit contract, as set out in paragraph 3.4, be approved.

5. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Managing Director to make operational decisions regarding the future development of the Good Landlord Charter, with decisions on accreditation being taken in consultation with the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer and other decisions being in consultation with the Good Landlord Charter Board, as set out in paragraph 3.6, of the report.

6. That the successful outcomes of the Good Landlord Scheme Trainee Programme and PRS Pathfinder Project be noted.

b) HEALTHY HOMES SERVICES IN GREATER MANCHESTER: SUPPORTING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE FIRST FALLS PREVENTION PILOT

1. That the contents of the report be noted.

2. That the Housing Assistance Policy template be endorsed.

3. That the GMCA supports the proposal for the upcoming First Falls Prevention Pilot.

c) GM BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND: ORIGINAL BROWNFIELD HOUSING FUND REVIEW, 2025/26 PROGRAMME AND PRIORITISATION METHODOLOGY

1. That the prioritisation methodology for allocating additional Brownfield funding to schemes in the Year 3 Programme, be approved.

2. That the review of the Original Brownfield Housing Fund programme be noted.

3. That the project variations and new funding allocation, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.

4. That the review of the Original Brownfield Housing Fund programme be noted.

5. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Housing, to approve urgent variations to existing funding from the Greater Manchester Housing Investment Loans Fund and approve new funding and urgent variations to existing funding from the Brownfield Housing Fund, in the period 28 June 2025 to 21 August 2025.

6. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to prepare and effect the necessary legal agreements.

a) STOCKPORT MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDC)  
DELIVERY PLAN 2025-2030

1. That the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation's Strategic Business Plan 2025-2030 (Appendix A) be approved.

That the Stockport Town Centre West Mayoral Development Corporation's Action Plan 2025-2030 (Appendix B) be approved.

b) WESTERN GATEWAY: PROPOSED MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT ZONE

1. That the designation of a Mayoral Development Zone, known as The Western Gateway Development Zone (WGDZ), be approved.

2. That the proposed area of the WGDZ, as indicated in Map 1 attached at Appendix 1, be approved.

3. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive, to agree appropriate representation on the Board, in consultation with Salford and Trafford Council.

4. That the use of the existing Salford and Trafford Infrastructure Board will act as the shadow board until the new WGDZ Board gets approval.

5. That the principles of the strategic investment plan and development strategy for the MDZ, be noted and agreed, as set out in paragraphs 5.2-5.6 of the report, which the WGDZ Board will oversee and submit to the GMCA for approval.

That officer be requested to submit future updates on delivery progress on the WGDZ to the GMCA.

c) PROPOSED OLD TRAFFORD REGENERATION AREA MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDC)

1. That the creation of an MDC for the regeneration of Old Trafford Regeneration area be approved, in principle.
  2. That the undertaking a consultation exercise by the Mayor, in respect of the designation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for the Old Trafford Regeneration area, be endorsed.
  3. That it be noted that if the principle of an MDC and consultation were approved, GMCA officers will explore with Trafford Council detailed options for an MDC to be created for the Old Trafford Regeneration area, with these matters to be the subject of further reports in due course.
  4. That it be noted that if the principle of an MDC and consultation are approved it is proposed that contact will be made with the relevant Government department to outline proposals for the Old Trafford Regeneration MDC and obtain support for the proposed MDC.
  5. That officers be requested to submit a further report to the GMCA setting out the outcome of the consultation and further investigation work.
  6. That, Paul Dennett, Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, acting in the place of the Mayor, agreed in principle, to the creation of an MDC for the regeneration of the Old Trafford Regeneration area.
  7. That, Paul Dennett Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, acting in the place of the Mayor, approved the undertaking of a consultation exercise, as described above and in this report.
  8. That it be noted that Old Trafford Cricket Club would also be engaged, as a valuable partner organisation on the development of the proposed MDC.
- a) GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK: CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL

1. That a loan of up to £3,500,000 to P. Fahey and Sons (U.K.) Limited be approved.
2. That an amendment to a loan provided to ClearCycle Ltd be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive and Group Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the Portfolio Lead for Investment and Resources, to approve projects for funding and agree urgent variations to the terms of funding in the period 28 June March to 21 August 2025.
4. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Finance Officer and the Group Solicitor and the Group Solicitor and Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above investments, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the investments, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of these.

#### **10. GMCA CAPITAL OUTTURN 2024/25**

1. That the 2024/25 actual outturn capital expenditure of £598.0m compared to the forecast position presented to GMCA on 7 February 2025 of £631.6m be noted.
2. That the great work being undertaken in the region by Project Skyline be noted.

#### **11. GMCA REVENUE OUTTURN 2024/25**

1. That it be noted that the Mayoral General Budget provisional revenue outturn position for 2024/25 was breakeven after planned transfer to earmarked reserves.



2. That it be noted that the GMCA General Budget provisional revenue outturn position for 2024/25 was breakeven after planned transfer to earmarked reserves.
3. That it be noted that the Mayoral General – GM Fire & Rescue provisional revenue outturn position for 2024/25 was breakeven after a transfer of revenue funding to capital.
4. That it be noted that the Waste and Resourcing provisional revenue outturn position for 2024/25 was breakeven after a transfer from reserve of £18.7m.
5. That it be noted that the GMCA Transport and TfGM provisional revenue outturn positions for 2024/25 were breakeven after transfers between earmarked reserves.
6. That it be noted that the final position was subject to the submission of the audited accounts to be reported to the GMCA Audit Committee.

## **12. GREATER MANCHESTER INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK: CONDITIONAL PROJECT APPROVAL**

That the report be noted.

## **13. STOCKPORT MAYORAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MDC) ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2025 - 2026**

That the report be noted.

A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here:

[https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/meetings/meeting/724/greater\\_manchester\\_combined\\_authority](https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/meetings/meeting/724/greater_manchester_combined_authority)

This decision notice was issued **Tuesday 30 July 2019** on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Churchgate House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on FIELD\_CALLIN\_EXPIRY

### **Call-In Process**

In accordance with the scrutiny procedure rules, these decisions would come into effect five days after the publication of this notice unless before that time any three members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to call-in a decision.

Members must give notice in writing to the Chief Executive that they wish to call-in a decision, stating their reason(s) why the decision should be scrutinised. The period between the publication of this decision notice and the time a decision may be implemented is the 'call-in' period.

Decisions which have already been considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where the GMCA's decision agrees with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may not be called in.

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

Salford	Mayor Paul Dennett (In the Chair)
Deputy Mayor (Police, Crime & Fire)	Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Eleanor Wills
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor Nazia Rehman

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Group Chief Executive Officer	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gillian Duckworth
Group Chief Finance Officer	Steve Wilson
Secretary	Sarah Horseman
Bolton	Sue Johnston
Bury	Paul Lakin
Manchester	Paul Marshall
Oldham	Shelley Kipling
Rochdale	James Binks
Salford	Melissa Caslake
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Harry Catherall
Trafford	Sarah Saleh
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Danny Vaughan
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

**1. APOLOGIES**

That apologies be received from Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester), Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan), Lynne Ridsdale (Bury), Tom Stannard (Manchester) & Sara Todd (Trafford).

**2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2025/26**

That the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, be appointed as Chair of the AGMA

Executive Board under Section 9.2 of the AGMA Constitution.

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRS TO THE AGMA EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2025/26

1. That the appointment of City Mayor Paul Dennett Deputy, as a Vice Chair of AGMA, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be approved.
2. That the appointment of Councillor Mark Roberts as a Vice Chair of AGMA, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be approved.
3. That the appointment of Councillor Bev Craig as a Vice Chair of AGMA, under Section 9.1, of the Constitution be approved.

### 4. AGMA CONSTITUTION

That the AGMA Constitution be noted.

### 5. AGMA APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

1. That the appointments from GM Local Authorities to the AGMA Executive Board for 2025/26 be noted as follows:

Local Authority	Member	Substitute Member
<b>GMCA</b>	Andy Burnham	-
<b>Bolton</b>	Nicholas Peel (Lab)	Jackie Schofield (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Eamonn O'Brien (Lab)	Lucy Smith (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Bev Craig (Lab)	Joanna Midgley (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Arooj Shah (Lab)	Elaine Taylor (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Neil Emmott (Lab)	Daalat Ali (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Paul Dennett (Lab)	Tracy Kelly (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Mark Roberts (Lib Dem)	Jilly Jullian (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Eleanor Wills (Lab)	Andrew McLaren (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Tom Ross (Lab)	Liz Patel (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	David Molyneux (Lab)	Keith Cunliffe (Lab)

2. That the Portfolio Lead for Housing First be appointed to the Planning and Housing Commission.
3. That the appointment of ten members, nominated by Local Authorities to the Planning and Housing Commission be approved as follows:

Local Authority	Member
<b>GMCA Portfolio Lead</b>	Paul Dennett
<b>Bolton</b>	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)

<b>Bury</b>	Clare Cummings (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Gavin White (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Holly Harrison (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Daniel Meredith (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Mike McCusker (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Jake Austin (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Andrew McLaren (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Liz Patel (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Susan Gambles (Lab)

4. That the appointment of three members and three substitute members to the North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, from the nominations received from the GM Manchester Local Authorities, be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
<b>Bury</b>	Alan Quinn	Gareth Staple-Jones
<b>Manchester</b>	Mandie Shilton-Godwin	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Philip Cusack	Jane Hamilton

5. That the Portfolio Lead for Technical Education & Skills be appointed to the GM Employment Work & Skills Members Forum.
6. That the appointment of ten members, nominated by Local Authorities to the Employment Work & Skills Members Forum, be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>
<b>GMCA</b>	Eamonn O'Brien
<b>Bolton</b>	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Charlotte Morris (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	John Hacking (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Mohon Ali (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Daniel Meredith (Lab)
<b>Salford</b>	Teresa Pepper (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Micheala Meikle (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Andrew McLaren (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Liz Patel (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Dane Anderton (Lab)

7. That the appointments and substitutes to the Greater Manchester Health Scrutiny Committee appointed by the Local Authorities, be noted as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Ayub Patel (Lab)	Debbie Newall (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Elizabeth Fitzgerald (Lab)	Joan Grimshaw (Lab)
<b>Manchester</b>	Basil Curley (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Oldham</b>	Colin McLaren (Lab)	Ken Rustidge (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Patricia Dale (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Irfan Syed (Lab)	Sammie Bellamy (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Wendy Wild (Lab)	Karl Wardlaw (Lab)

<b>Tameside</b>	Sangita Patel (Lab)	Shibley Alam (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Emma Hirst (Lab)	Ben Hartley (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Ronald Conway (Lab)	Debbie Parkinson (Lab)

8. That the appointments and substitutes to the Greater Manchester Statutory Functions Committee from members nominated by the local authorities, be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Nadeem Ayub (Lab)	Akhtar Zaman (Lab)
<b>Bury</b>	Charlotte Morris (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Manchester</b>	Tim Whiston (Lab)	Leslie Bell (Lab)
<b>Oldham</b>	Peter Dean (Lab)	Holly Harrison (Lab)
<b>Rochdale</b>	Shaun O'Neill (Lab)	To be confirmed
<b>Salford</b>	Hannah Robinson-Smith (Lab)	Joshua Brooks (Lab)
<b>Stockport</b>	Dan Oliver (Lib Dem)	Jilly Julian (Lib Dem)
<b>Tameside</b>	Leanne Feeley (Lab)	Hugh Roderick (Lab)
<b>Trafford</b>	Eve Parker (Lab)	Rose Thompson (Lab)
<b>Wigan</b>	Paul Prescott (Lab)	Kevin Anderson (Lab)

9. That the appointment of Charlotte Morris (Bury) to the Halle Board be approved.
10. That the appointment of the Group Chief Executive Officer to the Halle Board be approved.
11. That the appointment of Nathaniel Tetteh (Salford) to the Peoples History Museum Board be approved.
12. That the appointment of Mishal Saeed (Salford) to the Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Council of Governors for a three-year term of office be approved.
13. That the appointment of nine members and nine substitutes nominated by the Local Authorities to the GM Pensions Fund Management Panel, be approved as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Responsibilities held as per the TOR</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	Nick Peel (Lab)	Leader
<b>Bury</b>	Sean Thorpe (Lab)	Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member, Finance and Transformation
<b>Manchester</b>	Rabnawaz Akbar (Lab)	Executive Member for Finance and Resources
<b>Oldham</b>	Abdul Jabbar (Lab)	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability
<b>Rochdale</b>	Peter Hodgkinson (Lab)	Assistant Portfolio Holder for Finance and Growth
<b>Salford</b>	Jack Youd (Lab)	Deputy City Mayor and Lead Member for Finance, Support Services and Regeneration
<b>Stockport</b>	Jilly Julian (Lab)	Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources

<b>Trafford</b>	Joanne Harding (Lab)	Executive Member for Finance, Change & Governance
<b>Wigan</b>	Nazia Rehman (Lab)	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Transformation

## 6. CHAIRS' ANNOUNCEMENTS AND URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were none.

## 7. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

## 8. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2025

That the minutes of the AGMA Executive Board held on 7 February 2025 be approved.

## 9. GM JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT

1. That the Annual Report of the GM Joint Health Scrutiny Committee be noted.
2. That the members of the AGMA Executive Board be recommended to actively communicate the role and achievements of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee within their respective Local Authorities.

## 10 AGMA 2024/25 FINAL OUTTURN

3. That the report and the AGMA final revenue outturn for 2024/25 be noted.
4. That the position of reserves in 2024/25 as detailed in the report be noted.

A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here:

[https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/meetings/meeting/724/greater\\_manchester\\_combined\\_authority](https://www.gmcameetings.co.uk/meetings/meeting/724/greater_manchester_combined_authority)

This decision notice was issued **Tuesday 30 July 2019** on behalf of Julie Connor, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on FIELD\_CALLIN\_EXPIRY



## **Call-In Process**

In accordance with the scrutiny procedure rules, these decisions would come into effect five days after the publication of this notice unless before that time any three members of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee decides to call-in a decision.

Members must give notice in writing to the Chief Executive that they wish to call-in a decision, stating their reason(s) why the decision should be scrutinised. The period between the publication of this decision notice and the time a decision may be implemented is the 'call-in' period.

Decisions which have already been considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and where the GMCA's decision agrees with the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may not be called in.

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

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This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to the portfolio responsibilities.

### **Districts:**

The Government funded Community regeneration fund is due to launch later this month. The fund aims to support the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector to embed community-based decision-making, ensuring residents and the voluntary sector play a role in shaping local investment priorities. The fund will support community capital investment projects that have a direct and positive impact on local communities and facilities. Each of the 5 Districts of Oldham will have up to £1million to be allocated to Community regeneration projects.

District Community Councils are continuing to deliver against agreed priority plans informed by local insights and community voices. Work is now progressing to develop stronger resident links to community councils with a consistent approach across all 5 districts to deliver partnership led resident engagement events linked to the work of the community councils.

In August we saw regional and national interest in the work of the Operation Vulcan initiative and the Community HAF events delivered in the Derker neighbourhood of East Oldham. Visits from the Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester, Kate Green, and from the Government Home Office were hosted in the Community to showcase and share the positive partnership work with GMP and to demonstrate the community impact.

### **Community Safety & Cohesion:**

Operation Vulcan has continued to operate in the Derker area, achieving positive results with vehicle, drug and weapon seizures. The Vulcan Partnership Team are also regular attendee at the HAF events in Stoneleigh Park, engaging with residents of all ages.

The Community Safety Partnership has continued supported funding for two key prevention and intervention projects. Early Break has a Specialist Young Persons Advocate which includes a street-based outreach offer for young people who may be involved an ASB or using substances in the community. Through Positive Steps and TOG Mind, a Wellbeing Coach delivers trauma informed wellbeing sessions. This project has been hugely successful in reducing reoffending.

Operation Wembley is the GMP force response to the protests relating to the housing of asylum seekers in hotels. In Oldham, GMP, the Council and Serco, which is the organisation which manages asylum accommodation, have worked together to engage with local residents and businesses and to ensure the protests take place in a safe and coordinated way.

### **Public Protection:**

According to the RAC, in 2021, 50 Councils across the UK declared that there were 21,000 vehicles abandoned within their districts. These vehicles are either left on public roads, in rear alleyways/highways or on private land and it is the Council that is obliged to remove them when they fit the criteria set out in legislation.

Since 2023 the Council has seen a significant increase in the number of complaints about abandoned vehicles. I can report that the number of abandoned vehicles reported to the Council increased from 334 in 2023/24 to 1099 in 2024/25. This year in the first quarter of 2025/26 we have already received 397 referrals (more than the whole of 2023/24). This shows that the issue of abandoned vehicles across the Borough is a real and growing problem, but we are committed to using the legislation available to us, in order to remove them.

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**Planning:**

Our Development Management Service continues to be a busy service, as exemplified by some of the stats officers collated in June – approximately 8,000 hits on our planning application webpages, mainly around residents wanting to view and comment on planning applications. In addition, the service receives around 200 phone calls each month to the general planning phone line from residents. The service also received 29 reports related to enforcement concerns in June. We are currently engaging in a review of how we can improve the way residents and applicants can contact the service and to ensure that we respond in a timely fashion.

Our Strategic Planning team continues to progress our Part 2 Local Plan that will provide Oldham specific planning policies to help determine planning applications that will sit alongside Places for Everyone (PfE) as part of our joint development plan. We will be further engaging with Members in Autumn before we go out for the final round of consultation on the Local Plan in the New Year.

**Waste Cleansing & Greenspace:**

Waste: QR codes are now available for new/replacements household bins across the borough.

The QR code will link directly to the Council's rubbish and recycling web page so residents can easily access the online page to report a missed bin collection, check which rubbish goes in which bin, find out their collection schedule, request an assisted collection and find out about recycling services.

Cems & Crems: All headstones due to be safety checked in the annual inspection for 2025 have now been inspected. (NB approximately 35,000 headstones throughout the 7 cemeteries in Oldham and 7,000 are inspected every year to ensure the HSE recommendations of a 5 yearly inspection is carried out).

An external company, Cemetery Development Services, is about to be engaged to carry out an environmental feasibility study to extend a burial area in Chadderton Cemetery, with the intention to extend the cemetery capacity for a further 20 years. Two cremator manufacturers have now submitted draft plans to replace the 3 cremators at Hollinwood Crematorium. The next stage of the project will be to tender for the works

Arboriculture and Countryside: Ash dieback works are ongoing with over 200 diseased trees removed this year. A full tree planting program is being developed for the winter period with at least 400 new standards being planted and at least 2 hectares of new woodland.

The species survival project at Leesbrook is progressing well with in-channel weir works commencing on 15th September. 2km of footpath and access improvements are ongoing with tree planting due to commence in November.

Borough-Wide Seasonal Planting: Summer maintenance operations are in full swing across the Borough and our bedding programme is nearing completion, with floral beds, barrier planters, and hanging baskets installed across key town centre and community locations. Planning and preparation for the borough's winter/spring bedding allocation is currently underway.

Sports Pitch Reinstatement: Reinstatement works on the borough's natural turf sports pitches have now been completed following the winter and spring playing seasons, ensuring pitches are ready for the new season.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services & Sustainability.

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

**Finance:** Work continues to review our current financial support offer to residents to ensure we are resident focused and have a joined-up and outcomes focused offer. Workshops have been held over the summer led by Oldham Positive Action Network (OPAN) to listen to and understand the lived experience of residents experiencing financial crisis. The Council have received notification from the Department of Work and Pensions that the Household Support Fund (HSF) will be replaced with the Crisis and Resilience Fund from 1 April 2026. The Council's approach to utilising the fund will be developed once further information had been made available in due course.

In June 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government issued the Fair Funding Review 2.0 Consultation. This consultation proposed several changes to how Councils are funded from 2026/27 onwards, moving away from one-year settlements and focusing on allocating funding to high needs and low tax base authorities like Oldham. The closing date for this consultation was 15 August 2025, and Oldham submitted a response by the deadline. The outcome of this consultation will be included within the Local Government Finance Settlement expected towards the end of the calendar year.

**Internal Audit and Counter Fraud:** The Head of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud issued a Limited Assurance opinion on the effectiveness of the Council's systems of governance and internal control for the year 2024/25. The concerns raised in the Head of Internal Audit and Counter Fraud's Annual Opinion Report have been reported to the Council's Leadership and Management Boards, and to the Council's Audit Committee. Action to address the audit recommendations made is already underway. Oversight on progress against management action plans will be monitored throughout the year by regular reports to both Leadership and Management Boards, and to the Audit Committee. Counter fraud activity during the year 2024/25 also identified financial outcomes totalling £448,786.

**Procurement:** PA23 has now been live for 6 months and CPU and the wider Council are positively adjusting to the changes and additional workload demands brought about by the new Regulations. Over the coming months, the priority is to commence the recruitment process for the permanent CPU team now the future workload is better understood. The Contracts Register is in early development stages having gathered pipeline information provided by the service areas. It is expected that the pipeline/Contracts Register will be shared at a future Management Board to provide full visibility of the demands of CPU and to ensure service areas feel adequately supported. This future view of procurement expectations will go on to support the ability to recognise and deliver efficiencies. Work continues with the Growth Hub and Oldham Trading Platform to drive spend with local suppliers.

**Workforce:** We are pleased to share that a permanent Assistant Director of Workforce & Organisational Culture, Eleanor Devlin, joined us at the end of July. Eleanor will lead all operational and strategic HR services and initiatives. A HR & OD ReBuild Plan is under consultation from stakeholders which will highlight specific service risks as outlined in previous audit reports, and a detailed 12-month plan to address gaps in structure, service, knowledge and system. The ambition is to publish in September. Work is underway to support Council's ambition to be a great place to work. Our peer support networks continue to gain traction, with each existing group soon to have a named senior sponsor to act as advocate and feedback loop for each network. The Council have been able to submit 3 successful candidates for the GM Elevate programme, designed to increase diversity at senior level. We continue to make strong progress with our "grow our own"/early careers ambitions. We have had positive feedback from 10 young people who completed our summer work

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experience programme. We have 6 Graduates due to start in September; 3 through national LGA programme, 2 Finance Graduates and one Pathway into Planning.

**Revenues and Benefits:** We continue to make good progress with the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates with both up on last year at the end of Quarter 1. Comparisons with other authorities in the GM benchmarking group show that we were 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 10 respondents for Council Tax at the end of Quarter 1. Recovery of arrears brought forward in 2025/26 now stands at over £2m for Council Tax and £150k for Business Rates. The Benefits service continues to see high volumes of Universal Credit change in circumstances from DWP but are making efforts to reduce the backlog that has arisen in claims for Council Tax Reduction. The new Assistant Director Revenues and Benefits has been meeting his counterpart from Adult Social Care to discuss the improvement plan that has been put in place and the return of the ASC Financial Assessment team to the Revenues and Benefits service. Progress has recently been made, and it has been agreed that we will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the improvement plan together over the next four weeks to determine if any further action is required. In the first Quarter of 2025, the Welfare Rights Service brought in £830k of which £260k is one off backdated awards. The service continues to support a range of benefit take up campaigns planned for 2025/26 working closely with the Community Engagement Team, Family Intervention and VCFSE to maximise support to our residents. Work has progressed on completing a redesign/restructure of the service, with the intention to commence consultation in September.

**Legal & Governance:** A meeting of the Independent Remuneration Panel took place in August, and their report is on the agenda for Council's consideration. The guidance on declarations of interest is being refreshed and during September it will be issued to members with a request to submit a new declaration of interest form for 2025/2026. The Elections Act 2022 introduced changes to postal vote applications, including having to apply for your postal vote every three years (replacing the previous five-yearly signature refresh process). Over the next few months, we will contact every elector whose postal vote period is due to expire. During September we will be contacting around 12,500 postal voters that are due to renew their postal votes. We are in the final phase of the canvass and door knocking will take place from Thursday 11 September to Sunday 29 September. During this period, canvassers will visit properties in Oldham that have not responded to previous canvass forms, and Elections will also be carrying out telephone canvassing.

**IT & Digital:** We are pleased to share that a Permanent Director of Digital, Matthew Gratton joined us earlier this month. Matthew will lead all Digital, Technology and IT functions ensuring they are fit for purpose and enable our ambitions. Matthew has a wealth of experience and joins us from the London Borough of Southwark. Inclusive Bytes CIC delivered a range of digital activities over the summer from a unit at Spindles including 3D printing, device repair café and digital skills. This was supported by grant funding successfully obtained by the Council via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

**Climate Change & Green New Deal:** Preparation of tender documents for the Oldham Green New Deal Partner is continuing with a view to publication October / November 2025. The tender documents will incorporate the large quantity of positive feedback the Council received from its Market Engagement exercise. The Low Carbon Heat Network anchor project continues to be developed and the Council is exploring the potential to use some of its Green Heat Network Fund capital grant to implement Early Works in the town centre. The Council is in the final stages of agreeing the contract with its preferred contractor for Wrigley Head Solar Farm with a view to beginning construction in the autumn. The perimeter security fence should be installed the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> September.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

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This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to Portfolio activities.

Children's Social Care and Early Help are providing support to 3,495 Children and Young People plans, 827 early help, 1,434 children in need, 381 child protection, 599 children looked after and 464 care leavers (3 Sept 2025)

### Ofsted Focused Visit

I'm pleased to share that we had a successful Ofsted Focused Visit of the Front Door in July that demonstrated a relentless focus to continuously improve the support and interventions we provide to vulnerable children, young people and their families. Areas for recommendation will be addressed through the Achieving Excellence Action Plan. The published report is at the following link - [Children's Services Focused Visit Report](#). During their time in Oldham, inspectors found a timely response to needs and risk, an effective Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), strong social work practice and I'm really proud that practitioners shared positive feedback about their experiences of working in Oldham, and their strong commitment to delivering the best outcomes. I want to give particular thanks to Julie Daniels and the children's leadership team for their continued drive and passion to deliver excellent services for children.

### Workforce

At the end of July 2025, the total Social Work England workforce was 273.65. Our current agency rate is 22.3% and we remain committed to growing our permanent workforce through recruitment and retention initiatives, with a number of permanent social workers joining us in September and October. In September we will celebrate the success of our routes into social work with 20 practitioners commencing their newly qualified social worker roles.

We are continuing to create learning opportunities aligned to quality assurance findings and there is consistent positive feedback received from practitioner forums evidencing the learning culture across the service.

### Complex Safeguarding

The Complex Safeguarding Hub has been supporting Operation Sherwood and in July, 3 warrants were issued by GMP and 2 arrests made in relation to historic child sexual abuse. The Complex Safeguarding Team were linked into this action to ensure any relevant safeguarding activity was conducted as a partnership approach.

### Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership have promoted a range of training delivered by the Centre of Expertise on child sexual abuse and will be holding a multi-agency practice week in October with a focus on Protecting Children from sexual abuse. The Safeguarding Advisor for Education led a Prevent working group in the development of a handbook for education as requested by Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) across Oldham alongside delivering training sessions.

### Children in Care and Care Leavers

For children in care and care leavers, we have continued to provide safe, stable placements and support as they transition into adulthood. Of the 597 children in our care, 314 are placed in internal foster care, maintaining strong internal provision. 115 children are in kinship settings. The service is working hard to ensure internal provision is full, with fortnightly tracking meetings. I was delighted to attend the recent launch of Oldham's third Mockingbird Hub, which provides guidance and support to our foster carers and children in care to maintain their placements.



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I am pleased to highlight 51% of our young people aged 18 – 21 are in education, employment, and training which is an improving outcome. There are a number of developments continuing with our care leavers such as the partnership work with Get Oldham Working, Oldham Athletic and First Choice Homes. In addition, a group of care leavers have co-produced their own Pathway Plan document which will be implemented in the service.

### **Family Help**

During the last year the number of children open to targeted early help has reduced overall but has stabilised in recent months at between 850-900, impacted by a number of factors: the strengthened Early Help team in MASH who are working with partners to identify the best support for families, the increased availability of early support through family hubs, and the reduced re-referral rate following support by targeted early help.

The Domestic Abuse team are working with just under 300 clients, with most contacted and allocated an Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) within 48 hours of a referral being received.

The new structure in the Family Hubs is becoming embedded, and recruitment has taken place to most of the vacant Child and Family Practitioner and Business Support Officer posts. The new staff are being trained on the new systems.

Implementation is continuing to progress on the 2025/26 Family Hubs Delivery Plan. Engagement on the Family Hubs Facebook page more than doubled, rising from 418 in May to 866 in June (+107%).

### **Early Years**

Government has published its Best Start In Life Strategy, confirming the commitment to the national rollout of Best Start Family Hubs. The strategy links to achievement of the national target of 75% of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) by 2028.

The unvalidated Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) shows the Oldham GLD is 63.1% in 2025 compared to national at 68.3%. Outcomes for boys have improved, which was a key area of focus for this academic year, and the gap to girls has narrowed. Out of the 113 children who took part in the Making it REAL programme, 77.8% achieved the GLD, which is an improvement on the 67% GLD the previous year.

96.6% of Early Years settings are good or outstanding (94% of group providers and 100% of childminders).

### **Youth Service**

The Youth Services Summer programme provided a comprehensive programme of positive and enriching activities for Oldham young people with over a hundred sessions delivered.

Detached youth teams have worked in town centres to reduce anti-social behaviour (ASB) and promoted water safety at known swimming spots. Outreach in Derker with Operation Vulcan is strengthening relationships between young people and professionals.

Summer HAF began in July with 39 providers delivering from 54 venues. Some of the many summer HAF activities are boxing, swimming, performing arts, climbing and outdoor pursuits. Visits undertaken have demonstrated good quality provision.

Well done to the team for receiving the Leaders Merit Award from Shaw and Crompton Town Council for outstanding community contributions.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.



## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health & Wellbeing



This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to the portfolio responsibilities.

### **Public Health:**

#### Hepatitis C Update

The Oldham Drug and Alcohol Service (ROAR), funded by Oldham Council, have achieved micro-elimination of Hepatitis C. The Oldham service achieved this by meeting four targets set out by the NHS, which are 100 per cent of people using the service have been offered a hepatitis C test; 98 per cent of those with a history of injecting have been tested, 91.5 per cent of these people have then been tested in the last 12 months and 95.1 per cent of people who were diagnosed with hepatitis C have started treatment, completed treatment, or cleared the virus naturally. This is an excellent achievement and shows how supporting people to access our services can have a massive impact on their health and wellbeing.

#### Oral Health

Tooth decay is entirely preventable, but tooth extraction - largely due to tooth decay- is the leading cause of hospitalisation among 5-9 year-old children. Brushing teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste is effective in preventing tooth decay and maintaining good oral health. Oldham Council has recently received **15,000 toothbrushes** and **8000 tubes of fluoride toothpaste** from Colgate Palmolive. These resources will be distributed to 3-4 year-old children in Oldham through Early Years settings, oral health initiatives and other channels to ensure as many children as possible can benefit.

### **Adult Social Care:**

#### CQC preparedness

At the last Full Council, I reported that Adult Social Care had received its notification from CQC on the Information Return, which was submitted by the deadline of the 27<sup>th</sup> June. The information return is a key part of the assessment process of how a local authority is carrying out its adult social care functions as per part 1 of the Care Act 2014. On the 27<sup>th</sup> June, over 150 documents were submitted on the CQC portal. On the 18<sup>th</sup> August, CQC notified us of the date they will be assessing on site of the week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

CQC are interested in meeting with key partners of Adult Social Care, including the Chairs of key groups and boards such as Overview and Scrutiny and the Health and Wellbeing Board. Briefings are being held with key stakeholders to support the preparation of the assessment.

#### Commissioning

We are due to recommission the Care at Home and Extra Care Housing commissioning frameworks. The current Care at Home and Extra Care Housing framework, which was originally commissioned in April 2019 for a five-year term with a two-year extension option, is due to expire on 31 March 2026.

It has been assessed that the current commissioning approach – of allocating two prime providers to each of the five clusters with a number of ‘backup’ providers contracted – has been successful, predominantly as Oldham, unlike many other authorities across the country, does not have a waiting list for people being supported in their home. Market engagement sessions have taken place, which has provided the opportunity for us to outline the focus, which is to continue with the Living Well at Home agenda and the operating model of *supporting people to live independently, healthy, safe and well*. An additional focus is being given to aligning with our social value framework and being assured of the outcomes for Oldham residents. The tender is due to go live in the autumn, with new contracts to be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026.

#### Operations consultation outcomes and recruitment opportunities

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Following several staff consultations across Adult Social Care, the service is now progressing recruitment of essential posts to ensure statutory responsibilities can be met. Significant work is taking place across all service areas in particular mental health services where Adult Social Care are in the process of developing with staff new protocols and pathways to move from an integrated arrangement to a partnership agreement with Pennine Care Foundation Trust (PCFT).

**Integrated health care and NHS service:**

Saddleworth Health Centre Progress

ICB colleagues working with Council Officers have recently appointed MP Architects who are now progressing the feasibility/design work based on the existing leisure centre site, but following a variety of discussions with local community reps and ward member colleagues, they will also explore an alternative location at old Saddleworth School site along with the impact of potentially relocating the leisure centre. In due course they will present back to Officers a full longlist options appraisal will be conducted, including land use, housing, co-location potential, and deliverability. The NHS team is currently leading this work,

Chadderton Health Centre

After several months of work, the NHS Place Team has managed to agree a reclassification of Chadderton health centre building, which means it has now been formally reclassified as Tail Estate. Therefore, NHS Property Services have consequently attended the site to progress updated condition surveys. These will help strengthen any future case for investment or change. In addition, NHS GM is currently developing its infrastructure strategy and priority pipeline, and the local Place team has ensured that Woodlands Medical Practice is clearly represented within this. The next steps of work needed which the Place Team are committed to get support to commission NHS Property Services to develop a business case as now it is classified as Tail Estate it will be an Oldham priority.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education & Skills

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This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

### Education

Results days are some of the proudest moments in the education calendar. This summer, I joined colleagues to celebrate with our young people across schools and colleges on their GCSE and A-Level results days. It was inspiring to see the talent, determination, and ambition of Oldham's learners as they move on to exciting new destinations. The initial indications are that broad GCSE attainment will remain as strong as in 2024 and that Oldham pupils have achieved better A' levels than in previous years.

The Key Stage 2 SAT results for Reading, Writing and Maths show that 2,073 children met the expected standard. That's an improvement of 2.2% in the borough compared with national improvement of 1.1%. I'm particularly pleased by the improvements made this year by boys and children with free school meals. It's a reflection of the incredible hard work of our children, teachers, and school leaders.

Ofsted inspections this term have brought more good news, with positive reports at The Oldham Academy North, Brian Clarke, EACT Royton & Crompton, Kingsland PRU, and a range of successful inspections across our primary schools. These results show that the quality of education in Oldham is going from strength to strength.

On attendance, we continue to lead the way:

- Secondary attendance is up 0.6% on last year - the best of all 11 statistical neighbours.
- Primary attendance is up 0.4% - ranking 3rd of 11.
- Special school attendance is up 0.8%.

This is a major achievement, and I thank everyone who has worked tirelessly to make sure our children are in school, learning, and thriving.

### SEND and Inclusion

Oldham is once again at the forefront of change, shaping the national SEND reforms and leading the way in inclusion. Over the summer, we continued testing Year 3 of the SEND reforms, including the launch of our new Local Inclusion Support Offer (LISO). This initiative is already providing practical advice and hands-on support to schools, strengthening mainstream inclusion and ensuring more children can thrive in local classrooms.

Work to expand and improve alternative provision is also progressing strongly. Primary and secondary outreach services are now in place, and I am proud to share that we are developing a partnership with Oldham Athletic — an exciting collaboration that will provide targeted, positive opportunities for children who need a different kind of support.

At the same time, our SEND Capital Provision Strategy continues at pace. We are now in Phase 3, with expressions of interest out to schools for new Additional Resource Provisions (ARP) and upgrades to existing SEND provision. These investments mean more local specialist places, stronger inclusive settings, and better outcomes for children and families in Oldham.

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## **Music Service**

Oldham's young musicians have once again been a source of immense pride. Over the summer, the Music Service delivered an extensive programme of performances — from national and Saddleworth band contests to vibrant town centre showcases as part of Festival Oldham. These events not only highlighted the exceptional talent of our young people but also the cultural richness that makes Oldham such a special place.

## **Post-16 and Skills**

Oldham is determined to give every young person and adult the skills and opportunities they need to succeed.

I am pleased to report that the proportion of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) has fallen again — down to 4.63% in June 2025, compared to 4.96% in May. This steady improvement shows the difference our collective efforts are making. This figure is still too high, however, and I have asked officers to develop an improvement plan.

The Empower Oldham programme continues to support young people to overcome barriers and move into education, training, or work. Positive Steps is now developing an evidence base to demonstrate its impact on NEET figures, helping to secure the case for future GMCA funding.

We have also secured a significant share of investment from the GMCA's £10 million capital fund — with Oldham College receiving £437,000 to increase capacity by 180 places over two years. This is a strong signal of confidence in Oldham's post-16 offer and will directly benefit local learners.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for a revamped Careers Event in November, which will connect our young people with Greater Manchester and Oldham employers, raising ambition and opening doors to new opportunities. At the same time, the Employment & Skills Strategy will be launched at the Get Oldham Working Summit — setting out a bold vision for skills in our borough.

The Lifelong Learning Learner and Volunteering Celebration Event took place in July. Over 100 people came together to celebrate the achievements of 42 learners and to honour 18 volunteers who have given their time as learning support workers and tutors. Their stories are a reminder of the power of lifelong learning and the community spirit that runs through Oldham.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Peter Dean, Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure.

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This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

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**Leisure & Sports:** Oldham's commitment to helping residents Move More continues to grow, with exciting developments across our 'Move More Feel Better' work. We've recently been through a successful recruitment process for two new Community Development Officers (Move More), in partnership with Action Together Oldham. These roles will be instrumental in supporting our Sport England-funded Place Partnership work, helping tackle inactivity and inequality in some areas across all five districts of Oldham to build movement into their everyday lives.

Alongside this, we've been working closely with GM Moving to co-develop a Theory of Change for our Move More Feel Better programme. This collaborative approach is helping us shape a clear, shared vision for how we support communities to Move More, tackle inequalities, and embed physical activity into the fabric of everyday life in Oldham.

Over the summer OCL completed their upgrade investment of over £160k at Oldham Leisure Centre and Royton Leisure Centre on replacing their full range of strength equipment on gym floors. A new supplier was selected and feedback from customers to date has been overwhelmingly positive.

The pool at Royton Leisure Centre has been closed to complete the re-lining of the pool tank. The current expected reopening date is 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The replacement, which comes with a 15 year warranty, was triggered by deterioration of the pool tank that was installed as part of the original build over ten years ago. OCL, in partnership with the Council, have optimised the repair phase to undertake additional works on the pool treatment system and lighting in the pool hall at the same time, and with the upgrade of the air-conditioning in the fitness areas, represents a combined investment of around £125k to maintain and improve this well-used community asset. Staff have worked hard to re-home swim lesson pupils and swim club sessions at other sites over this period to minimise disruption.

Since launching the new OCL membership offer for Council staff this summer, 275 have already signed up with the latest enrolment due to start in October; this significant discount, administered directly through payroll, represents a great offer for Council staff and will encourage healthier lifestyles amongst colleagues. The next phase is to develop and launch a similar offer for Councillors in the coming months.

**Heritage:** Civic Collections have been moved from Rochdale Road Civic Building to the new JR Clynes Building. The display was enjoyed by visitors on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> August as part of the opening event for the refurbished Old Library.

Move of archive collections into the new Spindles space has been progressing well. First collections to return to their new home was the Oldham Chronicle archives.

Oldham Histories Festival and Heritage Open Days will run from 12 to 21 September across the borough celebrating the heritage of Oldham. [Festivals & Outdoor Events - Oldham HLA](#)

**Libraries:** Northmoor Library reopened on 9<sup>th</sup> August 2025, following refurbishment, with funding secured from Arts Council England's (ACE) Library Improvement (LIF) Round 2. The investment

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enabled the modernisation of the library with new windows, doors, roof, and a complete refit and layout of furniture, which will support more flexible programming and increased work with partners. The library was opened by the Mayor and families enjoyed craft activities and were overjoyed with their new library.

Oldham Library is also in the middle of refurbishment – with funding secured from Round 3 of the LIF fund from ACE. The ground floor of the library is being reconfigured with new flexible shelving, study and workspaces with pixel power units embedded into desks, a new reception area, modernized shop, improved wayfinding signage and digital screen promoting the cultural offer. These changes will ensure we adapt our library spaces to meet changing and demanding needs for flexible performance space, increased partnership working and study space. Works will be completed by 8<sup>th</sup> September.

In July, the library service delivered StoryFest, bringing together authors and illustrators to inspire the next generation of storytellers from Oldham. On the 12<sup>th</sup> July, the Summer Reading Challenge was also launched, encouraging children to sign up and read over the summer holidays. A range of events have taken place over the summer on the SRC theme of Story Garden, with over 1,700 children signing up for the challenge.

**Arts:** Khushi Festival was delivered at Oldham Library and Northern Roots on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Aug, showcasing outdoor performances, family friendly workshops and live music. Presented in partnership with Women's CHAI project and Oldham Coliseum, Khushi is a celebration of South Asian Talent.

Oldham Theatre Workshop delivered their summer show 'Chasing the Wind' at Oldham Library Performance Space. The show was a heartwarming theatrical production which centred around the poignant story of a young person who selflessly donates their heart to another. The show was sold out and had outstanding feedback. BBC Northwest Tonight did a feature on the show, highlighting the importance of organ donation.

**Culture:** Jubacana, Oldham's youth-led percussion and dance project based at Gallery Oldham performed at Manchester Day on Saturday 26 July. The group of 25–30 young people aged 8–18 create powerful music influenced by Brazilian rhythms with a UK twist, blending percussion, guitars, flute, and vibrant choreography. Led by young leaders with support from professional artists, Jubacana exemplifies what youth can achieve through the arts.

BBC Radio Manchester covered the Time Trek Heritage Trail in August which we launched at the start of the summer. The trail is a free augmented reality adventure featuring 12 stops and hidden characters waiting to be discovered around the town centre. Families step back in time and discover Oldham's history by taking selfies with characters, reading stories, and solving mini puzzles. Along the way, visitors will step into the shoes of local hero Annie Kenney, spot elephant head carvings, and interact with charming animals. Those who visit all 12 stops and solve a word puzzle will receive a free digital children's prize and earn a treat\* from the Waterstones inside The Spindles

A new artist commission has been launched to create a statement artwork for The Loom, our new events venue in the town centre. This artwork will reflect the legacy of the cotton industry in Oldham and the forward-looking ambition of this new venue.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.



## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Fida Hussain,  
Cabinet Member for Enterprise.

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This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to the portfolio responsibilities.

### **Employment & Employability:**

The official measure of unemployment states that Oldham borough has seen a 12% reduction in unemployment with 4.9% unemployment rate (March 2025) compared to 5.5% the previous year (March 2024). Universal Credit Claimant remains steady at 7%.

### **Get Oldham Working:**

- Core Offer: Supporting 7,000+ residents each year with jobs, training, apprenticeships, business advice & wellbeing.
- Working Wardrobe: 520 residents supported Year to Date.
- Therapy & counselling: 3 rooms now open, 90–100 sessions/week.
- Access to gym & physical wellbeing support.

**Restart Programme:** Ahead with engagement & outcomes recently (280 residents into work since April). Improved employer links, access to GM-wide vacancies, weekly job-start tracking. Supporting key Council priorities including working the Muse and their supply chain to connect residents to job opportunities.

**National Careers Service:** 1,120 residents supported since April 2025, 90%+ satisfaction. External audit completed with no issues.

**Support to Succeed:** 720 residents supported, 68% moved closer to work.

**Vanguard:** 65 residents have started onto programme in the 6 weeks, Oldham exceeding 100% engagement target – one of few GM providers achieving this, demonstrating strong demand for work and health integration.

### **New Projects Mobilisation:**

**Trailblazer Programme:** 37 referrals ready. Partnership induction training underway with first referrals being inducted in September. Extensive work has been carried out to develop a bespoke Management information system.

**Sanctuary Seekers Project:** Programme starts September, 12 early referrals logged.

### **Performance & Achievements**

- 612 job outcomes (Q1) – 63% sustained.
- 148 apprenticeships & training starts.
- 210 residents supported with in-work progression..
- Expanded therapy provision & two new GM programmes mobilised

### **Community & Business Engagement**

- 240 businesses engaged, creating 310 new opportunities.
- Social media reach: 6,800+ Facebook. LinkedIn followers 4k+
- Businesses supported to meet social value through local recruitment.

### **Recent Resident Feedback**

“Working Wardrobe gave me the confidence to attend my interview.”

“I didn’t just get job help – therapy made the difference.”

**Get Oldham Working Jobs Fair – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September noon- 3pm at the QE Hall**



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**Business Networking:**

The Council and partners continue to support the local business community through a range of networking events and programmes:

**Muse supplier event:**

Muse hosted a supplier event on Thursday 14 August at the Hive with around 60 business in attendance. Businesses heard about future supply chain opportunities as well as what support they could receive from the Business Growth Hub and Get Oldham Working. This is the first of several events.

**Willmott Dixon** – are hosting a 'Future Ready Supply Chain' Event- 24th September, also at the Hive, Oldham.

**Business Growth Hub** continue to host a series of business support drop-in sessions, the last one was held on the 21 August at Station Business Centre, Chadderton. The next event will be held at Ram Mill on 11 September.

**Town Centre Forum:**

Over 70 people attended the Town Centre Forum on 18 June to hear updates on the Muse housing development, learn about support for businesses from the Growth Company and see the first glimpses of the Coliseum winter programme. The town centre shop front grant scheme was launched by the Leader and to date 45 applications have been submitted from businesses keen to invest in improving their shops in the town centre.

The seventeenth annual Oldham Business Awards takes place on Friday 3 October.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways.

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This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

### **Strategic Transport & Bee Network:**

**Rail** - GMCA are currently producing their draft Rail Vision for the region - we welcome this and have fed comments into the process, asking for greater collaboration between combined authority areas to realise the vision.

Trans-Pennine-Route-upgrade works continue, and we continue to work with Network Rail to ensure that the benefits for the borough are realised.

**Tram-Train** - We have been speaking with TfGM about the proposed tram-train Pathfinder scheme, which would operate along a c.24km route, enhancing connectivity between the town centres of Oldham, Rochdale, Castleton, Heywood, and Bury and between homes and the key employment sites across Atom Valley, including Northern Gateway and Kingsway Business Park.

The scheme would significantly enhance public transport connectivity across the north of GM and with the National Rail network, acting as a pilot for future tram-train expansion across Greater Manchester. This improved connectivity would significantly reduce public transport journey times, with ~40% reductions forecast for some movements, making public transport a true alternative to car travel.

We continue to work with TFGM colleagues on this potential development to get the best for the borough.

**Bus** - We continue to work with TfGM to ensure that bus services are improved across the borough. We are working closely with the Network Review team to ensure that progress is made as quickly possible.

**Active Travel** - Increasing the opportunities for Active Travel remains one of our top priorities and, alongside our Local Sustainable Transport Fund infrastructure schemes, we are now working on activation activities including bikeability and walking groups. Our Schools Streets programme continues to grow, ensuring that more children across the borough can travel to school actively in a safe environment.

### **Highways Maintenance:**

**Gully Cleaning** - The planned gully cleansing programme is continuing cleaning via ward, there are 20 listed on the Council website - to date approximately 47,500 gullies have been visited. Work remains ongoing – a significant number of gullies are requiring revisits to 'dig out' and repair the network – this is having an impact on the proposed timetables, also we are experiencing vast numbers of parked cars that is also impacting the amount of cleans carried out daily, we are working closely with ward members to try and get parked cars removed, as ever, we will keep ward members and residents updated.

**Potholes** - Between April and July 2025, we received 592 enquiries regarding Potholes / Road Defects which has resulted in 335 Jobs being raised for Pothole repairs.

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Just for your information the performance is as follows:

	PH Enquiry	PH Job	Ad Hoc Jobs	No. Complete	Average time	Safety Inspection Jobs	All Jobs	No. Complete	Average time
April	120	103	41	39	11	62	103	99	15
May	155	73	27	25	10	46	73	68	11
June	134	65	36	34	7	29	65	62	7
July	183	94	43	38	8	51	94	86	8

**Drainage** - Following approval of the Council budget on Monday, 22nd July 2025, this year's Minor Drainage programme is now in the pre-construction phase. There are numerous schemes with the current total estimate being around £88k at present. The number of projects and the total cost is subject to alteration based on new and emerging flooding risks that may or may not manifest themselves in the coming winter months. The implementation of construction projects is data-led and is based on flooding severity risk and other factors.

**Highway Structures** - We are continuing to maintain detailed asset data for all types of highway structures within the Oldham Council Highway Structures Asset Management System, Pontis. General and principal inspection regimes, in line with government codes of practice and guidance, are in place and carried out every 2 years and every 6 to 12 years, respectively.

We have completed numerous capital schemes, one of them being Ash Footbridge, situated within Brookdale Golf Club in Failsworth, and we are nearing completion of the detailed design stage for the £6.5 million Manchester Street Viaduct refurbishment scheme. In addition, we continue to carry out reactive works across the borough.

**Winter Service:** Last winter the Council used approximately 3 tonnes of road salt to grit the network and fill up the grit bins around the borough. We have replenished our stock of road salt in preparation for the upcoming Winter period to 6 tonnes. By taking deliveries over the summer, we have been able to take advantage of a discount on the cost of salt during the off-peak period. A 6-tonne supply should be sufficient to see us through the winter, but we will monitor usage over the winter period and will be able to bring in more salt over the winter season if needed.

The gritters were delivered to Moorhey Street depot at the beginning of September and have been fitted with dashcams offering live video streams which will enable our Winter Duty Managers to better monitor prevailing weather conditions and aid their decision making. Grit bins are currently being filled across the borough.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report



**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Update on Actions from Council**

**Portfolio Holder:** Various

**Officer Contact:** Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

**Report Author:** Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services  
**Ext.** 4716

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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### **Reason for Decision**

The decision is for Members to note the updates on actions from the Council meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and any updated responses from meetings earlier in this municipal year.

### **Executive Summary**

This report provides information to the Council on actions taken at the most recent Council meetings.

### **Recommendations**

Council is asked to:

1. Note the report.

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**Update on Actions from Council****1 Background**

- 1.1 This report sets out the actions that officers have taken on motions approved at the Council meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 and informs Members on any updated responses to motions approved at previous meetings in this municipal year.

**2 Current Position**

- 2.1 The current position on actions is set out in the table at Appendix 1.

**3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 N/A

**4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 N/A

**5 Consultation**

- 5.1 N/A

**6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 N/A

**7 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 N/A

**8 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People**

- 8.1 N/A

**9 Key Decision**

- 9.1 No

**10 Key Decision Reference**

- 10.1 N/A

**11 Background Papers**

- 11.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act

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1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

- The agenda and minutes of the Council meetings are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>

## 12 **Appendices**

### 12.1 Appendix 1 – Current Position

Appendices 2 and 3 correspondences with Jim McMahon MP

Appendix 4 – reply from Pensions Minister (regarding WASPI Women Council Motion – April Council meeting)

Appendix 5 – reply from Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (regarding HMO Motion – April Council meeting)

Appendix 6 – reply from Department of Health and Social Care (regarding Youth Council Motion at April Council meeting)

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**Actions from the Council meeting on 16 July 2025**

<b>Council Agenda item</b>	<b>Action/Issue</b>	<b>Responsible Member/Officer</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Completed ✓ In progress ●</b>
Notice of Administration Business – Motion 1: Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)	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. 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.	Emma Barton/Peter Richards	On the agenda for this Council meeting.  Report to the Cabinet's meeting on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025  Report to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny in October 2025	✓
	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.	Peter Richards	Report to Cabinet on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September to authorise this	
	3. That, the Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.	Peter Richards/Alex Bougatef	Report to Cabinet on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September to authorise this	



	4. To put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1st January 2026.	Peter Richards/Alex Bougatef	Report to Cabinet on 22 <sup>nd</sup> September to authorise this	
	5. Houses of Multiple Occupation. A report to come to September Council	Councillor Taylor/Emma Barton	On the agenda for this Council meeting	✓
Notice of Administration Business – Motion 2: Fair Funding Review	That the Council resolves to respond to the Fair Funding Review consultation supporting: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>2. A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning</li> <li>3. A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.</li> </ol>	Lee Walsh	The Director of Finance to respond to the consultation exercise on behalf of the council	✓
Questions to Leader and Cabinet	1. To provide a response to Councillor Lancaster in relation to rewarding volunteers	Councillor Taylor	Councillor Taylor responded to Councillor Lancaster	✓
Questions to Leader and Cabinet	2. Timings relating to questions to Leader and Cabinet. Review as part of Constitution Working Group	Alex Bougatef /Heather Moore	To be considered as part of the Constitution Working Group's agenda	✓

Notice of Opposition Business: Motion 3	List of gullies that have been cleaned across the borough. Information to be shared with all Councillors	Nasir Dad	<p>Copy of correspondence from February 2025 and June 2025 provided to Councillor Akhtar.</p> <p>Email provided to all Councillors.</p> <p>The current programme aims to clean all 48,000 gullies across the borough on a ward-by-ward basis. Given the volume of work that needs to be completed, we cannot always engage with ward members on a street-by-street basis or provide specific data at the time. However, as we've committed to previously, where members have specific concerns, we will work with them. As we pick up outstanding gullies, we will be communicating with ward members to seek their support in completing the programme.</p>	✓
Motion 1: Adult Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Support	1. Work closely with NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults	Mike Barker		

	<p>2. Ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.</p>	<p>Mike Barker  Peter Thompson</p>	<p>Arrangements are in place for NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to attend a meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2025.</p>	✓
<p>Motion 2: Investing in Coldhurst:</p>	<p>West End Street Pitch letter to Jim McMahon MP regarding his support for previous work done at this location</p>	<p>Peter Thompson</p>	<p>Letter forwarded to Jim McMahon MP (attached at Appendix 2 and the reply on behalf of Mr McMahon is attached at Appendix 3)</p>	✓
	<p>Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.</p> <p>Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements,</li> </ol>	<p>Nasir Dad</p>	<p>A report to be scheduled for presentation to the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (November)</p>	✓

	and ownership or lease status of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)</li> <li>○</li> </ul>			
	b. Explore further opportunities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider how existing and future <b>government regeneration funding</b> streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.</li> <li>○ Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.</li> <li>○ Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch.</li> <li>○ Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.</li> <li>○ Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.</li> </ul>	Nasir Dad		✓

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.</li> </ul> <p>Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.</p>			
Motion 3: A revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing	<p>This Motion asks for a revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing</p> <p>Gully cleaning and Don't Trash Oldham Policy. Councillor Goodwin to provide information to Councillors Byrne and Hamblett</p>	Nasir Dad	<p>Information provided to Councillor Byrne two active vehicles - one is our permanent vehicle, one is leased. It is our intention to maintain a minimum of two vehicles at any time given the demand for gulley cleaning across the borough: these services, both the planned maintenance (rolling programme to clean/clear every gulley (48,000) across the borough; and, reactive maintenance when there are localised issues which need immediate attention (for example - when gullies get blocked during periods of heavy rain causing localised flooding or highway safety issues).</p> <p>To date, 18,000 gulleys have been treated – a number of those treated need to be revisited due to more substantial works being needed</p>	✓

			<p>(significant blockage / collapse or blocked by parked car on the day we did the work in the area). This will take place once the current wards have been completed and 1 wagon will begin to address blockages/repairs and those that were inaccessible. HM has asked for timescales for this.</p> <p>Nasir Dad has offered to visit site regarding the culvert matter, as this is the responsibility of the land owner where the culvert is located, and may potentially have multiple owners.</p>	
Update to Pay Policy Statement and Organisational Framework	<p>1. Approves the designation of the Director of Finance as the Council's Chief Finance Officer for the purposes of s114 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 and shall fulfil all the statutory duties of that post and in accordance with S151 of the Local Government Act 1972 shall be the officer with responsibilities for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs, and the Constitution be updated where required.</p>	Chief Executive	Changes to be presented to the Constitution Working Group.	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Approves the designation of the Director of Legal as the Council's Monitoring Officer/Borough Solicitor for the purposes of Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and the Constitution be updated where required.</li> <li>3. Agrees to update the Pay Policy Statement to reflect these changes.</li> <li>4. Agrees to update the Constitution to reflect these changes.</li> </ol>			
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#### Outstanding actions from the Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Action/Issue	Responsible Officer	Update	Completed ✓ In progress ●
<p>Opposition Motion 2: <b>Expressing disappointment at government failure to compensate the WASPI Women RESOLVED (As amended):</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This Council notes that more than 11,600 WASPI women across Oldham Borough stand to lose out on compensation after the Labour Government decided to ignore the independent ombudsman's assessment and go against their long-held policy to support WASPI women. It is estimated that the compensation owed to impacted women across Oldham Borough would be a minimum of £11,642,500.</li> <li>2. This Council notes that previous Labour Leaders of this Council have referred to the situation facing WASPI women as "an injustice" and as</li> </ol>	Chief Executive	Letter from the Chief Executive to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Right Honourable Liz Kendall MP, asking her to look again at this decision. ( <i>Reply awaited</i> )	1-5 ✓

<p>recently as March 2023, Oldham Labour were still campaigning to put that injustice right.</p> <p>3. This Council also notes that despite the parlous state of the public finances and scorched earth policy pursued by the previous Conservative Government, the current Labour Government has committed to the 'triple' lock on the state pension which means the state pensions is rising by £470 a year in April 2025.</p> <p>4. This Council reasserts its support for the WASPI women and regrets the previous Conservative Government's delay in responding to the Ombudsman's report leaving the incoming Labour government to decide whether the independent ombudsman's assessment that compensation should be paid to them.</p> <p>5. Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Right Honourable Liz Kendall MP, asking her to look again at this decision.</p>			
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Actions from the Council meeting on 18 December 2024 (adjourned until 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025)

<p>Opposition Motion 3 (Independent)– <b>The Old Failsworth Library (as amended)</b>  <b>RESOLVED:</b>  Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue to keep the current tenant of the former library on Main Street up to date with information regarding the lease and potential repairs to the building.</li> <li>2. That Council officers will keep all Failsworth Councillors up to date potential renovations and future uses of the former Failsworth library building.</li> <li>3. Explore opportunities to renovate the former Failsworth Library on Main Street so that it can be used by other local community groups and or businesses subject to funding.</li> <li>4. That all Failsworth Councillors are given opportunities to be involved in plans to potentially renovate this building for future community use.</li> </ol>	<p>Director of Communities</p>	<p>This work is ongoing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• refurbishment proposals are still progressing through feasibility and due diligence processes</li> <li>• engagement with the tenant continues as / when needed</li> <li>• members will receive an update once the feasibility work is concluded</li> </ul>	<p>1-4 ●</p>
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**Jim McMahon MP**  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

**Chief Executive**  
Oldham MBC  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street, Oldham OL1 1UG  
Tel: 0161 770 4190  
18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Jim McMahon MP,

**RE: Investing in West End Street Pitch, Coldhurst, Oldham**

I am writing to advise you that the Council at its recent meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025, approved the following amended motion, regarding investment in the street pitch, located at West End Street, Coldhurst, Oldham.

**Council Notes:**

- Coldhurst, like many working-class communities across the country, has suffered from years of national government austerity and underinvestment in youth and community sports infrastructure. Notably, the closure of Robin Hill Youth Centre and the loss of the adjoining play space reflect the wider challenges imposed by more than a decade of cuts to local government budgets.
- 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.
- Coldhurst Labour councillors — notably Cllr Abdul Jabbar and Cllr Abdul Malik — have worked consistently to highlight these challenges and advocate for improvements at West End Street, in close collaboration with local residents, volunteers and youth groups.
- That thanks to an intervention by Cllr Jabbar, the West End Street pitch was included in Oldham's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) agreed by Cabinet in March this year.
- In 2024–25, local volunteers, youth groups, and councillors — including longstanding Labour representatives — continued efforts to clean and reclaim the West End pitch. These actions build on work led by Coldhurst Labour councillors and Jim McMahon MP, who have been working on a masterplan to bring this asset back into full community use through the establishment of a community co-operative.

- The Council has endorsed £6 million as part of the first phase of a £70 million “SportsTown” regeneration programme, which includes:
  1. The Council administered a £5 million grant from the Government’s Community Regeneration Fund to develop a new 3G pitch at Little Wembley, a new educational centre at Boundary Park, and supporting community facilities.
  2. £1 million was invested for a new stitched pitch at Boundary Park and to secure a permanent base for Oldham Rugby League Football Club and enhanced community use.
  3. Public commitments that SportsTown will benefit community access borough-wide, including increased opportunities for education, health, and sport.
- These investments demonstrate the Council’s commitment to ensuring regeneration funding reaches communities like Coldhurst, building resilience and opportunity where it’s most needed.

**Council further notes:**

- That West End Street Pitch and associated changing rooms exist because of the work of Cllr Abdul Jabbar to secure a grant from Sports England and SRB1 in 1998.
- Both Cllr Malik and Cllr Jabbar have consistently raised the condition of West End Street pitch with officers and Cabinet colleagues and continue to explore opportunities for resources to improve the facility for the community.
- That in February 2025 all five of Oldham’s district community councils had the opportunity to input into Oldham’s Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2025) and there was unanimous agreement amongst elected members that West End St pitch is a vital community resource and must be protected and enhanced.
- That a community consultation day will be held over the future of West End Street pitch over the summer.

**Council Believes:**

- That open-access, local sports facilities such as West End Street pitch should continue to 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.
- That residents themselves should have a meaningful say in the use and future of these facilities, and that a community cooperative model should be explored for the West End Street pitch — governed by and for the people who use it.
- The current plan, devised by the Council, ward Councillors and supported by Jim McMahon MP to create a co-operative ownership model, will successfully bring this asset back into community use.

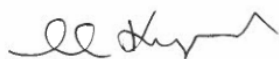
## Council Resolves to:

1. Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.
2. Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will:
  - a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of: West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)
  - b. Explore further opportunities to:
    - Consider how existing and future **government regeneration funding** streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch.
    - Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport.
    - Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level.
    - Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options.
    - Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.
3. Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.
4. Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and confirm what the government can do to support this.
5. Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.

Therefore, further to the resolution 4, above, I am writing to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank you for your efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and also to ask what further actions and or initiatives that the government can do to support this.

I look forward to being able to report back to Council with your reply.

Yours sincerely,



**Shelley Kipling**

Chief Executive

Email: [shelley.kipling@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.kipling@oldham.gov.uk)

## APPENDIX 3

Hi Peter,

Thank you for the below. My apologies for the delay in reply, I am responding on behalf of Jim.

The West End Street pitch is an issue that is high on Jim's agenda. And it is good to see this support echo through the council chamber. It will be brilliant to see work begin to restore the site and give access back to the community in Coldhurst.

I don't believe from the letter that there are any further action points for Jim requested from the Council, however do let me know if I am wrong and in the meantime Jim will continue championing this issue and pushing to see it completed.

Thank you,

Kyle.

**Kyle Phythian**  
**Office Manager**

Jim McMahon OBE MP  
Minister of State  
Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government  
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton

Chadderton Town Hall  
Middleton Road  
Oldham OL9 6PP  
Tel: [0161 652 8485](tel:01616528485)

Sign-up to Jim's monthly newsletter! [Click Here](#)

**From:** Peter Thompson <[Peter.Thompson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.Thompson@oldham.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 01 August 2025 11:27  
**To:** MCMAHON, Jim <[jim.mcmahon.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:jim.mcmahon.mp@parliament.uk)>  
**Subject:** Oldham Council Motion (Council 16th July 2025)  
**Importance:** High

Dear Mr McMahon,  
Please find attached details of a Motion that was approved at the recent meeting of the full council on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025, relating to the West End Street Pitch in Coldhurst.

The Motion calls on the Chief Executive to write to you to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank you for your efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and confirm what the government can do to support this.

I would be grateful if you could consider the contents of the attached and to reply at the earliest opportunity so that I can update Council thereon.

Thank you

Peter Thompson  
Constitutional Services  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Oldham Council  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
Oldham  
OL1 1UL

E-mail: [peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk)



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

Caxton House  
Tothill Street  
LONDON  
SW1H 9DA

ministers@dwp.gov.uk



HM Treasury

HM Treasury  
1 Horse Guards Road  
London  
SW1A 2HQ

Ms Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham OL1 1UG

Our ref: MC2025/64081

1 September 2025

Dear Ms Kipling,

Thank you for your letter of 16 April to the Chancellor of the Exchequer regarding the Government's response to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman's investigation into the communication of women's State Pension age changes. I am replying as the Minister for Pensions.

As you know the Ombudsman did not investigate the Conservative Government's decision to increase the State Pension age for women in 1995, or that of the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government to accelerate that increase in 2011, but rather how the changes were communicated.

The Ombudsman found that the Department provided adequate and accurate information on changes to the State Pension age between 1995 and 2004, including through leaflets, pensions education campaigns and on its website. However, they said that decisions about communications made between 2005 and 2007 led to a 28-month delay in sending out letters to women born in the 1950s.

It was the Ombudsman's view that these delays did not result in the women suffering direct financial loss, but they were maladministration.

We considered the Ombudsman's findings very carefully to make sure our decision was based on the evidence. We have accepted the finding that there was a 28-month delay in sending out letters and for this we have apologised.



However, we do not agree with the Ombudsman's approach to injustice or remedy. Two of our important considerations, when making the decision were that sending people unsolicited letters is unlikely to affect what they know and that most 1950s-born women were aware that the State Pension age was changing.

Alongside this are the financial and administrative reasons that it would be difficult to deliver a compensation scheme that is fair, value for money and feasible. Blanket compensation payments when the majority of women were aware that State Pension age was changing would be wrong. It would be impossible to establish a bespoke scheme that is fair or value for money, as it would take thousands of staff years to consider the detailed personal circumstances of up to 3.5 million women. It would also be impossible to verify claims if we simply asked women to self-certify experiencing injustice. The Government's assessment of the various compensation schemes can be found in paragraphs 93 to 107 of our detailed response published on 17 December 2024.

I fully recognise the strength of feeling on this issue. Many 1950s-born women have experienced significant disadvantage, not least in the labour market. This Government will continue working towards equality for women in the workplace now and in future, and ensure those with lower pension outcomes due to the inequalities they have faced in the past receive the right support.

We are determined that failures of communication, as were seen with 1950s-born women, will not be repeated and have committed to work with the Ombudsman to learn the lessons this investigation can teach us, developing an action plan that we will publish in due course.

Since entering office, we have carefully considered the Ombudsman's report alongside the evidence provided to the Ombudsman by all parties during the investigation. We made our decision on the facts of the case, and you can read the Secretary of State's Statement and our detailed response on GOV.UK at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-parliamentary-and-health-service-ombudsmans-investigation-into-womens-state-pension-age-communications-and-associated-issues](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-response-to-parliamentary-and-health-service-ombudsmans-investigation-into-womens-state-pension-age-communications-and-associated-issues).

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Torsten Bell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Torsten Bell MP**

**Minister for Pensions**



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

**Baroness Taylor of Stevenage**  
*Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for  
Housing and Local Government*  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2025/19016

Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive, Oldham MBC  
Level 3, Civic Centre  
West Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1UG

shelley.kipling@oldham.gov.uk

22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025

Dear Shelley,

Thank you for your letter of 16 April regarding the rights of Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO) renters. To confirm, your letter was received via post on 2 July. I have been asked to reply, and I am grateful to you for making representations on behalf of Oldham MBC.

Houses in Multiple Occupation provide relatively low-cost accommodation for rent and can play an important part in the housing market. Under the planning system, national permitted development rights allow a C3 dwellinghouse (a house) to change use to a C4 House in Multiple Occupation for up to six people sharing facilities without the need for a planning application. Larger Houses in Multiple Occupation require planning permission.

Local authorities have planning powers to limit the proliferation of Houses in Multiple Occupation within their locality. Where there is sufficient evidence of the need to do so, a local planning authority may withdraw a permitted development right in a specific area using an Article 4 direction, after consultation with the local community. This would mean any change of use to both large and small Houses in Multiple Occupation would require an application for planning permission, which has to be determined in accordance with the development plan for the area, enabling local people to comment.

The Government continues to keep permitted development rights under review.

Thank you for your letter on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**BARONESS TAYLOR OF STEVENAGE**  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Housing and Local Government

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Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

*From Baroness Merron  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for  
Patient Safety, Women's Health and Mental Health*

*39 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0EU*

PO-1621110

Ms Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive  
Oldham Council

By email to: [shelley.kipling@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:shelley.kipling@oldham.gov.uk)

8 August 2025

Dear Ms Kipling,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 April to the Secretary of State and to the Prime Minister about young people's mental health. Your correspondence to the Prime Minister has been forwarded to this department, and I am replying as the Minister for Mental Health. I am sorry that you have not received a more timely reply and thank you for your patience.

I appreciate your concerns.

Children today, who have been brought up in an increasingly digitised age, are facing new and complex challenges. Around 20 per cent of young people are expected to experience some type of mental health issue this year, up from just 14 per cent in 2017. However, there are likely to be many thousands more struggling with their wellbeing that do not meet the threshold for a clinical diagnosis.

Through an extra £688million in Government funding for 2025/26, we are transforming mental health services by hiring more staff, delivering more talking therapies, and reducing waiting lists through our Plan for Change. This will enable children to have the best possible start in life. Early interventions in mental health support for young people can have a positive impact for the rest of their lives.

We want to provide access to mental health support in school to every child who needs it. To this end, over the course of this year we will roll out support to nearly one million more children. The Spending Review 2025 confirmed that all pupils will have access to mental health support in school by 2029/30.

Through NHS-led, evidence-based intervention during children's formative years, we can avoid mental health crises while cultivating much-needed resilience among the next generation. As set out in the NHS's *2025/26 priorities and operational planning guidance*, we are committed to increasing the number of children and young people accessing mental health services by 345,000 compared to 2019. We also expect local health systems to improve productivity and reduce variation in the numbers of children and young people accessing services across England.

There are five million pupils and learners who are currently covered by Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) in schools and colleges. This equates to 52 per cent of pupils in schools and further education learners in England. There are also 10,100 schools and colleges supported by an MHST, which equates to 41 per cent of schools and colleges in England.

The coverage of MHSTs at school and college level is lower than at pupil and learner level due to variation in setting size. We estimate that MHST coverage could increase to 62 per cent of pupils and learners and 48 per cent of schools and colleges by 31 March 2026. This prediction is based on the average number of schools, colleges, pupils and learners per MHST remaining constant.

There are currently around 65 locally funded early support hubs in England open to those aged 11-25. The drop-in centres offer mental health support and advice to young people without a referral by a doctor or school. Services provided include group work, counselling, psychological therapies, specialist advice and signposting to information and services.

In 2024/25, the Department took part in the Shared Outcomes Fund project, backed by £8million. The project evaluated the impact of 24 existing early support hubs and gathered evidence for early intervention. In doing so, it aimed to increase the Government's understanding of the effectiveness of early intervention and preventative action for children and young people's mental health delivered in a community setting.

The University College London Mental Health Policy Research Unit is conducting an external evaluation of the project. It aims to build a strong evidence base to inform the potential future expansion of the early support hubs model. The Unit aims to report its findings this summer.

We are also providing top-up funding of £7million to the 24 early support hubs to expand provision in 2025/26. The new funding will help the hubs to deliver at least 10,000 additional mental health and wellbeing interventions, supporting more children and young people.

I hope this reply is helpful.

All good wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gillian', with a stylized flourish underneath.

**BARONESS MERRON**



## Report to Council

### Treasury Management Outturn Report 2024/25

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability

**Officer Contact:** Lee Walsh – Assistant Director of Finance & Section 151 Officer

**Report Author:** James Postle, Senior Finance Manager/Paula Buckley, Finance Manager (Capital & Treasury)

**17 September 2025**

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#### Reason for Decision

This report advises Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function for 2024/25 and provides a comparison of performance against the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

#### Executive Summary

The Council is required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021). This outturn report provides an update and includes the new requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from 1 April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. This report therefore sets out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and reviews and outlines:

- An economic update for 2024/25;
- A review and updates of the Council's current treasury management position;
- Council Borrowing;
- Treasury Investment Activity;
- Treasury Performance for 2024/25; and
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators;

The report was presented to and considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 23 July 2025, the Committee having responsibility for scrutinising all of the Council's treasury management arrangements. All questions and issues raised at the meeting were addressed to the satisfaction of the Committee Members. The Committee was content to re commend the report to Cabinet for approval. At the Cabinet meeting of 8 September Members recommended the report to Council for approval.

## **Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- Approve the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2024/25 and the Treasury Management activity and Prudential Indicators presented in this report
- Approve the proposed increases in the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit in relation to PFI and Finance Lease debt liabilities as detailed in section 2.5 of the report.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council must have a balanced budget, which broadly means cash raised during the year will meet its cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure this cash flow is adequately planned, with surplus monies being invested in line with its Treasury Management Strategy, providing adequate liquidity initially before considering optimising investment returns.
- 1.2 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the Council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning to ensure the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses, and on occasion any debt previously drawn may be restructured to meet Council risk or cost objectives.
- 1.3 As a consequence, treasury management is defined as:
- “The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.”

## 2 Current Position

### Requirements of the Treasury Management Code of Practice

- 2.1.1 The Council has adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (Revised 2021) (the CIPFA Code) which requires the Authority to produce a quarterly treasury management update report; a requirement in the 2021 Code which is mandatory from 1 April 2023.
- 2.1.2 The treasury and prudential indicators are also incorporated at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.1.3 The Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25 was approved on 28 February 2024. The Council has borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and is therefore exposed to financial risks including the potential loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy.
- 2.1.4 This Outturn report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:
- An economic update for 2024/25;
  - A review and updates of the Council's current treasury management position;
  - Council Borrowing;
  - Treasury Investment Activity;
  - Treasury Performance for 2024/25; and
  - Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.



## External Environment 2024/25

### Economic Background

- 2.1.5 Both the UK and US elected new governments during the period, whose policy decisions impacted the economic outlook. The Chancellor of the Exchequer delivered her Spring Statement in March 2025, following her Budget in October 2024.
- 2.1.6 Based on the plans announced, the Office for Budget Responsibility downgraded its predictions for UK growth in 2025 to 1% from 2%. However, it upgraded its predictions for the four subsequent years. Inflation predictions for 2025 were pushed up, to 3.2% from 2.6%, before seen as falling back to target in 2027. The market reaction to the Spring Statement was more muted compared to the Budget, with very recent market turbulence being driven more by US trade policy decisions and President Trump
- 2.1.7 UK annual Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation continued to stay above the 2% Bank of England (BoE) target in the later part of the period. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) reported headline consumer prices at 2.8% in February 2025, down from 3.0% in the previous month and below expectations. Core CPI also remained elevated, falling slightly in February to 3.5% from 3.7% in January, just below expectations for 3.6% but higher than the last three months of the calendar year.
- 2.1.8 The UK economy Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 0.1% between October and December 2024, unrevised from the initial estimate. This was an improvement on the zero growth in the previous quarter, but down from the 0.4% growth between April and June 2024. Of the monthly GDP figures, the economy was estimated to have contracted by 0.1% in January, worse than expectations for a 0.1% gain.
- 2.1.9 The labour market continued to cool, but the ONS data still require treating with caution. Recent data showed the unemployment rate rose to 4.4% (3mth/year) in the three months to January 2025 while the economic inactivity rate fell again to 21.5%. The ONS reported pay growth over the same three-month period at 5.9% for regular earnings (excluding bonuses) and 5.8% for total earnings.
- 2.1.10 After revising its interest rate forecast in November following the Budget, the council's treasury management advisor, Arlingclose, maintained its stance that Bank Rate will fall to 3.75% in 2025.
- 2.1.11 The Bank of England (BoE's) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) held Bank Rate at 4.5% at its March 2025 meeting, having reduced it in February. This follows earlier 0.25% cuts in November and August 2024 from the 5.25% peak. At the March MPC meeting, members voted 8-1 to maintain Bank Rate at 4.5%, with the one dissenter preferring another 25 basis points cut. The meeting minutes implied a slightly more hawkish tilt compared to February when two MPC members wanted a 50bps cut. In the minutes, the Bank also upgraded its Quarter 1 2025 GDP forecast to around 0.25% from the previous estimate of 0.1%.
- 2.1.12 The February Monetary Policy Report (MPR) showed the BoE expected GDP growth in 2025 to be significantly weaker compared to the November MPR. GDP is forecast to rise by 0.1% in Quarter 1 2025, less than the previous estimate of 0.4%. Four-quarter GDP growth is expected to pick up from the middle of 2025, to over 1.5% by the end of the forecast period. The outlook for CPI inflation showed it remaining above the MPC's 2% target throughout 2025. It is expected to hit around 3.5% by June before peaking at 3.7% in Quarter 3 and then easing towards the end of the year, but staying above the 2% target. The unemployment rate was expected to rise steadily to around 4.75% by the end of the forecast horizon, above the assumed medium-term equilibrium unemployment rate of 4.5%.

- 2.1.13 Following this MPC meeting, Arlingclose, the authority's treasury adviser, maintained its central view that Bank Rate would continue to fall throughout 2025. From the cuts in August and November 2024 and February 2025, which took Bank Rate to 4.50%, May is considered the likely month for the next reduction, with other cuts following in line with MPR months to take Bank Rate down to around 3.75% by the end of 2025.
- 2.1.14 The US Federal Reserve paused its cutting cycle in the first three months of 2025, having reduced the Fed Funds Rate by 0.25% to a range of 4.25%-4.50% in December, the third cut in succession. Fed policymakers noted uncertainty around the economic outlook but were anticipating around 0.50% of further cuts in the policy rate in 2025. Economic growth continued to rise at a reasonable pace, expanding at an annualised rate of 2.4% in Q4 2024 while inflation remained elevated over the period. However, growth is now expected to weaken by more than previously expected in 2025, to 1.7% from 2.1%. The uncertainty that President Trump has brought both before and since his inauguration in January is expected to continue.
- 2.1.15 The European Central Bank (ECB) continued its rate cutting cycle over the period, reducing its three key policy rates by another 0.25% in March, acknowledging that monetary policy is becoming meaningfully less restrictive. Euro zone inflation has decreased steadily in 2025, falling to 2.2% in March, the lowest level since November 2024. Over the current calendar year, inflation is expected to average 2.3%. GDP growth stagnated in the last quarter of the 2024 calendar year, after expanding by 0.4% in the previous quarter. For 2025, economic growth forecasts were revised downwards to 0.9%.

#### Financial Markets

- 2.1.16 Sentiment was reasonably positive over most of the period, but economic, financial and geopolitical issues meant the trend of market volatility remained. In the latter part of the period, volatility increased and bond yields started to fall following a January peak, as the economic uncertainty around likely US trade policy impacted financial markets. Yields in the UK and US started to diverge in the last month of the period, with the former rising around concerns over the fiscal implications on the UK government from weaker growth, business sentiment and higher rates, while the latter started falling on potential recession fears due to the unpredictable nature of policy announcements by the US President and their potential impact.
- 2.1.17 Over the financial year, the 10-year UK benchmark gilt yield started the period at 3.94% and ended at 4.69%, having reached a low of 3.76% in September and a high of 4.90% in January in between. While the 20-year gilt started at 4.40% and ended at 5.22%, hitting a low of 4.27% in September and a high of 5.40% in January. The Sterling Overnight Rate (SONIA) averaged 4.90% over the period.
- 2.1.18 The period in question ended shortly before US President Donald Trump announced his package of 'reciprocal tariffs', the immediate aftermath of which saw stock prices and government bond yields falling and introduced further uncertainty over the economic outlook.

#### Credit Review

- 2.1.19 In October, Arlingclose revised its advised recommended maximum unsecured duration limit on most banks on its counterparty list to six months. Duration advice for the remaining five institutions, including the newly added Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets, was kept to a maximum of 100 days. This advice remained in place at the end of the period.
- 2.1.20 The last three months of the period were relatively quiet on the bank credit rating front, with a small number of updates issued for a number of lenders not on the Arlingclose recommended counterparty list.

- 2.1.21 On local authorities, S&P assigned a BBB+ to Warrington Council, having previously withdrawn its rating earlier in 2024, and also withdrew its rating for Lancashire County Council due to the council deciding to stop maintaining a credit rating. However, it still holds a rating with Fitch and Moody's. Moody's withdrew its rating of Cornwall Council after it chose to no longer maintain a rating.
- 2.1.22 Credit default swap prices generally trended lower over the period but did start to rise modestly in March, but not to any levels considered concerning. Once again, price volatility over the period remained generally more muted compared to previous periods.
- 2.1.23 Financial market volatility is expected to remain a feature, at least in the near term and, credit default swap levels will be monitored for signs of ongoing credit stress. As ever, the institutions and durations on the Authority's counterparty list recommended by Arlingclose remain under constant review.

## 2.2 Oldham Council Treasury Position

- 2.2.1 On 31 March 2024, the Authority had net borrowing of £144.396m arising from its revenue and capital income and expenditure. This had risen to £187.231m by the end of 2024/25. As shown in Table 2.
- 2.2.2 The actual and planned level of capital expenditure are the drivers of borrowing for capital purposes. Appendix 1 shows the actual level of capital expenditure at the end of 2023/24 and 2024/25. It also shows the financing including the level of prudential borrowing.
- 2.2.3 The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while balance sheet resources are the underlying resources available for investment. These factors are summarised in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 - Balance Sheet Summary**

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>488,980</b>	<b>559,839</b>
Less: Other debt liabilities PFI	193,890	223,812
<b>Borrowing CFR</b>	<b>295,090</b>	<b>336,027</b>
External borrowing	181,110	234,817
<b>Internal borrowing</b>	<b>113,980</b>	<b>101,209</b>
Less: Usable Balance Sheet Resources	(132,737)	(124,565)
Less: Working capital	(17,957)	(24,230)
<b>Net Investments</b>	<b>(36,714)</b>	<b>(47,586)</b>

- 2.2.4 Table 1 shows the CFR for 2024/25 is £559.839m, an increase of £70.859m compared to £488.980m at the end of 2023/24. The CFR excluding other debt liabilities relating to Private Finance Initiative schemes is £336.027m an increase of £40.937m compared to the position at the end of 2023/24. The CFR relating to other debt liabilities has increased by £29.922m to £223.812m due to the introduction of a new accounting standard IFRS 16 relating to the accounting for leases. This has resulted in more finance leases being recognised on the balance sheet and a recalculation of the Council's existing PFI lease liabilities which have driven the increase
- 2.2.5 The table clearly highlights that the Council borrowing is well below the CFR and the Council is currently maintaining an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need (CFR) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy has

been prudent in recent years as investment returns have been low and counterparty risk is still an issue that needs to be considered. This along with raising interest rates for external debt means that the Council will continue to analyse and assess the market to determine the optimum time to externally borrow.

- 2.2.6 The treasury management position as at 31 March 2025 and the change over the year is shown in Table 2 below.

**Table 2 - Treasury Management Summary**

Borrowing/Investments	31 March 2024 Balance £'000	Movement £'000	31 March 2025 Balance £'000	31 March 2025 Average Rate %
Long-term borrowing				
- Public Works Loan Board	35,241	48,818	84,059	3.83%
- Lender Option Borrowing Option	85,500	-	85,500	4.13%
- Other	40,001	-	40,001	4.03%
Short-term borrowing	20,368	4,889	25,257	5.51%
<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>181,110</b>	<b>53,707</b>	<b>234,817</b>	
Long-term investments	13,354	257	13,611	5.63%
Short-term investments	10,000	(10,000)	-	5.28%
Cash and cash equivalents	13,360	20,615	33,975	4.95%
<b>Total Investments</b>	<b>36,714</b>	<b>10,872</b>	<b>47,586</b>	
<b>Net Borrowing (total borrowing less total investments)</b>	<b>144,396</b>		<b>187,231</b>	

- 2.2.7 As can be seen in the table above, short term borrowing has increased by £53.707m in the 2024/25 financial year. Overall, the level of investments have also increased £10.872m since the end of 2023/24 principally due to the Council receiving capital grant funding in advance of the capital spend.

## 2.3 Borrowing

- 2.3.1 CIPFA's 2021 Prudential Code is clear that Local Authorities must not borrow to invest primarily for financial return and that it is not prudent for Local Authorities to make any investment or spending decision that will increase the capital financing requirement and so may lead to new borrowing, unless directly and primarily related to the functions of the Authority.
- 2.3.2 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) loans are no longer available to Local Authorities planning to buy investment assets primarily for yield unless these loans are for refinancing purposes.
- 2.3.3 Oldham Council has not invested in assets primarily for financial return or that are not primarily related to the functions of the Council, and it has no plans to do so in future.
- 2.3.4 The chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Authority's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Authority's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.

- 2.3.5 After substantial rises in interest rates since 2021 many central banks have now begun to slowly reduce their policy rates.
- 2.3.6 Gilt yields have remained volatile but have increased overall during 2024/25. Much of the increase has been in response to market concerns that policies introduced by the government will be inflationary and lead to higher levels of government borrowing. There are also concerns that US trade policies may have an inflationary impact.
- 2.3.7 On 31 March, the PWLB certainty rates for 10-year maturity loans were 4.80% at the beginning of the 2024/25 and 5.42% at the end. The lowest 10-year maturity rate was 4.52% and the highest was 5.71%. Rates for 20-year maturity loans ranged from 5.01% to 6.14% during 2024/25 and 50-year maturity loans ranged from 4.88% to 5.88%.
- 2.3.8 As at 31 March 2025 Oldham Council held £234.817m of loans representing an increase of £53.707m in 2024/25. Outstanding loans on 31 March (borrowing position) are summarised in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 - Borrowing Position**

Borrowing Sources	31 March 2024 Balance £'000	Movement £'000	31 March 2025 Balance £'000	31 March 2025 Weighted Average Rate %	31 March 2025 Weighted Average Maturity (years)
Public Works Loan Board	35,241	48,818	84,059	3.83%	10.77
Banks (LOBO)	85,500	-	85,500	4.13%	42.68
Banks (fixed-term)	40,000	-	40,000	4.03%	44.27
Local Authorities (short - term)	20,114	4,885	25,000	5.51%	
Local Bonds (long-term)	1	-	1	1.00%	0
Local Bonds (short-term)	22	-	22	0.00%	0
Local Charitable Trusts (short-term)	231	4	235	4.96%	1
<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>181,110</b>	<b>53,707</b>	<b>234,817</b>		

#### LOBO Loans

- 2.3.9 Oldham Council held £85.500m of LOBO (Lender's Option Borrower's Option) loans where the lender has the option to propose an increase in the interest rate at set dates, following which the Council has the option to either accept the new rate and terms or to repay the loan at no additional cost.
- 2.3.10 With market interest rates having risen, the probability of LOBOs being called has been higher than in the recent past. A total of £50.500m of LOBO loans had annual/semi-annual call option dates during the year, however no lender exercised their option.
- 2.3.11 As at 31st March 2025 Oldham Council had £39m LOBO loans with call dates within the next 12 months. Of this sum, £14m is held with Dexia Finance over 3 loans, and the remaining £25m is 4 separate loans with four other providers, Danske Bank and KA Finanz, FMS Wertmanagement and KBC Bank. The Call option for the loan with FMS Wertmanagement was called on 31st March with a proposed interest rate of 7.67%. As a result, the Council exercised its option to repay the £5m in full on 7th April 2025. No other LOBO loans have been called at the time of writing.



- 2.3.12 Council officers have liaised with treasury management advisors, Arlingclose, over the likelihood of the options being exercised for LOBO's within the loan portfolio. If the option is exercised the Authority plans to repay the loan at no additional cost. If required, the Authority will repay the LOBO loans with available cash or by borrowing from alternative sources or the PWLB, always providing that overall savings can be demonstrated.

## 2.4 Treasury Investment Activity

- 2.4.1 CIPFA published a revised the Treasury Management in the Public Services Code of Practice and Cross-Sectoral Guidance Notes on 20 December 2021. These define treasury management investments as investments that arise from the organisation's cash flows or treasury risk management activity that ultimately represents balances that need to be invested until the cash is required for use in the course of business.
- 2.4.2 At 31 March, the Council held £47.568m invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. During 2024/25, the Authority's investment balances ranged between £24.491m and £64.927m due to timing differences between income and expenditure. The investment position is shown in Table 4 below.

**Table 4 - Treasury Investment Position**

Investment Placements	31 March 2024 Balance £'000	Movement £'000	31 March 2025 Balance £'000	31 March 2025 Income Return %
Government (incl. Local Authorities)	10,000	(10,000)	-	
Money Market Funds	13,360	20,615	33,975	5.10%
Property Pooled Fund	13,354	257	13,611	5.63%
<b>Total investments</b>	<b>36,714</b>	<b>10,872</b>	<b>47,568</b>	

- 2.4.3 Both the CIPFA Code and Government guidance require the Authority to invest its funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its treasury investments before seeking the optimum rate of return, or yield. The Authority's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income.
- 2.4.4 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in this report, the Authority expects to be a long-term borrower and new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income.
- 2.4.5 Bank Rate reduced from 5.25% to 5.00% in August 2024, then to 4.75% in November 2024 and again to 4.50% in February 2025. 1% over the period, from 4.25% at the beginning of April 2023 to 5.25% by the end March 2024. Money Market Rates ranged between 5.29% and 4.40%
- 2.4.6 The Council in previous years has invested £15.000m in the Churches, Charities & Local Authorities (CCLA) pooled property fund. As this is a longer-term investment short-term security and liquidity are lesser considerations, and the objectives instead are regular revenue income and long-term price stability. This fund generated an average total return of £0.84m, 5.63% income return.

- 2.4.7 Having had a challenging time since 2022, UK commercial property generally experience a recovery during 2024/25 with improved investment activity and capital values stabilising or improving. This was evident in the increase in the capital value of the Councils CCLA property fund by £0.257m in the year to 31 March 2025.
- 2.4.8 The change in the Authority's funds' capital values and income return over the year to 31 March is shown in Table 4.
- 2.4.9 The Council's investments have no defined maturity date, but are available for withdrawal after a notice period, but their performance and continued suitability in meeting the Council's medium to long-term investment objectives are regularly reviewed. Strategic fund investments are made in the knowledge that capital values will move both up and down on months, quarters and even years; but with the confidence that over a three to five-year period total returns will exceed cash interest rates.

#### Statutory Override

- 2.4.10 Further to consultations in April 2023 and December 2024 MHCLG wrote to finance directors in England in February 2025 regarding the statutory override on accounting for gains and losses in pooled investment funds. On the assumption that when published regulations follow this policy announcement, the statutory override will be extended up until the 1 April 2029 for investments already in place before 1 April 2024. The Council had set up a provision of £2m to mitigate the impact of the statutory override not being extended. In view of the fact that the override may not be extended past 2009 the Council has, currently, decided to maintain this provision.

## **2.5 Treasury Team Performance**

- 2.5.1 The Treasury Team measures the financial performance of its treasury management activities both in terms of its impact on the revenue budget and its relationship to benchmark interest rates, as shown in Table 5 below.

**Table 5 – Treasury Team Performance**

	Budgeted Performance Rates / Benchmark SONIA Return %	Benchmark SONIA Return % Plus 5%	Actual Return %
Budgeted Annual Investment Rates	5.00%	-	5.06%
Overnight SONIA	4.90%	5.15%	5.11%

- 2.5.2 The budgeted investment rate of 5.00% above included within the annual strategy for 2024/25 was based on the average rate over the full financial year as expectations were for a number of interest rate reductions to take place during 2024/25. The actual rate achieved in the 2024/25 financial year exceeds this budgeted rate.
- 2.5.3 Previously the benchmark return was measured on the London Interbank Bid Rate (LIBID) which was a forward-looking interest rate. The Bank of England replaced LIBID with SONIA in December 2021. SONIA is calculated differently to LIBID in that it is a backward-looking rate, based on actual results. The benchmark of SONIA plus 5% has not been achieved however the actual rate achieved for overnight investments over the year is higher than the average SONIA rate over the period.

- 2.5.4 The Section 151 Officer reports that all treasury management activities undertaken during the year complied fully with the principles in the Treasury Management Code and the Council's approved Treasury Management Strategy. Compliance with specific investment limits is demonstrated in Table 6 below.

**Table 6 - Investment Limits**

Investment Limit	Maximum during 2024/25 £'000	Actual Position at 31 December 2024 £'000	Maximum Allowable in 2024/25 £'000	Compliance Yes/No
Any single organisation, except the UK Government	10,000	-	30,000	Yes
Any group of organisations under the same ownership	10,000	-	20,000	Yes
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	13,611	13,611	15,000	Yes
Unsecured investments with building societies	-	-	20,000	Yes
Money Market Funds	51,330	33,975	80,000	Yes
Strategic Pooled Funds	13,611	13,611	15,000	Yes

- 2.5.5 Compliance with the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for external debt is demonstrated in Table 7 below.

**Table 7 – Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit**

Borrowing /Limits	Actual Position at 31 March 2025 £'000	2024/25 Operational Boundary £'000	2024/25 Authorised Limit £'000	Compliance Yes/No
Borrowing	234,817	335,250	350,250	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	223,812	183,500	186,000	No* see 2.5.9
<b>Total Gross Borrowing / Limit</b>	<b>458,629</b>	<b>518,750</b>	<b>536,230</b>	Yes

- 2.5.6 The Operational Boundary represents the expected borrowing position for the Council for the year and was set at £518.750m.
- 2.5.7 The Authorised Limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 and for 2023/24 was set at £536.230m. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level although it can be revised if required.
- 2.5.8 Since the Operational Boundary is a management tool for in-year monitoring it is not significant if the Operational Boundary is breached on occasions due to variations in cash flow, and this is not counted as a compliance failure.



- 2.5.9 Due to the implementation of accounting changes as a result of the adoption of IFRS 16 – Leases a number of existing leases have been reclassified from being treated as revenue expenditure and have been brought on to the Council's Balance Sheet, with the lease liability contributing to the overall Council debt liabilities. More significantly the Council's lease liabilities in relation to the Council's PFI contracts have been recalculated. The recalculation of the PFI lease liabilities has resulted in expenditure that was previously classed as an interest revenue cost being reclassified as part of lease payments and consequently increasing the total liability. The total increase in PFI debt liabilities as a result of the exercise was an uplift in value of the PFI Liability of £32.384m.
- 2.5.10 Whilst the overall Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit were not breached during the year. The element specific to PFI and Finance Leases was breached. It is proposed to raise the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit for the PFI and Finance Lease liabilities to £230.000m and £235.000m.
- 2.5.11 It should be noted that the changes to the accounting treatment of PFI and finance lease liabilities do not change the total overall expenditure that the Council will incur on PFI schemes and the PFI payments are covered in full within the existing revenue budget.
- 2.5.12 The Revised Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit are set out in the table below:

**Table 7 – Revised Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit**

<b>Borrowing /Limits</b>	<b>Actual Position at 31 March 2025 £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Operational Boundary £'000</b>	<b>2024/25 Authorised Limit £'000</b>	<b>Compliance Yes/No</b>
Borrowing	234,817	335,250	350,250	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	223,812	230,000	235,000	Yes
<b>Total Gross Borrowing / Limit</b>	<b>458,629</b>	<b>565,250</b>	<b>585,250</b>	Yes

## 2.6 Treasury Management Prudential Indicators

- 2.6.1 As required by the 2021 CIPFA Treasury Management Code, the Authority monitors and measures the following treasury management prudential indicators.

### Liability Benchmark

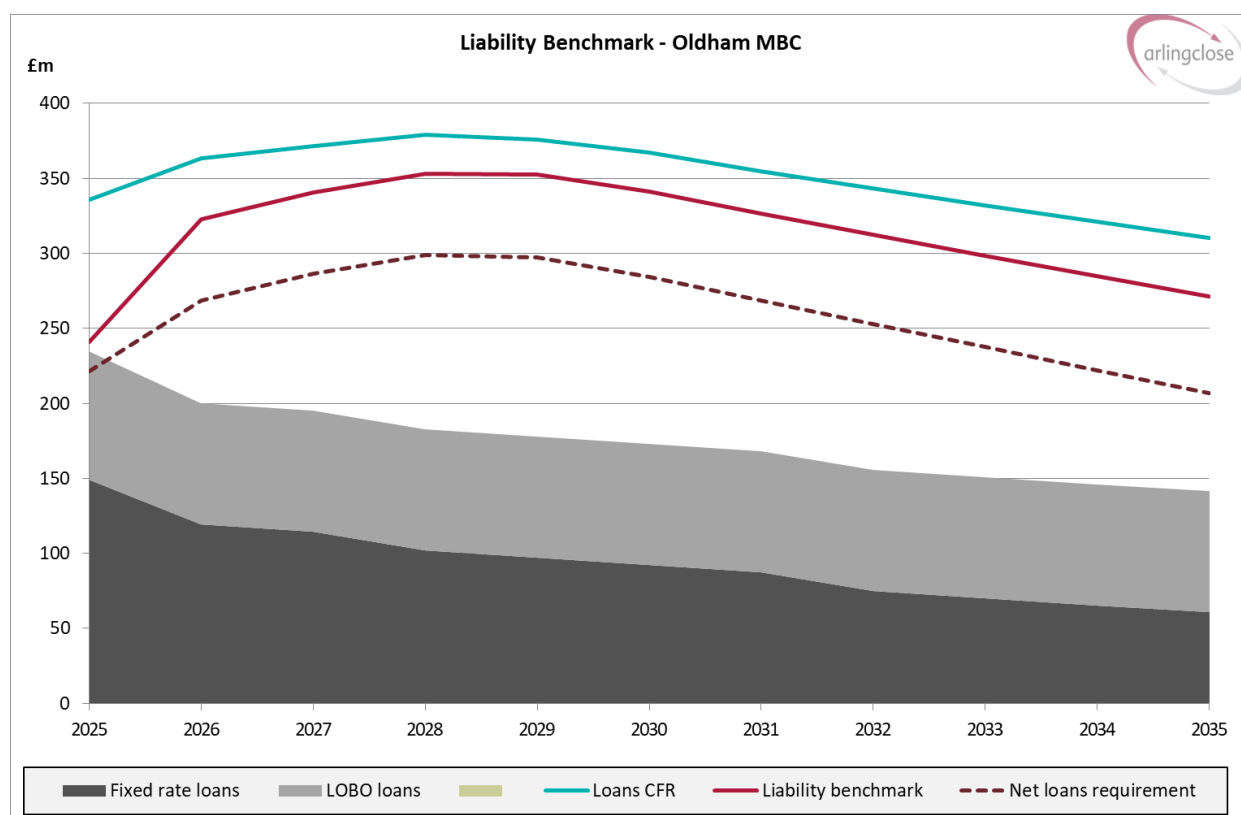
- 2.6.2 This new indicator compares the Authority's actual existing borrowing against a liability benchmark that has been calculated to show the lowest risk level of borrowing. The liability benchmark is an important tool to help establish whether the Council is likely to be a long-term borrower or long-term investor in the future, and so shape its strategic focus and decision making. It represents an estimate of the cumulative amount of external borrowing that the Council must hold to fund its current capital and revenue plans while keeping treasury investments at the minimum level of £20.000m, the level required to manage day-to-day cash flow.

**Table 8 - Liability Benchmark**

Liability Benchmark Measurement	31 March 2024 Actual £'000	31 March 2025 Actual £'000	31 March 2026 Forecast £'000	31 March 2027 Forecast £'000
Loans CFR	296,775	336,027	361,940	368,951
Less: Balance sheet resources	171,168	148,795	124,936	119,936
<b>Net loans requirement</b>	<b>123,922</b>	<b>187,232</b>	<b>237,004</b>	<b>248,665</b>
Plus: Liquidity allowance	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>Liability benchmark</b>	<b>143,922</b>	<b>207,232</b>	<b>257,004</b>	<b>268,665</b>
<b>Existing /forecast borrowing</b>	<b>180,110</b>	<b>234,817</b>	<b>237,004</b>	<b>248,665</b>

2.6.3 As demonstrated by the liability benchmark in the table above, the Council expects to be a long-term borrower to finance the expected capital spend. There could be timing differences between when the Council externally borrows compared to when the expenditure is required due to the nature of capital works, but new treasury investments are therefore primarily made to manage day-to-day cash flows using short-term low risk instruments. The existing portfolio of strategic pooled funds will be maintained to diversify risk into different sectors and boost investment income.

2.6.4 Following on from the medium-term forecast above, the long-term liability benchmark assumes capital expenditure funded by borrowing. Minimum Revenue Provision on new capital expenditure is forecast based on a 25 year asset life. This is shown in the chart below together with the maturity profile of the Authority's existing borrowing



- 2.6.5 Table 9 below sets out the maturity structure of borrowing at the end of 2024/25 compared to the upper and lower limits set in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2024/25.

**Table 9 - Maturity Structure of Borrowing**

Borrowing Timeframe	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	31 March 2025 Actual	Compliance Yes/No
Under 12 months	35%	0%	29.44%	Yes
12 months and within 24 months	35%	0%	8.46%	Yes
24 months and within 5 years	35%	0%	22.82%	Yes
5 years and within 10 years	35%	0%	13.44%	Yes
10 years to 20 years	50%	0%	2.42%	Yes
20 years to 30 years	50%	0%	2.13%	Yes
30 years to 40 years	50%	0%	2.13%	Yes
40 years to 50 years	50%	0%	10.65%	Yes
50 years to 60 years	50%	0%	8.52%	Yes

- 2.6.6 Time periods start on the first day of each financial year. The maturity date of borrowing is the earliest date on which the lender can demand repayment. In the case of LOBO loans, the next option date has been used as the measure to determine if it is potentially repayable.

#### Long-term Treasury Management Investments

- 2.6.7 The purpose of the Long-Term Treasury Management indicator is to control the Authority's exposure to the risk of incurring losses by seeking early repayment of its investments. The prudential limits on the long-term treasury management limits are set out in the table below.

**Table 10- Limit / Actual Investments exceeding one year**

Limit /Actual Investments Exceeding One Year	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	No fixed date
Limit on principal invested beyond year end	£50m	£50m	£50m	£50m
Actual principal invested beyond year end	£15m	-	-	-
Compliance – Yes/No?	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A

- 2.6.8 Long-term investments with no fixed maturity date include strategic pooled funds. For the Council, this is currently the CCLA Property Fund. Long term investments exclude money market funds and bank accounts with no fixed maturity date as these are considered short-term investments.

### **3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management the Audit Committee has no option other than to consider and approve the contents of the report. Therefore, no options/alternatives have been presented.

## **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 The preferred option is that the contents of the report are approved by Council.

## **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 There has been consultation with the Council's, Treasury Management Advisors, Arlingclose in the production of this report.
- 5.2 The Treasury Management Outturn Report was presented to the Audit Committee for detailed scrutiny on 23 July 2025. All questions and matters raised at the Committee were addressed the Committee was content to recommend the report to Cabinet.
- 5.3 The report was presented to Cabinet at its meeting of 8 September 2025. Cabinet approved the report and was content to commend it to Council. Approval by Council will ensure the full compliance for the financial year 2024/25 with the requirements of the CIPFA Code of Practice.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 All included within the report.

## **7 Legal Services Comments**

- 7.1 The proposals have been the subject of review by Finance officers and the Council's Treasury Management advisers in order to ensure compliance with the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 and statutory guidance on the Minimum Revenue Provision. I am satisfied that the recommended proposals would not be in breach of those regulations or statutory guidance and the preferred option is supported.

(Alex Bougatef – Monitoring Officer)

## **8 Co-operative Agenda**

- 8.1 The Council ensures that any Treasury Management decisions comply as far as possible with the ethos of the Co-operative Council.

## **9 Human Resources Comments**

- 9.1 None.

## **10 Risk Assessments**

- 10.1 There are considerable risks to the security of the Authority's resources if appropriate treasury management strategies and policies are not adopted and followed. The Council has established good practice in relation to treasury management which has previously been acknowledged in both Internal and the External Auditors' reports presented to the Audit Committee.

## **11 IT Implications**

- 11.1 None.

## **12 Property Implications**

- 12.1 None.

**13 Procurement Implications**

13.1 None.

**14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

14.1 None.

**15 Community cohesion, including crime and disorder in accordance with section17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

15.1 None.

**16 Oldham Equality Impact Assessments, including implications for Children and Young People**

16.1 Not Applicable

**17 Key Decision**

17.1 Yes

**18 Key Decision Reference**

18.1 FCR/04/25

**19 Background Papers**

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

File Ref: Background papers are contained with Appendix 1

Officer Name: James Postle

**Appendix 1 - Prudential and Treasury Indicators**

## Appendix 1 - Prudential and Treasury Indicators

The following tables shows a summary of the prudential indicators for 2024/25.

### Capital Expenditure

Capital Expenditure/Financing	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
<b>Expenditure</b>		
General Fund services	81,147	81,790
HRA	64	1
<b>Total Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>81,211</b>	<b>81,791</b>
<b>Financing</b>		
Grants & Contributions	(32,621)	(27,774)
Prudential Borrowing	(40,448)	(47,337)
Revenue	(1,606)	(13)
Capital Receipts	(6,538)	(6,667)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(81,211)</b>	<b>(81,791)</b>

### Capital Financing Requirement (CFR)

Capital Financing Requirement	31 March 2024 Actual £'000	31 March 2025 Actual £'000
General Fund Services	488,980	559,839
<b>Total CFR</b>	<b>488,980</b>	<b>559,839</b>

### Gross Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement

Gross Borrowing / CFR	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Gross Borrowing (incl. PFI & leases)	375,000	458,630
Capital Financing Requirement	488,980	559,839

### Debt and the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary

Debt	Debt at 31 March 2025	2024/25 Revised Operational Boundary	2024/25 Revised Authorised Limit	Compliance? Yes/No
	£'000	£'000	£'000	
Borrowing	234,817	335,250	350,250	Yes
PFI and Finance Leases	223,812	230,000	235,000	Yes
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>458,630</b>	<b>565,250</b>	<b>585,250</b>	

### Proportion of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream

Financing Cost/Net Revenue Stream	2023/24 £'000	2024/25 £'000
Financing costs (£m)	19,424	26,252
Proportion of net revenue stream	6.50%	7.61%



## Report to COUNCIL

# Introduction of Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

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

**Report Author(s):**

Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart (Strategic Planning Team Leader)

Lauren Hargreaves (Senior Planning Officer, Strategic Planning)

**17 September 2025**

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## Reason for Decision

This report is in response to the recent motion that was submitted for Council consideration on 21 July 2025 regarding the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation.

## Recommendations:

In considering this report and the motion put to Council, Members are asked -

- 1) To reflect on the information provided in the body of this report and the background evidence attached at Appendix 4.
- 2) To note that a report is to be taken to Cabinet on 22 September 2025 outlining recommendations for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation.



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## Executive Summary

Over the last few years, and more recently through council motions, members have highlighted their concern with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) that are currently being introduced across the borough. It is recognised that HMOs provide a much-needed source of housing for various groups in need within the borough, including young people, students, and single person households. However, poorly managed and maintained HMOs, especially where clusters of HMOs arise in one place, can have a detrimental impact on local areas.

To address these concerns, where appropriate, the Council can adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development rights that enable a C3 dwelling to be converted to a C4 “small” HMO. This would require such conversions to first apply for planning permission for the change of use. Requiring the submission of a planning application for such proposals will not necessarily reduce the number of C4 HMOs being created, but it does allow for the proper consideration of the effects of a proposed HMO on an area's amenity and local community, before issuing any planning permission and, in doing so, we are able to influence the quality of the HMO through the planning process.

This report:

- Outlines the recent motions presented at council on the 9 April and subsequently 21 July 2025 on the introduction of an Article 4 Direction for HMOs;
- Sets out the legislation regarding Article 4 Directions and the process for implementation;
- Outlines the current position and evidence regarding HMOs across the borough; and
- Identifies the options available for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction for HMOs, specifically whether it focuses on specific areas or is boroughwide.

Informed by the evidence presented in this report the preferred option (as recommended) is to introduce a Non-Immediate Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation that will be implemented borough-wide. If this is agreed by Cabinet, a period of consultation from 29 September to 9 November 2025 for 6 weeks will take place, after which the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods will then consider whether to confirm the Direction and bring it into effect on 1 January 2026, having considered all consultation comments received.

This approach is the preferred option for the following reasons:

- a) It would enable the Council to assess the impact of all HMOs on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the individual circumstances and location of the development, and to better manage HMO concentration and prevent the formation of imbalanced communities, as well as reduce any negative impact on local amenity. It would also give residents a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views are heard.
- b) A non-immediate Article 4 Direction with the six-week period of consultation proposed and a commencement date of 1 January 2026 will provide sufficient

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notice to landlords (and prospective landlords) who have already purchased a C3 property with the intention to convert it to a C4 HMO.

- c) Adopting a borough-wide approach reflects the evidence available and will avoid any effects of displacement as witnessed by other GM districts and ensures a consistent approach going forward.

## Houses of Multiple Occupation Article 4 Direction

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Over the last few years, and more recently through council motions, members have highlighted their concern with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) that are currently being introduced across the borough.

#### ***Recent Council Motions***

- 1.2 A Motion was submitted to Council on 9 April 2025 by Councillor Taylor, and seconded by Councillor Davis, requesting the Council calls on the new Labour Government to reverse the changes introduced by the Conservative and Liberal Democrat Coalition Government in 2010 which removed the requirement for planning permission for small houses of multiple occupation. The full version of this motion can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.3 An amended motion was then proposed, and approved<sup>1</sup>, at Council on 9 April 2025 by Cllr Sam Al-Hamdani and seconded by Cllr Mark Kenyon. In addition to that, in paragraph 2.1.1 this amended motion requested a report back on whether a case can be made for an Article 4 direction, to continue efforts to establish that case, and to report back on a regular basis. The full version of this motion can be found at Appendix 2 to this report.

#### ***Motion presented to Council 21 July 2025***

- 1.4 The most recent motion was approved at Council on 21 July 2025.
- 1.5 The motion acknowledges residents' concerns regarding the number of HMOs that are currently being introduced across the borough and that, whilst it is not possible to prevent full planning applications from being submitted, the Council can act to close the loophole that allows for permitted development rights for HMOs where between three and six unrelated people share basic amenities, such as a kitchen or bathroom. Requiring a planning application to be submitted for change of use from class C3 to C4 would help ensure that due process is applied, giving residents a say in what happens in their communities.
- 1.6 Specifically, the motion requested that the 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 boroughwide basis. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> See minutes from Council meeting on 9 April 2025 available online at <https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=132&MIId=9176&Ver=4>

- 
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 boroughwide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
  4. To put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1st January 2026.
- 1.7 The full version of this motion (as amended) can be found at Appendix 3 to this report.
  - 1.8 Alternative motions were also presented at Council on 21 July 2025 can be found as part of the published agenda at <https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MIId=9600&Ver=4>.
  - 1.9 The introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation links to the Council's Plan priorities of Healthier Happier Lives and Great Place to Live.
  - 1.10 In terms of the purpose of this report, which responds specifically to how the concerns listed in the motion made to Council on 21 July 2025, there are no implications for:
    - Community Cohesion Implications, including crime and disorder implications under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998; or
    - Risk Assessments; Co-operative Implications, Human Resource Implications, IT implications, Property Implications, Procurement Implications and Environment and Health and Safety Implications.

## **2 Current Position**

- 2.1 It is recognised that HMOs provide a much-needed source of housing for various groups in need within the borough, including young people, students, and single person households. However, poorly managed and maintained HMOs, especially where clusters of HMOs arise in one place, can have a detrimental impact on local areas.
- 2.2 In general terms, a HMO is a property rented out by at least three people who are not related and who share facilities like the bathroom and/or kitchen. The type of accommodation that could be classed as a HMO includes:
  - A number of bedsits in one building;
  - A hostel;
  - Halls of residence (private);
  - A shared house;
  - A block of converted flats; and
  - Individual shared self-contained single cluster flats.

- 
- 2.3 Under current planning legislation, HMOs are divided into two Use Classes, which are often referred to as 'Small' and 'Large' HMOs:
- Small HMOs are houses or flats occupied by between 3 and 6 unrelated individuals who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom. These are classified as a 'C4' use within the Use Classes Order; and,
  - Large HMOs comprise houses or flats occupied by more than 6 unrelated individuals who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom. These are classified as Sui Generis (a use that does not fall in any use class).
- 2.4 Currently, single family dwellings, defined within use class C3, can change to a C4 use without the need for planning permission under permitted development rights. Similarly, a C4 HMO can be converted to a C3 dwelling at any time under permitted development rights. Whereas the conversion of any use other than C3 to a C4 HMO use (or the new-build development of a C4 HMO) does require planning permission.
- 2.5 The conversion (or new-build) of any property to create a Sui Generis "large" HMO requires planning permission in all cases.
- 2.6 The Council can adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development rights that enable a C3 dwelling to be converted to a C4 "small" HMO. This would require such conversions to first apply for planning permission for the change of use.

### ***Evidence***

- 2.7 As summarised below, officers have considered and set out the evidence in relation to HMOs across the borough. The detail is set out in the background paper at Appendix 4 to this report.
- 2.8 As of July 2025, according to the best available evidence, there are approximately 384 HMOs in the borough. 81 of these HMOs have secured a HMO Licence or been issued a draft licence ready for the final licence to be issued, and 43 applications are in the process of being considered.
- 2.9 The number of HMOs represents 0.38% of the borough's total dwelling stock (98,912 dwellings, as of October 2024).
- 2.10 The actual number of HMOs in the borough may differ somewhat. The Council is not currently notified of all conversions of C3 dwellings to small HMOs (as this is currently permitted development), but this figure is based on the best available evidence to us. Whilst it would be hoped those small HMOs would be picked up through Council Tax records (and many are), this is not always the case, depending on what information has been provided by the occupiers on Council Tax returns. Also, HMOs can change back to single family dwellings without notifying the Council.
- 2.11 Of the 384 existing HMOs in the borough, 74 have been granted planning permission. A further 19 applications for a HMO have been granted planning

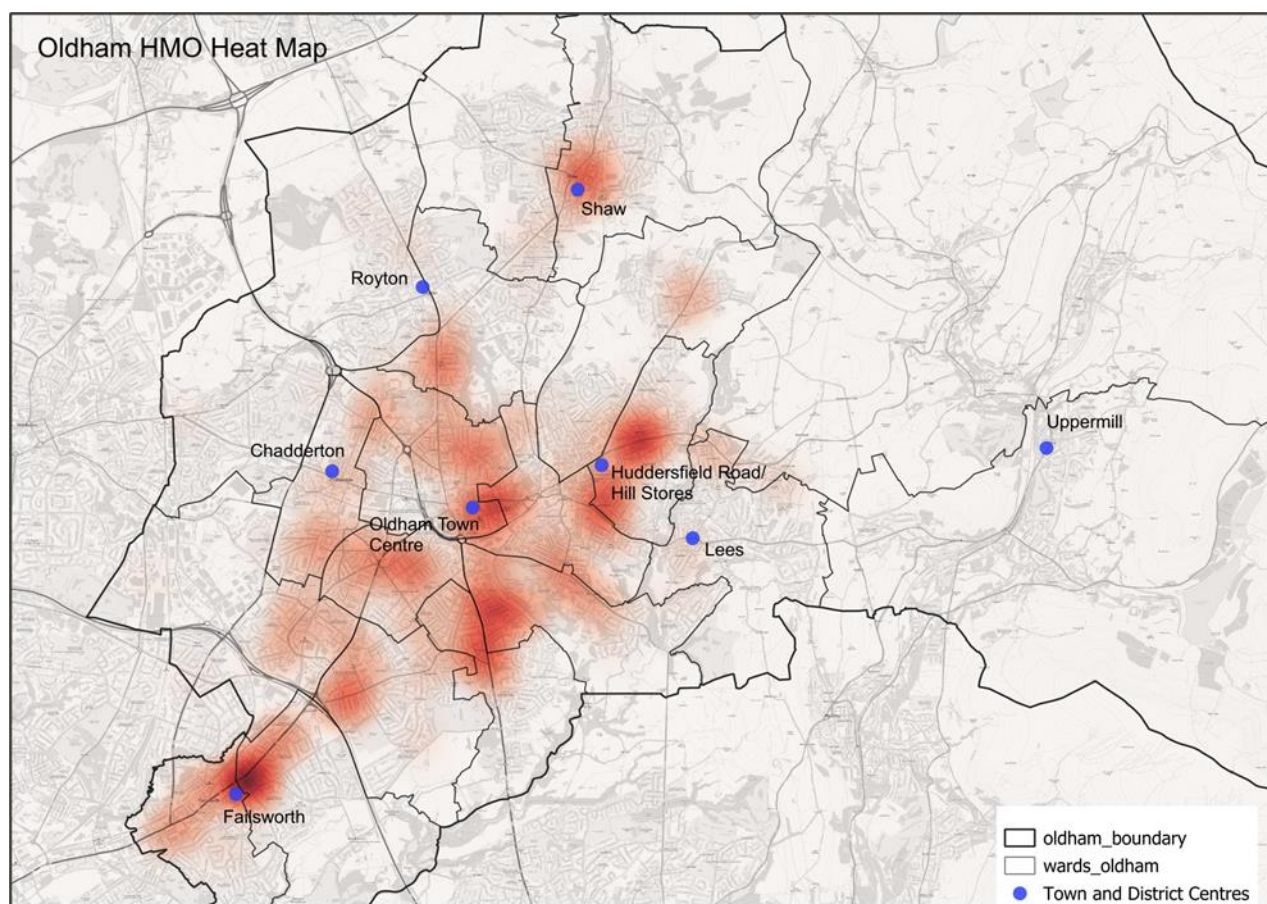
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permission and are yet to be implemented, or they are under construction, and so the HMO is not yet occupied / in use.

- 2.12 It can be assumed that the majority of the existing HMOs in the borough are smaller HMOs, for less than 6 people. There are approximately 75 HMOs (19% of the total 384 existing HMOs) which are for 6 people or above. We mainly know this because, as set out above, HMO development for 6 people and above is not permitted development and planning permission is required. Also, sometimes, the information is provided in an application to building control.
- 2.13 Over 48% (185 properties) of the total 384 HMOs have been changed from a single household dwelling to a HMO. An additional 47 bedrooms have been created where a change of use from single household dwelling to HMO has occurred (and where details of bedroom numbers are known).
- 2.14 Whilst this does not always equate to a loss of a residential unit (as per planning guidance some smaller HMOs can still exist under use class C3 – the same use class as a single household dwelling), it could mean the loss of a family home into smaller, single occupation uses.
- 2.15 The Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) (2024) has identified a need for family housing, including larger family housing of 4+ bedrooms across the borough. The loss of family housing to HMOs can impact on the dwelling stock available for families, and the ability of the housing stock to meet local housing needs.
- 2.16 Where smaller homes are converted into HMOs (especially small HMOs which do not currently require planning permission), the units of individual accommodation that are created could be smaller and not meet the minimum space standards that we would like to see provided for. This could lead to overcrowded and substandard living conditions.
- 2.17 Other HMOs are typically created from change of use from shops, restaurants or commercial properties (which already requires planning permission).
- 2.18 The LHNA has identified that there is a need for smaller units of accommodation and affordable housing, which HMOs could provide. HMOs can also be suitable housing options for students or key workers. However, it is important that this housing provides a decent standard of living and does not contribute to overcrowding.
- 2.19 The heat map at figure 1 indicatively illustrates the spatial distribution of the recorded HMOs in the borough.



Figure 1: Heat map showing spatial distribution of HMOs in Oldham



- 2.20 As shown in figure 1, the HMOs are predominantly located within inner Oldham, along key transport routes (e.g., the A62, which connects Oldham to Failsworth and Manchester) and within and around district centres.
- 2.21 It appears that there may be clusters of HMOs emerging within and around Failsworth district centre, Huddersfield Road district centre, Oldham Town Centre, Shaw district centre and within Greenacres/ Clarksfield and Hathershaw (along Ashton Road). There are also lesser numbers of HMOs located near Royal Oldham Hospital (within Coldhurst and Royton South) and within areas of Central and South Chadderton, Hollinwood and Werneth. Conversely there are very few HMOs located within Saddleworth wards.
- 2.22 The majority of the borough's existing HMOs are located in accessible locations. Just under half (191) of the borough's recorded HMOs (384) are located within 800m of a Metrolink station and 2 are located within 800m of a train station (Mills Hill and Moston). The vast majority are in walking distance of a bus stop. Typically, HMOs can be a lower cost form of accommodation, and as such appeal to those with lower incomes, where levels of car ownership are also likely to be lower. As such, it is important to ensure HMOs are located sustainably with access to public transport within a suitable walking distance.

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## ***Next Steps***

- 2.23 Informed by the evidence review and consideration of alternative options, a report is to be taken to Cabinet on 22 September 2025 that will seek approval to (amongst other recommendations) make a Non-Immediate Article 4 Direction to remove permitted development rights for the change of use from Use Class C3 (dwelling houses) to Use Class C4 (small houses in multiple occupation) on a boroughwide basis.
- 2.24 If Cabinet is minded to approve the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on HMOs on 22 September 2025, a period of consultation will take place for six weeks commencing on 29 September and running until 9 November 2025. In line with the regulations set out in Schedule 3 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015<sup>2</sup>, the Secretary of State will be notified at the start of the period of public consultation and when the direction is confirmed.
- 2.25 The Cabinet report will also recommend that delegated authority is granted to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods to consider the outcome of the consultation and thereafter to determine if the Article 4 Direction should be confirmed and come into effect (see below).
- 2.26 Subject to the above, the borough-wide direction would come into force on 1 January 2026, or such other later date as considered appropriate.
- 2.27 By proceeding in this way, and consulting on the Direction, existing and prospective HMO landlords will be put on notice that the Council intends to implement the Article 4 Direction on the 1 January 2026, or such other later date as considered appropriate, from the point at which Cabinet approve the direction being made on 22 September 2025. The period of consultation will provide an opportunity for those with an interest to submit representations. It is considered that this will raise awareness that the implementation of the Direction is forthcoming. This can help to reduce the risks associated with introducing the Direction, including minimising potential exposure to compensation claims, as the Council's decision to introduce the Direction and the date on which this is to be confirmed will be in the public domain at the earliest opportunity and well in advance of any Direction coming into effect.
- 2.28 If Cabinet do decide to make an Article 4 Direction for HMOs in Oldham, planning applications for the conversion of C3 dwellings to C4 HMOs will, for the time-being be considered on the same policy basis that planning applications for HMOs are already considered, having regard to issues such as amenity, character and highway safety. However, through the proposed new Local Plan for Oldham, updated policies will be included that allow a more nuanced approach to planning for HMOs in the borough, particularly geared toward avoiding clusters of HMOs on any given street and ensuring that the space and design standards of rooms in HMOs are adhered to, to avoid over-crowding and poor living conditions.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/596/schedule/3>



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### 3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Consideration has been given to whether the Article 4 Direction should be non-immediate or immediate.

#### *Immediacy*

- 3.2 The main benefit of an immediate direction is that the Council would gain control over the issue and respond to members and communities concerns from day one the direction is acknowledged. However, it is considered that a non-immediate Article 4 Direction reflects the evidence based and will raise awareness that the implementation of the Direction is forthcoming. This can help to reduce the risk associated with introducing the Direction, minimising potential exposure to compensation claims as the Council's decision to introduce the Direction and the date on which this is to be confirmed will be in the public domain at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.3 In addition, the introduction of an Immediate Article 4 Direction has a substantially higher evidence threshold whereby the local planning authority would be required to demonstrate that the development to which the direction relates would be prejudicial to the proper planning of the area or constitute a threat to the amenities of the area. It is not considered that this higher evidence threshold is currently being met anywhere in the borough.

#### *Spatial coverage*

- 3.4 Evidence shows that, whilst there are several potential clusters beginning to form within and around inner Oldham, along key transport routes (e.g., the A62 corridor connecting Oldham to Failsworth and Manchester - and Ashton Road) and within and around several district centres, there is still a general spread of HMOs across many areas of the borough, as shown in figure 1 above. We are therefore unable to clearly define those areas disproportionately affected.
- 3.5 In addition, other authorities in Greater Manchester have experienced evidence of a displacement effect where restrictions on HMOs in one area are leading to an increase of HMOs in neighbouring areas of borough.
- 3.6 As such, given concerns around the proliferation of HMOs in various parts of Oldham and that these are spread across many of areas of the borough, it is felt prudent to apply a Direction borough-wide. This will avoid any effects of displacement as witnessed by other GM districts and ensures a consistent approach going forward. It is also considered an area-specific Article 4 Direction would not provide the consistency and control required to ensure that HMOs do not negatively impact on the amenity of our local communities and the character of the borough.

#### *No Article 4 Direction*

- 3.7 In the absence of an Article 4 Direction the Council would have limited control as to how and where small HMOs come forward, with the exception of those that are for 5 to 6 people, which would need to have a HMO Licence.

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- 3.8 An Article 4 Direction would not stop HMOs coming forward in the borough, but it would mean that the Council is able to assess the impact of all HMOs on a case-by-case basis, having regard to the individual circumstances and location of the development. A Direction would enable the Council to better manage HMO concentration and prevent the formation of imbalanced communities, as well as reduce any negative impact on local amenity. It would also give residents a voice and a transparent process to ensure that their views are heard.
- 3.9 These options regarding the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on HMOs will be considered as part of the aforementioned Cabinet report and in reaching the preferred option.

#### **4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 In considering this report and the motion put to Council, the preferred option is for Members (as per the recommendations):
- a) To reflect on the information provided in the body of this report and the background evidence attached at Appendix 4.
  - b) To note that a report is to be taken to Cabinet on 22 September 2025 outlining recommendations for the introduction of a non-immediate borough-wide Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation.

#### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 A period of consultation, commencing 29 September to 9 November 2025 for 6 weeks is proposed. Following this the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods will then consider whether to confirm the Direction and bring it into effect on 1 January 2026, having considered all consultation comments received.

#### **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 A rise in planning applications for HMO conversions is expected, resulting in increased Planning workloads. Additional planning application fee income is therefore also anticipated and will help contribute to any additional staff costs. All planning application income and expenditure will be allocated from within the Development Control & Planning service budget.
- 6.2 The implementation of the Article 4 Direction, either immediate or non-immediate, could potentially give rise to compensation claims against the Council. These claims could be more prevalent under the immediate imposition of Article 4, as identified within the report.
- 6.3 Having consulted Legal and Risk & Insurance colleagues, they have confirmed there is no dedicated funding resource for any potential claims. Therefore, any such claims would be an additional pressure on the service which would need to be covered from within the service's general revenue budget.

(Mohammed Hussain)

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## **7 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Under Article 4 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, a local planning authority can restrict the scope of permitted development rights in relation to defined areas. It is a power of pre-emption rather than prohibition: by withdrawing the deemed permission under the Order, its effect is to require an application to be made for express permission for development proposals. If that permission is refused or granted subject to conditions other than those in the Order, the landowner is entitled to claim compensation for abortive expenditure and any loss or damage caused by the loss of rights. The National Planning Policy Framework advises that the use of Article 4 should be limited to situations where an Article 4 direction is necessary to protect local amenity or the well-being of the area and in all cases, be based on robust evidence, and apply to the smallest geographical area possible.
- 7.2 A decision about whether to withdraw permitted development rights is an executive function and can be dealt with by the Cabinet or a Cabinet Member.

(A Evans)

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

- 8.1 An Oldham Equality Impact Assessment has been prepared alongside the preparation of the Cabinet Report and will be available as an appendix to that report.

## **9 Key Decision**

- 9.1 N/A

## **10 Key Decision Reference**

- 10.1 None

## **11 Background Papers**

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

National Planning Policy Framework at  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF\\_December\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf)

Schedule 3 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/596/schedule/3>

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## 12 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Original Motion submitted by Labour on Houses of Multiple Occupation, 9 April 2025

Appendix 2 – Amended and Approved Liberal Democrat Motion on Houses of Multiple Occupation, 9 April 2025

Appendix 3 - Motion (as amended) submitted by the administration to Council on 21 July 2025

Appendix 4 – Article 4 Direction Background Evidence Paper

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## **Appendix 1 – Original Motion submitted by Labour on Houses of Multiple Occupation, 9 April 2025**

To be Moved by: Councillor Taylor

to be Seconded by: Councillor Davis

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

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

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

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

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

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## **Appendix 2 – Amended and Approved Liberal Democrat Motion on Houses of Multiple Occupation, 9 April 2025**

Proposed: Sam Al-Hamdani

Seconded: Mark Kenyon

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

This Council also notes that

- on 1 November 2023, it resolved to direct officers to “collect and collate evidence on the number of HMOs in each ward across the Borough, identifying clusters and report back to the relevant cabinet member if any case can be made for an Article 4 direction”.
- current national planning regulations allow certain HMOs (Class C4, up to six residents) to be established without the need for planning permission. This limits the ability of local authorities to manage their spread and ensure they are appropriately located and regulated.
- no figures are currently available on the number of HMOs in the borough – only for the number of licenced HMOs (which meet one definition) or for HMOs which have received planning permission (which meet a separate definition).
- there are standard tests which allow the Council to define whether any building is an HMO, as defined under the Housing Act 2004.
- Councillors have been told that they cannot be informed of forthcoming HMOs for licensing, due to data privacy.
- Councillors have no right to make a representation to the Council on HMO licence applications and renewals.
- the Council has let licenses for HMOs lapse on multiple occasions, sometimes for up to a year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## **Appendix 3 – Motion (as amended) submitted by the administration to Council on 16 July 2025**

**Proposed by: Cllr Elaine Taylor**

**Seconded by: Cllr Davis**

### **Motion as Amended**

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

Residents are rightly concerned with the number of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) 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.

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



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2015 on a borough wide basis. 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 Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.
4. To put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1st January 2026.

Oldham Council does not intend to 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. As a resident focused Council, we value residents' opinions and put communities at the forefront of decision making. We are committed to giving 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.

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## **Appendix 4 – Article 4 Direction Background Paper**

See separate document

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## **Article 4 Direction**

### **Removal of permitted development rights for the change of use from Class C3 (Dwelling Houses) to C4 (Houses in Multiple Occupation)**

Background Document

September 2025

DRAFT

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# 1. Introduction

- 1.1. An Article 4 Direction is a legal process which allows local authorities to remove specified permitted development rights across a defined area.
- 1.2. This paper provides the background and evidence base for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development right for the change of use from dwelling houses (Use Class C3) to Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) for up to six residents (Use Class C4).
- 1.3. The Article 4 Direction would be made under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 (as amended) and would apply to the whole borough of Oldham.
- 1.4. The Article 4 Direction will enable the council to have greater control over the number, distribution and management of HMOs.
- 1.5. The following sections set out the policy context, background and local evidence to justify the introduction of the Article 4 Direction in Oldham.

## 2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The government defines a HMO as a property rented out by at least 3 people who are not from 1 'household' (for example a family) but share facilities like the bathroom and kitchen<sup>1</sup>.
- 2.2. Under current planning legislation<sup>2</sup>, HMOs are divided into two Use Classes, which are often referred to as 'Small' and 'Large' HMOs:
  - Small HMOs are houses or flats occupied by between 3 and 6 unrelated individuals who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or a bathroom. These are classified as a 'C4' use within the Use Classes Order; and
  - Large HMOs comprise houses or flats occupied by more than 6 unrelated individuals who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom. These are classified as Sui Generis (a use that does not fall in any use class).
- 2.3. Currently, the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) England Order 2015 (as amended) (GDPO)<sup>3</sup> allows the change of use of a dwelling house (Use Class C3) to a small HMO (Use Class C4), without the need for planning permission under permitted development rights.
- 2.4. The change of use from any use other than C3 to a small HMO or the new-build development a small HMO, does require planning permission. Similarly, a small HMO can be converted to a C3 dwelling at any time under permitted development rights.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/find-licences/house-in-multiple-occupation-licence>

<sup>2</sup> The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended):  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1987/764/contents?view=plain>

<sup>3</sup> GDPO Class L of Schedule 2:  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/596/schedule/2/part/3/crossheading/class-l-small-hmos-to-dwellinghouses-and-vice-versa>

- 2.5. The conversion (or new-build) of any property to create a Sui Generis “large” HMO requires planning permission in all cases.
- 2.6. There are also some HMOs that are covered under the ‘C3 dwelling houses’ use, such as those where there are up to six people living together as a single household and receiving care, and some groups of people (up to six) living together as a single household (e.g., a small religious community or homeowners living with a lodger).

#### Article 4 Directions

- 2.7. The Council can adopt an Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development rights that enable a C3 dwelling to be converted to a C4 “small” HMO. This would require such conversions to apply for planning permission for the change of use.
- 2.8. Requiring the submission of a planning application for such proposals will not necessarily reduce the number of small HMOs being created. It does however allow for the proper consideration of the effects of a proposed HMO on an area's amenity and local community, before issuing any planning permission. In doing so the Council is able to influence the quality of the HMO through the planning process. This is especially important for 3 and 4 person HMOs as they do not require a HMO Licence, and so the quality of such HMOs cannot be monitored properly currently.
- 2.9. Article 4 Directions can be introduced on a temporary or permanent basis by local authorities. There are two types of Article 4 Directions:
- Non-immediate Article 4 Direction: This type requires a minimum 21-day period of public consultation before it can be introduced. It must then be confirmed after the consultation period ends and within 12 months of the original decision to introduce the direction, and the Secretary of State must be notified once it is confirmed.
  - Immediate Article 4 Direction: This can take effect as soon as it is issued, removing permitted development rights immediately before consultation. However, it must be confirmed by the local authority within six months, and the Secretary of State must also be informed.
- 2.10. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that Article 4 Directions should be applied in a measured and targeted way and should be limited to situations where the direction is necessary to protect the amenity or local wellbeing of the area and should cover the smallest area possible<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.11. Both the type of restriction and the extent that the Article 4 will apply to, must be justified. The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government can intervene to stop Article 4 Directions taking effect should they deem it appropriate.
- 2.12. The evidence section of this document sets out the local justification for the introduction of a borough-wide Article 4 Direction in relation HMOs across Oldham.

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<sup>4</sup> National Planning Policy Framework Paragraph 54:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF\\_December\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf)

## Local Context

- 2.13. Oldham's Local Plan (the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Development Plan Document, 2011)<sup>5</sup> sets out policy relating to housing and amenity which can be used in determining applications for HMOs.
- 2.14. Policy 3 'Address of Choice' supports the delivery of housing in suitable locations, including change of use and conversion. Policy 9 'Local Environment' sets out policy for improving and protecting local environmental quality and amenity and promoting community safety. This policy is heavily used in determining applications for HMOs. Policy 11 'Housing' sets out that HMOs shall not be permitted unless it can be demonstrated that the proposal does not adversely affect:
- The local character of the area;
  - The residential and workplace amenity of current, future and neighbouring occupants; and
  - Traffic levels and the safety of road users.
- 2.15. There are also other local plan policies and policies with the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan (PfE) that can be used to determine HMO applications.
- 2.16. Oldham also has several Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)<sup>6</sup> which can be useful for HMO applications, including the Oldham Town Centre Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (CAAMP) SPD and the Vibrant Centres SPD.
- 2.17. Oldham does not currently have a specific HMO planning policy or a HMO SPD. However, the Draft Local Plan (published in December 2023)<sup>7</sup> contained a specific policy on HMOs (see policy H10). The policy set out several requirements for HMO development, including a requirement which sought to prevent an over-concentration of HMOs within a particular area.
- 2.18. There are also licensing requirements for HMOs. Part 2 of the Housing Act (2004)<sup>8</sup> sets out that a property must be licensed if it meets these conditions:
- 5 or more people live there, where there are two or more groups of people that are not living as a family, i.e. mother and son rent one room, female rents another room and two males rent another room, and they are not a family.
  - They share facilities such as bathrooms and kitchens.
- 2.19. Advice for landlords of HMOs is also set out on the council's website. The advice sets out that all HMOs need to be managed properly whether it is a licenced or non-

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<sup>5</sup> Oldham's Local Plan (Joint Core Strategy) (2011):

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201229/current\\_local\\_planning\\_policy/978/joint\\_core\\_strategy\\_and\\_development\\_management\\_policies\\_development\\_plan\\_documents\\_dpds](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201229/current_local_planning_policy/978/joint_core_strategy_and_development_management_policies_development_plan_documents_dpds)

<sup>6</sup> Oldham's Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs): [Supplementary Planning Documents | Oldham Council](#)

<sup>7</sup> Oldham's Draft Local Plan (2023): [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local\\_plan\\_review/3095/draft\\_local\\_plan](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local_plan_review/3095/draft_local_plan)

<sup>8</sup> Housing Act 2004 – Part 2: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/34/part/2>



licensed HMO. It is up to the manager of the property to make sure this is done. A well-managed HMO should be clean and tidy, safe and suitable for living in.

2.20. Management Regulations ensure that:

- Provisions like washing and cooking facilities are adequate;
- There are adequate arrangements for the collection and proper disposal of rubbish;
- Water, gas and electricity are properly supplied and discharged; and
- Any repairs are carried out.

2.21. The law also says that the people who live in an HMO must make sure they don't cause damage, store and dispose of waste properly and cooperate with the manager of the property.

2.22. To guide development quality and proper management of HMOs the council has a HMO standards document which is available on request<sup>9</sup>.

2.23. Further information on HMO licensing requirements for HMOs is available online<sup>10</sup>.

2.24. Currently, Oldham also has five selective licensing areas in operation – within these areas any private-rented properties must be licensed. This includes HMOs, but also other privately rented properties. The aim of selective licensing areas is to improve the management of private rented properties through licence conditions to ensure they have a positive impact on the area.

2.25. The selective licensing areas are located mainly within inner Oldham – a map is available online<sup>11</sup>. The selective licensing areas would continue to operate independently of an Article 4 direction.

### 3. Background

3.1. Over the last few years council members have highlighted their concern with the number of HMOs that are currently being introduced across the borough.

3.2. It is recognised that HMOs provide a much-needed source of housing for various groups in need within the borough, including young people, students, key workers and single person households. However, poorly managed and maintained HMOs, especially where clusters of HMOs arise in one place, can have a detrimental impact on local character and amenity.

3.3. Recently, other local authorities within Greater Manchester have introduced borough-wide Article 4 Directions (or have extended existing area-specific Directions to apply borough-wide). Wigan Council are implementing a borough-wide Article 4 Direction (extending two area-specific directions). Salford City Council is also extending the coverage of its current Article 4 Direction to cover a much broader area. Both these authorities have stated that they have experienced a displacement effect with their

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<sup>9</sup> Further information available at:

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201198/information\\_for\\_landlords/258/houses\\_in\\_multiple\\_occupation\\_hmo](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201198/information_for_landlords/258/houses_in_multiple_occupation_hmo)

<sup>10</sup> Further information can be found at:

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201198/help\\_for\\_landlords/258/houses\\_in\\_multiple\\_occupation](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201198/help_for_landlords/258/houses_in_multiple_occupation)

<sup>11</sup> Oldham Selective Licensing Areas: [Selective Licensing of private landlords | Selective Licensing of private landlords | Oldham Council](#)

previous area-specific Article 4 Directions, whereby restricting HMO development in the specific areas has led to an increase in HMO development in other areas. As a result, these authorities are seeking borough-wide or much broader coverage Article 4 Directions as a result.

- 3.4. Bolton Council has also recently introduced a borough-wide Article 4 Direction. Manchester Council and Trafford Council also have existing Article 4 Directions applying to HMO development.
- 3.5. Other authorities in Greater Manchester are using Article 4 Directions to have greater control on the location and quality of HMOs. This includes the introduction of borough-wide Article 4 Directions to address concerns of displacement, that area-specific Article 4 Directions might cause. Therefore, given the concerns around the proliferation of HMOs in various parts of Oldham and that these are spread across many parts of the borough, it is considered that a borough-wide Article 4 Direction is appropriate for Oldham. This will ensure a consistent approach is applied to HMO development in the borough.

## 4. Local Evidence

### The number of HMOs in Oldham

- 4.1. At the 2021 Census the number of HMOs in Oldham was estimated to be 88<sup>12</sup>. At the time this represented 0.09% of the borough's total housing stock (estimated at 97,761 dwellings).
- 4.2. Nationally, at the 2021 Census, HMOs represented 0.07% of England's total housing stock. As such, at the time Oldham had a slightly higher number of HMOs than the national average.
- 4.3. 'In-house' monitoring of the number of HMOs in Oldham has been undertaken since 2020 to understand trends and impact on the borough's communities.
- 4.4. Over the years, data collection methods have been tested and refined to enable the collection of more accurate data. However, given existing permitted development rights, which allow the change of use of dwelling houses (C3 use) to small HMOs (C4 use), monitoring the number of HMOs can be difficult.
- 4.5. The data presented below has been gathered from a variety of sources, using several internal monitoring systems. Given the volume of data and data handling practices there may be some level of inaccuracy. As such the data should be considered as approximate and the best available.
- 4.6. Oldham Council has used data from licensing, planning and building control, council tax, temporary accommodation records and the Local Land and Property Gazetteer (LLPG) records to estimate the number of HMOs within the borough.
- 4.7. For the latest update of HMO data – July 2025 - a two-step verification process has been introduced to ensure that HMOs can be verified by at least two sources. This is to improve the accuracy of data. Further confirmation and checks on the data have

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<sup>12</sup> ONS Census 2021 – Number of dwellings that are houses in multiple occupation (HMO):  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/RM192/editions/2021/versions/2#summary>.

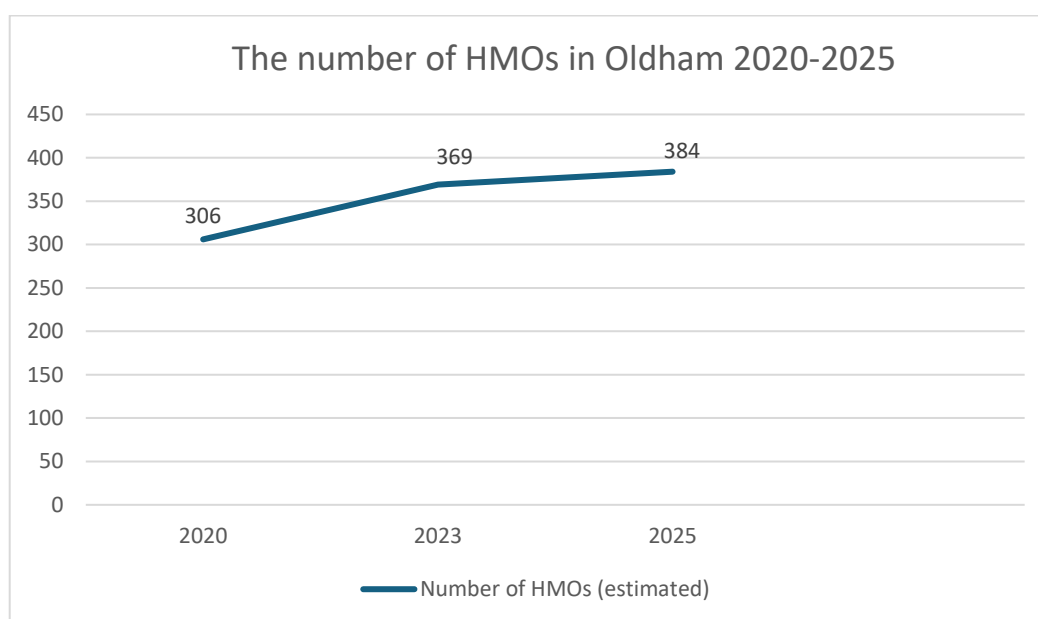
been carried out where necessary, including a desktop assessment (checking mapping systems, local property listings etc.). The number of HMOs which have planning permission and have not yet started and the number of HMOs which are under construction have also been recorded separately.

- 4.8. As of July 2025, the total number of HMOs estimated to be in use/ existing in the borough is approximately 384 (81 of which have secured a HMO Licence or been issued a draft licence ready for the final licence to be issued, and 43 licensing applications are in the process of being considered).
- 4.9. The total number of HMOs (as of July 2025) represents 0.38% of the total dwelling stock (98,912 dwellings, as of October 2024<sup>13</sup>). This is significantly higher than the national percentage of dwelling stock estimate of 0.07% (2021 Census).
- 4.10. Looking over a longer period, data on the number of HMOs in the borough was collected in December 2020 to inform the Local Plan Review – Issues and Options stage. The data identified that there were around 306 HMOs in the borough, which represented 0.31% of the borough's total housing stock at the time (97,079 dwellings as of October 2020).
- 4.11. Between December 2020 and October 2023, there was a 20% increase in the number of HMOs in the borough. In October 2023 the number of HMOs was estimated to be around 369, which represented 0.37% of the total housing stock at the time (98,567 dwellings).
- 4.12. As of the most recent available data, in July 2025 there was estimated to be 384 HMOs in Oldham. This represents a 4% increase from 2023 and a 25% increase from 2020.
- 4.13. The figure below highlights the increase in the number of HMOs across the five-year period. The figure shows that whilst the increase is not sharp, there has been a consistent increase over this period.

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<sup>13</sup> Source – Oldham Council, Council Tax data (October 2024).

Figure 1: Number of HMOs in Oldham 2020-2025



- 4.14. The significant difference in the 2021 Census data on the number of HMOs in the borough (88) and the number recorded in 2025 by the council (384) (and 306 in 2020, 369 in 2023) also highlights the difficulty in accurately identifying the number of HMOs in the borough. Census data on the number of HMOs in Oldham is clearly not an accurate source for the borough, as the internally gathered and verified data indicates that the number is much higher - highlighting the importance of internal monitoring.
- 4.15. Despite the evidence set out above, the actual number of HMOs in the borough may still differ somewhat from that identified. The Council is not currently notified of all conversions of C3 dwellings to small HMOs (as this is currently permitted development). Whilst it would be hoped those small HMOs would be picked up through Council Tax records (and many are), this is not always the case, depending on what information has been provided by the occupiers on Council Tax returns. Also, HMOs can change back to single family dwellings without notifying the Council. The figure set out above (384 at July 2025) is however based on the best available evidence.

#### HMO development

- 4.16. Of the 384 existing HMOs in the borough (July 2025), 74 have been granted planning permission. A further 19 applications for a HMO have been granted planning permission and are yet to be implemented, or they are under construction, and so the HMO is not yet occupied or in use.
- 4.17. There are approximately 75 HMOs (of the total 384 existing HMOs) which are for 6 people or above. We mainly know this because, as set out above, HMO development for 6 people and above is not permitted development and planning

permission is required. Also, sometimes, the information is provided in an application to building control<sup>14</sup>.

- 4.18. As such, it can be assumed that the majority of existing HMOs in the borough are smaller HMOs, for less than 6 people, and therefore those which do not currently require planning permission.
- 4.19. Over 48% (185 properties) of the total 384 HMOs have been changed from a single household dwelling to a HMO. This has resulted in an additional 47 bedrooms where a change of use from single household dwelling to HMO has occurred and bedroom numbers are known.
- 4.20. Whilst this does not always equate to a loss of a residential unit, (as per planning guidance some smaller HMOs can still exist under use class C3 – the same use class as a single household dwelling), it could mean the loss of a family home into smaller, single occupation uses.
- 4.21. The Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) (2024)<sup>15</sup> has identified a need for family housing, including larger family housing of 4+ bedrooms across the borough. The loss of family housing to HMOs can impact the dwelling stock available for families, and the ability of the housing stock to meet local housing needs.
- 4.22. Where smaller homes are converted into HMOs (especially small HMOs which do not currently require planning permission), the units of individual accommodation that are created could be smaller and not meet the minimum space standards. This could lead to overcrowded and substandard living conditions.
- 4.23. Other HMOs are typically created through the change of use from shops, restaurants or commercial properties. The breakdown below notes the other changes of use (not C3) which have occurred for existing HMOs in the borough, where this is known:
- Class E (Commercial, retail, business and services, food and drink) – 31 properties;
  - F2 (Local community uses) – 2 properties;
  - Sui Generis (unique uses) – 5 properties<sup>16</sup>;
  - C1 (Hotels, boarding houses, guest houses) – 1 property;
  - C2 (Residential accommodation and care) – 1 property; and
  - B8 (Storage and Distribution) – 1 property.

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<sup>14</sup> Detailed data is not always required to be supplied for building control applications depending on the application/ approval type.

<sup>15</sup> Oldham Local Housing Needs Assessment (LHNA) (2024), available at:

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/5590/housing\\_strategy\\_needs\\_assessment](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/file/5590/housing_strategy_needs_assessment)

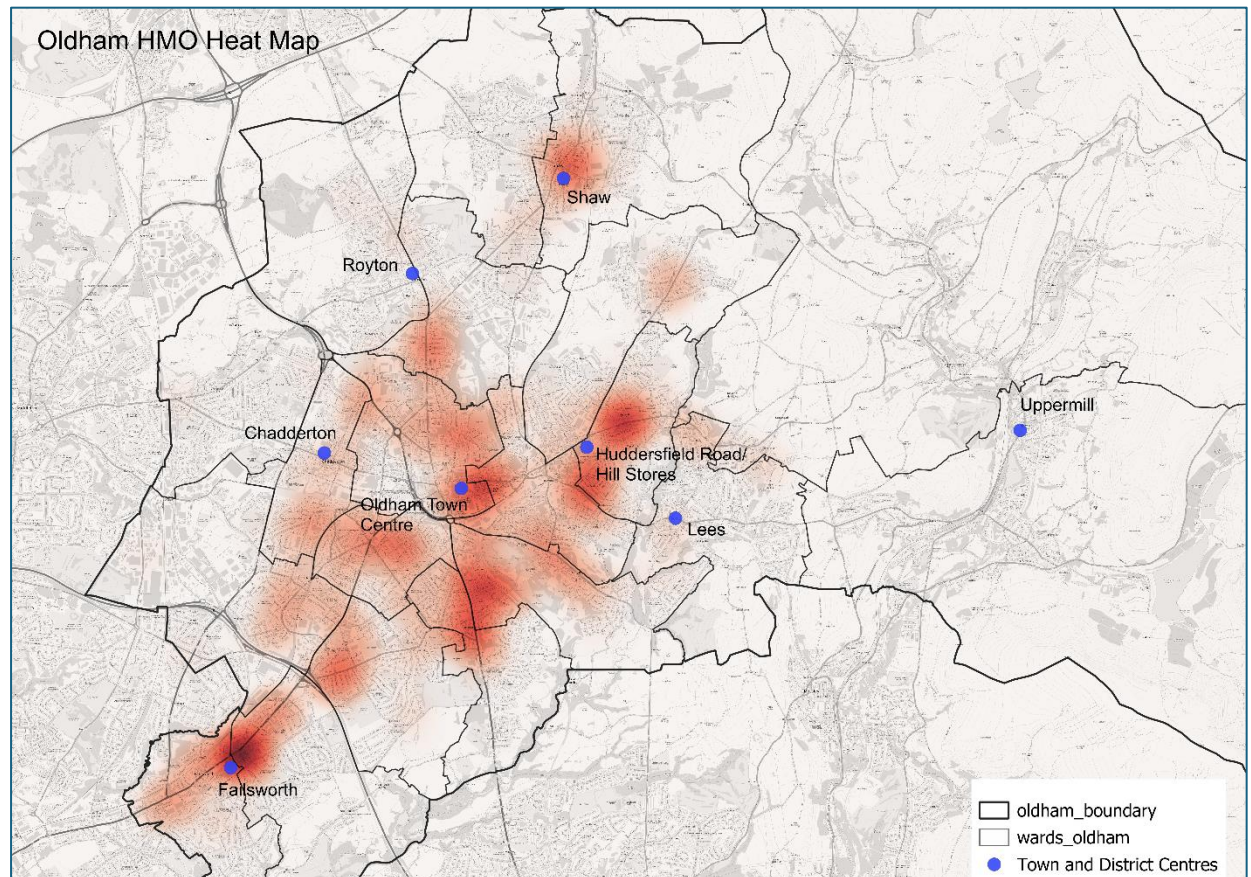
<sup>16</sup> Sui Generis use class includes large HMOs i.e. those for more than 6 unrelated individuals and also many other uses which do not fall within other defined use classes, for example betting shops, launderettes, and nightclubs. The number shown here only includes the properties which have changed from Sui Generis uses which are not HMOs.



## Distribution of HMOs

4.24. The heat map at figure 2 illustrates the spatial distribution of the recorded HMOs in the borough.

*Figure 2: Heat map showing spatial distribution of HMOs in Oldham*



4.25. As shown in Figure 2, HMOs are spread across many areas of the borough. There are particular clusters located within and around inner Oldham, along key transport routes i.e. the A62, which connects Oldham to Failsworth and Manchester, and within and around several district centres.

4.26. There are clusters of HMOs within and around Failsworth district centre, Huddersfield Road district centre, Oldham Town Centre, Shaw district centre and within Greenacres/ Clarksfield and Hathershaw (along Ashton Road). There are also HMOs located near Royal Oldham Hospital (within Coldhurst and Royton South) - and within areas of Central and South Chadderton, Hollinwood and Werneth. Conversely there are very few HMOs located within Saddleworth wards, and within the more rural fringes of the borough.

4.27. The majority of the borough's existing HMOs are located in accessible locations. Just under half (191) of the borough's recorded HMOs are located within 800m of a Metrolink station and 2 are located within 800m of a train station (Mills Hill and Moston). The vast majority are in walking distance of a bus stop. Typically, HMOs can be a lower cost form of accommodation, and as such appeal to those with lower incomes where levels of car ownership are also likely to be lower. As such, it is

important to ensure HMOs are located sustainably with access to public transport within a suitable walking distance.

### Demographics

- 4.28. According to the latest official population projections<sup>17</sup>, Oldham's population is continuing to increase. The projections show that the borough's total population is estimated to increase by around 14,000 people from around 248,000 in 2025 to 263,000 in 2047.
- 4.29. Compared to the England average, Oldham has a younger population and higher than average levels of children. Although in recent years there have been falling birth rates - a trend that is expected to continue.
- 4.30. Levels of deprivation in the borough are generally ranked among the highest in the country. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)<sup>18</sup>, some areas of Oldham rank within the bottom 10% of local authorities in England. Oldham's levels of deprivation have maintained a steady downward trend since 2004<sup>19</sup>. In the 2010 IMD Oldham ranked 32 out of 326 local authorities. In the 2019 IMD Oldham ranked 16 of 317 local authorities.
- 4.31. Figure 3 below shows areas of high deprivation within Oldham. Oldham currently has four areas within the borough which are among the top 1% of the nation's most deprived areas. The majority are centred in and around the town centre, particularly within the wards of St Mary's, Coldhurst and Alexandra. Only the wards of Crompton, Saddleworth North and Saddleworth South do not contain any areas that fall within the nation's top 20% most deprived.

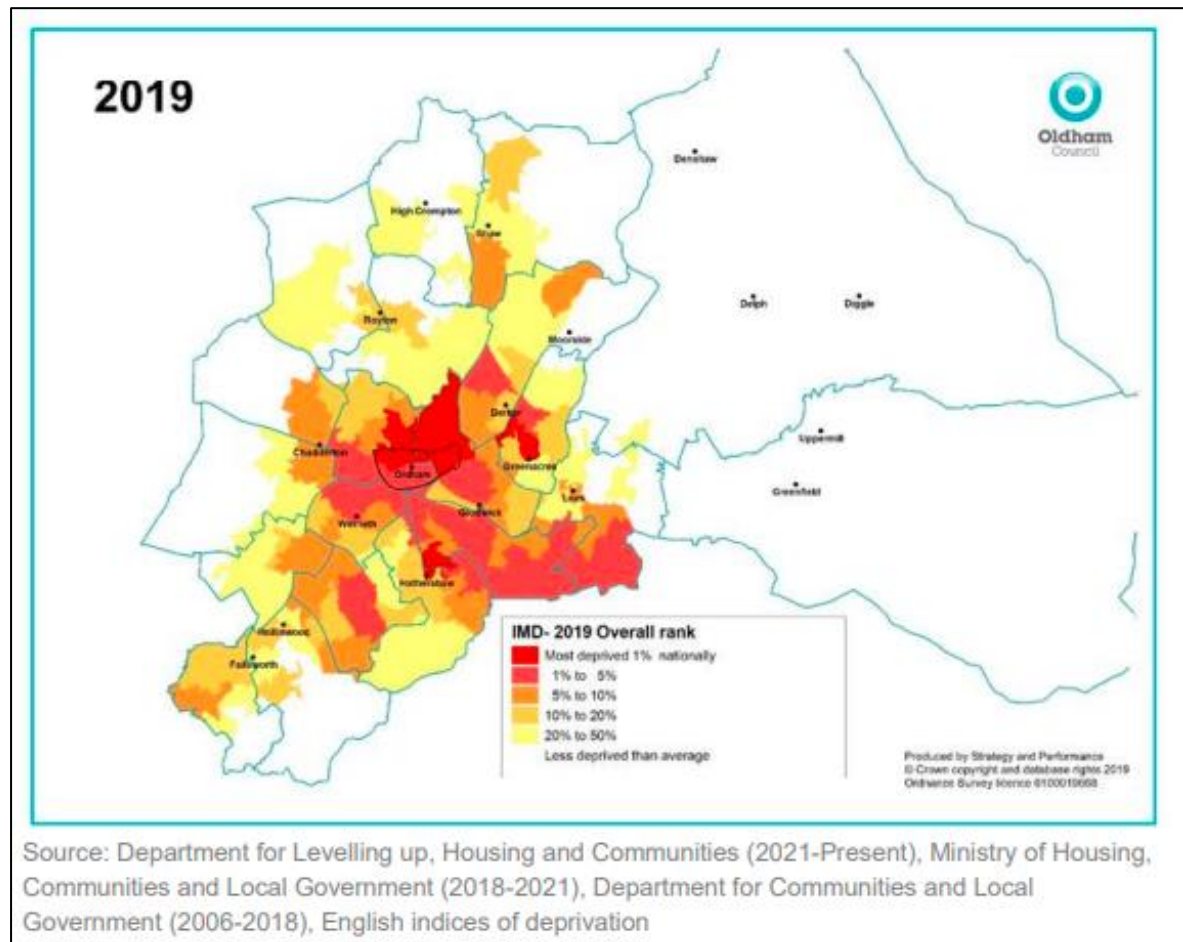
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<sup>17</sup> 2022 based Population Projections released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on 24 June 2025.

<sup>18</sup> The Indices of Multiple Deprivation provide statistics on relative deprivation which are reported at a small area level (Lower Super Output Areas – LSOAs) across all local authorities in England. It looks at a combined measure of income, employment, health, education, crime, barriers to housing and services and the living environment. It also considers income deprivation affecting children and older people.

<sup>19</sup> Source: Oldham in Profile 2024, Oldham Council.

Figure 3: Areas of Deprivation in Oldham<sup>20</sup>

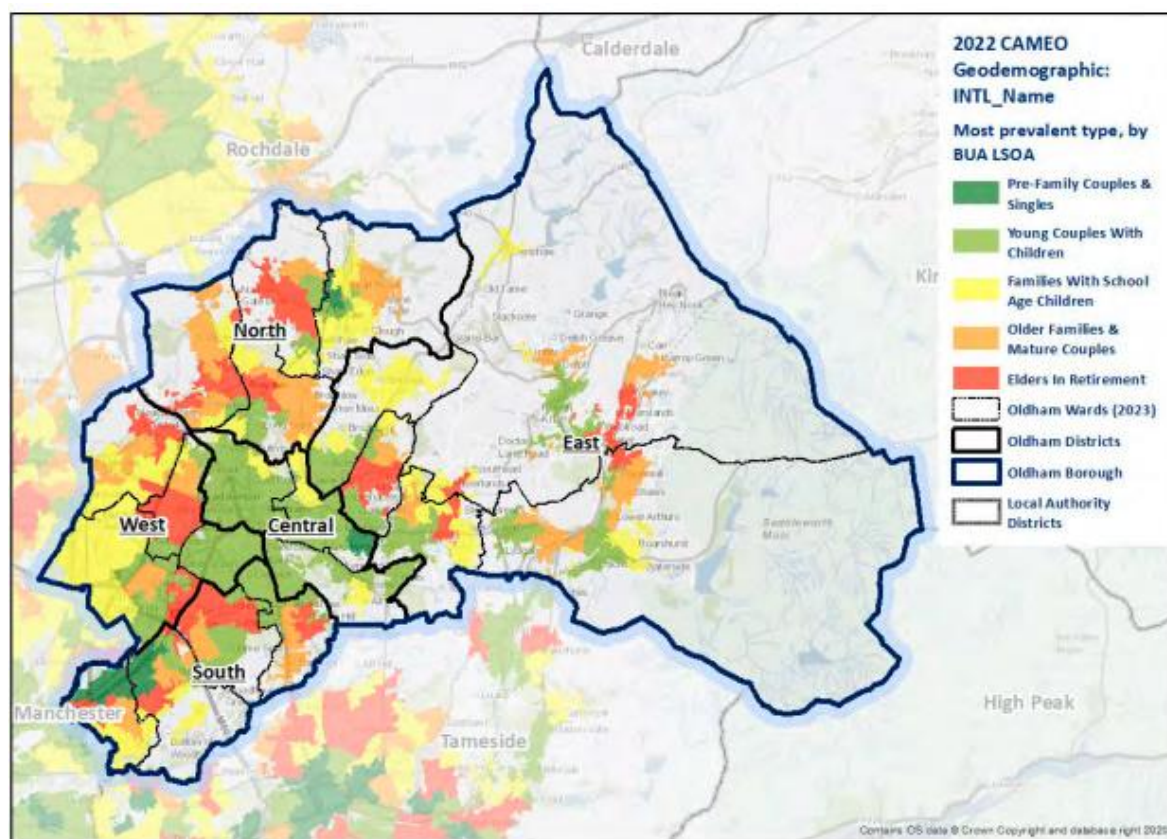


- 4.32. Since 2010 Oldham's deprivation score has improved in measures of deprivation affecting older people, employment and health, however it has worsened in all other measures, including barriers to housing.
- 4.33. HMOs can be a key source of housing for younger and single person households. Figure 4 below, identifies the household types most prevalent in each LSOA. As is shown, the most prevalent household type within central and inner Oldham is young couples with children. Around Failsworth district centre singles and pre-family couples are the most prevalent. Around the fringes of the borough and in Saddleworth the most prevalent household types are families with school age children and mature couples/ families. Pockets of elders in retirement, as the most prevalent household type, are found in most areas of the borough.

<sup>20</sup> Source: Extracted from Oldham in Profile 2024, Oldham Council.



Figure 4: Household characteristics: Household Type by LSOA<sup>21</sup>



Source: CAMEO UK

### Housing Stock

- 4.34. As set out above, there are estimated to be around 98,912 dwellings<sup>22</sup> and 93,152 households<sup>23</sup>. More than one household can live within one dwelling – for example in the case of HMOs you may have several households living within one dwelling unit.
- 4.35. The majority of Oldham's dwelling stock is houses (77.5%) of which terraced houses represent 44.7%. Oldham has the highest proportion of terraced housing stock in Greater Manchester and a large portion is within inner Oldham<sup>24</sup>.
- 4.36. Oldham's housing stock tends to be smaller than the Greater Manchester, North-West and National averages, with fewer dwellings of 4 bedrooms or more<sup>25</sup>. Across the borough, 52.2% of dwellings are 1 or 2 bedrooms.
- 4.37. There are issues of overcrowding in some areas of Oldham. The 2021 Census identified that 7.5% of households in Oldham are overcrowded compared to 4.4% nationally.

<sup>21</sup> Extracted from LHNA (2024) – Map 2.3 'Household characteristics: household type by LSOA', 2022 CAMEO. Map shows the most prevalent household type for each LSOA.

<sup>22</sup> Source: Oldham Council – Council Tax data (October 2024)

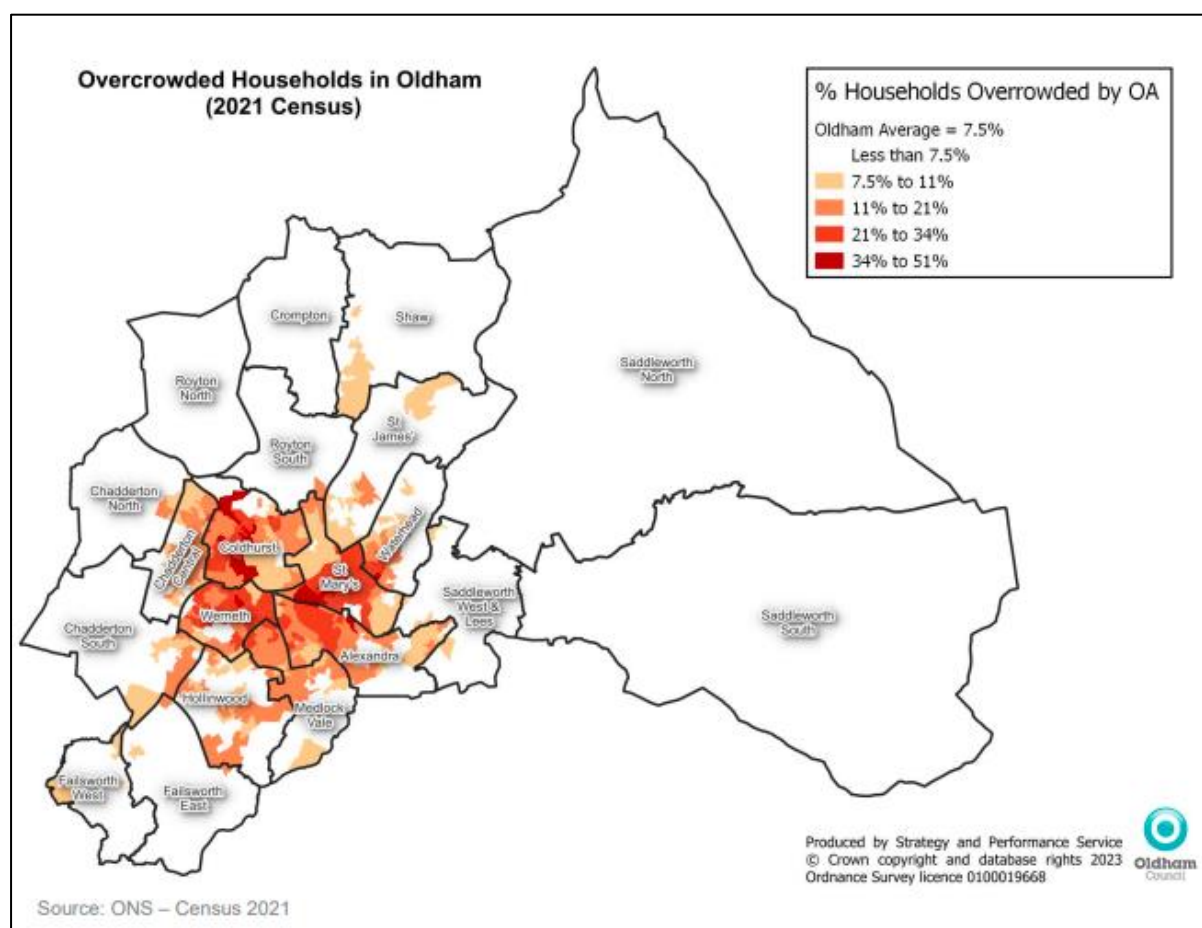
<sup>23</sup> Source: Oldham LHNA (2024).

<sup>24</sup> See Map 2.1 in Oldham (LHNA 2024).

<sup>25</sup> See Table 2.3 in Oldham LHNA (2024).

4.38. Overcrowding is most prevalent in areas with a high proportion of terraced housing stock. Figure 5 shows the distribution of households classed as overcrowded. The map shows that the distribution of overcrowded households is uneven, but there are large concentrations of overcrowded homes located within inner Oldham - around the outskirts of the town centre, particularly in the wards of Coldhurst, St Mary's and Werneth.

Figure 5: Overcrowded Households in Oldham (2021 Census)<sup>26</sup>



4.39. The LHNA (2024) has assessed housing conditions and repair problems with data gathered from a household survey. The LHNA found that households expressing the highest levels of dissatisfaction by characteristics were households:

- living in Central Oldham (22.4%);
- private renting (19.1%);
- living in affordable housing (22.7%);
- living in flats (18.7%), maisonettes (17.6%), and terraced housing (12.8%);
- living in pre-1919 dwellings (13.5%);
- that had an income of less than £200 each week (19.8%); and

<sup>26</sup> Source: Extracted from Oldham in Profile (2024), Oldham Council - ONS 2021 Census.

- that had a young person residing <sup>27</sup> aged 15-24 (20.9%).
- 4.40. Households containing someone with an illness/disability were more likely to be dissatisfied (13.8%) compared with 10.4% overall.
- 4.41. 55.8% of households living in affordable housing, 52.6% of private renters, and 39.7% of owner-occupiers stated there were repair problems with their property.
- 4.42. The main repair problem reported among owner-occupier households was with the roof (34.6%) and dampness/mould growth (32.0%). Across the private rented sector a concerning 51.8% of respondents mentioned dampness/mould growth, and across the affordable housing sector, dampness/mould growth was mentioned by 40.7% and windows by 36.8% of respondents.
- 4.43. As set out in this section, there are issues with the borough's dwelling stock and disparities across areas in the borough. Terraced houses make up a large proportion of Oldham's housing stock, particularly within inner Oldham. There are areas of Oldham, again particularly within inner Oldham, which are experiencing overcrowding. Also, there are housing repair problems reported across all tenures, particularly those living in private rented and affordable housing.
- 4.44. In this context, it is important that HMOs are appropriately managed and monitored to ensure housing quality and avoid overcrowding.
- 4.45. The size of HMO accommodation should be sufficient and should not perpetuate issues of overcrowding. The council's HMO Standards apply to the development of HMOs in the borough<sup>28</sup> - the HMO Standards provide detail on amenity and design, including appropriate room sizes (and shared spaces/ facilities). PfE policy JP-H3 also sets out that all new dwellings should comply with the Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS)<sup>29</sup>. Where practicable the NDSS should apply to conversions and changes of use, such as to a HMO.
- 4.46. It's also important that HMOs do not lead to the loss of a larger family home, which are needed in Oldham (see paragraph 4.49 below).

### Housing Tenure and Affordability

- 4.47. In terms of tenure, the LHNA (2024) identified that the majority of Oldham's households are owner-occupiers (60.4%). 21.6% live in affordable housing tenures and 18.0% rent housing privately.
- 4.48. Many HMOs are rented privately. The private rented sector has become an important tenure in both meeting people's housing needs and providing flexible housing options for those moving for employment or to respond to changing circumstances and provides a housing option for those on low incomes.

<sup>27</sup> This is defined as age of Household Reference Person (HRP).

<sup>28</sup> The HMO Standards are available on request, for further information see:

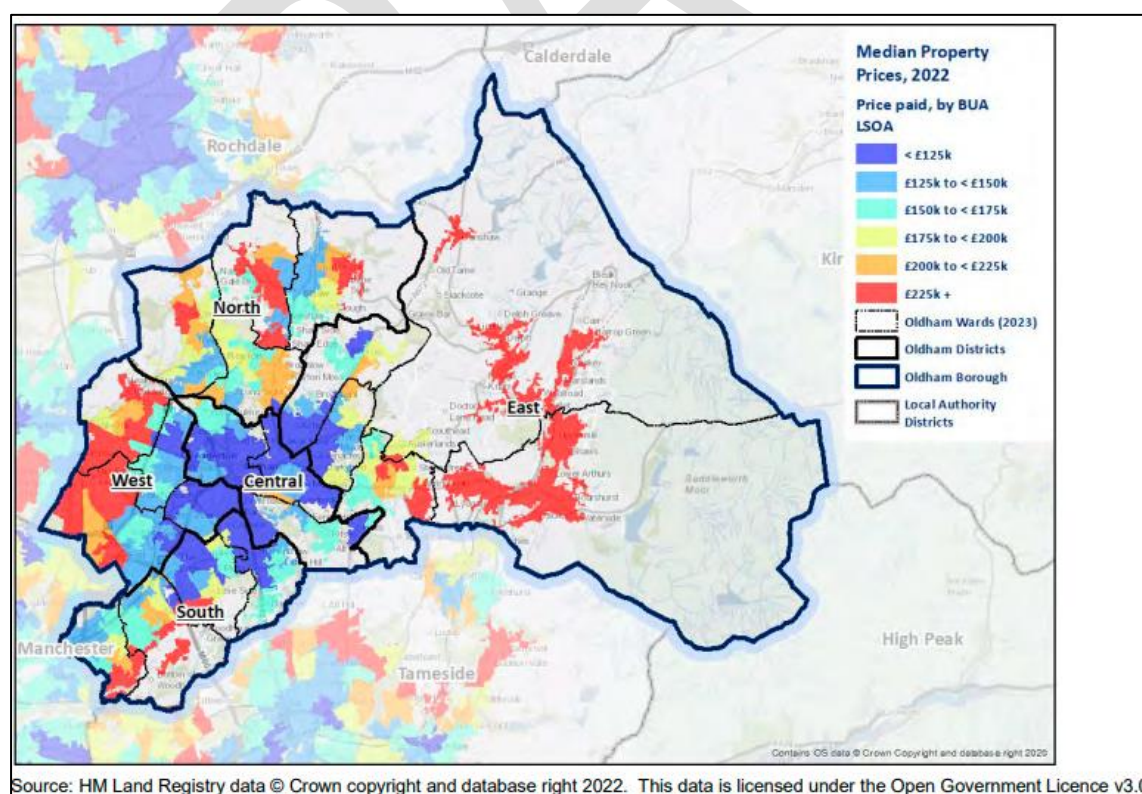
<https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201198/information-for-landlords/258/houses-in-multiple-occupation-hmo>

<sup>29</sup> Nationally Described Space Standard: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/technical-housing-standards-nationally-described-space-standard>



- 4.49. Across Oldham, the proportion of households privately renting increased considerably from 8.7% in 2001 to 18% in 2021 (ONS Census data). The districts of Central and South Oldham have higher than borough average levels of privately rented housing.
- 4.50. Between 2001 and 2021, there has been growth in the rental market for both 'active choice' renters and 'frustrated would-be' homeowners. Tenure reform and less accessible social rented housing are also likely to be an increasing factor to the growth in the private rented sector and the sector clearly now plays a vital role in meeting housing need and affordable need, as well as providing an alternative to homeownership.
- 4.51. Local authorities have an important enabling and regulatory role in ensuring that the private rented sector helps to meet housing need and encouraging good quality management.
- 4.52. In terms of house prices, the LHNA (2024) notes that house prices in Oldham are consistently lower than the North-West and England averages. However, the growth in house prices in Oldham over the past 22 years (318.6%) has been higher than that experienced across the North-West (+248.7%) and England as a whole (+217.1%)<sup>30</sup>. In 2000 the median house price in Oldham was £43,000, in 2022 the median house price in Oldham was £180,000.

Figure 6: Median House Prices in Oldham<sup>31</sup>

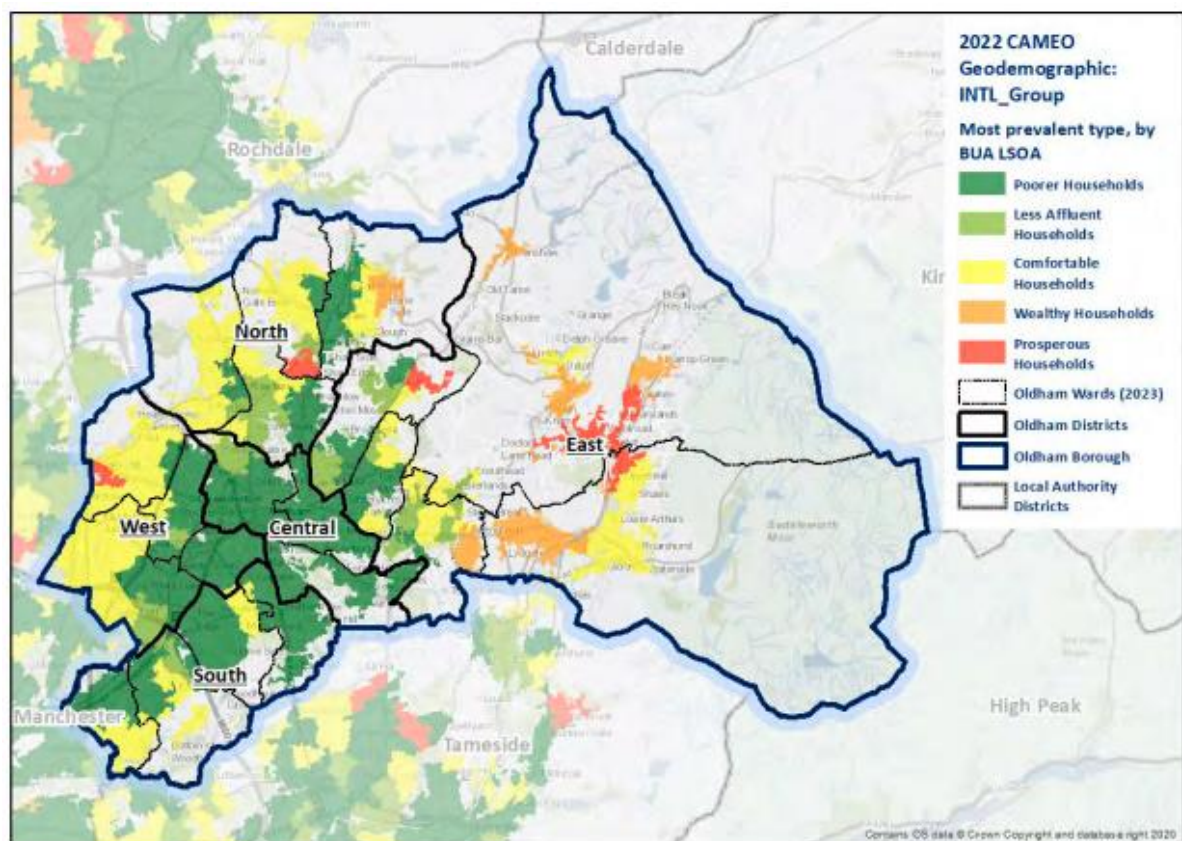


<sup>30</sup> Across the period of 2000-2022.

<sup>31</sup> Median house prices by built up areas (BUA) within the LSOAs of Oldham borough. Extracted from Map 3.2 Oldham LHNA (2024).

- 4.53. As shown in figure 6 the areas with lower average property prices in Oldham are generally those within inner Oldham, mainly Central and South districts. The East and West districts tend to have higher house prices.
- 4.54. Rental prices of properties in Oldham have also increased – between 2010 and 2022 lower quartile rents have increased by 39.8% and median rents have increased by 53.4%.
- 4.55. Compared to other Greater Manchester areas, Oldham is relatively affordable. Oldham is the third most affordable local authority area compared with other areas of Greater Manchester and neighbouring districts to Oldham - the affordability ratio for Oldham is 5.69, compared to the Greater Manchester average of 6.74.
- 4.56. Despite this, the LHNA (2024) has found that there is a shortfall of affordable housing across the borough, which equates to a need for approximately 669 additional affordable homes each year over the next 10 years. Whilst PPG is clear that only a portion of this need will be met through the planning system, the LHNA reinforces the significance of affordable housing need in Oldham. Also, when this need is compared to the findings of the previous LHNA (2019), which identified a need for approximately 204 additional affordable homes each year, it is evident that the need for affordable housing is increasing.
- 4.57. Further demonstrating the need for affordable housing, the number of households in Temporary Accommodation in the borough is significantly higher than five years ago. Similarly, the number of households on the Social Housing Register is much higher than previous recent years.
- 4.58. There are disparities in the affordability of housing in parts of the borough, with some areas distinctly lacking adequate affordable housing provision to meet local needs.
- 4.59. Related to affordable housing need, income is also an issue in areas of Oldham. Oldham has traditionally had low wage levels in terms of both residents and workplace earning potential (as measured by median weekly wage levels). This is likely due to the industry mix within Oldham, and the relative skill levels of the local workforce.
- 4.60. Figure 7 below shows the levels of income within the borough. As shown, there is a distinct distribution of lower income households within inner Oldham – particularly within Central, West, and South districts. Higher income households are predominantly located within the fringes of the borough and within Saddleworth districts.

Figure 7: Household characteristics: Income Type by LSOA<sup>32</sup>



Source: CAMEO UK

- 4.61. Looking at private renting, a rent is considered affordable if it costs no more than 25% of household income. Notable affordability pressures for private rented housing are identified in the South district, where the proportion of lower quartile income needed for lower quartile rents was generally above 55%. Private renting was also generally unaffordable for those in key worker occupations and those on minimum or living wage, with most having to spend more than 25% of income on rent. Single earners on minimum/living wage spend in excess of 40% of their income on lower quartile rents.
- 4.62. There are also identified deficiencies for smaller affordable accommodation in the form of 2 and 3 bed houses. However, this is indicative of a lack of choice in the market and respondents' expectations, as Oldham's local housing register indicates a need for larger family housing in certain areas of the borough also.
- 4.63. There are issues with attracting and retaining young professionals and families. In some parts of the borough there are not suitable affordable homes for people to live in the area in which they grew up, leading to an out-migration of these households to neighbouring boroughs. There is also a lack of smaller single person affordable housing and affordable housing for older people and disabled people. Suitable affordable housing is also needed for key workers.

<sup>32</sup> Extracted from LHNA (2024) – Map 2.4 'Household characteristics: income type by LSOA', 2022 CAMEO. Map shows the most prevalent income type for each LSOA.

4.64. HMOs can provide an important source of affordable housing, especially for those on lower incomes and in need of affordable housing. The evidence set out above has shown a distinct need for affordable housing in this sector – and across all sectors. As affordability worsens, the level of people in need of affordable housing increases. This could lead to increasing numbers of households turning to HMOs as a housing option, and increased levels of HMOs as a result. As such it is important that this housing is appropriately located and of high-quality.

#### Comparing evidence

- 4.65. As is set out in figure 8 below some links can be identified between the spatial distribution of HMOs in the borough and levels of deprivation, overcrowding and income, as well as household types and house prices.
- 4.66. As shown in figure 2, the distribution of HMOs in the borough is spread across many areas, and higher proportions are present within and around inner Oldham and along the A62, especially within the Failsworth area.
- 4.67. Areas of high deprivation and overcrowding follow a similar pattern and are especially prevalent within and around inner Oldham. As such, it is important to ensure that HMOs are appropriately located and designed, with appropriate room sizes, and considering amenity, so as to not perpetuate issues of deprivation and overcrowding, especially within areas which are already experiencing these issues.
- 4.68. Perhaps more pronounced are the similarities in the distribution of HMOs and lower income households. Given that HMOs can be an important source of housing, particularly for lower income households, it is therefore expected that HMOs would operate within lower income areas (this is also where house prices tend to be lower (see figure 6)).
- 4.69. There are also similarities in the distribution of HMOs and the spread of single person and pre-family couple's household types, particularly within Failsworth. HMOs can be an important source of housing for younger and single person households. However, over concentrations within defined areas can be detrimental to local character and amenity. It is also important to ensure a mix of house types in areas, to promote housing choice and community cohesion. As such, HMOs should be appropriately located, considering the proliferation of uses within a defined area.



Figure 8: Data maps for comparison (combining figure 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7)

Figure 2: Heat map showing spatial distribution of HMOs in Oldham

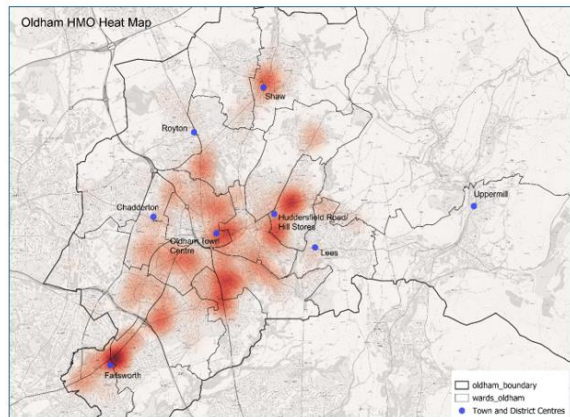


Figure 3: Areas of Deprivation in Oldham<sup>20</sup>

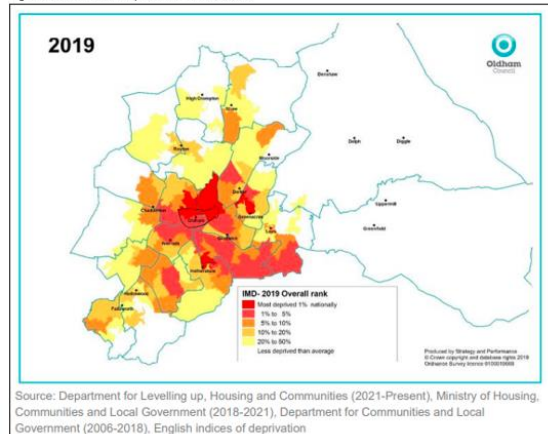


Figure 4: Household characteristics: Household Type by LSOA<sup>21</sup>

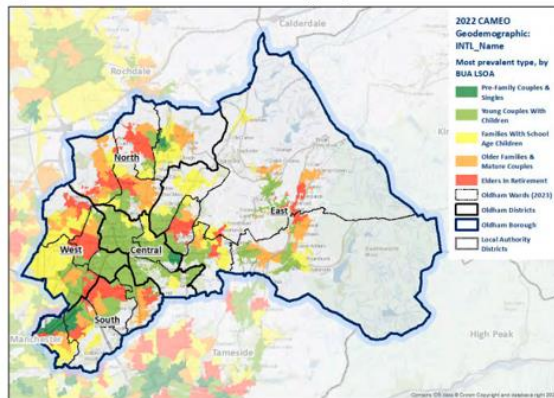


Figure 5: Overcrowded Households in Oldham (2021 Census)<sup>22</sup>

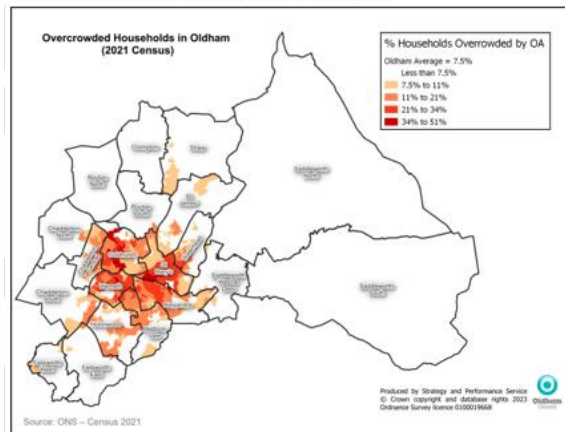


Figure 6: Median House Prices in Oldham<sup>31</sup>

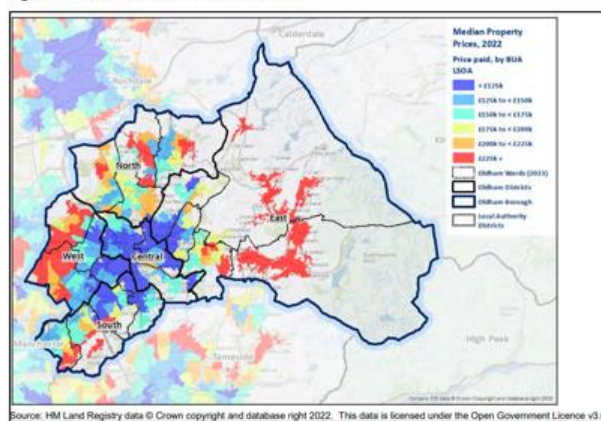
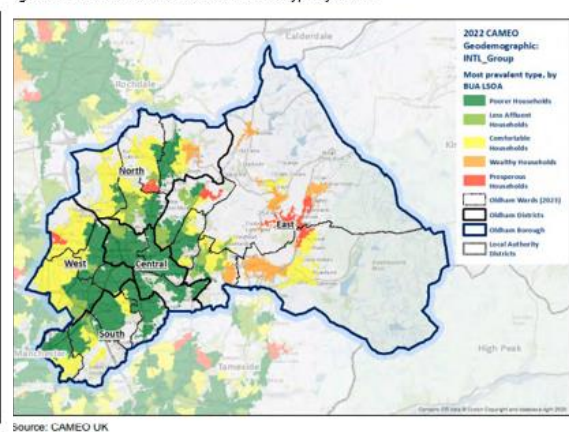


Figure 7: Household characteristics: Income Type by LSOA<sup>32</sup>





## Impact on local communities

4.70. Where applications come through the planning system for HMO development, they often receive negative representations from local residents and councillors. Of the existing HMOs in the borough which have planning permission, there are several issues raised as part of the application consultation, including:

- Inadequate car parking provision/ impact on existing provision;
- Increased traffic;
- Limited access/ impact on highway safety;
- Proliferation and concentration within a defined area;
- Loss of a family home;
- Amenity – including noise, disturbance, waste disposal/ storage, pests loss of privacy;
- Size of accommodation – inadequate facilities, outdoor space, overcrowding;
- Fire safety;
- Management of accommodation/ shared facilities;
- Impact on character of an area;
- Impact on a conservation area;
- Unsustainable development;
- Social concerns/ community cohesion issues;
- Anti-social behaviour and, crime;
- Impact on viability of neighbouring uses;
- Impact on value of existing homes;
- Strain on local services/ facilities; and
- Inappropriate location owing to neighbouring uses.

4.71. Complaints which have come through environmental health relating to HMOs often cite the following concerns<sup>33</sup>:

- The HMO is unregistered/ unlicensed;
- The HMO does not have planning permission or approval for associated building works;
- There are not adequate bins provided for the number of occupiers;
- The state and condition of the property; and

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<sup>33</sup> An analysis of complaints which mention HMOs over a 12-month period (2022-2023) has been undertaken. Future monitoring will continue in this area to monitor the impact of HMOs on local communities.

- Fire safety regulation.

4.72. A recent motion<sup>34</sup> to Oldham Council regarding HMOs also cites several concerns, including that HMOs provide ‘substandard and unsafe accommodation’. The motion goes on to state that the introduction of an Article 4 Direction will ensure transparency, giving communities the opportunity to have a say and raise their concerns, in line with the Council’s values as a resident focused council.

4.73. In some cases, it can be difficult to ascertain the actual level of negative impact of HMOs on communities, particularly in terms of amenity and local character, compared to other types of housing. However, the proliferation of any use, particularly those which introduce increased numbers of occupiers such as HMOs, should be carefully monitored and considered.

4.74. Furthermore, as it can be difficult to monitor the number of smaller HMOs, which do not currently come through planning or licensing systems, the true impact of HMOs on local communities may be hidden, particularly as there is no forum (like a planning application consultation) to express concern or raise issues.

## 5. Summary of Evidence

5.1. This paper has set out the background and evidence base for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development right for the change of use from dwelling houses (Use Class C3) to HMOs for up to six residents (Use Class C4).

5.2. As set out in the section above, there are approximately 384 HMOs identified in Oldham, as of July 2025. This represents 0.38% of the borough’s total dwelling stock and is considerably higher than the national average of 0.07%. The actual number of operating HMOs may well be higher, as the number of smaller HMOs, i.e. those for 3 and 4 people, are difficult to accurately monitor.

5.3. There has been a consistent increase in the number of HMOs in the borough over a five-year period with 306 HMOs identified in 2020 and 269 identified in 2023.

5.4. Analysis of the spatial distribution of HMOs (figure 2) shows that HMOs are spread across many areas of the borough. There are clusters located within and around inner Oldham, along key transport routes i.e. the A62 and Ashton Road, and within and around several district centres.

5.5. Oldham has several demographic and housing issues. Parts of Oldham, particularly within and around inner Oldham, have high levels of deprivation and lower levels of income. There are also issues of overcrowding within some areas of the borough. This is compounded by Oldham’s housing stock which is generally smaller than other boroughs (both within Greater Manchester and nationally) and is largely made up of terraced houses. There are also issues of disrepair and poor conditions within the borough’s housing stock.

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<sup>34</sup> Oldham Council Motion (16 July 2025) – item 10, available to view at: [Oldham Council](#)

- 5.6. There has been an increase in the private-rented sector (HMOs are often privately rented), which evidence highlights is both due to private renting being an active choice for renters, but also a necessity for would-be homeowners who struggle to enter the property ownership market. Notably, private renting is becoming increasingly unaffordable for some households in the borough, including key workers and those on lower incomes.
- 5.7. Oldham has lower than average house prices, yet the need for affordable housing is increasing in the borough. There are particular disparities in the affordability of housing in parts of the borough to meet local housing needs. There is a need for affordable family housing, as well as affordable housing for single people and key workers.
- 5.8. There are several concerns raised by local communities and council members on the proliferation, location, quality and management of HMOs in the borough, and the impact they may be having on local character, communities and amenity.
- 5.9. Whilst HMOs are spread across many areas, there is evidence that clusters of HMOs are present in the borough, and many of the areas with high numbers of HMOs, also correlate with areas experiencing issues such as deprivation and overcrowding. The proliferation of any use, particularly those which introduce increased numbers of occupiers such as HMOs, should be carefully monitored and considered.
- 5.10. Given the evidence set out in this paper, is it considered that a borough-wide Article 4 Direction can be justified. The Article 4 Direction will require conversions of dwellings to small HMOs (C4 use) to first apply for planning permission for the change of use. Requiring the submission of a planning application for such proposals will not necessarily reduce the number of small HMOs being created, but it does allow for the proper consideration of the effects of a proposed HMO on an area's amenity and local community, before issuing any planning permission, and in doing so we are able to influence the quality of the HMO through the planning process.
- 5.11. It is considered that this increased control will help to reduce the housing issues being experienced within the borough yet will still ensuring that HMOs which are of a high quality and appropriate for users, are available to those who need them. Recognising that HMOs are a key source of housing for those on lower incomes, single family households, younger people and students and key workers.



## Report to COUNCIL

# Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

**Officer Contact:** Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People

**Report Author:** Clare Griffiths – Head of Service, Oldham Youth Justice Service

**Ext.** 0161 621 9400

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**17/09/2025**

### Reason for Decision

Youth justice plans, in England only, must be signed off by the full council in accordance with 'Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000'.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26 detailed in appendix 1 be approved.

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**Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025-26****1 Background**

- 1.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to submit an annual youth justice plan relating to their provision of youth justice services. Section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 sets out the youth justice partnership's responsibilities in producing a plan. It states that it is the duty of each local authority, after consultation with the partner agencies, to formulate and implement an annual youth justice plan, setting out how youth justice services in their area are to be provided and funded, how they will operate, and what functions will be carried out.
- 1.2 The Oldham Youth Justice Plan sets out the strategic direction for youth justice in Oldham, taking a partnership approach to reducing re-offending, reducing the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system and reducing the use of custody.
- 1.3 This plan has been developed based on local management information and performance data and is in line with the needs of children, young people and families in Oldham.
- 1.4 There is acknowledgment that the plan is significant in length. However, this is dictated by the template provided by the national Youth Justice Board. The Service Delivery Plan can be found in Appendix 4 of the embedded document.

**2 Current Position**

- 2.1 This plan has been considered by Julie Daniels, Executive Director Children and Young People, the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board, the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board and Leadership.
- 2.2 Progress of the plan will be monitored through the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board on a quarterly basis.
- 2.3 Oldham Youth Justice Service is a high performing service who lead the way in re-offending rates and use of custody among comparative groups. We pride ourselves on a child-first approach to provide positive outcomes for children, young people and families through innovative practice. This plan seeks to continue to build on current performance and achieve an outstanding inspection outcome for the service.

**3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 As it is a statutory duty for the local authority, it is not possible to provide an alternative option to this plan. Each youth justice service must have an annual plan in place, in this format, as part of the requirements of the youth justice core grant.

**4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 To approve the Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Plan 2025-26.

**5 Consultation**

- 5.1 The Youth Justice Partnership Management Board and children and young people working with Oldham Youth Justice Service were consulted in the formulation of this plan.

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## 6 Financial Implications

- 6.1 Each Youth Justice Service must have an annual plan in place, in this format, as part of the requirements of the Youth Justice Core Grant.  
(Jenny Howarth Senior Accountant/Andy Cooper Senior Finance Manager)

## 7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 It is a statutory requirement for this to be progressed, we would therefore be in breach of our obligations if it is not progressed. As the report alludes to there are no alternative options and the option is supported.  
(Alex Bougatef Director of Legal Services)

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

- 8.1 Not required as the recommended option is for services to continue.

## 9 Key Decision

- 9.1 No

## 10 Key Decision Reference

- 11.1 N/A

## 12 Background Papers

- 12.1 None

## 13 Appendices

- 13.1 Appendix 1 - Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2025-26



Oldham YJ Plan  
2025-26.pdf

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**Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan**  
**2025 – 2026**

Head of Service: Clare Griffiths

Chair of Youth Justice Partnership Management Board: Julie Daniels, Executive Director,  
Children and Young People, Oldham Council

**1. Introduction, vision and strategy**

Oldham is one of ten boroughs in Greater Manchester. It is a complex and challenging area to deliver youth justice, with, according to 2021 Census Data, a population of 242, 100, a figure which represents an overall growth rate of 7.3% within the last 10 years. Of this, 54, 800 children live in Oldham and this figure continues to rise. While a youthful population undoubtedly has many advantages, the impact on services, education and employment cannot be ignored. Adding to this, while the borough has pockets of prosperity, the English Indices of Deprivation shows levels in Oldham are ranked amongst the highest in the country- 19<sup>th</sup> out of 317 Local Authorities. Further analysis evidences that several wards are placed within the bottom 1% nationally in terms of income deprivation amongst children.

The ethnic composition of Oldham is more diverse than both Greater Manchester and England as a whole. In 2021, Oldham's largest population was White (68.1%) with the largest ethnic minorities being Pakistani (13.5%) and Bangladeshi (9%). A significant increase in non- white residents was observed (31.9% compared to 22.5% in 2011). This diversity is a strength to be valued, celebrated and promoted, although discrimination and disadvantage continues to be an experience of some.

Oldham is in a unique position in that it is one of the only areas in England and Wales whereby the statutory Youth Justice Service (YJS) is commissioned by the local authority and delivered by a charitable trust, Positive Steps. Positive Steps delivers a range of services, including Education Advice and Guidance; Early Intervention and Prevention (Early Help); Oldham Young Carers; National Probation Service Welfare Hub; Missing from Home Return Interview Service; and Positive Futures Alternative Provision. As such, children, families and adults can access an integrated, holistic and non-stigmatizing offer, delivered from our modern base in Oldham Town Centre, as well as in community hubs across the borough. Furthermore, this arrangement allows for innovation and creativity through the ability to access a range of additional funding streams to provide added value and to lead practice in specific areas.

This plan has been written in accordance with The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and national guidance from the Youth Justice Board, following consultation with the Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board (YJPMB); YJS practitioners; and children with lived experience and their parents and carers. This plan seeks to inform the strategic direction of the service and outlines how it will achieve it's primary functions of:

- Reducing the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) into the criminal justice system
- Reducing re- offending by children subject to statutory Court Orders or Out of Disposals
- Reducing the use of custody for children

While additionally:

- Effectively safeguarding the children we work with
- Effectively protecting the public from harm



- Enhancing the voice and experience of victims of crime committed by children

The Oldham Youth Justice Service Plan 2025 – 2026 is not an isolated initiative, but part of the broader Oldham Children, Young People and Families Plan with a shared vision:

***Oldham: A community where children, young people and families thrive***

## **2. Governance, leadership and partnership arrangements**

Positive Steps is governed through a Board of Trustees which is comprised of elected members and community representatives. In 2025, each service, including Youth Justice, will begin to provide an annual update on delivery and performance to highlight impact and allow for challenge at an organizational level.

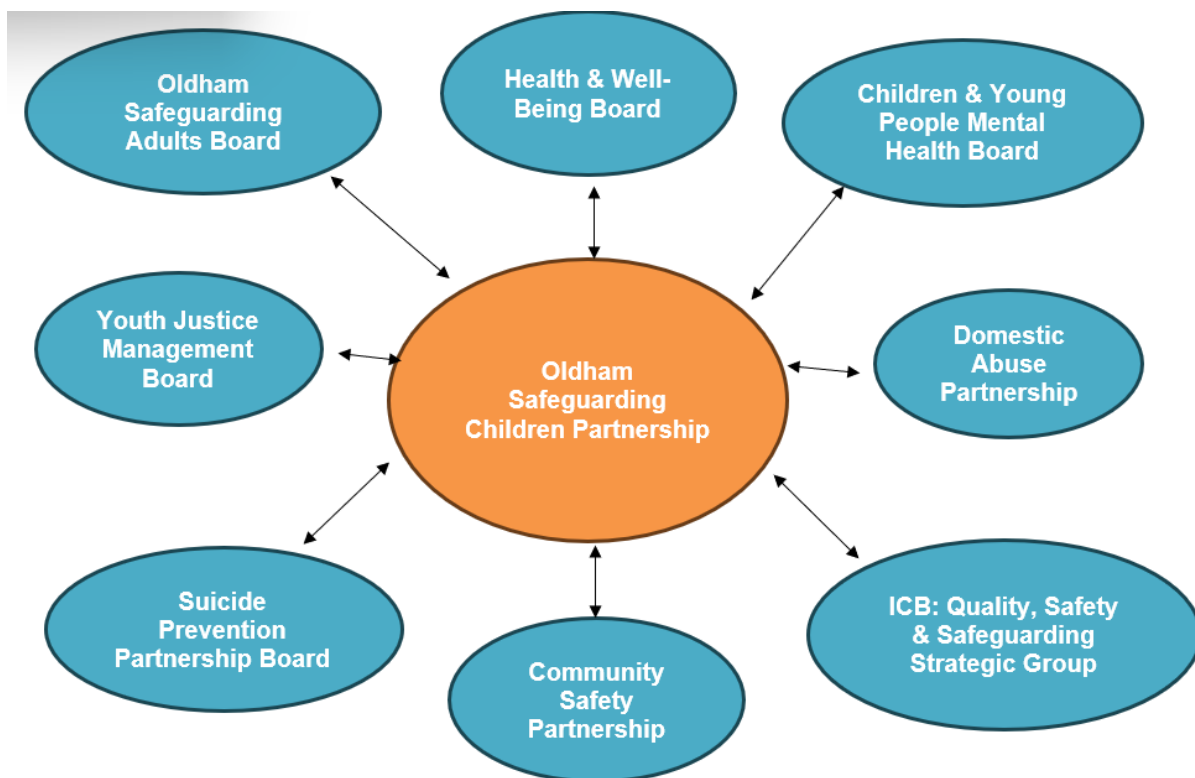
In its own right, Oldham YJS meets statutory requirements and maintains oversight from the local authority through the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board, chaired by the Executive Director, Children and Young People, who reports to the Chief Executive Officer of Oldham Council.

Working with the Executive Director, Children and Young People is the Head of Service for Youth Justice and Missing from Home, who reports to the Chief Executive of Positive Steps. Alongside this responsibility, they are also the Designated Safeguarding Lead for Positive Steps and the strategic lead for resettlement across Greater Manchester.

As a multi- agency team, Oldham Youth Justice Service has in place specialists through partnership arrangements to provide support to children working with YJS. This includes a seconded Police Officer (1FTE); seconded CAMHS Practitioner (0.7FTE); Speech and Language Therapist (0.7FTE); and seconded Probation Officer (0.5FTE). The funding for a Nurse was agreed in April 2025 and it is anticipated that the post will be recruited to shortly. In 2025, Oldham YJS and Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind are entering into the third year of a partnership project in which an Emotional Wellbeing Coach (1FTE) is seconded into the service. The staffing structure of the workforce available to deliver youth justice work can be found in Appendix 1. Ethnicity, sex and known disability of the workforce is contained within Appendix 2.

In recognition that to affect change, collaboration, grounded in positive relationships, is key, the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board has all statutory partners represented from Oldham Council; Greater Manchester Police; health; education; and Probation; alongside local agencies and the voluntary, community and faith sector. Quarterly meetings ensure that the Board is pro-active in taking responsibility for all aspects of youth justice, leading strategically, and providing oversight, to ensure a high-quality service is provided to all children. The full structure of the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board can be found in Appendix 3.

The Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board is part of the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership who oversee the effectiveness of multi- agency arrangements with the shared aims of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.



There is a strong tradition of partnership working in Oldham and as such, Oldham Youth Justice Service is engaged with the relevant boards and strategic subgroups including; Corporate Parenting Partnership; Children’s Assurance Board; Oldham Reducing Re- Offending Board (Co-Chair); Oldham Performance Subgroup; Oldham Review and Learning Hub; Neglect Subgroup; Complex and Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup.

### 3. Updates on the previous year

#### 3.1 Progress on priorities in the previous plan

Oldham YJS and partners have worked tirelessly over the past 12 months to progress with the actions agreed in the Oldham Youth Justice Plan 2024 – 2025. A summary of this can be found within the table below.

Action	Progress
Continue to work with the police and education to promote Child Centered Policing and a Child First Response	Training has been delivered throughout the year to partners on Child First Policing and Child First response. This will continue into 2025 -2026. Staff are confident in challenging Police and partners where decision making is not in line with these principles.
Every child will have a “bespoke” intervention to meet their individual needs and promote child- first principles	Quality assurance work confirms that on the whole, children access a bespoke intervention plan in line with their individual needs. There are some good examples of partnership working with complex cases, bail and remand, and those living out of area.

Seek funding opportunities to develop evidence- based practice and innovation	We have had it confirmed that we will receive another 12 months of funding from the Community Safety Partnership to continue to the TOG Mind Partnership. We are exploring further funding from GMP to deliver Broadening Horizons and working with Greater Manchester Combined Authority in relation to Youth Futures Hubs.
Develop and embed a culturally aware service	Quality assurance work confirms that staff have developed practice to ensure that cultural needs are taken into consideration during assessment, planning and intervention. The Oldham Disproportionality Strategy launched in 2025.
Prevention and Diversion work will continue to be focused on first- time entrants, re-offending and reducing violence and exploitation. Work by SALT, CAMHS Practitioner and TOG Mind Coach will improve outcomes for children	In 2024 – 2025, we observed a reduction in three continuous quarters in respect of first time entrants. However, this increased in Q4. Staff have since received training on the use of Outcome 22 and Deferred Caution/ Prosecution. Staff are confident in referring into the relevant health professionals in YJS who present their work on an annual basis to the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board.
Restorative Justice opportunities will continue to expand and continued promotion of “Giving Back” and work undertaken with victims	Children can access a menu of options for indirect Giving Back. However, as part of the work to improve the victim offer this will remain on the plan for the coming year to ensure a bespoke offer is available for victims and increase the number of victims receiving direct Giving Back.
Resolve concerns regarding short- term funding commitments for SALT	The funding for the Speech and Language Therapist is no longer a short- term commitment.
Working with the Community Safety Partnership to reduce youth violence	Serious Youth Violence is now a priority for the Oldham Safeguarding Children’s Partnership and there is an action plan held within the Complex and Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup. Work in this area will continue.
Increase participation opportunities for children, parents and carers within the service	Children continue to have opportunities internally and both at a local and national level to engage in participation. Work to fulfil a specific post in relation to this will continue.

### 3.2 Performance over the previous year

Oldham Youth Justice Service, despite the challenging demographics highlighted earlier in this plan, continues to perform exceptionally well in all of the areas to be discussed in more detail below. This is in no small part due to the stable and dedicated workforce, who build positive relationships with children and families, using our Child First, trauma informed approach, which is supported by a strong multi- agency partnership.

Our performance data has progressed the service into Quadrant 1 of the Youth Justice Oversight Framework for two consecutive quarters at the point of writing this plan.

### Reducing the number of First Time Entrants (FTE) into the criminal justice system

FTE PNC rate per 100,000 of 10-17 population	Oldham	North West	Greater Manchester	YOT family group	England
Jan 24 - Dec 24	178	169	204	194	161
Oct 23 - Sep 24	147	169	207	194	160
July 23 - Jun 24	158	182	220	194	165
Apr 23 - Mar 24	174	190	232	191	161

At the start of 2024 – 2025, the service saw a decrease in the first three quarters in the number of first- time entrants into the criminal justice system. The figures sat well below those of all comparative family groups and remained below the Geater Manchester and YOT family group in quarter 4.

There is a real focus on ensuring that, where appropriate, at the Joint Decision-Making Panel, children are afforded the opportunity to engage with an Outcome 22 or Deferred Caution to receive support without use of a formal disposal. This has been led strategically across Greater Manchester through the Police and Greater Manchester Youth Justice Senior Leadership Group, review of local policy and procedure and staff training.

Oldham has a robust prevention offer, using a combination of self and partnership referrals into the service, along side the Greater Manchester Police (GMP), “PIED” (prevention, intervention, education and diversion) identification tool. In line with GDPR, details of all children linked to a crime in the borough are shared on a daily basis. All children are then discussed at the bi- weekly Oldham Prevention Panel where agencies come together and agree who is best placed to support the child in the space of early intervention. Where it is agreed children will work with Oldham YJS, this is done via Turnaround or Prevention Intervention.

### Reducing re- offending by children subject to statutory Court Orders or Out of Disposals

Reoffending - binary rate	Oldham	North West	Greater Manchester	YJS family	England
Binary Rate - Jan 23 to Mar 23	21.4%	28.2%	21.6%	30.9%	32.8%
Binary Rate - Oct 22 to Dec 22	23.1%	32.1%	29.8%	24.3%	31.2%
Binary Rate - Jul 22 to Sept 22	10.0%	29.6%	27.1%	29.3%	31.9%
Binary Rate - Apr 22 to Jun 22	20.0%	35.6%	31.3%	30.1%	33.2%

The number of children who have worked with Oldham YJS and go onto commit further offences is consistently low and performance figures have been lower than all comparative groups for the 12-month period.

This can be attributed to the Child First approach taken to assessment, planning, delivery and managing risk, ensuring that the function of protecting the child, victims and public is not lost. All staff received training on this in January 2025 through “Child First Consultancy”. Interventions are strengths based and build on the interests of the child, allowing for development of a pro- social identity, broadening of their horizons and raising their aspirations. Working holistically with

parents and carers is crucial and we involve them at each stage, maintaining contact throughout and ensuring that their own support needs are considered. The professional team around the child is also key with attendance and engagement at multi- agency meetings being evident and the work of others is clear within plans.

### Reducing the use of custody for children

Custody Rate per 1,000 of 10-17 population	Oldham	North West	YJS family	England
Jan 24 - Dec 24	0.03	0.12	0.12	0.10
Oct 23 -Sept 24	0.07	0.11	0.12	0.10
Jul 23 - Jun 24	0.03	0.12	0.16	0.10
Apr 23 -Mar 24	0.03	0.12	0.20	0.11

The use of custody in Oldham remains significantly low with staff and partners ensuring that stringent community options are presented to the court on all occasions and that sentences of this nature are only used where there are serious and imminent public protection concerns.

All Pre Sentence Reports go through a robust management oversight process to maintain high standards of work, to provide challenge and allow for professional development, and to make sure that reports are balanced, unbiased and appropriate language has been used.

All reports also now highlight the overrepresentation of specific groups, including children looked after and children from black and minority ethnic backgrounds so that the courts are aware of these statistics when coming to any decision that they make.

### 3.3 Risk and issues

While Oldham Youth Justice Service is highly regarded across the Oldham partnership, within Greater Manchester and by the Youth Justice Board, in terms of performance and innovative working, we must still acknowledge any potential challenges we face.

We have already taken steps in 2024 – 2025 in relation to groups which we observe to be disproportionately represented by implementing the Oldham Disproportionality Strategy and reviewing The Oldham Protocol on Reducing the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers. However, we will need to monitor the usage of these documents through the presentation of data to the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board and thematic audits in these areas.

We are also acutely aware of placement sufficiency issues which prevail not only locally but nationally, particularly in relation to where a child is at risk of becoming Remanded to Local Authority Care or requires an alternative address for bail. There have been some great examples of partnership working in 2024 – 2025 which has seen no children from Oldham Remanded to Youth Detention due to lack of a placement, but we need to further develop the shared understanding of this and the processes required to enable this to be an efficient and effective process.

In line with the new inspection standard in relation to Work with Victims, it is recognized that this is an area of development, particularly in relation to gaining consent for youth justice to make initial contact so that all other work can follow to include risk management and support. This is already being progressed by YJS and GMP but needs to continue at a strategic and operational level so that the required actions are in place.

The data tells us that Oldham observe higher than average levels of Serious Youth Violence. This is now a priority area for the Safeguarding Children's Partnership with an action plan sitting within the Complex and Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup. Partnership working will need to be in place to ensure work is aligned and completed, and data presented to governance boards to monitor if these are effective.

#### **4. Plan for the forthcoming year**

##### **4.1 Child First**

Child First principles permeate all aspects of service delivery in youth justice in Oldham and are becoming increasingly recognized across the partnership. We will continue to build on this throughout 2025 – 2026 through further collaborative working, consultation and training.

We prioritise the best interests of children through acknowledging their developmental needs, maturity and experiences in all aspects of our work, and seek to break down any structural barriers that may be in place such as access to services, education training and employment or housing. All staff have positive relationships with partners to be able to work together to do this and challenge where required. Staff have received training on Child First Assessment, Planning and Interventions to ensure that while working with the child in mind, risk is still accurately assessed and managed and the balance between these two often contradictory ways of working is sought.

We promote the child's individual strengths and capacities to develop their prosocial identity. All staff use the acronym- AIR, activities, interactions and roles, when planning and delivering interventions. Over a number of years, the service has moved away from consequential interventions to ensure that a deficit model of work is not in place. We are immensely proud of the new opportunities and experiences we have been able to provide children to raise their aspirations through seeking additional funding to provide positive activities. This has included work with Manchester City Football Club, golf and boxing lessons- which have been maintained by the child and their dad, and animal care on a farm. Within quality assurance work, the relationships that staff have with children and families is a key strength.

Children's active participation is encouraged and there is meaningful collaboration with children and their families. All children and their parents/ carers create their intervention plan alongside their Case Manager and contribute to the activities they carry out. They can also shape service delivery through "Your Opinions Matter". Children have also been involved in the development of the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Plan, the Greater Manchester Youth Justice Transformation Framework and other local and national consultations. In January 2025 the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board received an input from the Participation Lead which will continue bi- annually going forward.

We promote a childhood removed from the justice system. In 2025, Oldham introduced PIED- Prevention, Intervention, Education and Diversion to identify children coming into contact with the Police on a daily basis. These children are screened by partners and discussed at the well-established multi- agency Prevention Panel, alongside referrals from schools and other organizations, to agree who is best placed to offer early intervention. We are increasing the use of Outcome 22 and Deferred Caution/ Prosecution and have trained all staff in this, updating the Prevention and Diversion Policy in addition.

Children and families working with Oldham Youth Justice Service say:

*“You've been absolutely brilliant with D. You've done a lot more to support him and our family and I couldn't have been happier with your service from you and staff and the rest of the team. You've been absolutely brilliant. You've gone above and beyond”*

*“Just wanted to follow up on the back of your email and to reiterate our appreciation for all your help and support, both yourself and your colleague were fantastic in Court. You were excellent”*

*“Thank you to YJS for supporting K to obtain his CSC Card, gain employment and helping him with speech and language”.*

## **4.2 Resources and services**

This plan provides assurance throughout that the youth justice core grant will be used appropriately, as described in the Terms and Conditions of Grant.

Oldham Youth Justice Service is committed to ensuring value for money. The youth justice budget comprises of local authority funding and the Youth Justice Board grant which, in the main, supports the core staffing of the service. Staffing is further supplemented through the Ministry of Justice Turnaround Grant, the Greater Manchester Early Intervention and Prevention Grant and partnership secondments. The staffing structure has previously been highlighted and is contained within Appendix 1.

The commissioning arrangement between the local authority and Positive Steps is advantageous as it allows the Youth Justice Service to express an interest in and apply for funding streams that other services would not be able to. We will continue to explore opportunities for additional funding to enhance the offer for children and families. At the point of writing this plan the following have been confirmed or are in progress for 2025 – 2026 (all have been described in detail in other sections of this plan).

- Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium, funded by Greater Manchester Combined Authority
- Tameside, Oldham and Glossop Mind and Oldham Youth Justice Service- Emotional Wellbeing Coach, funded by Oldham Community Safety Partnership
- Broadening Horizons, funded by Greater Manchester Police ARIS Fund

We use our grant, partner contributions and additional funding streams to achieve our vision and primary functions, while driving best practice and demonstrating excellent performance. Our performance will be improved in 2025 – 2026 by:

- Ensuring all children working with the service have a full and comprehensive health offer, including physical, mental and sexual health, through development of the YJS CAHMS offer and piloting a Nurse post within the service (the confirmation of funding for which has now been agreed), so that these needs are addressed to promote desistance.
- Reducing the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system through partnership training, continuation of the well- established Prevention Panel and promotion of the use of Outcome 22 and Deferred Caution/ Prosecution.
- Implementing a live Re- Offending Tracker to closely monitor children who commit further offences while working with youth justice and develop the required response to this.

- Promoting the understanding of bail, remand and use of custody through partnership training to ensure that children are not placed in custody unnecessarily.
- Reducing instances of Serious Youth Violence through taking an active role within the Safeguarding Partnership and Community Safety Partnership, sharing expertise and completing the associated action plans which sit within these groups.
- Increasing the education, training and employment offer available for children working with youth justice through collaborating with “Skill Mill”, a social enterprise which provides employment opportunities for children within criminal justice.
- Increasing the voice of the victim and improving their experience of working with youth justice, through ensuring processes are in place to gain consent to contact victims whereby crimes are committed by children, and that there is an escalation process in place when this does not occur. Quality Assurance work relating to this area will be included in the annual Quality Assurance Framework.
- Develop the annual Quality Assurance Framework to include partnership oversight in the form of regular Multi- Agency Case Discussions led by members of Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board and agree “Deep Dives” to take place throughout the year.

### **4.3 Board development**

In September 2024, the Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board received a new Chair following the retirement of the previous Managing Director of Children’s Social Care. From this point, the new Executive Director, Children and Young People, has taken over this role with the Superintendent, Greater Manchester Police, becoming Vice Chair in March 2025.

Work has taken place to improve the board over the last few years and the board is now stable, with both new and long-standing members who are committed to their role. They actively take responsibility for all aspects of youth justice; lead strategically across relevant partners and ensure a high- quality service is provided to all children. In 2025, a new Youth Justice Board Induction Pack was developed to improve this process and ensure that all involved have access to the relevant information they need to contribute to the successful oversight of youth justice.

Annually, Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board hold a development day. In January 2025, the day focused on; Youth Justice Governance and Leadership- led by the Youth Justice Board; building Child First partnerships- led by Child First Consultancy; work with victims; participation; and disproportionality. To inform the development day in 2026, a survey will be used to understand the areas of development that members require.

In 2025, the Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board introduced Multi- Agency Case Discussions, using the HMIP template, into the Oldham Youth Justice Quality Assurance Framework. Completed each quarter, a board member takes the lead for chairing a partnership case discussion and provides feedback on areas of strength regarding how professionals have worked together to achieve positive change.

### **4.4 Workforce development**

There is recognition that the most important asset to the service is the staff team and so a real focus is placed on professional development from the outset and internal promotion. This is evidenced through a number of staff having started their journey as volunteers or apprentices, as well as others who have held numerous roles making their way up to leadership and management positions. All staff receive an in- depth induction, not only to youth justice, but to Positive Steps



and the partnership, the process for which was reviewed by the Positive Steps Leadership Team in May 2025.

Each member of staff has an annual appraisal where targets are set for the year to promote their development and are in line with their lead areas of practice, some of which include; work in court; serious youth violence; complex safeguarding; harmful sexual behaviour; and disproportionality. This process is then supported by regular supervision both by their Operational Manager and peers, direct observations and informal discussions.

Training for the year is set based on a review by the management team of each appraisal. All permanent staff have completed, or are currently completing, the Youth Justice Effective Practice Certificate and all Case Managers are trained in AIM3. All staff have ongoing access to varied training from the Oldham Safeguarding Partnership and Youth Justice Legal Centre. In January 2025, staff received training via Child First Consultancy titled, "Child First in Practice. Assessment, Planning and Interventions".

In 2025, we began to support one of our qualified Social Workers through their Assessed and Supported Year of Employment (ASYE) after they secured a Case Manager role with youth justice following completing their second year Masters placement within the service.

As part of the wider workforce development across the partnership, there is a comprehensive offer from youth justice which sees training being delivered to other services on; Youth Justice; Restorative Justice and Child First. This promotes the understanding of the role and of our service, our offer and ways of working. We also collaborate with Oldham Complex Safeguarding Hub to facilitate Complex and Contextual Safeguarding, and Making a Child Protection Referral in conjunction with Children's Social Care. Furthermore, we are working with Salford Youth Justice Service to provide training the Magistrates on assessment, planning and intervention, and speech, language and communication.

Staff in youth justice are also provided the opportunity to develop through secondments to other teams or services. As of September 2024, we have one Case Manager and one Engagement Worker seconded to the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce at the Pupil Referral Unit where they are part of a multi-disciplinary team, working to reduce and prevent exclusions, increase integration back into mainstream, reduce offending and violence and increase emotional wellbeing. In 2025, we will be exploring our third partnership with Skill Mill which will see an Engagement Worker seconded to the company to provide employment and training opportunities for children within the criminal justice system.

Positive Steps understands the importance of a healthy workforce and as such, all employees and their families have access to the TELUS Health and Wellbeing Platform. TELUS has a wide range of online wellbeing resources, as well as telephone and online support available 24/7 with professional advisors who are able to provide advice, work- life support and onward referrals. Immediate and short- term counselling is also available as well as in person counselling.

Following the recruitment of the new in post YJS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Practitioner in March 2025, staff will have access to quarterly Clinical Supervision with the primary purpose of enhancing both the wellbeing and professional development of the team, ultimately leading to better outcomes for the children and families we work with.

#### **4.5 Evidence-based practice and innovation**

## **TOG Mind Partnership**

Oldham Youth Justice Service will enter its third year of partnering with Tameside, Oldham and Glossop (TOG) Mind to support children with their emotional wellbeing. We know that many children present with concerns at varying levels in this area but there are often structural barriers in place or stigma which prevent engagement with services. As such, the service benefits from the secondment of a Mental Health Coach who has provided support in areas such as anxiety, stress, mindfulness, grief and bereavement, grounding techniques, sleep and adverse childhood experiences to name a few. The outcomes of this partnership have been extraordinary with only two children out of 46 having been convicted with further offences in 2024 – 2025. In recognition of the positive outcomes we have achieved, this project is now included on the Youth Justice Resource Hub for other services to replicate.

## **Broadening Horizons**

We appreciate the importance of providing children with access to new experiences to raise their aspirations. With this in mind, for the past two years, we have accessed funding via GMP and Oldham Community Safety Partnership to deliver the “Broadening Horizons” initiative. This has seen the service receive up to £2,000 per year which can be used to take children to places like National Trust or English Heritage Sites, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, local walking trails or gyms and leisure centers. Not only do the children get to see places that they have not seen before, but they see workers role model interactions with others while buying tickets, food or drinks and then develop key skills and confidence to be able to do this themselves.

## **Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce**

As of September 2025, Oldham YJS have seconded one Case Manager and one Engagement Worker to the Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce (APST) at the Pupil Referral Unit. They are part of a multi-disciplinary team working alongside a Social Worker, Counsellor, Careers Advisor and Attendance Officer to reduce and prevent exclusions, increase integration back into mainstream, reduce offending and violence and increase emotional wellbeing. In the first 6 months of the project, the APST worked with 20 pupils and saw an improvement in “present” attendance and a decrease in “unauthorized” attendance, there was a reduction in the number of police incidents observed involving these students, safeguarding referrals reduced by over 50%, students who had previously declined voluntary YJS interventions accepted this and all students access planned provision during school holidays. This project, funded by the Department of Education, runs until September 2027.

## **Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium**

Oldham YJS continue to lead the Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium at both strategic and operational levels to improve outcomes for children entering and leaving custody. Work across the year has included; the development of practice principles which has been supported by Dignify, an organization specializing in trauma informed practice, the development of a Greater Manchester Resettlement Data Set which is used to instigate required workstreams; an offer of quality assurance work which sees the Head of Service from Oldham visit other services and hold Multi- Agency Case Discussions using the HMIP template for resettlement cases. The current workstream is focused on education, training and employment as the data highlighted concerns that children did not have access to this upon release.

## **Greater Manchester Youth Justice Transformation Framework**

Alongside colleagues from other Greater Manchester Youth Justice Services, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, GMP and those in the wider criminal justice system, Oldham YJS, through the Head of Service, have played a key role in contributing to the Greater Manchester Youth Justice Transformation Plan and the development of the new framework for 2025. Led by the Deputy Mayor for Greater Manchester and Deputy Chief Executive for Manchester City Council, the framework reflects a shared commitment to ensure all children have a chance to build a positive future. Our ambitions in Greater Manchester are for a youth justice system which centres children and their experiences; prioritises prevention, early intervention, and diversion; utilises best practice and the latest evidence; reduces disparity and ultimately ensures that young people who encounter the justice system are met with effective support to turn their lives around. Through this we strive to reduce offending, promote rehabilitation, and create safer communities.

Devolution also presents Greater Manchester with a unique opportunity to lead the way in justice innovation and transformation. As a region committed to forward-thinking approaches, we have positioned ourselves as a testbed for innovative ideas, driving improvements that not only enhance safety but also ease financial pressures on essential services. To support our framework for improving youth justice outcomes across Greater Manchester, we are developing a centre of excellence model. Through this approach, each Youth Justice Service in the region will be recognised as a specialist in a distinct area of practice, fostering expertise and ensuring that best practices are shared and implemented effectively. Oldham has positioned their centre of excellence to be resettlement and we are in early discussions for Positive Steps to pilot a Young Futures Hub.

### **Greater Manchester Remand Pilot**

Similarly to the above, the Head of Service for YJS has been actively involved in the Greater Manchester Remand Pilot and will continue to do so over the next 12 months given an extension to this funding. For the past two years, Greater Manchester have been working in partnership with the Ministry of Justice to design and deliver an innovative Remand Pilot. This pilot involves pooling remand budgets across the 10 local authorities and working together to develop robust community options as an alternative to them being remanded to custody. Positive outcomes that have been observed to date are:

- Increased use of Remand into Local Authority (RiLA) regionally – 36 instances have seen direct savings of £2.1million.
- Decrease in monthly remand costs from £352k (May 2024) to £79k (February 2025).
- Reduced reoffending rates from 32% (national average) to 24% (GM Remand Project).
- Increased reinvestment into the community - £173k in year 1 of pooled funding and £269k in year 2.

## **4.6 Evaluation**

### **4.6.1 TOG Mind Partnership**

A full evaluation of the TOG Mind Partnership was completed in June 2025. In 2025, the Emotional Wellbeing Coach worked with 46 children across Prevention, Out of Court, Court and Bail. Interventions that have been covered have been wide reaching and are always based on the needs of the child. These have included; anxiety and stress; motivation; grounding techniques; mindfulness; resilience; self-awareness and adverse childhood experiences. To further develop the practitioner's skills, training has been completed in bereavement, trauma, safeguarding and

risk and safety. Only two children who the coach has worked with have gone on to be convicted of further offences (one further offence each). Both children are also known to be victims of Child Criminal Exploitation and their offences are linked to this. Other outcomes have included reintegration back into education, more positive experiences in Court and reported improved relationships at home.

#### **4.6.2 Internal Evaluation**

In 2024 – 2025, Oldham YJS introduced an annual Quality Assurance Framework to evaluate practice which includes; full case quality assurance; direct observations; and Multi- Agency Case Discussions.

Each quarter, 12 cases are selected at random and are fully quality assured by the Operational Managers and Head of Service. Each Quality Assurance Audit is rated across; Local Practice Standards; assessment; planning implementation; resettlement (where applicable); reviewing; the child's experience; management oversight; and victim work. 33 cases have been quality assured since the framework was introduced.

#### **Scoring**

The overall outcomes from this activity are as follows:

<b>Rating</b>	<b>Total</b>
Outstanding	9
Good	20
Requires Improvement	3
Inadequate	1

#### **Summary**

##### **Practice Standards**

Across the Quality Assurance Audits, Local Practice Standards are adhered to on the whole. Where there is deviation from these, management oversight is used to explain why this is so. The standards were relaunched in November 2024 and so there has already been action taken to ensure further compliance with these.

##### **Assessment**

This is a strength across the majority of cases included within this activity. Assessments are clear, concise and strengths focused, with contributions from the partnership. There is evidence of the child and parent/ carer being included in this. This allows for accurate identification of factors for and against desistance, and analysis to make positive change and keep the child and others safe.

To improve this area further, although attention is given to mental health and speech and language needs, there should be more of a focus on physical health and it is likely that once the nurse offer is more present within the team, this will improve. Staff have been reminded of the current process for obtaining health information and booking health assessments in the interim.

##### **Planning**

There is some good work in this area with key areas for intervention being identified and with evidence of partnership planning to manage risk and safety included. There is a real focus on moving away offence focused work and towards; ensuring engagement with education, training and employment; emotional wellbeing; speech and language therapy, positive activities and broadening horizon to achieve positive change.

### **Implementation**

The relationships that staff within Oldham YJS have with children, families and partners is outstanding and this is clear through the delivery and recording of interventions. There is evidence of the service being responsive to meet the needs of the child, as well as being creative and strengths based. Contact with children and families on the whole is in line with Local Practice Standards and as stated these have been relaunched. Compliance issues are followed up early and addressed to prevent breach proceedings becoming necessary. It is clear in the majority of cases that partnership working is taking place to support the child and the wider family. Case Managers and Engagement Workers are utilizing case discussions more regularly and recording these to ensure that delivery is in line with the plan of work agreed to prevent drift.

### **Resettlement**

There were two children in this quality assurance activity who were remanded in custody. There is evidence of good partnership working on both, including with agencies in the community and within the custodial establishment. This is an area for development but take on board that staff do not experience work in this area often due to low numbers remanded or sentenced to custody. We have introduced a "Custody Planning Panel" for internal staff and partners to ensure processes and guidance are being followed and to improve, knowledge, skills and confidence in this area of work.

### **Reviewing**

Reviewing of assessments and plans is improving in line with Local Practice Standards. There is some good evidence of progress and change being taken into account at review points to evidence change. Where there is a significant change in circumstances, assessments are on the whole reviewed. Case Managers need to ensure that the good progress shown within case recording is evidenced in reviews and become more confident in lowering risk levels where appropriate.

### **The Child's Experience**

The assessment, plan and delivery of interventions shows good evidence of hearing the child's voice. This is done in the main through the relevant self- assessments being completed to inform all areas of work. Staff take on board what children say, are responsive to this and make adaptations accordingly. Case Managers understand the impact of trauma, ACES, victimization, poverty, neglect, etc. on behaviour and offending, with there being evidence of this is assessment and planning.

All staff have been reminded to ensure that "Your Opinions Matters" is completed every three months so that feedback on overall service delivery is obtained in line with guidance. Children and families have also had the opportunity to take part in local and national participation forums to shape policy and practice.

## **Management Oversight**

Management oversight is a strength across all cases with evidence of feedback on work being provided, assessments being countersigned and supervisions in place. Where there has been deviation from standards, there is explanation as to why this is so. Risk Management Meetings are clearly recorded where applicable. There are some good examples of escalations being recorded, for example in relation to the agreement of Out of Court Disposals.

## **Victim Work**

There are some good examples of practice in this area with a range of restorative interventions being delivered, including “Giving Back” and letters of apology. In most cases where there is a direct victim, the victim impact is included within the assessment. However, this is an area of work to be prioritized. More of a focus needs to be given where there is an indirect victim in terms of the impact on the community and where a victim has not consented to contact, assessing the likely impact of offending. Issues with gaining consent also need to be resolved.

### **4.6.3 Direct Observations**

Each member of staff has had one Direct Observation carried out in the first half of 2025. This covered all areas of practice from leading meetings, work in court and delivering interventions with children. Strengths included; positive relationships with children and parents and ensuring their voices are heard within assessments; using a relaxed and informal approach to engaging children and families in assessment; showing confidence in the subject matter of youth justice when working in court; referring to other services following issues raised; and presenting as bubbly, chatty and non-judgmental.

## **5. National priority areas**

### **5.1 Children from groups which are over-represented**

At times, we continue to see children from black and minority ethnic background over-represented within the criminal justice system. We launched the Oldham Disproportionality Strategy in January 2025 which addresses this alongside over representation of children in care and those with special educational needs and disabilities. In addition, The Oldham Protocol on Reducing the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Children Looked After and Care Leavers demonstrates the partnership commitment to reducing the number of care experienced children entering the justice system.

We will monitor the impact of these through presentation of data to the board and audits in 2025 – 2026.

### **5.2 Policing and detentions in police custody**

The relationship between Police and partners in Oldham is strong and there has been a longstanding commitment to having a seconded Police Officer within the Youth Justice Service for a number of years. The seconded Police Officer has been in role for five years and as such they have developed an understanding of Child First principles and supported the understanding of this amongst frontline officers through a training offer to ensure decision making is aligned to this. They are part of the Oldham Prevention Hub portfolio which highlights the priority for early intervention, prevention and diversion, and play a key role in identifying children at risk of

becoming involved in the criminal justice system, and decision making in the Prevention Panel and in Out of Court Joint Decision- Making Panel, as well as being involved in developing risk management and safety plans. They have led on the implementation of Outcome 22 and Deferred Caution/ Prosecution in Oldham.

Greater Manchester Police introduced the Child Centered Policing Strategy in 2023 and while there is direction from strategic leaders in relation to this, it is not always translated into operational practice outside of youth justice. Therefore, a focus on improving this is required in the coming year.

We have also observed an increase in the number of children charged and remanded to Court so will continue to use the data received on a monthly basis to work with Social Care and GMP to prevent this where possible. using the option for children to be transferred under PACE to a secure or unsecure bed.

### **5.3 Prevention**

Oldham YJS are proud that the holistic offer available for children and families working with the service remains the same regardless of the intervention the child is working under. This means that all children are overseen by a Case Manager, can access the health offer in its entirety and can gain support from the same funding pots to promote desistence.

Oldham is committed to preventing children from entering the criminal justice system and this can be observed through the multi- agency commitment to the well- established Prevention Panel. Partnership decision making here ensures that information is shared in a timely manner and the child receives support from those with expertise in their area of need or those who already have positive relationships.

Turnaround has been established in Oldham since 2023 and in 2024 – 2025, 107 children and families were offered the opportunity to engage with this programme. It is positive that this year children open to Children's Social Care on Child Protection Plans or those who are in the care of the local authority can access this. The service is also fortunate to receive a small grant from Greater Manchester Combined Authority to offer early intervention work to those children who do not meet the criteria for Turnaround.

Following the introduction of the Prevention and Diversion Tool by the Youth Justice Board in 2024, all assessments completed had a full quality assurance tool completed.

Positive Steps have also positioned themselves to be the pilot site for a Youth Futures Hub and conversations are taking place to progress this further, highlighting our dedication to early intervention and prevention.

### **5.4 Diversion**

Diversion remains a priority and we have been working closely with police to increase the use of Outcome 22 and Deferred Caution/ Prosecution. There is a commitment from Greater Manchester Police to make Outcome 22 a “positive outcome”, and Oldham YJS will support this piece of work where needed. In 2025 -2026, all children who receive a Youth Caution will have management oversight to confirm if this could have been dealt with via Outcome 22/ Deferred Caution as an alternative.

All children who receive an Out of Court Disposal have this agreed at a Joint Decision- Making Panel which is attended by youth justice, police and social care. Where other professionals are involved, they may also attend to contribute. Where there is disagreement on an outcome, there is an agreed escalation route in place.

Oldham YJS are also part of the Mentally Vulnerable Offender Panel which sees children who have become involved in an offence and charged be diverted to other agencies specializing in mental health. This ensures that children are not unnecessarily involved with justice-related service because of an unmet need. This is being further promoted now that we have a CAMHS Practitioner seconded to youth justice and her expertise is essential to this assessment and decision making.

### **5.5 Education**

Oldham YJS demonstrate excellent performance in relation to education, training and employment. We have an experienced YJS Co- Ordinator with a background in education who focusses on this as part of her role and uses her expertise and relationships to ensure that children have access to provision that is suited to their needs.

Being based within Positive Steps is of great benefit as the service sits alongside the Careers Information Advice and Guidance Service, Positive Futures Alternative Provision and Empower Oldham (UKSPF). This means there are established relationships with staff from these areas, information sharing is efficient and more importantly, children know the building and professionals when referring into Positive Futures or Empower Oldham. Empower Oldham is becoming a popular option for children working with YJS who are not in education, training or employment and one of the children we have supported on bail has been nominated for a “Shining Star Award” at the Greater Manchester Skills Awards following the progress he has made through his engagement with this.

Where a child is released from custody and does not have education, training or employment in place, the Director of Education and member of the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board, has requested that he is made aware of these instances.

Oldham have had in place for a number of years an Education Risk Assessment so that children can remain in their current school, college or training provider, and this does not break down simply because of the offence that has been committed. This has been adopted the Greater Manchester Remand Pilot and further developed with the main colleges in the area to be used across all services in the region.

### **5.6 Restorative approaches and victims**

The service has a YJS Co- Ordinator who focuses on restorative justice and victims as part of her role. This change came into practice in November 2024 following a re- structure. They work in line with the Oldham Restorative Justice Policy and Victim Code of Practice.

In Oldham there are various indirect options available for children to complete their Giving Back including work with Oldam Foodbank, Bread and Butter and Street Angels. Children are also supported to engage with activities of their own choosing with one child creating memory bears for his family who had been impacted by his involvement with YJS to rebuild relationships, and another expressing an interest to work in his local charity shop.



It has been earlier highlighted that there have been issues in gaining consent from victims for YJS to make contact and this will require resolution in 2025 -2026. However, there are some good examples through quality assurance work of support being provided to the victim when this is in place. This has included referrals to Community Safety for target hardening and Early Help, as well as the YJS Co- Ordinator taking the victim and his family their Friday “chippy tea”, which they were no longer able to collect due to injuries sustained.

### **5.7 Serious violence, exploitation and contextual safeguarding**

Oldham Youth Justice Service, through the Head of Service, are part of the Community Safety Partnership and through the CEO of Positive Steps, the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership, with the YJS Management Team being involved in related subgroups.

Serious Youth Violence is now a partnership priority following a number of serious incidents referred to the Child Safeguarding National Panel. There is an action plan which sits within the Complex and Contextual Safeguarding Subgroup to address this. Following any serious incident, the process for referral to national panel is followed or the Oldham Safeguarding Children's Partnership conduct a Brief Learning Review to ensure any learning is taken forward. At Oldham YJS, these actions sit within the Safeguarding Assurance Group to provide oversight and scrutiny on completion or any barriers that may be in place. We will continue to present data to the YJPMB in relation to this area. We have also recently introduced a dedicated Case Manager to lead on Serious Youth Violence, including those involved in violent extremism, who will pick up some of the actions to develop this area of practice.

Oldham YJS has a Case Manager who leads on Complex and Contextual Safeguarding and attends Daily Governance Meetings with the Complex Safeguarding Hub to ensure information is shared and actions to safeguard children are complete. The service also plays a role in decision making on referrals through attendance at the Missing and Child Exploitation Meeting. We are aware that children often find themselves working with both YJS and Complex Safeguarding and as such, a Joint Working Protocol has been developed to ensure responsibilities are clear and there is no duplication of work. We also collaborate to ensure children are referred into the National Referral Mechanism when needed.

### **5.8 Remands**

Oldham YJS work tirelessly to prevent children from being remanded to custody. This year we have reviewed the Bail and Remand Strategy and will work with partners to improve their understanding of work in court and the response required when a child appears for a serious offence to ensure this is as effective and efficient as possible.

We are an active part of the Greater Manchester Remand Pilot which has been discussed in detail previously in this report.

### **5.9 Use of custody and constructive resettlement**

When children go into custody, we are mindful of the trauma this will cause themselves and their family. We have a YJS Co- Ordinator who focuses on this area of work to support both parties alongside their Case Manager. In recognition that custody numbers in Oldham are low and this affects the experience some staff have in relation to this, we have introduced Custody Planning Panels to ensure all staff are working in line with Local Practice Standards and timeframes are met.

We know that accommodation for children leaving custody can be an issue and so Case Managers know that planning for release begins at the point of sentence and will escalate any concerns with accommodation or ETE via the correct routes.

Oldham are also responsible for leading the Greater Manchester Resettlement Consortium which has also been discussed in detail in this report. We also have oversight of the dedicated Greater Manchester Social Worker placed within HMPYOI Wetherby who supports with safeguarding the children from the region placed there. We are provided with a quarterly report on practice and use this to further develop the role and the offer they provide.

## **5.10 Working with families**

Working with families is fundamental to achieving positive change and is identified in the assessment and plan for the child. Practitioners build trusted relationships with the family and often work with different family members individually, as well as together. This can include re-building relationships or safety planning.

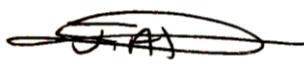
Oldham YJS benefit from being co- located with the Early Intervention and Prevention Service (Early Help) and as such information sharing can be quick as well as discussions being able to take place informally regarding potential referrals. Families also do not experience the stigma of coming to a YJS office to access this given the holistic offer from Positive Steps.

## **6. Service Development Plan**

The Service Development Plan for the coming year has been developed in line with the content of this document and is aligned to the national priority areas discussed above. This details the activity of the Oldham Youth Justice Partnership for the next 12 months and who is responsible for this. Each quarter, the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board will receive an update on the progress of the plan, as well as any risks, challenges or issues that arise in relation to this.

The Service Development Plan 2025 – 2026 can be found in Appendix 4.

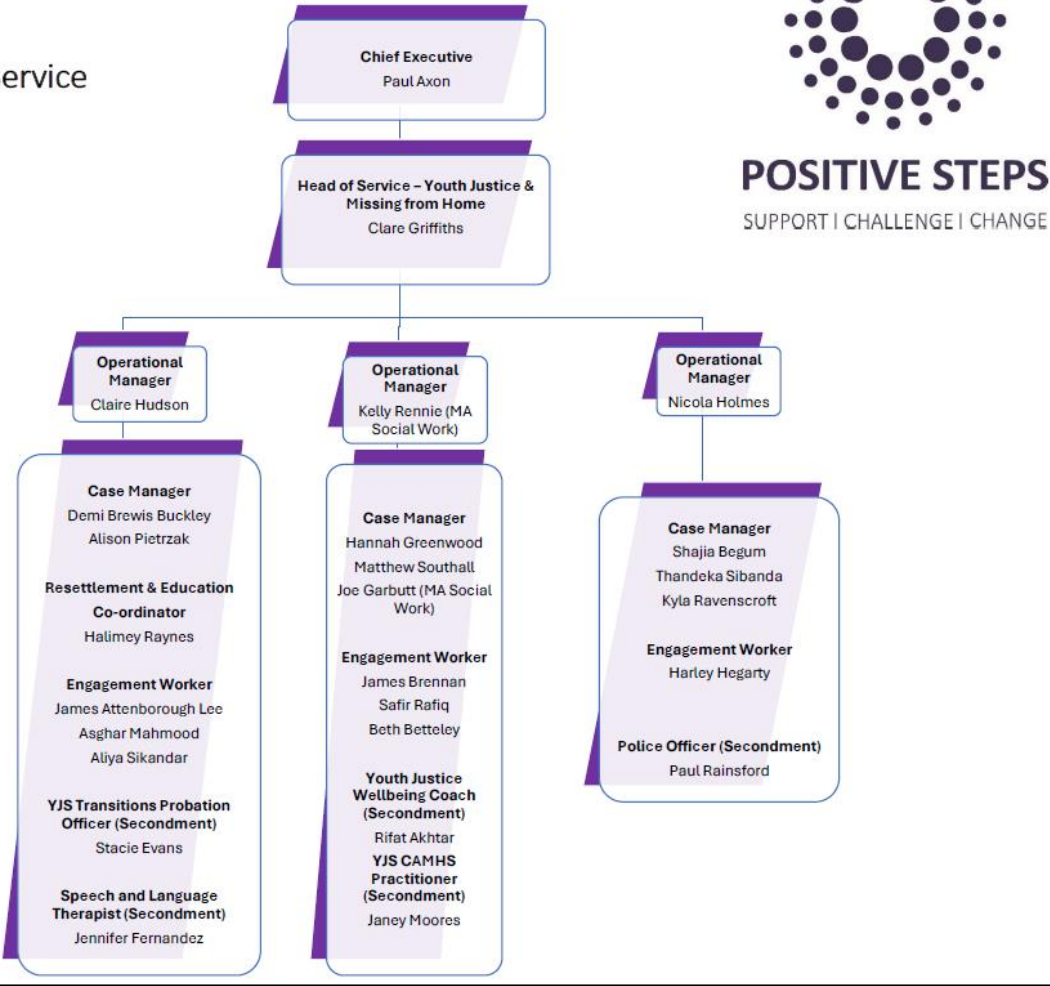
## **7. Sign off**

<b>Chair of Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Management Board</b>	Julie Daniels, Executive Director, Children and Young People, Oldham Council
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>27.06.2025</b>
<b>Council Representative</b>	
<b>Signed</b>	
<b>Date</b>	

Appendix 1 – Oldham Youth Justice Service Structure

POSITIVE STEPS – ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE – May 2025

Youth Justice  
Missing from Home Service



## Appendix 2 – Characteristics of the Workforce

Ethnicity		Gender		Known Disability
		Male	Female	
White British	15	4	11	1
Pakistani	5	3	2	
British Bangladeshi	1	0	1	
White Caribbean	1	1	0	
Black African	1	0	1	
White Irish	1	1	0	

### Appendix 3 – Youth Justice Partnership Management Board Structure

Name	Role	Organisation
CHAIR- Julie Daniels	Strategic Director Children's Services	Oldham Council
Clare Griffiths	Head of Service	Oldham YJS
Tony Decrop	Acting Director Children's Social Care and Early Help	Oldham Council
Sheila Garara	Assistant Director, Children's Services Integration	Oldham Council
Paul Axon	Chief Executive Officer	Positive Steps
Claire Hudson	Operational Manager	Oldham YJS
Nicola Holmes	Operational Manager	Oldham YJS
Kelly Rennie	Operational Manager	Oldham YJS
Cara Charlesworth	District Superintendent	GMP
Amy Poulson	Head of Oldham Delivery Unit	National Probation Service
Lorraine Kenny	Head of Violence Reduction and Community Safety Services	Oldham Council
Matt Bulmer	Director of Education Skills and Early Years	Oldham Council
Jennie Davies	Head of the Virtual School	Oldham Council
Andrea Edmondson	Head of Quality and Safeguarding	Greater Manchester Integrated Care
Joanne Whittingham	Service Lead for Early Years and Early Help Pathways (CAHMS)	Pennine Care
Janine Day	Operations Director	Early Break Substance Misuse
Andrea Weir	Senior Commissioning and Partnerships Manager	Oldham Council
Laura Windsor Welsh	Strategic Locality Lead	Action Together
Moiria Fields	Senior Housing Officer	Oldham Council
Katie Shoebridge	North- West Oversight Manager	Youth Justice Board
Cllr Mushtaq	Councilor	

## Appendix 4 – Oldham Youth Justice Partnership Service Delivery Plan

Priority Area	Lead	By when	How will this improve outcomes for children in Oldham	Progress
Health	Andrea Edmondson		Children working with youth justice will have access to a fully comprehensive health offer as a foundation for achieving positive change	
			<b>Measure:</b>  There will be a seconded school nurse in place to offer health assessments, inform assessments, planning and reports, and provide interventions for children	
Transitions	Amy Poulson		Children will have a positive transition from youth to adult services that is aligned to Child First principles and effectively manages risk and safety and wellbeing	

			<b>Measure:</b>  There will be arrangements in place with Probation to assess, plan and manage children transitioning to adult services	
First Time Entrants	<b>Cara Charlesworth</b> <b>Clare Griffiths</b>		Children will be supported at the earliest opportunity to prevent entering, or further contact with the Youth Justice System  <b>Measure:</b>  The number of first- time entrants into the criminal justice system will reduce	
Victims	<b>Cara Charlesworth</b> <b>Clare Griffiths</b>		Victims of crimes committed by children and communities will feel safe and protected  Victims of crimes committed by children will be supported with any identified needs, aligned with their protected characteristics	

			<p><b>Measure:</b></p> <p>The number of referrals into the service for Out of Court Disposals or Court Orders with consent to contact victims will increase</p> <p>There will be an increase in Restorative Justice interventions delivered within the service</p> <p>Through quality assurance work, there will be an improvement in the quality of work with victims.</p>	
Serious Youth Violence	<b>Lorraine Kenny</b>		<p>Children, victims and communities will feel safe and protected</p> <p>Children will receive the relevant support to prevent involvement, or further involvement, in serious youth violence</p> <p><b>Measure:</b></p> <p>There will be a reduction in Serious Incident Incidents</p>	



			submitted to the Youth Justice Board	
			There will be a reduction in the rates of Serious Youth Violence within the service	
Disproportionality	<b>Clare Griffiths</b> <b>YJS Managers</b>		Children will not receive disproportionate outcomes based on their lived experiences, protected characteristics or additional needs	
			<b>Measure:</b>  The number of children looked after within the service and those from black and minority ethnic backgrounds will reduce	
Data and Quality Assurance	<b>Clare Griffiths</b> <b>YJS Managers</b>		Improvements to service delivery will be responsive and based on quantitative and qualitative data to ensure that the partnership offer is aligned to observations and trends in data	

			<p><b>Measure:</b></p> <p>The Youth Justice Partnership Management Board, partner and staff will report a better understanding of the work of the youth justice service</p> <p>There will be a more comprehensive “Impact Report” in place each quarter for delivery to the Youth Justice Partnership Management Board</p>	
Child First	<p><b>Clare Griffiths</b>  <b>Natassja Golcher- Head of Service- MASH, EDT and Complex Safeguarding</b></p>		<p>Children will receive a response from all services which is in line with the principles of child first to achieve positive change, manage risk and increase safety and wellbeing</p> <p><b>Measure:</b></p> <p>Partners will report an improved understanding of Child First.</p> <p>Through partnership quality assurance work, evidence</p>	

			<p>of Child First will be available throughout multi-agency working</p> <p>There will be no children remanded to custody due to placement sufficiency issues</p>	
Policing	<b>Cara Charlesworth</b>		<p>Children will receive a response from police in line with Child Centered Policing to achieve positive change, manage risk and increase safety and wellbeing</p> <p><b>Measure:</b></p> <p>There will be a reduction in the number of children remanded to court and kept in the police station</p> <p>There will be improved reporting on children released under investigation, children on bail and children who are stopped and searched</p>	



**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Appointment of Vice Chair of Audit Committee – 2025/26**

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability

**Officer Contact:** Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

**Report Author:** Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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### **Reason for Decision**

Council is requested to appoint a Vice Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

### **Executive Summary**

The Audit Committee, at its meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, supported the nomination of Councillor Al-Hamdani as the Vice Chair of the Committee; however, this is a matter for consideration by the full Council, therefore nominations are requested for the position of Vice Chair.

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### **Recommendations**

Council is asked to consider the nomination for the position of Vice Chair of the Audit Committee for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year

**Update on Actions from Council****1 Background**

- 1.1 The Audit Committee, at its most recent meeting, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2025, supported the nomination of Councillor Al-Hamdani as the Committee's Vice Chair. However, the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Council Committees is a matter for determination by the full Council, therefore nominations are requested for the position of Vice Chair.

**2 Current Position**

- 2.1 The Audit Committee does not currently have a vice chair. The Committee is chaired by Mr. Grenville Page, an independent member.

**3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 N/A

**4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 N/A

**5 Consultation**

- 5.1 N/A

**6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 N/A

**7 Legal Implications**

- 7.1 N/A

**8 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People**

- 8.1 N/A

**9 Key Decision**

- 9.1 No

**10 Key Decision Reference**

- 10.1 N/A

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11      **Background Papers**

11.1   None

12      **Appendices**

12.1   None

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**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts**

**Portfolio Holder: Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE – Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability**

**Officer Contact:** Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

**Report Author:** Jenna Madeley, Head of Elections and Land Charges

**17<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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### **Reasons for the Decision:**

To consider the Council's draft proposals for the review of polling districts and polling places.

### **Recommendations**

1. To note the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places.
2. That the polling districts and polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendix 1a and Appendix 1b and in the maps found in Appendix 2 be adopted.
3. That the scheme contained in Appendix 1a and Appendix 1b be adopted in relation to both Parliamentary and Local Government Elections.
4. That the Council requests that the Electoral Registration Officer makes the necessary amendments to polling districts for the 1 December 2025 electoral register.
5. That authority continues to be delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place prior to the next full review, in consultation with ward councillors and group leaders.



## **Review of Polling Places and Polling Districts**

### **1 Introduction**

This report sets out the findings and recommendations of a review of polling districts and polling places conducted by Oldham Council in accordance with the Representation of the People Act 1983.

The purpose of this review is to ensure that:

- All electors have reasonable facilities for voting.
- Polling places are accessible to electors with disabilities, so far as is reasonable and practicable.
- The configuration of polling districts reflects the current electorate and provides for efficient polling arrangements.

This review has considered the current arrangements.

### **2. Current position:**

#### **Glossary of Terms**

A polling district is defined as a geographical area created by the sub-division of a constituency or ward into smaller parts.

A polling place is a designated area (e.g., a designated building) for a polling district into which polling stations are located.

A polling station is the room or area within a polling place where voting is conducted.

#### **Polling Districts and Places**

Under the Representation of the People Act 1983 it is the Council's duty to divide constituencies into polling districts and it has the power to divide wards into polling districts at local government elections. The Electoral Commission advises that polling districts for UK parliamentary and local government elections should always be the same. It therefore follows that any review of parliamentary polling arrangements should be conducted simultaneously with local government arrangements and this review includes local government arrangements.

The allocation of polling stations is the responsibility of the Returning Officer for the election concerned. On occasion, it may be necessary to change the designation of a polling place outside the statutory review process. This usually occurs as a result of premises being closed or unexpectedly becoming unavailable, often at short notice. Authority is delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place in such circumstances, in consultation with group leaders and ward councillors.

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The Returning Officer adopts a practice where, following each election, any issues in respect of the suitability of a polling place or a polling station is immediately addressed to ascertain whether there is a need to seek alternative accommodation. Polling places are therefore regularly reviewed and updated which reduces the number of issues that need to be addressed in polling place reviews.

### **3. Aim of the Review**

In conducting a review, the Council should, when designating polling districts, seek to ensure that all electors have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.

In designating polling places, the Council has an obligation that it will:

- a) Seek to ensure that all electors in the constituency have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- b) Seek to ensure that so far as is reasonable and practicable, the polling places it is responsible for are accessible to all electors who are disabled.
- c) Have regard to the accessibility for disabled persons to potential polling stations in the place.
- d) Other than in special circumstances, locate the polling place in the polling district it serves.
- e) Ensure the polling place is small enough to indicate to electors in different parts of the polling district how they will be able to reach the polling station.

The focus of the review was to identify wherever possible, polling places/ stations (including temporary stations) which met set criteria relating to the location, facilities, accessibility, health and safety and space.

Public notice of the review was given on 16 June 2025 when information about the review was published on the Council's website. All members were also informed of the review and invited to submit comments and representations. Details on the current arrangements and the proposed changes of the Returning Officer were also posted on the Council's website

In undertaking the review, the authority ensured that: -

- All electors have reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances.
- In so far as is reasonable and practicable, that polling places are accessible to those who are disabled.
- The accessibility needs of disabled persons had been considered.

The ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities work with the Disabled People's Panel on elections to identify and implement measures to improve the accessibility of polling stations for disabled voters and to raise awareness about the different options for voting and the assistance available and this has been taken into consideration.

Several principles were followed in determining the identification of suitable buildings for use as polling places. These included:

- Location and accessibility to electors within the polling district
- Size – can it accommodate more than one polling station if required?

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- Accessibility – is the building accessible to all those entitled to vote at the polling station?
  - Availability – is the building readily available in the event of an unscheduled election?
  - Facilities available in the venue including parking, heating, lighting, toilet facilities and security.
  - Public buildings -the election rules allow the Returning Officer the free use of buildings maintained by the council including schools maintained by the authority and free schools. These will be identified in the first instance.
  - Private buildings – in the absence of suitable public owned buildings, churches, clubs and other private sector buildings conveniently located and accessible to electors are considered for designation as the polling place.
  - Mobile units – in the absence of any suitable public or private building in or adjacent to the polling district a mobile will be considered for designation as a polling place. Given the difficulties of heating, lighting, security, comfort of staff and electors, the negative reaction from residents living close to the site of a mobile and the significantly higher cost of locating a mobile polling station, these are considered only as a last resort.
  - The potential impact on election turnout of moving the polling station to a different location.

#### **4. Polling Place/ Station Visits**

Election Officers have undertaken visits to polling stations since May 2025. The purpose of these visits was to assess the suitability of existing arrangements and identify alternatives where required, as well as taking into consideration the implications of planned electorate growth as a result of residential development. This work then assisted in developing the Returning Officer's representations.

#### **5. Responses to the Consultation**

Responses from the consultation period have been assessed by the elections team and implemented in the proposals where possible and reasonable to do so. All representations will be published at the close of the review.

During the consultation, the majority of feedback supported retaining or improving accessibility of existing polling sites. A small number of alternative suggestions were received but were not adopted as they either fell outside the polling district or did not provide step-free or practical facilities.

#### **6. The Proposals**

**The proposals for consideration are:** These proposals apply to both Ward and Parliamentary Constituency elections, ensuring consistency of arrangements across local and national polls in line with statutory requirements.

##### **Chadderton North**

As part of the polling district review for Chadderton North, a number of changes have been introduced to improve accessibility and reflect local community needs. District CN1 (St Herberts Parish Centre) has been split, with voters in the mapped area redirected to Mills Hill Primary School. Similarly, CN2 (St Herberts Parish Centre) has been divided to allow voters in the Park Estate area to cast their vote at North Chadderton School. Districts CN3 (Mills Hill Primary School) and CN4 (North Chadderton School) remain unchanged. Two new districts have been created: CN5 (North Chadderton School) for voters in the Park Estate area, and CN6 (Mills Hill

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Primary School) for voters in the mapped area outlined in Appendix 2. These adjustments ensure polling places are appropriately distributed, accessible, and aligned with community geography. All stations have step-free access and facilities suitable for disabled electors, ensuring compliance with accessibility duties.

### **Coldhurst**

As part of the polling district review for Coldhurst, the majority of districts remain unchanged, with minor adjustments to polling place locations and naming. District CO2 (previously Mobile Unit on Channing Nursery Car Park) remains in place, though the polling site name and address have been updated to Mobile Unit on EdStart Car Park, Maygate, Off Chadderton Way, Oldham, OL9 6TR. District CO5 (Mobile Unit CO5) has been relocated, with the polling unit now sited on land at Fletcher Close opposite Belton Walk, Oldham, OL9 6TG. These changes ensure polling sites are accurately described, appropriately located, and continue to provide convenient access for electors. All sites have been assessed for accessibility, with the relocation of CO5 ensuring step-free access and improved proximity to the residential community it serves.

### **Hollinwood**

As part of the polling district review for Hollinwood, one change has been implemented in District HO3. The polling place previously designated as a Mobile Unit at the Avenues & Hollins Residents & Tenants Association has been replaced with the Avenues & Hollins Residents & Tenants Association building itself, located on First Avenue, Limeside, Oldham, OL8 3SH. This change removes the reliance on a mobile unit, providing a permanent and more accessible polling venue for electors. The new designation is recorded under polling station number 32 in ward proposals and 35 in constituency proposals. The permanent building at Avenues & Hollins Residents & Tenants Association offers improved facilities and accessibility compared with the previous mobile unit.

### **St James**

As part of the polling district review for St James, a change has been made to District SJ5. The polling place previously located at Fresh Church, 105 Coleridge Road, Oldham, OL1 4RJ, has been relocated to Sholver Community Centre, Sholver Lane, Oldham, OL1 4NT. This adjustment provides a more suitable and accessible venue for electors in the area, as recommended during the consultation, and is recorded under polling station number 90 in ward proposals and 104 in constituency proposals. The relocation to Sholver Community Centre provides a larger, fully accessible venue with dedicated parking and acts as a cost saving exercise due to the building already being used for district SJ1.

### **Waterhead**

As part of the polling district review for Waterhead, a change has been made to District WA1. The polling place previously located within Waterhead Academy Sports Campus has been replaced with a Mobile Unit situated at the same site on Counthill Road, Moorside, Oldham, OL4 2PY. This adjustment ensures continuity of location while altering the polling provision and is recorded under polling station number 104 in ward proposals and 119 in constituency proposals. The mobile unit provision at Waterhead Academy Sports Campus has been confirmed to be fully accessible and in a consistent location with prior arrangements.

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### **Further Changes for Parliamentary Constituency Elections**

In addition to the changes outlined above, which apply equally to both ward and constituency elections, further amendments are required to constituency-level polling station allocations to ensure polling places can accommodate high electorates and anticipated turnout. These changes primarily involve the creation of double or triple stations within existing polling places. The following adjustments are proposed:

- Chadderton South (CS4, South Chadderton Youth Centre): Change from single to double station (Stations 19 & 20).
- Coldhurst (CO3, OBA Millennium Centre): Change from single to double station (Stations 26 & 27).
- Royton North (RN5, St Paul's Primary School): Change from single to double station (Stations 53 & 54).
- Royton South (RS1, Royton Park Bowling Club): Change from single to double station (Stations 55 & 56).
- Royton South (RS3, Blackshaw Lane Primary School): Change from single to double station (Stations 59 & 60).
- Werneth (WE1, Freehold Community School): Change from double to triple station (Stations 61, 62 & 63).
- Alexandra (AL4, Alt Academy): Change from single to double station (Stations 71 & 72).
- Crompton (CR1, Crompton Primary School): Change from double to triple station (Stations 74, 75 & 76).
- Crompton (CR2, St Mary's Church): Change from single to double station (Stations 77 & 78).
- Crompton (CR3, Rushcroft Primary School): Change from single to double station (Stations 79 & 80).
- Saddleworth North (SN2, St Thomas Church Hall): Change from single to double station (Stations 82 & 83).
- Saddleworth South (SS1, Uppermill Civic Hall): Change from single to double station (Stations 87 & 88).
- Saddleworth South (SS5, Greenfield Methodist Church): Change from single to double station (Stations 92 & 93).
- Saddleworth West & Lees (SW1/SW5, Springhead Football Club): Change from single to double station (Stations 94 & 94/1).

- 
- Shaw (SH3, Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre): Change from single to double station (Stations 116 & 117).
  - Waterhead (WA7, St Barnabas Parish Hall): Change from single to double station (Stations 125 & 126).
  - Failsworth East (FE2, Higher Failsworth Primary School): Change from single to double station (Stations 129 & 130).
  - Failsworth East (FE3, St John's Church): Change from single to double station (Stations 131 & 132).
  - Failsworth West (FW5, Ridgefield Community Centre): Change from single to double station (Station 140 & 141).
  - Failsworth West (FW6, Canterbury Hall): Change from single to double station (Station 142 & 143)

These constituency-level adjustments are required solely to ensure adequate facilities within polling places where elector numbers exceed Electoral Commission guidelines for single stations. They do not affect the boundaries of polling districts or the location of polling places.

The polling districts and polling places not listed above have no changes and will remain the same, as per Appendix 1a & 1b.

## **7 Options/Alternatives**

7.1 N/A

## **8 Preferred Option**

8.1 Options are detailed in the body of the report.

## **9 Consultation**

9.1 Details of consultation are included in the body of the report.

## **10 Financial Implications**

10.1 N/A

## **11 Legal Implications**

11.1 N/A

## **12 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People**

12.1 N/A

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13      **Key Decision**

13.1    No

14      **Key Decision Reference**

14.1    N/A

15      **Background Papers**

15.1    None

16      **Appendices**

16.1    The proposed amendments to polling districts and polling stations for both Constituency and Ward elections, are detailed in the attached proposals at Appendices 1a and 1b and the accompanying maps are at Appendix 2.

Parliamentary Consitutency	Ward	Current Station Number	Polling District	Station Type	Current Polling Place	Elector Count Per Station	Proposal for Constituency Elections	Proposed Station Number
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton Central	1 & 2	CC1	Double	Burnley Brow Primary School Victoria Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0BY	863	No change	1 & 2
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton Central	3	CC2	Single	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0EL	746	No change	3
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton Central	4	CC3	Single	St Mark's Church Vestry Milne Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0HR	920	No change	4
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton Central	5	CC4	Single	Springbank Bowling Club Albion Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 9HT	1074	No change	5
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton Central	6	CC5	Single	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA	1259	No change	6
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton Central	7	CC6	Single	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA	1297	No change	7
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton North	8	CN1	Single	St Herberts Parish Centre 148 Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0JY	959	District split to allow voters in <b>mapped area</b> to vote at Mills Hill Primary School	8
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton North	9	CN2	Single	St Herberts Parish Centre 148 Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0JY	648	District split to allow voters in the <b>Park Estates area</b> to vote at North Chadderton School - <b>See map</b>	9
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton North	10 & 11	CN3	Double	Mills Hill Primary School Mills Hill Road Chadderton M24 2FD	1216 & 1455	No change	10 & 11



Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton North	12 & 13	CN4	Double	North Chadderton School (access via the back entrance between 42 Cathedral Road Chadderton Oldham OL9 0RR	1278 & 1176	No change	12 & 13
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton North	n/a	CN5	n/a	North Chadderton School (access via the back entrance between 42 Cathedral Road Chadderton Oldham OL9 0RR	1033	<b>New district created to allow voters in the Park Estates area to vote at North Chadderton School - See map</b>	14
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton North	n/a	CN6	n/a	Mills Hill Primary School Mills Hill Road Chadderton M24 2FD	773	<b>New district created to allow voters in the mapped area to vote at Mills Hill Primary School</b>	15
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton South	14	CS1	Single	Turf Lane Centre Turf Lane Chadderton OL9 8HP	1474	No change	16
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton South	15	CS2	Single	Whitegate End Junior School Butterworth Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 8EB	1149	No change	17
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton South	16	CS3	Single	St Georges Over 60's Club St George's Square Chadderton Oldham OL9 9NU	1278	No change	18
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton South	17	CS4	Single	South Chadderton Youth Centre Lancaster Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 8LE	2682	<b>Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout</b>	19 & 20
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton South	18	CS5	Single	Stanley Road Primary School Derby Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 7HX	1413	No change	21
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Chadderton South	19	CS6	Single	Chadderton Over 60's Centre 298a Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 9QU	895	No change	22

Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	20	CO1	Single	Barker Street Tenants Hall Adj. Browbeck Car Park Off Eden Street Oldham OL1 2XA	1055	No change	23
Oldham East & Saddleworth	Coldhurst	20	CO1/1	Single	Barker Street Tenants Hall Adj. Browbeck Car Park Off Eden Street Oldham OL1 2XA	513	No change	24
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	21	CO2	Single	Mobile Unit on Channing Nursery Car Park Maygate Westwood Oldham OL9 6TR	927	<b>Site unchanged; name and address of site changed to Mobile Unit on EdStart Car Park, Maygate, Off Chadderton Way, Oldham, OL9 6TR</b>	25
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	22	CO3	Single	OBA Millennium Centre Featherstall Road North Oldham OL9 6QB	2212	<b>Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout</b>	26 & 27
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	23	CO4	Single	Chadderton Community Church Garforth Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 6RW	816	No change	28
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	24	CO5	Single	Mobile Unit CO5 Broome Street Chadderton OL9 6TD	427	<b>Site of mobile unit changed to Land at Fletcher Close opposite Belton Walk, Oldham OL9 6TG</b>	29
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	25	CO6	Single	Coldhurst Lifelong Learning Centre Rochdale Road Oldham OL1 2HR	1465	No change	30
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	26	CO7	Single	Aster House Booth Hill Lane Oldham OL1 2LA	656	No change	31
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Coldhurst	27	CO8	Single	Trinity House Godson Street Oldham OL1 2XL	1140	No change	32
Oldham East & Saddleworth	Coldhurst	27	CO8/1	Single	Trinity House Godson Street Oldham OL1 2XL	313	No change	33
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	28	HO1	Single	Canon George Community Hall St Margaret's Church Chapel Road Oldham OL8 4QQ	1279	No change	33

Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	29	HO2	Single	Holy Family – Parish Room Holy Family RC Church Roman Road Limeside Oldham OL8 3PY	887	No change	34
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	30	HO3	Single	Mobile Unit at Avenues & Hollins Residents & Tenants Association First Avenue Limeside Oldham OL8 3SH	914	<b>Avenues &amp; Hollins Residents &amp; Tenants Association First Avenue Limeside Oldham OL8 3SH</b>	35
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	31	HO4	Single	St Chads Centre Limegreen Parade Limehurst Village Oldham OL8 3HH	1518	No change	36
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	32	HO5	Single	Mobile Unit at Spring Brook Lower School Heron Street Oldham OL8 4JD	1224	No change	37
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	33	HO6	Single	Werneth Golf Club Side Entrance Green Lane Oldham OL8 3AZ	777	No change	38
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	34	HO7	Single	Mobile Unit Vaal Street Hollinwood Oldham OL8 4NW	1152	No change	39
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Hollinwood	35	HO8	Single	Common Room, Clough Gate House Hollins Road Oldham OL8 3UX	715	No change	40
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	36 & 37	MV1	Double	Coppice Primary Academy Burlington Avenue Oldham OL8 1AP	1460 & 1554	No change	41 & 42
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	38	MV2	Single	The Honeywell Centre Schofield Street  Hathershaw  Oldham OL8 3BP	913	No change	43
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	39	MV3	Single	The Hathershaw College Bellfield Avenue Oldham OL8 3EP	1214	No change	44
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	40	MV4	Single	Medlock Valley Community School South Croft Oldham OL8 2LQ	974	No change	45
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	41	MV5	Single	Newbridge Learning Centre St Martins Road	1000	No change	46

Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	41	MV5	Single	Oldham OL8 2PZ OL8 2PZ	1066	No change	46
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Medlock Vale	42	MV6 & FE1/1	Single	Methodist Sunday School Keb Lane Bardsley Oldham OL8 2TE	1072	No change	47
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton North	43	RN1	Single	Thornham St James Primary School Castleton Road Royton Oldham OL2 6XT	927	No change	48
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton North	44	RN2	Single	Mobile Unit Corner of Oozewood Road and Kingston Drive Royton Oldham OL2 5XW	1526	No change	49
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton North	45	RN3 & RN3/1	Single	Fir Bank Primary School Grasmere Road Royton Oldham OL2 6SJ	1051& 295	No change	50
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton North	46 & 47	RN4	Double	St Paul's Parish Centre Church Street Royton Oldham OL2 5JS	1342 & 1381	No change	51 & 52
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton North	48	RN5	Single	St Paul's Primary School Hindle Drive Royton Oldham OL2 5LU	2071	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	53 & 54
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton South	49	RS1	Single	Royton Park Bowling Club Bleasdale Street Royton Oldham OL2 6QD	2276	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	55 & 56
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton South	50 & 51	RS2	Double	St Anne's C E School Broadway Longsight Royton Oldham OL2 5DH	1769 & 1691	No change	57 & 58
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Royton South	52	RS3	Single	Blackshaw Lane Primary School Blackshaw Lane Heyside Royton Oldham OL2 6NT	2009	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	59 & 60
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Werneth	53 & 54	WE1	Double	Freehold Community School Sidmouth Street Oldham OL9 7RG	1810 & 1787	Create triple station to allow for high electorate and turnout	61, 62 & 63

Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Werneth	55	WE2	Single	Werneth Park Lifelong Learning Centre Frederick Street Oldham OL8 1RB	1564	No change	64
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Werneth	56	WE3	Single	Werneth Primary School Nursery Coppice Street Oldham OL8 4BL	1218	No change	65
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Werneth	57	WE4	Single	St Thomas Church Werneth St Thomas' Circle Werneth Oldham OL8 1SE	1757	No change	66
Oldham West, Chadderton & Royton	Werneth	58	WE5	Single	Primrose Bank Community Centre Primrose Bank Werneth Oldham OL8 1HX	999	No change	67
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Alexandra	59	AL1	Single	Mobile Unit Land Opposite Pennine Pen Honeywell Lane Oldham OL8 2JP	1568	No change	68
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Alexandra	60	AL2	Single	Glodwick Cricket Club Swansea Street Off Warren Lane Oldham OL8 2JE	1385	No change	69
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Alexandra	61	AL3	Single	Oldham Golf Club Lees New Road Oldham OL4 5PN	1307	No change	70
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Alexandra	62	AL4	Single	Alt Academy Alt Lane Oldham OL8 2EL	2096	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	71 & 72
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Alexandra	63	AL5	Single	St Paul's Church Community Room Ashton Road Oldham OL8 1LD	815	No change	73
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Crompton	64 & 65	CR1	Double	Crompton Primary School Longfield Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7HD	1878 & 1645	Create triple station to allow for high electorate and turnout	74, 75 & 76
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Crompton	66	CR2	Single	St Mary's Church Rushcroft Road High Crompton Oldham OL2 7PP	2019	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	77 & 78
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Crompton	67	CR3	Single	Rushcroft Primary School Trent Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7YL	2330	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	79 & 80
	Saddleworth				Denshaw Village Hall Ripponden Road			

Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth North	68	SN1	Single	Denshaw Oldham OL3 5SH	681	No change	81
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth North	69	SN2	Single	St Thomas Church Hall Church Street Delph Oldham OL3 5DR	2264	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	82 & 83
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth North	70	SN3	Single	Diggle Band Club Huddersfield Road Diggle Oldham OL3 5PJ	1732	No change	84
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth North	71	SN4	Single	Holy Trinity Church Woods Lane Dobcross Oldham OL3 5AL	1461	No change	85
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth North	72	SN5	Single	Mobile Unit Three Crowns Car Park Huddersfield Road Oldham OL4 4AT	1771	No change	86
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth South	73	SS1	Single	Uppermill Civic Hall Lee Street Uppermill Oldham OL3 6AE	2557	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	87 & 88
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth South	74	SS2	Single	St Anne's School Cedar Lane Grasscroft Oldham OL4 4DS	1421	No change	89
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth South	75	SS3	Single	St Marys CE School Manchester Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7DW	1293	No change	90
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth South	76	SS4	Single	Christ Church Friezland Church Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7LQ	1149	No change	91
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth South	77	SS5	Single	Greenfield Methodist Church Chew Valley Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7JJ	1864	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	92 & 93
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth West & Lees	78 & 78/1	SW1 & SW5	Single	Springhead Football Club Off St. John Street Lees Oldham OL4 3DR	2153	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	94 & 94/1
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth West & Lees	79	SW2	Single	Springhead Community Centre Ashes Lane Springhead Oldham OL4 4PF	1076	No change	95

Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth West & Lees	80	SW3	Single	Springhead Children’s Centre Cooper Street Springhead Oldham OL4 4QT	1508	No change	96
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth West & Lees	81	SW4	Single	The Pavillion Station Road Grotton Oldham OL4 5SF	1655	No change	97
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth West & Lees	82	SW6	Single	Zion Methodist Church Hall Chapel Street Oldham OL4 4NA	639	No change	98
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Saddleworth West & Lees	83	SW7	Single	Lees Library and Community Hub Thomas Street Lees Oldham OL4 5DA	1362	No change	99
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St James	84	SJ1	Single	Sholver Community Centre Sholver Lane Sholver Oldham OL1 4NT	1176	No change	100
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St James	85	SJ2	Single	Woodlands Primary School Broadbent Road Oldham OL1 4HU	882	No change	101
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St James	86	SJ3	Single	Stoneleigh Park Community Cabin Buxted Road Oldham OL1 4LP	1338	No change	102
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St James	87	SJ4	Single	Mayfield Primary School Mayfield Road Derker Oldham OL1 4LG	1252	No change	103
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St James	88	SJ5	Single	Fresh Church 105 Coleridge Road Oldham OL1 4RJ	1617	<b>Change from Fresh Church to Sholver Community Centre, Sholver Lane, OL1 4NT</b>	104
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St James	89	SJ6	Single	Moorside Cricket Pavillion Moorside Cricket & Bowling Turf Pit Lane Moorside Oldham OL4 2ND	1596	No change	105

Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	90	SM1	Single	Saint Stephens & All Martyrs Church Thames Street Oldham OL1 3QU	1399	No change	106
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	91	SM2	Single	Al-Madina Jamia Masjid 230 Waterloo Street Oldham OL4 1ES	1413	No change	107
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	92	SM3	Single	Greenhill Academy Harmony Street Glodwick Oldham OL4 1RR	1585	No change	108
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	93	SM4	Single	Glodwick Infant and Nursery School Nursery Building Pitt Street Oldham OL4 1AJ	1696	No change	109
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	94	SM5	Single	Bethel Church Waterloo Street Oldham OL4 1EQ	891	No change	110
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	95	SM6	Single	Salvation Army Chatsworth Street Oldham OL4 5LF	1541	No change	111
Oldham East and Saddleworth	St Marys	96	SM7	Single	Revive Free Methodist Church Mount Pleasant Terrace Street OL4 1JW	294	No change	112
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Shaw	97 & 98	SH1	Double	St Saviours Church Crompton Fold Buckstones Road Shaw Oldham OL2 8DF	1204 & 1183	No change	113 & 114
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Shaw	99	SH2	Single	St James Church St James Street Shaw Oldham OL2 7TE	1625	No change	115
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Shaw	100	SH3	Single	Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre High Street Shaw Oldham OL2 8TB	2065	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	116 & 117
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Shaw	101	SH4	Single	Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre High Street Shaw Oldham OL2 8TB	1290	No change	118
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	102	WA1	Single	Waterhead Academy Sports Campus Counthill Road Moorside	789	Mobile Unit at Waterhead Academy Sports Campus Counthill Road Moorside	119



					Oldham OL4 2PY		Oldham OL4 2PY	
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	103	WA2	Singe	Littlemoor Primary School Littlemoor Lane Oldham OL4 2RR	1149	No change	120
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	104	WA3	Single	Littlemoor Primary School Littlemoor Lane Oldham OL4 2RR	986	No change	121
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	105	WA4	Single	Parish Hall, Waterhead Church Waterworks Road Oldham OL4 2JQ	808	No change	122
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	106	WA5	Single	Elim Four Square Church Greenacres Road Greenacres Oldham OL4 2BA	708	No change	123
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	107	WA6	Single	Greenacres Community Centre Galland Street Greenacres Oldham OL4 3EU	1059	No change	124
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	108	WA7	Single	St Barnabas Parish Hall Arundel Street Clarksfield Oldham OL4 1NL	2162	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	125 & 126
Oldham East and Saddleworth	Waterhead	109	WA8	Single	Air Training Corps 40 Wellyhole Street Oldham OL4 3BB	1002	No change	127
Manchester Central	Failsworth East	110	FE1	Single	Woodhouses Cricket Club Medlock Road Woodhouses Failsworth M35 9WN	892	No change	128

Manchester Central	Failsworth East	111	FE2	Single	The Childrens Centre, Higher Failsworth Primary School Stansfield Road Failsworth M35 9ED	1926	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	129 & 130
Manchester Central	Failsworth East	112	FE3	Single	St John's Church Oldham Road Failsworth M35 0EH	1944	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	131 & 132
Manchester Central	Failsworth East	113 & 114	FE4	Double	Macedonia United Reformed Church Holt Lane Failsworth M35 9QG	1234 & 1279	No change	133 & 134
Manchester Central	Failsworth East	115	FE5	Single	Hope Methodist Church Oldham Road Failsworth M35 9AN	617	No change	135
Manchester Central	Failsworth West	116	FW1	Single	Mather Street Primary School Mather Street Failsworth M35 0DT	594	No change	136
Manchester Central	Failsworth West	117	FW2	Single	Failsworth Lifelong Learning Centre Failsworth Town Hall Oldham Road Failsworth M35 0FH	891	No change	137
Manchester Central	Failsworth West	118	FW3	Single	Failsworth Home Guard Poplar Street Failsworth M35 0HY	923	No change	138
Manchester Central	Failsworth West	119	FW4	Single	The Millgate Function Room Ashton Road West Failsworth M35 0ES	919	No change	139
Manchester Central	Failsworth West	120	FW5	Single	Ridgefield Community Centre Ridgefield Street Failsworth M35 0HJ	1968	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	140 & 141
Manchester Central	Failsworth West	121	FW6	Single	Canterbury Hall Holy Family Community Centre Lord Lane Failsworth M35 0GQ	2479	Create double station to allow for high electorate and turnout	142 & 143

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Ward	Current Station Number	Polling District	Station Type	Current Polling Place	Elector count per station (approx.)	Proposal for Ward Elections	Proposed Station Number
Chadderton Central	1 & 2	CC1	Double	Burnley Brow Primary School Victoria Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0BY	855 & 740	No change	1 & 2
Chadderton Central	3	CC2	Single	North Chadderton Social & Bowling Club Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0EL	910	No change	3
Chadderton Central	4	CC3	Single	St Mark's Church Vestry Milne Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 0HR	1081	No change	4
Chadderton Central	5	CC4	Single	Springbank Bowling Club Albion Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 9HT	1247	No change	5
Chadderton Central	6	CC5	Single	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA	1310	No change	6
Chadderton Central	7	CC6	Single	The Crossley Community Centre 323 Denton Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 9GA	1867	No change	7
Chadderton North	8	CN1	Single	St Herberts Parish Centre 148 Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0JY	959	District split to allow voters in mapped area to vote at Mills Hill Primary School	8
Chadderton North	9	CN2	Single	St Herberts Parish Centre 148 Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 0JY	648	District split to allow voters in the Park Estates area to vote at North Chadderton School - See map	9

Chadderton North	10 & 11	CN3	Double	Mills Hill Primary School Mills Hill Road Chadderton M24 2FD	1454 & 1214	No change	10 & 11
Chadderton North	12 & 13	CN4	Double	North Chadderton School (access via the back entrance between 42 and 44 Cathedral Road) Cathedral Road Chadderton Oldham OL9 0RR	1267 & 1163	No change	12 & 13
Chadderton North	n/a	CN5	n/a	North Chadderton School (access via the back entrance between 42 and 44 Cathedral Road) Cathedral Road Chadderton Oldham OL9 0RR	1033	<b>New district created to allow voters in the Park Estates (see map in appendix A)area to vote at North Chadderton School</b>	14
Chadderton North	n/a	CN6	n/a	Mills Hill Primary School Mills Hill Road Chadderton M24 2FD	773	<b>New district created to allow voters in the mapped area in Appendix A to vote at Mills Hill Primary School</b>	15
Chadderton South	14	CS1	Single	Turf Lane Centre Turf Lane Chadderton OL9 8HP	1525	No change	16
Chadderton South	15	CS2	Single	Whitegate End Junior School Butterworth Lane Chadderton Oldham OL9 8EB	1132	No change	17
Chadderton South	16	CS3	Single	St Georges Over 60's Club St George's Square Chadderton Oldham OL9 9NU	1271	No change	18
Chadderton South	17	CS4	Single	South Chadderton Youth Centre Lancaster Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 8LE	2704	No change	19

Chadderton South	18	CS5	Single	Stanley Road Primary School Derby Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 7HX	1411	No change	20
Chadderton South	19	CS6	Single	Chadderton Over 60's Centre 298a Broadway Chadderton Oldham OL9 9QU	851	No change	21
Coldhurst	20	CO1 & CO1/1	Single	Barker Street Tenants Hall Adj. Browbeck Car Park Off Eden Street Oldham OL1 2XA	1672	No change	22
Coldhurst	21	CO2	Single	Mobile Unit on Channing Nursery Car Park Maygate Westwood Oldham OL9 6TR	935	Site unchanged; name and address of site changed to Mobile Unit on EdStart Car Park, Maygate, Off Chadderton Way, Oldham, OL9 6TR	23
Coldhurst	22	CO3	Single	OBA Millennium Centre Featherstall Road North Oldham OL9 6QB	2244	No change	24
Coldhurst	23	CO4	Single	Chadderton Community Church Garforth Street Chadderton Oldham OL9 6RW	835	No change	25
Coldhurst	24	CO5	Single	Mobile Unit CO5 Broome Street Chadderton OL9 6TD	433	Site of mobile unit changed to Land at Fletcher Close opposite Belton Walk, Oldham OL9 6TG	26
Coldhurst	25	CO6	Single	Coldhurst Lifelong Learning Centre Rochdale Road Oldham OL1 2HR	1526	No change	27
Coldhurst	26	CO7	Single	Aster House Booth Hill Lane Oldham OL1 2LA	627	No change	28
Coldhurst	27	CO8 & CO8/1	Single	Trinity House Godson Street Oldham OL1 2XL	1536	No change	29

Hollinwood	28	HO1	Single	Canon George Community Hall St Margaret's Church Chapel Road Oldham OL8 OL8 4QQ	1297	No change	30
Hollinwood	29	HO2	Single	Holy Family – Parish Room Holy Family RC Church Roman Road Limeside Oldham OL8 3PY	890	No change	31
Hollinwood	30	HO3	Single	Mobile Unit at Avenues & Hollins Residents & Tenants Association First Avenue Limeside Oldham OL8 3SH	935	<b>Avenues &amp; Hollins Residents &amp; Tenants Association First Avenue Limeside Oldham OL8 3SH</b>	32
Hollinwood	31	HO4	Single	St Chads Centre Limegreen Parade Limehurst Village Oldham OL8 3HH	1585	No change	33
Hollinwood	32	HO5	Single	Mobile Unit at Spring Brook Lower School Heron Street Oldham OL8 4JD	1242	No change	34
Hollinwood	33	HO6	Single	Werneth Golf Club Side Entrance Green Lane Oldham OL8 3AZ	782	No change	35
Hollinwood	34	HO7	Single	Mobile Unit Vaal Street Hollinwood Oldham OL8 4NW	1206	No change	36
Hollinwood	35	HO8	Single	Common Room, Clough Gate House Hollins Road Oldham OL8 3UX	715	No change	37
Medlock Vale	36 & 37	MV1	Double	Coppice Primary Academy Burlington Avenue Oldham OL8 1AP	1624 & 1535	No change	38 & 39
Medlock Vale	38	MV2	Single	The Honeywell Centre Schofield Street Hathershaw Oldham OL8 3BP	951	No change	40

Medlock Vale	39	MV3	Single	The Hathershaw College Bellfield Avenue Oldham OL8 3EP	1285	No change	41
Medlock Vale	40	MV4	Single	Medlock Valley Community School South Croft Oldham OL8 2LQ	1006	No change	42
Medlock Vale	41	MV5	Single	Newbridge Learning Centre St Martins Road Oldham OL8 2PZ OL8 2PZ	1171	No change	43
Medlock Vale	42	MV6	Single	Methodist Sunday School Keb Lane Bardsley Oldham OL8 2TE	1086	No change	44
Royton North	43	RN1	Single	Thornham St James Primary School Castleton Road Royton Oldham OL2 6XT	916	No change	45
Royton North	44	RN2	Single	Mobile Unit Corner of Oozewood Road and Kingston Drive Royton Oldham OL2 5XW	1511	No change	46
Royton North	45	RN3 & RN3/1	Single	Fir Bank Primary School Grasmere Road Royton Oldham OL2 6SJ	1343	No change	47
Royton North	46 & 47	RN4	Double	St Paul's Parish Centre Church Street Royton Oldham OL2 5JS	1375 & 1332	No change	48 & 49
Royton North	48	RN5	Single	St Paul's Primary School Hindle Drive Royton Oldham OL2 5LU	2058	No change	50
Royton South	49	RS1	Single	Royton Park Bowling Club Bleasdale Street Royton Oldham OL2 6QD	2233	No change	51
Royton South	50 & 51	RS2	Double	St Anne's C E School Broadway Longsight Royton Oldham OL2 5DH	1737 & 1676	No change	52 & 53



Royton South	52	RS3	Single	Blackshaw Lane Primary School Blackshaw Lane Heyside Royton Oldham OL2 6NT	1993	No change	54
Werneth	53 & 54	WE1	Double	Freehold Community School Sidmouth Street Oldham OL9 7RG	1862 & 1901	No change	55 & 56
Werneth	55	WE2	Single	Werneth Park Lifelong Learning Centre Frederick Street Oldham OL8 1RB	1699	No change	57
Werneth	56	WE3	Single	Werneth Primary School Nursery Coppice Street Oldham OL8 4BL	1217	No change	58
Werneth	57	WE4	Single	St Thomas Church Werneth St Thomas' Circle Werneth Oldham OL8 1SE	1796	No change	59
Werneth	58	WE5	Single	Primrose Bank Community Centre Primrose Bank Werneth Oldham OL8 1HX	1043	No change	60
Alexandra	59	AL1	Single	Mobile Unit Land Opposite Pennine Pen Honeywell Lane Oldham OL8 2JP	1719	No change	61
Alexandra	60	AL2	Single	Glodwick Cricket Club Swansea Street Off Warren Lane Oldham OL8 2JE	1400	No change	62
Alexandra	61	AL3	Single	Oldham Golf Club Lees New Road Oldham OL4 5PN	1429	No change	63
Alexandra	62	AL4	Single	Alt Academy Alt Lane Oldham OL8 2EL	2204	No change	64

Alexandra	63	AL5	Single	St Paul's Church Community Room Ashton Road Oldham OL8 1LD	876	No change	65
Crompton	64 & 65	CR1	Double	Crompton Primary School Longfield Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7HD	1859 & 1623	No change	66 & 67
Crompton	66	CR2	Single	St Mary's Church Rushcroft Road High Crompton Oldham OL2 7PP	2014	No change	68
Crompton	67	CR3	Single	Rushcroft Primary School Trent Road Shaw Oldham OL2 7YL	2307	No change	69
Saddleworth North	68	SN1	Single	Denshaw Village Hall Ripponden Road Denshaw Oldham OL3 5SH	665	No change	70
Saddleworth North	69	SN2	Single	St Thomas Church Hall Church Street Delph Oldham OL3 5DR	2247	No change	71
Saddleworth North	70	SN3	Single	Diggle Band Club Huddersfield Road Diggle Oldham OL3 5PJ	1703	No change	72
Saddleworth North	71	SN4	Single	Holy Trinity Church Woods Lane Dobcross Oldham OL3 5AL	1407	No change	73
Saddleworth North	72	SN5	Single	Mobile Unit Three Crowns Car Park Huddersfield Road Oldham OL4 4AT	1742	No change	74
Saddleworth South	73	SS1	Single	Uppermill Civic Hall Lee Street Uppermill Oldham OL3 6AE	2507	No change	75

Saddleworth South	74	SS2	Single	St Anne’s School Cedar Lane Grasscroft Oldham OL4 4DS	1404	No change	76
Saddleworth South	75	SS3	Single	St Marys CE School Manchester Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7DW	1262	No change	77
Saddleworth South	76	SS4	Single	Christ Church Friezland Church Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7LQ	1106	No change	78
Saddleworth South	77	SS5	Single	Greenfield Methodist Church Chew Valley Road Greenfield Oldham OL3 7JJ	1841	No change	79
Saddleworth West & Lees	78 & 78/1	SW1 & SW5	Single	Springhead Football Club Off St. John Street Lees Oldham OL4 3DR	2126	No change	80 & 80/1
Saddleworth West & Lees	79	SW2	Single	Springhead Community Centre Ashes Lane Springhead Oldham OL4 4PF	1055	No change	81
Saddleworth West & Lees	80	SW3	Single	Springhead Children’s Centre Cooper Street Springhead Oldham OL4 4QT	1492	No change	82
Saddleworth West & Lees	81	SW4	Single	The Pavillion Station Road Grotton Oldham OL4 5SF	1628	No change	83
Saddleworth West & Lees	82	SW6	Single	Zion Methodist Church Hall Chapel Street Oldham OL4 4NA	637	No change	84

Saddleworth West & Lees	83	SW7	Single	Lees Library and Community Hub Thomas Street Lees Oldham OL4 5DA	1332	No change	85
St James	84	SJ1	Single	Sholver Community Centre Sholver Lane Sholver Oldham OL1 4NT	1185	No change	86
St James	85	SJ2	Single	Woodlands Primary School Broadbent Road Oldham OL1 4HU	873	No change	87
St James	86	SJ3	Single	Stoneleigh Park Community Cabin Buxted Road Oldham OL1 4LP	1377	No change	88
St James	87	SJ4	Single	Mayfield Primary School Mayfield Road Derker Oldham OL1 4LG	1308	No change	89
St James	88	SJ5	Single	Fresh Church 105 Coleridge Road Oldham OL1 4RJ	1664	Change from Fresh Churh to Sholver Community Centre, Sholver Lane, OL1 4NT	90
St James	89	SJ6	Single	Moorside Cricket Pavillion Moorside Cricket & Bowling Turf Pit Lane Moorside Oldham OL4 2ND	1588	No change	91
St Marys	90	SM1	Single	Saint Stephens & All Martyrs Church Thames Street Oldham OL1 3QU	1514	No change	92
St Marys	91	SM2	Single	Al-Madina Jamia Masjid 230 Waterloo Street Oldham OL4 1ES	1450	No change	93

St Marys	92	SM3	Single	Greenhill Academy Harmony Street Glodwick Oldham OL4 1RR	1611	No change	94
St Marys	93	SM4	Single	Glodwick Infant and Nursery School Nursery Building Pitt Street Oldham OL4 1AJ	1739	No change	95
St Marys	94	SM5	Single	Bethel Church Waterloo Street Oldham OL4 1EQ	889	No change	96
St Marys	95	SM6	Single	Salvation Army Chatsworth Street Oldham OL4 5LF	1598	No change	97
St Marys	96	SM7	Single	Revive Free Methodist Church Mount Pleasant Terrace Street OL4 1JW	308	No change	98
Shaw	97 & 98	SH1	Double	St Saviours Church Crompton Fold Buckstones Road Shaw Oldham OL2 8DF	1189 & 1167	No change	99 & 100
Shaw	99	SH2	Single	St James Church St James Street Shaw Oldham OL2 7TE	1644	No change	101
Shaw	100	SH3	Single	Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre High Street Shaw Oldham OL2 8TB	2076	No change	102
Shaw	101	SH4	Single	Shaw Lifelong Learning Centre High Street Shaw Oldham OL2 8TB	1289	No change	103

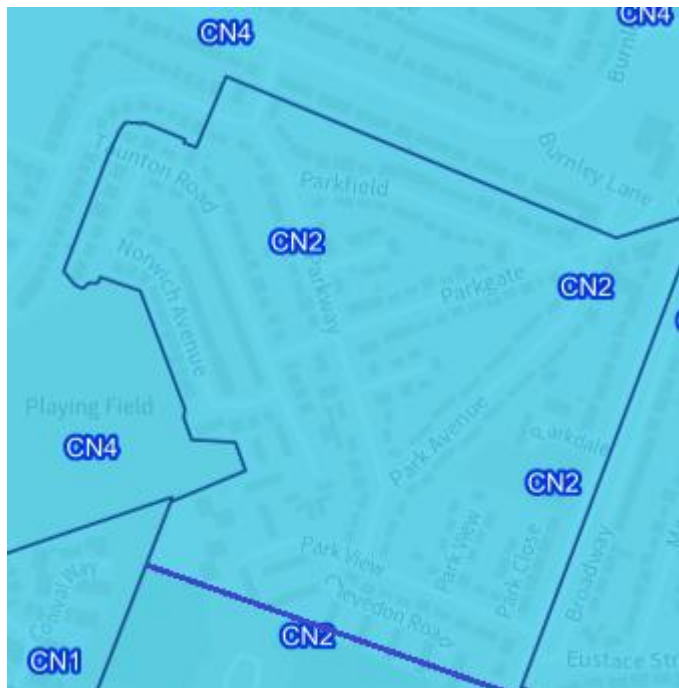
Waterhead	102	WA1	Single	Waterhead Academy Sports Campus Counthill Road Moorside Oldham OL4 2PY	778	<b>Mobile Unit at Waterhead Academy Sports Campus Counthill Road Moorside Oldham OL4 2PY</b>	104
Waterhead	103	WA2	Singe	Littlemoor Primary School Littlemoor Lane Oldham OL4 2RR	1148	No change	105
Waterhead	104	WA3	Single	Littlemoor Primary School Littlemoor Lane Oldham OL4 2RR	1033	No change	106
Waterhead	105	WA4	Single	Parish Hall, Waterhead Church Waterworks Road Oldham OL4 2JQ	873	No change	107
Waterhead	106	WA5	Single	Elim Four Square Church Greenacres Road Greenacres Oldham OL4 2BA	739	No change	108
Waterhead	107	WA6	Single	Greenacres Community Centre Galland Street Greenacres Oldham OL4 3EU	1068	No change	109
Waterhead	108	WA7	Single	St Barnabas Parish Hall Arundel Street Clarksfield Oldham OL4 1NL	2351	No change	110
Waterhead	109	WA8	Single	Air Training Corps 40 Wellyhole Street Oldham OL4 3BB	990	No change	111
Failsworth East	110	FE1 & FE1/1	Single	Woodhouses Cricket Club Medlock Road Woodhouses Failsworth M35 9WN	887	No change	112

Failsworth East	111	FE2	Single	The Childrens Centre, Higher Failsworth Primary School Stansfield Road Failsworth M35 9ED	1917	No change	113
Failsworth East	112	FE3	Single	St John's Church Oldham Road Failsworth M35 0EH	1945	No change	114
Failsworth East	113 & 114	FE4	Double	Macedonia United Reformed Church Holt Lane Failsworth M35 9QG	1285 & 1233	No change	115 & 116
Failsworth East	115	FE5	Single	Hope Methodist Church Oldham Road Failsworth M35 9AN	616	No change	117
Failsworth West	116	FW1	Single	Mather Street Primary School Mather Street Failsworth M35 0DT	615	No change	118
Failsworth West	117	FW2	Single	Failsworth Lifelong Learning Centre Failsworth Town Hall Oldham Road Failsworth M35 0FH	919	No change	119
Failsworth West	118	FW3	Single	Failsworth Home Guard Poplar Street Failsworth M35 0HY	953	No change	120
Failsworth West	119	FW4	Single	The Millgate Function Room Ashton Road West Failsworth M35 0ES	916	No change	121
Failsworth West	120	FW5	Single	Ridgefield Community Centre Ridgefield Street Failsworth M35 0HJ	1973	No change	122
Failsworth West	121	FW6	Single	Canterbury Hall Holy Family Community Centre Lord Lane Failsworth M35 0GQ	2462	No change	123

## CN1 split to create CN6



## CN2 split to create CN5





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