

Oldham Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15th July 2026

OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 7th July 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 15th July 2026 at 6.00 pm in the JR Clynes Building, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL, for the following purposes:

Item No

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 12)

To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20th May 2026 (adjourned to 15th June 2026 and 1st July 2026) be approved and signed as a correct record.
- 3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting
- 4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business
- 5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council
- 6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council

There are no petitions for this meeting of the Council to consider.
- 7 Youth Council

There is not a Youth Council Motion for this meeting of the Council to consider.
- 8 Public Questions

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.4.4h, Council is requested to proceed to the next item of business.
- 9 Questions to Leader and Cabinet

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.4.4h, Council is requested to proceed to the next item of business.
- 10 To appoint the Deputy Mayor for 2026/27 (Pages 13 - 14)
- 11 Leader of the Council (Pages 15 - 18)

To appoint a Leader of the Council, in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

- 12 Appointment of the Deputy Leader, Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members and allocation of portfolios and delegation of Executive functions

Report to follow.

- 13 Main Opposition Nominations to the Shadow Cabinet 2026/27

Report to follow

- 14 Appointment to Committees and Compositions of Political Groups (Pages 19 - 36)

To appoint to committees of the Council in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and to consider some committees that are not allocated strictly in accordance with proportionality under the Act. *Council appointed to Committees and Sub-Committees on 15th June 2026, therefore consideration s to be given to the appointment of Chairs, Vice Chairs, District Leads and Deputy District Leads.*

- 15 Appointment to Outside Bodies 2026/27 (Pages 37 - 42)

To appoint Councillors to serve on Outside Bodies in 2026/27 (Council appointed to certain Outside Bodies on 15th June 2026 – Council is requested to appoint to the remaining Outside Bodies)

Appendices to follow

- 16 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 43 - 76)

To update on actions from previous Council meetings.

- 17 Notice of Motions

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 12.4.4n, Council is requested to suspend Procedure Rules 2.1.3J and 2.1.3k to consider the following three Notices of Motion in the order that they were received.

(time limit 30 minutes)

Motion 1: 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.

Motion 2: Managing HMO Proliferation and Prioritising Oldham Residents

To be Moved by Councillor Ford

To be Seconded by Councillor Jackson

This Council notes with serious concern that:

1. Many Oldham residents increasingly feel unsafe, unheard, and overlooked in their own communities as a result of national policies which have intensified pressures through asylum/migrant dispersal and associated housing demand. Residents—particularly women and girls—have expressed growing concern about safety and community cohesion.
2. The Victoria Hotel in Chadderton continues to operate as asylum/migrant accommodation. Residents remain deeply concerned about the scale and nature of its use, coupled with a persistent lack of transparency from the Home Office regarding occupants, management arrangements, and associated impacts on the local area.
3. Oldham is experiencing a sharp and accelerating rise in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), driven by low property values which attract speculative investment. These properties are increasingly used to house high-density occupancies, including migrant dispersal populations, placing unsustainable pressure on infrastructure, waste services, parking, and neighbourhood stability.
4. Oldham is already one of the most deprived boroughs in England, with approximately 37% of neighbourhoods falling within the top 10% most deprived nationally. This significantly limits the borough's capacity to absorb additional pressures without consequences for existing residents and services.
5. The national Asylum Dispersal Scheme continues to allocate placements to areas like Oldham without sufficient regard for deprivation levels, infrastructure capacity, or the cumulative effect on local communities, and against a backdrop of continued high levels of small boat arrivals.

This Council believes that:

1. It is wholly unacceptable for central Government to treat towns such as Oldham as convenient default locations for asylum accommodation and associated housing pressures, without proper regard for local impact or consent.
2. The unchecked growth of HMOs, combined with the pressures of dispersal accommodation, is undermining community cohesion and placing intolerable strain on already stretched services.

3. The dispersal of predominantly fighting age men from high-risk countries, without proper checks or security, fuels legitimate public concern and erodes confidence.
4. Oldham residents did not consent to bearing the frontline consequences of national border failures, and their interests must be prioritised in all local and national decision-making.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. **Write to the Prime Minister and Home Secretary to:**
 - Demand an end to asylum dispersal arrangements;
 - Call for the end to any further placements into the borough;
 - Demand that those who come to this country illegally should be immediately deported.
2. **Call for full and immediate transparency from the Home Office** regarding all migrant/asylum accommodation within Oldham, including clear data on occupancy, status, and management arrangements.
3. **Press for the closure of the Victoria Hotel as a asylum/migrant hotel**, with a clear and time-limited exit strategy.
4. **Make HMO proliferation a central planning priority** by:
 - Referring, wherever permissible within planning law, all HMO conversion and creation applications to the Planning Committee for rigorous scrutiny;
 - Applying a strong presumption against approval in areas where developments would exacerbate overconcentration, damage residential amenity, or undermine community cohesion;
 - Undertaking an urgent review of planning policies, including consideration of tighter controls, to prevent excessive clustering of HMOs.
5. **Undertake a full review of all council policies, partnerships, and commitments relating to asylum/migrant and sanctuary-style initiatives** in order to withdraw Oldham from any sanctuary schemes in an efficient and legal manner, with the focus shifting to the needs and expectations of Oldham residents first.

That the government changes the law to make sure that local residents and veterans come first in housing allocation, planning decisions, and the deployment of local services. That no new build housing should go to those who have just arrived on these shores.

Motion 3: Fair and Affordable School Uniforms for Oldham Families

To be Moved by Councillor Zaheer Ali

To be Seconded by Councillor Shabir Hussain

This Council notes that:

- Families across Oldham continue to face significant financial pressures due to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, with many parents and carers struggling to meet the rising costs of everyday essentials.
- The cost of school uniforms places an additional and unnecessary burden on

households—particularly where schools require numerous branded items available only from a single supplier or a limited number of retailers.

- The Department for Education’s statutory guidance requires schools to keep uniform costs to a minimum, prioritise value for money, and avoid limiting competition between suppliers.
- The Government intends to make further requirements statutory from September 2026, including limiting the number of compulsory branded items schools can require.
- Exclusive supply arrangements can create local monopolies, restrict competition, reduce choice for parents, and drive-up prices—often with no clear evidence of better quality or durability.
- Seventy per cent of schools in Oldham are academies, including all secondary schools. While the Council does not have direct control over all uniform policies, it has a vital leadership and campaigning role on behalf of residents.
- Pre-loved and recycled uniform schemes can significantly reduce costs, support family budgets, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

This Council believes that:

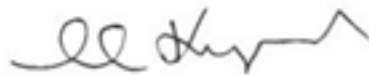
- No child should be disadvantaged or stigmatised because their family cannot afford an expensive school uniform.
- Parents and carers should have the widest possible choice of retailers, including high-street and online options.
- Where branded items are essential, schools should ensure these are available through multiple retailers wherever possible, avoiding exclusive contracts that inflate costs.
- Affordable, accessible, and durable school uniform provision is a key part of tackling child poverty and supporting family resilience in Oldham.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Write to all schools, governing bodies, and multi-academy trusts operating in Oldham, urging them to:
 - Minimise the number of compulsory branded items;
 - Avoid exclusive single-supplier arrangements;
 - Permit multiple retailers to stock branded uniform items;
 - Ensure uniforms are affordable, durable, and widely accessible;
 - Expand and actively promote pre-loved and recycled uniform schemes.
2. Request that all schools and academy trusts provide a written response to the Council within six months, detailing:
 - The number of compulsory branded items they require;
 - Whether they have an exclusive supplier arrangement and the reasons for it;
 - The steps taken to ensure value for money and quality for parents;

- The measures in place to support low-income families and promote uniform reuse.
3. Instruct appropriate Council officers to engage with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester People Inclusion Standards to develop a region-wide approach to affordable uniforms and greater supplier competition.
 4. Establish an Oldham School Uniform Charter, inviting schools and trusts to voluntarily commit to:
 - Keeping costs and the number of branded items to a minimum;
 - Promoting fair competition between suppliers;
 - Maximising choice and quality for parents and carers;
 - Supporting uniform recycling, reuse, and swap shop initiatives.
 5. Request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee undertake a formal review of school uniform affordability in Oldham within 12 months, gathering evidence on exclusive supplier arrangements and their impact on families and reporting back with recommendations.
 6. Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, calling for stronger national action to prevent monopolistic uniform supply arrangements and to ensure all families can access affordable uniforms from a range of retailers.
- This Council further resolves to** stand with Oldham families and campaign unapologetically for a fair, competitive, and affordable school uniform system that puts the interests of children and parents before commercial monopolies.

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



**Shelley Kipling
Chief Executive**

PROCEDURE FOR NOTICE OF MOTIONS **NO AMENDMENT**

MOTION – Mover of the Motion to MOVE



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



DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings



MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply



VOTE – For/Against/Abstain



Declare outcome of the VOTE

RULE ON TIMINGS

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

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

WITH AMENDMENT

