

Present: Councillor J. Hussain (in the Chair)
Councillors Aslam, Ghafoor, Kenyon (Substitute for Councillor Williamson), Kouser, McLaren, Rustidge, Sharp and Wilkinson

Also in Attendance:
Councillor Elaine Taylor – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Emma Barton - Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive
Alex Bougatef – Director of Legal
Heather Moore – Assistant Director of Governance/Statutory Scrutiny Officer
Chris Lewis – Assistant Director: Making a Better Place
James Postle – Senior Finance Manager

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harkness and Williamson.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3 **CALL-IN PROCEDURE**

Resolved:
That the Call-in Procedure be noted.

4 **CREATING A BETTER PLACE UPDATE**

The Chair reported that this item was to consider a report, that had been Called-in, from the Cabinet's meeting held on 16th June 2025. Councillors Kenyon and Al-Hamdani, in accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules had called-in Minute 12 taken from the proceedings of the Cabinet's meeting held on 16th June 2025 (Creating a Better Place – Update).

The Scrutiny Committee therefore considered a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive which presented an update on the Creating a Better Place (CaBP) that had been considered previously by the Cabinet, on 16th June 2025.

The report advised that the Council and partners continued to make significant progress on the delivery of the CaBP programme which would, it was planned, reshape Oldham Town Centre but which also reached out across the borough. The submitted report sought to provide a comprehensive update on delivery achieved, it acknowledges the successes to date and sets out key milestones in respect of the flagship projects across the programme either in development or currently in delivery.

Further to earlier meetings of the Scrutiny Board on 24th July and 27th August 2025, the reported included additional information, including some of the information from the Part B, commercially sensitive report on this matter, to provide transparency on the information contained in the part B without compromising any commercially, legally, or finally sensitive information, as requested at the Scrutiny Board's previous meeting on 27th August 2025.

The report advised that technical, legal and commercial recommendations for certain projects were contained within the submitted report, including the relevant financial, contractual or legal recommendations for each of the projects within the Council's Creating a Better Place (CaBP) capital programme as set out in section 4 of this report and in more detail within section 4 of the Part B report, later in the agenda.

The report's recommendations following a further review of the CaBP capital programme assessing the risks, impacts of change, deliverability, financial impact and contractual challenges to identify any potential opportunities to ensure alignment of the projects with the political priorities of the Council.

Resolved:
That the report be noted.

5 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

6 **CREATING A BETTER PLACE - UPDATE**

The Chair reported that this item was to consider a report, that had been Called-in, from the Cabinet's meeting held on 16th June 2025. Councillors Kenyon and Al-Hamdani, in accordance with the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules had called-in Minute 12 taken from the proceedings of the Cabinet's meeting held on 16th June 2025 (Creating a Better Place – Update).

Resolved:
That the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board upholds the decision of the Cabinet made on 16th December in respect of the item: Creating a Better Place - Update (minute 12 refers), meaning that the decision of the Cabinet takes immediate effect.

The meeting started at 4.30pm and ended at 5.30pm