

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December  
2025**

## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

**To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
J. R. CLYNES BUILDING, GREAVES STREET, OLDHAM, OL1 1AL**

**Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025**

**You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, J. R. Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL, for the following purposes:**

**Item No**

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 108)  
To approve the Minutes of the meetings of Council held 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (adjourned to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025) and on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025
- 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)*
- 7 Youth Council  
*(time limit 20 minutes)*

**Young Men's Mental Health**

This motion highlights the urgent need for strengthened support, awareness, and targeted interventions to address men's mental health across our borough. National evidence shows that men continue to face significant barriers to seeking help. According to a study by Mind, 40% of men do not talk about their mental health due to stigma and fear of embarrassment. NHS data shows that 12.5% of all men in England are living with a mental health disorder, yet many remain undiagnosed or unsupported.

The consequences of this silence are profound. As reported by the BBC, suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50 and figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that 75% of all suicides in England and Wales in

2024 were male; the highest proportion recorded in the last 25 years. Regionally, the Northwest faces some of the most concerning outcomes, with a suicide rate of 13.7 per 100,000, the second highest of any region in England.

We believe that it is vital that a focus on young men's mental health needs to be addressed. Mental health can have a severe impact on various areas of life, ones that have detrimental consequence into adulthood. Given the statistics already mentioned, it is no wonder that mental health demonstrates negative impact on school attendance, sleep disruption and ultimately, stress related sickness for young people in employment.

As young men from Oldham Youth Service, we are attempting to address this issue through creation of the MAN (Masculinity and Normality) Project. We hope to reduce discriminatory attitudes, believing this starts with the promotion of good mental health amongst men. October saw our first schools conference, bringing together young men with the theme of 'breaking the armour.' This aimed to encourage conversations about supporting one another and being more open-minded about mental health discussion.

But this is just the start. It was evident that of the 80 plus young men in attendance, mental health is still a very prevalent topic affecting our young population. According to Oldham Council's Suicide Prevention Plan, Oldham's suicide rate stands at 10.0 per 100,000, emphasising the need for proactive and well-resourced action. Early intervention in young men's mental health is critical in preventing the onset of long-term impacts.

This motion therefore asks Oldham Council to recognise the scale of the challenge, to prioritise men's mental health within local strategies, and to work with partners to reduce stigma, improve access to support, and ultimately, save lives.

We also ask Oldham Council to leverage its influence by writing directly to the Government and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt Hon Wes Streeting MP, advocating for urgent and targeted investment in young men's mental health services.

As local resources are stretched and the national crisis in young people's mental health, particularly for young men who are less likely to seek help, demands a scaled-up, dedicated funding stream. Targeting support for young men now will significantly reduce the future incidence and impact of long-term mental health conditions, easing the burden on crisis services and ensuring every young person in Oldham receives the support they deserve without facing debilitating waiting lists or barriers.

8      Public Questions

*(time limit 15 Minutes)*

9      Questions to Leader and Cabinet (Pages 109 - 150)

*(time limit 90 minutes)*

a.      Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth – including the

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 26<sup>th</sup> September 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

10 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

**Motion 1: Strengthening Standards and Restoring Confidence in Local Democracy**

To be Moved by Councillor Harrison

To be Seconded by Councillor Shuttleworth

**This Council notes:**

- The Government's recent response to its consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England, following widespread concerns about inconsistent enforcement and inadequate sanctions under the current regime.
- The proposals include:
  - A mandatory minimum code of conduct for all local authorities.
  - A requirement for formal standards committees to oversee breaches and publish investigation outcomes.
  - New powers to suspend councillors or mayors for serious misconduct, including interim suspensions in complex cases.
  - A national appeals body to ensure consistency.
  - A new category of disqualification for gross misconduct or repeated breaches.
  - Measures to empower victims of councillor misconduct and improve transparency.

**This Council believes:**

- High standards of conduct are essential to maintaining public trust in local democracy.
- A clear, consistent, and enforceable framework will help councillors uphold the integrity of public office and protect the reputation of local government.
- These reforms will strengthen accountability and ensure that misconduct is dealt with swiftly and fairly across all tiers of local government.

**This Council resolves to:**

1. **Welcome the Government's proposals** to strengthen the standards

regime and restore confidence in local democracy.

2. **Commit to adopting the mandatory minimum code of conduct** once implemented in legislation.
3. **Ensure our Standards Committee is fully prepared** to meet the new requirements, including publishing investigation outcomes transparently and regularly reporting these outcomes to Council.
4. **Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government** expressing our support for these reforms and urging timely implementation.
5. **Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Local Government Association**, urging them to consider the development of a training programme aligned with the new standards regime.
6. **Ask our Standards Committee** to work with the relevant Officers locally to review Oldham's elected member behaviour standards training programme and ensure it is fit for purpose, with a view to making it a mandatory training unit.

**Motion 2: Fairer Parking Charges at Manchester Airport**

To be Moved by: Councillor Shah  
to be Seconded by: Councillor Charters

**This Council notes:**

- Manchester Airport is the third busiest airport in the UK and a vital gateway for Greater Manchester residents and businesses.
- Current drop-off and pick-up charges at Manchester Airport are £5 for five minutes, £6.40 for up to 10 minutes, and £25 for up to 30 minutes, with fines of £100 (reduced to £60 if paid within 14 days) for late payment under the barrierless system.
- The RAC has ranked Manchester Airport among the most expensive UK airports on a cost-per-minute basis.
- Jim McMahon MP has called for a full review of signage, an end to the practice of stacking up charges, an extension of the time allowed to pay, and greater transparency on income from these charges.

**This Council believes:**

- Parking charges should be fair, transparent, and not penalise genuine mistakes.
- The current system risks disproportionately impacting local residents and visitors, especially given the complexity of the barrierless payment process.
- Clear signage and user-friendly payment options are essential to avoid confusion and unnecessary fines.

**This Council resolves:**

1. **To formally support Jim McMahon MP's campaign** for fairer and more transparent parking charges at Manchester Airport.
2. **To ask the Chief Executive to write to Manchester Airport Group**

**urging:**

- A review of the current charging structure with a view to reducing costs.
- Improved signage and introduction of a “tap-out” payment option at exit points.
- Publication of data on income from drop-off and pick-up charges.
- A fair and accessible appeals process that does not increase penalties for unsuccessful appeals.

3. **To ask the Chief Executive to write** to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Leaders of the other 9 GM Local Authorities to share this motion seek wider regional support.

11 Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

**Motion 1: Werneth Park Music Rooms – Community-Led Regeneration and Asset Transfer**

To be Moved by Councillor Ibrahim

To be Seconded by Councillor Akhtar

**This Council Notes:**

**Historical Significance**

The Grade II listed Werneth Park Music Rooms is one of Oldham’s most significant historic buildings.

Located in Werneth Park – Oldham’s second most eminent Victorian park – it has served local communities since the 1930s, when it was gifted to the Borough under covenants requiring continued community use.

**Long-Term Closure and Decline**

The Music Rooms were closed in 2001 due to budget cuts.

Since closure, the building has remained derelict, suffering extensive vandalism and deterioration, driving up potential refurbishment costs.

Responsibility for the building currently sits within Environmental Services, and the Council continues to incur annual costs of approximately £125,025 for a building that remains closed and unused.

**Evidence of Community Need and Previous Work**

- A 2002 SRB6-funded study identified a shortage of community facilities in Werneth and Freehold and found strong resident support for restoring the Music Rooms.

- A feasibility study in 2007 estimated renovation costs in the region of £2.85m–£4.1m, and a steering group was subsequently formed to progress a Heritage Lottery Fund bid.
- There has been no updated feasibility or options appraisal work for nearly a decade, despite continuing community interest.

### **Current Position and Financial Context**

Continuing to pay to hold a derelict listed asset represents poor value for money for Oldham residents, especially in the context of severe financial pressures on the Council.

### **Funding Opportunities**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) currently offers grant routes from £100,000 to £5 million, which are well suited to the restoration and reuse of derelict historic buildings.

- The Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) provides development funding and support for community-led heritage schemes, including business planning and governance development.

Taken together, these funds provide a realistic route to securing the capital required for restoration, provided there is strong community involvement and a clear, sustainable business model.

### **Vision for the Music Rooms**

The music rooms could benefit the local community by offering:

- A permanent curated exhibition space for Oldham's cultural heritage;
- A community tea room and social space; and
- A flexible events and performance venue for music, arts, learning and community activity.
- Regeneration would create employment and apprenticeship opportunities, support local suppliers, and enable partnerships with major cultural institutions.

### **This Council Believes:**

Werneth Park Music Rooms is an iconic historic building and a symbol of Oldham's cultural heritage; its continued dereliction sends a damaging message about Oldham's commitment to its history and its parks.

### **This Council Resolves To:**

1. Support in Principle any suitable Community-Led Regeneration of Werneth

### Park Music Rooms

- 2.Explore all options that could be applicable for this building to bring it back into use for the community,
- 3.Work proactively with interested community organisations and Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust to explore viable options for the future of Werneth Park Music Rooms and to support in any way possible.
- 4.Request that relevant officers prepare a progress report back to Council Within 6- 12 months setting out any progress that can be reported upon to Full Council regarding this building:

### **Motion 2: Fair funding for Local Government**

To be Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani

To be Seconded by Councillor Harkness

#### **This Council Notes:**

- Local councils across England face unprecedented financial pressures after more than a decade of real-terms funding cuts from central government.
- Demand for key services such as adult social care, children's services, and housing support has risen sharply during this period.
- The Liberal Democrats have consistently campaigned for fair funding for local government, recognising that councils are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities.
- The government's ongoing failure to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system has led to significant inequalities between different areas, undermining local accountability and the ability of councils to plan for the long term.

#### **This Council Believes:**

- Local government is essential to delivering strong, healthy, and prosperous communities.
- Councils should be properly funded to meet the needs of their residents, and funding should reflect need, deprivation, and local circumstances, not political favouritism or outdated formulas.
- Local authorities should have greater financial autonomy, including the ability to raise and retain more of their own revenue.
- Investment in prevention and local services saves money in the long term, reduces demand on the NHS and emergency services, and supports local economic growth.

#### **This Council Resolves to:**

1. Call on the Government to urgently reform local government funding by:
  - Introducing a fair funding formula that reflects actual local need and deprivation levels.
  - Restoring revenue support grant and other core funding streams to

sustainable levels.

- Providing multi-year settlements to allow councils to plan ahead with confidence.
- Giving local authorities greater freedom to raise and retain local revenue, including through reform of council tax and business rates.

2. Write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to local MPs, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government.
3. Work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.
4. Publicise this motion to residents and local media to raise awareness of the impact of government underfunding on local services.

**Motion 3: Ensuring Statutory Scrutiny and Enforceability for Places for Everyone Masterplans**

To be Moved by Councillor Sharp  
to Be Seconded: Councillor Lancaster

Council notes:

1. That Places for Everyone (PfE) forms part of Oldham Council's adopted planning policies, though opposition groups opposed Oldham's involvement.
2. That PfE policies for Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss require development to "*be in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan and design code as agreed by the local planning authority*," implying robust, enforceable guidance.
3. That the Beal Valley-Broadbent Moss masterplan is currently being pursued as a non-statutory document – meaning a document that is merely "*agreed*" by Cabinet without statutory public consultation under Regulation 12 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, without a sustainability appraisal, and without formal adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).
4. That Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 19) and the 2012 Regulations provide statutory weight as material considerations, ensuring greater transparency and enforceability.
5. That a non-statutory approach carries lesser weight in planning decisions, potentially undermining PfE compliance and resident protections for complex sites like Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss (e.g., infrastructure needs, contamination risks, landslide issues).

Council believes:

1. That masterplans for PfE sites must undergo statutory processes to deliver enforceable policies, public scrutiny, and alignment with the National Planning Policy Framework.
2. Residents deserve binding safeguards for large-scale developments, especially where opposition exists.
3. Shifting to SPD status enhances certainty without delaying delivery, avoiding legal risks from inadequate processes.

Council resolves:

1. That the Beal Valley-Broadbent Moss masterplan (and future PfE masterplans) shall be pursued and adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), requiring:
  - Council-led public consultation (min. 4 weeks, Regulation 12);
  - Sustainability appraisal;
  - Formal adoption by Cabinet, with Overview and Scrutiny Committee review.
2. The Monitoring Officer shall:
  - Confirm the masterplan's progression to SPD status within 3 months;
  - Advise on any procedural adjustments;
  - Ensure no non-statutory "agreement" precedes SPD adoption.
3. All PfE-related planning applications shall reference the adopted SPD as a material consideration, decided by the Planning Committee or delegated officers, with full transparency.
4. Officers to report progress to the Cabinet meeting in January, including timelines for consultation and adoption.

**Motion 4: Don't Trash Oldham**

To be Moved by Councillor Quigg

To be Seconded by Councillor Ball

We will not be going into a long preamble in this motion; we shall instead present facts in order not to waste time or words in order to address the criminal scourge of fly tipping.

**This Council notes:**

- That a recent freedom on information request (22938) stated that NO cost benefit analysis has been carried out in any of the years that 'Don't Trash Oldham' has operated.
- Noting that most fly-tipped waste was discovered in back alleyways, accounting for 53% of recorded incidents, with 16% being discovered on highways.

- It costs around £2,500 a day to clear fly tipping from our streets when you consider running vehicles, officer time and disposal costs.

- That the per another freedom of information request (21025):

**1. The number of fines issued for fixed penalty notices (FPNs) for fly-tipping in each of the following financial periods, 2022/2023, 2023/2024, 2024 to April 2025.**

2022/23 – 166

2023/24 – 100

2024 /April 2025 – 168

**2. Number of prosecutions pursued for fly-tipping offences in each of the following financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024 to April 2025.**

2022/23 – 55

2023/24 – 26

2024/April 2025 – 12

**3. The total amount of revenue collected from fly-tipping FPNs in each of the following financial years 2022/2023, 2023/2024 and 2024 to April 2025.**

2022/23 – £16,730

2023/24 – £12,670

2024 /April 2025 – £20,790

**4. The total cost incurred by the council in enforcing fly-tipping regulations, including but not limited to: staffing costs (e.g., enforcement officers, clean-up crews), administrative costs, and legal costs.**

2022/23 – £ 739,805

2023/24 – £ 736,606

2024/April 2025 – £ 768,041

**5. Waste disposal costs related to fly-tipping Equipment costs (e.g., CCTV, vehicles), any other costs associated with fly-tipping enforcement and removal.**

2022/23 – £ 233,151

2023/24 – £ 161,503

2024 /April 2025 – £ 186,961

- Per the Cabinet report dated 18/03/2024, section 3.3.1:

*“It has become apparent during the two years the DTO/Betterment campaign has been active that some residents have not embraced the change/recognised the work being undertaken to improve and clean their areas and have continued to fly tip waste. Alleys where gates were introduced to provide community safety, control of the immediate space around the rear of resident’s properties, and to prevent fly tipping are still subjected to fly tipping. It is, therefore, evident that the fly tipping is being generated by the properties that back onto the space and alternative models for enforcement (use of CCTV where appropriate) will have to be considered.”*

- Per the Cabinet report dated 18/03/2024, sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2:

*“Integral to the option approved at cabinet in September 2022 was a targeted approach in the known hotspot locations with enforcement and a dedicated clean-up to influence a sustained behaviour change amongst residents. This focused activity involved consistent enforcement and clean-up work across 5 of*

*the inner town wards of Alexandra, Medlock vale, St. Marys, Waterhead and Werneth. Coupled with this reactive work, the Enforcement Officers and Environment Marshals served legal notices to ensure private yards are cleared and any defects resolved.”*

- Per the Cabinet report dated 18/03/2024, sections 2.2.5:  
*“The use of mobile CCTV cameras has also been trialled in certain rural locations where repeat fly tipping incidents were reported and investigated. The existence of these overt cameras and accompanying signage did, by their very nature, deter potential fly-tippers. However, the images captured have so far not identified those responsible, and therefore, officers have been unable to progress a case to prosecution. In one location in particular, the CCTV system was subject to vandalism and theft of the hardware, but in general, where these cameras are installed, there was a reduction in the volume of reports and incidents.”*
- Per the Cabinet report dated 18/03/2024, sections 3.2.1:  
*“It has become clear during the programme that not all members engaged in the process, and in some cases, little or no discussion or programme of work was created. The absence of such engagement, therefore, required officers from Environmental Services to fill the gap, by undertaking work that they felt would benefit the ward. In addition, there was also a change in elected members during the Betterment campaign, and this may have also contributed to the issue. As part of any future campaign and embedding of the improvements achieved, ward member engagement will be key to any success and long-term sustainability.*

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

- Carry out a cost benefit analysis of Don't Trash Oldham and produce a report for the next full Council meeting.
- Take a hardline approach to rogue businesses, in particular rogue takeaways, using all legal powers available to either fine, prosecute or close down prolific fly tippers of rubbish in backings and guinnels. Residents and legitimate businesses have a right to live in a clean environment.
- Ensure that Houses of Multiple Occupation are complying with the law and that cases of fly tipping because of tenancy changes or lack of landlord action are dealt with swiftly and severely.
- Expand CCTV to target the worst reports of fly tipping and use better quality equipment to uncover who is responsible for fly tipping to prosecute them.
- Instruct the legal team at Oldham Council produce a report for the next Council meeting which outlines ALL the legal measures available to the Council to prosecute and prevent fly tipping with an estimated cost analysis of each option so that a focus is put on prevention and prosecution, with a zero-tolerance approach.
- Make better use of Community Skips to help reduce fly tipping in adopted/unadopted guinnels and backings.
- That Don't Trash Oldham has become a click and collect service for fly tippers due to cultural, behavioural and criminal attitudes towards fly tipping, that the Council in conjunction with the relevant departments will launch a Zero Tolerance Campaign to target rogue landlords, rogue tenants, serial dumpers

and businesses who dump their waste, naming and shaming fly tippers. It is time the Council got tough on those who trash their own backyards rather than making responsible residents pay the price through higher council tax.

- That Council is given annual reports on the levels of fly tipping and associated costs with clearing fly tipping by ward.
- That a report is created by the next full Council meeting which provides a ward-by-ward breakdown of:
  1. Reported cases of fly tipping in each ward.
  2. The pounds and pence figure for each ward and associated costs of clearing fly tipping for the years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.
  3. A ward by ward breakdown of how often public bins are emptied.
  4. The costs and or benefits of restoring fortnightly grey bin collections.
  5. The costs and or benefits of charging or not charging for bulky waste collections.

**The Council further resolves to:**

- Note the Cabinet Report dated 18/03/2024, noting that there are significant problems in “*Alexandra, Medlock vale, St. Marys, Waterhead and Werneth*” wards and that a full analysis is carried out and reported back to Cabinet as to why this is the case.
- That the Council will make sure that all areas of the Borough are treated equally by Oldham Council, when it comes to fly tipping in their ward.
- That prior to the reports being delivered to full Council that the relevant scrutiny committee can examine the above mentioned reports and that the Don’t Trash Oldham Campaign is referred to the relevant committee for further scrutiny to measure its effectiveness.

12      Outcome of consultation on the introduction of an Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation (Pages 151 - 214)  
Report of the Deputy Chief Executive, making recommendations arising from a consultation exercise.

13      Appointment of Independent Members on the Independent Remuneration Panel (Pages 215 - 218)  
To consider the appointment of Independent Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel.

14      Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2024/25 (Pages 219 - 244)  
To receive the Annual Report of the Audit Committee 2024/25.

15      Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25 (Pages 245 - 260)  
To receive the Annual Report of the Scrutiny Boards 2024/25.

16      Treasury Management Half Year Review Report 2025/26 (Pages 261 - 280)  
To consider the Council’s Treasury Management position – mid-year 2025/26.

17      Update on Actions from Council  
Report to follow.

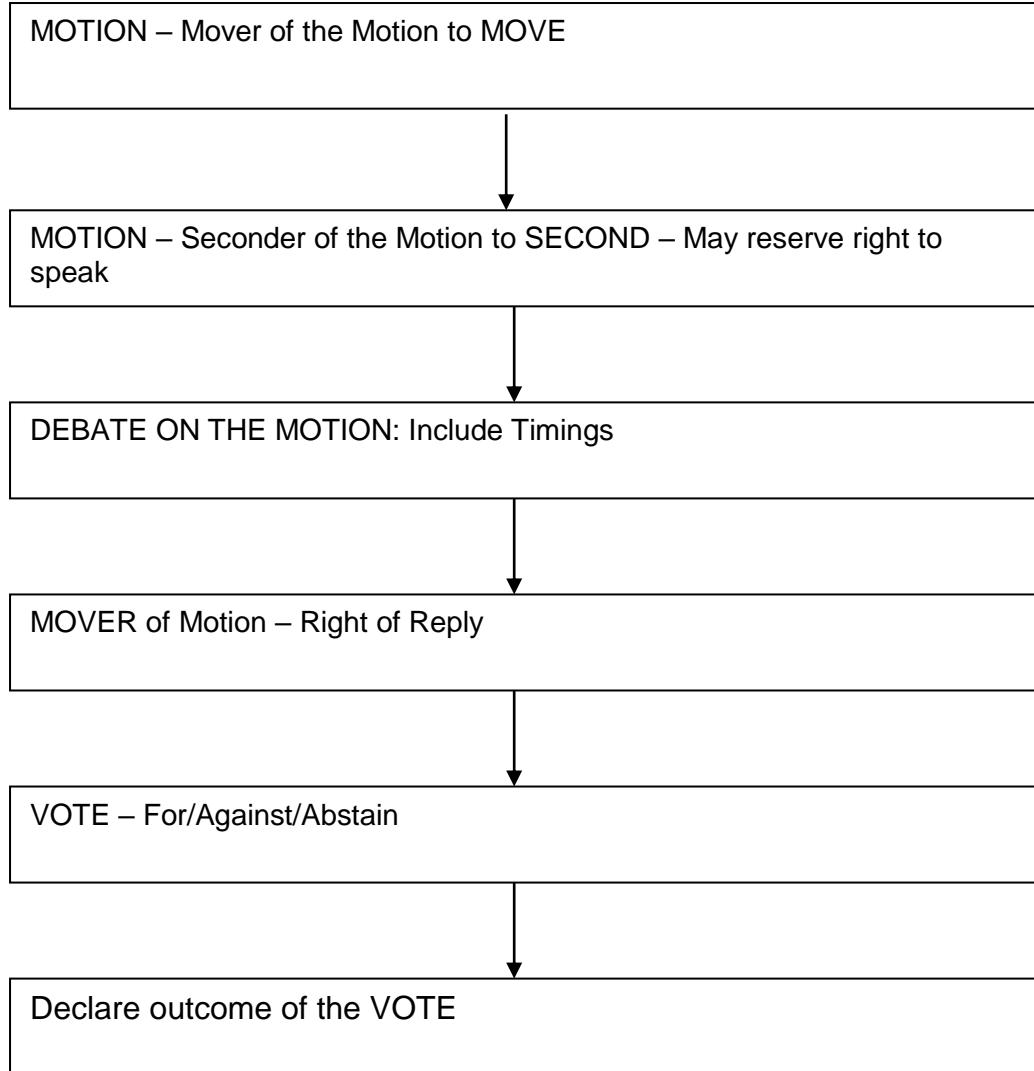
**NOTE: The meeting of the Council will conclude 3 hours and 30 minutes after the commencement of the meeting.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelley Kipling".

**Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive**

## **PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

### **NO AMENDMENT**



### **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**

