

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

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

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ball, Bashforth, Chauhan, Dean, Ibrahim, Quigg and Wilkinson.

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 10th December 2025 and 4th March 2026 (Budget Meeting), be approved as correct records.

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

The Mayor informed Council that in relation to agenda item 11, Opposition Motion 2 (Keep the Covenant) the Director of Legal Services had given a dispensation, allowing members that have served in the armed forces, or who have family members who were formerly in the armed services to fully participate and vote on this Motion.

Councillor Ghafoor declared a personal interest in agenda item 7 (Youth Council), insofar as his son, Hassan Ghafoor, was co-presenting the Youth Council's Motion.

Councillor Lancaster declared a personal and prejudicial interest in agenda item 11, Opposition Motion 2 (Keep the Covenant) insofar as he was employed by the Royal British Legion. Councillor Lancaster left the room during the consideration and determination of this Motion.

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

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

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

a. Former MP Phil Woolas

The Mayor referred to the recent death, on 14th March 2026, of Mr. Phil Woolas, the former Member of Parliament for Oldham

East and Saddleworth. Mr Woolas represented the constituency in Parliament between 1997 and 2010. During this time, he held a series of ministerial roles including Minister of State for Borders and Immigration, Minister of State for the Environment, Minister of State for Local Government, Minister of State for Social Inclusion, Deputy Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Commissioner of the Treasury.

Accordingly, Councillors Shah, Sykes, Nasheen, Iqbal, Jabbar, Hince and Byrne addressed Council paying their individual condolences and tributes.

Council held a minute's silence in memory of the former MP for the Oldham East and Saddleworth constituency, Mr. Phil Woolas.

b. Councillor Hobin

The Mayor permitted the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brian Hobin, to address the meeting, firstly to thank members and officers for their assistance during his medical emergency at the last Council meeting on 4th March 2026 and secondly to apologise for his comments and behaviour at the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 21st May 2025.

c. Retiring Members

The Mayor informed Council that there were four Members who had indicated they would be retiring at the end of the current Municipal Year.

Councillors Shah, Byrne, Iqbal, Harrison, Jabbar, Al-Hamdani, Ghafoor and Akhtar paid tribute to the work of Councillor Peter Dean.

Councillors Shah, Ghafoor, Woodvine, Jabbar, Arnott, Harkness, Hobin and Akhtar paid tribute to the work of Councillor Howard Sykes. Councillor Sykes was permitted to respond to Council.

Councillors Shah and Williamson paid tribute to the work of Councillor Marie Bashforth.

Councillors Woodvine, Shah, Sheldon, Charters, Bishop and Hobin paid tribute to the work of Councillor Lancaster. Councillor Lancaster was permitted to respond to Council.

d. Agenda item 11 – Notice of Opposition Business

The Mayor reported that the timings for the Motions to be considered at item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business) be allocated as follows: Liberal Democrat's 15 minutes and Conservative Group 15 minutes.

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

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

YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council PROPOSED the following MOTION (introduced by Hassan Ghafoor and Asad Ranja):



Opposing the Under-16 Social Media Ban

In January 2026, the House of Lords voted in favour of an amendment to the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill. The amendment sought to introduce a total ban on social media for children under the age of 16, requiring platforms to implement "highly effective" age-assurance measures.

On 9th March, in the final stages of the Bill's passage through the Commons, the Government formally addressed the proposed amendment for a total blanket ban on social media for under-16s. While the immediate, universal ban was ultimately voted down in favour of a more evidence-based approach, we at Oldham Youth Council worry that the Government's commitment may lead to introducing significant statutory limitations. Instead, which could be used to restrict Internet access to under 18s.

When cars were invented and got faster, we realised car crashes were very dangerous, but we didn't ban children from being in cars, we made them safer with seatbelts, anti-roll bars, air bags, and other safety measures. Social media wasn't created by young people but it's the world that we have grown up in and much of everyday life is linked to it. We didn't create the monster, but a wide scale ban would potentially see us punished for it, even those who use it responsibly and safely which is the majority of young people.

We feel that these limitations pose concerns for young people within their learning and educative experiences through social media. This ultimately may also end up hiding diverse content and peer-led support groups for topics such as mental health and LGBTQ+ communities, effectively "sanitising" an online experience.

Our own Youth Mayor was able to put a question to the Prime Minister about this legislation and he informed her that the Government is currently consulting with young people, along with parents and other adults who work with young people. We as a youth council have been able to complete the survey but numbers and statistics, don't always show a true picture. While the Prime Minister did say consultation will happen with focus groups, this seemed to be with large youth organisations and not the young people it will affect most.

Concerns that we feel should be addressed and considered through this consultation process and amendment of the bill are as follows:

- A potential increase in usage of unregulated apps. Young people may move into dangerous and less visible spaces and bypass age restrictions by using VPNs or by giving incorrect details which would lead to less adult oversight.

- Ofcom reports that 80% of 12–17-year-olds use social media for school and homework assistance, while 52% use it for learning new skills. This would dramatically decrease access to those young people whose learning style benefit from access to digital engagement.
- Limitations of access to social media when used correctly would disproportionately harm marginalise groups of young people, such as the LGBTQ+ community, who rely on social media for support and socialisation that some find difficult in person.

We understand that there are dangers relating to young people accessing social media and we want our Government to safeguard young people. However, we feel a blanket ban will not safeguard young people but rather drive them to find ways around access to the applications and put themselves at more risk.

We therefore propose that **Council resolves** to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Children and Families, and his team who are carrying out the consultation, to invite them to visit Oldham during the current national consultation period. We would happily host a dedicated consultation session with young people from across Oldham with the aim of allowing those young people to voice their specific concerns regarding the proposed social media regulations.

We **propose** that all school heads are written to, asking them to support young people's engagement in the current consultation survey and that Oldham Council promote the consultation to young people, parents and carers, and all professionals who work with young people.

We would hope that this ensures that Oldham provides a diverse young people's voice reflected in the final legislative framework.

The Motion was **MOVED** by Councillor Mushtaq and **SECONDED** by Councillor Harkness.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Wahid **MOVED** and Councillor Ghafoor **SECONDED** the following **AMENDMENT**:

To add the following as new resolution 3:

"3. To request a report to the appropriate scrutiny body within six months setting out what work is currently being delivered in Oldham on online safety, digital resilience, online exploitation risks, and support for parents and carers, together with recommendations for strengthening borough-wide support and awareness."

On being put to the Vote the **AMENDMENT** was **LOST**.

On being put to the vote the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

RESOLVED

1. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Children and Families, and his team who are carrying out the consultation, to invite them to visit Oldham during the current national consultation period. The Youth Council will happily host a dedicated consultation session with young people from across Oldham with the aim of allowing those young people to voice their specific concerns regarding the proposed social media regulations.
2. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to all school heads, asking that they support young people's engagement in the current consultation survey and that Oldham Council promote the consultation to young people, parents and carers, and all professionals who work with young people.

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PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from John Whatmough

Why has this food hub/allotment been built, without consultation with residents, impacting on a resident's house, a pensioner in poor health, unable to access her boundary hedge and fencing impacting her privacy and adding stress. The council had a whole lot of space on the park to put this on but chose to erect against a homeowner's property, blocking off green space promised as a privacy area, many years ago by a Councillor?

Councillor Taylor, Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied, thanking Mr Whatmough for his question, noting that the food-growing hub at Berriesfield Park is a community-led project designed to support residents, improve local wellbeing and encourage residents to grow their own food. It was publicised as part of the wider park improvement work, but we recognise that some residents wanted further opportunities to engage about the project. After issues were raised, officers met at the site on 17th February 2026 with representatives. Officers were asked whether the new fence could be moved further into the park.

It was explained that this was not possible, however to address the resident's concerns, the Council will cut back the hedge to the boundary line, which will create additional space and make future maintenance easier – this proposal was supported. We have also looked into whether this area was ever formally designated as a privacy buffer, and we have found no record of such a designation.

The Council is committed to supporting the resident and addressing their concerns, while also ensuring the growing hub continues to benefit the wider community.

2. Question from Hannah Roberts

2026 is the National Year of Reading. Could the Cabinet Member report on activities in Oldham so far and outline what else is planned to get people reading across the borough?

Councillor Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills replied, thanking Hannah Roberts for her question. We're using the National Year of reading to amplify our amazing library reading offer which includes events and activities for all ages – from theatre to baby groups and everything in between. We've also programmed extra events and activities to encourage people to get into reading.

We got off to a flying start with the launch of our reading calendars in January – residents can pick up a calendar in any library to read along with our monthly themes and get book recommendations from the library team. A programme of book displays runs alongside the calendars to make it super easy to find a book. A personal shopper – for books.

We launched our book selection appointments for anyone who is looking to get back into reading and would like some guidance. Tell us a bit about yourself and your reading tastes and habits, and we'll find the perfect book for you.

The National Year of Reading events programme offers something for everyone including author events, World Book Night celebrations, the Summer Reading Challenge, StoryFest and the Greater Manchester Festival of Libraries.

More information is available on the Council's website about Author events, and the events coming soon like

- World Book Night
- StoryFest
- Summer Reading Challenge
- GM Festival of Libraries

3. Question from Michael Powell

Oldham Council's response to reported potholes now states that defects assessed as "low priority" will be monitored rather than repaired. Given that a reported and actionable defect can deteriorate rapidly, does the Council consider this approach sufficient to rely on a Section 58 defence if damage or injury occurs? Is the Council concerned that delaying repairs could increase legal and safety risks? Additionally, in light of recent government funding specifically allocated for pothole repairs, can the Council explain whether this change in approach will result in fewer potholes being repaired overall?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Mr Powell for his question. We truly recognise resident concerns regarding highway improvements, that's why this Labour administration committed an additional £2m in capital investment to improve the boroughs road network as part of the 2026/27 budget. This is separate to national government funding that the council receives, which as we outlined at Budget council earlier this month is around £16m worth of highways improvements over the next three years. Our priority is wider road improvements and resurfacing to prevent defects.

The impact of the additional investment will become clear in the coming months when the weather hopefully improves allowing works to begin.

The Council's Highway Safety Inspection Policy is based on regional and national guidance and follows a risk-based approach where priorities are determined following inspection and assessment by qualified safety inspectors. Response times for reactive repairs range from 2hrs to 24 hours for emergency or urgent works, whereas defects which have been assessed as having the lowest risk may not have a job raised for repair, but will instead be reviewed regularly and picked up as part of a planned highway maintenance programme. Any deterioration detected by the monitoring regime will be treated as an urgent/emergency repair.

4. Question from Samuel Hollis

Could the appropriate Cabinet Member clarify the approved uses at Clough Manor Hotel & what enforcement action the Council is taking to restrict activities to those uses? Local residents are very concerned about the damaging impact on the local environment, road safety & repeated attempts to expand uses unsuitable for this site.

Councillor Taylor, Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thanking Samuel for his question, confirming that the former Clough Manor Hotel (now known as the W Apart Hotel) has an approved use as a hotel (use class C1).

However, part of the building was granted permission for 6 residential apartments (use class C3) last year, and so this permission can be implemented subject to the conditions on that permission being discharged.

In terms of enforcement, a Section 215 notice was issued in August 2025 for the removal of the mounds of earth and re-instatement and re-seeding of field to front. The notice has not been complied with thus far, and so the council are considering a prosecution related to this non-compliance.

5. Question from Shona Farnworth

A new £1 billion-a-year [Crisis and Resilience Fund \(CRF\)](#) launches in April 2026, replacing the Household Support Fund to provide multi-year, local council-administered assistance for essentials, including emergency cash for financial shocks. This long-term support targets vulnerable households with food, energy, and cost-of-living help. When will this be available in April and to make sure the funds also go to UNPAID CARERS in Oldham.

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability replied, thanking Shona for her question and confirming that our £1 million Crisis Payment Scheme, as part of our Crisis and Resilience Fund offer, will be live in April. Wherever possible and subject to the

requested information being provided, Crisis Payments will be fully assessed within 2 working days. This swift response means we can support any resident including Unpaid Carers who experience a sudden financial shock to receive timely support. Unpaid Carers who receive Housing Benefits or Universal Credit will also have the option to apply for a Housing Payment as part of Oldham's Crisis and Resilience offer. Half a million pounds has been set aside to support residents to meet shortfalls in their housing costs. I'm pleased to share that this will also be available in April.



6. Question from Roger Blackmore

Please could a senior Oldham Council officer support local Councillors who have asked for an on-site meeting to review the effectiveness of traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures in the Station Road area of Uppermill.

Residents have observed the frequency with which the 20mph limit has been ignored and are convinced it is only a matter of time before there are serious accidents. Pedestrians including visitors to the doctors' surgery are particularly vulnerable as there is no pavement provided where Station Road approaches Smithy Lane.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Mr Blackmore for his question. Highway safety is a major priority for this Administration, and this is something that we have continued to support - originally as part of the '20's plenty' motion that was agreed at full council and subsequently through a range of additional safety improvements and traffic calming measures across the borough. A traffic calming and permanent 20 mph speed limit scheme for the Uppermill Area was consulted on in 2024. However, there was a general lack of support for the scheme from residents and therefore the proposals didn't progress.

Taking on board the feedback from the community, a redesigned scheme was consulted on, formally advertised and has now been approved. The amended scheme introduces improvements to crossings within the village centre including a new Zebra Crossing near the Museum car park. These works will be implemented in the coming year.

Funding from the original scheme is still available, the Council will liaise with the Parish Council and residents on the possibility of introducing further traffic calming measures on side roads in Uppermill and details of these schemes will be shared in due course.

7. Question from John Shelley

Whilst we welcome the pause to the closure of Chadderton Park day centre, what happens now? All parties are now in limbo regarding this. Is there a time scale that Miocare/the Council are working to and what factors will affect the final decision. Will all stakeholders be advised on any decisions in a more professional way compared to previous correspondence?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, stating that she very much understands and shares Mr Shelley's concerns. I asked Officers of the Council to step in when it was becoming clear of the concerns of service users and their relatives. At that point we asked for a pause to the whole proposals until matters were fully understood.

Miocare staff are reviewing the options with a view to completing that work by 5 June and therefore are in a period of extended review and consultation.

We have asked for that review to look closely at current occupancy and demand for the service, the needs of current service users, possible alternatives to this type of day provision, costs to refurbish, and the impact of any change in provision on the people who attend and their families.

It is our expectation that Miocare will ensure that there will be several opportunities for those affected to be directly involved in this process. The first of these will involve MioCare meeting with families throughout March to capture views and experiences.

Once that work is complete, I have asked for proposals to come back to the Council to review and consider.

8. Question from Luke Goss

Why does Oldham Council planning/transport not support the installation of in the floor EV chargers on street and pavements outside of people's homes? These are chargers installed into the pavement/street for houses that don't have a driveway. So that residents can still own and charge their EVs. They are flush to the ground and maintained by installation companies and paid for by the resident. They are safe and cause no trip hazard. In a society where we are trying to encourage EVs and reduce air pollution this makes no sense".

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Mr Goss for his question.

The Council does support the installation of cross-pavement EV charging channels especially in locations where residents do not have space for home charging points in their front yards/gardens/driveways. We are keen to ensure residents can make the transition to electric vehicles if they wish to do so, and to benefit from the cheaper home charging rates.

To support all residents with improved access to EV charging, Oldham Council is working closely with the GM Combined Authority to roll out the programme and expand EV chargers in areas where residents don't have easy access to off-street parking – this increase in publicly accessible EV charging is a priority for the Council and the City Region.

9. Question from Jeff Garner

Oldham Council has been approached by Network Rail in compiling a Construction Traffic Management Plan to address diversions in relation to the closure for several months of the A627 Oldham Road at Greenfield Station bridge for the TransPennine upgrade. Has the Council approached the Emergency Services to ensure that the diversions will not affect

their regulatory response times during the months this main road will be closed? Has the Council considered supporting requests for National Rail to provide a temporary Bailey Bridge so that diversions will not be necessary and school, business and residents' journeys will have shorter delays?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Mr Garner for his question. The TRU is a major national rail upgrade which sees the trans Pennine route electrified. The scheme will include works at a number of locations within the Saddleworth area. One of the main areas of work will see the replacement of the A670 road bridge at Greenfield Station.

One of the Council's first requests to Network Rail was to provide a temporary bridge during the replacement of the existing structure. However, the local topography and geometric layout of the highway network mean this is not possible. Network Rail, their design team and contractors will work with Oldham Council and all emergency services on the planning in implementation of diversion routes to minimise the impact on blue light services. This work is ongoing, and details will be shared once agreed.

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

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QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

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 had 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 meetings of the Cabinet held 1st December 2025, 15th December 2025 and 19th January 2026, the urgent executive decisions made during 2025/26 (under 'Rule 13' and 'Rule 14' of the Council's Constitution and the minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 28th November 2025, 12th December 2025 and 30th January 2026.

Councillor Ghafoor, Leader of the Oldham Group

Question 1: Inconsiderate Parking

Councillor Ghafoor referred to numerous recent incidents of unsafe and inconsiderate parking of motor vehicles in Oldham. This was causing an obstruction for other road users, including, occasionally, for emergency vehicles. The problem, he stated, was particularly prevalent in the St. Mary's Ward of the Borough, which was represented by the Leader of the Council. Councillor Ghafoor asked what the administration were doing and planning to do, to address this issue?

Councillor Shah replied that the Council had instigated and issued a Traffic Assessment for the St Mary's Ward, the results of which were outlined in a public meeting in the Ward. The

Traffic Assessment was intended to address some of the issues raised by Councillor Ghafoor. In addition, Councillor Shah noted that a lot of the issues relating to inconsiderate parking, including double parking on narrow residential streets were being caused by members of the Oldham Group, including the Oldham Group's Chair. Councillor Shah referred to an incident, where a close family relative of hers would have missed, or been late for, a medical appointment if she had not personally intervened, because the Chair of the Oldham Group had parked in a way that obstructed other road users.

Question 2: Investment in Oldham town centre

Councillor Ghafoor noted that since 2019 over £1 billion had been invested in regeneration projects in Oldham's town centre, yet a recent independent report noted that Rochdale had fallen from 19th to the 11th most deprived area in England, so, was, therefore still experiencing high levels of deprivation. He asked if the Administration had a plan to address this?

Councillor Shah replied that under the Labour government the Council had received millions of pounds of additional funding, for projects aimed at tackling deprivation. Councillor Shah indicated that Councillor Ghafoor was confusing the two issues which were separate from each other.

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 meetings of the Cabinet held 1st December 2025, 15th December 2025 and 19th January 2026, the urgent executive decisions made during 2025/26 (under 'Rule 13' and 'Rule 14' of the Council's Constitution and the Minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 28th November 2025, 12th December 2025 and 30th January 2026, be noted.

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COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8.1

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.1 of the Council's Constitution, the Mayor ceased consideration of the previous agenda item (Questions to Leader and Cabinet, during the presentation of item 9i (Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways)), as the time had reached 9.30pm when this Council meeting was scheduled to conclude.

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED that the remainder of the Council business be re-scheduled as follows:

- a. (Item 10) Notice of Administration Business (10 minutes)
- b. (Item 11) Notice of Opposition Business (10 minutes)
- c. Agenda items 12 – 19 inclusive (minutes 13 – 20, below) (10 minutes).

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Tackling Fly-Tipping, Waste Crime and Litter in Oldham

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Islam SECONDED the following Motion:



This Council notes:

- that fly-tipping is more than an environmental inconvenience. It is a form of organised crime that blights communities, overwhelms overstretched local authorities, and allows unscrupulous operators to profit at the expense of the public. Across England, 1.26 million fly-tipping incidents were recorded in 2023 to 2024, and the total cost of waste crime to the UK economy is estimated at around £1 billion per year.
- That tackling environmental crime is an Oldham-wide priority, embedded in the borough's Corporate Plan 2024 to 2027. That plan sets out an explicit ambition for neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and commits this Council to working with residents to keep our streets clean and green.
- That the problem is not evenly distributed. Fly-tipping and persistent littering disproportionately affect the most deprived neighbourhoods in our borough, where residents live alongside illegal dumping, often on their own doorsteps, while rural areas experience repeat offending in fly-tipping hotspots. Environmental crime is not a trivial matter: it is an injustice forced upon communities that can least afford it.
- This administration continues to place a high priority on maintaining clean neighbourhoods and tackling fly-tipping across the borough. We are taking firm enforcement action against those responsible whenever sufficient evidence is available. Central to this effort is the newly established Rapid Action Team, which provides a dedicated, fast-response capability to identify and remove fly-tipping before it blights our communities. This work is in addition to Labour's ongoing *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign which enables the Council to target areas requiring focused intervention, while working closely with residents and voluntary community groups to deliver a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environment for the long term.

This Council further notes:

- that where evidence is found, first-time offenders are currently given the opportunity to pay a fixed penalty notice, with the maximum fine for fly-tipping currently set at £1,000.
- That evidence collated by the Local Government Association shows that when cases do reach court, the fines issued are frequently lower than the fixed penalty powers councils already hold. The current enforcement framework does

not provide a sufficient deterrent, and that the financial penalties available do not cover the true cost of clean-up.

- That steps have been taken nationally to strengthen enforcement. New government guidance now enables councils to search, seize and destroy vehicles used in fly-tipping, and updated statutory litter guidance published in March 2026 introduces fixed penalty notices of up to £500 for littering, with unpaid fines doubling after 28 days and vehicle owners liable where litter is thrown from a vehicle and the culprit cannot be identified. Waste carriers, brokers and dealers are now subject to full environmental permitting regime, welcome progress in tackling the rogue operators who profit most from this trade.



This Council resolves to:

1. Lobby the Labour Government to strengthen national enforcement powers.

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for: an increase in the maximum fixed penalty notice for fly-tipping and littering to reflect the true cost of clean-up operations; the introduction of a national licensing scheme for all waste carriers, with mandatory identification and real-time verification available to residents; the power for councils to issue civil penalties to commercial fly-tippers; the right for councils to recover the full cost of clearing fly-tipped waste from those responsible; the establishment of a national fly-tipping enforcement fund to support councils with high levels of environmental crime; the introduction of driving licence penalty points for fly-tipping offences; and strengthened oversight of private enforcement companies.

2. Continue and strengthen local enforcement in Oldham.

By continuing to prioritise cleansing services and fly-tip removal across the borough; expanding high-visibility enforcement patrols in known fly-tipping and littering hotspots; increasing intelligence-led joint operations with Greater Manchester Police, the Environment Agency, and neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities; reviewing Oldham's fixed penalty policy to ensure full alignment with new national statutory standards; and continuing to invest in the Don't Trash Oldham campaign, community environmental education, and support for volunteer litter-picking groups, including reviewing locations of on street litter bins.

3. Support the Local Government Associations' call for a review of sentencing guidelines for fly-tipping and environmental crime,

to ensure that the courts are equipped to issue fines and sanctions that genuinely deter offenders and reflect the harm caused to communities.

4. Work across Greater Manchester and with Oldham's MPs.

To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Greater

Manchester Combined Authority to ensure that new powers such as vehicle seizure are coordinated across Greater Manchester and to Oldham's Members of Parliament, calling on them to support these legislative reforms in Parliament.



AMENDMENT 1

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

In "This Council notes," bullet point four,

Delete "Labour" and insert "Oldham Council's".

To read: "This work is in addition to **Oldham Council's** ongoing Don't Trash Oldham campaign which enables the Council to target areas requiring focused intervention, while working closely with residents and voluntary community groups to deliver a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable environment for the long term."

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

AMENDMENT 2

Councillor Wahid MOVED and Councillor Kouser SECONDED AMENDMENT 2, as follows:

After resolution 4, add the following new resolutions 5 to 8:

5. "To publish quarterly ward-by-ward performance data on fly-tipping and litter enforcement, including reported incidents, average clearance times, fixed penalty notices issued, fixed penalty notices paid, prosecutions commenced, prosecutions concluded, and identified repeat hotspot locations.
6. To introduce and publish a service standard for the removal of dangerous, obstructive or hazardous fly-tipped waste within 24 hours of report wherever reasonably practicable.
7. To report annually to Full Council on the total cost of fly-tipping and litter-related clean-up operations and the amount recovered from offenders through fixed penalty notices, court orders or other enforcement action.
8. To prepare targeted hotspot action plans for repeat fly-tipping locations, including enforcement, CCTV review where appropriate, joint working with landowners and partners, and engagement with ward members and local residents."

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 lobby the Labour Government to strengthen national enforcement powers. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for: an increase in the maximum fixed penalty notice for fly-tipping and littering to reflect the true cost of clean-up operations; the introduction of a national licensing scheme for all waste carriers, with mandatory identification and real-time verification available to residents; the power for councils to issue civil penalties to commercial fly-tippers; the right for councils to recover the full cost of clearing fly-tipped waste from those responsible; the establishment of a national fly-tipping enforcement fund to support councils with high levels of environmental crime; the introduction of driving licence penalty points for fly-tipping offences; and strengthened oversight of private enforcement companies.
2. That the Council continue and strengthen local enforcement in Oldham. By continuing to prioritise cleansing services and fly-tip removal across the borough; expanding high-visibility enforcement patrols in known fly-tipping and littering hotspots; increasing intelligence-led joint operations with Greater Manchester Police, the Environment Agency, and neighbouring Greater Manchester authorities; reviewing Oldham's fixed penalty policy to ensure full alignment with new national statutory standards; and continuing to invest in the Don't Trash Oldham campaign, community environmental education, and support for volunteer litter-picking groups, including reviewing locations of on street litter bins.
3. That the Council support the Local Government Associations' call for a review of sentencing guidelines for fly-tipping and environmental crime, to ensure that the courts are equipped to issue fines and sanctions that genuinely deter offenders and reflect the harm caused to communities.
4. That the Council work across Greater Manchester and with Oldham's MPs. To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to ensure that new powers such as vehicle seizure are coordinated across Greater Manchester and to Oldham's Members of Parliament, calling on them to support these legislative reforms in Parliament.

Councillor Goodwin MOVED and Councillor Davis SECONDED the following Motion:



It has now been three years since this Council passed a motion calling for stronger action on the misuse of fireworks. Sadly, nothing has changed. The previous Government failed to act, and our communities continue to suffer from the same problems we highlighted back then.

Many of us are still receiving complaints about fireworks being used in an anti-social way late at night and in the early hours of the morning. This is not a new issue, but it remains persistent and disruptive, affecting our sleep, triggering anxiety or sensory overload in people who are neurodiverse, upsetting our children and pets, and potentially triggering PTSD in our veterans.

Fireworks are now used throughout the year for all kinds of celebrations. When used safely, sensibly and considerately, they can bring joy and excitement. However, a small minority continue to abuse this goodwill, letting off fireworks at anti-social hours. This is unacceptable. We appeal to all our communities to help raise awareness and prevent this behaviour, and we will continue working with the Police and Fire Service to address these issues.

The law currently sets a minimum age for buying fireworks, limits times and places they can be used, and restricts purchase dates for private use. Yet these laws are clearly failing. Online sales make fireworks available all year round, often without credible checks on age or intended use. The ongoing complaints from residents prove that the current system is not working.

When fireworks are used responsibly and organised properly, they can be enjoyed by all. But we need stronger measures to tackle anti-social use and ensure safety. This motion seeks to renew our call for action and add further steps to protect our communities.

Yasmin Qureshi, a Greater Manchester MP, called for more regulation on fireworks in her Ten-Minute Rule Motion on Fireworks (Noise Control etc) on Wednesday 3rd December 2025. The bill was sponsored by both Jim McMahon and Debbie Abrahams, in clear recognition of the issue fireworks cause in this borough.

This Council notes:

- There has been no meaningful progress since our previous motion in 2022 due to the inaction of the previous Government.
- Misuse of fireworks continues, including the use of large launchers and easy online availability, encouraging illegal use during anti-social hours.
- The short-lived nature of firework noise makes enforcement difficult for police and council officers.
- The RSPCA continues to warn that current laws fail to prevent distress, injury or anxiety to people, and harm to animals.

- A review of licensing for public firework displays is needed, ensuring better public notification and consideration of noise impacts.
- Both Debbie Abrahams and Jim McMahon recently sponsored a Ten-Minute Rule Bill to both limit the noise levels on commercially available fireworks and provide Local Authorities legal powers to stop anti-social use of fireworks.

This Council resolves to:

1. Write to the three MPs representing our borough, asking them to continue supporting Yasmin Qureshi MP's Bill on Fireworks which would introduce a maximum decibel level of 90dB.
2. Write to the Chief Executive requesting that they write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, urging the introduction of legislation giving councils' powers to regulate and enforce firework usage.
3. Renew our call for Government to introduce legislation to:
 - a. Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks sold for private use to 90dB.
 - b. Review current laws on sale and use, including requiring purchasers to state when, how and where fireworks will be used.
 - c. Strengthen restrictions on how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, including online sales and transaction volumes.
 - d. Restrict sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks from temporary 'pop-up' sellers.

This Council further resolves to:

4. Write to all local event venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring registration/licensing for firework use.
5. Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.
6. Require all public firework displays within the borough to be advertised in advance, allowing residents to take precautions for animals and vulnerable people.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Wahid MOVED and Councillor Zaheer Ali SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

After the existing final resolution (6), add the following new resolutions 7 - 10:

7. "To develop and publish, ahead of key fireworks periods each year, a multi-agency local action plan with Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, community safety teams and relevant council

services, covering enforcement, communications, hotspot monitoring and public reporting routes.

8. to support a concerted year-round programme of public education, community engagement and targeted communications making clear that the anti-social use of fireworks is not acceptable at any time of year, including in connection with weddings, parties and private celebrations, and to work with partners and community leaders to promote lawful, considerate and responsible behaviour.
9. To report annually to members on complaints relating to anti-social fireworks use across the full calendar year, including trends outside traditional fireworks periods, hotspot areas identified, and enforcement action taken, so that local education and enforcement can be better targeted.
10. To work proactively with local retailers, venue operators and relevant partners to promote responsible sales, compliance with age restrictions, lawful use periods, and advance awareness of the impact that anti-social fireworks use can have on children, neurodiverse residents, older people, pets and veterans.”

On being put to the vote the AMENDMENT was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

1. To request that the Chief Executive write to the three MPs representing the Borough of Oldham, asking them to continue supporting Yasmin Qureshi MP's Bill on Fireworks which would introduce a maximum decibel level of 90dB.
2. To request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, urging the introduction of legislation giving councils' powers to regulate and enforce firework usage.
3. Renew our call for Government to introduce legislation to:
 - a. Limit the maximum noise level of fireworks sold for private use to 90dB.
 - b. Review current laws on sale and use, including requiring purchasers to state when, how and where fireworks will be used.
 - c. Strengthen restrictions on how, when and where fireworks can be purchased, including online sales and transaction volumes.
 - d. Restrict sales to 'all year round' retailers to reduce risks from temporary 'pop-up' sellers.

4. Write to all local event venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring registration/licensing for firework use.
5. Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.
6. Require all public firework displays within the borough to be advertised in advance, allowing residents to take precautions for animals and vulnerable people.

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NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Time to Scrap the Spin and Get the Basics Right

Councillor Marland MOVED and Councillor Bishop SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes that:

1. Residents across Oldham repeatedly tell councillors that the Council is failing to get the basics right — overgrown weeds on pavements, crumbling roads, poorly maintained parks, blocked drains and widespread fly-tipping.
2. Oldham is now one of the worst areas in the region for fly-tipping, with rubbish blighting neighbourhoods, attracting vermin and leaving residents feeling ignored.
3. Potholes continue to damage vehicles and pose safety risks, while many repairs are temporary and fail within months.
4. Weed growth along highways and pavements has been allowed to spiral out of control in many areas, making streets look neglected and poorly cared for.
5. Blocked drains and gullies are frequently left uncleared, increasing the risk of surface water flooding during heavy rain.
6. Parks and green spaces — once a source of pride — are too often left looking tired and under-maintained.
7. This visible decline follows two years of deep cuts to Environmental Services and frontline maintenance budgets under the Labour and Independent Coalition.
8. Rather than reversing these cuts, the administration has too often relied on flashy PR campaigns such as “Don’t Trash Oldham”, which may generate headlines but do not substitute for properly funded, routine street cleaning, enforcement and maintenance.
9. In successive budgets, the Liberal Democrat Group has proposed amendments to invest more in highways maintenance, street cleaning, environmental enforcement and neighbourhood services — amendments which the ruling Coalition has chosen not to support.

This Council further notes that:

At the 2026/27 Budget-setting meeting, this Labour administration – backed by the Shaw & Crompton Independents – voted down Liberal Democrat alternative budget proposals including:

- Additional investment in parks and green spaces
- Additional investment in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour
- Additional investment in youth services

This Council believes that:

- Residents do not want slogans — they want clean streets, safe roads, maintained parks and visible action.
- The Council should quietly and competently deliver the everyday services that residents pay their council tax to receive.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Prioritise reversing the deep cuts to Environmental Services and neighbourhood maintenance in the next budget cycle.
2. Reallocate funding away from non-essential publicity and marketing campaigns and into frontline services including:
 - a. Pothole prevention and permanent repairs.
 - b. Regular weed clearance on highways and pavements.
 - c. Systematic drain and gully cleaning.
 - d. Increased park maintenance.
 - e. Stronger enforcement and rapid response to fly-tipping.
3. Produce a public action plan within three months setting out clear service standards and response times for environmental and highways issues.
4. Report quarterly to Full Council on performance in tackling fly-tipping, potholes and street cleanliness, including benchmarking against neighbouring authorities.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

This Council notes that:

1. Fly-tipping blights neighbourhoods, attracts vermin and leaves residents feeling ignored. The council has cleared over 1,100 tonnes of illegally dumped waste in 2025, identified 38 fly-tipping hotspots across the borough for targeted enforcement and engagement, and is establishing a new Rapid Action Team in 2026/27 to further strengthen its response.
2. Potholes continue to damage vehicles and pose safety risks, which is why the council invested £5.575 million in highway repairs in 2024/25, and has allocated £18 million for local roads in the 2026/27 budget with an additional £2 million from Council capital to accelerate repairs.
3. Weed growth along highways and pavements remains a concern in some areas. Following the failure of an external contractor, the council brought weed spraying in-house, training its own staff and deploying specialist equipment across the borough.
4. Blocked drains and gullies are cleared on a cyclical basis with the programme currently making its way through the 14th ward on the schedule published on the Council's website – while a second wagon returns to previously inaccessible blocked gullies or those needing repair.
5. Parks and green spaces across Oldham are a source of pride for the Council and our residents.
6. This visible pressure on Environmental Services and frontline maintenance budgets is the consequence of more than a decade of central government austerity and real-terms reductions to local government funding, aided by the Liberal

Democrats decision to enter coalition with the Conservatives in 2010.

7. The Don't Trash Oldham programme has delivered measurable results: 38 hotspots identified, intensive enforcement in 29 residential areas, fly-tippers prosecuted, and community groups mobilised across the borough. Effective communication supports service delivery — it does not substitute for it.
8. In successive budgets, the Liberal Democrat Group has accepted all savings identified in the Environment directorate; however, their alternative investment proposals are largely generic, aspirational statements that lack detailed justification and involve only small financial commitments.

This Council further notes that:

At the 2026/27 Budget-setting meeting, this Labour administration proposed a budget which directly addresses the issues raised in this motion, the Liberal Democrat Group voted against it but it included;

- £18 million for local roads, with an additional £2 million from Council capital to accelerate repairs;
 - A new Rapid Action Team to tackle fly-tipping, with local apprentices to be recruited into the roles;
 - The bulky waste collection service brought back in-house at a simplified fee of £10 per item, reducing a key driver of fly-tipping;
 - £100,000 for strengthened youth services across districts.
- On Sunday 22nd March the Labour Government announced that Oldham Council would receive part of £18m fund to upgrade and restore playgrounds in the Borough.

This Council believes that:

- Residents want clean streets, safe roads, maintained parks and visible action.
- The Council should competently deliver the everyday services that residents pay their council tax to receive.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Prioritise frontline neighbourhood maintenance in future budget cycles.
2. Continue to invest in frontline services including:
 - a. Pothole prevention and permanent repairs.
 - b. Regular weed clearance on highways and pavements.
 - c. Systematic drain and gully cleaning.
 - d. Increased park maintenance.
 - e. Stronger enforcement and rapid response to fly-tipping.
3. Produce a public action plan within six months setting out clear service standards and response times for environmental and highways issues.
4. Report annually to Full Council on performance in tackling fly-tipping, potholes and street cleanliness.

On being put to the VOTE the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

1. Prioritise frontline neighbourhood maintenance in future budget cycles.
2. Continue to invest in frontline services including:
 - a. Pothole prevention and permanent repairs.
 - b. Regular weed clearance on highways and pavements.
 - c. Systematic drain and gully cleaning.
 - d. Increased park maintenance.
 - e. Stronger enforcement and rapid response to fly-tipping.
3. Produce a public action plan within six months setting out clear service standards and response times for environmental and highways issues.
4. Report annually to Full Council on performance in tackling fly-tipping, potholes and street cleanliness.

Motion 2: Keep the Covenant

Councillor Arnott MOVED and Councillor Adams SECONDED the following Motion:

Following a campaign led by The Royal British Legion, the Armed Forces Covenant became enshrined in the Armed Forces Act 2011.

The Covenant outlines the nation's obligation to look after those who serve in HM Armed Forces, have served, and their families, ensuring that members of the Armed Forces community face no disadvantage because of their service, and that special consideration be given in certain circumstances, such as for those who have been injured or bereaved.

Legislated through the Armed Forces Act 2021, the Armed Forces Covenant Duty was introduced in November 2022. This Duty places a legal obligation on local authorities to have due regard to the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant when exercising certain statutory functions in the fields of healthcare, education and housing.

In January 2026, the UK Government published the Armed Forces Bill. This legislation seeks to fully introduce the Covenant into law, by extending application of the Covenant Duty to all UK Government departments and devolved governments, and to cover an additional ten policy areas, including social care, childcare, social security benefits, among others.

Recommendation for Council

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council notes that:

- a. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council first signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2013, committing to support local members of the Armed Forces community.
- b. Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council is accredited with the Gold Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Award, demonstrating Forces-friendly employment practices.
- c. The UK Government commitment to further extend the Armed Forces Covenant in law is welcome and provides opportunity to enhance support to the Armed Forces community.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council resolves to:

1. Write to the Minister for Veterans and People, Louise Sandher-Jones MP, in support of The Royal British Legion's 'Keep the Covenant Promise' campaign.
2. To call for improved statutory guidance and funding to all public bodies in scope of the extended Duty, including local authorities, to deliver better support through the expanded Covenant Duty.
3. To ask that the UK Government implements a dedicated programme of promotional activity on the Armed Forces Covenant, in order to improve public awareness and positively recognise those who serve / have served in HM Armed Forces.
4. To ensure that the impact of the expanded Covenant Duty is thoroughly monitored, and that members of the Armed Forces community can access effective means of redress in cases where the Duty is not fulfilled.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Minister for Veterans and People, Louise Sandher-Jones MP, in support of The Royal British Legion's 'Keep the Covenant Promise' campaign.
2. To call for improved statutory guidance and funding to all public bodies in scope of the extended Duty, including local authorities, to deliver better support through the expanded Covenant Duty.
3. To ask that the UK Government implements a dedicated programme of promotional activity on the Armed Forces Covenant, in order to improve public awareness and positively recognise those who serve/have served in HM Armed Forces.
4. To ensure that the impact of the expanded Covenant Duty is thoroughly monitored, and that members of the Armed Forces community can access effective means of redress in cases where the Duty is not fulfilled.

SUBMISSION OF OLDHAM LOCAL PLAN - PUBLICATION PLAN



Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director of Place, the purpose of which was to approve submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for examination, following a period of representations.

The report advised that on 19th January 2026, the Cabinet had approved the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation for publication and consultation, pursuant to Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 for a six-week period for representations to begin no earlier than 28th January 2026.

The 'Publication Plan' stage was a formal 'statutory' consultation, providing an opportunity for organisations and individuals to submit their final views on the content of the Plan. Consultation on the Publication Plan commenced on 4th February 2026, and following an extension to the consultation period, was due to end on 27th March 2026.

Council approval was sought for the submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for examination following the end of the consultation and once representations and the necessary supporting documentation have been collated. Submission was expected to be in May or June 2026. This was called the 'Submission stage', pursuant to Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

RESOLVED:

That the Council approves the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation for submission to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination following the period of representations, pursuant to Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

TRANSPENNINE ROUTE UPGRADE (STALYBRIDGE TO DIGGLE) TRANSPORT AND WORKS ACT ORDER – FORMAL OBJECTIONS BY OLDHAM COUNCIL

Councillor Goodwin MOVED and Councillor Charters SECONDED a report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director of Place which advised that for Oldham Council to make a valid objection to the TransPennine Route Upgrade, it must be endorsed by a majority of the authority's members at a meeting of the Council, held after the requisite notice of that meeting having been given.

The report further advised that Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council supported the strategic objectives of the TransPennine

Route Upgrade (TRU) and recognised its importance in improving rail capacity, reliability, connectivity and long-term environmental outcomes across the North of England. The Council had engaged constructively with Network Rail throughout the development of the scheme and remained committed to working collaboratively to maximise public benefit.



However, while supportive in principle, the Council had submitted a formal objection to elements of the draft Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) due to several unresolved concerns that impact on public safety, statutory responsibilities, public rights of way, highway operations, land interests and future development potential.

The Council's principal objections can be summarised as follows:

- a. Public Rights of Way and Highway Safety.
- b. Moorgate Halt Level Crossing.
- c. Land Interests and Development Impacts.
- d. Construction Programme and Local Events.

The Council overall position was that it supported the TRU in principle but considered that the draft TWAO currently lacked sufficient clarity, assurance and mitigation in key areas. Therefore, until detailed information was provided, and satisfactory solutions were agreed — particularly in relation to public safety, rights of way, highway design governance, land impacts and construction programming — the Council was unable to withdraw its formal objections.

The Council remained willing to continue working constructively with Network Rail to resolve these matters and to support delivery of the scheme in a way that safeguards local communities and which would enable the Council to fulfil its statutory duties.

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. Formally endorses the submission of the earlier letter of objection to the TransPennine Route Upgrade (Stalybridge to Diggle) Transport and Works Act Order, as set out in the submitted report and at Appendix 1, to the report.
2. Authorises the Director of Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, to: Continue engagement and negotiations with Network Rail and the Department of Transport; to make minor amendments to the objection where necessary, provided these did not materially alter the Council's position; and to withdraw individual objections on behalf of the Council should satisfactory assurances and mitigation be secured in respect of:
 - a. Public rights of way and highway safety.
 - b. Moorgate Halt level crossing.
 - c. Land and development impacts.
 - d. Construction programming and local events.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 16.4 (Individual Member Recorded Vote), Councillor Byrne requested that her

opposition to the proposals agreed above, be noted and recorded.



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OLDHAM GREEN NEW DEAL UPDATE

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director of Place, which provided a comprehensive update on the various elements of the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy (OGNDS) 2020 - 2025, highlighting the successes achieved to date and offering an overview of the initiatives currently in development.

The Council and partner organisations continue to make strong progress in delivering the Green New Deal, which was described as a key element of the Borough's 'Creating a Better Oldham Programme'. This work was helping the borough transition to a clean energy system while ensuring that the full range of benefits - jobs, skills, energy security, economic growth and social value - were realised for Oldham's residents and businesses. The OGNDS underpinned the advancement of both the Council's economic and environmental ambitions, and the Council has secured significant grant funding to the value of £34.5m, to support timely progress and delivery.

RESOLVED:

That Council notes the various components of the OGND work programme and external grant support received to date to fund progress, as outlined in the submitted report.

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CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/27

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Governance, which sought approval of the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2026/2027 Municipal Year.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2026/2027, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

17

CIVIC APPRECIATION AWARDS

The Mayor, Councillor Moores, MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Governance that requested consideration of the nomination of the Oldham Scottish Pipe Band to receive the Civic Appreciation Award, in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community and the borough of Oldham.

The Oldham Scottish Pipe Band were being proposed for this award in recognition of their significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the local community and borough of Oldham. Having been established in 1926, the band was founded by Scottish workers in Oldham who shared a love for bagpipes and

highland music, some of whom had backgrounds in Scottish army regiments.

The Oldham Scottish Pipe Band have gone on to represent Oldham and have performed in local and national events and travelled internationally, including trips to Ireland, Germany, France, Belgium, and the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.



RESOLVED:

That the nomination for the Oldham Scottish Pipe Band to be granted a Civic Appreciation Award 2026, in recognition of their service and dedication to the local community and the borough of Oldham.

18

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources which updated members on actions taken following the meeting of the Council held on 10th December 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 10th December 2025, be noted and confirmed.

19

DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Chief Executive which informed Members that Electoral Commission guidance recommended the appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO) to carry out the functions of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and to be available to act in their absence. The Elections Act 2022 placed further obligations on the ERO, which would be more practical for a deputy to undertake. The guidance further recommended that, "Any deputies appointed should have the skills and knowledge required to carry out the functions that they have been assigned."

The appointment of DEROs provided resilience and ensured that there would be an officer available to discharge these functions.

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the appointments of Alex Bougatef, Director of Legal (Monitoring Officer), Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance and Jenna Madeley, Head of Elections and Land Charges as Deputy Electoral Registration Officers for Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, having the same duties as the Electoral Registration Officer with immediate effect.

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REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Assistant Director of Governance which informed Members that the Chief Executive had received notification that

Councillor Marie Bashforth had resigned from the Labour Group and would henceforth sit as an independent member.



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Considering this, the Council was requested to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the remainder of the 2025/26 municipal year.

The effect, in terms of committee places, was that the Labour Group would lose one seat on the Charitable Trust Committee, which will be allocated to Councillor Bashforth.

RESOLVED

1. That the revised composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1, of the submitted report, be noted.
2. That the number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.5, of the submitted report, be noted.
3. Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive, in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 10.10pm