

# Oldham Borough Council



**Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL, THE JR CLYNES BUILDING, CULTURAL QUARTER, GREAVES STREET, OLDHAM, OL1 1AL

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, JR Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL, for the following purposes:

Item No

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 30)  
  
To order that the Minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 (to be circulated) be approved and signed as correct records.
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council  
  
*(time limit 20 minutes)*  
There are no petitions for this Council meeting to consider.
- 7 Youth Council

*(time limit 20 minutes)*

### **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 9<sup>th</sup> 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" online experiences.

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 request that the Chief Executive 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.

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.

8 Public Questions

*(time limit 15 Minutes)*

9 Questions to Leader and Cabinet (Pages 31 - 118)

*(time limit 90 minutes)*

- a. Leader of the Council and Growth Portfolio Holder – including the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, urgent executive decisions made during 2025/26 (under 'Rule 13' and 'Rule 14' of the Constitution) and the minutes of meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.
- b. Statutory Deputy Leader and Neighbourhoods Portfolio Holder
- c. Deputy Leader and Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability Portfolio Holder
- d. Children and Young People's Portfolio Holder
- e. Adults, Health and Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
- f. Education and Skills Portfolio Holder
- g. Culture and Leisure Portfolio Holder
- h. Enterprise Portfolio Holder
- i. Transport and Highways Portfolio Holder

10 Notice of Administration Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

**Motion 1: Tackling Fly-Tipping, Waste Crime and Litter in Oldham**  
**To be Moved by Councillor Taylor**  
**To be Seconded by Councillor Nazrul Islam**

**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:**

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

## **Motion 2: Tackling the anti-social use of Fireworks**

**To be Moved by Councillor Goodwin**

**To be Seconded by Councillor Davis**

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.

11

Notice of Opposition Business

*(time limit 30 minutes)*

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

To be Moved by Councillor Marland

To be Seconded by Councillor Bishop

**This Council notes that:**

- a. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. Potholes continue to damage vehicles and pose safety risks, while many repairs are temporary and fail within months.
- d. 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.
- e. Blocked drains and gullies are frequently left uncleared, increasing the risk of surface water flooding during heavy rain.
- f. Parks and green spaces — once a source of pride — are too often left looking

tired and under-maintained.

- g. This visible decline follows two years of deep cuts to Environmental Services and frontline maintenance budgets under the Labour and Independent Coalition.
- h. 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.
- i. 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:
  - Pothole prevention and permanent repairs.
  - Regular weed clearance on highways and pavements.
  - Systematic drain and gully cleaning.
  - Increased park maintenance.
  - 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.

**Motion 2: Keep the Covenant**

To be Moved by Councillor Arnott

To be Seconded by Councillor Adams

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.

**Recommendations for Council**

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council notes that:

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council first signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2013, committing to support local members of the Armed Forces community.

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council is accredited with the Gold Defence Employer Recognition Scheme Award, demonstrating Forces-friendly employment practices.

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:**

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:

To call for improved statutory guidance and funding to all public bodies in scope of the extended Duty, including local authorities, to deliver better

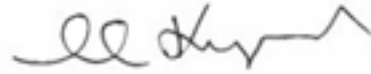
support through the expanded Covenant Duty.

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.

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.

- 12 Submission of Oldham Local Plan - Publication Plan (Pages 119 - 130)  
Council is recommended to approve the submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, for examination following the period of representations.
- 13 TransPennine Route Upgrade (Stalybridge to Diggle) Transport and Works Act Order – Formal Objections by Oldham Council (Pages 131 - 136)  
A report which affords Oldham Council the opportunity to make a valid objection to the TransPennine Route Upgrade.
- 14 Oldham Green New Deal Update (Pages 137 - 148)  
Council to receive a report which provides a comprehensive update on the various elements of the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy 2020 – 2025.
- 15 Calendar of Meetings 2026/27 (Pages 149 - 166)  
Council is requested to consider a draft calendar of meetings for 2026/27.
- 16 Civic Appreciation Awards (Pages 167 - 168)  
Council is requested to consider the nomination of the Oldham Scottish Pipe Band to receive the Civic Appreciation Award.
- 17 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 169 - 186)  
Council is asked to note updates from previous meetings.
- 18 Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (Pages 187 - 190)  
Council is asked to consider appointing Deputy Electoral Registration Officers.
- 19 Review of Political Balance on Committees (Pages 191 - 198)  
Council is requested to review its updated political balance

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

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

**Shelley Kipling  
Chief Executive**

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

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



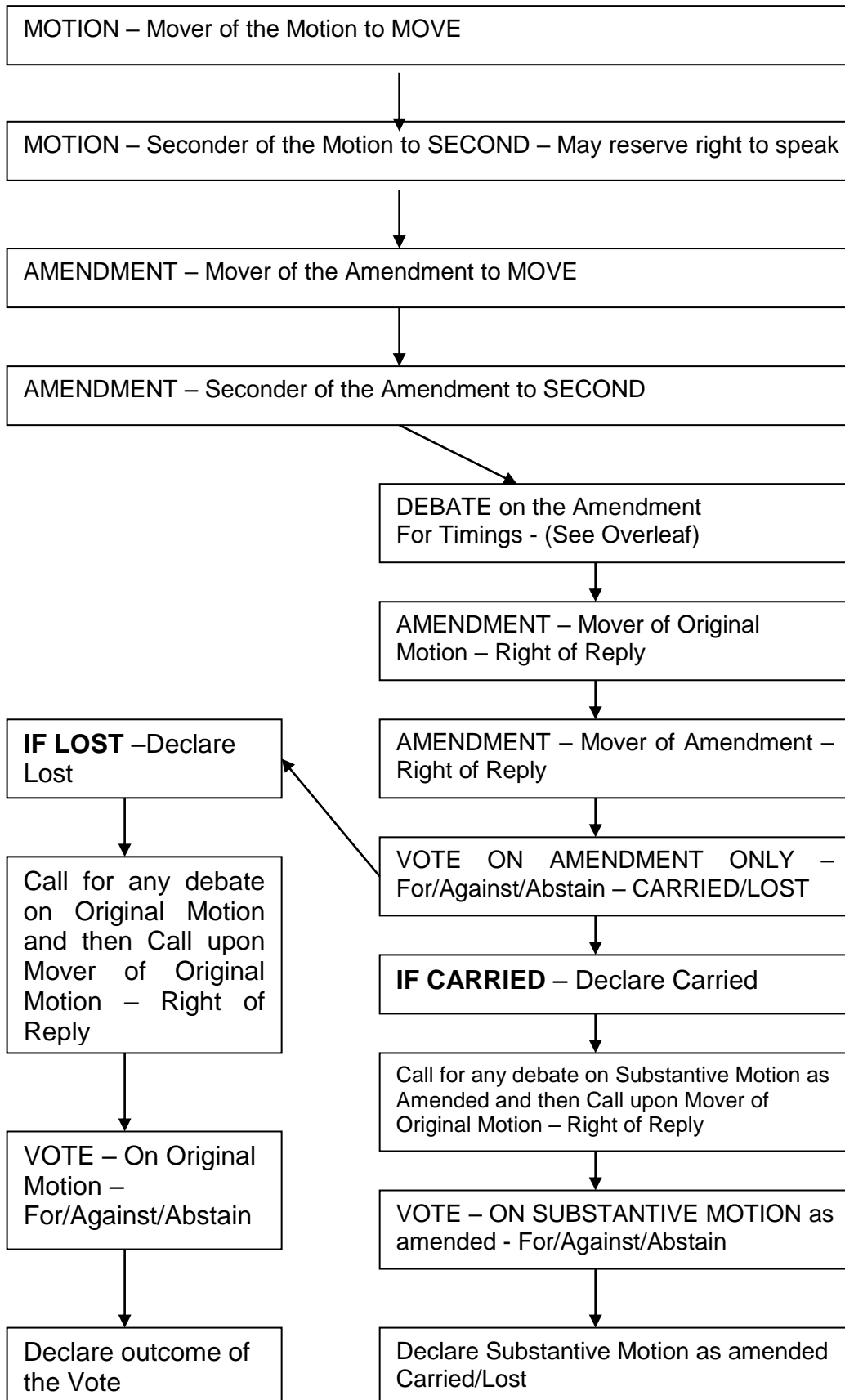
Declare outcome of the VOTE

**RULE ON TIMINGS**

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

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

## WITH AMENDMENT





**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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

In respect of Minute 10 (Electronic Voting), of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (adjourned until 12<sup>th</sup> 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 Mooore

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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 26<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 26<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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.
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.



**Oldham**  
Council

### **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.



**Oldham**  
Council

**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



**Oldham**  
Council

**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 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

12

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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 or such other later date as considered appropriate. The report's recommendations were agreed at the Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

In addition, a report was presented to the Council on 17<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

13

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS ON THE**

## **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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, be noted and confirmed.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 10.10pm

Report to COUNCIL – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026



## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements in 2025/26:

#### Major Regeneration & Development

- Development of an **Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation** including new homes, major town centre transformations, Northern Roots, and SportsTown.

#### Town Centre Transformation

- **J.R. Clynes Building** (Old Library) fully reopened as a major civic and cultural hub, including Council Chamber, Mayor's Parlour, community spaces, Oldham Theatre Workshop studios, and gallery.
- **Town Centre Park:** Phase 2 underway to expand green spaces, improve accessibility and integrate with the Accessible Oldham programme.
- Completion and **opening of new Market Hall** and the new event space **The Loom**.
- Building / Construction awards for – Spindles, Egyptian Rooms, JR Clynes Building.

#### Investment in Place

Success at securing external grant awards **c£70m in total** for various projects across the borough. Some highlights listed below:

- **£31.5m Prince Gate from the GM Good Growth Fund**
- **£20m for Alt Community Regeneration Partnership;**
- **£17m Transport funds;**
- **£7.7m Green Heat Network Fund;**
- **£1.5m Pride in Place Impact Fund** secured for community spaces and high streets;
- **£2m grant awards** to fit out new Market Traders' stalls;
- Shop Front Grants offering up to **£10k** each to improve façades in **Union and Yorkshire Streets**.

#### Housing Delivery

- Princes Gate - planning approval in July '25, funding secured Dec'25/Jan '26, now starting on site (March '26) - significant progress delivering **331 new homes**, with **75 socially affordable**.
- Significant planning progress: **297 new homes approved**, including **207 affordable**, across Southlink and South Chadderton schemes.

**Investment Event:** Over 150 businesses, investors, developers registered to attend the investment event held at the JR Clynes Building in February – was also great to see local developers in the room – as we shared updates on the success to date in Building a Better Oldham, and providing a vision and outlining opportunities for the next wave of activities.

Key messages were shared about my leadership and vision for building a better oldham for our residents and communities, and about my passion to bring more heritage buildings back into use across the borough. In partnership with Place North West, the packed audience were very interested in the opportunities and buildings discussed with several formal enquiries submitted and being investigated.

Additional areas of interest related to Oldham being the greenest borough in Greater Manchester for green technology businesses, sustainability embedded into projects, true social value and the

---

opportunities created for Oldham's residents and businesses, and enhancing and protecting our green spaces with opportunities like Northern Roots, SportsTown and the new Town Centre Park.

**Community Regeneration Partnership:** I'm proud to confirm that tomorrow we will be celebrating with many community group and organisations to award the Community Regeneration capital grants - £4.9 million investment that strengthens the heart of our communities. Across all five districts, this funding is helping local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations improve community spaces, grow their services, and support the activities residents depend on.

This funding process supported by MHCLG has been about backing Oldham's community spirit, building resilience, and creating the welcoming, vibrant neighbourhoods that our residents deserve. We will continue to support and work with all the applicants as the submissions exceeded the funding allocation, to help them achieve their goals through the ongoing support from Action Together.

**Pride in Place Funding:** The regeneration plan for Chadderton has now been formally submitted, and we are awaiting feedback from the Government. We also recently held the first community engagement session with residents for Alt/Holts, marking an important step in shaping local priorities. Both Chadderton and Alt/Holts are set to benefit from £20 million in Pride in Place funding each, which will help drive meaningful, long-term improvements for our communities.

**Resident Focus:** I'm delighted to share that from 1 April we will receive a much needed boost for our residents: £5.7m of Government funding each year over the next three years through the Crisis and Resilience Fund. I welcome this investment, and we will ensure it is used both to support residents experiencing financial crisis and to strengthen the longer-term financial resilience and security of our communities.

Alongside this, our resident focused approach continues to deliver improvements in Complaints Performance, with 85% of council-wide complaints responded to on time between October and December 2025, and all services meeting their targets—Children's Services performing particularly strongly at 97%. The Contact Centre also met its call-answering target during this period, and Planning calls transitioned into the Contact Centre in February to further enhance the resident experience.

**Building A Better Oldham:** As we continue to Build a Better Oldham, it is with great excitement that we will be opening the new Spindles Event Space this Friday followed by the new indoor market opening on Saturday morning with a day filled with free family activities. This is a key milestone in the redevelopment of the Town Centre for the benefit of our residents, businesses, and visitors. Tommyfield Market has a long and proud history in Oldham and we are committed to ensuring it has a thriving future in its new location within the Spindles. The Market is designed to bring Oldham's retail core much closer together, sitting in a modern fit for purpose market hall within the Spindles. It will bring together our retail and market offer opening onto Parliament Square, and an upper level linked to Spindles, all designed to create a seamless shopping experience blending traditional market offerings with modern retail.

It has been important that we worked with our market traders to ensure that the offer and timing of opening the new indoor market was right. The move will enable the existing Tommyfield market to be demolished and release the site for development.

The new Spindles event space, The Loom, is situated above the new Indoor Market. It will provide Oldham with a much-needed state-of-the-art event space that provides flexibility and can be subdivided to host events of various sizes. The Loom will hold up to 1,000 people standing, around 700 seated and 500 people for dining. Oldham continues to be externally recognised for our vision, investment and delivery on the ground within the town.

The J.R. Clynes Building was shortlisted as a finalist for the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, UK Building of the Year 2025. Amongst other criteria the award recognises its effect on the local community, its importance in terms of urban regeneration and environmental enhancement, its design excellence, or its contribution to urban design and townscape. The Egyptian Room has

---

been shortlisted for the RIBA North West design award which celebrates the best new architecture projects within the region. The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Liverpool on the 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**Development of our partnerships:** Progress on SportsTown has continued well, with the Council working closely with SportsTown and key partners across sport, education and health to bring forward the £5m Skills Pathway investment at Boundary Park and widen opportunities for our residents.

Progress on Northern Roots has also continued well, with the Council working in partnership with the Northern Roots charity and our contractors to bring forward the new Visitor Centre and Forestry Skills Centre and deliver wider benefits around skills, jobs and our Green and Growing ambitions.

**Housing Delivery:** With confirmation of securing the Greater Manchester Growth Fund Grant allocation of £31.5m for Princes Gate, progress on the pre-development works has progressed well as Muse are on site with enablement works ahead of the main construction of the residential buildings starting in Spring.

In the meantime, several other significant housing sites across the borough have progressed, with planning permission granted for 221 new homes in Fitton Hill and Chadderton (including 85 homes for social rent and 47 other affordable homes) and planning applications being considered for Southlink and the first phase of development at Broadbent Moss. Both developments will be wholly affordable housing providing a total of 395 new homes, including 239 homes for social rent, if granted permission.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

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

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

5           **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet, held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025 be approved, as a correct record.

6           **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY MID -YEAR REVIEW 2025/26**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Finance which advised that in April 2023 the Authority had adopted the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice (the CIPFA Code), which required the Authority to approve, as a minimum, treasury management semi-annual and annual outturn reports.

The submitted report included the requirements that were set out in the 2021 Code for quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators.

The Authority's Treasury Management Strategy for 2025/26 was approved at the Budget Council meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. The Authority had borrowed and invested substantial sums of money and was therefore exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of risk remains central to the Authority's Treasury Management Strategy.

The 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 quarterly report provides an additional update and included the new requirement in the 2021 Code, mandatory from

1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, of quarterly reporting of the treasury management prudential indicators. This report therefore sets out the key Treasury Management issues for Members' information and review and outlined the following:

- 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.

Options/Alternatives considered:

In order that the Council complies with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management, the Cabinet has no option other than to consider and approve the current Treasury Management position. Therefore, no options/alternatives can be presented in respect of factual information contained in this report.

In considering the report, Cabinet was mindful that the report had previously been endorsed by the Audit Committee, at its meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and that it would be presented to the Council for determination on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Resolved

That the Cabinet:

1. Notes the Treasury Management Half Year Review report, and the Treasury Management activity and projected outturn for 2025/26.
2. Commends the report to Council, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.05pm

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

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fida Hussain.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

5           **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2025 be approved, as a correct record.

6           **EXTENSION OF A SECTION 75 AGREEMENT WITH NHS  
NORTHERN CARE ALLIANCE**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Public Health which advised members that Oldham Council and the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust (NCA) had an established working arrangement to deliver integrated children and family services under a Section 75 agreement. This agreement has been in place since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and was set to run until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026. All elements of the integrated children's and families service were funded through the Public Health settlement.

The Cabinet was recommended to approve the extension of the section 75 agreement with the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, to enable the continued deliverance of the clinical elements of the integrated children's and families' service.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) - to approve the recommendations outlined in the submitted report.

Option 2 - Do not continue with a mandated Public Health function of the Healthy Child programme.

Option 3 - To go out to the market and procure a service, via a tendering process.

Resolved

That the Cabinet approves:

1. The extension of the Section 75 Partnership Agreement with the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust, to deliver the clinical elements of the integrated children's and families service for a period of 2 years with an option to extend by a further 1 year.
2. To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, to approve any future extensions to the Section 75 agreement where there is budget available.
3. To delegate authority to the relevant officers to negotiate and execute any revisions of the Section 75 agreement.
4. To delegate authority to the relevant officers to harmonize the 0-19 specification with Bury and Rochdale to allow for greater consistency, whilst ensuring that an appropriate locality schedule reflects the current delivery model in Oldham.

7

### **PROPERTY PLANNED AND PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS**

The Cabinet received a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive which sought approval to establish new contracts to deliver and facilitate various Planned and Preventative Maintenance requirements. The previous framework (Construction and Highways Works and Services Framework) ended in October 2024.

A review of the delivery of the Construction and Highways Works & Services Framework had identified that new agreements should be established.

The proposal, detailed in the report was to establish a mix of new contracts that would be required to cover the Council's Planned and Preventative Maintenance requirements. The Council needed to ensure that all procurement activity was compliant with Oldham Council Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Act 2023.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 - To approve the recommendations in the report thereby allowing Oldham Council's Procurement team to establish new contracts to cover all Property related Planned and Preventative Maintenance. This will ensure that delivery complies with Oldham Council Contract Procedure Rules and the Procurement Act 2023, whilst also delivering the best value for money.

Option 2 – Not to approve the report, which was not considered to be viable, as, a consequence of this, would leave the Council in breach of Oldham Council Contract Procedure Rules, unless each scheme is individually quoted or tendered for, which is considered an inefficient procurement method, and would not provide best value.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet approves the report, thereby allowing Oldham Council's Procurement team to establish new contracts to cover all Property related Planned and Preventative Maintenance.

8

### **CONFIRMATION OF THE ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION FOR**

## HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive which advised members that at an earlier meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025, Cabinet had agreed to introduce a non-immediate, borough-wide Article 4 Direction to remove the permitted development right allowing the conversion of dwelling houses (Use Class C3) into Houses of Multiple Occupation for up to six residents (Use Class C4). A period of public consultation on the introduction of the Article 4 Direction was to follow for a period of 6 weeks – the consultation ran from 6<sup>th</sup> October to 16<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The Cabinet had also agreed that a further report be brought back to a future meeting at the earliest opportunity to allow Members to consider the outcome of the consultation and thereafter to determine if the Article 4 Direction should be confirmed and come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 or such other later date as considered appropriate.

The submitted report therefore sets out the outcome of the public consultation, summarising the available evidence and, as a result, sought confirmation of the Article 4 Direction, to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

In considering the report, Cabinet Members were reminded that a report detailing the consultation outcome and outlining the next steps involved to seek confirmation of the Article 4 Direction (this report), was presented to and approved by the Council on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) - to confirm the Article 4 Direction  
The available evidence has shown that there is a need for smaller units of accommodation in the borough, which HMOs can provide. However, there is also a need for larger family homes. The majority of the borough's existing HMOs are smaller HMOs (C4 use) (only 19% are larger HMOs for 6 people and above). Also, almost half of the borough's identified HMOs have been converted from C3 Dwellings (single household). This means that family homes have been lost to HMOs. Also, there may be issues of overcrowding and amenity when smaller properties are converted to HMOs, which currently we cannot control with the existing permitted development right.

Option 2 - Do not confirm the Article 4 Direction/No Article 4 Direction

Should the Article 4 Direction not be confirmed, the permitted development right for the change of use from C3 Dwelling house to C4 Small HMO would remain in place. This means that small HMOs would continue to come forward as they do at present as permitted development. The council would therefore have limited control as to how and where these come forward, with the exception of those that are for more than 5 people, which would need to have an HMO Licence.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the evidence presented in the submitted report, including the outcome of the public consultation; and
2. That the Cabinet confirms the 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 to come into effect on the 1 January 2026, in line with the details set out in the report and the Article 4 notice presented at Appendix 3, to the submitted report.

9

## **GET OLDHAM WORKING - DIGITAL INNOVATION FUND**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years that sought approval for Oldham Council to formally accept £266,084 awarded by the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), under the Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund, thereby enabling the delivery of the Oldham Digital Futures: Scaling Skills, Access, and Opportunity project.

The funding had to be utilised and delivery completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, and it was operated on a payment-by-results and milestone-based schedule, requiring Cabinet approval being due to the financial and operational implications.

The delivery window was extremely limited — from November 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 — meaning only 5 months to fully deliver all funded activity. The funding is payment-by-results, requiring Get Oldham Working (GOW) to deliver at risk ahead of receiving the final tranche of grant payment.

Oldham Council had been successful in securing £266,084 through the national Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund. This short-term, high-impact funding enables GOW and partners to deliver a programme addressing digital exclusion across Oldham, including:

- Establishing two fixed digital hubs
- Creating a mobile digital hub for neighbourhood outreach
- Delivering 150 digital inclusion workshops
- Recruiting and training 30 Digital Champions
- Distributing 300+ devices to digitally excluded residents

Despite the tight delivery schedule, this presents a major opportunity to:

- a. Equip residents with essential digital skills
- b. Reduce device and data poverty
- c. Improve access to online public services
- d. Support people closer to the job market
- e. Build a longer-term digital inclusion offer for Oldham

In considering the report, the Cabinet noted that the Chair of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board had permitted consideration of the submitted report, at this meeting of the Cabinet, under Rule 13 of the Council's Constitution. The report had not been placed on the Key Decision Document, but

it was still possible to give 5 clear days-notice of the report and the proposed decision to be made. Rule 13 allowed that the decision may be made where the permission had been obtained, in writing, from the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, of the matter about which the decision is to be made.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) was to accept the grant funding.

Option 2 was to decline the funding.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet –

1. Approves acceptance of the £266,084 DSIT Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund award.
2. Approves Get Oldham Working (GOW) to deliver the “Oldham Digital Futures” project within DSIT conditions, including the requirement for delivery by 31 March 2026.
3. Notes the payment-by-results nature of the grant and the requirement for GOW to deliver at risk until DSIT milestone payments are released.
4. Delegates authority to the Head of Service – Get Oldham Working to manage delivery, reporting, and compliance with DSIT conditions.
5. Notes the short timeframe and endorse accelerated recruitment, procurement, and neighbourhood engagement to enable delivery.
6. Notes the actions of the Chair of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, in permitting this report to be considered, at this Cabinet meeting, pursuant to Rule 13 of the Council’s Constitution.

10

### **BEAL VALLEY BROADBENT MOSS MASTERPLAN AND SPATIAL DESIGN CODE**

The Cabinet received a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that sought consideration of the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss Masterplan and Spatial Design Code, that had been prepared in accordance with Places for Everyone, criteria 1 of JPA 10 Beal Valley and criteria 1 of JPA 12 Broadbent Moss, in light of the Motion agreed at the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December, (“Ensuring Statutory Scrutiny and Enforceability for Places for Everyone Masterplans”), that necessitated the requirement of the preparation of a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) incorporating this Masterplan and Spatial Design Code.

Given the agreement of the Motion “Ensuring Statutory Scrutiny and Enforceability for Places for Everyone Masterplans” at the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025, there was a need to reconsider the recommendations made to Cabinet on the proposed Masterplan and Spatial Design Code in the report on the agenda, and revised recommendations have been proposed in a supplementary report that had been published, to the Council’s website, on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and which were now considered by members.

Before officers were able to proceed to prepare the SPD for public consultation, there was a need to seek endorsement from Cabinet that the Masterplan and Spatial Design Code, as prepared by the Developer Consortium with input from council officers, was a suitable basis for the SPD.

The endorsement of the Masterplan in this way was necessary to indicate the suitability of the masterplan as the basis for an SPD to not only avoid consulting on an SPD that the council could not support, but also to inform decision-making should a planning application(s) be submitted for development on parts of the allocations before an SPD has been adopted.

This would not constitute a non-statutory agreement of the Masterplan (as referred to in resolution 2 of the Motion), but there was a need to provide some kind of basis for officers and Planning Committee to consider planning applications against or else applications could come forward that do not fit together within a wider masterplan of the sites, leading to fractured developments that do not fully meet the infrastructure requirements. In any event, the fact that there was a masterplan that had been submitted by the Developer Consortium meant that the masterplan would have to be a material consideration in any planning application decision.

The Masterplan and Spatial Design Code were to be considered at Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board at the appropriate time in the new year, where members on that Scrutiny Board would be encouraged to provide feedback on what has been prepared by the Developer Consortium so that this can be incorporated into a draft SPD for public consultation.

Resolution 4 of the Motion also agreed for a report on timelines for consultation and adoption of the SPD to be brought to the Cabinet in January 2026. A timetable for the preparation, consultation and adoption of the SPD was considered by the Cabinet.

This timetable was going to be affected by the pre-election period, given that the council would not hold public consultations during the pre-election period, and so the consultation could not take place until after the local elections in May 2026 (although the agreement of Cabinet to proceed to consultation could be made in March 2026).

Given the time required to then have the minimum 4-week public consultation, consider the feedback, make any necessary amendments and then bring the final SPD back to Cabinet for adoption, the SPD could not be adopted until September 2026.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) – to approve the recommendations detailed in the revised and updated report (that was published on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2025).

Option 2 – to reject the report.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet endorses the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss Masterplan and Spatial Design Code and, in accordance with the Motion agreed at the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December, authorise officers to prepare a Supplementary Planning Document incorporating this Masterplan and Spatial Design Code.
2. That the Cabinet notes the timetable for the preparation of the SPD included in this addendum report.
3. That the Cabinet notes that the report will be considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board at the appropriate time in the new year, and should therefore be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Constitution, and the Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods be given delegated authority to respond to any feedback from Scrutiny as the Masterplan is taken forward to become a Supplementary Planning Document.

11

### **SADDLEWORTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that was seeking approval to publicise the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan and following this, to submit the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan for examination in line with The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (2012), as outlined in the amended timeline within the submitted report.

Given approval of the Motion “Ensuring Statutory Scrutiny and Enforceability for Places for Everyone Masterplans” at the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December, there was therefore a need to reconsider the recommendations made to Cabinet on the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan in the report on the agenda, and revised recommendations were proposed in a supplement to the published agenda (supplement was published on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025).

This was due to the capacity within the team responsible for preparing the Local Plan, the Article 4 Direction for HMOs, and now the Supplementary Planning Document required for the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss Strategic Location. Therefore, the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan would take longer to progress in readiness for consultation and examination. In this regard, a revised timetable now replaced that within the previously published cabinet report and was detailed in the supplementary report, which the Cabinet considered.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) – to approve the recommendations detailed in the revised and updated report.

Option 2 – to refuse the report.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet notes the amended timetable outlined in the addendum report.
2. That the Cabinet agrees to the publicising of the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan, in line with Regulation 16 of The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations (at the appropriate time); and following this,
3. Submit the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan for examination in line with Regulation 17 of The Neighbourhood Planning Regulations;
4. Grant delegated authority to the Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, to consider the recommendations made in the Inspectors Report following independent examination of the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan and, in liaison with the Peak District National Park Authority, approve what action to take in response to each recommendation in said report in line with Regulation 17A (4) of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations, and approve publication of the examiner's report, plan proposal and decision statement as soon as possible after the decision.
5. That the Cabinet notes that the report will be considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board at the appropriate time in the new year, and should therefore be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Constitution, and the Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive) in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods be given delegated authority to respond to any feedback from scrutiny as part of their consideration of the Inspectors Report referred to in 3 above.

12

## **OLDHAM'S BROWNFIELD LAND REGISTER 2025**

The Cabinet received a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that sought approval for the publication of Oldham's 2025 Brownfield Land Register.

The Town and Country Planning (Brownfield Land Register) Regulations 2017 requires that each local planning authority in England is to prepare, maintain and publish a register of previously developed (brownfield) land suitable for housing. The government considers that the purpose of the register is to provide up-to-date and consistent information on sites that local authorities consider appropriate for residential development.

The Brownfield Register update for 2025 includes 190 sites. Further information on which sites are included within the Register were set out in the background to the submitted report.

A Brownfield Register comprised two parts, with Part 2 being a subset of Part 1:

- Part 1 consists all brownfield sites that the Council has assessed as appropriate for residential development and could include sites with or without planning permission.

- Part 2 identifies sites that the local authority has decided should be granted (planning) permission in principle (PiP) for residential development. PiP is an alternative route to obtaining planning permission which separates “in principle” matters, such as use and location, from technical details, which are left to be agreed later. The theory is that this will provide greater certainty earlier on in the planning process, making it easier for developers to commit resources to a scheme in the knowledge that the principle of development has already been established and they only need to agree the details.

As with previous updates of Oldham’s Brownfield Register, it was not proposed to include sites on Part 2 of the Register at this time. Further details regarding this position were provided in the background papers associated with the submitted report. The decision not to progress Part 2 would, however, be kept under review. This was particularly the case given that the Council may, in future, become obligated by the government to start granting PiP.

This was Oldham Council’s 9<sup>th</sup> Brownfield Register.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) - to approve and publish Part 1 of Oldham’s Brownfield Land Register 2025 in line with the Regulations. Part 2 is not proposed.

Option 2 - to not approve and publish an updated Brownfield Land Register as the 2025 SHLAA already contains all brownfield land considered suitable for housing development. This would not comply with the current Regulations.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves and authorizes the publication of Part 1 of Oldham’s Brownfield Land Register 2025 in line with the Regulations.
2. That the Cabinet notes the approach to determining sites to include in Part 1 and 2 of the Brownfield Register: namely to approve a 2025 update of the Brownfield Land Register (Part 1 only) for publication; and to delegate authority to make minor amendments and updates to the register throughout the year, if required, to the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive.

13

## **OLDHAM'S STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT 2025**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that was seeking approval for the publication of Oldham Council’s Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2025.

The SHLAA was a technical document identifying land that might have potential for housing at some stage in the future. The requirement to undertake a SHLAA was set out in paragraph 72 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

The SHLAA formed a key component of the evidence base underpinning housing policies and land allocations and would help to meet the area's housing needs.

The SHLAA assessed the development potential of land that could be capable of delivering homes through an assessment of suitability, availability and achievability (economic viability). It then indicated when it may come forward for development.

The base date of this SHLAA was the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. It provided an update to the previous SHLAA (1<sup>st</sup> April 2024) published in December 2024. The SHLAA 2025 identified a total housing land supply of 12,848 homes (including allowances) over the short to long term.

More detail on the method used to carry out the assessment, along with the findings of the SHLAA were to be found in the submitted report and its associated appendices.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) – to approve and publish the SHLAA 2025 to provide evidence for the housing land supply position, Brownfield Register and Local Plan Review.

Option 2 – to not approve and publish the SHLAA 2025.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet approves the submitted Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) 2025, for publication.

14

## **AZURE CLOUD CONTRACT**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Resources that sought authority to enter into a new call-off contract under a procurement compliant framework agreement in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules to support the ongoing use of Microsoft Azure Cloud for three years.

The Council's current Azure contract had been extended for 90 days pending approval of a new agreement. However, continued use of the cloud environment was considered essential, and therefore a long-term replacement contract should commence immediately upon approval of the confidential report, detailed at item 16.

The report also outlined the progress of the Council's cloud migration strategy, which aligns with Oldham's Corporate Plan "Ready for the Future" (2024-27) and Borough Plan "Pride, Progress, Partnership." These plans emphasised ambition through modernisation, inclusiveness by improving service delivery to all residents, and strength via enhanced resilience, sustainability, and supporting green initiatives like those highlighted in recent Greater Manchester Green City Region Board visits to Oldham.

Phase 1 of the migration was nearing completion, with significant progress in moving servers and storage to Azure.

Phase 2 was forthcoming and would be detailed in a separate paper that will complete the transition, allowing the Council to fully move away from on-premises server rooms, realising cost savings, improved cybersecurity, and operational efficiencies. This approach mirrored successful migrations by other UK local authorities, such as Manchester City Council, Oxford City Council, and Bury Borough Council, which had adopted Azure to modernise infrastructure, reduce costs, and enhance service delivery. Phase 2 would also incorporate the Microsoft Intelligent Data Platform, providing unified data management, real-time analytics, AI integration, and enhanced governance for better decision-making and service delivery.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option1 – to do nothing

Option 2 – to approve the recommendations, as detailed in the confidential report, detailed at item 16.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet will consider the confidential recommendations, detailed in the report, at minute 16, below.

15

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

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

16

### **AZURE CLOUD CONTRACT**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to minute 14, above (Azure Cloud Contract).

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves a direct award Call-Off Contract under Crown Commercial Services, RM6098 Framework Technology Products and Services Lot 2 Software, for a 3-year term, largely on the call-off terms and conditions prescribed by the Framework Agreement and delegate authority to the Director of Legal Services, or his nominated representative, to formalise any relevant legal requirements, including the execution of the Call-Off Contract as a Deed.
2. That the Cabinet agrees to continue with the cloud migration to achieve full cloud adoption by 2027/28 and enable Microsoft Azure Sentinel.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.25pm

This page is intentionally left blank

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

1           **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dean, Goodwin and Shah.

2           **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3           **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

4           **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

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

5           **MINUTES**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting, of the Cabinet, held on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025, be approved as a correct record.

6           **COUNCIL TAX BASE AND NON-DOMESTIC RATES TAX  
BASE FORECAST 2026/27**

The Cabinet received a report of the Director of Finance that presented Members with the Council Tax Base which would underpin the forthcoming Council Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy, scheduled for consideration at the Budget Council meeting on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

The report also sought delegated authority to determine the 2026/27 Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) forecast to reflect up to date Non-Domestic Rates details to be submitted to Central Government via the annual NNDR 1 return by the statutory deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

The Director of Finance's report set out information on the Council Tax Base for 2026/27 using the most up to date valuation list and all other information and estimates available.

The total number of chargeable properties included in the Council Tax Base calculation in Oldham for 2026/27 was 99,072. This figure is reduced to 88,519.8 after allowing for discounts and exemptions and translates to the equivalent of 70,433.3 Band D properties. After applying adjustments for the Local Council Tax Support scheme offset by the additional charging for empty properties and an anticipated increase in the number of properties to be included in the valuation list over the forthcoming year, the number of Band D equivalent properties reduces to 61,950.4. The final Tax Base after the application of the anticipated collection rate of 96.75% is 59,937 which is an

increase of 436 when compared to the Council Tax Base for 2025/26 of 59,501.



**Oldham**  
Council

The 2026/27 Tax Bases for Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils of 9,877 and 6,018 respectively, have been calculated using the same methodology.

It was reported as being important to highlight that the preparation of Council Tax and Business Rates Tax Bases was being undertaken in a period of unprecedented uncertainty and volatility. There were fundamental national changes to Business Rates that will take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. A revaluation by the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), introduction of three new multipliers, the National reset of the Business Rates system, a new Gross rates approach and the Fair Funding review are amongst the issues which make forecasting extremely challenging.

Statute requires local Billing Authorities to prepare and submit to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) a locally determined and approved Business Rates forecast through the NNDR 1 return by 31<sup>st</sup> January each year. This forecast would be used to determine the 2026/27 “demand” and payment schedule for Business Rates between Oldham Council and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA). The Council remains a participant in the Greater Manchester 100% Rates Retention Scheme; this means the Council no longer pays a share of Business Rates to Central Government. Instead, Oldham currently retains 99% of the income with 1% being paid to the GMCA for Fire and Rescue services.

Options/Alternatives considered:

- a. (Preferred Option) The Council has little discretion in the calculation of the number of properties incorporated into the Council Tax Base given the legislative framework that is in place. There is some discretion in estimating the number of new properties that will be included on the Council Tax register during 2026/27 and the change to the number of claimants of Council Tax Reduction. A prudent view has been taken in this regard. The main area for an alternative approach is over the level of assumed collection rate. An increase in the collection rate would boost the anticipated Council Tax income and a decrease in the rate would decrease income. The Council has chosen to maintain its 2026/27 collection rate at 96.75%. This decision has been influenced by prevailing economic circumstances and current trends in collection rates.
- b. The NNDR1 return generates the figures upon which the Business Rates Tax Base was prepared. It was not therefore appropriate to consider a third alternative approach.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves the Council Tax Base for 2026/27 at 59,937 Band D equivalent properties.
2. The Cabinet notes the Tax Bases for Saddleworth and Shaw and Crompton Parish Councils of 9,877 and 6,018 respectively.
3. That the Cabinet delegates the decision to agree the Business Rates forecast and hence the Business Rates Tax Base, if required, to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability in consultation with the Director of Finance.

7

## **OLDHAM LOCAL PLAN: PUBLICATION PLAN CONSULTATION**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive, the purpose of which was to approve the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan for publication and consultation.

The report advised that following its adoption in March 2024 the Places for Everyone Joint Plan (PfE) now formed part of Oldham's Local Plan. PfE set the strategic policies for the Borough, but there is still a need for local policies that support the implementation of PfE across Oldham and to deliver the Council's regeneration objectives and priorities.

The Government are in the process of reforming the current system for preparing Local Plans. In the meantime, for plans progressing to adoption under the current plan-making legal framework (which includes the review of the Oldham Local Plan) there was a requirement for these to be submitted for examination by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026.

The Oldham Local Plan was therefore being prepared under The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012 ('the Regulations'). There were various stages in the production of a Local Plan and Oldham Council was at Regulation 19 (or the Publication Plan) stage.

This submitted report sought approval of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan 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 28 January 2026. The 'Publication Plan' stage was a formal 'statutory' consultation that provided an opportunity for organisations, and individuals, to submit their final views on the content of the Plan.

Following consultation the Publication Plan, representations received, and other relevant supporting documentation, would be sent to the Secretary of State. This was called the 'Submission stage', pursuant to Regulation 22 and requires approval at Council. A separate report seeking approval to submit the Publication Plan for examination will be brought to Council, around May/June 2026.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option): that the Cabinet approves the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation for publication and consultation as per the recommendations in the report. The advantages are that this will ensure that the Council has in place an up-to-date Local Plan in place that supports implementation of PfE at a Borough-wide level and provides a planning policy framework to enable delivery of the Council's regeneration ambitions and Building a Better Oldham, whilst meeting requirements of national planning policy and regulations. There were no reported disadvantages to pursuing Option 1.

Option 2: that the Cabinet does not approve the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation for publication and consultation as per the recommendations in the report. There were no reported advantages to pursuing this Option. The disadvantages, in not approving the Plan, were that the Council would not be able to progress preparation of the Local Plan to the next stage. Without 12 an up-to-date Local Plan in place the Council would be reliant on the existing Core Strategy (elements of which are out of date) and the high-level Greater Manchester -wide policies in Places for Everyone when making decisions on planning applications for the foreseeable future. The Council would not have the benefit of the positive planning framework set out in the Publication Plan that supports implementation of PfE at a Borough-wide level whilst enabling deliver of our Council regeneration ambitions and priorities.

In considering the report the Cabinet's members were mindful that the report had been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, at its recent meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, where the recommendations in the report were supported and endorsed and which the Cabinet was asked to approve.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet:

1. Approves 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 28 January 2026.
2. Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive, to approve the Statement of Common Ground required pursuant to the National Planning Policy Framework.
3. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery to make any minor non-material amendments to the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation ahead of its publication and consultation (these amendments will be limited to correcting minor errors and formatting text).

4. Notes that following consideration by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026, the report is exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution.

8

## **YEW TREE COMMUNITY SCHOOL - CAPITAL WORKS**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director (Children and Young People, which sought approval for a capital project that would offer additional places and enhance provision for pupils with additional needs at Yew Tree Primary School. The report was also seeking approval for the allocation of funding from High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA) and Basic Need Grant towards the scheme.

Cabinet was informed that the submitted report related to a project at Yew Tree Community School that was intended to enhance existing provision and provide additional provision for KS1 pupils with additional needs. These proposals were developed sufficiently for costs and proposals to be placed before the Cabinet for a final decision. The proposed project would create a total of 24 new places in the school for children with additional needs.

Currently the Local Authority has around £2.8 M of Basic Need funding and £7.5 M of High Needs Capital Allocation Funding. It was proposed that where projects will generate additional places these projects would be funded from the HNPCA Grant provision.

Yew Tree Community School Yew Tree Community School serves the Chadderton area of the Oldham Borough and is a Community Primary School. This project will increase access to KS1 places for 24 children who may otherwise require specialist provision. This provision will have an emphasis on children with complex communication and interaction needs. Children enrolled in this provision would have SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) as their primary area of need. This project will lead to additional places and improved provision for children in Oldham. There was no specialist provision within this planning area which meant that children often are required to travel to other provision outside of their local area.

Yew Tree Community School is a mainstream primary school and caters for 647 pupils. The proposed project will provide a modular building situated on the school grounds adjacent to the KS2 main classrooms, this modular building will provide two large classrooms (split into four with movable walls), three intervention rooms, staff area and toilets.

This will provide a smooth transition between the two buildings. Classrooms are to be designed to accommodate a maximum group size of between 6-12 pupils. The total cost of this project is estimated to be in the region of 592,100 (a total of £651,310 when including 10% contingency). It is proposed that this project is funded from the LA High Needs grant provision.

Options/Alternatives considered:

Option 1 (preferred Option) to approve the above capital investment for the project listed above to deliver the ambitions of the SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2023 – 2027.

Option 2: Do not approve the projects and risk not fulfilling the above strategy.

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves the capital project, detailed in the submitted report, that will offer additional places and enhance provision for pupils with additional needs at Yew Tree Primary School.
2. That the Cabinet approves the allocation of funding from High Needs Provision Capital Allocations and Basic Need Grant towards the costs of the scheme.

9

### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive that provided information about the School Backlog Maintenance programme. This included work requiring Capital investment to the schools that were still under the Council's control. The Cabinet was also requested to note the scale of investment required to Council controlled schools and approve the funds provided by the School Condition Allocation to proceed with the identified prioritised work.

The Cabinet was advised that significant funding was required to address identified schemes in respect of the School Backlog Maintenance programme over the years covering 2026/27 and 2027/28.

Options/Alternatives considered:

The option proposed was the first step towards forming a comprehensive plan to rectify a substantial amount of school backlog maintenance work between 2026 and 2028. The works proposed would not only improve the environment in which teachers teach and children learn but would ensure that the risk of school closure due to services/building fabric failure was significantly reduced. The proposed position of school budgets was detailed in the confidential report at agenda item 11.

Resolved:

That the Cabinet will consider the confidential recommendations, detailed in the report, at agenda item 11.

10

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

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

11

### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the commercially sensitive information in relation to agenda item 9: 'Property Management Programme Update'.



**Oldham**  
Council

Resolved:

1. That the Cabinet approves the budget, detailed in the submitted report, to enable commission of the required works in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, thereby assist to maintain and facilitate improved functional use of the Borough's schools, avoiding school closures and mitigating relevant operational and health and safety risks.
2. That the Cabinet notes the delegation of approval, of individual contract awards, to the Director of Growth with a financial update to be issued to the Cabinet at the end of each financial year.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 6.15pm

This page is intentionally left blank

## Leader's Report on Urgent Decisions taken June 2025 - March 2026

Decision By	Title	Reason for Urgency	Decision taken
Cabinet 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) – Acceptance of Additional Funding	Cllr Junaid Hussain Chair of Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board agreed to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution The reason for urgency was to ensure that grant funding was accepted prior to statutory deadlines.	AGREED
Cabinet 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Funding Extension	Cllr Brian Hobin, Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Board agreed to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for urgency was to ensure a timely renewal of a contract.	AGREED
Cabinet 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	Families First Partnership Programme	Cllr Brian Hobin, Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Board agreed to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for urgency was to ensure that new policy changes and an updated programme would be delivered in Oldham, in line with statutory guidance.	AGREED
Cabinet 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Invest to Save Business Case: Sustainability of SEND & Inclusion Teams	Cllr Hobin Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Board agreed to the 28 days' notice for a key decision to be made, being waived allowing an urgent decision to be made and to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was to permit the development of a strategy to 'invest to save' business case, for the sustainability of the Council's SEND and Inclusion Teams	AGREED
Cabinet 18 <sup>th</sup> August 2025	Priority Programme Fund – Legal & Advice Services	Cllr McLaren Chair of Governance Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board agreed to the 28 days' notice for a key decision to be made, being waived allowing an urgent decision to be made and to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was to allow approval for the allocation of funding to Citizen's Advice Oldham for one year until 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2026 and to	AGREED

		enter into a grant agreement in respect of the funding.	
Cabinet 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025	Young People's Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service – Contract Extension	Cllr Rustidge Chair of Adults, Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board agreed to the 28 days' notice for a key decision to be made, being waived allowing an urgent decision to be made and to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was to approval to enact the option to extend the contract for the Young People's Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Service by a period of 2 years, from 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2026 to 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2028, in a timely manner.	AGREED
Cabinet 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Pride in Place Impact Fund Grant Acceptance	Cllr Junaid Hussain Chair of Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board agreed to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution The reason for urgency was to ensure that a time limited grant funding offer was accepted prior to a statutory deadline.	AGREED
Cabinet 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Acquisition of Strategic Asset	Cllr Junaid Hussain Chair of Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board agreed to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution The reason for urgency was to ensure that a strategically located property, in Oldham town centre, could be purchased by the Council.	AGREED
Cabinet 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	Request for a Direct Award of the Domestic Property Disability Adaptions Framework for the Provision of Level Access Showers and Shower over Baths	Cllr Rustidge Chair of Adults, Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board agreed to the 28 days' notice for a key decision to be made, being waived allowing an urgent decision to be made and to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was to authorise direct awards from the Domestic Property Disability Adaptions Framework for the provision of level access showers and Showers over baths, prior to the expiry of a contract	AGREED
Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing	Novation of contract with Wood Care Group to Longwood Lodge Care Home Limited for	Cllr Rustidge Chair of Adults, Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board agreed an urgent decision being made in respect of this matter to exempt it from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was that a speedy amendment of the contract.	AGREED

	care services delivered at Longwood Lodge.		
Cabinet 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Limehurst PRU Provision (Tier 2) – Capital Works	Cllr McLaren, Vice-Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Board agreed to the 28 days' notice for a key decision to be made, being waived allowing an urgent decision to be made and to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was to allow the report to be considered by Cabinet, thereby allowing essential works to be carried out over the summer.	AWAITING DECISION
Cabinet 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Brian Clarke C of E Academy and the Blue Coat School – Capital Works	Cllr McLaren, Vice-Chair of Children and Young People Scrutiny Board agreed to the 28 days' notice for a key decision to be made, being waived allowing an urgent decision to be made and to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution. The reason for the urgency was to authorise that Capital works be carried out at two schools in Oldham, over the summer months	AWAITING DECISION
Cabinet 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2026	Economic Development and Regeneration - Flexible Grant Acceptance	Cllr Junaid Hussain Chair of Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board agreed to exempt the report from the call-in process, under Rules 13 and 14 of the Constitution The reason for urgency was to ensure that that grant funding could be accepted, prior to the end of a specified deadline	AWAITING DECISION

This page is intentionally left blank

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

GM Mayor	Mayor Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
GMCA	Deputy Mayor Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Lucy Smith
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Eleanor Wills
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair of GM Overview & Scrutiny	Councillor John Walsh
---------------------------------	-----------------------

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Group Chief Executive Officer	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Solicitor & Monitoring Officer	Gill Duckworth
Group Chief Finance Officer	Steve Wilson
Secretary	Sarah Horseman
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Tom Stannard
Oldham	Shelley Kipling
Rochdale	Kiama Thompson
Salford	Stephen Young
Stockport	Paul Richards

Tameside	Emma Alexander
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Martin Lax
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

## **1. Apologies**

That apologies be received from Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (Bury), James Binks (Rochdale) & Michael Cullen (Stockport).

## **2. Chairs Announcements & Urgent Business**

1. That the update on the Autumn Budget 2025 announcements and their impact upon the region be received.
2. That the establishment of a working group to consider how best to go about establishing an overnight visitor levy be approved.
3. That the announcement within the Autumn Budget that the two-child benefit cap was to be scrapped, and the impact that this would have in lifting households out of poverty in the region be welcomed.
4. That a report be submitted to the December meeting of the GMCA on the evaluation of the trial of unlimited concessionary pass travel on Bee Network buses.
5. That all GM Local Authorities be requested to actively promote the introduction of simpler rail fares within Greater Manchester being introduced on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December.
6. That the GMCA record its congratulations to Councillor Arooj Shah following her Leader of the Year Award at the 2025 Local Government Information Unit and CCLA Investment Awards.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

That Mayor Andy Burnham declared an interest in Item 7C – Electric Vehicle Charging.

**4. Minutes**

**4a. GMCA Minutes – 26 September 2025**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 26 September 2025 be approved.

**4b. GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee – 8 October 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Waste & Recycling Committee held on 8 October 2025 be noted.

**4c. GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 24 September & 29 October 2025**

That the proceedings of the meetings of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committees held on 24 September & 29 October 2025 be noted.

**4d. Bee Network Committee – 25 September 2025**

That the proceedings of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 25 September 2025 be noted.

**5. Greater Manchester Strategy**

**5a. The Greater Manchester Strategy Delivery Plan (GMS)**

1. That the GMS delivery plan headlines be approved.
2. That the feedback received from stakeholders across the Greater Manchester system, which has been addressed in the final draft, be noted.
3. That the link between the GMS Delivery plan and the other papers being reviewed at today's meeting, be noted.
4. That the comments made by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee at

its meeting on 26 November 2025 be received.

**5b. Greater Manchester Local Growth Plan**

That the GM Local Growth Plan be noted and approved.

**5c. Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund and Integrated Pipeline**

1. That the progress made in developing the Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund and Greater Manchester Integrated Pipeline, since the original launch in May be noted.
2. That the revised approach to investment be approved and that the emerging governance process noted.
3. That the intention, that the revised approach to investment will be supported by the Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund, for which initial capacity, subject to approval of the borrowing outlined at recommendation 4, was in excess of £1bn be noted.
4. That GMCA borrowing up to £150m against future Retained Business Rates, for investment into the integrated pipeline, be approved.
5. That the prioritisation methodologies used to appraise the initial funding allocations recommended, as set out in Appendix 1, be approved.
6. That the indicative allocation of funding to the recommended housing and employment projects, as set out within this report, be approved.
7. That the alignment with the GMCA budgets setting process be noted.
8. That the opportunity to leverage social value through the investment pipeline supply chain be noted,
9. That the changes to the Stockport Interchange loan, as set out in the report, be approved.
10. That the comments made by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received.
11. That the letter received from Government on the Task & Finish process be noted.

**5d. Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF)**

1. That the information on the LIPF, the decisions and processes required for its successful allocation and delivery, and the roles and responsibilities of UKRI, IGM and GMCA, be noted.
2. That the role of the representatives of the GMCA, who are members of IGM, who will participate fully (on behalf of the GMCA) in that Board's discussions and decisions on the elements of the co-design and allocation of the LIPF for which IGM is responsible, be noted.
3. That, subject to IGM taking the decision to pass additional responsibilities in managing the LIPF to the GMCA on its behalf, that authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the GMCA Portfolio Lead and Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Economy, Business and Inclusive Growth, to process the allocation of LIPF, the selection of interventions to be recommended to UKRI to be funded, and, as required, to accept and award grants to successful local projects on behalf of IGM and UKRI.

**5e. Draft Local Transport Plan – Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2050 and Delivery Plan**

1. That the Draft GM Transport Strategy 2050 and the Draft GM Transport Delivery Plan (2027-2037) be endorsed
2. That the commencement of a public consultation exercise on the Draft GM Transport Strategy 2050 and the Draft GM Transport Delivery Plan (2027-2037) be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Group Chief Executive, in consultation with the GM Mayor, to finalise the consultation materials, including the 'Summary' (of the Draft Transport Strategy and Draft Delivery Plan) that will support the consultation.
4. That the proposed consultation period, and the associated engagement plan and the proposed consultation materials be noted.
5. That it be noted that the Draft Transport Strategy and Draft Delivery Plan were supported by an Evidence Base, Policy Documents and an Integrated Appraisal that will also be publicly available as part of the public consultation.
6. That the comments made by the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny

Committee be received.

7. That it be noted that there will be a re-draft of the report to reflect the need to incorporate more detail around ensuring the safety and women and girls on the network, and that this would be shared for comment with relevant members of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee Task & Finish Group.
8. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive in consultation with the GM Mayor, to approve of the re-drafted Local Transport Plan.

**5f. Get Greater Manchester Working Plan**

That the Get GM Working Plan be approved for publication in December 2025 and support the GMCA to continue work with system partners to drive this work forward.

**6. Healthy Homes for All**

**6a. Housing First: Strengthening Housing Standards; Property Check Programme Progress & Enforcement Trainee Programme Expansion**

1. That the use of Retained Business Rates to deliver a new Housing Enforcement Trainee Programme cohort, in line with paragraph 2.7 of the report, be approved.
2. That the update on the previous trainee programme be noted.
3. That the GMCA record its thanks to the Bishop of Manchester for his work to secure an amendment to the Renters' Rights Act to reduce the risk to tenants of asking for a property check and to make it easier for councils to carry them out.
4. That the other actions taken as part of the Property Check Programme since June 2025 be noted.

**6b. Housing First: Tackling Supply of Temporary Accommodation through Empty Homes and Leasing Programme**

1. That the deployment of £911,213 in 2026/27 to engage 17x Empty Homes Officers across Greater Manchester be approved.

2. That the deployment of £10,568,100 in 2026/27 as a comprehensive lease and repair programme to bring 400 properties back into use be approved.
3. That approval be given to the continuation of the Greater Manchester Temporary Accommodation Observatory (£206k), providing GMCA and localities with intelligence on Temporary Accommodation usage and spend.

**6c. Housing First: Greater Manchester NHS & Greater Manchester Housing Providers GM Tripartite Agreement**

1. That the Greater Manchester Tripartite Partnership Agreement be approved.
2. That the proposal for the GMCA to become a signatory alongside NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care and GM Housing Providers be approved.

**7. A Transport System for a Global City Region**

**7a. TfGM Executive Board Appointments**

1. That it be noted that Tracey Matthews will step down as Non-Executive Director of TfGM with effect from 31 January 2026.
2. That the appointment of Tanya Coff, as a Non-Executive Director of TfGM, for an initial three-year term from 1 February 2026 until 31 January 2029, be approved
3. That extension to the appointment of Jo Kaye, as Non-Executive Director of TfGM. for a third, and final, three-year term from 1 February 2026 until 31 January 2029, be approved.
4. That authority be delegated to the Group Chief Executive, GMCA to formalise the terms of these appointments.

**7b. Greater Manchester Taxi Review: Trade Engagement and Licensing Model**

1. That the key findings of the Greater Manchester Taxi review be

noted.

2. That it be noted that the findings of the Greater Manchester Taxi review will be used to inform a Greater Manchester response to a future government consultation on taxi powers.
3. That it be noted that the need remains for an appropriate legislative framework to address out-of-area licensing concerns.
4. That the proposed clause to amend the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill to limit out-of-area working be noted.
5. That the exploration of a potential Greater Manchester taxi licensing model, to ensure that, if legislative reform occurs, the impacts and implications of this approach are thoroughly understood, be endorsed.
6. That Greater Manchester Local Authorities be recommended to continue to actively review policy standards and processes to deliver improvements where possible.
7. That the establishment of a taxi industry working group, led by the Transport Commissioner, to support alignment with the Bee Network and, publish summaries of key discussions to keep the trade informed, be endorsed.
8. That the exploration of a fund to assist private hire vehicle owners in upgrading their vehicles to meet emission standards during the 2026/27 GMCA Budget setting process, be endorsed.
9. That it be noted that the Hackney Fund will go live on 8 December 2025.
10. That an update be received on the further work taking place to seek amendment to the English Devolution & Community Empowerment Bill to end out of area licensing of private hire vehicles.

**7c. Electric Vehicle Charging Pricing**

1. That authority be delegated to Transport for Greater Manchester, the function of making all tariff pricing decisions for the publicly owned electric vehicle infrastructure, (managed and operated by Iduna Infrastructure Ltd as part of the Be.EV network).
2. That Transport for Greater Manchester be requested to submit a report on the outcomes of all tariff pricing decisions as part of the Quarterly Revenue Monitoring reports to the GMCA.

**A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)**

This decision notice was issued 2 December 2025 on behalf of Sarah Horseman, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on 9 December 2025.

### **Call-In Process**

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

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

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

This page is intentionally left blank

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 12TH DECEMBER, 2025**

**PRESENT:**

GM Mayor	Mayor Andy Burnham (in the Chair)
GMCA	Deputy Mayor Kate Green
Bolton	Councillor Nicholas Peel
Bury	Councillor Eamonn O'Brien
Manchester	Councillor Bev Craig
Oldham	Councillor Arooj Shah
Rochdale	Councillor Neil Emmott
Salford	City Mayor Paul Dennett
Stockport	Councillor Mark Roberts
Tameside	Councillor Andrew McLaren
Trafford	Councillor Tom Ross
Wigan	Councillor David Molyneux

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair of GM Overview & Scrutiny	Councillor John Walsh
Chair of Task and Finish Group	Councillor Helen Hibbert
GM Disabled Peoples Panel	Jas Taylor
GM Disabled Peoples Panel	David Neilbig

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Group Chief Executive Officer	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Deputy Monitoring Officer	Sarah Bennett
Group Chief Finance Officer	Steve Wilson
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Tom Stannard
Oldham	Shelley Kipling

Rochdale	Julie Murphy
Salford	Stephen Young
Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Emma Alexander
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Martin Lax
TfGM	Steve Warrener
GMCA	Sylvia Welsh
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

**1. Apologies**

That apologies be received from Councillor Eleanor Wills (Tameside), Gill Duckworth (GMCA) and Sarah Horseman (GMCA).

**2. Chairs Announcements & Urgent Business**

1. That the update on the Task & Finish Group letter received from government be noted.
2. That the GMCA celebrated the impact of the huge contributions made by Ike Alderman and Gary Mountfield “Mani” to the Greater Manchester region following their recent passing and expresses sincere condolences to their family and friends.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**4. Minutes**

**4a. GMCA Minutes – 28 November 2025**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 28 November 2025 be approved.

**4b. GMCA Resources Committee – 28 November 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Resources Committee held on 28 November 2025 be approved.

**4c. GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 26 November 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 26 November 2025 be noted.

**4d. GMCA Audit Committee – 24 November 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Audit Committee held on 24 November 2025 be noted.

**4e. Bee Network Committee – 27 November 2025**

That the proceedings of the Bee Network Committee meeting held on 27 November 2025 be noted.

**5. Appointments and Nominations to Greater Manchester Bodies**

1. That 15 substitute members (11 Labour, 2 Lib Dem, 2 Conservative) be appointed to the GMCA Waste and Re-cycling Committee as follows:

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Substitute Member</b>
Bolton	Nadeem Ayub (Labour)
Bury	TBC
Rochdale	Mohammed Arshad (Labour)
Manchester	TBC
Oldham	Pamela Byrne (Conservative)
Salford	Arnold Saunders (Conservative)
Stockport	Grace Baynham (Lib Dem)
Tameside	Andrew McLaren (Labour)
Trafford	Simon Lepori (Lib Dem)

Labour GM	Peter Davis (Oldham)
Labour GM	Gina Reynolds (Salford)
Labour GM	David Lancaster (Salford)
Labour GM	Deena Ryness (Stockport)
Labour GM	Hugh Roderick (Tameside)
Labour GM	Olly Baskerville (Trafford)

2. That the appointment of Councillor Gary Lloyd (Wigan, Labour) to the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee, replacing Councillor Joanne Marshall (Wigan, Labour) be approved.
3. That the re-appointment of Grenville Page and Susan Webster as Independent Members to the GMCA Audit Committee, for a period of one year be approved.

6.

#### **Update to the Constitution to Allow Electronic Sealing**

That, the amendment to the Constitution as detailed in this report, to enable to the GMCA to affix its Common Seal electronically, be approved.

7.

#### **A Transport System for a Global City Region**

7a.

#### **On the Right Track for Growth: The Greater Manchester Rail Vision to 2050**

1. That the 'On the Right Track for Growth - Greater Manchester Rail Vision', which has been developed in partnership with GM Local Authorities, the Greater Manchester business community (CBI, BTAC & Chamber of Commerce) and rail industry partners; and the subsequent next steps to develop a joint investment and delivery plan be noted and endorsed.
2. That the update on the Railways Bill legislation be noted.
3. That the ongoing work to deliver Bee Network Rail Integration by 2030 including development work underway with Northern Trains Ltd to assess and scope the case for Greater Manchester part-funding additional rail services in Greater Manchester as part of a Bee Network Rail Integration pilot for the 24-month trial period between December

2027 and December 2029 (i.e. from 2027/28 onwards) be noted.

4. That a future update, to include details of the service enhancements and a proposed funding mechanism, including any implications on the GMCA Transport Revenue Budget be submitted to the GMCA.

**7b.**

### **Free All Day Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People**

1. That the findings of the trials be noted.
2. That it be noted that any decision to remove the 9.30am travel restriction would be subject to finalisation and approval of the GMCA Transport Revenue and Mayoral Budgets; the legal process required to amend the Greater Manchester Local Concessionary Scheme; and approval by the Mayor.
3. That the comments made by Jas Taylor on behalf of the GM Disabled Persons Panel be received.
4. That the results of the all day bus travel trial will be sent on to the Secretary of State for Transport.

**8.**

### **Safe and Strong Communities**

**8a.**

#### **In Her Shoes: Review of Safety for Women & Girls On Public Transport**

1. That the final review be endorsed.
2. That the update on the review made by the Chair, Councillor Helen Hibbert, be received.
3. That the presentation highlighting the early impact of TravelSafe Live Chat be received.
4. That a detailed response to the Task & Finish Group recommendations be submitted to the GMCA.

**9.**

### **Everyday Support in Every Neighbourhood**

#### **A New Model of Public Service Delivery: Live Well, Prevention**

**9a.**

#### **Demonstrator & Economic Inactivity Trailblazer Deep Dive**

1. That support be given to taking Live Well to the next level throughout

2026 by making it a visible, practical offer for residents. This would include embedding Live Well in each locality and harnessing the power of local partnerships to deliver integrated, accessible support.

2. That it be noted that this next step is vital to strengthen and accelerate prevention in practice, ensuring Live Well continues to be a driving force for better outcomes for residents across Greater Manchester.
3. That the comments highlighted on behalf of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received.

**10. Green City Region**

**10a. Commissioning Biodiversity Net Gain in Greater Manchester**

1. That the background to the Responsible Body Service be noted.
2. That the commissioning of the Responsible Body Service be approved.
3. That authority be delegated to the Managing Director of GMCA, in consultation with the Group Chief Finance Officer and Group Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to enter into agreements with the Local Authorities as described in Clause 5.2.

**11. Resources & Investment**

**11a. Revenue Budget Update – Quarter 2**

That the forecast position at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 be noted.

**11b. Capital Budget Update – Quarter 2**

That the current 2025/26 forecast of £620.4m compared to the previous forecast of £652.9m be noted.

**11c. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2025/26**

That the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-Year Review Report 2025/26 be approved.

**11d. Greater Manchester Investment Framework Requests**

1. That an equity investment of up to £500,000 to C3 Biotechnologies Limited be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the GMCA Chief Finance Officer, in consultation with the GMCA Solicitor and Monitoring Officer, to review the due diligence information in respect of the above investments, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the investments, to sign off any outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of the investments noted above.

## **12. Exclusion of Press & Public**

That, under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items on business on the grounds that this involved the likely disclosure of exempt information, as set out in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

### **12a. Greater Manchester Investment Framework Requests**

That the contents of the report be noted.

**A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)**

This decision notice was issued 15 December 2025 on behalf of Sarah Horseman, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on 22 December 2025.

### **Call-In Process**

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

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

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

**NOTICE OF DECISIONS AGREED AT THE GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED  
AUTHORITY  
HELD ON FRIDAY, 30TH JANUARY, 2026**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chair of GM Overview & Scrutiny	Councillor John Walsh
---------------------------------	-----------------------

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Group Chief Executive Officer	Caroline Simpson
Group Deputy Chief Executive	Andrew Lightfoot
Group Monitoring Officer	Gill Duckworth
Group Chief Finance Officer	Steve Wilson
Group Secretary	Sarah Horsman
Bolton	Sue Johnson
Bury	Lynne Ridsdale
Manchester	Tom Stannard
Oldham	Shelley Kipling
Rochdale	Julie Murphy
Salford	Stephen Young

Stockport	Michael Cullen
Tameside	Emma Alexander
Trafford	Sara Todd
Wigan	Alison McKenzie-Folan
Office of the GM Mayor	Kevin Lee
TfGM	Martin Lax
TfGM	Danny Vaughan
GMFRS	DCFO Carlos Meakin
GMCA	Nicola Ward
GMCA	Lee Teasdale

## **1. Apologies**

That apologies be received from Councillor Eamonn O'Brien (Bury), Councillor David Molyneux (Wigan) Alison McKenzie-Folan (Wigan) & Steve Warrener (TfGM).

## **2. Chairs Announcements & Urgent Business**

1. That GMCA representatives awarded in the King's New Years Honours be congratulated, including Cllr Bev Craig (OBE) and Transport Commissioner Vernon Everitt (CBE).
2. That the update on the Northern Powerhouse Rail bill and the associated growth opportunities be received.
3. That the update on the £4.45m fund to support Greater Manchester registered private hire vehicle operators in bringing their vehicles to compliance be received, and it be noted that the fund will be subject to approval within the budget process.

## **3. Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

## **4. Minutes**

**4a. GMCA Minutes – 12 December 2025**

That the minutes of the GMCA meeting held on 12 December 2025 be approved.

**4b. Bee Network Committee – 11 December 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the Bee Network Committee held on 11 December 2025 be noted.

**4c. GCMA Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 10 December 2025**

That the proceedings of the meeting of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 10 December 2025 be noted.

**5. Resources**

**5a. Mayoral General Budget and Precept Proposals – 2026/27 (Key Decision)**

1. That consideration be given to Mayor's proposal to increase the Mayoral General Precept by £25 to £153.95 (for a Band D property), comprising of:
  - i) Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services - precept of £92.20 (**£6 increase**);
  - ii) Other Mayoral General functions - precept of £61.75 (**£19 increase**).
2. That the following be noted:
  - i) the overall budget proposed for the Fire and Rescue Service,
  - ii) the use of the reserves to support the revenue and capital budgets, and the assessment by the Treasurer that the reserves as at March 2026 are adequate,
  - iii) the proposed Fire Service capital programme and proposals for funding,
  - iv) the medium-term financial position for the Fire and Rescue Service covered by the Mayoral precept
3. That the detailed budget proposals for other Mayoral general functions be noted.

4. That the use of reserves as set out in Paragraph 3.3 of the report be noted.
5. That consideration be given to the submission of any written comments to the Mayor in line with the legal process and timetable described in this report.
6. That it be noted that at its meeting at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 there will be an updated budget submitted, consistent with the precept proposals, to reflect final tax base and collection fund calculations and the final baseline funding settlement.
7. That the comments raised through the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.
8. That the Mayor would ask the Group Chief Executive and Group Treasurer to liaise with GM Local Authorities on the best use of earmarked reserves following the Fair Funding Review.

**6. Healthy Homes for All**

**6a. Creation of Oldham Mayoral Development Corporation: In Principle Decision**

1. That agreement be given in principle to the creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for Oldham
2. That it be agreed that GMCA officers can explore with Oldham Council detailed options for a Mayoral Development Corporation to be created for Oldham, with these matters to be decided upon by GMCA and the Council in due course.

**6b. Creation of Bolton Town Centre Mayoral Development Corporation: In Principle Decision**

1. That agreement be given in principle to the creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for Bolton Town Centre.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA officers can explore with Bolton Council detailed options for a Mayoral Development Corporation to be created for Bolton Town Centre, with these matters to be decided upon by GMCA and the Council in due course.
3. That the Group Monitoring Officer will establish the best approach for the future scrutiny of Mayoral Development Corporations.

**6c. Creation of Ashton & Stalybridge Mayoral Development Corporation: In Principle Decision**

1. That agreement be given in principle to the creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation for Ashton and Stalybridge.
2. That it be agreed that GMCA officers can explore with Tameside Council detailed options to set up a Mayoral Development Corporation for Ashton and Stalybridge, with these matters to be decided upon by GMCA and the Council in due course.

**6d. Greater Manchester Housing Investment – Grant Variations (Key Decision)**

1. That the increased grants and/or change to grant recipient for the schemes previously approved by GMCA for funding set out in the table below be approved:

SCHEME	GRANT RECIPIENT	DISTRICT	GRANT
Grant increases			
Adelphi - Farmer Norton Phase 1	English Cities Fund	Salford	£2.370 m
Adelphi - Willohaus 2	Legal & General Affordable Homes	Salford	£4.420 m
Adelphi - Plot A1 New Bailey	English Cities Fund / a Registered Provider	Salford	£5.670 m
Change in Grant Recipient			
Prince's Gate Phase 1	Legal & General Affordable Homes	Oldham	£9.930 m

2. That authority be delegated to the Combined Authority Group Chief Finance Officer and GMCA Monitoring Officer to review the due diligence information in respect of the above investments, and, subject to their satisfactory review and agreement of the due diligence information and the overall detailed commercial terms of the investments, to sign off any

outstanding conditions, issue final approvals and complete any necessary related documentation in respect of these.

**7. Digitally Connected Places and People**

**7a. Greater Manchester Digital Blueprint**

1. That the progress made against the GM Digital Blueprint 2023-26 ambitions be noted.
2. That the changes in local and national context that have implications for the Blueprint refresh be noted.
3. That support be given to the proposal for the Blueprint refresh and its scope and approach.
4. That support be given to the Digital Portfolio Lead Chief Executive acting as Senior Responsible Owner, and the Digital Portfolio Leader, acting as Sponsor.
5. That support be given to the refresh process to ensure the Digital Blueprint remains reflective of locality, partner and portfolio priorities.

**8. Green City Region**

**8a. Greater Manchester Interim Recycling and Waste Plan**

1. That the contents of the report be noted.
2. That the Greater Manchester Interim Recycling and Waste Plan 2026 – 2030 be approved.
3. That the comments of the GMCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee be received and noted.

A link to the full agenda and papers can be found here: [Greater Manchester Combined Authority](#)

This decision notice was issued 02 February 2026 on behalf of Sarah Horseman, Secretary to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6EU. The deadline for call in of the attached decisions is 4.00pm on 09 February 2026.

### **Call-In Process**

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

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

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

This page is intentionally left blank

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

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

### Key Achievements for 2025/26

#### Major Investment in Communities

- Launched the £4.9m Communities Regeneration Partnership Fund to improve community spaces and strengthen local VCFSE organisations.

#### Community Safety

- Operation Vulcan delivered major enforcement successes, boosting community confidence and tackling entrenched criminal activity.
- Successful Hate Crime awareness campaign and training programme.

#### Public Protection

- Continued delivery of the annual Food Service Plan, with 72% of food businesses rated 5 ('very good') and 16% rated 4 ('good')

#### Housing

- Temporary accommodation reduced to 508 households, the lowest level since December 2023, reduced cost of TA spend by £2m, reduced B&B accommodation requirement to only 9 families (from 200+ at its peak), housing register reduced to 5,000 households (from over 8,000).
- Implemented Awaab's Law to ensure rapid responses to damp and mould complaints.

#### Environmental Improvements & Clean-Ups

- Relunched Don't Trash Oldham, clearing nine tons of waste in early phases.
- Delivered two new sweepers and cleared 1,000+ tons of leaves boroughwide.
- Responded to Storm Claudia, which caused over 1,000 fallen trees, with major emergency works.

#### Planning

- Oldham's planning committee approved applications for c1,700 new homes.
- Successfully implemented the Article 4 Direction on the conversion of houses to smaller HMOs
- Started consultation on Oldham's Local Plan and a new SPD for Beal Valley / Broadbent Moss strategic site
- Introduced a new validation checklist and QR-coded neighbour letters to improve application transparency and access.

#### VCFSE Sector

- Established a new VCFSE–Public Sector Partnership Forum and supported 1,139 new volunteers, 652 groups and 62 new community groups formed

**Housing:** The numbers in temporary accommodation are continuing to reduce, we are delivering financial savings and we continue to assist families who need housing support. Numbers of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation is down to an all time low at 508 with 10 families and 2 singles placed in hotel accommodation inside the Borough.

The new Allocation's Policy is being considered by Cabinet, bringing a new focus on rightsizing so we can make better use of the social housing stock in the borough and help to address supply and demand issues for larger family accommodation. The new Policy will introduce an annual lettings plan which will ensure a certain percentage of properties are allocated to each reasonable

---

preference group rather than just highest band first. This will ensure we support a wider group of residents across bandings to help with the prevention agenda.

Following on from the motion previously discussed at Full Council, relating to free school travel for children in Temporary Accommodation, I'm pleased to announce the GMCA have announced that they will fund this provision.

**Planning:** We have successfully implemented the Article 4 Direction on the conversion of houses to smaller HMOs and started two public consultations - one on the Publication version of the Local Plan and one on the Beal Valley & Broadbent Moss Masterplan SPD. Planning committee have also granted planning permission to several large residential developments and a new hotel to provide 180 new rooms / suites within the historic Ram Mill in Chadderton.

The residential developments granted permission include 72 affordable homes on a PfE allocation at Rosary Road in Fitton Hill and 149 new homes (60 of which are to be affordable) on a former school site in South Chadderton. Between those two developments alone, we'll see 85 new homes created for those in most need of affordable housing for social rent.

We continue to support our Housing Association partners in the submission of plans for affordable housing, including homes for social rent, across the borough - this has seen several new proposals for 100% affordable home developments on PfE allocations. This will help us exceed the 5-year target to deliver 500 new social rent homes in the borough from 2024 to 2029.

**Community Safety and Cohesion:** Operation Vulcan partnership in Derker has helped tackle anti-social behaviour and crime through intelligence led problem-solving: one important example is at the bowling green at Stoneleigh Park, which was a repeated target of criminal damage (and has previously cost the Council significant funds to repeatedly repair) has now been secured with full access controls in place for lawful users. Work is now ongoing to review the CCTV offer within the park and how this can potentially be improved too.

Work undertaken by the District Youth Team to divert children and young people away from anti-social behaviour and violence across the borough has been showcased in the GM Deputy Mayor's Police and Crime Plan Annual Report. The Council has submitted its annual Prevent benchmark assessment to the Home Office for the work undertaken to safeguard individuals against radicalisation. Oldham's Prevent safeguarding referral pathways have already been recognised as exceeding the expected standards following a market testing exercise.

**Districts:** The Community Regeneration Capital Grants Fund has now been delivered, providing a significant boost to Oldham's voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector. The programme was designed to strengthen the borough's network of physical community spaces - the places where residents come together to meet, connect, learn, and participate in community life. This aligns with wider Oldham priorities to create healthier, happier communities and to make Oldham a great place to live.

A total investment of £4,900,000 has been awarded to a diverse range of organisations across all five districts of Oldham, ensuring equitable distribution of resources and supporting locally rooted initiatives. This funding is enabling community organisations to improve and develop their spaces, expand services, and deliver the support, activities, and positive interventions that residents rely on. Through this investment, Oldham is strengthening the capacity of its VCFSE sector, supporting neighbourhood resilience, and enhancing the quality and accessibility of community spaces across the borough.

**Waste & Cleansing:** Our waste management teams receive regular complaints about contaminated bins. As part of our proactive approach, teams have focused on identifying contaminated waste bins across the borough through a targeted intervention. As a result, an additional 705 abandoned or contaminated bins have been removed from the borough – this brings the total to 869 between October and December 2025. We continue to invest in Council Services, and as part of this process, we are bringing Services back in-house: this includes Bulky Bobs, where we are developing a revised, cheaper pricing model, making it more accessible to the residents of the borough.

Keeping our neighbourhoods clean is a top priority, and we're continuing to crack down on fly-tipping across the borough. Whenever we have enough evidence, we take strong enforcement action against those responsible. A key part of this work is the new Rapid Action Team, which will respond

---

quickly to identify and remove flytipping before it causes further problems in our communities and work alongside Don't Trash Oldham to help the Council focus on areas that need extra attention, while working closely with residents and community groups to create a cleaner, safer and more sustainable place to live for the long term.

**Parks, Countryside and Green Infrastructure:** Core maintenance continues across parks, highways, cemeteries and public open spaces. Seasonal hedge/shrub management, flower bed maintenance, and winter bedding installations remain on schedule. Leaf clearance operations continue across priority routes and high-footfall areas. Operational focus remains on safety, presentation and environmental resilience across parks, countryside sites and green corridors. Biodiversity actions continue with habitat management, selective reduced mowing, pollinator-friendly planting and woodland care and tree planting, which supports our climate adaptation goals. Ongoing infrastructure improvements, such as, paths, furniture and signage, are also important element to make the spaces welcoming for visitors.

**Play Areas – Safety Compliance & Maintenance:** Borough-wide play area inspections continue in line with statutory and risk-based frequency. Identified defects are addressed through the programmed maintenance schedule to ensure equipment remains safe, compliant and accessible. Surface repairs, structural checks and replacement of high-risk components are a priority to maintain public safety and reduce liability exposure. To maintain our excellent play areas, this administration is investing an additional £150K to upgrade play equipment and play surfaces across the borough. This work will be completed in the coming months.

**Development, Investment & Community Growing Hubs:** Externally funded improvement works and capital-backed environmental investment continues across the borough. Community Growing Hubs continue to be developed and supported, providing local food growing opportunities, community activation and neighbourhood resilience benefits. The hubs create an excellent environment for learning, well-being- and social interaction.

**Crematorium and Cemeteries:** Invites to tender for 3 cremator replacements have now taken place. Once the supplier has been selected, the work to alter the existing crematorium building and accommodate the new cremators will be undertaken.

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

This page is intentionally left blank



## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Abdul Jabbar MBE, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services & Sustainability

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

### Key Achievements for 2025/26

#### Strong Financial Management

- 2024/25 Statement of Accounts published on time, placing Oldham among only four GM authorities to meet the statutory deadline.
- Major reduction of a £26m projected pressure to under £5m, achieved through strict spending and recruitment controls and revised MRP policy.

#### Improved Revenue Performance

- Council Tax and Business Rates collection improved, with arrears reduced by £1.16m and overall collection performance up on last year.
- Welfare Rights generated £830k for residents in Q1, including £260k in backdated awards.

#### Strengthened Workforce & Organisational Development

- Significant improvement in staff engagement, with *Let's Talk* conversation completion rising from 24% to 76%.
- Expansion of early-career pathways, including new graduates, T-Level placements and work-experience programmes.

#### Digital Transformation Progress

- Laptop refresh, Wi-Fi upgrades, and Cloud migration underway, including closure of the Civic Data Centre.
- Inclusive Bytes digital inclusion work expanded, supporting residents with skills, device repair and access.

#### Climate Change & Green New Deal Delivery

- Wrigley Head Solar Farm construction beginning, following contractor appointment and site preparation.
- Green New Deal Partnership development advanced, with strong market engagement from ~100 organisations.
- Progress on Low Carbon Heat Network 'Early Works', utilising the Green Heat Network Fund.

**Finance:** Our 2024/25 Statement of Accounts was signed off by the External Auditors on 16 February 2026 with a clean (unqualified) opinion. This was completed ahead of the legal deadline of 27 February and is a major achievement, especially as many councils nationally haven't managed this. Across Greater Manchester, only four councils met the deadline: Oldham, Stockport, Bolton and Rochdale.

As reported before, our financial position remains very challenging. Demand for essential services—particularly Adult Social Care and Children's Services—continues to rise. The Month 10 position reported to Cabinet shows a projected overspend of £4.946m by year-end. Although this is still a significant pressure, it is a major improvement on the £23.2m overspend projected during the summer. Work will continue to reduce the overspend further before year end.

**Revenues and Benefits:** Council Tax and Business Rates collection remains in line with last year at the end of Quarter 3. We have also made progress on recovering arrears: £3.8m for Council Tax and £425k for Business Rates.

The Accounts Receivable/Payable team is performing strongly, with 75.64% of the £79m billed so far collected and more than 94% of invoices paid within 30 days.

---

The Benefits team continues to manage high volumes of Universal Credit updates from the DWP. This has slowed processing times for new Council Tax Reduction claims to 43.49 days, though new Housing Benefit claims are now quicker at 22.01 days. Processing times for changes in circumstances remain strong at around 6 days.

We continue to work closely with Adult Social Care on improvements in the Financial Assessment team. The backlog has reduced significantly, and we are working to complete the annual uprating process faster to prevent backlogs building up again.

**Financial & Digital Inclusion:** We welcome the Government's confirmation of £5.747m per year for three years from April 2026 through the new Crisis and Resilience Fund. This replaces the Household Support Fund and Discretionary Housing Payments and provides over £1m more than previous funding.

As part of this, residents facing sudden financial hardship will be able to apply to our £1m Crisis Payment Scheme.

Our Pension Credit campaign has already helped 22 residents start receiving this important benefit, with more expected as new data comes in. The Welfare Rights Service has helped residents secure an extra £2.3m in support by the end of Quarter 3.

We have secured 100 free mobile phones from the GMCA Tech Fund (via Virgin Media O2) and will distribute them to residents who need them most.

**IT and Digital:** We are finalising papers for Cabinet in March on the new 3-year IT Capital Programme, which includes major improvements to cyber security and supports future digital transformation.

The rollout of new staff laptops is gathering pace. Attention is now turning to upgrading public computers in libraries, the Customer Service Centre, town halls and lifelong learning centres.

Cloud migration work continues, and the decommissioning of the Civic Data Centre is progressing well. Wi-Fi improvements are also ongoing, and site surveys have begun for infrastructure and telephony upgrades at six family hubs.

We are assessing upgrades to meeting room technology across council buildings. We are also progressing proposals to use Microsoft Dynamics "accelerators" to improve processes for member casework, complaints, FOIs, SARs and data breaches.

The IT development fund is supporting two pilot projects using MagicNotes for transcription in Adults' and Children's Services.

**HR and OD:** Phase 2 of the HR & OD ReBuild Plan continues, and a new senior structure has been agreed, strengthening technical expertise and strategic workforce support.

Statutory workforce reporting is underway. The Pay Policy Statement goes to Cabinet on 4 March, and the Gender Pay Gap report is being finalised.

The service continues to support staff wellbeing and engagement. Three free flu vaccination clinics were delivered this winter, vaccinating over 100 staff. Planning for the twice-yearly Staff Get Togethers continues.

We're also proud of our work to support under-represented groups. The Young Person Peer Support Network held a successful career panel, and three colleagues graduated from the GM Elevate Programme. We continue to expand our early careers offer and delivered a strong programme for National Apprenticeship Week in February. The team also represented the Council at the Blue Coat School Careers Fair.

**Governance, Risk and Performance:** The Constitution Working Group continues to review updates to Council and Committee procedures. A task and finish group is reviewing the effectiveness of Overview and Scrutiny, and all Members have been invited to complete a survey to support this.

Democratic Services has supported 66 meetings since the last report. Overview and Scrutiny has [reviewed the Council's performance from July to September using the corporate performance report and dashboards.](#)

---

**Internal Audit & Counter Fraud:** Up to Quarter 3, 25 audit opinion reports and one grant assurance statement have been issued. Regular progress updates have been shared with Audit Committee and the Chief Executive's Strategy Group, contributing to the overall Limited assurance opinion for 2024/25.

The Counter Fraud team has identified £183,096 of overpayments and fraud to date.

**Procurement:** A new Interim Head of Procurement joined in late January. Work is underway on preparing the Council's first pipeline notice, which must be published by May 2026 under the new Procurement Act 2023.

Improvements include faster updates to the Contracts Register on The Chest and a new single internal procurement pipeline to improve oversight and planning.

**Climate Change & Green New Deal:** A full update report on programme activities is submitted to Council for noting.

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

This page is intentionally left blank



## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements for 2025/26

#### Major Workforce Stabilisation

- Agency social worker rate cut from 29.4% to 13.9%, and turnover reduced significantly — improving consistency and quality of support.

#### Strong Safeguarding Performance & Positive Ofsted Visit

- Successful Ofsted Focused Visit confirming timely, high-quality safeguarding practice and effective MASH operations.
- Complex Safeguarding Hub led major operations (including Operation Sherwood) with extensive multi-agency work and VR-based exploitation education.

#### Improved Outcomes for Children in Care & Care Leavers

- Strong internal fostering and kinship provision; expansion of Mockingbird hubs.
- 53–54% of care leavers aged 18–21 now in education, employment or training — a consistently improving trend.
- National recognition including 2nd place at Coram Voice awards.

#### Strengthened Early Help & Family Hubs

- Stable early help caseloads (850–1,100) with faster assessments and reduced re-referral rates.
- Family Hubs and Domestic Abuse services expanded reach and increased timely support.

#### High-Performing Early Years Sector

- 96–100% of Early Years settings rated Good or Outstanding, including all childminders.
- Best Start in Life strategy developed and rollout of national Free Breakfast Clubs expanded to 12 schools.

#### Expanded Youth Engagement & Holiday Activity Programme

- Extensive targeted and open-access youth work, plus successful programmes like Beyond the Armour and Listen to the Earth.
- HAF delivered thousands of places including 3,166 children supported during Winter HAF and with over 20,000+ meals served over Summer.
- Outdoor education service achieved Outstanding and expanded capacity with new minibuses.

### 1. Children's Social Work

Children's Social Care and Early Help are providing support to 3,729 Children and Young People through a range of plans including, 951 early help, 1,498 children in need, 391 child protection, 625 children looked after and 479 care leavers (As at 02/02/2026).

Demand into our Duty and Advice service has increased, with an average of 410 contacts per week and a 20% referral conversion rate, reflecting increased complexity but continued strong partnership triage and signposting.

---

The Complex Safeguarding Hub is supporting 67 children, with 45% at risk of or experiencing child sexual exploitation and 55% at risk of or experiencing child criminal exploitation. Police colleagues are managing 118 live crimes and 14 active operations, including those involving non-recent child sexual exploitation and online harm. The team continues to lead innovative practice, including the use of Virtual Reality (VR)-based education programmes in schools to support learning on risks such as knife crime and exploitation.

## **2. Workforce Stability**

Stabilising our workforce remains a central priority, and I'm pleased to report progress is strong. At the end of Quarter 3, the rate of agency social workers had reduced to 13.9%, a significant improvement from the same period last year (29.4%), with conversion of agency workers into permanent posts continuing positively. Our turnover rate has also reduced to 13.5% from 19.7% in the same period last year, contributing to greater consistency of relationships for children and families. Average caseloads stand at 17.1, enabling practitioners to deliver quality and depth of direct work with children and families.

## **3. Supporting Children in Care and Strengthening Corporate Parenting**

The number of children in care has risen to 625, prompting a systemwide reflective review to ensure the right services are in place at the right time for families.

The fostering recruitment initiative, "Stepping Forward Fostering", has attracted significant local and regional media attention, including from Capital Radio and Granada. This is contributing to increased enquiries and supports our strategy to grow internal fostering capacity.

Internal fostering remains well utilised, with 333 children placed in internal fostering and 142 children in kinship arrangements, reflecting progress in family-based care and a growing emphasis on supporting extended family networks.

A new initiative that I'm proud of is providing bespoke 'welcome into our care' packages for every child who becomes looked after. These packages recognise the emotional impact of entering care and help ensure children feel valued, safe, and welcomed. They also support carers with the practical items needed during the first few days of placement and are aligned with our trauma-informed approach.

## **4. Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership**

The Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership (OSCP) continues to drive high-quality multi-agency learning and improvement.

Eight serious incident notifications have been received since April 2025, with Rapid Reviews leading to timely learning and practice changes. The Partnership is also contributing to the development of the Greater Manchester Child Sexual Abuse Strategy, focusing on improving joint investigation and reducing reliance on children needing to disclose abuse.

The Partnership continues to strengthen safeguarding culture across education settings, with training described by schools as accessible, practical, and impactful.

## **5. Family Help**

Targeted Early Help continues to work with just under 1,100 children, although demand remains high, improvements have been made in completing timely assessments, and integrated district-based models are showing early positive feedback.

Our Family Hubs continue to engage families through Winter Warmer events, digital resources, and community outreach, with 247 families benefiting from recent events.

## **6. Early Years**

---

A new Ofsted inspection framework is in place but under the previous criteria, 100% of childminders and 95% of PVI settings were rated Good or Outstanding. To date, three settings

---

have been inspected under the new framework with all either meeting or exceeding expected standards. Take up of early years places in Oldham continues to be strong.

Our Best Start in Life strategy, presented at Cabinet last month, stresses our commitment to ensuring that every child has the strongest possible start in life. Through our Best Start Family Hubs and many support programmes, we will ensure that our children receive the right support at the right time.

The national Free Breakfast Clubs Programme will move into Phase Two in April 2026. I am pleased to advise that, as part of this expansion, five additional Oldham schools have been selected to join, bringing the total number of participating schools in Oldham to 12.

## **7. Youth Service**

The Youth Service continues to deliver a wide range of open-access, targeted, and detached youth work. Young people participating in the immersive Listen to the Earth – Holocaust Education Project have returned as youth leaders, contributing powerfully to Holocaust Memorial Day and community dialogue.

The service achieved an Outstanding outcome in its recent Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) inspection and has expanded its transport capacity with two new minibuses, including a fully accessible vehicle.

Winter HAF provision supported 3,166 children, with 6,758 attendances across winter sessions. Planning is underway for Easter delivery.

## **8. Summary**

Across Children and Young People Services, notable achievements continue to be made despite sustained high demand.

The dedication of our workforce, carers, partners, and community organisations continues to ensure Oldham's children and young people are safe, supported, and able to thrive.

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

This page is intentionally left blank



## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements at a Glance – 2025/26

#### Adult Social Care

- Maintained safe, statutory Adult Social Care services during a year of sustained demand, workforce pressure and national system stress.
- Strengthened performance oversight and assurance through clearer, more transparent reporting to Members.
- Led extensive preparation for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment, embedding a stronger culture of improvement and accountability.
- Stabilised services while progressing necessary transformation and financial sustainability work.

#### Public Health

- Delivered nationally recognised public health impact, including successful micro-elimination of Hepatitis C through local drug and alcohol services.
- Continued strong focus on prevention, early intervention and reducing health inequalities across the life course.
- Strengthened use of data, insight and evidence to target investment and maximise impact for residents.

#### Integrated Care Partnership with the NHS

- Further matured Oldham's Integrated Care Partnership, moving from shared ambition into clearer delivery and governance.
- Strengthened neighbourhood-based and integrated working with NHS partners.
- Provided consistent place-based leadership during a period of significant NHS reform and pressure.

#### Adult Social Care

The difficulty of providing a demand led service for Adult Social Care at a time of increased demand financial constraints and workforce pressures is a national crisis which has necessitated a national review by Louise Casey.

Oldham is obviously not immune from these pressures which is why it is fantastic that we can celebrate the fact that we are doing so well despite them. The main focus has been on managing demand by supporting our residents to help themselves to remain independent safe and well in their own homes and communities. This approach has been wholeheartedly adopted by the staff and is already bearing fruit in that we have not seen any big increase in the overall numbers of people going into care.

What is most important is that this approach has been fully endorsed by the inspection that has just been completed by the Care Quality Commission. The inspection involved a great deal of work lasting almost six months including the preparation of a huge suite of documents including most importantly a self-assessment of the service itself which presented a good opportunity to identify opportunities to improve practice.

---

The assessment looked at how the council supports adults who need care and support, including older people, adults with disabilities, people with mental health needs, and carers and considered four key themes – working with people; providing support; ensuring safety, leadership and learning.

The service was rated Good which is a real achievement and even better the overall assessment score, of 67, places Oldham in the top third of service provision based on the published assessment reports of over 100 local authorities in England.

The CQC praised Oldham for its strong leadership, positive culture, and person-centred approach, with most people telling assessors they had a good experience of local services. Assessors also highlighted the empathy, professionalism, and clear communication shown by ASC staff. Residents described the support they receive as “outstanding” and spoke highly of the advice they were given, including on safeguarding and financial matters.

Partnership working was also identified as a key strength, with Oldham commended for working closely with health services, care providers and community organisations to deliver joined up, coordinated support.

The CQC also praised Oldham’s safeguarding arrangements, noting strong leadership oversight, effective systems, and a well-coordinated multi-agency approach to keeping people safe.

In response to the report, ASC is working on plans that focus on both addressing areas of continuous improvement and building on the good work highlighted throughout the report.

The rating of Good is an excellent result for Oldham and a real credit to our staff and partners. ASC supports some of the most vulnerable people in our borough, helping older residents, people with disabilities and those with complex needs to live with independence, dignity and choice. It has raised our profile locally and nationally and will make a positive contribution to the recruitment and retention of staff.

This has only been possible however due to the staff that we already have. From management to the front line, they have embraced the new ways of working focussing on prevention and early intervention and through the inspection process demonstrated their commitment and enthusiasm and I am delighted to put on record my thanks for all that they have done and will continue to do.

## **Public Health**

This service also focusses on early intervention and prevention and this is showing results although, as they often involve lifestyle changes, they do not happen overnight.

The weight management service in Oldham (Your Health Oldham) has faced significant challenges due to high demand, which resulted in long waiting times for Oldham residents. Your Health Oldham have been successful in reducing the waiting list by 50% over the last 6 months by implementing innovative new approaches. Among these approaches is a group ‘My Story’ initial assessment. As well as encouraging faster movement through the service from the point of referral, feedback shows that this approach has delivered a positive experience for service users.

January 2026 saw the launch of a new strategic approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Oldham residents ‘Creating Healthy Lives in Oldham’. This approach is informed by evidence that tells us that our physical and mental wellbeing is shaped by the environment in which we live, our access to nutritious food, and opportunities to move more. The Move More Alliance, Food Environments Alliance, and Heathy Weight Alliance, will drive this strategic approach by bringing together partners from across the system. The alliances will take a community-led and compassionate approach to improving health and wellbeing and tackling inequalities faced by Oldham residents.

Data and intelligence shared by OHID has demonstrated the disproportionate impact of tobacco for people who experience other addictions, such as with drugs or alcohol. National and regional evidence suggests that a more tailored approach to smoking cessation is needed for this group. Oldham public health team have responded to this intelligence by bringing Your Health Oldham smoking cessation service together with our adult substance misuse service, Turning Point. Tailored smoking cessation support, with the benefit of peer mentors, is now accessible from within Turning Point services.

---

There has been significant achievement in dealing with hepatitis C through the Oldham Drug and Alcohol Service which shows the effectiveness of targeted intervention for those at most risk.

**NHS Greater Manchester:**

Strengthening integration with the NHS through the Oldham Integrated Care Partnership is a key priority. Over the year the partnership had developed with clear governance and a shared understanding of common priorities with constructive discussions taking place at the regular meetings which are well attended by a wide range of partners.

Progress has also been made on neighbourhood based models of care supporting a change to services that are organised around people communities and prevention rather than administrative boundaries. The council has acted as a leader in this working with the NHS and the voluntary and community sector with the emphasis on practical collaboration in the context of our resident first focus.

The strength of local relationships has enabled more effective joint working and shared problem solving against a backdrop of national reform and financial constraints.

**NHS 5 Year Commissioning Strategy** NHS GM has now completed its medium-term plan, which was compliant to national standards and been submitted to NHS England. Overall, it is stretching but focussed on what was within the gift of the ICB, whilst also aligning with wider the GM Strategy. Our Oldham team will be working on ensuring that it is implemented accordingly across Oldham where necessary.

**Anti-Racism Campaign** NHS Greater Manchester is coming together to work on an Anti- Racism campaign which aims to tackle the worrying rise in racist and discriminatory behaviour being experienced by health and care staff across all settings in GM including within Oldham. The campaign, which is being spear-headed by the Greater Manchester Mayor aims to increase public awareness of what racist and discriminatory behaviours look like and the harm they cause and crucially reduce incidents by setting clearer public expectations of behaviour with a 'calling in' approach. The campaign will launch on 27th March with a 2-minute hard-hitting film shown through the eyes of day in the life of a health professional who experiences various forms racism as she goes throughout her day.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements for 2025/26

#### Major Improvements in SEND Services

- Ofsted/CQC confirmed Oldham has taken effective action to improve SEND services.
- Confidence in SEND support rose by 13%, with over 80% of families reporting real progress.
- Significant SEND capital investment delivering 250+ new specialist places.

#### Strong Attendance & Inclusion Outcomes

- Permanent exclusions down 23%, suspensions down 28%, and children missing education reduced sharply.
- Year 7 attendance reached 98.2%, with primary and secondary outperforming statistical neighbours.
- DfE selected Oldham to lead the North West attendance improvement programme.

#### Rising Educational Standards

- KS2 results up 2.2 percentage points, outperforming national improvement.
- Improved GCSE and A-level performance.
- Multiple positive Ofsted inspections, including Newbridge retaining Outstanding.

#### Expanding Skills, Post-16 & Employment Opportunities

- Employment & Skills Strategy launched, shaping Oldham's future workforce.
- £437k secured for 180 new college places, with a further £1.26m bid in progress.
- NEET performance improved (NEET at 3.95%, participation at 95.1%).

#### Innovation & Enrichment

- First GM borough to invest in the MegaHub digital futures programme.
- Oldham Music Service delivered extensive cultural activity, reaching 5,000 pupils and winning top national band contest results.

### Government White Paper: Every Child Achieving and Thriving

The new Government White Paper sets out a national ambition to ensure every child receives a high-quality, inclusive education and access to wider opportunities that support their wellbeing and lifelong success. For Oldham, this reinforces our existing priorities: strengthening inclusion, raising outcomes, improving attendance, and ensuring all learners, especially those with SEND or from disadvantaged backgrounds, can thrive. Its focus on early help, attendance, multi-agency working and strong curriculum pathways aligns with work underway across Oldham's education system.

### SEND and Inclusion

Following the Ofsted/CQC monitoring visit in November, I am pleased to advise that the Oldham area partnership has taken effective action. I want to express my sincere thanks to all who have supported and contributed to this positive outcome. We have strengthened our partnership working and improved governance arrangements. We have a solid foundation to build on as we continue to work together to deliver more positive experiences and stronger outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and young people.

We are updating our Priority Action Plan and a Partnership Maturity Assessment as required by DfE. An enhanced version of the Local Inclusion Support Offer has been released to schools. We

---

are creating a new LA speech and language therapy team and continuing to develop inclusion hubs in our mainstream schools. Work has been ongoing to support transitions as children move from one stage of their learning to another, ensuring educational progress is not disrupted.

The 'SEND Matters in Oldham Conference' took place in January 2026 where we launched the Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision (OAIP) guidance, set out our next steps and priorities and provided a platform to strengthen inclusive practice across our education settings.

### **Quality of Education**

Following further conversions of LA maintained schools there are now 67 academies and 43 maintained schools across Oldham. The local authority continues to play a key strategic role as system leader with maintained schools and Multi-Academy Trust on topics such as School Place Projections, Inclusion & Achievement Outcomes and Oldham Learning Partnership Priorities. Inclusion outcomes in Oldham are now amongst the strongest of our Statistical Neighbours, often above National Averages and are viewed as exemplary by other boroughs. This follows a sustained period of focus over recent years. Attendance has improved in both primary and secondary phases since the detrimental impact of the pandemic. Persistent Absence is improved in both phases. The primary school attendance rate has returned to the pre pandemic level, and the secondary rank is at its best ever and in the top 50 nationally.

In recognition of the significant improvement in our school attendance figures, I'm delighted that DfE asked Oldham to lead a programme on strengthening school attendance across the North West. Funding was provided by DfE and Oldham received £80,000 from the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence fund to support this programme.

Suspension rates in the primary phase continue to be significantly below regional and national rates and exclusion rates in the primary phase are now the best in England for a second year. In the secondary phase, rates have increased and this will require sustained focus.

Achievement outcomes are a priority area. A report presented to Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board provided a summary of educational outcomes for 2024/25 While some phases have returned to pre-pandemic performance, gaps remain and targeted work continues.

### **Virtual School**

There has been an increase in the number of children and young people becoming looked after. Our team collaborates with schools, Social Workers and wider professionals providing advice, guidance and direct support to ensure the educational needs of Children Looked After and those from other disadvantaged groups are identified, supported and met. The Virtual School Annual Report was presented at Corporate Parenting Panel in January to provide an overview of the work of the Team and educational outcomes for our cohort in 2024/25.

### **Music**

A talented student was successful in securing a place at the renowned Chetham School of Music. The Youth Brass Band is preparing to compete in the National Youth Brass Band Championships in Birmingham. Fourteen children from two of Oldham's most deprived wards have secured four-year funded access to string lessons through Young Sounds Connect.

### **Post-16, Skills, Apprenticeships and Adult Learning**

GMCA have agreed funding for the continuation of three projects for 2026/27; NEET, WorkWell Vanguard, and Trailblazer. Work is progressing on the Employment and Skills Strategy Implementation Plan, with governance structures being finalized with partners. The Annual NEET Report was presented at Children and Young People Scrutiny. The latest data shows:

- Year 12 Participation was 95.1%, higher than the rate at the same time in 2024 (93.76%)
- NEET rate (Y12/13 combined) was 3.95%, below the previous rate in 2024 of 3.97%
- Unknown rate (Y12/13) combined stands at 1%. 2024 figure was 1.87%

National and regional comparisons are currently favourable for Oldham. 8 out of the possible 12 indicators are "equal to or better than national and statistical neighbour averages".

---

We are introducing Brokering Relationships Between Employers and Educators (BREE), a low-maintenance digital brokerage system that connects employers with schools and colleges, to provide high-quality employer engagement opportunities. This will reduce duplication, strengthen curriculum-employer links, and improve pathways into work for young people. BREE aligns with Oldham's Employment and Skills Strategy and supports more consistent, inclusive access to real-world learning experiences.

### **Summary**

We continue to hold the highest ambition and aspirations for our children and young people. We take seriously our responsibilities, not only to keep them safe but to ensure that they are supported to thrive and achieve the best possible outcomes. We continue to work with partners to address barriers to success and to improve attendance and educational outcomes. We have seen progress in areas such as inclusion and attendance and will continue to work with school leaders to raise educational outcomes.

Our children and young people **can** succeed, despite challenges such as additional needs or socio-economic factors. We know this will require a sustained effort from every officer, teacher, leader, governor, parent and carer. But we believe that, through our continued hard work and partnership, together we can realise our ambition for our children and young people.

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

This page is intentionally left blank

## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements for 2025/26

#### Major Cultural & Heritage Improvements

- Reopened Gallery Oldham's Old Library & Art Gallery with new permanent displays showcasing Oldham's history and global links.
- Oldham Archives relocated to Spindles, with all collections — including the Oldham Chronicle archive.

#### Growing Participation in Libraries

- Outstanding Summer Reading Challenge delivery: 1,700+ signups, 911 completions, and 363 new young members.
- Library Service shortlisted nationally for 'Library of the Year' for the second consecutive year.
- Launched Year of Reading 2026 with a borough-wide programme promoting reading for all ages.

#### Strong Festivals & Events Programme

- Festival Oldham & Winter Events Programme drew major attendance, including a successful Christmas Lights Switch-On despite severe weather.
- Illuminate Festival (Feb 2026) introduced a new borough-wide light parade involving families and local artists.
- Launched the Time Trek AR Heritage Trail, offering an interactive family experience of Oldham's history.

#### Oldham Theatre Workshop – A Standout Year

- Moved into new JR Clynes studios, supporting 600+ young people weekly.
- Delivered Hansel & Gretel plus a school's tour reaching 2,186 pupils, and a youth-devised production *What They Left Behind*.
- Achieved a sold-out summer show, *Chasing the Wind*, featured on BBC North West.

#### Improvements to Leisure Facilities & Community Impact

- Major investment in leisure: £160k in new gym equipment, £125k Royton Pool refurbishment, and ongoing Radclyffe track lighting upgrade to Class II standards.
- Rolled out free gym & swim for 14–16-year-olds on free school meals, including 16 nutritious meals.
- Strengthened community health engagement through the Women's Health Forum (400 attendees), Menopause Awareness events, and a Volunteering Fair at Oldham Library.

## Culture

**Oldham Theatre Workshop:** Oldham Theatre Workshop, in partnership with Oldham Libraries and Oldham Coliseum Christmas, delivered a successful Show 'Hansel and Gretel' in the Library Theatre Space in-Dec 2025. This production then toured to 10 schools in January, reaching 2,186 young people. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting high levels of engagement, pupil enjoyment and the value of combining performance with participatory learning

**Events:** Following the successful Christmas Lights Switch On and Winter Weekends in Nov and Dec, the team delivered Illuminate Festival on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. This included a light parade, with families showcasing lanterns they had created at Gallery Oldham during the half term holiday.

**Libraries:** Oldham Libraries have, for the second-year running, been shortlisted for the *Library of the Year* Award — this time in recognition of the amazing work the team has delivered with the

---

community as part of the Northmoor Library refit. [Library of the Year Finalists | The British Book Awards](#)

2026 is The National Year of Reading and the service are planning a series of reading initiatives and events to encourage reading for all. To kick start the campaign, a reading calendar has been devised by staff with monthly reading prompts and book recommendations. The events programme for the National Year of Reading offers something for everyone – including author events, World Book Night celebrations, the Summer Reading Challenge and the Greater Manchester Festival of Libraries.

Library service delivered several innovative new events and activities to support health and wellbeing:

- Hosted a Health film screening, in collaboration with NHS Healthy Minds. A film showing of *Ping Pong* – a documentary with a focus on aging well and how staying active and social in older age can boost mental health and wellbeing.
- Toured Ali's Big Day across 4 HLA venues, a sensory piece of theatre using music and humour to tell a story for EY and key stage 4 (14-16) SEND audiences, that supports physical, emotional and skills development (153 attendees).

**Gallery Oldham:** Two new exhibitions launched in January 2026:

- '150 Years of Oldham Rugby League Football Club' 10 Jan – 7 Mar 2026, and
- 'Women Portraits: Trades and Professions by Charlotte Hodes 17 Jan – 9 May 2026

## Sport and Leisure

### Bikeability

I'm pleased to update Council on the strong progress of our Bikeability programme this year. After a slower start due to the short lead-in time between contract award and delivery, performance has recovered extremely well. We've seen strong demand from schools, and the programme is now firmly on track to meet or exceed its annual targets.

A key early challenge was that all of our instructors were from outside the borough. Thanks to our growing relationship with the Bikeability Trust and the NCA, we have now hosted two instructor training courses, successfully training 12 local people. This has strengthened our local delivery capacity and will make the programme much more sustainable in the long term.

Bikeability continues to make a major contribution to our Public Health and Move More priorities. It is increasing children's physical activity, improving road safety knowledge, building independent travel skills, and helping to establish long-term active travel habits. It also plays an important role in reducing health inequalities and supporting our clean air and sustainability ambitions.

Overall, despite early challenges, the programme has recovered strongly due to the work of officers and is delivering real benefits for children and families across Oldham. The move to a three-year national funding model will give us greater long-term stability in the future too.

### Oldham Active

Oldham Active has had a very positive period. More than 5,000 residents took part in events and activities, including the Oldham Halloween Half Marathon,

Our leisure centres continue to improve what they offer, with new sessions such as post-natal Pilates, chair Pilates, and more adult swimming lessons help our residents to Move More and improve their Health and Wellbeing.

Membership numbers continue to grow on previous years, helped by new equipment and good feedback from users.

---

A special mention goes to Rachel Holloway, a REACH Exercise Referral Programme Instructor who received an Excellence in Heart Care Award for her outstanding work and lifesaving actions, with 20 years of service at Oldham Active.

Overall, this has been a strong period, showing real progress both inside our centres and out in our communities.

### **Sports Club Taster Week**

We're also gearing up for our **Sports Club Taster Week**, which takes place from **16th March**. This is a great chance for local clubs and organisations to showcase what they offer and inspire more residents to Move More and have fun whilst they do it.

I'd encourage councillors to spread the word and urge clubs in their wards to get involved so we can shine a spotlight on the brilliant grassroots sport we have across Oldham. They can contact our Move More team for more information.

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

This page is intentionally left blank



## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements in 2025/26:

#### Employment Support: Get Oldham Working

- In November, the **Get Oldham Working** team were announced as the national award winners for the prestigious **ERSA Awards 2025** in London, where GOW was shortlisted for five national awards and, most significantly, announced as national winners for **Tailored Employment Support**.
- Oldham Jobs Fair (September 2025): Over 2,200 attendees and 100 employers, with strong engagement from priority wards including Alexandra, Werneth, Coldhurst and St Mary's.
- **Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund:** £266,000 secured to develop community digital hubs, mobile outreach and volunteer training to tackle digital exclusion across the borough.

#### Supply chain support:

- **Supply-chain development activity:** Muse, Willmott Dixon and Tilbury Douglas have hosted Meet the Buyer events that attracted strong attendance from Oldham SMEs. These events are directly focused on increasing local participation in Council contracts supporting the Council's commitment to community wealth-building and local value which is reflected in the collaboration with Get Oldham Working.
- The **Oldham Trading Platform** continues to scale, with 148 businesses registered and further firms progressing through onboarding. Work with major contractors aims to embed the platform as a central route for local procurement, supporting inclusive economic growth.

#### Enterprise Support:

- **Oldham Business Awards:** Oldham's business community was showcased through the **17th Oldham Business Awards**, drawing more than 500 attendees and recognising local entrepreneurial success. The launch of the 2026 awards cycle continues to raise the borough's profile, with expanded categories that align with Council priorities and includes sponsorship from Get Oldham Working.
- **Innovation:** The Council supported Heyside Plastics with a £10k grant, this led to support from the business growth which connected the company to key programmes including Made Smarter, NERIC, Innovate UK, Salford University, and the GMCA loan fund. The outcome - projections show a 40–60% increase in production capacity within five years, which could generate an additional £3.2m–£4.8m in revenues per year.

### Launch of Oldham Business Awards 2026

The launch of the 18th annual Oldham Business Awards took place on 26th February at Billingtons, in Oldham Town Centre. With over 100 people in attendance mainly from local businesses, the night saw the presentation of over £9,000 raised by the Business Awards to local charities Mahdlo and Dr Kersahw's. This year there are 13 categories for businesses to apply for including 3 new ones: Heart of the High Street, Community Impact and Sustainable Innovation. This year's celebration event takes place on the 2nd October in the Town Centre's new event space, The Loom.

### Labour Market Report -

- i. **Unemployment is decreasing:** The February Labour Market Report shows an improving position with unemployment reducing from 7.3% in December 2024 to 6.5% in December 2025, continuing the trend which saw unemployment rates peak in July 2024 (7.7%).

- 
- ii. **Youth Unemployment:** Youth unemployment remains steady at 9.8%. Work is progressing with GMCA to develop the Youth Hub initiative and to engage with the Youth Guarantee programme that HM Government announced as part of the Get Britain Working programme.
  - iii. **Business Count:** The latest data shows that Oldham continues to grow its business base with a 3-percentage point increase over the last year with a net gain of 210 businesses – 7515 companies in total.

### **Business Growth Hub Quarterly Oldham Business Clinic**

The Business Growth Hub holds quarterly drop-in clinics across the Borough to provide free support and advice for local businesses. This quarter the clinic was held at Audi Oldham on 26th Feb and the focus was innovation. Businesses were able to talk to an Innovation Advisor about the challenges they face and find out what support is available. Businesses had a 1-hour individual sessions looking at how to:

- Develop or improve a product or service
- Make your processes easier or more efficient
- Protect your ideas or brand
- Find funding or partners to support your plans
- Start using AI in a practical way for your business

### **Launch of BREE Network**

The Council is pleased to host a launch event of Oldham's new BREE (Brokering Relationships Employers and Educators) Network on Wednesday 25 March 2026 at the JR Clynes building. To support the Employment and Skills Strategy, the BREE Network aims to strengthen meaningful connections between local employers and education providers. The process acts as a brokerage system to reduce demand on employers and ensure educators are being connected with employers who can offer meaningful careers education. The programme will be launched by Cllr Hussain alongside, our flagship employers including Casey's Construction, Willmott Dixon and Northern Care Alliance, as well as officers from the post-16 team and Get Oldham Working. North Chadderton School will also be present, having recently completed a pilot project with Caseys.

### **Get Oldham Working Performance:**

Get Oldham Working (GOW) has begun 2026 strongly, with positive employment outcomes, new investment and growing neighbourhood delivery.

#### **1. Performance**

- Employment outcomes remain ahead of target (740 vs 718).
- Vanguard Work Well continues to exceed expectations, delivering 103% starts and high in-work outcomes.
- Restart achieved recognition, winning the Restart Team Trophy for First Earnings (Dec 2025).
- Engagement dipped briefly in Q3 due to planned activity pauses but is expected to rise in Q4.

#### **2. Community & Digital Support**

- Neighbourhood delivery expanding, including weekly employment/digital sessions with SAWN.
- Youth Hub development in Spindles progressing for improved 18–24 support.
- £266,084 secured for GOW Digital, introducing two Digital Hubs, a Mobile Hub, structured

#### **3. Employer Engagement:** GOW continues to work closely with:

- Good People, Retrofit Academy and Generation UK on green/retrofit pathways
- Manchester Airport Group and NHS/care employers
- Muse Developments on regeneration-linked opportunities

These partnerships ensure strong sector pathways and alignment with Oldham's growth priorities. The GOW team will be hosting a mini-jobs fair with the Manchester Airport Group in March, ahead of the summer season.

---

#### **4. Resident Wellbeing & Confidence**

The GOW Wardrobe & Wellbeing service has relaunched with high demand, offering interview clothing, mock interviews, hygiene packs and holistic therapies to build confidence and reduce anxiety.

#### **5. Promoting the service**

- The Get Oldham Working service are pleased to be able to sponsor the Oldham Business Awards. This helps cement the relationship with local companies.
- The team are also looking at how they can raise awareness of personal wellbeing and links to their services this includes the Head of Service, Jonathan Phillips, completing one running event per month in 2026, raising awareness for Type 1 Diabetes and other causes and in July, the full GOW team will take part in a Tough Mudder-style challenge at Heaton Park, raising funds for Cancer Research UK and promoting teamwork, wellbeing and service visibility.

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

This page is intentionally left blank



## Portfolio Report

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

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

### Key Achievements for 2025/26

#### Delivery of Major Highways Programmes

- Completed the full 2024/25 highways capital programme, securing additional regional funding for further priority schemes.
- Significant progress on 2025/26 resurfacing, including major routes such as Middleton Road and Buckstones Road.

#### Improved Winter Resilience

- Delivered a robust winter service including 51 full grits, 2,200+ tonnes of salt used & 2,000 grit bins filled.

#### Street Lighting Modernisation

- Completed major phases of the LED replacement programme, achieving a 3.65% energy reduction and 62-tonne carbon reduction through new lighting assets.

#### Bee Network Improvements

- Secured £7.3m for walking and cycling schemes, £21m for School Streets, and £19m for Bee Network improvements, supporting safer, greener travel across the borough.
- Expanded the School Streets programme, including the new St Luke's scheme, improving safe routes to school.
- Removed the 9:30am concessionary travel restriction, allowing older and disabled residents to travel free at any time.
- Bus and tram fares frozen until the end of 2026, maintaining affordability for residents.

#### Progress on Major Strategic Transport Schemes

- Advanced key CRSTS and regeneration schemes including Quality Bus Transit, St Mary's Way, Market Street, and Mumps design stages.

### Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan:

Consultation on the Greater Manchester Local Transport Plan closed earlier this month, and we look forward to working with TfGM to finalise that important plan for improving Oldham and GM's transport network over the coming decades.

We're currently trialling our latest School Street at St Luke's CofE Primary School in Chadderton. We've had lots of interest from schools across the borough in the School Streets programme, and so we thank those that have contacted the council wanting to explore options for their local school.

### Bee Network:

---

Delighted to report that from 1 March, the 9.30am restriction on concessionary passes has been permanently removed, so that older and disabled residents can travel free on Bee Network buses at any time. All bus and tram fares remain frozen until the end of 2026, including the £2 single fare.

Better transport is central to connecting communities and to allow businesses to thrive, so residents can enjoy healthy, happy lives. Through the Bee Network, the Council are helping to build a joined-up transport system that connects people with places and opportunities. We're working to improve all your journeys, no matter how you travel: by road, bus, tram, train, walking, wheeling and cycling. This includes a major scheme to improve the main route between Rochdale, Royton, Oldham and Ashton town centres (the A627 and A671), which is used by the 409 bus service, one of the busiest bus routes in Greater Manchester, and travelled by thousands of residents every day. Work on this route is taking place in phases through to 2027. Public engagement continues to place on the proposals for the Oldham section of the route and more information is available on the Council's website and on the Bee Network sites.

### **Winter Maintenance:**

The service has continued to deliver winter maintenance across the borough over a number of months, prioritising primary routes and highway safety. The cold weather has meant that teams have had to undertake regular gritting. This has been generally effective and was supported by the relatively little snowfall.

To date, there have been 51 full grits of the primary routes and 15 pre grits of the higher routes (over 300m). Over 2,200 tonnes of salt have been used and over 2,000 grit bins filled. Teams will continue to monitor conditions, and information is routinely shared via social media platforms.

### **Highways Maintenance:**

Every pothole reported to Oldham Council is inspected by a qualified highway safety inspector, and each defect is then categorised according to its severity, size, location, and the level of risk it presents to road users. This approach follows the council's established highway maintenance policies and a national risk-based framework used by many local authorities to ensure a consistent and rigorous approach to highway inspection & safety.

Each defect is classified, and where a repair is needed, this is prioritised to ensure that the most urgent repairs are prioritised to ensure highway safety and limit any further degradation of the network. Determining factors are:

- **Depth and size of the defect**

Oldham Council criteria means that any defect that is of a depth exceeding 4cm on a carriageway as a pothole. For footways, this is 2.5cm. Any report or location meeting the above criteria is then assessed for priority. Any defects below the above dimensions are still recorded and timetabled for re-visits.

- **Location and degree of risk**

The potential danger posed to road users is a key part of the categorisation process. Defects considered higher risk, because of their size, depth, or location, are assigned higher priority and repaired within shorter timescales. Some urgent defects can require attention within as little as two hours, while lower-risk issues are scheduled over longer periods.

- **Overall condition and likelihood of deterioration**

Some defects may be monitored rather than repaired immediately if the assessment concludes they currently present lower risk. Defects assessed as "low priority" are typically subject to ongoing monitoring via the planned inspection process, rather than immediate repair, which is consistent with a risk-based maintenance approach.

---

Even when a defect is rated low priority, it remains logged and is checked during subsequent planned routine inspections. If its condition worsens or the risk level increases, its priority status can be upgraded and repair scheduled sooner.

All reports contribute to the highways team's understanding of the network condition, and continued reporting plays an important role in maintaining road safety, in addition to the various planned inspection regimes.

### **Highways Permitting**

The Streetworks team receives approximately 15,000 permit applications per year. These consist mainly of planned and urgent utility works, the rest being local authority works and minor contractor works both planned and emergency. Using Greater Manchester Roadworks Applications Permits Scheme, officers analyse the application and grant / refuse once traffic management, dates, times, and coordination has taken place. The aim of this is to ensure that planned roadworks don't cause additional issues by overlapping with other planned operations. Once determined, teams also update local ward members, businesses, residents, and public transport companies.

Unfortunately, there are also emergencies that give little time to plan or inform residents, and these include burst water mains, lost electricity connections, collapsed sewers or a good recent example is the closure on the Manchester Road roundabout which was necessary for emergency TfGM led signals work after a car drove into signal boxes. In such situations, we are limited in the engagement and communication we can undertake, but we do work with partners to manage traffic flow in the areas and ensure works are completed as quickly as possible.

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

This page is intentionally left blank



## Report to COUNCIL

# Submission of Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:** Elizabeth Dryden-Stuart, Strategic Planning and Information

**Email:** [elizabeth.dryden-stuart@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:elizabeth.dryden-stuart@oldham.gov.uk)

**25 March 2026**

---

## Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to approve submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination following the period of representations.

## Executive Summary

On 19 January 2026 Cabinet 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 28 January 2026.

The 'Publication Plan' stage is 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 the 4 February 2026, and following an extension to the consultation period, is due to end on 27 March 2026.

Council approval is now 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 is expected to be in May or June 2026. This is called the 'Submission stage', pursuant to Regulation 22 and is the subject of this report to Council.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that Council:

Approve 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.

## Submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Council must prepare a Local Plan to provide an up-to-date and positive planning framework for the Borough, that will help to meet our housing needs and address other economic, environmental and social objectives, as per the National Planning Policy Framework<sup>1</sup> (NPPF). The policies set out in the Local Plan will also support the implementation of Places for Everyone<sup>2</sup> across Oldham and delivery of the Council's regeneration objectives and priorities.
- 1.2 The Government are in the process of reforming the current system for preparing Local Plans, to ensure that going forward plans are faster to prepare and simpler for end users to access and understand. Guidance on how plans are to be prepared under the new plan-making system is still to be published. In the meantime, for plans progressing to adoption under the current plan-making legal framework (which includes the review of the Oldham Local Plan) Government require these 'legacy plans' to be submitted for examination by 31 December 2026.
- 1.3 The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012<sup>3</sup> ('the Regulations') set out the requirements for local authorities producing and consulting on Local Plans under the current plan-making system. There are various stages in the production of a Local Plan. Informal consultations have been carried out under Regulation 18 through the Regulation 18 Notification (July / August 2017), Issues and Options (July / August 2021) and the Draft Plan (January to February 2024).
- 1.4 Following approval at Cabinet on 19 January 2026 consultation is now underway on the Publication Plan, pursuant to Regulation 19, which having been extended is due to end Friday 27 March 2026. The 'Publication Plan is a formal 'statutory' consultation stage that provides an opportunity for organisations and individuals to submit their final views on the content of the Plan.
- 1.5 Details of all consultations to date and specifically the Regulation 19 consultation on the Publication Plan can be found at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local\\_plan\\_review](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local_plan_review).
- 1.6 Following consultation on the Publication Plan, representations received and other relevant supporting documentation, are submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local for examination by the Planning Inspectorate. This is called the 'Submission stage' and is the subject of this Council report.
- 1.7 In terms of the purpose of this report the legal, financial and procurement implications are considered in sections 6, 7 and 8. With regards to other implications:

---

<sup>1</sup> The National Planning Policy Framework can be found at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF\\_December\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Places for Everyone can be found at <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/planning-and-housing/strategic-planning/places-for-everyone/>

<sup>3</sup>The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulation 2012 can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents>

- 
- (a) Community Cohesion Implications, including crime and disorder implications under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 – not applicable
  - (b) Risk Assessments – not applicable
  - (c) If relevant, Co-operative Implications, Human Resource Implications, IT implications, Property Implications, and Environment and Health and Safety Implications – Submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for examination is the next stage in the preparation of the Plan and provides an opportunity for those who wish to do so to participate in the examination. Oldham Council assets may fall within designations proposed as part of the Local Plan, however, planning policies are consistent with national planning policy and PfE. No sites are being allocated for development.

1.8 In terms of how the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan links to the Corporate Plan priorities it provides an opportunity to bring together and express spatially those parts of The Oldham Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan that can be shaped and delivered through the planning system. Their aspirations and priorities are the golden thread that runs through the Local Plan, along with supporting and facilitating delivery of the Council's Building a Better Oldham agenda.

## 2 Current Position

### *Oldham's current Local Plan*

2.1 Oldham's current Local Plan comprises a series of documents which together provide the statutory development plan for the Borough and are:

- Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan for Bury, Bolton, Manchester, Oldham, Rochdale, Salford, Tameside, Trafford and Wigan, adopted March 2024
- The Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), adopted in November 2011
- Proposals Map
- The Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan, adopted in April 2012
- The Greater Manchester Joint Minerals Plan, adopted in April 2013

2.2 With the Core Strategy being over 10 years old there is the need for a succinct and up-to-date plan that:

- Accords with PfE and supports its implementation at a local level;
- Meets the latest national planning policy and guidance where relevant; and
- Reflects the changes in the Council's regeneration ambitions and Building a Better Oldham.

2.3 In terms of scope, the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan does not repeat the strategic policies set out PfE. The focus of our revised Local Plan is instead on development management policies, which will help to implement PfE at an Oldham level whilst helping to deliver our regeneration ambitions and priorities for the Borough. For this reason, the Local Plan does not allocate sites for future development – either housing or employment related, and it has been prepared to align with the plan-period of PfE, that is 2022-2039.

*Progress to date*

---

2.4 Details of progress to date are set out in the report that went to Cabinet on the 19 January 2026 which gave approval to publish and consult on the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan<sup>4</sup>. This has included consultations on the Regulation 18 Notification between July and August 2017, Issues and Options between July and August 2021, and the Draft Local Plan from 10 January to 25 February 2024. Details of the Local Plan Review can be found at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local\\_plan\\_review](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local_plan_review).

### *Oldham's Publication Plan*

- 2.5 Oldham's Local Plan will guide development in the Borough up to 2039 to reflect the plan-period of PfE, that is 2022 to 2039. Underpinning the Plan are the principles of sustainable development, and it will meet the needs of Oldham and its residents whilst also achieving high quality design, addressing climate change and increasing accessibility for all.
- 2.6 The Oldham Local Plan will cover the whole Borough except that part which falls within the Peak District National Park.
- 2.7 The main purposes of the Plan are to:
- Set out the policies through which the Council will manage development coming forward and use to determine planning applications;
  - Identify designations for the protection of the Borough's environmental and historical assets, our town centres, employment areas and infrastructure; and
  - Enable the development of supporting infrastructure, such as transport, health, education, open space, sport and recreation facilities and utilities.
- 2.8 The policies contained in the Publication Plan are organised by theme – Homes; Economy and Employment; Our Centres; Oldham Town Centre; Addressing Climate Change; Natural Environment and Open Land; Addressing the Biodiversity Emergency; Oldham's Historic Environment; Achieving High Quality Design; A Sustainable, Active, Accessible Network for Oldham; Communities; Protecting our Local Environment; Infrastructure and Delivery in Oldham; and Monitoring.
- 2.9 The Local Plan provides an opportunity to bring together, and express spatially, those parts of The Oldham Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan that can be shaped and delivered through the planning system. Their aspirations and priorities are the golden thread that runs through the Local Plan, along with supporting and facilitating delivery of the Council's Building a Better Oldham agenda. A myriad of other plans and strategies such as Oldham's Green New Deal Strategy, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Cultural Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy have also been reflected in the Plan.
- 2.10 Underneath the overarching theme of Building a Better Oldham there also sits several thematic priorities for Oldham that policies within the Local Plan seek to address, such as the creation of healthy communities, tackling the climate emergency, and responding to the housing crisis we currently face across the Borough.
- 2.11 In terms of designations for the protection of the Borough's environmental and historical assets, this includes the designation of areas known as 'Local Green Space' (LGS) in line with national planning policy. LGS are spaces that are important to local communities due to their proximity to the community and because they are demonstrably special and hold local significance due to beauty, historic significance, recreational value, tranquillity, or richness of its wildlife. Most LGS are already designated Other Protected Open Land

---

<sup>4</sup> The Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan report to Cabinet on 19 January can be found at <https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=9619&Ver=4>

---

(OPOLs) in the Core Strategy. A review of these OPOL has been undertaken against the LGS criteria set out in NPPF, to ensure the policy approach is robust and up to date. As a result of this updated evidence there have been boundary changes to some LGS, five have been de-designated (either because they do not meet the new LGS criteria or they have been allocated for development as part of PfE), and a new LGS has been identified in Sholver.

- 2.12 The Borough's Green Belt has been established through PfE. As such, the Publication Plan does not propose any strategic Green Belt boundary revisions. A 'tidy up' of Oldham's Green Belt has, however, been carried out to identify minor changes of a technical cartographical nature that have arisen primarily from the move to GIS mapping. These minor technical boundary revisions proposed to the Green Belt are set out within Appendix 8<sup>5</sup> of the Publication Plan and can be seen on a comparison map<sup>6</sup> which shows the existing (adopted) and proposed Green Belt for clarity.
- 2.13 The Publication Plan is supported by an Integrated Assessment (IA)<sup>7</sup> which incorporates the following:
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
  - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA);
  - Oldham Impact Assessment Tool (incorporating the Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA); and
  - Health Impact Assessment (HIA).
- 2.14 A comprehensive evidence base has been prepared to support preparation of the Local Plan, details of which can be found at <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201236/evidence>. Most recently, this has included a Local Plan Viability Assessment. The purpose of this assessment is to ensure that policy requirements for developer contributions are assessed for viability at the plan-making stage, alongside proportionate evidence in relation to infrastructure requirements and affordable housing need for example. This is to ensure that such policies do not undermine the deliverability of the Plan.
- 2.15 Several thematic Topic Papers<sup>8</sup> have also been published alongside the Publication Plan. These pull together the evidence in one place and set out how this and previous consultations have helped to inform the Publication Plan.
- 2.16 Paragraph 24 of NPPF sets out that local planning authorities continue to be under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries. Through the Duty strategic policy-making authorities are required to collaborate on the identification of relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans. This is integral to the production of a positively prepared and justified strategy.
- 2.17 Furthermore, to demonstrate effective and on-going joint working paragraph 28 of NPPF states that strategic policy-making authorities should prepare and maintain one or more

---

<sup>5</sup> Appendix 8: Minor Green Belt Boundary Amendments can be found at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2474/oldham\\_local\\_plan\\_publication\\_plan\\_appendices](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2474/oldham_local_plan_publication_plan_appendices)

<sup>6</sup> The map of Minor Green Belt Boundary Amendments can be found at <https://map.oldham.gov.uk/map?name=Green%20Belt%20Comparison>

<sup>7</sup> The Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan Integrated Assessment can be found at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2471/oldham\\_local\\_plan\\_publication\\_plan\\_integrated\\_assessment\\_and\\_the\\_appendices](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2471/oldham_local_plan_publication_plan_integrated_assessment_and_the_appendices) can be found at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2470/oldham\\_local\\_plan\\_publication\\_plan\\_ia\\_appendices](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/downloads/download/2470/oldham_local_plan_publication_plan_ia_appendices)

<sup>8</sup> Thematic Topic Papers supporting the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan can be found at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local\\_plan\\_review/3319/publication\\_plan](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local_plan_review/3319/publication_plan)

---

statements of common ground, documenting the cross-boundary matters being addressed and progress in cooperating to address these.

- 2.18 As previously stated, PFE sets out our strategic policies and spatial strategy and those matters with cross boundary implications are dealt with through the Joint Plan, including districts local housing need. As such, given its local-level development management policy focus there are limited cross-boundary matters relating to the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan. Furthermore, a recent letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) dated 27 November 2025 removes the Duty requirement for 'legacy plans' being prepared under the current planning system. Nevertheless, local planning authorities are still encouraged to collaborate across their boundaries, including on unmet development needs from neighbouring areas. As such, the Council has sought to continue to work collaboratively with neighbouring authorities and key organisations, in a bid to ensure that those aspects with cross-boundary and strategic implications are appropriately addressed.
- 2.19 A Statement of Common Ground has therefore been prepared to support the review of Oldham's Local Plan and has been published alongside the Publication Plan. The Statement has been updated at each stage of the Local Plan review process, providing updates on cross-boundary matters, demonstrating our commitment to working collaboratively with our neighbouring authorities and the relevant public bodies.

#### *Consultation on the Publication Plan*

- 2.20 At Publication Plan stage, whilst anyone can make a representation on any point, only those pertaining to 'soundness' will be considered by the examining Inspector(s). As set out in paragraph 36 of NPPF, plans are sound if they are:
- a) **Positively prepared** – providing a strategy which, as a minimum, seeks to meet the area's objectively assessed needs; and is informed by agreements with other authorities, so that unmet need from neighbouring areas is accommodated where it is practical to do so and is consistent with achieving sustainable development;
  - b) **Justified** – an appropriate strategy, taking into account the reasonable alternatives, and based on proportionate evidence;
  - c) **Effective** – deliverable over the plan period, and based on effective joint working on cross-boundary strategic matters that have been dealt with rather than deferred, as evidenced by the statement of common ground; and
  - d) **Consistent with national policy** – enabling the delivery of sustainable development in accordance with the policies in the Framework and other statement of national planning policy, where relevant.
- 2.21 Inspectors also consider representations concerning legal compliance issues, for example the Integrated Assessment, the Habitats Assessment Regulation and the Duty to Co-operate.
- 2.22 Consultation on the Publication Plan has been carried out in accordance with our Statement of Community Involvement, most recently adopted July 2021<sup>9</sup>. The minimum requirements set out in paragraph 4.65 of the SCI 2021 have been met. In addition to which, those who wish to do so have been able to arrange appointments (by telephone or in person) with planning officers to find out more about the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan and on how representations should be submitted. Details of the consultation have also been made available at The Big Oldham Convo<sup>10</sup>.

---

<sup>9</sup> Oldham Council's Statement of Community Involvement (28 July 2021) can be found online at [https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201232/engagement/253/statement\\_of\\_community\\_involvement](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201232/engagement/253/statement_of_community_involvement)

<sup>10</sup> The Big Oldham Convo can be found at <https://bigoldhamconvo.oldham.gov.uk/>

---

### *Submission and Examination of Oldham's Local Plan*

- 2.23 Following consultation on the Publication Plan, representations made at the Regulation 19 stage, and supporting 'submission' documents will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for examination on behalf of the Secretary of State. This is called the 'Submission stage', pursuant to Regulation 22. This requires approval at Council.
- 2.24 It is intended that the Council will submit the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan in May / June 2026, along with representations received and the necessary supporting 'submission' documentation.
- 2.25 The local plan examination starts upon submission and concludes when the Inspector has issued their report. During the examination the Planning Inspector will assess whether the local plan has been prepared in line with the relevant legal requirements (including the duty to cooperate) and that it meets the aforementioned tests of 'soundness' contained in NPPF.
- 2.26 As per paragraph 050 of national planning guidance on Plan-Making the examining Inspector(s) is required to work proactively with the local planning authority, with the expectation that:
- Issues not critical to the plan's soundness or other legal requirements do not cause unnecessary delay to the examination of the plan.
  - Inspectors should identify any fundamental concerns at the earliest possible stage in the examination and work with the local planning authority to clarify and address these.
  - Where these issues cannot be resolved within the examination timetable, the potential of pausing the examination should be fully considered, with the local planning authority having an opportunity to assess the scope and feasibility of any work needed to remedy these issues during the pause, so that this can be fully considered by the Inspector.
  - Consideration should be given to the option of the local planning authority making a commitment to review the plan or particular policies in the plan within an agreed period, where this would enable the Inspector to conclude that the plan is sound and meets the other legal requirements.
- 2.27 If considered necessary the Council may ask the Inspector to recommend modifications to the Plan that would address any issues with soundness or procedural requirements that are identified during the examination. The Inspector can only recommend modifications if the Council asks them to do so, and where they are necessary to achieve a sound plan.
- 2.28 Upon adoption the Local Plan will replace the Joint Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD, and any remaining saved Unitary Development Plan policies and allocations (see Appendix 1 of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan for more information).
- 2.29 The Oldham Local Plan will sit alongside PfE, as part of a suite of documents that form the development plan for the Borough. which also includes the Greater Manchester Joint Waste Plan and Joint Minerals Plan. Together these documents will inform decision-making on development proposals and planning applications in the Borough of Oldham.
- 2.30 The costs for the examination of the Local Plan are estimated to be around £143,000. This includes the planning inspector fees; the funding of a programme officer (who will manage the examination process and act as the conduit between the inspector(s), the Council and

---

those who wish to take part in the examination) from submission through to receipt of the Inspectors Report; and additional preparation costs.

### 3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 **Option 1:** Members approve submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation 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.

Advantages – this is the next stage in the Local Plan review having carried several periods of consultation and when adopted will ensure that the Council has in place an up-to-date Local Plan in place that supports implementation of PfE at a Borough-wide level. Thereby, providing a planning policy framework to enable delivery of the Council’s regeneration ambitions and Building a Better Oldham, whilst meeting requirements of national planning policy and regulations.

Disadvantages - there are no disadvantages to this option as it provides a positive planning policy framework for the Borough and meets the legislative requirements at this stage in the preparation of a Local Plan.

- 3.2 **Option 2:** Members do not approve submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation 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.

Advantages – there are no advantages to this option.

Disadvantages - not approving submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan would mean that we are not able to progress preparation of the Local Plan to the next stage. Without an up-to-date Local Plan in place the Council would be reliant on the existing Core Strategy (elements of which are out of date) and the strategic policies in PfE when making decisions on planning applications for the foreseeable future. The Council would not have the benefit of the positive planning framework set out in the Publication Plan that supports implementation of PfE at a Borough-wide level whilst enabling delivery of our Council regeneration ambitions and priorities.

### 4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 To approve submission of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan, Policies Map and supporting documentation 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.

### 5 Consultation

- 5.1 Details of consultation carried out to date and the process for the Publication Plan consultation can be found in paragraphs 2.20 to 2.22 above.

---

## 6 **Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Oldham Local Plan examination cost is estimated to be around £143k. This includes Planning Inspector fees, the appointment of a Program Officer, and associated preparation costs.
- 6.2 The expenditure will be fully funded from the Local Plan Reserve, which currently has a balance of £227k.
- 6.3 As the timing of the examination is outside of the Council's direct control, it is anticipated that the examination costs may commence towards the latter part of 2026/27 and could potentially run into 2027/28. The £143k use of reserves will therefore need to be ringfenced for this activity.
- 6.4 Following the utilisation of £143k from the reserve, the remaining balance on the Local Plan Reserve will be approximately £84k.

(Mohammed Hussain)

## 7 **Legal Implications**

- 7.1 In accordance with section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 a local planning authority must submit every Local Plan to the Secretary of State for independent examination. The purpose of the independent examination is to determine whether the plan is considered to be sound (section 20(5)(b)). Regulation 4(3)(ca) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 requires the decision to approve the submission of a local plan to the Secretary of State to be made by full Council. (A Evans)

## 8. **Procurement Implications**

- 8.1 None. (SKapoor- Commercial Procurement Unit).

## 9 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

- 9.1 An Oldham Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out to inform preparation of the Publication Plan as part of the Integrated Assessment.
- 9.2 In summary the assessment found that the Publication Plan has a neutral impact on most equality characteristics, except for age and disability on which it was considered to have a strong positive impact.
- 9.3 The assessment found that the Publication Plan is very likely to have a strong positive impact on the council's three missions / corporate priorities – A Great Place to Live; Green and Growing; and Happier Healthier Lives, over the long-term.

## 10 **Key Decision**

- 10.1 N/A

## 11 **Key Decision Reference**

- 11.1 N/A

---

12      **Background Papers**

The Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan Consultation report to Cabinet on 19 January 2026 can be found at

<https://committees.oldham.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=9619&Ver=4>

Details of the Oldham Local Plan: Publication Plan can be found at

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local\\_plan\\_review/3319/publication\\_plan](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local_plan_review/3319/publication_plan)

Details of Oldham's Local Plan Review can be found at

[https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local\\_plan\\_review](https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/201233/local_plan_review).

National Planning Policy Framework can be found at

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF\\_December\\_2024.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67aafe8f3b41f783cca46251/NPPF_December_2024.pdf) .

The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 can be found at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents> .

13      **Appendices**

N/A

This page is intentionally left blank



**Report to COUNCIL**

## **TransPennine Route Upgrade (Stalybridge to Diggle) Transport and Works Act Order – Formal Objections by Oldham Council**

**Portfolio Holder:**

Councillor Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:**

Gordon Anderson, AD Highways Engineering and Operations  
Peter Richards, AD Planning, Transport & Housing Delivery

**Email:** [gordon.anderson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:gordon.anderson@oldham.gov.uk) /  
[peter.richards@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.richards@oldham.gov.uk)

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

---

**Reason for Decision**

For Oldham Council to make a valid objection to the TransPennine Route Upgrade it must be endorsed by a majority of the authority's councillors at a meeting of the Council, held after the requisite notice of that meeting has been given.

**Executive Summary**

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council supports the strategic objectives of the TransPennine Route Upgrade (TRU) and recognises its importance in improving rail capacity, reliability, connectivity and long-term environmental outcomes across the North of England. The Council has engaged constructively with Network Rail throughout the development of the scheme and remains committed to working collaboratively to maximise public benefit.

---

However, while supportive in principle, the Council has 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:

#### Public Rights of Way and Highway Safety

The Council objects to proposed temporary vehicular diversion routes at Boat Lane / Harrop Court Road and Station Road, where non-motorised public rights of way would be used for vehicular traffic without sufficient clarity or safeguards. The proposals risk compromising user safety, particularly for vulnerable users, and lack legally robust detail. Network Rail has since confirmed that they are required to develop a Construction Traffic Management Plan, including the proposed temporary diversion routes, and this will need to be approved by the Council.

At Greenfield Station, the Council remains concerned about insufficient design information for highway alterations, including pedestrian crossings and drop-off arrangements. Although Network Rail has committed to establishing a design working group and escalation process, these arrangements are not yet formally documented and highway safety impacts remain unresolved.

#### Moorgate Halt Level Crossing

The Council strongly objects to the proposed permanent closure of Definitive Footpath 209. This is an ancient and well-used route, and Network Rail's own assessments previously identified a footbridge as the appropriate mitigation. The proposed diversion is steep, inaccessible and unsuitable for vulnerable users. The Council maintains that a footbridge remains the only acceptable solution to preserve a safe, inclusive public right of way.

#### Land Interests and Development Impacts

The Council has lodged objections in relation to several land plots affected by temporary and permanent works, particularly where access rights, landscaped land, operational assets or future development potential may be prejudiced. Of particular concern are impacts on land with existing or potential residential development, where bridge replacement works may permanently affect highway sightlines and site viability.

#### Construction Programme and Local Events

The absence of a clear construction programme raises concerns about potential conflict with major Saddleworth events, which rely on safe and effective operation of the local highway network. Without firm commitments on programming and event coordination, the Council cannot be satisfied that public safety and community impacts will be appropriately managed.

#### Overall Position

---

The Council supports the TRU in principle but considers that the draft TWAO currently lacks sufficient clarity, assurance and mitigation in key areas. Until detailed information is provided, and satisfactory solutions are agreed—particularly in relation to public safety, rights of way, highway design governance, land impacts and construction programming—the Council is unable to withdraw its formal objections.

The Council remains 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 enables the Council to fulfil its statutory duties.

## **Recommendations**

That the Council:

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

---

**TransPennine Route Upgrade (Stalybridge to Diggle) Transport and Works Act Order – Formal Objections by Oldham Council****1 Background & Current Position**

- 1.1 Following the submission of Oldham’s letter of objection on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Oldham Council received a letter from DfT’s planning unit on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 acknowledging receipt of our objection. They sent a subsequent letter on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 confirming that the Secretary of State had decided to hold a public inquiry into Network Rail’s Transport & Works Act Order (TWAO) application.
- 1.2 In the 6<sup>th</sup> January letter the DfT pointed out that our letter of objection needs to be endorsed by a majority of councillors at a meeting of the Council, held after the requisite notice of that meeting has been given, and so this report has been prepared to seek that endorsement from cCouncil.
- 1.3 The invitation to comment on the TWAO application received 259 objections and 29 representations and therefore, at the time of writing this report, the Secretary of State is in the process of appointing a planning inspector for the public inquiry, with a provisional date set for 9th June 2026.
- 1.4 Network Rail wrote to Oldham Council on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026 with a response to our letter of objection and follow-up meetings will be arranged to discuss their response. As such, dialogue with Network Rail remains open and officers hope that some of the objections can be resolved prior to the public inquiry if suitable plans and information are provided to the Council. If that is the case, those objections will be withdrawn.
- 1.5 However, it is unlikely that all objections will be satisfactorily resolved, and so the Council’s continued representation at the public inquiry will be necessary to make our case. In particular, it is unlikely that the Moorgate Halt Level Crossing objection will be resolved before the public inquiry.
- 1.6 Consequently, Oldham Council submitted a Statement of Case on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026.. The Statement of Case included full details of Oldham’s arguments, evidence and case to present at inquiry.
- 1.7 As part of the inquiry process, officers will be required to prepare witness statements and will take part in the inquiry to present evidence, respond to questions, and cross-examine witnesses called by Network Rail.

**2 Options/Alternatives**

- 2.1 Option 1 – to endorse the submitted objections related to the TWAO application

This is the recommended option, so that the objection is given formal weight at the public inquiry and officers can make the case for the objections and seek alterations to Network Rail’s proposals accordingly.

- 2.2 Option 2 – to not endorse the submitted objections related to the TWAO application

---

This option is not recommended, as the Council's objection will not be formalised, and will not be able to be considered further at public inquiry, meaning that necessary changes to Network Rail's proposals will not be secured through the Council's participation.

### **3 Consultation**

- 3.1 No consultation by the Council is necessary on this decision – the objection being considered is being made to a consultation being undertaken by the Department for Transport.

### **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The issuance of a valid objection to the TransPennine Route Upgrade, following the requisite endorsement by Councillors, will have no additional financial implications for the Council, other than the staff time of Officers.
- 4.2 Any perceived costs will be funded from existing budgeted resource.

### **5 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 Under section 20 of the Transport and Works Act 1992, a body with the power to promote or oppose Bills in Parliament also has the power to apply for or object to Transport and Works Act orders (TWAOs). Where the power to propose or oppose Bills is subject to any condition, the power in section 20 is also subject to that condition. Under section 11 of the Act, the Secretary of State has a discretion whether to cause a public local inquiry or a hearing to be held for the purposes of an application for a TWAO and may give to a person who makes an objection an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose. Local authorities for an area in which any works authorised by the proposed order are to be carried out are statutory objectors and if they inform the Secretary of State in writing that they want their objection to be referred to an inquiry or hearing, the Secretary of State shall cause either an inquiry or hearing to be held.
- 5.2 Section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives local authorities the power to promote or oppose local or personal Bills in Parliament if they consider it expedient to do so. Therefore in accordance with section 20 of the Transport and Works Act, the Council have the power to object to a TWAO affecting the Council's area.
- 5.3 The procedure to be followed in objecting is set out in section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 and requires a resolution of the Council to oppose a Bill (TWAO) to be passed by a majority of the whole number of the members of the Council at a meeting of the Council held after the requisite notice of the meeting and of its purpose has been given by advertisement in one or more local newspapers circulating in the area of the authority, such notice being given in addition to the ordinary notice required to be given for the convening of a Council meeting. The requisite notice is ten clear days' notice in the case of opposition to a Bill (TWAO).

### **6 Procurement Implications**

- 6.1 N/A

---

7      **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

7.1      An Oldham Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this decision, as it relates to whether to support an objection to be submitted to another organisation, and does not involve works or policy decisions by the council that would impact on those groups with protected characteristics under legislation.

8      **Key Decision**

8.1      No

9      **Key Decision Reference**

9.1      N/A

10      **Background Papers**

10.1      N/A

11      **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - TRU Stalybridge to Diggle (Saddleworth) Order\_ Letter of Objection\_Oldham Council\_FINAL



## Report to COUNCIL

# Oldham Green New Deal Update

### Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Abdul Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services and Sustainability and Deputy Leader

**Officer Contact:** Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

**Report Author:** Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager

**Email:** andrew.hunt@oldham.gov.uk

**25 March 2026**

---

### Executive Summary

This report provides 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 our partners continue to make strong progress in delivering the Green New Deal, a key element of our Creating a Better Oldham Programme. This work is 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 - are realised for Oldham's residents and businesses. The OGNDS underpins the advancement of both our economic and environmental ambitions, and the Council has secured significant grant funding to the value of £34.5m, to support timely progress and delivery.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to note the various components of the OGND work programme and external grant support received to date to fund progress as outlined in the report.

---

## Oldham Green New Deal Update

### 1 Background

- 1.1 The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy (2020–2025) was adopted in March 2020, just one week before the first national Covid-19 lockdown. The Strategy established two ambitious carbon-neutrality targets: achieving neutrality for Council buildings and street lighting by 2025, and for the entire borough by 2030, aligned with the Greater Manchester target of 2038. It also set out the approach for meeting these goals, structured around three key pillars:
- Low Carbon Infrastructure
  - Green Economy
  - Northern Roots
- 1.2 Since the Strategy was adopted, the Council has made significant progress in delivering projects and programmes that support the achievement of these highly ambitious targets. Although the pandemic—and the financial and resource pressures associated with it—has undoubtedly affected the programme, the Council has nevertheless strengthened its position within Greater Manchester and nationally as a lead authority on the low-carbon and environmental agendas.
- 1.3 The Council has secured significant grant funding to the value of £34.5m, supporting delivery of our low carbon and environmental ambitions. Grant funding includes:
- £1.5m from the DESNZ / GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator,
  - £8.7m from the Green Heat Network Fund,
  - £1.7m from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme,
  - £2.6m from the United Utilities Green Recovery Fund and
  - £20m from the Levelling Up Fund.

This report provides an overview of progress to date on Oldham’s Green New Deal programme. Although the Strategy itself has now lapsed, the 2030 carbon-neutrality target remains in place, and the Council continues to develop new partnerships and programmes to maintain momentum over the coming decades. Details of the various initiatives can be viewed online here [Green New Deal | Oldham Council](#).

### 2 Progress Update

#### 2.1 2025 and 2030 Carbon Neutrality Targets

- 2.1.1. Strong progress is being made in reducing the carbon footprint of our buildings. For the 2024/25 financial year, the combined carbon footprint of Council buildings and street lighting was 5,878 tCO<sub>2</sub>—representing a 31% reduction from the 2018/19 baseline of 8,559 tCO<sub>2</sub>. Final figures for 2025 are not yet available, and the official assessment of progress against the 2025 carbon-neutrality target will be reported at the next available opportunity.
- 2.1.2 More broadly borough wide, the most recent emissions data, from 2023, shows that Oldham recorded a total carbon footprint of 728.3 kilotonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>—a 16% reduction from the 2019 baseline of 867.3 kilotonnes. This equates to a per-capita footprint of 3.0 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Oldham has retained its position as having both the lowest total and per-capita carbon footprints in Greater Manchester.

---

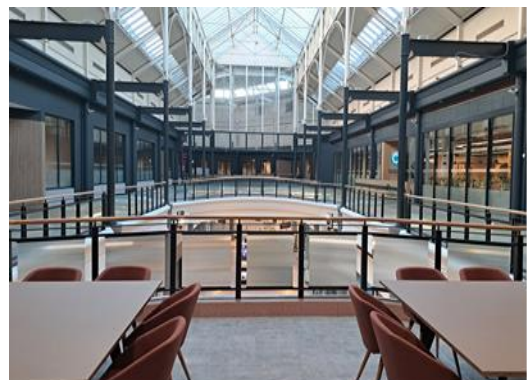
## 2.2 Alexandra Park Eco-Centre

- 2.2.1 Work to build a new environmentally friendly depot at Alexandra Park is now complete providing a modern working space for our Environmental Services teams and will also play an active role in the community through a range of uses such as spaces for events, education and recreation.
- 2.2.2 The new Eco-Centre does not use fossil fuels and is heated by two Air Source Heat Pumps, funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. Please find below a few pictures of the completed scheme.



## 2.3 Net Zero Spindles Centre

- 2.3.1 As part of the overall renovation of the Spindles complex, the building has had all fossil fuel heating systems removed and replaced with high efficiency electrical heating systems. Combined with extra thermal insulation and an electricity tariff sourced completely from renewable energy sources and backed with Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin (REGOs), the Spindles is now completely carbon neutral and the only known example of a carbon neutral shopping centre in Greater Manchester.



---

## 2.4 Oldham Green Summit

- 2.4.1 In 2023, the Council held the first Oldham Green Summit at the Oldham Athletic Business Centre. A highly successful event, it featured presentations from Oldham Youth Service, the Council and a number of local businesses who have achieved significant financial and other business benefits from implementing decarbonisation measures and technologies.
- 2.4.2 The Council will hold the second Oldham Green Summit on 26 March 2026, again with a business focus, and will feature presentations from some of the Council's key suppliers of low carbon goods and services such as Buro Happold and Vital Energi, who will talk about career opportunities in the low carbon sector as well as supply chain opportunities for Oldham companies to get involved in the delivery of low carbon projects going forward, as well as presentations from key partners such as GM Green Economy, The Oldham College and Get Oldham Working.



## 2.5 Oldham Green New Deal Partnership

- 2.5.1 In 2024, the Council was awarded £1.5m from the DESNZ / GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator programme to establish a Strategic Energy Partnership for the borough. The Oldham Green New Deal Partnership aims to establish a public-private Joint Venture, this is the largest component of the OGNDS, to secure large-scale investment for the development of modern, smart and integrated clean energy infrastructure with a range of benefits including opportunities for Oldham supply chain companies, training, social value delivery and energy security.
- 2.5.2 The Council aims to publish the tender for the Strategic Energy Partnership in the near future. The procurement will take the form of a Competitive Flexible Procedure under the Procurement Act 2023 and will aim to appoint the preferred bidder in the second half of calendar year 2027.
- 2.5.3 The Oldham Green New Deal Partnership will be only the third such partnership of its kind in the UK after Bristol and Coventry. Bristol's Strategic Energy Partnership, named Bristol City Leap, is already highly successful and the diagram on the next page is an extract from their most recent performance report.
- 2.5.4 The aim of Oldham's Strategic Energy Partnership is to achieve similar benefits for Oldham, although the Oldham model is not as extensive. We have engaged several professional advisors who worked on the procurement of Bristol's Strategic Energy Partnership benefiting from their experience in developing the Oldham Green New Deal Partnership tender.

## Social value

Bristol City Leap is not just about achieving the transition to a low-carbon economy – it's about achieving a **just transition** that works for everyone. This ethos is central to our approach and drives our commitment to delivering social value in all our practices.

In the past year, Bristol City Leap partner Ameresco and its subcontractor Vattenfall have again exceeded our social value targets, actively delivering **£17.5 million** to date.

Over the last twelve months, we have been proud to provide:

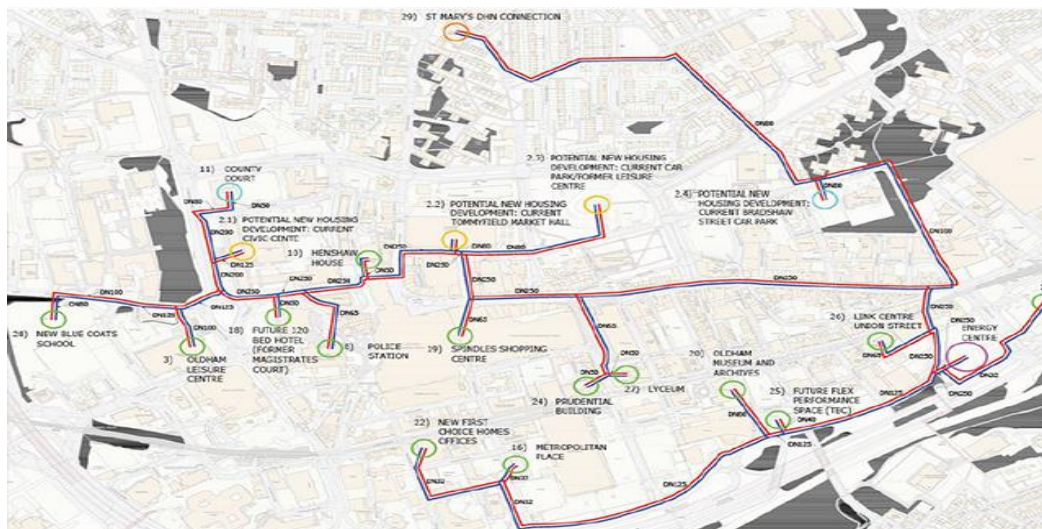


We have also supported a number of external initiatives such as signing the Bristol Equalities Charter and providing £20,000 to the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) operated advice hotline that provides free energy advice for Bristolians.

Figure: Extract from the Bristol's Strategic Energy Partnership (Bristol City Leap) Performance Report

## 2.6 Oldham Low Carbon Heat Network

2.6.1 Over the last few years, the Council has been developing plans for a new £27m low carbon district heat network to serve Oldham Town Centre. This project has been supported by grants from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, the project is now the anchor project for the procurement of a Strategic Energy Partner (as above).



2.6.2 The project will provide energy security for Oldham Town Centre in the form of clean, renewable heat serving a range of public, commercial and residential sites. The Government is introducing regulation for heat networks by OFGEM which will ensure fair

---

pricing for heat, and the construction and operation of the heat network brings opportunities for jobs and training in this sector for Oldham residents and businesses.

2.6.3 The heat network will also benefit from new planned legislation which is being introduced to Parliament this spring and will create heat network zones which will mandate large energy users and new developments to connect to heat networks. Oldham's heat network will require around £265m of investment which brings a huge opportunity for Oldham's Strategic Energy Partner with the associated opportunity for local Oldham businesses to benefit as part of the supply chain.

2.6.4 The Council also intends to utilise some of its £8.7m Green Heat Network Fund Construction Grant to install heat network pipes in the Town Centre alongside the wider regeneration works that are currently being delivered increasing efficiency and avoiding roads being excavated numerous times.

## **2.7 Wrigley Head Solar Farm**

2.7.1 Construction is now underway on the Council's first large-scale clean-energy generation facility. The 888 kWp solar farm at Wrigley Head will produce zero-carbon electricity, which will initially be exported to the grid. The project will also enhance the site—previously affected by fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour—through improved security, upgraded appearance and ecological enhancements, including new native tree and shrub planting, wildflower seeding across the site, and measures to support wildlife movement. As part of their social value commitments, the contractor, Vital Energi, will deliver site visits, supplier engagement sessions for students, and placement opportunities. The project is scheduled for completion by summer 2026.



---

## 2.8 Town Centre Park

2.8.1 The redevelopment of Spindles Shopping Centre and the relocation of Tommyfield Market will free up previously developed land across the town centre. This includes the site of the current indoor market hall, and the former Oldham Sports Centre located on Lord Street. We plan to bring these sites back to life by building much-needed new homes and developing a brand new 5.7acre park in the heart of the town centre.



2.8.2 The new town centre park will create green, open space for residents to exercise, play, or spend time with friends and family whilst also enabling town centre workers to enjoy the outdoor space in their lunch breaks. The initial works are already complete at the Rock Street end of the site with pictures below showing progress and work has now commenced on site for the next phase.



---

## 2.9 Northern Roots

- 2.9.1 Northern Roots is Oldham's project to create the largest eco-park and urban farm in the UK. It is one of the three pillars of the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy, alongside Low Carbon Infrastructure and Green Economy. The project is supported by grant funding from the Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund.
- 2.9.2 Construction is underway on a new Visitor Centre and Forestry Skills Centre at Northern Roots. Set in the woodland at the northern end of the site, the Visitor Centre will feature a café, shop, production kitchen, exhibition and performance space, as well as learning and meeting facilities. Meanwhile, the Forestry Skills Centre, will provide residents with vocational learning opportunities linked to a range of technical and land-based skills and qualifications.
- 2.9.3 In 2023 Northern Roots established the first phase of the Urban Farm. The scheme has to date created 80 volunteering opportunities, delivered activities for more than 600 children and young people, and engaged around 6,000 local residents through cultural and environmental activities. And to date, there have been 2,000 trees planted, six ponds created to support local wildlife, and the establishment of a community garden and wildflower meadow.
- 2.9.4 Construction works began March 2025 with a Practical Completion currently programmed for Summer 2026.



---

## 2.10 National Warm Homes Plan

- 2.10.1 The Government has now published its £15bn Warm Homes Plan, which will have significant benefits for Oldham residents. The national plan aims to ensure there is an energy improvement offer for every household and contains elements including:
- funding for low-income schemes,
  - low-interest consumer loans, grants towards the cost of high efficiency heat pumps,
  - support for low carbon heat networks including new national legislation creating Heat Network Zones,
  - innovative finance through a new Warm Homes Fund for home upgrades and
  - funding for Warm Homes Plan Programmes.

The approach will remove the cost of energy efficiency measures from home energy bills and fund them from central public finances and aims to unlock around £38bn in total investment across the current Parliament.

- 2.10.2 The new Warm Homes Plan will have significant benefits including the potential to create thousands of new jobs, including re-training of trades such as gas engineers. Oldham is well placed to reap these benefits through its strong existing and planned programmes. The approach will support the Corporate Plan “Green and Growing” outcomes, the include:
- more homes of a great standard that are affordable for local people,
  - attract new businesses and support existing businesses to grow,
  - create additional higher quality jobs for local people,
  - maximise opportunities in the green economy with increased investment
- 2.10.3 At an Oldham level, the approach will enable our residents to:
- invest in the energy performance of their homes,
  - stabilise their energy bills,
  - boost opportunities for Oldham companies to get involved in the supply chain to deliver home energy efficiency measures,
  - boost opportunities for Oldham’s young people to gain training and employment in this growing sector.

## 2.11 Sustainable Rainwater Management Programme

- 2.11.1 United Utilities secured £15 million through the Governments Sustainable Rainwater Management programme, with approximately £9 million allocated to the delivery of green Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Natural Flood Management initiatives. Greater Manchester received £4 million of this funding, of which Oldham secured £2.6 million for five schemes in Oldham Town Centre: Rock Street, West Street, Snipe Gardens, Market Street and Curzon Street.
- 2.11.2 These schemes will help to manage surface water in the town centre, reducing flood risk, enhancing biodiversity, and providing green infrastructure that can mitigate the urban heat island effect during periods of high temperatures. The projects will also generate valuable learning to support United Utilities in adopting similar approaches in the future, helping to keep costs—and therefore customer bills—down.
- 2.11.3 For the next investment period (2025–2030), United Utilities has identified Oldham and Bolton as priority districts within Greater Manchester. An Umbrella Agreement has been established, enabling Oldham to bring forward projects under three delivery approaches:
- **Funding Only:** United Utilities provides funding, and Oldham Council delivers the schemes.
  - **Co-Delivery:** Either party delivers the scheme with financial contributions from the other, or both invest their own resources in defined elements that form a joint scheme.

- 
- **Enabling:** The Council permits United Utilities to locate projects on Council-owned land or assets

2.11.4 Please find below a selection of pictures for schemes delivered to date.



3 **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 N/A – report for information only.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 N/A – for information only.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 N/A – for information only.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 N/A – for information only.

7 **Legal Implications**

7.1 N/A – for information only.

8. **Procurement Implications**

8.1 N/A – for information only.

9 **Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People**

9.1 N/A – for information only.

10 **Key Decision**

10.1 No

11 **Key Decision Reference**

---

11.1 N/A

12 **Background Papers**

12.1 N/A

13 **Appendices**

13.1 N/A

This page is intentionally left blank



## COUNCIL

### **Municipal Calendar 2026/27**

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

**Report Author:** Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services

**Email:** [peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk)

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

---

#### **Reason for Decision**

This report sets out the draft calendar of meetings for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

#### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

1. The Council's calendar of meetings for 2026/27 be approved, as set out at Appendix 1.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

## **Council Calendar 2026/27**

### **1 Background**

1.1 This report sets out the draft Calendar for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

### **2 Options/Alternatives**

2.1 The Council is entitled to amend any of the dates in the calendar but should note it is required to approve a version of the calendar at its annual meeting.

### **3 Preferred Option**

3.1 To approve the calendar as set out in Appendix 1.

### **4 Consultation**

4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and elected members.

### **5 Financial Implications**

5.1 n/a

### **6 Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications.

### **7 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People**

7.1 N/A.

### **8 Key Decision**

8.1 No

### **9 Key Decision Reference**

9.1 N/A

### **19 Background Papers**

19.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Council's calendar of meetings - 2024/25 and 2025/26

Peter Thompson - email [peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk)

JR Clynes Building,

---

Cultural Quarter - Greaves Street  
Oldham  
OL1 1AL

20     **Appendices**

20.1   Appendix 1 – Draft Council Calendar 2026/27

This page is intentionally left blank

**Oldham Council**

**Calendar of Meetings**

**2026/2027**

**MAY 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
				1
4 Bank Holiday	5	6	7 Borough Council Elections	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	21	22
25 Bank Holiday	26	27	28	29
<b>School Holidays</b>				

**JUNE 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm – Mandatory Training for Planning Committee members	<b>2</b> 10.00am Licensing Committee	<b>3</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>4</b> 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee	<b>12</b>
<b>15</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>16</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	<b>17</b> 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	<b>18</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel	<b>24</b> 6.00pm Standards Committee	<b>25</b> 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel  6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee			

**JULY 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
		<b>1</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>7</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>8</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>9</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (if required prior to Cabinet)	<b>10</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee	<b>15</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>16</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (Development session)	<b>17</b>
<b>20</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>21</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>22</b> 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>23</b> 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	<b>24</b>
<b>School Holidays</b>				
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>School Holidays</b>				

# AUGUST 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
Council Recess School Holidays				
10	11	12	13	14
Council Recess School Holidays				
17	18	19 6.00pm Planning Committee	20	21
Council Recess School Holidays				
24	25	26	27	28
Council Recess School Holidays				
31 Bank Holiday				
Council Recess School Holidays				

## SEPTEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>1</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	<b>2</b> 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>3</b> 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>8</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	<b>9</b> 6.00pm Standards Committee	<b>10</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>17</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee	<b>18</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>23</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>24</b> 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	<b>25</b>
<b>28</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>29</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>30</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel		

**OCTOBER 2026**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
			<b>1</b> 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (if required prior to Cabinet)	<b>2</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>12</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>13</b> 2.00pm Local NJC Committee	<b>14</b> 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10.00am Licensing Committee 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>21</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>22</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee	<b>23</b>
<b>26</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>27</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>School Holidays</b>				

## NOVEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (if required prior to Cabinet)	<b>6</b>
<b>9</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>10</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	<b>11</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>18</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>19</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee  5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	<b>20</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	<b>25</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	<b>26</b> 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	<b>27</b>
<b>30</b> 3.30pm Leadership				

# DECEMBER 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	<b>1</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (Development Session) 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	<b>4</b>
<b>7</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>8</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee	<b>9</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>10</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Standards Committee	<b>11</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>17</b> 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance	<b>18</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Bank Holiday
<b>School Holidays</b>				
<b>28</b> Bank Holiday	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	
<b>School Holidays</b>				

# JANUARY 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				1 Bank Holiday
				School Holidays
4	5	6	7	8
11 3.30pm Leadership	12 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	13 6.00pm Planning Committee	14 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board 6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	15
18 6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	19 10.00am Licensing Panel 6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	20 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	21 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (if required prior to Cabinet)	22
25 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	26 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel  6.00pm Administration Budget, Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	27 6.00pm Audit Committee	28 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	29

## FEBRUARY 2027

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6.00pm Opposition Budget, Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet (Budget)	<b>9</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	<b>10</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>15 SH</b>	<b>16 SH</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel	<b>17 SH</b>	<b>18 SH</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee	<b>19 SH</b>
<b>School Holidays</b>				
<b>22</b> 3.30pm Leadership	<b>23</b> 10.00am Licensing Committee	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 2.00pm Joint Health O&S Committee for Northern Care Alliance	<b>26</b>

<b>MARCH 2027</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee  6.00pm Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	<b>3</b> 6.00pm Council (Budget)	<b>4</b> 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board	<b>5</b>
<b>8</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Standards Committee	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6.00pm Planning Committee	<b>11</b> 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	<b>12</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10.00am Licensing Panel  6.00pm Charitable Trust Committee	<b>17</b> 6.00pm Council	<b>18</b> 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	<b>19</b>
<b>22</b> 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	<b>23</b> 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel  6.00pm Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	<b>24</b> 6.00pm Audit Committee	<b>25</b> 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	<b>26</b> Bank Holiday
<b>29</b> Bank Holiday	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel		
<b>School Holidays</b>				

<b>APRIL 2027</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
			1	2
<b>School Holidays</b>				
5	6 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	7	8	9
<b>School Holidays</b>				
12	13 10.00am Licensing Panel	14 6.00pm Planning Committee	15 10.00am Appeals Committee	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

<b>MAY, 2027</b>				
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
3 Bank Holiday	4	5	6 Elections	7
10	11	12	13	14
17	18	19 12.00 pm Annual Meeting, Council	20	21



## Civic Appreciation Award

### Report to COUNCIL

#### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council

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

**Email:** [heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk)

**25 March 2026**

---

### Reason for Decision

The purpose of the report is to consider 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.

### Executive Summary

The Oldham Scottish Pipe Band are 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.

Always a supporter of Oldham's major civic events including the Festival of Remembrance, Mayoral Sunday, Santa parade and the full diary of Royal British Legion memorial events, the band are also known for performing at local community and charity events and are a significant presence in the Borough. They support a variety of fund-raising activities and give up their free time in order to represent and support the people of Oldham.

### Recommendation

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

---

This page is intentionally left blank



**Report to COUNCIL**

## **Update on Actions from Council**

**Portfolio Holder: Various**

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

**Report Author:** Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services  
[peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk)

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

---

### **Reason for Decision**

The decision is for Members to note the updates on actions from the Council meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 and any updated responses from meetings earlier in this municipal year.

### **Executive Summary**

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

### **Recommendations**

Council is asked to: Note the report.

## **Update on Actions from Council**

### **1 Background**

1.1 This report sets out the actions that officers have taken on motions approved at the Council meetings on 10th December 2025 and which also informs Members on any updated responses to motions approved at previous meetings in this municipal year.

### **2 Current Position**

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

### **3 Options/Alternatives**

3.1 N/A

### **4 Preferred Option**

4.1 N/A

### **5 Consultation**

5.1 N/A

### **6 Financial Implications**

6.1 N/A

### **7 Legal Implications**

7.1 N/A

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

8.1 N/A

### **9 Key Decision**

9.1 No

### **10 Key Decision Reference**

10.1 N/A

### **11 Background Papers**

11.1 The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act

---

1972. It does not include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

- The agenda and minutes of the Council meetings are available online at: <http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails>

## 12 **Appendices**

### 12.1 Appendix 1 – Current Position

This page is intentionally left blank

### Actions from the Council meeting on 16 July 2025

Council Agenda item	Action/Issue	Responsible Member/Officer	Update	Completed ✓ In progress ●
Motion 2: Investing in Coldhurst:	Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ West End Street pitch (Coldhurst)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Nasir Dad	Report scheduled to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	●
Motion 3: A revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing	This Motion asks for a revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing  Gully cleaning and Don't Trash Oldham Policy. Councillor Goodwin to provide information to Councillors Byrne and Hamblett	Nasir Dad	Information provided to Councillor Byrne two active vehicles - one is our permanent vehicle, one is leased. It is our intention to maintain a minimum of two vehicles at any time given the demand for gully cleaning across the borough: these services, both the planned maintenance (rolling programme to clean/clear every gully (48,000) across the borough; and, reactive maintenance when there are localised issues which need immediate attention (for example - when gullies get blocked during periods of heavy rain causing	●

		<p>localised flooding or highway safety issues).</p> <p>To date, 18,000 gulleys have been treated – a number of those treated need to be revisited due to more substantial works being needed (significant blockage / collapse or blocked by parked car on the day we did the work in the area). This will take place once the current wards have been completed and 1 wagon will begin to address blockages/repairs and those that were inaccessible. HM has asked for timescales for this.</p> <p>Nasir Dad has offered to visit site regarding the culvert matter, as this is the responsibility of the land owner where the culvert is located, and may potentially have multiple owners.</p> <p>Councillor Goodwin in September Council, in response to a question from a member committed to bringing this back to a future council meeting.</p>	
--	--	--	--

**Actions from the Council meeting on 17 September 2025**

Council Agenda item	Action/Issue	Responsible Member/Officer	Update	Completed ✓ In progress ●
Motion 1: Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza	<p>This Council resolves to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.</li> <li>2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.</li> <li>3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.</li> <li>4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza</li> <li>5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.</li> </ol>	5. Chief Executive	Letters sent, awaiting replies	●



<p>Motion 2: Setting out our ambition to become a 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough</p>	<p>1. This Council resolves to work in collaboration with Defibrillators Save Lives to:</p> <p>a. Map and monitor all public-access defibrillators across the borough. b. Ensure offline devices are repaired, restored or replaced and brought back into service. c. Establish a routine checking and reporting system using The Circuit, d. Provide education and awareness so that residents not only know where defibrillators are but also how to use them with confidence, similar to the hugely success Defib Day they ran in The Spindles 9th August. 2.</p> <p>This Council further resolves, to firmly state our ambition for Oldham to become the first 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough in the England.</p>	<p>Mike Barker</p>	<p>The Deputy Chief Executive (Health and Care) has requested to meet with Defibrillators Saves Lives to progress the actions of the Council</p>	<p>●</p>
<p>Motion 1: Provision of Free School Travel for all Children in Temporary Accommodation</p>	<p>This Council resolves:</p> <p>1. To request the Cabinet to bring forward, within 12 weeks, a report setting out options to improve access to school for children in TA, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The feasibility of extending free school travel (bus pass and/or taxi) to children in TA irrespective of mileage thresholds;</li> <li>o Eligibility definitions based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM);</li> <li>o Delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid), with clear safeguarding standards;</li> </ul>	<p>Neil Consterdine</p>	<p>Work is ongoing between staff from housing and education services to develop a strategy that reflects the motion that the Council approved. In the meantime, support is available to families that are identified as being in need.</p>	<p>●</p>

	<p>o Legal, financial and equality implications (including Section 149 Equality Act assessment);  o Funding options (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding, partnership with TfGM and operators, and targeted charitable/hardship support); o An implementation timetable (including scope for a time-limited pilot).</p> <p>2. That no decision to implement any new concession is taken until Cabinet (or Council where required) has considered the report and identified funding in line with the Financial Procedure Rules and the agreed budget/MTFP (or approved virement/other lawful funding mechanism).</p>			
<p>Motion 2: Oldham Borough deserves a state-of-the-art police station which must include a custody suite</p>	<p>Therefore, the Council resolves:</p> <p>1. That Council formally notes its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.  2. That Council sets a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, that a report be submitted to the appropriate Scrutiny Board of the Council, detailing:  a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.  b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.</p>	<p>Neil Consterdine</p>	<p>Officers working with GMP to action recommendations detailed in the Motion</p>	<p>●</p>

	c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.			

**Actions from the Council meeting on 12 November 2025**

<b>Council Agenda item</b>	<b>Action/Issue</b>	<b>Responsible Member/Officer</b>	<b>Update</b>	<b>Completed ✓ In progress ●</b>
Notice of Administration Business – Motion 1: Improving Parking Provisions at ROH	1. Request that Oldham Council works collaboratively with the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust (NCA) and relevant partners to explore options for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developing a multi-storey or expanded car park at or near Royal Oldham Hospital;</li> <li>b. Introducing fair and affordable parking arrangements for patients attending A&amp;E, those with regular appointments, and NHS staff;</li> <li>c. Creating dedicated parking directly opposite the A&amp;E department for patients attending A&amp;E only;</li> <li>d. Improving access and facilities for wheelchair users and those with mobility needs.</li> </ol>	Mike Barker	The Deputy Chief Executive (Health and Care) has met with Defibrillators Saves Lives to progress the actions of the Council	✓
	2. Write to the Chief Executive of the NCA and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) expressing this Council's support for urgent improvements to parking provision at Royal Oldham Hospital.	Chief Executive	Letters sent	●
	3. Request that Oldham's Members of Parliament lobby the national government and publicly support a campaign for better parking provision for Oldham residents attending Royal Oldham Hospital.	Chief Executive	Letters sent to Oldham's MP's	●

<p>Notice of Administration Business – Motion 2: Strengthening Standards and Transparency for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)</p>	<p>1. To review and strengthen local HMO Standards by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Undertake a comprehensive review of current HMO licensing and amenity standards within the borough.</li> <li>b. Introduce enhanced minimum requirements for space, fire safety, sanitation, and kitchen facilities, drawing on best practices from other councils.</li> <li>c. Ensure that all licensed HMOs are subject to regular inspections and compliance checks.</li> </ol> <p>2. To Improve Transparency and Accessibility for Complaints by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Developing a clear, accessible online portal for residents to report concerns or complaints about HMOs.</li> <li>b. Publishing quarterly data on HMO complaints, enforcement actions, and outcomes to improve public accountability.</li> </ol> <p>3. To Enhance Resident Engagement and Support, by launching a public awareness campaign informing residents of their rights and how to report unsafe or poorly managed HMOs.</p>	<p>Nasir Dad</p>	<p>Officers to review and to implement revised standards in accordance with the approved Motion</p>	
<p>Notice of Opposition Business: Motion 1: Tackling the Anti-Social Use of Off-Road Motorbikes, E-Bikes and E-Scooters</p>	<p>1. Write to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Sir Stephen Watson QPM thanking him, the Officers and staff of GMP and the National Police Air Service (NPAS) for their continued hard work and dedication in tackling the anti-social use of these vehicles and ask him to ensure that this remains a priority for Greater Manchester Police.</p> <p>2. To write to the Home Office and ask for further dedicated funding for GMP to use in</p>	<p>1. &amp; 2. Chief Executive</p> <p>3.&amp; 4. Mike Barker &amp; Nasir Dad</p>	<p>Letters sent, awaiting replies</p>	

	<p>tackling the anti-social use of off-road motorbikes, electric bikes and electric scooters.</p> <p>3. To use Oldham Council’s Media team and ask them to carry out a campaign educating the public into the legalities of these vehicles and encouraging residents to help build up an intelligence-led picture so that GMP can carry out targeted operations by reporting instances and homes suspected of housing anti-social users which can be done anonymously.</p> <p>4. Ask housing providers such as First Choice Homes, Great Places, Guinness Partnership to work with Oldham Council’s media team and develop and plan of education and intelligence to support GMP in operations to tackle the anti-social use of off-road motorbike, e-scooters, and e-bikes.</p>		<p>Officers liaising with Oldham’s housing providers to increase awareness of the dangers associated with the anti-social use of off-road motorbike, e-scooters, and e-bikes.</p>	

**Actions from the Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

Council Agenda item	Action/Issue	Responsible Member/Officer	Update	Completed ✓ In progress ●
Youth Council Motion – Young Men’s Mental Health	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>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</p>	Chief Executive	Letters sent – awaiting reply	●

	<p>access to support, and ultimately, save lives.</p> <p>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.</p>			
<p>Motion 1 – Administration Business: Strengthening Standards and Restoring Faith in Local Democracy</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council welcome the Government's proposals to strengthen the standards regime and restore confidence in local democracy.</li> <li>2. That the Council commits to adopting the mandatory minimum code of conduct once implemented in legislation.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	<p>Director of Legal</p> <p>Director of Legal</p> <p>Chief Executive</p> <p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Letters sent – awaiting reply</p>	<p>●</p>

	<p>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.</p>	<p>Director of Legal</p>		
<p>Motion 2 – Administration Business: Fairer parking at Manchester Airport</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council formally supports Jim McMahon MP’s campaign for fairer and more transparent parking charges at Manchester Airport.</li> <li>2. That the Council requests that the Chief Executive write to Manchester Airport Group urging: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A review of the current charging structure with a view to reducing costs.</li> <li>○ Improved signage and introduction of a “tap-out” payment option at exit points.</li> <li>○ Publication of data on income from drop-off and pick-up charges.</li> <li>○ A fair and accessible appeals process that does not increase penalties for unsuccessful appeals.</li> <li>○ That the Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Leaders of the other 9 GM Local</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p>Chief Executive</p>	<p>Letters and emails sent awaiting replies</p>	<p>●</p>

	Authorities to share this motion seek wider regional support.			
Opposition Motion 2 – Fair Funding in Local Government	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases.</li> <li>b. A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts.</li> <li>c. The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning.</li> <li>d. A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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,</li> </ol>	Chief Executive	Letters and emails sent awaiting replies	●
		Chief Executive		

	<p>who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.</p> <p>3) That the Council continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.</p>			
<p>Opposition Motion 3: Ensuring Statutory Scrutiny and Enforceability for Places for Everyone Masterplans</p>	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>2) That the Council’s 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>4) That Officers be requested to report progress to the Cabinet meeting, scheduled to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> January</p>	<p>Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive</p>	<p>Reports presented to Scrutiny Board and Cabinet</p>	<p>✓</p>

	2026, including timelines for consultation and adoption.			
Outcome of consultation on the introduction of an Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Council endorses the information provided in the submitted report.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive	Council approved the report's recommendations	✓
Appointment of Independent Members to the Independent Remuneration Panel	<p><b>RESOLVED:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That Council authorises the reappointment of Mr. Geoffrey Millard to the Independent Remuneration Panel until May 2029.</li> <li>2. That the Council approves the proposal to establish a pool of five independent members to serve on the Independent Remuneration Panel.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>	Constitutional Services	1 and 2 approved by Council. 3 has been advertised	✓
Treasury Management Half Year Review Report 2025/26	That the Council approves the Treasury Management Half Year Review report, the Treasury Management activity and the projected outturn for 2025/26.	Director of Finance	Council approved the recommendations in the report	✓



## Report to COUNCIL

# Deputy Electoral Registration Officers

**Officer Contact:** Shelley Kipling, Chief Executive

**Report Author:** Jenna Madeley, Head of Elections and Land Charges

**Email:** [jenna.madeley@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:jenna.madeley@oldham.gov.uk)

**25 March 2026**

---

### Reason for Decision

Electoral Commission guidance recommends the appointment of a Deputy Electoral Registration Officer (DERO) to carry out the functions of the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and be available to act in their absence. The Elections Act 2022 places further obligations on the ERO, which it would be more practical for a deputy to undertake. The guidance further recommends that, "Any deputies appointed should have the skills and knowledge required to carry out the functions that they have been assigned." Appointment of DEROs provides resilience and ensures that there is an officer available to discharge these functions.

### Recommendations

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, having the same duties as the Electoral Registration Officer with immediate effect.

---

## Appointment of additional Deputy Electoral Registrations Officers

### 1 Background

- 1.1 Under Section 8(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council must appoint a senior officer to the position of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO). This position is responsible for maintaining and publishing the register of electors for the area. The Chief Executive was appointed as the ERO for Oldham Council at a meeting of the Full Council on 6 March 2025.
- 1.2 Under Section 52(2) of the Representation of the People Act 1983, the Council may appoint of Deputy Electoral Registration Officers (DEROs) to perform and exercise any of the duties and powers of the ERO. Unlike Returning Officers, the ERO cannot appoint a deputy themselves.
- 1.3 Examples of the statutory functions currently placed on the ERO that would, in practice, be better undertaken by a Deputy are:
- To hold a hearing in respect of any reviews of registration or any objections received for an application to be included on the Register of Electors. For objections, the legislation provides that these hearings must be held no earlier than the third day and no later than the seventh day after the notice of objection is received. If a hearing is not held within this timescale, then the Council will be in breach of the legislation.
  - Signing a temporary voter authority certificate (free voter ID), issued to an elector within six days before the election. The Elections Act 2022 introduced the requirement for voters to show photographic identification at polling stations to verify their identity. Voters who do not have any acceptable form of photographic ID can apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate. Those applying close to a specific election may need to be issued with a temporary Voter Authority Certificate which will need to be produced locally and contain a wet ink signature of the ERO or an appointed Deputy.

### 2 Options/Alternatives

- 2.1 No other options are put forward for consideration, as the officers detailed in the report have the appropriate skills and experience in the role of DERO.

### 3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 That Council appoints the DEROs as detailed in the report.

### 4 Consultation

- 4.1 As this is a statutory appointment, no specific consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report, but relevant officers are aware of the proposals and will be asked to

---

5      **Financial Implications**

5.1      There are no financial implications as the Deputy ERO would not receive any additional payment.

6      **Legal Implications**

6.1      As set out in the body of the report.

7.      **Procurement Implications**

7.1      None.

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

8.1      No.

9      **Key Decision**

9.1      No.

10      **Key Decision Reference**

10.1      N/A

11      **Background Papers**

11.1      None.

12      **Appendices**

12.1      None.

This page is intentionally left blank



## Report to COUNCIL

# Review of Political Balance on Committees

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

**Report Author:** Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Democratic Services

**Ext.** 4716

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

---

### Reason for Decision

The Chief Executive has received notification that Councillor Marie Bashforth has resigned from the Labour Group and will henceforth sit as an Independent.

Considering this, the Council is asked 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 is that the Labour Group will lose one seat on the Charitable Trust Committee, which will be allocated to Councillor Bashforth.

### Recommendations

- (a) That the revised composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1, below, be noted.
- (b) The number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.5, below, be noted.
- (c) Any outstanding appointments to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

## **1 Background**

The Council is asked 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. The Chief Executive received notice, on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026, that Councillor Bashforth, has resigned from the Labour Group and will henceforth serve on the Council as an Independent member.

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

### **1.1 Political Groups**

Council is asked to note that the composition of the political groups, as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, is: -

(i)	The Labour Group	26	Members
(ii)	The Liberal Democrat Group	9	Members
(iii)	The Oldham Group	9	Members
(iv)	Conservative Group	6	Members
(v)	Reform UK	3	Members
(vi)	Failsforth Independent Party	2	Members
(vii)	Royton Independents	2	Members
(viii)	The Independent Group	2	Members
(ix)	Independent	1	Member

- a. The Labour Group comprises: Councillors Shah (Leader), Taylor, Mohon Ali, Aslam, Brownridge, Charters, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Goodwin, Harrison, A. Hussain, F. Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Rustidge and Shuttleworth.
- b. The Liberal Democrat Group comprises: Councillors Sykes (Leader), Al-Hamdani, Bishop, Hamblett, Harkness, Kenyon, Marland, Murphy and Williamson.
- c. The Oldham Group comprises: Councillors Ghafoor (Leader), Akhtar, Zaheer Ali, Azad, Chowhan, Ibrahim, Kouser, Sheldon and Wahid
- d. The Conservative Group comprises: Councillors Woodvine (Leader), Adams, Arnott, Byrne, Lancaster and Sharp.
- e. The Reform UK Group comprises: Councillors Quigg (Leader), Ball and Wilkinson.
- f. The Failsforth Independent Party comprises: Councillors Hobin (Leader) and Hindle.
- g. The Royton Independents comprises; Councillors Hurley (Leader) and Hughes.
- h. The Independent Group comprises Councillors Hince (Leader) and Navesey.
- i. Councillor Marie Bashforth is the Independent Member

### **1.2 Political Balance**

There are four statutory principles of political balance which have to be applied in filling appointments to Committees. These are contained in S15(5) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

The principles have to be applied in priority order as follows: -

- (i) That not all seats on the body are allocated to the same political group.
- (ii) That the majority of the seats on the body are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group are a majority of the Authority's membership.
- (iii) Subject to paragraphs (a) and (b) above, that the number of seats on the ordinary committees of a relevant Authority which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the total of all the seats on the ordinary committees of that Authority as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority; and,
- (iv) Subject to paragraphs (i) to (iii) above, that the number of seats on the body which are allocated to each political group bears the same proportion to the same number of all seats on that body as is borne by the number of members of that group to the membership of the Authority.

The political group sizes as a percentage of the total membership of the Council are:-

Labour Group	$26/60 \times 100 = 43.33\%$	125 seats x 43.33% = 54.16	<b>54 seats</b>
Liberal Democrat Group	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	125 seats x 15% = 18.75	<b>19 seats</b>
Oldham Group	$9/60 \times 100 = 15\%$	125 seats x 15% = 18.75	<b>19 seats</b>
Conservative Group	$6/60 \times 100 = 10.00\%$	125 seats x 10.00% = 12.5	<b>12 seats</b>
Reform UK	$3/60 \times 100 = 5\%$	125 seats x 5% = 6.25	<b>6 seats</b>
Failsworth Independent Party	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	125 seats x 3.33% = 4.16	<b>4 Seats</b>
The Independent Group	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	125 seats x 3.33% = 4.16	<b>4 seats</b>
Royton Local Group	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	125 seats x 3.33% = 4.16	<b>4 seats</b>
Royton Independents	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	125 seats x 3.33% = 4.16	<b>4 seats</b>
Independent Member	$1/60 \times 100 = 1.66\%$	125 seats x 1.66% = 2.08 seats	<b>2 seats</b>

1.3 The application of these percentages to the number of seats on individual Committees gives the following allocation of seats: -

COMMITTEE SIZE	Labour (L)	Liberal Democrat (LD)	Oldham Group (OG)	Conservatives (C)	Reform UK	Failsworth Independen	The Independent	Royton Independen	Ind.

						dents (FIP)	Group (TIG)	dents (RI)	
<b>16</b>	6.93	2.40	2.40	1.60	0.80	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.27
<b>15</b>	6.49	2.25	2.25	1.50	0.75	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.25
<b>14</b>	6.06	2.10	2.10	1.40	0.70	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.23
<b>13</b>	5.63	1.95	1.95	1.30	0.65	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.22
<b>12</b>	5.20	1.80	1.80	1.20	0.60	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.20
<b>11</b>	4.76	1.65	1.65	1.10	0.55	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.18
<b>10</b>	4.33	1.50	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.17
<b>9</b>	3.90	1.35	1.35	0.90	0.45	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.15
<b>8</b>	3.46	1.20	1.20	0.80	0.40	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.13
<b>7</b>	3.03	1.05	1.05	0.70	0.35	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.12
<b>6</b>	2.60	0.90	0.90	0.60	0.30	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.10
<b>5</b>	2.17	0.75	0.75	0.50	0.25	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.08
<b>4</b>	1.73	0.60	0.60	0.40	0.20	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.07
<b>3</b>	1.30	0.45	0.45	0.30	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.05

- 1.4 Under the political balance rules after these percentages have been applied to the total number of seats on Committees of the Council any remaining seats must be allocated to members who are not Members of any political group. Applying political balance as detailed above, the allocation of seats, to the current committee structure, would be as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>OG</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>RUK</b>	<b>FIP</b>	<b>TIG</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>IND</b>
Planning	16	7	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Audit Committee	9	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	4	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Standards Committee	7	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee (formerly TRO Panel)	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

The above calculation leaves 11 committee places to be allocated.

### 1.5 Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance, so far as practicable, the number of seats must be allocated to accord with the rules above. It is therefore proposed that the number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2025/26 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Seats</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>LD</b>	<b>OG</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>RU K</b>	<b>FI P</b>	<b>TI G</b>	<b>RI</b>	<b>IN D</b>
Planning	16	7	2	2	2	0	1	1	1	0
Licensing	15	7	2	2	2	0	1	1	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	5	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	5	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	5	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Audit	9	4	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Commons Registration	4	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Standards Committee	7	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Highways Regulation Committee (formerly TRO)	5	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

- a. The Health and Well Being Board is not included in the calculation above. Although the Committee is appointed by Council, the Local Authority (Public Health and Well Being Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide for the disapplication of Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989

- 
- b. Annual Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 appointed a District Lead for each District Area and 2 Deputy District Leads for North and East District.
  - c. It was previously agreed that the standards sub-committee, dealing with assessments or hearings will consist of 5 members with 2 Members from the Labour Group and one each from the Liberal Democrat Group, Conservative Group and the Oldham Group who have seats on the Standards Committee.
- 1.6 Substitutes are to be appointed by the political groups in accordance with the Substitute Scheme contained in the Constitution. Substitutes for Overview and Scrutiny Boards may be nominated up to a maximum of the number of Members of that Group serving on the Board. Substitutes are not permitted for Licensing. For the Planning Committee, up to 16 substitutes are to be nominated in accordance with the political balance of each Committee. Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Highways Regulation Committee, the Audit Committee and to the four Overview and Scrutiny Boards.
- 1.7 Council is asked to note the revised political composition of the Committees; to determine the allocation of seats to political groups; and to make the appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations.

## 2 **Options/Alternatives**

- 2.1 To approve the report.  
Not to approve the report

## 3 **Preferred Option**

- 3.1 To approve the report.

## 4 **Consultation**

- 4.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and Councillors.

## 5 **Financial Implications**

- 5.1 n/a

## 6 **Legal Implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications.

## 7 **Equality Impact – including implications for Children and Young Persons**

- 7.1 N/A

## 8 **Key Decision**

- 8.1 No

## 9 **Key Decision Reference**

---

9.1 N/A

10 **Background Papers**

The following is a list of background papers on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972. It does include documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information as defined by the Act:

Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990.

Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Contact: Peter Thompson – [peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:peter.thompson@oldham.gov.uk), or,  
JR Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL

11. **Appendices**

None

This page is intentionally left blank