

COUNCIL
10/12/2025 at 6.00 pm



Present: Councillor Moores (the Mayor) in the Chair.
Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, M Ali, Z Ali, Arnott, Aslam, Azad, Ball, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, Harrison, Hince, Hobin, Hughes, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, 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 Bashforth, Chauhan, Chowhan, Ghafoor and Hindle.

2 **MINUTES**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 17th September 2025 and on 12th November 2025.

In respect of Minute 10 (Electronic Voting), of the meeting held 12th November 2025, it was reported that Council had agreed to include that the results of each electronic vote, irrespective of whether it is a recorded vote or not, would be published on the screens during the meeting.

In respect of Minute 17 (Review of Political Balance on Committees), resolution 1 of the meeting held on 12th November 2025 it was reported that Council had agreed, rather than noted, the report.

RESOLVED

That subject to the two amendments noted above, the minutes of the meetings of Council held on 17th September 2025 and 12th November 2025, 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 indicated that he had been advised of urgent items of business to be considered at this meeting, The first item of urgent business related to correspondence received from the Home Secretary. The Right Hon. Shabana Mahmood MP, regarding the establishment of a national investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation. Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED that Council Procedure Rules (namely Council Procedure Rule 4.1 relating to the business to be transacted at the meeting) be suspended to allow this matter to

be discussed by the Council. On being put to the Vote the Motion was CARRIED.



The Mayor advised that he was permitting a 15-minute debate on the proposed establishment of a national investigation into Child Sexual Exploitation. and the meeting was addressed by Councillors Hobin, Sykes, Hince, Woodvine and Quigg. Councillor Shah replied to the debate.

The second item of urgent business concerned agenda item 10 - Notice of Administration Business - Motion 2. In accordance with paragraphs 12.4.1 and 12.4.3 of the Council Procedure Rules - there was a change to the Mover and Seconder of Motion 2: Fairer Parking Charges at Manchester Airport. The Motion would now be moved by Councillor Jabbar and seconded by Councillor Charters.

The third item of urgent business related to business considered at the agenda item 17 (Polling District Review) that was considered at the meeting held on 17th September 2025 (adjourned until 12th November 2025). Councillor Woodvine addressed Council providing a point of clarification about comments that he had made, when this item was considered by the Council. Councillor Woodvine apologised for erroneous comments that he had made at the meeting relating to the Council's Elections Manager.

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

The Mayor referred to the recent death of former Councillor Ginny Alexander, who represented the St. James Ward between 2014 and 2022 and who was Mayor of the Borough between 2019 and 2021. Accordingly, Councillors Shah, Williamson, Charters and Byrne addressed Council paying their individual condolences and tributes.

Council held a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Ginny Alexander.

The Mayor reported that the timings for the Motions to be considered at item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business) be allocated as follows: Oldham Group's Motion – 10 minutes, Liberal Democrat Group's Motion – 10 minutes, the Conservative Group's Motion – 8 minutes and the Reform UK Group's Motion – 2 minutes.

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

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council PROPOSED the following MOTION:
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.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Woodvine spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Williamson spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Byrne spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Mushtaq **MOVED** and Councillor Woodvine **SECONDED** the **MOTION** as presented by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED:

1. That Oldham Council acknowledges and recognises 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.
2. That the Chief Executive, on behalf of Oldham Council be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt. Hon. Wes Streeting MP, to advocate for urgent and targeted investment in young men's mental health services.

8

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Hannah Roberts

I welcome the Labour Government's proposals to implement sweeping reforms to strengthen standards and rebuild confidence in local government and share the widespread support expressed in the consultation for a mandatory code of conduct. Local authorities will get powers to suspend councillors and mayors for serious misconduct and to withhold allowances where behaviour falls short. The Coalition Government removed all effective sanctions which has helped to undermine confidence in local councils. Could the Leader comment further and does she have any information about how soon these overdue reforms will be in place?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability replied, thanking Hannah Roberts for her question and for raising this important issue. I agree that strong ethical standards and robust accountability are essential to maintaining public trust in local government. The current proposals to introduce a mandatory code of conduct and restore meaningful sanctions represent a significant and welcome step towards rebuilding that confidence, particularly following the weakening of the standards framework under the previous Coalition Government.

The ability for local authorities to suspend councillors for serious misconduct, and to withhold allowances where behaviour falls short of expected standards, will provide much-needed tools to address unacceptable conduct and reinforce the principle that elected representatives must meet the highest standards of behaviour.

While the Government has made clear its commitment to these reforms and the consultation response demonstrates strong support, we are still awaiting detailed implementation guidance and a confirmed timetable. However, indications are that the necessary legislation will be brought forward as a priority, and we will ensure that we are prepared to implement the new framework effectively and consistently.

We will keep members updated as further information becomes available, and we will engage fully with the process to ensure these long-overdue reforms deliver the strengthened standards and accountability that our communities rightly expect.

2. Question from Matthew Broadbent

In April, planning permission was refused for a Battery Energy Storage System in Failsworth's Green Belt. In October, the decision was overturned by the Planning Inspectorate on the back of the Council not meeting the deadline to submit the necessary paperwork to defend the decision. In addition, the Inspectorate awarded substantial costs against the Council for "unreasonable behaviour", which Oldham ratepayers will now have to foot the bill for. Does the Leader take responsibility for the Council dropping the ball, and what actions will the Council take to ensure that such negligence never happens again?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thanking Mr. Broadbent for his question and for bringing this matter to my attention – Mr Mayor, I am still investigating why the relevant paperwork was not submitted in time for the appeal case to the Planning Inspectorate. Whilst I'm sure delays in submitting the paperwork to the Inspectorate were one factor in the Inspector's decision to award costs against the council, the reason for the costs awarded have been stated in the appeal decision notice – quote "that the reason for refusal is a vague and generalised assertion about the proposal's impact, unsupported by any objective analysis". Mr Mayor – I need to continue with investigations into this particular case, and I will reply with more detail to Mr Broadbent outside this meeting. However, as a reminder for planning committee members, you need to ensure that at the time of your decision, the reasons for refusal are planning considerations and that they are reasonable and fully explained and justified.

3. Question from Karen Moore

I reported sinking pavement on 9/10/25 on Livingstone Street, Springhead. Council, please explain the Council's response that the street was unadopted and repairs were the responsibility of the houses fronting the street. The information links provided in the Council's email clearly indicated the street to be firstly, maintained at public expense by Oldham and secondly, adopted; as listed in Oldham Council Street Index. Given these facts could the Council please advise therefore, when the maintenance will begin to repair the pavement to stop the sinking, before an accident happens to the general public or the adjacent properties are damaged?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Karen Moore for raising this matter. This area was inspected as a matter of planned routine just two weeks prior to the particular query was received, with no defects evident on Livingstone Street in this vicinity – the resident is correct that Livingstone Street is adopted, and therefore maintainable at the public expense, and will continue to be inspected.

However, the flagged area in the grass verge where the movement may have occurred is not adopted as highway, or within Council ownership – so the matter would be for the private landowner to resolve.

The part of the flagged area that is within the Council's responsibility has no defects currently that require any action. As stated above, the area will be subject to regular inspections and should defects exist that require maintenance, then this will be programmed and completed.

4. Question from Stehen Ingham

Parking is an ongoing problem in Oldham especially outside schools at dropping off and, more particularly, picking up time. The council has had time to assess the effectiveness of the School Street scheme and it is time to roll it out on a wider scale. I realise it will take time but the residents around Leesbrook Academy need help now. There are times when it is chaos, people late for appointments, late getting children to nursery and primary school because of the gridlock around the school. What can the council and the police do to sort matters out?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Stephen Ingham for his question, adding that we are extremely proud of Oldham's award-winning School Streets programme, which has already reduced traffic and improved safety outside several schools. In line with the TfGM Active Transport Commissioner's vision, we are committed to expanding the programme further across Oldham. While we must balance time and resources to ensure the right schemes are delivered in the right places, we want residents to know that Leesbrook Academy is a priority. We are working closely with all stakeholders, and community partners to deliver a solution that eases congestion, supports safer journeys, and strengthens our community. We are currently working through the details and will share these in due course.

5. Question from Amy Wrigley

Oldham has been highlighted as having a large proportion of women who are unemployed. Based on the latest figures from the Office for National Statistics website, it gives us a figure that's more than double the national average for female unemployment. What is Oldham Council doing to support and encourage women specifically into employment aside from Jobcentre initiatives?

Councillor Fida Hussain, Cabinet Member for Enterprise, replied thanking Amy Wrigley for her question. The latest Office for

National Statistics data reports that 6% of women are claiming universal credit vs 7.7% of men. However, when reviewing economic inactivity there is a significant difference whereby 73.9% men are economically active compared to 66.1% of women. The Government's Get Britain Working White Paper sets out a commitment to reduce unemployment and tackle economic inactivity, for which the latter has been largely ignored over the last 14 years. The Council, through the Get Oldham Working service delivers a person-centred and responsive service to residents with services redeveloped in recent years to reduce barriers to work — including confidence, health, digital skills, caring responsibilities and progression access. Support offers include flexible appointments, confidence-building employability activity, digital readiness support, health-linked employment pathways. This has led to an increased take up of support by women which includes 63% of Vanguard clients being women (Restart -57.6%; Support to Succeed 56.5%, National Careers Service 53.6%) The Council in partnership with Action Together and OCL have recently launched the Trailblazer programme which is targeting economically inactive residents, and this will therefore target a range of people including women.

6. Question from Jane McDonald

Can the council please explain what they are doing about flooding issues in Well-I-hole Road Greenfield. The road floods each time there is heavy rainfall. The situation has got worse since the installation of traffic lights at the junction by the Royal George. A culvert by bungalows on the Manchester Road is blocked. This overflows and the drains on the Manchester Road are inadequate to cope with the volume of water. The water pours over the dropped curb at the lights, down Well-I-hole Road and into the yard of Well-I-hole Farm and the driveway of West View.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Jane McDonald for her question, adding that the Council understands resident concerns regarding surface water and standing water at locations across the borough. The Council is carrying out a proactive exercise to clean and clear all 47,500 gullies across the borough. Teams are over halfway through this process across the 20 wards and in addition, where there were initial obstructions such as parked cars or the gullies were solidly blocked, we are carrying out a parallel additional visit to try to clear those issues too. However, it is often the case that the issue with the drainage capacity of gullies can be due to restrictions or blockages in third party drainage infrastructure, for example United Utilities pipework, and that can be problematic and time-consuming to resolve. With respect to the specific locations mentioned, the matter is being investigated. We are committed to identifying the cause and location, and once established, if necessary, to working with the landowner to address the issues which are leading to the problems identified.

7. Question from Shona Farnworth

Please can I ask why the tram station lifts are out of order at Free hold tram station as this vital for people like myself who is in a wheelchair require accessibility by using the lift. Please can you confirm when this will be operating along side all the lifts to trams in greater Manchester this makes it unfair for wheelchair users?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Jane McDonald for her question, adding that this was a matter for TfGM as they manage the Metrolink locations. The lift at Freehold tram stop has been reported as out of service since mid-November 2025. TfGM has acknowledged the issue and confirmed that step-free access is still possible via the Manchester-bound platform and track crossing, but this workaround is far from ideal for wheelchair users. No firm repair completion date has been published yet. Officers will once again speak to TfGM regarding this and get this resolved.

8. Question from Tom Penketh

I regularly walk around Oldham town centre whilst commuting to meetings and events, on the dark mornings and afternoons I choose to stay in well-lit areas for personal safety and peace of mind like many others do. However, there's several areas in the town centre including outside your Old Library building on union street that have no street lighting whatsoever. It's in these areas that I and others feel particularly vulnerable. All pedestrians should feel safe in our town, so my question is how much longer before this Council gets the basics right and switches on the lights

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Mr Penketh for his question, We understand and share resident concerns regarding streetlights that are not working in the vicinity of tram locations. The responsibility for the repair and maintenance for all lighting columns on Metrolink sites sits with TFGM. The council repairs and maintains all lighting columns on Council land. This is a longstanding issue and has been raised with TFGM by the Councils streetlighting team on a number of occasions. Given the lack of action by TFGM, this issue has now been further escalated and we will provide an update in due course.

The Mayor advised that unanswered questions, that had been submitted, would be published to the Council's website, with written answers, in due course.

9

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

In respect of this agenda item Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED that Council Procedure Rule 12.4.4 be suspended, to allow extra time for consideration thus permitting Councillor Woodvine and Leaders of other political groups, the opportunity to ask a question to the Leader of the Council. 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. Written questions and answers submitted to the Leader and Cabinet Members were attached at Appendix A (and have been published to the Council's website):



a. Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and the Growth Portfolio holder, presented her report, including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 17th November 2025 and the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 26th September 2025.

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Question 1: Management of Council Accounts

Councillor Sykes, reference the management of the Council's finances under the current administration. He stated that the Council's projected overspend, in terms of the 2026/27 budget had, according to reports, increased to £21 million. Therefore, Councillor Sykes asked the Leader of the Council what the actual projected overspend was and what mitigations were being put in place to address the projected deficit?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, replied, that the projected overspend had subsequently been reduced by £17 million and that it continued to reduce. This was due, she said, to the continued hard work and diligence of staff in the Council's Financial Services.

Question 2: Free School Meals

Councillor Sykes noted that children who are eligible to claim free school meals, in the Borough, included children who come from households that received Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support but did not include children who came from families that were in receipt of Universal Credit? Councillor Sykes asked if the Council's policy, in this regard, could be changed so that children who reside in households that receive Universal Credit can be enrolled for free school meals?

Councillor Shah replied that she agreed with Councillor Sykes and would look at reviewing the policy at the earliest opportunity.

Question from Councillor Wahid, Deputy Leader of the Oldham Group

Councillor Wahid referred to the portfolio holder report submitted by the Leader for the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth noting that the council received news that the Council's bid to the Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund for Prince's Gate had been successful. The £35.1m secured would top up £9.9m of brownfield grant funding already secured and £5m of Community Regeneration Funding, that is already committed to the project, to ensure the delivery of 331 new homes, including 75 social homes. He sought clarification on the total project costs, the associated risks and if a contingency plan was in place in case of something going awry.

Due to time constraints the Councillor Shah was unable to provide a complete answer but she undertook to provide Councillor Wahid with a full and detailed written answer to his question.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Leader and Portfolio Holder reports be noted.
2. That the written questions and answers submitted to the Leader and Portfolio Holders, as published on the Council's website, be noted.
3. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 17th November 2025 and the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 26th September 2025, be noted.

10

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Strengthening Standards and Restoring Confidence in Local Democracy

Councillor Harrison MOVED and Councillor Shuttleworth SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

AMENDMENT 1

COUNCILLOR Quigg MOVED and Councillor Wilkinson
SECONDED AMENDMENT 1:

This Council further resolves and believes:
That this Council will write to HM Government and the relevant Minister to demand a change in the law that disqualifies anyone convicted of an offence and who received a custodial sentence including a suspended sentence, being prohibited from ever standing in any local government election in England and Wales.

This Council further resolves and believes:
That all Councillors should have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

On being put to the vote AMENDMENT 1, was LOST.

AMENDMENT 2

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Marland SECONDED
AMENDMENT 2:

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.
- That 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.

- A recommendation that the chair of standards committees should not be an elected member.
 - Best practice procedures for code of conduct complaint handling.
 - New powers to suspend councillors or mayors for serious misconduct, including interim suspensions in complex cases, in line with the procedures in place for MPs.
 - 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.
- That the report acknowledges concerns that safeguards (such as a requirement to evidence that investigations were actively ongoing) should be put in place to ensure that interim suspension was not politically weaponised.
 - **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.
 - That the public and the process of democracy are fundamental to fairness, transparency and high standards, and that therefore the democratic power of recall, which applies to MPs, should also apply to local councillors, additionally ensuring that sanctions are as consistent as possible between different tiers of 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.

On being put to the VOTE AMENDMENT 2 was carried.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION AS AMENDED, by AMENDMENT 2, was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council welcome the Government's proposals to strengthen the standards regime and restore confidence in local democracy.
2. That the Council commits to adopting the mandatory minimum code of conduct once implemented in legislation.
3. Ensure that the Council's Standards Committee be fully prepared to meet the new requirements, including publishing investigation outcomes transparently and regularly reporting these outcomes to Council.
4. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing our support for these reforms and urging timely implementation.
5. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Local Government Association, urging them to consider the development of a training programme aligned with the new standards regime.
6. Request that the Council's Standards Committee 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

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Charters SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

AMENDMENT 1

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Sykes
SECONDED AMENDMENT 1, as follows:

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:

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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.
4. To use its position as a shareholder in Manchester Airport Group to advocate and vote for changes to the parking charges.

On being put to the vote AMENDMENT 1, was LOST.

AMENDMENT 2

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Ball SECONDED AMENDMENT 2, as follows:

This Council further resolves and believes:

- To write to all 10 Greater Manchester Councils and to ask them to use their majority shareholding position to move a resolution at the Annual General Meeting to suspend and review parking charges at Manchester Airport permanently.

Notes:

+Manchester City Council: 35.5%
 +Oldham, Bury, Bolton, Wigan, Tameside, Rochdale, Salford, Trafford and Stockport: 29% combined.
 +IFM Global Infrastructure Fund: 35.5%.

On being put to the vote AMENDMENT 2, was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council formally supports Jim McMahon MP's campaign for fairer and more transparent parking charges at Manchester Airport.
2. That the Council requests that the Chief Executive 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.
 - That the Council requests that the Chief Executive 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

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

Councillor Ibrahim MOVED and Councillor Akhtar SECONDED the following Motion:

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 tearoom 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:

AMENDMENT

COUNCILLOR Dean MOVED and Councillor Fida Hussain SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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.



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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 the Council's Estates team.

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.
- Feasibility and due diligence have been undertaken when options have been brought forward, to date no viable option has been identified.

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 tearoom 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. Welcome any viable Community-Led Regeneration of Werneth Park Music Rooms
2. Continue to explore all options to bring Werneth Park Music Rooms 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.



On being put to the VOTE the AMENDMENT carried.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION AS AMENDED was CARRIED

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council welcomes any viable Community-Led Regeneration of Werneth Park Music Rooms
2. That the Council continues to explore all options to bring Werneth Park Music Rooms back into use for the community,
3. That the Council continues to work proactively with interested community organisations and Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust to explore viable options for the future of Werneth Park Music Rooms.

Motion 2: Fair funding for Local Government

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following Motion:

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.



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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.

AMENDMENT

COUNCILLOR Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

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.
- This Council has consistently campaigned for fair funding for local government, recognising that councils are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities., including in July 2025 when this council responded to the Fair Funding Review 2.0 in July, after a motion from the administration calling for:
 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.
 - The previous Government failed to deliver a fair and transparent local government finance system. However, the current Labour Government has now committed to delivering a new Fair Funding Formula that reflects deprivation, low council tax base and local need, ensuring greater stability and fairness for councils like Oldham.

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 benefit from stability, certainty and fair distribution of resources, supported by the Labour Government's move towards multi-year settlements and a funding system rooted firmly in need and deprivation.
- 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) That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding including:
 - a. The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.
 - b. A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.
 - c. The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.
 - d. A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.
- 2) That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to the three local MPs, who represent the Borough in Parliament, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.
- 3) That the Council continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.

On being put to the VOTE the AMENDMENT carried.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION AS AMENDED was CARRIED



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RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding including:
 - e. The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.
 - f. A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.
 - g. The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.
 - h. A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.
- 2) That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to the three local MPs, who represent the Borough in Parliament, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.
- 3) That the Council continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.

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

Councillor Sharp MOVED and Councillor Lancaster SECONDED the following Motion:

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.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

- 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) That the Council's Monitoring Officer shall:
 - a. Confirm the masterplan's progression to SPD status within 3 months.
 - b. Advise on any procedural adjustments.
 - c. Ensure no non-statutory "agreement" precedes SPD adoption.
- 3) That 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) That Officers be requested to report progress to the Cabinet meeting, scheduled to be held on 19th January 2026, including timelines for consultation and adoption.

Motion 4: Don't Trash Oldham

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Ball SECONDED the following Motion:

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 of 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.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was LOST.

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF AN ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION FOR HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources/Deputy Chief Executive which, provided an update on the feedback received as part of a recent consultation on the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) and outlined the next steps.

Following motions submitted to Council earlier in 2025, and more recently on 16th July 2025, it was requested that the Council consider the introduction of an 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 borough-wide basis.

In response, a report thereon was presented to the Cabinet on 22nd September 2025 recommending the introduction of 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 borough-wide basis. This report outlined that this would include a six-week consultation period.

It had also been agreed that a further report be brought back to Cabinet at the first available opportunity to consider the outcome of the consultation and thereafter to determine if the Article 4 Direction should be confirmed and come into effect on the 1st January 2026 or such other later date as considered appropriate. The report's recommendations were agreed at the Cabinet on 22nd September.

In addition, a report was presented to the Council on 17th September 2025 setting out the legislation regarding Article 4 Directions and the process for implementation; the current position and evidence regarding HMOs across the borough; and identified the options available for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction for HMOs. The Council report also noted that a report was to be taken to Cabinet on 22nd September 2025 outlining recommendations for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council endorses the information provided in the submitted report.
2. That the Council notes that a report is to be taken to Cabinet, on 15 December 2025, recommending confirmation of the Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation.

INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources sought appointment of Independent Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel. The report advised that establishing a pool of five independent members to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel would ensure sustainability and continuity to cover any future vacancies or absences, so that the Panel would be responsive to any requests to meet.

RESOLVED:

1. That Council authorises the reappointment of Mr. Geoffrey Millard to the Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2029.
2. That the Council approves the proposal to establish a pool of five independent members to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel.
3. That the Assistant Director of Governance be authorised to proceed with the advertisement for two additional independent members to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel.

14

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE 2024/25

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance advising Council of the work of the Audit Committee in the last financial year and to note the observations of the Committee on the standard of corporate governance, internal control, the production of the Statement of Accounts, risk management, information governance and internal audit in 2024/25.

The Council's Audit Committee was a key component of the Council's governance framework. Its function was to provide an independent review and assurance role to support good governance and sound public financial management. There was a requirement for the Audit Committee to report to Council each year to advise of the work it has undertaken and this report met that requirement. The Annual report had been prepared to advise members of the work undertaken by the Committee in the financial year 2024/25 and for Council to note the views of the Committee on internal control.

To discharge its role, the Audit Committee had met on five separate occasions during the 2024/25 municipal year, undertaking the work detailed in Appendix 1 of the submitted report. The Committee's work programme was built around its responsibilities for corporate governance, internal audit, external audit, risk management, fraud and corruption, Treasury Management, Information Governance and the review of the annual Statement of Accounts. This report summarises the work undertaken by key programme area for the financial year 2024/25.

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Committee's Annual Report 2024/25, be approved.

15 **SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

Councillor McLaren MOVED and Councillor Junaid Hussain SECONDED a report that provided Council with the Overview and Scrutiny Annual report for the 2024/25 Municipal Year as require by the Council's Constitution, at Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 4.1.

The report outlined the statutory role of overview and scrutiny; the roles and responsibilities of the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board, the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, Adults, Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board and the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board in 2024/25 and a summary of the considerations and work undertaken by the four bodies during 2024/25.

RESOLVED:

That the Scrutiny Annual Report 2024/25 be noted.

16 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REVIEW REPORT 2025/26**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance that advised Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function for the first half of 2025/26 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2025/26 Treasury Management Strategy and the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2021). The submitted report provided an additional update and included the new requirement in the 2021 Code, which had been mandatory from 1st April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. The report therefore presented the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review and outlines:

- An economic update for the first half of 2025/26 (External Context).
- Net Borrowing and Investments (Local Context).
- A review and updates of the Council's current treasury management position.
- Council Borrowing.
- Treasury Investment Activity.
- Treasury Performance for the first half of the year.
- Compliance.
- Treasury Management Prudential Indicators.

RESOLVED:

That the Council approves the Treasury Management Half Year Review report, the Treasury Management activity and the projected outturn for 2025/26.

17

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources which updated members on actions taken following the meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2025 and also on any updated responses from meetings held in the previous 12 months.

RESOLVED:

That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council held on 12th November 2025, be noted and confirmed.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 10.10pm