

**OLDHAM METROPOLITAN
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY 2026
(ANNUAL MEETING)**

COUNCIL Agenda

Date Wednesday 20th May 2026

Time 12.00 pm

Venue J R Clynes Second Floor Council Chamber - The JR Clynes Building

Notes 1. Declarations of Interest- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Alex Bougatef or Peter Thompson at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. Contact officer for this agenda is Peter Thompson email constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

3. Filming - The Council, members of the public and the press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and the press are not lawfully excluded. Any member of the public who attends a meeting and objects to being filmed should advise the Constitutional Services Officer who will instruct that they are not included in the filming.

Please note that anyone using recording equipment both audio and visual will not be permitted to leave the equipment in the room where a private meeting is held.

Membership of the COUNCIL:

Councillors Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, M Ali, Z Ali, Arnott, Arstan, Aslam, Azad, Ball, Barnes, Bishop, Brooks, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Chauhan, Chowhan, Eyre, Ford, Ghafoor, Hanlon, Harkness, Harrison, Hince, Hobin, Hughes, Hurley, Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Jackson, Kenyon, Klonowski, Kouser, Moores, Murphy, Nasheen, Navesey, Pinder, Quigg, Rustidge, Ruthven, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Taleb, Tarbuck, Taylor, Taylor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine.

OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 12th March 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday, 20th May 2026 at 12.00 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 To elect the Mayor for the 2026/27 Municipal Year (Pages 1 - 2)
- 3 Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Mayor
- 4 To appoint the Deputy Mayor for 2026/27
- 5 Minutes (Pages 3 - 30)
To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 25th March 2026 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.
- 6 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 7 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 8 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 9 Results of the Local Elections held on 7th May 2026 (Pages 31 - 34)
To receive a report of the Returning Officer as to the persons elected to the office of Councillor on 7th May 2026.
- 10 Leader of the Council (Pages 35 - 38)
To appoint a Leader of the Council, in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.
- 11 Appointment of the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members and allocation of portfolios and delegation of Executive functions
Report to follow.
- 12 Main Opposition Nominations to the Shadow Cabinet 2026/27
Report to follow
- 13 Appointment to Committees and Compositions of Political Groups (Pages 39 - 48)

To appoint to committees of the Council in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to give consideration to some committees that are not allocated strictly in accordance with proportionality under the Act.

Appendix to follow

- 14 Appointment to Outside Bodies 2026/27 (Pages 49 - 52)

To appoint Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies in 2026/27

Appendices to follow

- 15 Council Meetings and Municipal Calendar 2026/27 (Pages 53 - 70)

- a. To confirm the meetings of Full Council to be held on the undermentioned dates during 2026/27, commencing at 6.00pm, unless otherwise stated:

Wednesday, 15th July 2026

Wednesday, 16th September 2026

Wednesday, 18th November 2026

Wednesday, 16th December 2026

Wednesday, 3rd March 2027 (Budget Meeting)

Wednesday, 17th March 2027

- b. To approve the calendar of Meetings for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

- 16 Council Constitution

Council is requested to re-affirm its Constitution as a matter of good governance.

Report to follow

- 17 Notice of Administration Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

- 18 Notice of Opposition Business

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion: A new Start for Oldham Borough

To be Moved by Councillor Harkness

To be Seconded by Councillor Al-Hamdani

This Council believes that:

Residents of Oldham Borough want their Council to change to reflect the priorities of the people.

They want their Council to get the basics right, with a laser-focus on improving the performance and effectiveness of frontline services including drain clearance, road repairs and park and green space maintenance.

Residents want their Council to tackle environmental crimes like littering, dog-fouling, fly-tipping and graffiti.

It is also time to deliver fair funding to all districts and communities in Oldham Borough and not just keep pouring capital investment into Oldham Town Centre.

This Council resolves:

The administration will commit to presenting an emergency mini budget, to Council before the end of July 2026, in line with 12.6 of the Council Procedure rules of the Constitution, outlining how funding will be rebalanced to address the priorities set out in this motion, specifically getting the basics right, tackling environmental crime and delivering fair district funding.

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Election of Mayor

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Email: heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk

20th May 2026

Reason for Decision

The election of the chair of the Council (Mayor) is a Council function in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

Recommendations

1. That the Council elects a Mayor for the municipal year 2026/2027 and receives nomination(s) for the position.

Election of Mayor

1 **Background**

1.1 The election of the chair of the Council (Mayor) is a Council function in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 1972.

2 **Options/Alternatives**

2.1 It is a statutory requirement that the election of Mayor is the first item on the agenda of the annual meeting of the Council.

3 **Consultation**

3.1 N/A.

4 **Financial Implications**

4.1 N/A.

5 **Legal Implications**

5.1 If we are unable to appoint a Mayor, we must adjourn the meeting as decisions would be unlawful.

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

6.1 None.

7 **Key Decision**

7.1 No.

8 **Key Decision Reference**

8.1 N/A.

9 **Appendices**

9.1 None.

10 **Background Papers**

10.1 None.



COUNCIL
25/03/2026 at 6.00 pm

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

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

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a. Former MP Phil Woolas

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

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

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

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

b. Councillor Hobin

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

c. Retiring Members

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

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

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

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

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

d. Agenda item 11 – Notice of Opposition Business

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

6

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

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

YOUTH COUNCIL

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



Opposing the Under-16 Social Media Ban

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AMENDMENT

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

To add the following as new resolution 3:

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

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

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

RESOLVED

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

8

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from John Whatmough

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

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

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

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

2. Question from Hannah Roberts

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3. Question from Michael Powell

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

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

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

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

4. Question from Samuel Hollis

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

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

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

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

5. Question from Shona Farnworth

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

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

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

6. Question from Roger Blackmore

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

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

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

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

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

7. Question from John Shelley

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. Question from Luke Goss

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

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

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

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

9. Question from Jeff Garner

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

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

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

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

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

9

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members to present their reports and further invited non-executive members to ask questions thereon. Written questions and answers submitted to the Leader and Cabinet Members had been published to the Council's website:

a. Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and the Growth Portfolio holder, presented her report, including the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 1st December 2025, 15th December 2025 and 19th January 2026, the urgent executive decisions made during 2025/26 (under 'Rule 13' and 'Rule 14' of the Council's Constitution and the minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 28th November 2025, 12th December 2025 and 30th January 2026.

Councillor Ghafoor, Leader of the Oldham Group

Question 1: Inconsiderate Parking

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

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

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

Question 2: Investment in Oldham town centre

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

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

RESOLVED:

1. That the Leader and Portfolio Holder reports be noted.
2. That the written questions and answers submitted to the Leader and Portfolio Holders, as published on the Council's website, be noted.
3. That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 1st December 2025, 15th December 2025 and 19th January 2026, the urgent executive decisions made during 2025/26 (under 'Rule 13' and 'Rule 14' of the Council's Constitution and the Minutes of the meetings of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 28th November 2025, 12th December 2025 and 30th January 2026, be noted.

10

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 8.1

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

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

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

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

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

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Islam SECONDED the following Motion:



This Council notes:

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

This Council further notes:

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

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

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

This Council resolves to:

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

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

2. Continue and strengthen local enforcement in Oldham.

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

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

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

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

To ask the Chief Executive to write to the Greater

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



AMENDMENT 1

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

In "This Council notes," bullet point four,

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

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

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

AMENDMENT 2

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

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

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

On being put to the vote AMENDMENT 2 was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.



RESOLVED

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

Councillor Goodwin MOVED and Councillor Davis SECONDED the following Motion:



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

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

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

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

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

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

This Council notes:

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

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

This Council resolves to:

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

This Council further resolves to:

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

AMENDMENT

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

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

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

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

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

On being put to the vote the AMENDMENT was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

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

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

12

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

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

Councillor Marland MOVED and Councillor Bishop SECONDED the following Motion:

This Council notes that:

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

This Council further notes that:

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

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

This Council believes that:

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

This Council therefore resolves to:

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

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

This Council notes that:

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

Democrats decision to enter coalition with the Conservatives in 2010.

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

This Council further notes that:

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

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

This Council believes that:

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

This Council therefore resolves to:

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

On being put to the VOTE the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

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

RESOLVED:

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

Motion 2: Keep the Covenant

Councillor Arnott MOVED and Councillor Adams SECONDED the following Motion:

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

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

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

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

Recommendation for Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council notes that:

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

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council resolves to:

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

RESOLVED:

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

SUBMISSION OF OLDHAM LOCAL PLAN - PUBLICATION PLAN



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

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

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

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

RESOLVED:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED

That the Council:

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

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

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



Oldham
Council

15

OLDHAM GREEN NEW DEAL UPDATE

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

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

RESOLVED:

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

16

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2026/27

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

RESOLVED that:

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

17

CIVIC APPRECIATION AWARDS

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

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

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

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



RESOLVED:

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

18

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources which updated members on actions taken following the meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2025 and also on any updated responses from meetings held in the previous 12 months.

RESOLVED:

That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council held on 10th December 2025, be noted and confirmed.

19

DEPUTY ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICERS

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

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

RESOLVED

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

20

REVIEW OF POLITICAL BALANCE ON COMMITTEES

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

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



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

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

RESOLVED

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

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 10.10pm



Report to COUNCIL

Results of the Local Elections held on 7th May 2026

Report of the Returning Officer

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services

20th May 2026

Reason for Decision

- Local Elections took place on the 7th May 2026 and the following were elected to serve as members of the Council as shown:

Ward	Turnout	Councillor
Alexandra	45.01%	Cllr Shabir Hussain
Chadderton Central	44.72%	Cllr Mohammed Nazrul Islam
Chadderton North	47.27%	Cllr Jon Ford
Chadderton South	41.80%	Cllr Rob Jackson
Coldhurst	45.92%	Cllr Mohammed Mohib Abu Taleb
Crompton	47.76%	Cllr Peter Hanlon
Failsworth East	44.16%	Cllr Andrew Brooks
Failsworth West	42.61%	Cllr Mark Ruthven
Hollinwood	41.80%	Cllr Robert Barnes
Medlock Vale	40.47%	Cllr Junaid Hussain
Royton North	50.14%	Cllr Paul Robinson
Royton South	44.80%	Cllr Tony Pinder
Saddleworth North	54.48%	Cllr Ioan Williams
Saddleworth South	54.77%	Cllr Helen Bishop
Saddleworth West and Lees	49.43%	Cllr Peter Klonowski

Shaw	47.11%	Cllr Steve Eyre
St. James	39.51%	Cllr Gary Tarbuck
St Mary's	51.84%	Cllr Sonny Shah Arstan
Waterhead	46.09%	Cllr Paul Taylor
Werneth	51.28%	Cllr Fida Hussain

Recommendations

Council is asked to note the results of the Local Elections.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 n/a

3 Preferred Option

3.1 n/a

4 Consultation

4.1 n/a

5 Financial Implications

5.1 n/a

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications.

7 Oldham Equality Impact Assessment, 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

10 Background Papers

19.1 There are no background papers to this report on which this report is based in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.



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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services

20th May 2026

Reason for Decision

The election of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

Recommendations

1. The Council receives nomination(s) for the office of the Leader of the Council.
2. The Council elects the Leader of the Council for a term of office starting on 21st May 2026 and ending on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Leader of the Council

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The appointment of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

2 Background

2.1 The Leader of the Council (the “Leader”) will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The Council will decide on the term of office of the Leader which must expire no later than the day of which the Council holds its first Annual meeting after the Leader’s normal day of retirement as a Councillor unless:

- a. He or she resigns from the office, or
- b. He or she is no longer a Councillor, or
- c. He or she is removed from office by the resolution of the Council when a successor shall be appointed.

2.2 It is the responsibility of the Leader to determine the size and membership of the Cabinet (providing the membership comprises between two and nine members, not including the Leader). The Leader shall also determine the remit of each portfolio. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.

2.3 All executive functions are vested in the Leader and it is the Leader’s responsibility to determine how such functions shall be delegated. This responsibility can be a simple re-affirmation of the existing delegation of executive functions to the Cabinet, and Officers. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.

3 Current Position

3.1 A Leader is required to be appointed in light of the resignation that has been received.

4 Options/Alternatives

4.1 N/A.

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 The appointment of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended.

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

8.1 None.

9 **Key Decision**

9.1 No.

10 **Key Decision Reference**

10.1 N/A.

11 **Appendices**

11.1 None.

12 **Background Papers**

12.1 None.

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Report to COUNCIL

Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Constitutional Services

20th May 2026

Reason for Decision

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. The Council is asked to constitute and appoint members to serve on the several Committees detailed in the constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

Recommendations

- (a) The composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 be noted.
- (b) The several Committees detailed at paragraph 1.2 and 1.5 be constituted with the Terms of Reference and delegated powers as detailed in the Constitution as amended if the report on the constitution is agreed later in this meeting.
- (c) The number of seats on the various Committees for the 2026/27 Municipal Year be as detailed in paragraph 1.5.
- (d) Council confirms the allocation of seats to the political groups and makes appointments to fill the seats in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as detailed in Appendix 1 as far as is practicable.

-
- (e) Council appoints a Chair and Vice-Chair of each of the various Committees for the 2026/27 Municipal Year, as detailed in Appendix 1, except for the Appointments and Appeals Committees and appoints a District Lead and Deputy District Leads for the North and East Districts.
 - (f) The Co-opted Members detailed at paragraph 1.9 of the report be appointed to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Board and the Co-optees be given full voting rights in respect of education matters only.
 - (g) Any outstanding appointments or changes during the municipal year to be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

Appointment of Committees and Composition of Political Groups

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.

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	18 Members
(ii)	The Reform UK Group	16 Members
(iii)	The Oldham Group	10 Members
(iv)	The Liberal Democrat Group	6 Members
(v)	The Conservative Group	4 Members
(vi)	Royton Independents	2 Members
(vii)	The Independent Group	1 Member
(viii)	Failsworth Independent Party	1 Member

There are two Independent Members not aligned to a political group.

- a. The Labour group comprises: Councillors Mohon Ali, Aslam, Brownridge, Charters, Chauhan, Harrison, F. Hussain, J. Hussain, Sajed Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Moores, Nasheen, Rustidge, Shah, Shuttleworth and Taylor.
- b. The Reform UK Group comprises: Councillors Ball, Barnes, Brooks, Eyre, Ford, Hanlon, Jackson, Klonowski, Pinder, Quigg, Robinson, Ruthven, Tarbuck, Taylor, Wilkinson and Williams.
- c. The Oldham Group comprises: Councillors Akhtar, Zaheer Ali, Azad, Chowhan, Ghafoor, Ibrahim, Shabir Hussain, Kouser, Shah Arstan and Sheldon.
- d. The Liberal Democrat Group comprises: Councillors Al-Hamdani, Bishop, Harkness, Kenyon, Murphy and Williamson.
- e. The Conservative Group comprises: Councillors Arnott, Byrne, Sharp and Woodvine.
- f. The Royton Independents comprises; Councillors Hughes and Hurley.
- g. The Independent Group comprises Councillor Hince.
- h. The Failsworth Independent Party comprises Councillor Hobin.
- i. Councillor Taleb and Councillor Navesey are independent members not aligned to a political group.

1.2 Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

Council is asked to constitute and appoint members to serve on the several Committees detailed in the Constitution and listed in Appendix 1 to this report, namely: -

- (i) The Regulatory Committees: -
 - Licensing
 - Planning
 - Appeals
 - Commons Registration

Charitable Trust Committee

- (ii) The Overview and Scrutiny Boards (x4):-
- (iii) The Audit Committee
- (iv) The Standards Committee
- (v) The Employment Committee
- (vi) Appointments Committee
- (vii) Highway Regulation Committee

The terms of reference, and delegated powers where applicable, are as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

Council is also asked to ratify the Leader's nominations to the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board is not a politically balanced Committee of the Council and is listed in Appendix 1 to this report.

1.3 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	$18/60 \times 100 = 30\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 30\% = 36.30$	36 seats
Reform UK Group	$16/60 \times 100 = 26.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 26.66\% = 32.25$	32 seats
Oldham Group	$10/60 \times 100 = 16.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 16.66 = 20.16$	20 seats
Liberal Democrat Group	$6/60 \times 100 = 10\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 10\% = 12.10$	12 seats
Conservative Group	$4/60 \times 100 = 6.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 6.66\% = 8.05$	8 seats
Royton Independents	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.02$	4 seats
The Independent Group	$2/60 \times 100 = 3.33\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 3.33\% = 4.02$	4 seats

Failsworth Independent Party	$1/60 \times 100 = 1.66\%$	$121 \text{ seats} \times 1.66\% = 2.01$	2 Seats
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There is one Independent Member not within a Group. Unallocated seats will be offered to that person.

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

Committee Size	Labour (L)	Reform UK (RUK)	Oldham Group (OG)	Liberal Democrats (LD)	Conservatives (C)	Royton Independents (RI)	The Independent Group (TIG)	Failsworth Independence Party (FIP)
16	4.80	4.26	2.66	1.60	1.06	0.53	0.27	0.27
15	4.50	3.99	2.50	1.50	1.00	0.50	0.25	0.25
14	4.20	3.73	2.33	1.40	0.93	0.47	0.24	0.24
13	3.90	3.46	2.16	1.30	0.86	0.43	0.22	0.22
12	3.60	3.20	2.00	1.20	0.80	0.40	0.20	0.20
11	3.30	2.93	1.83	1.10	0.73	0.37	0.19	0.19
10	3.00	2.66	1.66	1.00	0.66	0.33	0.17	0.17
9	2.70	2.40	1.50	0.90	0.60	0.30	0.15	0.15
8	2.40	2.13	1.33	0.80	0.53	0.27	0.14	0.14
7	2.10	1.87	1.17	0.70	0.47	0.24	0.12	0.12
6	1.80	1.60	1.00	0.60	0.33	0.16	0.08	0.08
5	1.50	1.33	0.92	0.50	0.30	0.15	0.08	0.08
4	1.20	1.07	0.83	0.40	0.27	0.14	0.07	0.07
3	0.90	0.80	0.50	0.30	0.17	0.08	0.04	0.04

- 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:

Committee	Seats	L	RUK	OG	LD	C	RI	TIG	FIP	IND
Licensing	15	4	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Planning	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Audit Committee	9	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	121	33	32	22	12	7	1	0	0	0

The above calculation leaves 14 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 2026/27 Municipal Year be fixed as follows:-

Committee	Seats	L	R UK	OG	LD	C	RI	TIG	FIP	IND
Licensing	15	5	4	3	1	1	1	0	0	0
Planning	11	3	3	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	3	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	0
Audit	9	3	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Commons Registration	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Highway Regulation Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Standards Committee	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Total	121	36	33	21	12	8	4	2	2	3

- 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. Council is also asked to appoint a District Lead for each District Area and 2 Deputy District Leads for North and East District.
 - c. It is recommended that the standards sub-committee dealing with assessments or hearings consist of 5 members, with 1 Member from each of the Labour, Reform UK, Oldham Group, Liberal Democrat and Conservative groups, that are represented on the Standards Committee, be appointed to the Standards Sub- Committee.
- 1.7 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 and Planning Committee 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. Council is also asked to appoint substitutes to the Audit Committee. For clarity therefore, it is recommended that substitutes are permissible for the Planning Committee, all Overview

and Scrutiny boards, Audit Committee, Appointments Committee, Commons Registration Panel and the Highway Regulation Committee, and the Substitute Scheme be clarified accordingly.

1.8 Council is asked to review the 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.

1.9 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Board has Co-opted Members serving as follows:

Statutory Co-opted Members (with voting rights)

Cannon Jean Hurlston	Manchester Church of England Diocese
Vacant	Salford Roman Catholic Diocese
Vacant	Parent/Governor Primary School
Vacant	Parent/Governor Secondary Schools

Council is asked to approve that the Co-opted Members listed above be re-appointed. Statutory Co-opted members may attend for the whole of the meeting and may speak on all matters if they wish.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 To approve the report.
Not to approve the report

3 Preferred Option

3.1 To approve the report and the committee's composition and membership at Appendix 1.

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 n/a

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

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.

20. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Membership of Committees.

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Appointments to Outside Bodies 2026/2027

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services

20th May 2026

Reason for Decision

To confirm various appointments as nominated by the Political Groups represented on the Council, to be made to a number of Outside Bodies for the 2026/27 Municipal Year, as outlined in the appendices to this report.

Recommendations

1. That appointments to the Outside Bodies listed in the Appendices, for the 2026/27 Municipal Year, be agreed.
2. That the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to make any in-year changes to appointments, where notified.

Outside Bodies 2026/2027

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council is represented on a variety of trusts, limited companies, joint boards, joint committees and other outside bodies.
- 1.2 At the annual meeting of the Council, Elected Members are required to make appointments to the various bodies. The Appendices set out the number of Elected Members the Council can appoint to each body, and any particular requirements over which Members are eligible for appointment.
- 1.3 Upon accepting the appointment and in some circumstances, Members should note that they may find themselves taking on additional legal duties, e.g. as a trustee of a charity or a director of a company, where they will, in essence be obliged to act in the best interests of that organisation. The exact nature of these legal duties will depend upon the nature of the organisation in question and the role they are appointed to. There is also potential for future conflicts of interests between such a role and their role as an Elected Member.
- 1.4 Any Member appointed is requested to undertake, as required, any Member training arranged on the appointment to the outside body, and the associated legal duties of directors and trustees.

2. Consultation

- 2.1 Consultation has taken place with relevant officers and councillors.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 n/a

4 Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no legal implications.

5 Equality Impact including implications for Children and Young Persons

- 5.1 None.

7 Key Decision

- 7.1 No,

8 Key Decision Reference

- 8.1 Not applicable.

9 Appendices

9.1 The proposed appointments to outside bodies are detailed in appendices 1 - 6 to the report.

10 **Background Papers**

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

Outside Bodies – 2026/27 files

Any person wishing to inspect copies of the above background papers should contact the Constitutional Services: constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

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Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council

Council Calendar 2026/27

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Peter Thompson, Interim Head of Constitutional Services
Ext. 4716

20th May 2026

Reason for Decision

This report sets out the 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. The approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates or times to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

Council Calendar 2026/27

1 Background

1.1 This report sets out the Calendar for the 2026/27 Municipal Year, which has been earlier version of which was agreed by the Council at the meeting held 25th March 2026.

2 Options/Alternatives

2.1 The Council can amend any of the dates/times in the calendar but should note it is required to approve a version of the calendar at its annual meeting, as set out in the Council's Constitution. Approval of any outstanding dates or changes to dates or times are to be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

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 Councillors.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 n/a

6 Legal Implications

6.1 There are no legal implications.

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

7.1 No

8 Key Decision

8.1 No

9 Key Decision Reference

9.1 n/a

10 Background Papers

10.1 There are no background papers to this report, which has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

11 **Appendices**

11.1 Appendix 1 – Council Calendar 2026/27

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Oldham Council

Calendar of Meetings

2026/2027

MAY 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
				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
School Holidays				

JUNE 2026

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

JULY 2026				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 5.00pm Corporate Parenting Panel	2	3
6 3.30pm Leadership	7 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	8 6.00pm Planning Committee	9 10.00am Appeals Committee 6.00pm Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board (if required prior to Cabinet)	10
13	14 10.00am Licensing Panel 2.00pm Local NJC Committee	15 6.00pm Council	16 10.00am Health and Wellbeing Board (Development session)	17
20 3.30pm Leadership 6.00pm Cabinet	21 10:00am Licensing Driver Panel	22 6.00pm Audit Committee	23 5.30pm Highway Regulation Committee	24
School Holidays				
27	28	29	30	31
School Holidays				

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

OCTOBER 2026

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

NOVEMBER 2026

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

DECEMBER 2026

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

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

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

APRIL 2027				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2
School Holidays				
5	6 10.00am Licensing Driver Panel	7	8	9
School Holidays				
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

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