Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council



Council Meeting
Wednesday 18 November 2026

OLDHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council which will be held on Wednesday 18 November 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, JR Clynes Building, Cultural Quarter, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL, for the following purposes:

1 To receive apologies for absence

2 Minutes (Pages 1 - 12)

To order that the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th September 2026 be approved and signed as correct records.

3 To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be determined at the meeting

4 To deal with matters which the Mayor considers to be urgent business

5 To receive communications relating to the business of the Council

6 To receive and note petitions received relating to the business of the Council (Pages 13 - 14)

(time limit 20 minutes)

To note, in line with the petitions protocol, the petitions received since the previous meeting of the Council, which received over the required 50 signatures.

7 Youth Council (Pages 15 - 16)

(time limit 20 minutes)

Children in Care Should Not Be a Source of Profit

As young people in and around the care system, we know how important it is that every child has access to safe, stable and high-quality care when they cannot live at home.

Across the country, councils are struggling with the rising cost of children's residential care. While the number of children needing residential placements has increased, the

cost of those placements has risen even faster.

Many children's homes are now run by private companies, and some of these companies are making significant profits from caring for vulnerable children and young people. This means that money which could be reinvested into improving services and opportunities for children is instead leaving the care system as profit.

The shortage of placements also means that councils often have little choice about where children are placed. Too many young people are moved far away from their families, friends, schools and communities because suitable local placements are not available.

As young people, we believe that children in care should be seen as children first, not as opportunities for financial gain.

We believe:
Every child deserves safe, stable and loving care.
Public money should be used to improve the lives and outcomes of children and young people.
Greater openness is needed around how residential care providers set their prices and make their profits.
Local authorities need more affordable, high-quality placements available close to young people's communities.
National government has a responsibility to ensure that the care system works in the best interests of children and young people.
Therefore, we ask this Council Resolves To:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing concern about the growing cost of children's residential care and the impact this is having on councils and young people.
- Call on Government to increase transparency from private residential care providers, including clearer reporting on costs, profits and ownership arrangements.
- Support stronger national oversight of the children's residential care market to ensure fair pricing, accountability and value for public money.
- Encourage greater investment in not-for-profit, charitable and local authority-run children's homes so that more young people can be cared for close to home.
- Share this motion with the Local Government Association, Greater Manchester partners and neighbouring councils to encourage wider support for reform.

As children in care and care experienced young people, we want a care system that puts children before profit. We want public money to be spent on improving lives, creating opportunities and providing the best possible care. We ask Oldham Council to stand with us in calling for a fairer, more transparent and more sustainable care system for all children and young people.

"Children in care are not a business. They are young people who deserve the very best care and support that society can provide."

8 Public Questions

(time limit 15 Minutes)

9 Leader of the Council (Pages 17 - 20)

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

10 Notices of Motion (Pages 21 - 36)

(time limit 60 minutes)

Motion 1: Oldham objects to the National Scheme of Delegation
To be Moved by Councillor Woodvine
To be Seconded by Councillor Sharp

The National Scheme of Delegation is a standardised set of rules for English local planning authorities that replaces local delegation schemes and came into force on 31st October 2026.

It is authorised under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. The system was intended to speed up decision-making and ensure elected councillors focus only on major, strategic developments.

However, the Government's own working paper noted that 96% of decisions in the second quarter of 2024 were made by officers. It is only in an extremely rare set of cases that councillors call in applications.

According to the Campaign for Rural England, in 2023-2024 86% of all planning decisions were approved and decisions were only overturned in 2.7% of cases for major applications and 1% of minor applications.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has warned that the new National Scheme of Delegation could lead to an increase in harassment of planners.

While the Local Councils Network's research showed that 84% of its member councils are struggling to recruit and retain planning staff.

Oldham Conservatives have joined over 1,000 Conservative Councillors across the country in writing to the Prime Minister to oppose the changes to legislation.

Oldham Council updated its Constitution on 16th September 2026. However, the Planning Committee has already found its hands tied by the new law and it has made Councillors' role in the planning process much more challenging.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities, Housing & Local Government to state its opposition to the changes and ask for the unnecessary new law to be reviewed.

Motion 2: Free Bulky Waste Collections for Households on Council Tax Reduction

To be Moved by Councillor Ghafoor
To be Seconded by Councillor Chowhan

This Council notes that:

Fly-tipping is a serious and growing problem in Oldham. Official DEFRA figures for 2024/25 record 5,959 incidents, up 19% on 2023/24 (5,022). That is 23.7 per 1,000 residents, against 21.5 for England. 44% of incidents (2,648) were in back alleyways and 30% (1,760) on highways.

1. Officer figures provided on 2 November 2026 show that in 2025/26 the Council spent £623,321 clearing fly-tipping, before overheads. This included disposing of 1,088.76 tonnes of fly-tipped waste.
2. Residents are charged £10 per item for a bulky waste collection, under the 2026/27 fees and charges approved by this Council on 4 March 2026. The in-house service has an income target of £140,000 a year.
3. On 1 January 2026, 19,495 Oldham households were receiving Council Tax Reduction: 13,108 of working age and 6,387 of pension age (Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27 report).
4. Since September 2025, Bolton Council has offered households receiving Council Tax Support one free bulky waste collection each financial year, from a limited fund, while that funding lasts.
5. Officers have advised that the cost of making bulky collections free for every household could be well over £1m a year, because demand would rise, including from households that would never fly-tip. They have also advised that any new discretionary spending must have an identified funding source.
6. The 2027/28 budget, including fees and charges, will be set by Full Council at its Budget meeting on 3 March 2027.

This Council believes that:

1. Collecting household waste is a core public service that residents already pay for through their council tax. A free bulky collection does not reward fly-tippers. It helps residents who want to do the right thing.
2. For households living on the lowest incomes, often without a car, a £10-per-item charge is a real barrier. A family clearing a sofa, a mattress and a broken fridge pays £30.
3. Targeting help at households on Council Tax Reduction, as a year-round service and not a one-off allowance, puts support where the charge bites hardest and where fly-tipping hits communities hardest. Oldham should go further than Bolton's single free collection a year. Targeting also keeps the cost far below a borough-wide free service. The charge income given up cannot exceed the current income target of about £140,000 a year.
4. Any change must be lawful, properly costed and fully funded, and decided openly through the budget.

This Council resolves to:

1. Instruct Officers to liaise with colleagues at Bolton Council to explore best practice options on how this proposal can be implemented.
2. Note that the Oldham Group will bring forward this proposal, fully funded, in its alternative budget for 2027/28.
3. Note that this motion does not commit any spending in 2026/27 and does not change the approved 2026/27 budget or fees and charges.

The Oldham Group believes that, by acting first for those who need it most, this Council can help residents do the right thing, keep our alleyways and highways clean, and stop paying twice for fly-tipping. Making collections free for every household remains our longer-term ambition, as and when it can be fully funded.

Motion 3: Eton Star Oldham
To be Moved by Councillor P. Taylor
To be Seconded by Councillor Brooks

This Council notes:

That the Department for Education has approved proposals to establish a new sixth-form college (Eton Star Oldham) in partnership between Star Academies, Eton College and the DfE, with a preferred location being upon the former Tommyfield Outdoor Market site in Oldham town centre.

That all local authorities in England are required to transfer land to the Department for Education (DfE) under the Academies Act 2010 (Schedule 1), as amended by the Education Act 2011 (Schedule 14).

That in accordance with the Land and Property Protocols detailed in the Constitution, this sort of land disposal is an executive decision. The Corporate Property Board (chaired by Executive Member at the time) reviewed the proposed disposal, noting the statutory direction made by the DfE.

That the Cabinet endorsed the Oldham Town Centre Development Framework on 18 November 2024 and this included an Appendix which referred to the Tommyfield Market site for the new sixth-form college.

That in accordance with the Land and Property Protocols detailed in the Constitution, Heads of Terms (HoT) have been discussed with Legal Services and the agreed HoT have been released to the DfE.

That no formal contract for the transfer or disposal of the land has yet been completed. Once the documents have been formally signed by both parties the delegated report will be published and therefore the site remains in the ownership of the Council at this time

This Council notes that concerns have been raised by some elected members, education stakeholders and residents regarding the impact on existing post-16 provision, the suitability of the location and whether the proposal represents the best use of a prime commercial regeneration site.

This Council therefore resolves:

That consideration be given to members with concerns regarding the new sixth-form college provision and provide a report to members by the end of January 2027 outlining the following:

1. the impact on existing sixth-form and further education provision in the borough, from both the council perspective and the views of other sixth-form providers within the borough;
2. the school admissions arrangements for the proposed Eton Star Academy and how they will serve the widest possible cohort of Oldham's young people, rather than students from across Greater Manchester, as is presently the case.

Motion 4: Stop Eton Star
To be Moved by Councillor Bishop
To be Seconded by Councillor Kenyon

This Council notes that:

- The Department for Education's process for approving free schools doesn't allow for sufficient Council oversight nor scrutiny and doesn't provide the Council with sufficient engagement. There has been no specific consultation with council members, and no consultation with the public.
- Eton Star Sixth Form will not provide the educational uplift that Oldham requires, which is primarily at GCSE level.
- The intended admissions criteria will not give Oldham young people priority.
- The borough will be sacrificing a high-value, town centre commercial, retail or leisure space to benefit young people from other boroughs with better outcomes at GCSE, with no discernible benefit for Oldham.
- Eton Star Academy presents a significant threat to the educational outcomes of Oldham's existing sixth form provisions, especially our outstanding Sixth Form College.
- A significant number of education professionals elected members, and the public are strongly opposed to Eton Star Academy, and it lacks both cross-party and public support.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education seeking clarity on the decision making and consultation around Eton Star that has taken place so far. Request that the Department for Education engage in discussions on the options for and implications of, withdrawal from the Eton Star Sixth Form programme.
- Request a cross-party meeting with the Department for Education to discuss Eton Star and look at alternative approaches to providing improvements in the town's secondary educational offering

Motion 5: Strengthening Standards and Conduct in Oldham
To be Moved by Councillor E. Taylor
To be Seconded by Councillor Shuttleworth

This Council notes that it owes a duty of care to its employees, residents, service users, volunteers and all those who interact with the authority, and that this duty must be upheld consistently, fairly and without exception, with the safety and wellbeing of individuals being the paramount consideration in decision-making.

This Council further notes that elected members hold positions of public trust and carry significant responsibilities and democratic legitimacy, but the status of elected office must never override the Council's wider obligation to safeguard staff, residents and the public. Holding office should not provide immunity from reasonable safeguarding measures where legitimate concerns arise.

This Council notes that at its meeting in December 2025 it welcomed the Government's proposals to strengthen the standards and conduct framework. In its response of 11 November 2025, the Government committed to legislate for a mandatory minimum code of conduct, a formal standards committee in every authority, a power of suspension, a new disqualification category for gross misconduct and repeated breaches, and a national appeals mechanism. Suspensions would be capable of lasting up to six months, with disqualification following a second maximum suspension within five years, and interim suspension of up to three months would be available in serious cases involving external investigation; including extension and review periods subject to statutory review. The Government also stated that the outcomes of investigations should be published, including where a councillor stands down during an investigation.

This Council regrets that no legislation to deliver these reforms was included in the King's Speech of May 2026, despite calls from the Local Government Association and the Ethics and Integrity Commission to find parliamentary time. The Government has since said that reform will come as soon as parliamentary time allows. Until it does, the sanctions available to councils remain those the Committee on Standards in Public Life found to be insufficient in 2019, and there is no provision in current legislation for suspension as a sanction for a councillor found to have breached the code.

This Council further notes that a Member of Parliament who is suspended by the House can face a recall petition and believes that residents are entitled to expect the same seriousness of consequence for those who hold office locally. Where a Member of Parliament resigns from the House to try and end a standards investigation, then returns to public office, these investigations are restarted as a matter of course.

This Council believes that public confidence in local democracy is strengthened, not weakened, when robust standards and safeguarding arrangements are applied equally to all, regardless of position or status. It further believes that a member who steps down during an investigation should not thereby escape accountability, leave complainants without an answer, or return to seek public office as if the matter had never arisen, and that where a serious breach may also be a crime, officers must act without hesitation.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm that safeguarding considerations must take precedence when balancing the rights and responsibilities of elected office holders against the Council's duty to protect residents, staff and the wider public.

2. Support the principle that elected members should be subject to safeguarding measures, risk-management arrangements and restrictions equivalent to those that would reasonably be applied to employees in comparable circumstances and ask the Monitoring Officer to report to the Standards Committee within three months on what can lawfully be done to give effect to this principle under the current framework.

3. Ensure that no individual is exempt from appropriate safeguarding arrangements solely by virtue of the office they hold.

4. Ask the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer to ensure that, to the fullest extent permitted by law, where a member resigns or steps down during an investigation, the investigation is concluded to a finding where practicable and its outcome is published, and that, should that person subsequently seek election or co-option to this Council, the complaint is re-examined by the Standards Committee and the outcome made public.

5. Reaffirm the expectation that officers will pursue every credible allegation of a serious breach of standards vigorously without fear or favour and will refer matters to the police or other relevant authorities at the earliest opportunity where a breach may amount to criminal conduct and ask the Chief Executive to report annually to the Standards Committee on the operation of these referral arrangements.

6. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, urging the Government to bring forward standards legislation as a matter of urgency, to strengthen it further so that complaints can be reopened where a member stood down to avoid

accountability, and to ensure that the standards regime for councillors is as robust as that which applies in Parliament.

This council further resolves to:

1. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the borough's Members of Parliament seeking their support for the above, and to the Local Government Association asking it to continue pressing for early legislation.

2. Ask the Standards Committee to report back to Full Council on progress against these resolutions within six months.

3. That with the permission of each councillor, the council will publish the status of each elected member's enhanced DBS check according to its records.

11 A New Start for Oldham Borough report (Pages 37 - 50)

To receive the report on the Council Motion of 16th September 2026 on 'A New Start for Oldham'.

12 Independent Member of Audit Committee (Pages 51 - 54)

To consider the report of the Assistant Director of Governance regarding the Independent member (Vice Chair) of the Audit committee.

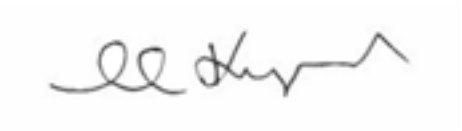
13 Review of Political Balance on Committees

Report to follow following the result of the Failsworth West by-election.

14 Update on Actions from Council (Pages 55 - 76)

To update on actions from previous Council meetings.

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

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

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DEBATE ON THE MOTION: Include Timings

↓

MOVER of Motion – Right of Reply

↓

VOTE – For/Against/Abstain

↓

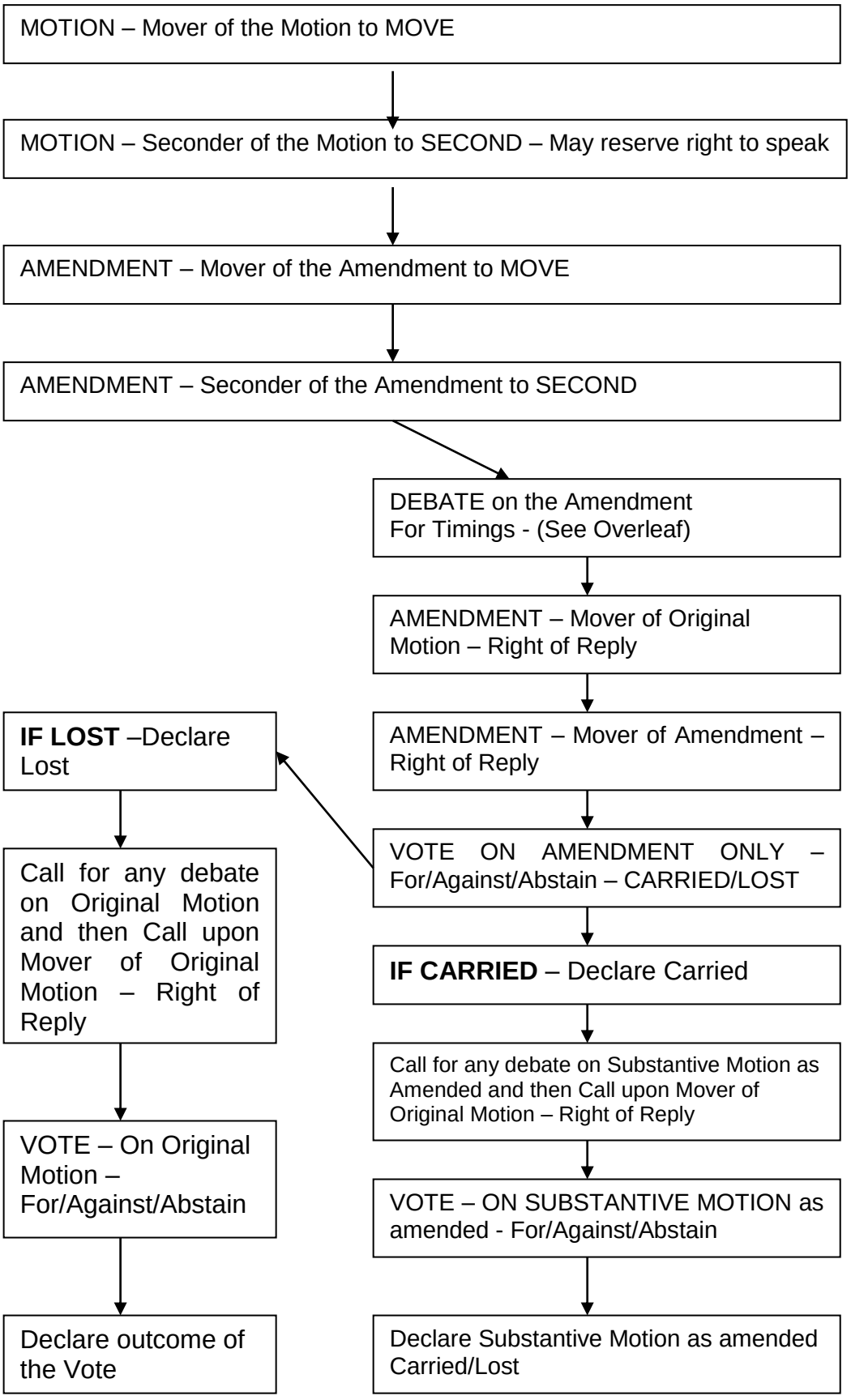
Declare outcome of the VOTE

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



COUNCIL
16/09/2026 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Byrne (In the Chair)

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

1 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barnes, Chauhan, Ibrahim, Sheldon, Taleb and Williamson.

2 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held on 15th July 2026, and the meeting of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council, held on the 20th August 2026, be approved and signed by the Mayor, as a correct record.

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

Councillor Murphy declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 10 (Motion 2- Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour).

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

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, proposed a variance to the agenda to allow for Items 12, 15 and 11 to be debated after Item 9 and before Item 10.

RESOLVED: That the Agenda of the meeting be varied to allow for Items 12, 15 and 11 to be debated after Item 9 and before Item 10.

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

There were no communications to report.

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

The Mayor moved, and Councillor Woodvine seconded, the Annual Petitions report for 2025-2026.
RESOLVED: That the Report be noted.

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There was no Youth Council Motion for the Council to consider.

8 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

As the Council had, thus far, failed to either elect a Leader or form an administration there was no Cabinet in place to reply to the public questions that had been received. Therefore, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.4.4h, the meeting assented that Council moved to the next item of business on the agenda.

9 **QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET**

As the Council had, thus far, failed to either elect a Leader or form an administration there was no Cabinet in place to reply to the public questions that had been received. Therefore, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12.4.4h, the meeting assented that Council moved to the next item of business on the agenda.

12 **INTERIM GOVERNANCE REPORT**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED, and Councillor Hobin SECONDED, that the Council resolved into committee in line with council procedure rule 12.4.4(o) to allow officers to address the meeting.
On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED.
The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED and Councillor Hobin SECONDED the Interim Governance Report
The Chief Executive addressed the Council.
Councillors Wilkinson and Councillor Shah addressed Council in relation to the report.
In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, 8.4(k) it was MOVED that this Council meeting be ADJOURNED at 6.30 p.m.
The meeting reconvened at 7:15 p.m.
Councillors P. Taylor, Hobin and the Mayor, Councillor Byrne, addressed Council in relation to the report.
On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED.

15 **REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT REMUNERATION PANEL**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED and Councillor Ghafoor SECONDED the report of the Independent Remuneration Panel.
On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED.

11 **CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED and Councillor Woodvine SECONDED the Changes to the Constitution report.
Councillor Al-Hamdani addressed Council in relation to the report.
On being put to the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED.

10 **NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

RESOLVED: That Council suspend Council Procedure Rules 2.1.3 J and K for dealing with Administration and Opposition business.

Motion 1: A New Start for Oldham Borough

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the following Motion:

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 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:

To request the relevant officers to produce a budget report to explore how existing funding can be reprofiled to address the priorities set out in this motion and specifically addressing: environmental crime (including littering, dog fouling, fly-tipping and graffiti); frontline services (including drain clearance, road repairs, and park and green space maintenance) and delivering fair district funding.

The report will come back to the next council where the report can be considered and voted upon.

Councillors Jabbar and Bishop addressed Council in relation to the Motion.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, MOTION 1 was CARRIED.

Motion 2: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Hanlon MOVED and Councillor Eyre SECONDED the following motion:

This Council notes with deep concern and rising anger the linked problems blighting Oldham residents' quality of life:

A. Masked and balaclava-clad youths on off-road motorbikes, high-powered e-bikes (including Surron-style machines) and similar vehicles terrorise our streets. They race at high speed on roads, pavements, parks and open spaces, weave recklessly through traffic and pedestrians, ride without lights in dark clothing, and vanish into estates. These vehicles fuel drug dealing, robbery, theft, criminal damage, intimidation and the exploitation of children. Fast speeding cars compound the danger—driven recklessly at excessive speeds through residential roads and estates, creating noise, fear and risk. Residents feel unsafe and powerless. Many say "no one can catch them." Despite GMP operations such as Operation Hurricane, both problems remain widespread and unacceptable.

B. Illegal and nuisance fireworks. Under the Fireworks Regulations 2004 it is a criminal offence to use fireworks between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am (except limited permitted nights). Throwing or setting off fireworks in streets or public places is also illegal. Repeated early-hours explosions rob residents of sleep, distress children, older people, those with sensory issues or PTSD, and terrify animals. Areas including Chadderton report being woken at 2:00–3:00 am and beyond. Previous promises of better checks and mapping have failed to stop the nuisance.

Effective action demands tight, structured cooperation between the Council and GMP.

This Council believes:

Oldham residents should not have to endure masked bike thugs, reckless speeding cars or illegal midnight fireworks as “just the way it is.”

Existing powers under road traffic law, the Fireworks Regulations, the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, statutory nuisance rules, licensing and tenancy enforcement must be used systematically, robustly and visibly. Better multi-agency working, intelligence-led targeting, clear escalation and significantly increased visible patrols and presence are essential.

This Council therefore resolves:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write within 14 days to the Chief Constable of GMP demanding enhanced cooperation on masked bikes, speeding cars and illegal fireworks, and seeking a written joint working protocol covering intelligence sharing, hotspot identification, increased targeted patrols and presence, escalation and regular performance reporting—agreed within three months.

Identify and regularly update hotspots for all three problems jointly with GMP, using resident reports, 101 calls and local intelligence. Maintain and review a current hotspot map at least quarterly.

Demand significantly increased intelligence-led targeted patrols and high-visibility presence by GMP (supported by Council officers where possible) in hotspots at peak risk times—more frequent, sustained and visible to deter offenders and reassure residents.

Ensure every relevant Council complaint is shared promptly with GMP and reinforce clear single points of contact so patterns of offending are spotted and acted on.

Establish a clear escalation process: joint case conferences and the full stepped use of warnings, Community Protection Notices, Public Spaces Protection Orders, licensing action, vehicle seizures, prosecutions, tenancy enforcement and all ASB powers.

Demand that anti-social and criminal use of off-road bikes, e-bikes and fast speeding cars be made a GMP force priority, with dedicated resources, specialist bike units, roads policing, drones, aerial support and maximum use of section 59 warnings and seizures.

Write within 14 days to the Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Mayor of Greater Manchester demanding extra dedicated

funding for GMP and a review of laws to strengthen powers against masked riders and reckless speeding.
Launch within 28 days a high-profile, borough-wide public campaign stating zero tolerance, explaining how to report (including anonymously), seeking intelligence on storage locations, and publicising enforcement successes—running for at least 12 months.
Write immediately to all major housing providers in Oldham requiring them to treat storage or use of vehicles linked to ASB or crime as a serious tenancy breach, share intelligence, take robust enforcement (including possession where appropriate) and report back within three months.
On illegal fireworks specifically:
Share all fireworks complaints promptly with GMP.
Urge residents to report illegal use (after 11 pm) to GMP on 101 or online as it happens, and persistent nuisance to Environmental Health.
Deploy the full toolkit against persistent offenders: warnings, CPNs, PSPOs, licensing reviews, seizures, prosecutions and ASB powers.
Scrutiny and prevention:
Require officers to report to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee (then quarterly, and to the Community Safety Partnership) with data by ward, seizures, warnings, arrests, prosecutions, hotspots, patrols conducted (including increased presence), progress on every resolution, and clear reduction targets within six and twelve months.
Strengthen prevention and diversion work with youth services, schools, children's services and Youth Justice while ensuring full use of powers against those who keep offending.
Report overall progress to full Council (or appropriate scrutiny) within six months and regularly thereafter.
This Council declares zero tolerance for masked youths on illegal bikes, dangerous speeding cars and illegal fireworks.
No excuses. No delay. No dilution. We will hold ourselves, GMP, housing providers and partners to account until residents can live, sleep, walk, use parks and drive without fear or disturbance. The safety and quality of life of Oldham residents come first.

Councillors Charters, Murphy and Arnott addressed Council in relation to the Motion.
Councillor Hanlon exercised his right to reply.
On being put to the vote, MOTION 2 was CARRIED.

<u>Motion 3: Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss: Ensuring a Robust Masterplan</u>
Councillor Sharp MOVED and Councillor Woodvine SECONDED the following Motion:

Council notes that:

1. Places for Everyone (PfE) forms part of the statutory development plan for Oldham Council;
2. Policies JPA10 Beal Valley and JPA12 Broadbent Moss require development to be "*in accordance with a comprehensive masterplan and design code as agreed*

by the local planning authority", including an infrastructure phasing and delivery strategy in accordance with Policy JP-D1;

3. Council previously resolved to formulate the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss masterplan as a Supplementary Planning Document and undertook public consultation on the draft document earlier this year. However, changes to the national plan-making regulations mean that the final adoption date for new Supplementary Planning Documents was 30 June 2026, meaning that the masterplan cannot now be adopted as a new SPD and will remain non-statutory guidance;
4. The masterplan is intended to provide a comprehensive framework for development across both allocations, including the protection and enhancement of ecological habitats and green and blue infrastructure, and PfE requires development to avoid fragmenting or severing connectivity between habitats;
5. PfE identifies a new Metrolink stop and Park and Ride facility south of Cop Road as a "*necessary*" transport intervention for both JPA10 Beal Valley and JPA12 Broadbent Moss;
6. The Council's Environmental Screening Opinion for the Phase 1 planning application at Broadbent Moss identifies the need for school-place provision to be addressed strategically across the wider allocated sites, together with a full assessment of the requirements for health-service provision;
7. Policy JP-D1 requires an infrastructure phasing and delivery strategy for sites where development will be delivered by different developers or in phases, setting out what needs to be provided, by when, and who will fund and deliver it.

Council believes that:

The Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss masterplan should be sufficiently comprehensive, evidenced and deliverable to provide the framework required by Policies JPA10 and JPA12, including demonstrating that the cumulative environmental, infrastructure, education, health and transport impacts of development have been properly assessed and planned for, and that further work is required before it can fulfil that role effectively.

Council resolves that:

1. The relevant officer ask if the developer consortium would be willing, as part of their ecological assessments supporting their planning applications, to update the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal underpinning their section of the proposed spine road to reflect the revised route and assess its implications for habitats, protected species and ecological connectivity, with the findings reported to the Council as part of the planning applications;
2. An assessment of projected school-place requirements across the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss masterplan area to 2039 be undertaken, taking account of the

cumulative impact of development across both allocations, and reported to Council, including an assessment of whether land should be safeguarded for a primary school;

3. A Health Impact Assessment for the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss masterplan area be undertaken and reported to Council, assessing the cumulative impact of the proposed development on local health services and associated infrastructure;
4. The existing infrastructure phasing and delivery strategy within the masterplan be reviewed and strengthened in accordance with Policy JP-D1, clearly identifying what infrastructure is required, when it is required, the trigger points for delivery, and who will fund and deliver each element, with the revised strategy reported to Council;
5. A report be requested from Transport for Greater Manchester setting out the current status and deliverability of the proposed Metrolink stop and Park and Ride facility south of Cop Road, including:
    - the necessary stages for progressing the proposal and what each stage entails;
    - TfGM's current prospective timetable for those stages; and
    - the findings of any geotechnical assessments undertaken in relation to the Cop Road site, including any implications arising from the 2024 landslide affecting the Shaw-Derker line.

Councillors E. Taylor and Al-Hamdani addressed Council in relation to the Motion.
Councillor Sharp exercised her right of reply.
On being put to the vote, MOTION 3 was CARRIED.

Motion 4: Strengthening Controls on the Sale and Use of Fireworks

Councillor Brownridge MOVED and Councillor M. Ali SECONDED the following Motion:
This Council has repeatedly highlighted the serious impact that the anti-social use of fireworks has on residents, animals, emergency services and local communities. Despite existing restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks, complaints continue throughout the year. Enforcement remains difficult because proving who has actually discharged a firework is often challenging, even when anti-social use is clearly taking place.
Whilst fireworks can be enjoyed safely as part of properly organised celebrations and community events, the current regulatory framework is no longer fit for purpose. The growth of online sales and the widespread availability of fireworks throughout the year has made it increasingly difficult for enforcement agencies to prevent misuse.
This Council believes that a more robust permitting and accountability system is required.
Fireworks intended for private use should only be available in connection with approved events, with clear responsibility placed upon those obtaining the fireworks and organising their use.

This Council notes:
• Anti-social use of fireworks continues to generate significant complaints from residents across Oldham.
• Fireworks can cause distress to vulnerable residents, including those with sensory sensitivities, veterans suffering from PTSD, young children, and pet owners.
• Current legislation places significant limitations on enforcement because agencies often need to identify the individual who discharged a firework before action can be taken.
• Greater accountability for the purchase, possession and use of fireworks would strengthen enforcement and improve public safety.
• Local authorities currently have limited powers to regulate fireworks beyond existing national legislation.
This Council further notes:
• That the Government has launched a UK-wide consultation entitled"Fireworks and Pyrotechnics in the UK", published on 16 July 2026, which specifically seeks views on reforms to fireworks legislation aimed at addressing noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour, public safety concerns and the impact of fireworks on vulnerable people and animals. The consultation acknowledges growing public concern regarding the misuse of fireworks and recognises the need to consider stronger regulatory controls whilst maintaining the ability for communities to celebrate safely and responsibly
This Council resolves to:
1. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State urging the Government to introduce legislation that would:

a. Restrict the sale of fireworks solely to named individuals acting under a permit issued for a specific event.
b. Make possession of fireworks without a valid permit an offence, subject to appropriate exemptions for licensed retailers and professional operators.
c. Place legal responsibility upon the named permit holder or holders for compliance with permit conditions, regardless of who physically discharges the fireworks.
d. Strengthen enforcement powers available to police and local authorities.
2. Request that the Chief Executive of the Council write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester seeking support from all Greater Manchester local authorities for a coordinated campaign calling for reform of national fireworks legislation.
3. Request that the Mayor of Greater Manchester be encouraged to work with other combined authority mayors and regional leaders to build wider support for changes to the law.
4. Request that the Monitoring Officer investigate whether any existing by-law, Public Spaces Protection Order, licensing power or other local mechanism could be utilised to introduce stronger controls on the possession and use of fireworks within Oldham, and report findings to the appropriate committee.
5. Submit a formal response to the Government's consultation on Fireworks and Pyrotechnics in the UK, supporting stronger controls on the sale, possession and use of fireworks, including consideration of a permit-based system restricting sales to named individuals for authorised events only.

6. Continue to support measures aimed at reducing noise nuisance, improving public notification of organised displays and protecting vulnerable residents and animals from the harmful effects of anti-social firework use.
7. For all group leaders to engage with their counterparts in other authorities to ensure that this proposal has genuine cross party support nationwide.

Councillor Harkness and the Mayor, Councillor Byrne, addressed Council in relation to the Motion.
Councillor Brownridge exercised her right of reply.
On being put to the vote, MOTION 4 was CARRIED.

Motion 5: A Borough-Wide Strategy to Reduce Child Poverty and Improve Life Chances for Children in Oldham
Councillor Z. Ali MOVED and Councillor Arstan SECONDED the following Motion:
This motion seeks a practical, measurable and cross-party programme for reducing child poverty in Oldham, building on work already undertaken by the Council and learning from effective approaches elsewhere.
This Council notes that:
• Child poverty and deprivation continue to affect too many children and families across Oldham, with particularly severe pressures in some of the borough's most deprived communities.
• Oldham Council already provides important support through financial assistance, Family Hubs, early help, food and holiday support, housing and welfare advice, and employment and skills programmes.
The Council's existing work provides a strong foundation on which to build.
• In 2024, Oldham Council resolved to support the development of a national Child Poverty Strategy and to explore further support for families affected by the two child limit, including through free school meals.
• Oldham Council's current support includes more than £5.7 million of financial-crisis support for 2026/27, including assistance for families and around 21,000 children eligible for Free School Meals during school holidays.
• Oldham's Children and Young People Scrutiny Board has recognised the importance of intervention rather than waiting for crisis, and has discussed poverty, Family First, breakfast clubs and the expected impact of changes to the two-child benefit cap.
• Local government cannot eliminate child poverty alone. However, the Council can use its convening power, services, partnerships, procurement, data, community networks and political voice to reduce the impact of poverty and improve children's life chances.
• Approaches to tackling child poverty have been developed by councils elsewhere in England.
Oldham should learn from proven practice while developing a strategy specifically suited to the borough's communities and circumstances.
This Council believes that:
• No child should have their life chances determined by the income or circumstances of their family.

• Reducing child poverty should be treated as a long-term corporate priority, with clear outcomes, measurable targets and democratic accountability.
• Prevention and early intervention are more effective than waiting until families reach crisis point.
• Children, parents, schools, health services, voluntary organisations, faith groups, businesses and communities should have a meaningful role in shaping solutions.
• Action should be focused particularly on communities experiencing the greatest levels of deprivation while ensuring that families across the borough can access support.
• A cross-party approach gives Oldham the best opportunity to maintain progress over successive administrations.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1 Develop an Oldham Child Poverty Reduction Strategy within 12 months, led by the Council and developed with partners, children, young people and families. The Strategy should establish a clear baseline, identify priority interventions and set measurable targets and timescales.

2 Establish a cross-party Child Poverty Partnership comprising councillors from across the political groups, relevant Council officers, schools and education leaders, health and public-health partners, voluntary and community organisations, faith groups, local businesses, parents, children and young people. Its purpose should be to advise on, monitor and help deliver the Strategy.

3 Introduce an annual Child Poverty and Family Wellbeing Impact Statement alongside the Council's major budget and policy decisions, identifying where decisions may increase or reduce financial pressure on children and families and setting out appropriate mitigation where necessary.

4 Publish an annual Child Poverty Scorecard for Full Council, including progress against agreed indicators such as child poverty, free-school-meal eligibility, food insecurity, school attendance and attainment, access to early help, housing insecurity, employment and financial resilience, with data broken down where appropriate to identify inequalities between communities.

5 Prioritise early intervention and prevention, including strengthening the reach of Family Hubs, breakfast provision, holiday food and activity programmes, welfare and debt advice, housing support, employment and skills support, and routes into training and secure work.

6 Improve access to support by reviewing how residents are informed about available help and by developing a simple, coordinated communications approach across Council services and partner organisations, with particular attention to families who may not currently access support.

7 Work with schools and education partners to identify practical opportunities to reduce the effects of poverty on children's education, including access to free school meals, uniform and essential-cost support, attendance initiatives, enrichment and digital access.

8 Use the Council's convening and commissioning role to bring together public, voluntary, community, faith and business partners to identify additional resources, funding opportunities

and practical initiatives that can reduce hardship and improve children's life chances.
9 Ask officers to identify external funding and best-practice opportunities and report to the relevant scrutiny body on potential initiatives that could be adapted for Oldham.
10 Write to Oldham's Members of Parliament and the Government's relevant Child Poverty Task Force setting out the scale of the challenge in Oldham, sharing local evidence and calling for national measures and funding that will help reduce child poverty.
11 Bring the completed Strategy and first-year implementation plan to Full Council for consideration and debate within 12 months, followed by an annual progress report.
Implementation and accountability.
The Strategy should complement, rather than duplicate, existing Council plans and statutory responsibilities. Before finalising the Strategy, officers should map current provision, identify gaps, establish a baseline and assess the resources required. Any new expenditure should be subject to the Council's normal financial, legal and equality-assessment processes.
A clear message from Oldham
Child poverty should not be accepted as inevitable. Oldham has communities with significant strengths, committed public services and a strong voluntary and community sector. This motion asks the Council to bring those assets together around a single, measurable ambition: to reduce child poverty, prevent families falling into crisis and give every child in Oldham the strongest possible start in life.

Councillors Bishop and Rustidge addressed Council in relation to the Motion.
Councillor Z. Ali exercised his right of reply.
On being put to the vote, MOTION 5 was CARRIED.

13 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN: ANNUAL REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS 2025/26**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED, and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Review of Complaints 2025/26.
Councillor Harrison addressed Council in relation to the Report.
RESOLVED: That the Report be NOTED.

14 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2025/27**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED, and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the Treasury Management Outturn Report 2025/26.

RESOLVED: That the Report be NOTED.

16 **ENSURING STATUTORY SCRUTINY AND ENFORCEABILITY FOR PLACES FOR EVERYONE MASTERPLANS**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED, and Councillor E. Taylor SECONDED the Item: Ensuring Statutory Scrutiny and Enforceability for Places for Everyone Masterplans.

RESOLVED: That the Report be NOTED.

17 **OLDHAM CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PLAN 2026/27**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED, and Councillor Wilkinson SECONDED the Oldham Children, Young People and Families Plan 2026/27.

On being put to the vote, the REPORT was CARRIED.

18 **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2026/27**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED, and Councillor Wilkinson SECONDED the Youth Justice Plan 2026/27.

On being put to the vote, the REPORT was CARRIED.

19 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

The Mayor, Councillor Byrne, MOVED and Councillor Ghafoor SECONDED the Report on Updates on Council actions.

RESOLVED: That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meetings of the Council held on 15th July 2026 and 20th August 2026, be noted and confirmed.

The meeting started at 6:00 p.m. and ended at 8:30 p.m.

Report to COUNCIL

Petitions

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Jack Grennan, Constitutional Services
Email: jack.bailey@oldham.gov.uk

18th November 2026

Reason for Decision

To note the petitions received in accordance with the Council's Constitution. The item is for information only and no decision on the matters raised is being sought or taken by Council.

Recommendations

That in line with the petitions protocol Council notes the petitions received since the previous meeting of the Council in September 2026.

Petitions

1 Council is required to note any petitions (excluding statutory petitions, such as planning). Full Council will debate a petition of more than 4,000 valid signatures. Valid signatures include anyone who lives, works or studies in Oldham.

Petitions Received since September 2026

Reference Number	Title	Date Received	Number of Signatures
2026-12	Residents petition regarding Thorp Lane, higher Turf Lane and Old Lane	20/10/26	**127**

2 **Financial Implications**

2.1 None arising from this report.

3 **Legal Implications**

3.1 The report is for information only and is not seeking a decision. The reporting of petitions is consistent with the Council's Constitution and Petitions Protocol. Any legal implications that arise from the matters raised within individual petitions will be considered as part of any subsequent reports or decisions relating to those matters.

(Alex Bougatef -Director of Legal, Monitoring Officer)

4. **Procurement Implications**

4.1 None.

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

5.1 No

6 **Key Decision**

6.1 No

7 **Key Decision Reference**

7.1 N/A.

8 **Appendices**

8.1 None

9 **Background Papers**

9.1 None

Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Children in Care Should Not Be a Source of Profit

As young people in and around the care system, we know how important it is that every child has access to safe, stable and high-quality care when they cannot live at home.

Across the country, councils are struggling with the rising cost of children's residential care. While the number of children needing residential placements has increased, the cost of those placements has risen even faster.

Many children's homes are now run by private companies, and some of these companies are making significant profits from caring for vulnerable children and young people. This means that money which could be reinvested into improving services and opportunities for children is instead leaving the care system as profit.

The shortage of placements also means that councils often have little choice about where children are placed. Too many young people are moved far away from their families, friends, schools and communities because suitable local placements are not available.

As young people, we believe that children in care should be seen as children first, not as opportunities for financial gain.

We believe:
Every child deserves safe, stable and loving care.
Public money should be used to improve the lives and outcomes of children and young people.
Greater openness is needed around how residential care providers set their prices and make their profits.
Local authorities need more affordable, high-quality placements available close to young people's communities.
National government has a responsibility to ensure that the care system works in the best interests of children and young people.
Therefore, we ask this Council Resolves To:

- Write to the Secretary of State for Education expressing concern about the growing cost of children's residential care and the impact this is having on councils and young people.
- Call on Government to increase transparency from private residential care providers, including clearer reporting on costs, profits and ownership arrangements.
- Support stronger national oversight of the children's residential care market to ensure fair pricing, accountability and value for public money.
- Encourage greater investment in not-for-profit, charitable and local authority-run children's homes so that more young people can be cared for close to home.
- Share this motion with the Local Government Association, Greater Manchester partners and neighbouring councils to encourage wider support for reform.

As children in care and care experienced young people, we want a care system that puts children

before profit. We want public money to be spent on improving lives, creating opportunities and providing the best possible care. We ask Oldham Council to stand with us in calling for a fairer, more transparent and more sustainable care system for all children and young people.

"Children in care are not a business. They are young people who deserve the very best care and support that society can provide."

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026	
Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday) The submission must be signed by at least one Member	
On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk	

Public Questions - Council: Wednesday, 18th November 2026

	From / Date	Question	Response
1	Aidan Jones Fri 03/04/26 11:59	What measures will the council implement to regulate contractors hired for pothole repairs? Taxpayer-funded repairs are frequently substandard, with potholes reappearing within weeks — representing a significant waste of public expenditure. There must be robust auditing and reporting processes, with financial penalties and contract removal for contractors delivering below-standard work. If full road resurfacing isn't affordable, repairs must at minimum be durable and effective. This issue extends beyond our local area and requires a consistent regulatory framework across the UK. Accountability and value for money must be prioritised.	Thank you for your question Mr Jones. Oldham Council carries out the majority of pothole repairs using its own, in-house, teams. External contractors are only used at times of exceptional demand. Unfortunately, when roads reach the end of their lives, potholes can appear on a regular basis, exacerbated by weather conditions. Potholes are repaired using permanent repair methods at the first time of asking wherever possible. However, it is not always possible to do so, such as where a road closure is needed or access is restricted. Therefore, under emergency circumstances, rapid, temporary, repairs are carried out to remove the immediate danger to the travelling public and followed up with a permanent repair wherever required. Although there is a perception of potholes reappearing following repair, in many instances, it is the case that the road surface deteriorates around to the repair to form a new pothole adjacent to the repair than the repair itself failing. Once a road gets to a certain extent of monitored ongoing pothole repairs, its overall condition will then be subject to a potentially appropriate resurfacing, subject to overall priorities across the highway network and levels of available central government capital funding received by the Council.
2	Syed Maruf Ali Mon 13/04/26 16:02	Can the relevant Cabinet Member explain how OMBC and MioCare are ensuring adults with learning disabilities can access their assessed and charged care packages when transport provision is failing?	Thank you for the question. Ensuring that adults with learning disabilities can access the support identified through their Care Act assessment is a priority for both Oldham Council and MioCare. Where concerns are raised that transport difficulties are affecting access to day opportunities or other

		Families report that users of Ring and Ride are missing day centre support due to unreliable transport, despite services being funded and invoiced. This raises concern over how care can be commissioned and charged when it is not consistently accessible. What immediate action will be taken to ensure reliable transport, allow advance or block booking for regular journeys, and ensure families are not penalised financially for service failures beyond their control?	commissioned support, these are reviewed on an individual basis to understand the impact on the person and their unpaid carers and to identify appropriate solutions. A recent case raised through a local councillor demonstrates this approach. Adult Social Care undertook a detailed review, maintaining regular contact with the family, working with the day service and transport provider, and involving Learning Disability, Welfare Rights and commissioning colleagues. Interim support was put in place through a Personal Assistant arrangement to enable safe and reliable access to activities whilst longer-term solutions were explored, and action was taken to resolve financial issues arising from missed provision. It is important to be clear that Ring and Ride is not a service commissioned by Oldham Council or MioCare. Ring and Ride is commissioned at a Greater Manchester level, with commissioning responsibility sitting through the Greater Manchester arrangements. As such, Oldham Council does not directly control the operating model, booking arrangements or service delivery of Ring and Ride. However, where concerns are raised by Oldham residents, we will always advocate on their behalf. Following concerns raised locally, we have liaised with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, who have advised that a review of the current provision is being undertaken. Oldham will contribute to and be involved in that review process to ensure the experiences and needs of our residents are reflected. Importantly, the review is also seeking the involvement of people with lived experience of using the service and their families. We welcome this approach and will support Oldham residents to participate, ensuring their voices help shape any future improvements to the service.

			In relation to charging, service users are only charged in accordance with the Adult Social Care charging policy following a financial assessment. Where there is evidence that someone has been unable to access support because of circumstances beyond their control, this would be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure a fair and proportionate approach. In the recent case referenced, financial issues arising from transport failures were investigated and resolved. Where transport difficulties create risks to wellbeing, independence or carer sustainability, Adult Social Care and MioCare will continue to work with individuals and families to identify alternative solutions, which may include temporary support arrangements, alternative transport options, or a review of the person's support plan to ensure outcomes can continue to be met. Whilst Oldham Council is not the commissioner of Ring and Ride, we take concerns about access to care and support extremely seriously. We will continue to work with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, contribute to the current service review, support the involvement of people with lived experience, and ensure that any Oldham resident affected by transport difficulties receives appropriate support and advocacy to access their assessed care and support.
3	Bilawal Riaz 28 April 2026 15:53	"Can the Leader of the Council explain why the council's Freedom of Information response dated 21 April 2026 stated that zero complaints had been received about conditions at 23-35 King Street, Oldham, when the council itself evacuated 24 residents from 23-25 King Street in June 2025 for substandard conditions including water leaks, damp, and electrical faults, and when Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service attended the same block on 1 March 2026 following a 999 call about cracks in the building?"	Thank you for your question Mr Riaz. Your concerns about the building collapse on King Street were noted and responded to at the time of your enquiries. The Freedom of Information response issued on 21 April 2026 answered the question about complaints received to the corporate team. As you were not happy with the response, an internal review was undertaken for this request, and further information was provided on 12 August 2026 which included details of complaints raised with other teams including Environmental Services, Building Control and Housing.

		This question relates to a matter of significant public interest concerning building safety and the council's record-keeping.	
4	Shadab Qumer Thu 08/10/26 16:21	Can clarity be given of what is going on at King's St. What is the delay? How does it effect the road? Would you agree if the road was open to traffic it would help with the traffic grid lock around the area. When will the road re open to the public.	Thank you for your question. The Council recognises the impact the closure of King Street has had on local businesses, commuters and the residents of Oldham. Reopening of King Street was delayed due to concerns regarding the structural safety of No 29 King St following the collapse of No 31 King St earlier in the year. There were established concerns that had to be addressed before the highway could be safely reopened. Some works to the structure of No 29 King St were completed earlier this year in conjunction with the owners of No 29 & 31 following a structural engineers report. As a result, the highway has been reopened, easing traffic congestion in the area. Discussions are ongoing to ensure that the remainder of works can be completed as soon as possible and the footway also re-opened.
5	Phillida Shipp Thu 08/10/26 17:09	The Register of Members' interests shows that many members of Reform have not declared sponsorship or property in the borough. What steps can the Council take to verify that declarations of interest are accurate?	Thank you for your question. The Council takes the accuracy and completeness of the Register of Members' Interests seriously. Members are personally responsible for ensuring that their declarations comply with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and the Council's Code of Conduct. Members are required to declare relevant interests, including qualifying interests in land in the borough and relevant sponsorship, and to notify the Monitoring Officer of changes within 28 days. The Council's current declaration form also makes clear that omitting information that ought to be provided, or providing materially false or

			misleading information, may constitute a breach of the Code of Conduct. The absence of an entry under sponsorship or property does not, in itself, demonstrate that a declaration is inaccurate. However, if specific evidence is provided suggesting that a member has failed to register a relevant interest, the Monitoring Officer can seek clarification and consider the matter under the Council's standards arrangements and, where applicable, the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
6	Hannah Roberts Tue 03/11/26 16:10	The budget extended the VAT cut to electricity bills to July 2027 and allocated £100 to every household in Council Tax Bands A-D to be paid direct into bank accounts from January 2027. The Chancellor also announced an extra £100 million for councils to provide discretionary support to these households who are not eligible for the £100 rebate. Can the Council confirm how residents can apply for this help and what the Oldham scheme will provide?	Thank you for your question. Councils are currently awaiting funding allocations and detailed guidance from the Government regarding eligibility criteria and implementation arrangements for the scheme announced in the Budget. The Government has indicated that funding will not be available to residents until January 2027 and that all payments should be made by 31 March 2027. We estimate that more than 90% of properties in Oldham will be eligible for the payment. Approximately 66% of eligible households currently pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit, enabling payments to be made directly into their bank accounts. For residents whose bank details we do not hold, an online application process will be introduced in the New Year. Support will also be

			available through Customer Services for residents who are unable to submit an application online. Once we have the information, communications will be shared with residents and elected members.
7	Claire Bowden Tue 17/11/26 09:23	At what point will the Council recognise that you cannot continue to expect social care workers to provide high-quality, compassionate care to vulnerable people while denying them fair pay and reasonable sick pay? We are essential workers, and we deserve employment conditions that reflect the responsibility we carry. What are you going to do to put this right?"	Thank you for the question. Let me start by recognising the important work MioCare colleagues do. They support some of our most vulnerable residents, often in demanding circumstances, and they deserve our respect and recognition. I also completely understand why care workers want better pay and conditions. The Council has already supported the Oldham Living Wage through its funding arrangements. But we do need to be clear about responsibilities. MioCare is a Council-owned company, but it is also a separate employer. Pay, sick pay and negotiations with UNISON are therefore matters for MioCare and its Board, not something the Council can simply determine. The current claim goes further than the Living Wage and would create significant ongoing costs for which there is currently no identified additional funding. We expect MioCare to continue engaging constructively with UNISON and its staff and to explore every reasonable and affordable route to agreement. As shareholder, the Council will continue to hold the company to account for doing that properly.
8	Lynsey Potts Tue 17/11/26 09:37	Please can this question be put forward at the meeting. I work for Mio Care and in dispute regarding our pay.	Thank you for the question

		Q. Why have councillors been advised NOT to talk to us?	Councillors are at liberty to talk to any of their residents as democratically elected representatives. They have also been reminded of the various different accountabilities around the dispute. It is for Miocare and its Board to engage in the negotiations on pay and conditions not the council or councillors. The fact that Members have visited the picket lines and also signed the UNISON petition.
9	Claire Bowden Tue 17/11/26 09:37	Would Oldham Council agree that ensuring care staff receive fair pay, feel valued and are treated with respect is essential to retaining experienced and dedicated workers, and that investing in the people who deliver care would benefit the entire care system by reducing staff turnover, improving continuity of care and, most importantly, ensuring our service users remain happy, safe and supported by familiar faces? What steps is the Council prepared to take to ensure that care staff are fairly rewarded for the important work they do and that experienced staff are encouraged to stay?	Thank you for the question. Let me start by recognising the important work MioCare colleagues do. They support some of our most vulnerable residents, often in demanding circumstances, and they deserve our respect and recognition. I also completely understand why care workers want better pay and conditions. The Council has already supported the Oldham Living Wage through its funding arrangements. But we do need to be clear about responsibilities. MioCare is a Council-owned company, but it is also a separate employer. Pay, sick pay and negotiations with UNISON are therefore matters for MioCare and its Board, not something the Council can simply determine. The current claim goes further than the Living Wage and would create significant ongoing costs for which there is currently no identified additional funding. We expect MioCare to continue engaging constructively with UNISON and its staff and to explore every reasonable and affordable route to agreement. As shareholder, the Council will continue to hold the company to account for doing that properly.

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Report to Council

Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance
Email: heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk

18 November 2026

Reason for Decision

The report provides Council with a further opportunity to elect a Leader of the Council and, in doing so, progress the restoration of the Council's normal executive governance arrangements. 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 18 November 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 The Council continues to operate without a Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet. Interim governance arrangements have therefore been put in place to enable essential Council business and executive decision-making to continue. These arrangements are mitigations and are not intended to replace the statutory political leadership and executive arrangements of the Council.

3.2 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has stated that the priority for the Council remains electing a Leader as required by legislation. The interim governance arrangements agreed by the Council at its meeting on 16 September 2026 confirmed that the election of leader would be a standing item on each ordinary Council agenda.

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. A statutory report was issued by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The report addressed the continuing inability of the Council to appoint a Leader and establish a functioning administration.

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 Section 5 Report of the Monitoring Officer.

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Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

Oldham Council

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Oldham objects to the National Scheme of Delegation

The **National Scheme of Delegation** is a standardised set of rules for English local planning authorities that replaces local delegation schemes and came into force on 31st October 2026.

It is authorised under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. The system was intended to speed up decision-making and ensure elected councillors focus only on major, strategic developments.

However, the Government's own working paper noted that 96% of decisions in the second quarter of 2024 were made by officers. It is only in an extremely rare set of cases that councillors call in applications.

According to the Campaign for Rural England, in 2023-2024 86% of all planning decisions were approved and decisions were only overturned in 2.7% of cases for major applications and 1% of minor applications.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has warned that the new National Scheme of Delegation could lead to an increase in harassment of planners.

While the Local Councils Network's research showed that 84% of its member councils are struggling to recruit and retain planning staff.

Oldham Conservatives have joined over 1,000 Conservative Councillors across the country in writing to the Prime Minister to oppose the changes to legislation.

Oldham Council updated its Constitution on 16th September 2026. However, the Planning Committee has already found its hands tied by the new law and it has made Councillors' role in the planning process much more challenging.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities, Housing & Local Government to state its opposition to the changes and ask for the unnecessary new law to be reviewed.

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026	

Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday)

The submission must be signed by at least one Member

Councillor Proposing: Councillor Max Woodvine	Signature:
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Beth Sharp	Signature:

On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk	

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Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Free Bulky Waste Collections for Households on Council Tax Reduction

THIS COUNCIL NOTES THAT:

1. Fly-tipping is a serious and growing problem in Oldham. Official DEFRA figures for 2024/25 record 5,959 incidents, up 19% on 2023/24 (5,022). That is 23.7 per 1,000 residents, against 21.5 for England. 44% of incidents (2,648) were in back alleyways and 30% (1,760) on highways.
2. Officer figures provided on 2 November 2026 show that in 2025/26 the Council spent £623,321 clearing fly-tipping, before overheads. This included disposing of 1,088.76 tonnes of fly-tipped waste.
3. Residents are charged £10 per item for a bulky waste collection, under the 2026/27 fees and charges approved by this Council on 4 March 2026. The in-house service has an income target of £140,000 a year.
4. On 1 January 2026, 19,495 Oldham households were receiving Council Tax Reduction: 13,108 of working age and 6,387 of pension age (Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27 report).
5. Since September 2025, Bolton Council has offered households receiving Council Tax Support one free bulky waste collection each financial year, from a limited fund, while that funding lasts.
6. Officers have advised that the cost of making bulky collections free for every household could be well over £1m a year, because demand would rise, including from households that would never fly-tip. They have also advised that any new discretionary spending must have an identified funding source.
7. The 2027/28 budget, including fees and charges, will be set by Full Council at its Budget meeting on 3 March 2027.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES THAT:

1. Collecting household waste is a core public service that residents already pay for through their council tax. A free bulky collection does not reward fly-tippers. It helps residents who want to do the right thing.
2. For households living on the lowest incomes, often without a car, a £10-per-item charge is a real barrier. A family clearing a sofa, a mattress and a broken fridge pays £30.
3. Targeting help at households on Council Tax Reduction, as a year-round service and not a one-off allowance, puts support where the charge bites hardest and where fly-tipping hits communities hardest. Oldham should go further than Bolton's single free collection a year. Targeting also keeps the cost far below a borough-wide free service. The charge income given up cannot exceed the current income target of about £140,000 a year.
4. Any change must be lawful, properly costed and fully funded, and decided openly through the budget.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES TO:

1. Instruct Officers to liaise with colleagues at Bolton Council to explore best practice options on how this proposal can be implemented.
2. Note that the Oldham Group will bring forward this proposal, fully funded, in its alternative budget for 2027/28.
3. Note that this motion does not commit any spending in 2026/27 and does not change the approved 2026/27 budget or fees and charges.

The Oldham Group believes that, by acting first for those who need it most, this Council can help residents do the right thing, keep our alleyways and highways clean, and stop paying twice for fly-tipping. Making collections

free for every household remains our longer-term ambition, as and when it can be fully funded.

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026	
Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday) The submission must be signed by at least one Member	
Councillor Proposing: Councillor Kamran Ghafoor	Signature:
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Naveed Chowhan	Signature:
On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk	

Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Eton Star Oldham

This Council notes:

That the Department for Education has approved proposals to establish a new sixth-form college (Eton Star Oldham) in partnership between Star Academies, Eton College and the DfE, with a preferred location being upon the former Tommyfield Outdoor Market site in Oldham town centre.

That all local authorities in England are required to transfer land to the Department for Education (DfE) under the Academies Act 2010 (Schedule 1), as amended by the Education Act 2011 (Schedule 14).

That in accordance with the Land and Property Protocols detailed in the Constitution, this sort of land disposal is an executive decision. The Corporate Property Board (chaired by Executive Member at the time) reviewed the proposed disposal, noting the statutory direction made by the DfE.

That the Cabinet endorsed the Oldham Town Centre Development Framework on 18 November 2024 and this included an Appendix which referred to the Tommyfield Market site for the new sixth-form college.

That in accordance with the Land and Property Protocols detailed in the Constitution, Heads of Terms (HoT) have been discussed with Legal Services and the agreed HoT have been released to the DfE.

That no formal contract for the transfer or disposal of the land has yet been completed. Once the documents have been formally signed by both parties the delegated report will be published and therefore the site remains in the ownership of the Council at this time

This Council notes that concerns have been raised by some elected members, education stakeholders and residents regarding the impact on existing post-16 provision, the suitability of the location and whether the proposal represents the best use of a prime commercial regeneration site.

This Council therefore resolves:
That consideration be given to members with concerns regarding the new sixth-form college provision and provide a report to members by the end of January 2027 outlining the following:

1. the impact on existing sixth-form and further education provision in the borough, from both the council perspective and the views of other sixth-form providers within the borough;
2. the school admissions arrangements for the proposed Eton Star Academy and how they will serve the widest possible cohort of Oldham's young people, rather than students from across Greater Manchester, as is presently the case;

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026

Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday) The submission must be signed by at least one Member	
Councillor Proposing: Councillor Paul Taylor	Signature:
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Andrew Brooks	Signature:
On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk	

Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-
Stop Eton Star This Council notes that: • The Department for Education's process for approving free schools doesn't allow for sufficient Council oversight nor scrutiny and doesn't provide the Council with sufficient engagement. There has been no specific consultation with council members, and no consultation with the public. • Eton Star Sixth Form will not provide the educational uplift that Oldham requires, which is primarily at GCSE level. • The intended admissions criteria will not give Oldham young people priority. • The borough will be sacrificing a high-value, town centre commercial, retail or leisure space to benefit young people from other boroughs with better outcomes at GCSE, with no discernible benefit for Oldham. • Eton Star Academy presents a significant threat to the educational outcomes of Oldham's existing sixth form provisions, especially our outstanding Sixth Form College. • A significant number of education professionals elected members, and the public are strongly opposed to Eton Star Academy, and it lacks both cross-party and public support. The Council therefore resolves to: • Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education seeking clarity on the decision making and consultation around Eton Star that has taken place so far. Request that the Department for Education engage in discussions on the options for and implications of, withdrawal from the Eton Star Sixth Form programme. • Request a cross-party meeting with the Department for Education to discuss Eton Star and look at alternative approaches to providing improvements in the town's secondary educational offering.

Date of Council meeting:	18 November 2026
Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday) The submission must be signed by at least one Member	
Councillor Proposing: Helen Bishop Councillor Seconding: Mark Kenyon	Signature: Signature:

On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

Office use only:	
Notice received by Constitutional Services	
Date: Time:	
Notice received and validated by the S151 Officer: Lee Walsh	
Comments:	Date:
Notice received and validated by the Monitoring Officer: Alex Bougatef – including whether the motion has been accepted / not accepted /requires amendment	
Comments:	Date:
Notice shared with the Chief Executive	
Received by:	Date:
Notice shared with the Mayor	
Received by:	Date:
Proposer and Seconder notified that Motion has been accepted / not accepted / requires amendment	
Notified by:	Date:
Notice shared with all Executive Directors for information	
Shared by:	Date:
If the motion requires amendment before being accepted, this should be submitted using this form to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk and must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday.	
Date amended motion received: Time:	

Extract of the Council's Constitution

Relevant Sections of Paragraph 12

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

12.1 Except for Motions which can be moved without notice under Procedure Rule 12.4, written or electronic notice of every motion, including those motions to be submitted by the Youth Council, signed by at least one Member, must be delivered to the Chief Executive no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting of Council. Such notices will be dated and numbered as received, filed in the office of the Chief Executive and be open to public inspection.

12.2 **Scope**
Every notice of motion will be relevant to some matter over which the Council has an influence.

12.3 **Motions not accepted**
If notice is given of any motion which, in the opinion of the Chief Executive is out of order, illegal, irregular or improper, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Monitoring Officer, shall determine whether to accept its inclusion on the agenda. If a motion is not deemed acceptable the Chief Executive shall inform the member who gave notice of the item.

12.4 Motions without Notice

The following motions may be moved without notice:

a) to appoint a Chairman of the meeting at which the motion is made;
b) motions relating to the accuracy of the minutes
c) to change the order of business in the agenda
d) to refer something to an appropriate body or individual
e) to appoint a Committee or an individual arising from an item on the summons
f) to receive reports or recommendations of the Executive, Committees or officers and determine any resolutions following from them
g) to withdraw a motion
h) proceed to the next business

Relevant Sections of Paragraph 14

14.7 Withdrawal of Motion

A Member may withdraw a motion which he/she has proposed or of which notice has been given with the consent of the seconder and of the Council, the meeting's consent will be signified without discussion. No member shall speak on the motion after the proposer has asked permission for its withdrawal, unless such permission is refused.

14.8 Right of Reply

a) The mover of a motion shall have a right of reply at the close of the debate on the motion, immediately before it is put to the vote.
b) If an amendment is proposed, the proposer of the original motion is entitled to reply at the close of the debate on the amendment.
c) The proposer of the amendment shall have a right to reply at the close of the debate on the amendment immediately before it is put to the vote.
d) After every right of reply a decision shall be taken without further discussion.
e) A Member exercising a right of reply shall not introduce a new matter.
f) If any business is moved by the Leader of the Council at the closing of the debate the main Opposition Party Group Leader shall have a right to speak prior to the Leader exercising their right of reply.

Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Strengthening Standards and Conduct in Oldham

This Council notes that it owes a duty of care to its employees, residents, service users, volunteers and all those who interact with the authority, and that this duty must be upheld consistently, fairly and without exception, with the safety and wellbeing of individuals being the paramount consideration in decision-making.

This Council further notes that elected members hold positions of public trust and carry significant responsibilities and democratic legitimacy, but the status of elected office must never override the Council's wider obligation to safeguard staff, residents and the public. Holding office should not provide immunity from reasonable safeguarding measures where legitimate concerns arise.

This Council notes that at its meeting in December 2025 it welcomed the Government's proposals to strengthen the standards and conduct framework. In its response of 11 November 2025, the Government committed to legislate for a mandatory minimum code of conduct, a formal standards committee in every authority, a power of suspension, a new disqualification category for gross misconduct and repeated breaches, and a national appeals mechanism. Suspensions would be capable of lasting up to six months, with disqualification following a second maximum suspension within five years, and interim suspension of up to three months would be available in serious cases involving external investigation; including extension and review periods subject to statutory review. The Government also stated that the outcomes of investigations should be published, including where a councillor stands down during an investigation.

This Council regrets that no legislation to deliver these reforms was included in the King's Speech of May 2026, despite calls from the Local Government Association and the Ethics and Integrity Commission to find parliamentary time. The Government has since said that reform will come as soon as parliamentary time allows. Until it does, the sanctions available to councils remain those the Committee on Standards in Public Life found to be insufficient in 2019, and there is no provision in current legislation for suspension as a sanction for a councillor found to have breached the code.

This Council further notes that a Member of Parliament who is suspended by the House can face a recall petition and believes that residents are entitled to expect the same seriousness of consequence for those who hold office locally. Where a Member of Parliament resigns from the House to try and end a standards investigation, then returns to public office, these investigations are restarted as a matter of course.

This Council believes that public confidence in local democracy is strengthened, not weakened, when robust standards and safeguarding arrangements are applied equally to all, regardless of position or status. It further believes that a member who steps down during an investigation should not thereby escape accountability, leave complainants without an answer, or return to seek public office as if the matter had never arisen, and that where a serious breach may also be a crime, officers must act without hesitation.

This Council resolves to:

1. Reaffirm that safeguarding considerations must take precedence when balancing the rights and responsibilities of elected office holders against the Council's duty to protect residents, staff and the wider public.

2. Support the principle that elected members should be subject to safeguarding measures, risk-management arrangements and restrictions equivalent to those that would reasonably be applied to employees in comparable circumstances and ask the Monitoring Officer to report to the Standards Committee within three months on what can lawfully be done to give effect to this principle under the current framework.

3. Ensure that no individual is exempt from appropriate safeguarding arrangements solely by virtue of the office they hold.

4. Ask the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer to ensure that, to the fullest extent permitted by law, where a member resigns or steps down during an investigation, the investigation is concluded to a finding where practicable and its outcome is published, and that, should that person subsequently seek election or co-option to this Council, the complaint is re-examined by the Standards Committee and the outcome made public.

5. Reaffirm the expectation that officers will pursue every credible allegation of a serious breach of standards vigorously without fear or favour and will refer matters to the police or other relevant authorities at the earliest opportunity where a breach may amount to criminal conduct and ask the Chief Executive to report annually to the Standards Committee on the operation of these referral arrangements.

6. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, urging the Government to bring forward standards legislation as a matter of urgency, to strengthen it further so that complaints can be reopened where a member stood down to avoid accountability, and to ensure that the standards regime for councillors is as robust as that which applies in Parliament.

This council further resolves to:

1. Ask the Chief Executive to write to the borough's Members of Parliament seeking their support for the above, and to the Local Government Association asking it to continue pressing for early legislation.

2. Ask the Standards Committee to report back to Full Council on progress against these resolutions within six months.

3. That with the permission of each councillor, the council will publish the status of each elected member’s enhanced DBS check according to its records.

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026	
Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday) The submission must be signed by at least one Member	
Councillor Proposing: Cllr Elaine Taylor	Signature: E. Taylor

Councillor Seconding: Cllr Graham Shuttleworth	Signature: G. Shuttleworth
On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk	

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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Add
~~Remove~~

Oldham objects to the National Scheme of Delegation

The **National Scheme of Delegation** is a standardised set of rules for English local planning authorities that replaces local delegation schemes and came into force on 31st October 2026.

It is authorised under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. The system was intended to speed up decision-making and ensure elected councillors focus only on major, strategic developments.

However, the Government's own working paper noted that 96% of decisions in the second quarter of 2024 were made by officers. It is only in an extremely rare set of cases that councillors call in applications.

According to the Campaign for Rural England, in 2023-2024 86% of all planning decisions were approved and decisions were only overturned in 2.7% of cases for major applications and 1% of minor applications.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has warned that the new National Scheme of Delegation could lead to an increase in harassment of planners.

While the Local Councils Network's research showed that 84% of its member councils are struggling to recruit and retain planning staff.

Oldham Conservatives have joined over 1,000 Conservative Councillors across the country in writing to the Prime Minister to oppose the changes to legislation. Oldham Council updated its Constitution on 16th September 2026.

These changes have removed the ward member call in process, but it has ensured that all applications considered by the Planning Committee are major decisions that need serious scrutiny.

~~However, the Planning Committee has already found its hands tied by the new law and it has made Councillors' role in the planning process much more challenging.~~

The Chair of Planning wrote to all elected members on the 23rd September reminding all members about the changes and asking that ward councillors submit their concerns/reasons for referral in writing, to ensure that their views are recorded in the written report about the gateway process.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities, Housing & Local Government to ~~state its opposition to the changes and ask for the unnecessary new law to be reviewed.~~ request that the National Scheme of Delegation is reviewed to ensure that elected members can have an opportunity to air opinions during the planning process.

We welcome all members being involved where possible during the planning process, and ward members should liaise with planning officers on applications where they have concerns.

Motion to read:

Oldham objects to the National Scheme of Delegation

The **National Scheme of Delegation** is a standardised set of rules for English local planning authorities that replaces local delegation schemes and came into force on 31st October 2026.

It is authorised under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. The system was intended to speed up decision-making and ensure elected councillors focus only on major, strategic developments.

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Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities, Housing & Local Government to request that the National Scheme of Delegation is reviewed to ensure that elected members can have an opportunity to air opinions during the planning process.

We welcome all members being involved where possible during the planning process, and ward members should liaise with planning officers on applications where they have concerns.

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Cllr Josh Charters	Date: 17th November 2026
Councillor Seconding: Cllr Nadeem Iqbal	Time: 11:04am

Please submit this Notice of Amendment form to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk by noon the day before the Council meeting.

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Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

That the motion be amended by adding the following resolutions after resolution 3:

4. Require that, before any scheme is approved or implemented, the Council receives a detailed assessment addressing:

a) The full annual financial cost of the proposal, including any additional staffing, vehicles, fuel, administration and waste disposal costs, together with arrangements to meet any expenditure exceeding the existing £140,000 income target.

b) The precise eligibility criteria, including the treatment of working-age and pension-age Council Tax Reduction recipients, limits on collections and items, and safeguards against misuse.

c) The operational impact on existing bulky waste services, including collection waiting times, existing fee-paying customers, staffing, vehicle capacity and the potential impact on reducing fly-tipping.

5. Require that the findings of this assessment, together with identified and sustainable funding arrangements, are presented to the appropriate Council committee before any implementation decision is taken.

6. Confirm that any scheme must be fully funded, affordable and deliverable without unreasonably disadvantaging existing service users or compromising other waste collection services.

7. Include this amendment in the existing Task and Finish group.

Motion to read

This Council notes that:

Fly-tipping is a serious and growing problem in Oldham. Official DEFRA figures for 2024/25 record 5,959 incidents, up 19% on 2023/24 (5,022). That is 23.7 per 1,000 residents, against 21.5 for England. 44% of incidents (2,648) were in back alleyways and 30% (1,760) on highways.

1. Officer figures provided on 2 November 2026 show that in 2025/26 the Council spent £623,321 clearing fly-tipping, before overheads. This included disposing of 1,088.76 tonnes of fly-tipped waste.
2. Residents are charged £10 per item for a bulky waste collection, under the 2026/27 fees and charges approved by this Council on 4 March 2026. The in-house service has an income target of £140,000 a year.
3. On 1 January 2026, 19,495 Oldham households were receiving Council Tax Reduction: 13,108 of working age and 6,387 of pension age (Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27 report).
4. Since September 2025, Bolton Council has offered households receiving Council Tax Support one free bulky waste collection each financial year, from a limited fund, while that funding lasts.
5. Officers have advised that the cost of making bulky collections free for every household

could be well over £1m a year, because demand would rise, including from households that would never fly-tip. They have also advised that any new discretionary spending must have an identified funding source.
6. The 2027/28 budget, including fees and charges, will be set by Full Council at its Budget meeting on 3 March 2027.

This Council believes that:

1. Collecting household waste is a core public service that residents already pay for through their council tax. A free bulky collection does not reward fly-tippers. It helps residents who want to do the right thing.
2. For households living on the lowest incomes, often without a car, a £10-per-item charge is a real barrier. A family clearing a sofa, a mattress and a broken fridge pays £30.
3. Targeting help at households on Council Tax Reduction, as a year-round service and not a one-off allowance, puts support where the charge bites hardest and where fly-tipping hits communities hardest. Oldham should go further than Bolton's single free collection a year. Targeting also keeps the cost far below a borough-wide free service. The charge income given up cannot exceed the current income target of about £140,000 a year.
4. Any change must be lawful, properly costed and fully funded, and decided openly through the budget.

This Council resolves to:

1. Instruct Officers to liaise with colleagues at Bolton Council to explore best practice options on how this proposal can be implemented.
2. Note that the Oldham Group will bring forward this proposal, fully funded, in its alternative budget for 2027/28.
3. Note that this motion does not commit any spending in 2026/27 and does not change the approved 2026/27 budget or fees and charges.
4. Require that, before any scheme is approved or implemented, the Council receives a detailed assessment addressing:

a) The full annual financial cost of the proposal, including any additional staffing, vehicles, fuel, administration and waste disposal costs, together with arrangements to meet any expenditure exceeding the existing £140,000 income target.

b) The precise eligibility criteria, including the treatment of working-age and pension-age Council Tax Reduction recipients, limits on collections and items, and safeguards against misuse.

c) The operational impact on existing bulky waste services, including collection waiting times, existing fee-paying customers, staffing, vehicle capacity and the potential impact on reducing fly-tipping.

5. Require that the findings of this assessment, together with identified and sustainable funding arrangements, are presented to the appropriate Council committee before any implementation decision is taken.

6. Confirm that any scheme must be fully funded, affordable and deliverable without unreasonably disadvantaging existing service users or compromising other waste collection services.

7. Include this amendment in the existing Task and Finish group.

The Oldham Group believes that, by acting first for those who need it most, this Council can help residents do the right thing, keep our alleyways and highways clean, and stop paying twice for fly-tipping. Making collections free for every household remains our longer-term ambition, as and when it can be fully funded.

Date of Council meeting:- 18th November 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Councillor Robert Barnes	Date: 16th November 2026
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Andrew Brooks	Time: 20:56

Please submit this Notice of Amendment form to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk by noon the day before the Council meeting.

Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Delete the title “Stop Eton Star” and substitute:

Stop Eton Star Building on Tommyfield

This Council notes that:

- The Department for Education’s process for approving free schools ~~doesn’t~~ does not allow for sufficient Council oversight or scrutiny and ~~doesn’t~~ does not provide the Council with sufficient engagement. There has been no specific consultation with cross-party Council members~~, and no consultation with~~ or the public.
- Eton Star Sixth Form will not provide the educational uplift that Oldham requires, which is primarily at GCSE level.
- The intended admissions criteria will not give Oldham young people priority.
- The borough will also be sacrificing a high-value, town centre commercial, retail or leisure space to benefit young people from other boroughs with better outcomes at GCSE, with no discernible benefit for Oldham. The site remains in the ownership of the Council at this time.
- Eton Star Academy presents a significant threat to the educational outcomes of Oldham’s existing sixth-form provision, especially our outstanding Sixth Form College.
- A significant number of education professionals, elected members and the public are strongly opposed to Eton Star Academy at the Tommyfield location, and it lacks both cross-party and public support.

The Council therefore resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education seeking clarity on the decision-making and consultation around Eton Star that has taken place so far. Request that the Department for Education engage in discussions on the options for and implications of withdrawal from the Eton Star Sixth Form programme Request a cross-party meeting with the Department for Education to discuss Eton Star and look at alternative approaches to providing improvements in the town’s secondary educational offering.-

Refer the proposed Eton Star Academy (including its educational impact, admissions arrangements, value for money, and any alternative site options) to the Children’s and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel for full scrutiny. The Panel shall consider the matter and include recommendations on, but not exclusively, matters of selection criteria.

Motion to read:

Stop Eton Star Building on Tommyfield

This Council notes that:

- The Department for Education’s process for approving free schools does not allow for sufficient Council oversight or scrutiny and does not provide the Council with sufficient engagement. There has been no specific consultation with cross-party Council members or the public.
- Eton Star Sixth Form will not provide the educational uplift that Oldham requires, which is primarily at GCSE level.

- The intended admissions criteria will not give Oldham young people priority.
- The borough will also be sacrificing a high-value, town centre commercial, retail or leisure space to benefit young people from other boroughs with better outcomes at GCSE, with no discernible benefit for Oldham. The site remains in the ownership of the Council at this time.
- Eton Star Academy presents a significant threat to the educational outcomes of Oldham's existing sixth-form provision, especially our outstanding Sixth Form College.
- A significant number of education professionals, elected members and the public are strongly opposed to Eton Star Academy at the Tommyfield location, and it lacks both cross-party and public support.

The Council therefore resolves to:

Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Department for Education seeking clarity on the decision-making and consultation around Eton Star that has taken place so far. Request that the Department for Education engage in discussions on the options for and implications of withdrawal from the Eton Star Sixth Form programme Request a cross-party meeting with the Department for Education to discuss Eton Star and look at alternative approaches to providing improvements in the town's secondary educational offering.-

Refer the proposed Eton Star Academy (including its educational impact, admissions arrangements, value for money, and any alternative site options) to the Children's and Young People's Scrutiny Panel for full scrutiny. The Panel shall consider the matter and include recommendations on, but not exclusively, matters of selection criteria.

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Councillor Paul Taylor	Date: 17th November 2026
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Andy Brooks	Time: 11:04am

Please submit this Notice of Amendment form to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk by noon the day before the Council meeting.

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Report to Council

Council Motion: "A New Start for Oldham"

Report Authors:
Nasir Dad – Director of Environment
Lee Walsh – Director of Finance

18 November 2026

Reason for Decision

A Council Motion was proposed by Councillor Harkness and seconded by Councillor Al-Hamdani at the meeting of 16 September 2026. The motion was as follows –

"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 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."

Resolution – to request relevant officers to produce a budget report to explore how existing funding can be reprofiled to address the priorities set out in this motion and specifically addressing: environmental crime (including littering, dog fouling, fly tipping and graffiti); frontline services (including drain clearance, road repairs, and park and green space maintenance) and delivering fair district funding.

As a result of this Council Motion, it was agreed that at the next Council meeting scheduled for the 18 November 2026, Officers would produce a budget report to explore how existing funding can be reprofiled to address the priorities set out in this motion and specifically address:

- Environmental Crime (including littering, dog fouling, fly-tipping and graffiti);
- Frontline Services (including drain clearance, road repairs, and park and green space maintenance) and
- Delivering fair district funding.

This report has been provided in response to the motion for Council's consideration.

Executive Summary

This report provides some context of the issues impacting the Environment Service Areas currently, and the financial impact of these challenges. The report also provides a history of the

Councils Environment Budgets (2023 – Present), identifying any adjustments made for both growth and saving proposals.

Recommendations

Council members are asked to note:

1. The budget information in this report and the challenges the various services in the Environment Directorate are facing.

2. That there is no flexibility within the current year's approved budget for any amendments to be made in year.

3. That any proposed amendments for next year's budget (2027/28) will need formal consideration and costings to be fully assessed through the Council's budget setting process.

4. That Group Leaders, Group Deputies and Interim Lead Members have been briefed on the Council's in-year budget position and the process for setting the budget for 2027/28.

5. That additional briefing sessions will be held to support Groups as part of the annual budget setting process; these commence in the coming weeks ahead of Scrutiny and Council consideration in the new calendar year.

Council Motion Response: "A New Start for Oldham"

1. Background – The Wider Local Government Context

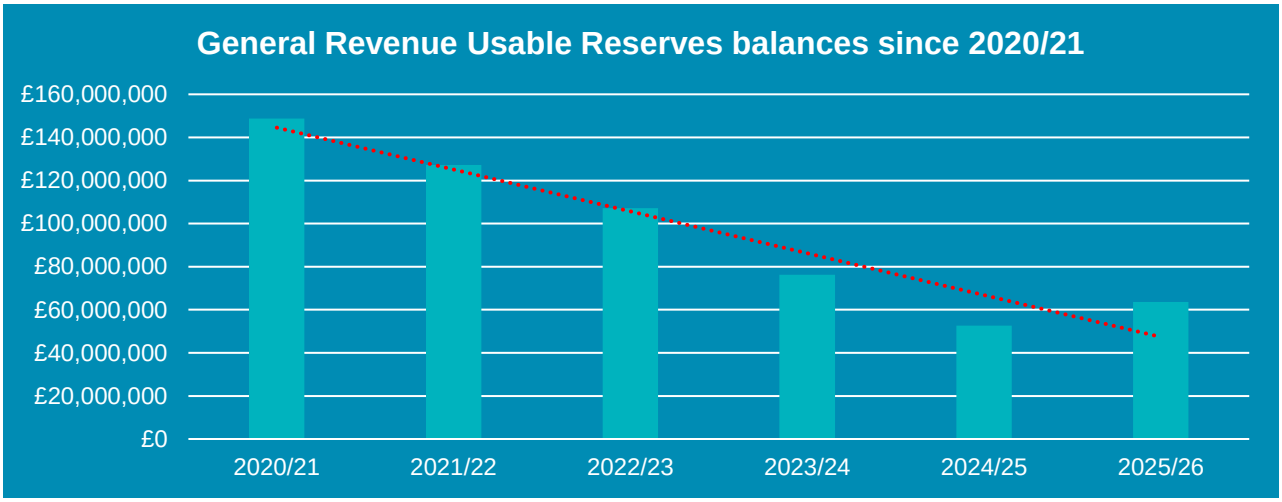
1.1 Over the past four years the Council has continued to operate in an increasingly challenging financial environment, with rising demand for both Adult and Children's Social Care, homelessness support and SEND, coupled with inflationary pressures, placing significant strain on the revenue budget. The legacy of underfunding over the last 15 years (over £280m of savings delivered since 2010) has amplified these challenges, with Central Government funding and locally generated income not keeping pace with demand and inflationary pressures. Whilst the Council has continued to set balanced budgets, this has required a combination of savings programmes, transformation initiatives and a substantial use of reserves.

1.2 The cumulative budget gap 2023/24 to 2026/27 was over £111m, with over £69m of savings and over £22m of reserves needed to help bridge the gap, as per the table below:

	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	2026/27 £000	Total £000
Budget Gap	**34,145**	**33,180**	**23,721**	**20,301**	**111,347**
Bridged by:					
Flexible Use of Capital Receipts	(2,600)	(2,600)	(2,600)		**(7,800)**
Revenue Grant Resources Review				(10,196)	**(10,196)**
Transformation Programme Savings				(2,000)	**(2,000)**
Budget Reduction Proposals	(19,968)	(19,827)	(21,121)	(8,105)	**(69,021)**
General Use of Reserves	(11,577)	(10,753)			**(22,330)**
Revised Budget Gap	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

1.3 Central Government implemented the Fair Funding Review for 2026/27. Funding has been realigned across the whole system to reflect deprivation needs and the ability to generate income, which in turn has been linked to funding allocations. Whilst the Council welcomes this switch to a clear focus on aligning funding to those areas of high need and low taxbase, like Oldham, there is still much to be done to address many years of underfunding along with tackling demand and inflationary pressures especially in social care.

1.4 The Council has put in place a recovery plan to strengthen its financial resilience. A key strategy when setting the budgets for 2025/26 and 2026/27 was the replenishment of revenue reserves. For several years, these reserves have decreased in value and as a result have impacted the Council's overall financial resilience. In 2025/26 and 2026/27 reserves were not used to help bridge the budget gap, with £2.5m transferred back to reserves as part of the budget setting process. The graph below shows the reserve position since 2020/21.



1.5 The Council continues to face significant financial challenges due to ongoing, higher demand, increasing costs of services and the legacy of underfunding over the last decade. This is reflected in the 2026/27 Month 6 position of an overall forecast overspend of £3.622m. The Council must operate with a finite amount of funding that is aligned to statutory and corporate priorities.

2. Current Position

2.1 Environment Budget

2.1.1 The following table sets out the high-level summary of the Environment Service Area Budget for the financial years 2023/24 to 2026/27.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Opening Budget	**36,989,150**	**39,307,290**	**38,694,580**	**38,726,250**	
Levies and Precepts	478,000	810,000	392,190	690,050	**2,370,240**
Growth	1,801,460	1,334,170	1,896,370	1,650,940	**6,682,940**
Savings	- 545,000	- 2,564,790	- 1,450,000	- 1,545,410	**-6,105,200**
Pension Reduction				- 581,840	**- 581,840**
Budget Realignment	583,680	- 192,090	206,800	- 318,590	**279,800**
Structure Changes			- 1,013,690		**-1,013,690**
Closing Balance	**39,307,290**	**38,694,580**	**38,726,250**	**38,621,400**	

2.1.2 The table above identifies budget adjustments in the following categories –

- **Levies and Precepts –** Members will be aware that the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) charges the Council for Waste Disposal and Transport Services in the form of levies and a statutory charge. The Council has no discretion over the payment of such levies and statutory charges so where levies increase, additional budget needs to be allocated.
- **Growth –** Additional budget allocation awarded because of additional demand. For example, £0.300m was awarded to the Waste Service in 2023/24 to accommodate the growing number of houses in the borough and the increased collection demands.
- **Savings –** As part of budget setting each year, savings proposals are put forward and agreed. This area identifies the Environment savings made each financial year.

- **Pension Reduction –** In 2026/27, the Council agreed with the GMPF to a reduced employer contribution rate from 19% to 15.5%. This amount reflects the budget reduction in Environment because of its implementation.
- **Budget Realignment –** Adjustments made throughout the year reflect changes to service delivery and structures.
- **Structure Changes –** Throughout the period identified, full-service areas have been added to and removed from the Environment structure. Examples include Strategic Transport, Building Control and Parking.

2.2 Environment Savings Analysis

2.2.1 As the table above states, the Environment Directorate has contributed over £6m worth of saving proposals over the last 4 financial years.

2.2.2 The breakdown of these savings for each financial year is listed below –

2026/27	**Saving Description**	**Saving**
PLC-BR26-039	Highways Reprioritisation	(436,000)
PLC-BR26-040	Waste, Greenspace and Cleansing Re-Prioritisation	(350,000)
PEG-BR1-817	Parking Contract Review	(250,000)
RES-BR26-034	Essential Car User Review/Fleet Hire Review	(150,000)
PLC-BR26-038	Place – Top Tier Directorates Restructure	(359,410)
	Total	**(1,545,410)**
2025/26	**Saving Description**	**Saving**
PEG-BR1-819	Environment Service Review	(545,000)
Budget Adjustment	S38 Income & Staff Capitalisation	(100,000)
Budget Adjustment	Highways Reprioritisation	(300,000)
Budget Adjustment	Street Cleansing Review	(75,000)
Budget Adjustment	Trading Standards Review	(220,000)
Budget Adjustment	Reduction in Envirocrime Posts	(60,000)
Budget Adjustment	Health & Safety Review	(100,000)
Budget Adjustment	Leadership Review	(50,000)
	Total	**(1,450,000)**
2024/25	**Saving Description**	**Saving**
	Introduction of vacancy management factor	(193,510)
	Increase fees and charges	(297,280)
PPL-BR1-508	Increase External Customer Base - Trade Waste	(3,000)
PEG-BR1-636	Don't Trash Oldham Betterment Programme	(335,000)
PEG-BR1-637	Refocus fly-tipping enforcement activity – Don't Trash Oldham	(250,000)
PEG-BR1-640	Develop Building Control shared response with other Local Authorities	(100,000)
PEG-BR1-643	Review Options for Future of Remaining Glasshouse Provision	(74,000)
PEG-BR1-723	Public Protection Service Review	(110,000)
PEG-BR1-724	Environmental Services - Service Delivery Changes to Parks and Cleansing	(1,079,000)
PEG-BR1-725	Highways & Engineering Service Review	(123,000)
	Total	**(2,564,790)**

2023/24	Saving Description	Saving
PPL-BR1-510	Public Protection Restructures - Environmental Health & First Response	(50,000)
PPL-BR1-508	Increase External Customer Base - Trade Waste	(10,000)
PEG-BR1-635	Reshape Bonfire Event	(25,000)
PEG-BR1-636	Don't Trash Oldham Betterment Programme	(112,000)
PEG-BR1-638	Increase Fees - Cemeteries and Crematoria Service	(228,000)
PEG-BR1-641	Income Generation – Trade Waste	(120,000)
	Total	**(545,000)**
	Total savings 2023/34 to date	**6,105,200**

2.3 Growth Analysis

2.3.1 Whilst the Environment Directorate has seen significant savings reductions as outlined above, it has also benefitted from £6.682m of additional growth.

2.3.2 The details of this growth have been split by financial year in the table below.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Pay Award Growth	1,294,440	1,334,170	1,449,630	659,540	4,737,780
Impact of NI changes			446,740		446,740
Contract Inflation				136,620	136,620
Street Cleansing Investment				250,000	250,000
25/26 Unachieved Saving				604,780	604,780
Waste Investment	300,000				300,000
Pest Control Investment	100,000				100,000
Highways Redesign	107,020				107,020
Total	**1,801,460**	**1,334,170**	**1,896,370**	**1,650,940**	**6,682,940**

2.3.3 £1,361,800 (20.38%) of the growth identified above would constitute as additional resource to the service to meet increased demand.

2.3.4 The remaining £5,321,140 (79.62%) has been added to the service to meet pay and contractual inflation.

2.3.5 The following table helps demonstrate the net impact of savings and growth that have specific impact on the Environment Directorate's ability to provide the service. Items such as pay award growth, contract inflation, and pension reduction have been omitted as they don't provide any additional resource to the Directorate.

	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Opening Budget	**36,989,150**	**37,534,850**	**34,777,970**	**34,389,550**	
Growth	507,020	-	854,780		**1,361,800**
Savings	- 545,000	- 2,564,790	- 1,450,000	- 1,545,410	**- 6,105,200**
Budget Realignment	583,680	- 192,090	206,800	- 318,590	**279,800**
Closing Balance	**37,534,850**	**34,777,970**	**34,389,550**	**32,525,550**	

2.3.6 From 2023/24 to 2026/27, the Environment budget has been reduced from £36.989m at the start of 2023/24 to £32.526m at 2026/27.

2.3.7 This reflects a **£4.464m reduction (12.07% reduction) over four financial years.**

2.3.8 The following staff reductions and additions have been implemented to help achieve the savings –

Financial Year	FTE Lost Via Savings	FTE Gained Through Growth	Net (Loss)/Gain
2023/24	(5.00)	9.00	4.00
2024/25	(38.08)	-	(38.08)
2025/26	(5.00)	4.00	(1.00)
2026/27	-	5.00	5.00
	(48.08)	**18.00**	**(30.08)**

3. Environment Service Delivery – Impacts on Performance

3.1 Reduction in the critical mass of operational staff outlined above has resulted in services reprioritising delivery as well as impacting response times. For example, FTE reduction in grounds maintenance and cleansing, outside of the Don't Trash Oldham programme, has meant that there are fewer operatives, and therefore, response times to fly tip removal, grounds maintenance and cleansing have been impacted. As a result of the reduced operational staff, grounds maintenance operations were re-aligned and some static gardeners removed from parks. Furthermore, a review of land ownership was also undertaken, and all land not owned by the council was no longer maintained unless the owners were willing to pay the cost of maintenance. The only exception being maintenance to ensure highway safety.

3.2 Furthermore, inflationary and cost pressures have also meant that the cost of materials and equipment has increased significantly during the above period, especially machinery and fuel. This factor has also impacted how much the Service can deliver as well as resulting in operational overspend in the directorate. For example, during the last 4 years, highways aggregate has increased between 25% and 45%, tarmac has increased by almost 40% over the same period, and costs of bin wagons have increased by 60%. In addition to the purchase cost, repair and maintenance prices have also increased and price shocks because of global energy increases filter through on a regular basis across all areas of service delivery.

3.3 Furthermore, regulatory changes have also impacted demand on Services. The changes because of Awaabs Law increased demand for housing inspections, pressure of which is sustained, and additional changes around Renter's Reform have created further regulatory demands for the teams to deliver. This has meant that teams have had to prioritise service delivery, and non-statutory functions in some areas have been reduced to meet statutory duties.

3.4 Given the above savings, budget realignments and regulatory pressures, the Service has continued to deliver on key priorities outlined in the Motion, including keeping the borough clean, waste collection services, fly tip removal / enforcement, graffiti removal, gulley cleaning and weed spraying.

3.5 A breakdown of service delivery, over the last 4 administrative years is listed below:

3.6 Litter Reports and Clearance:

Year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
Number of Reports	990	921	1301	710
Tonnage Removed	783	904	978	Ongoing

3.7 Fly Tipping Reports and Clearance:

Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
Number of Reports	5533	4867	5723	6348
Tonnage Removed	1368	1029	1061	1089

3.8 Waste Collection:

Year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27 (6 months)
Tonnage Removed	65,369	65,876	66,573	33,771

3.9 Gully Cleaning:

A dedicated, ward by ward gulley cleaning programme was started in Sep 2024. The original aim was to clean all the gullies in the borough over an 18-month period. This work has taken much longer than originally planned. To date, approximately 32,000 of the 47,500 gullies have been cleaned, and the teams are currently working in the last ward, Failsworth East.

Not all gullies were accessed the first time, mainly due to parked vehicles. Moving forward, the team will be revisiting the wards, in order, engaging with local ward members, introducing traffic management and remaining gullies will be cleaned. Some gullies need to be repaired, and others need a 'dig-out' – dedicated teams will follow the gully wagon and undertake repairs as necessary. Further communications and a timetable of these works will be shared by the end of Nov 2026.

3.10 Weed Spraying:

The weed spraying programme was brough back into the Council in the Summer of 2025 after contractor failure. Since that time, approximately £55,000 has been invested to deliver the service. The operations in 2026 have been impacted by the extreme weather and the failure to complete the programme in 2025. This has resulted in excessive growth and delivery challenges. Given the investment, and revised working, the Service is confident that, weather permitting, it will deliver a complete boroughwide programme in 2027 that will be effective and visible in dealing with weed growth. Operatives that deliver this service are moved out of the fly tipping cleansing function during the weed spraying period, thus, effecting cleansing operations.

3.11 Graffiti Removal Costs:

Boroughwide graffiti removal remains a priority and investment in this work has continued. Below is a breakdown of the costs incurred for removal operations. Most graffiti is removed 7-10 days after reporting.

Year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27*
Cost of Removal £	51,311	43,630	36,633	39,294	17,627

3.12 Play Equipment Repair & Maintenance:

The table below outlines investment in play equipment repairs and maintenance. Money allocated reduced in 2023/24 as the budget allocation was re-aligned. However, further investment in 2026/27 (external grant funding) has resulted in outstanding repairs being completed and this work remains ongoing.

Year	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27*
Repair and Maintenance spend £	222,000	169,000	93,000	76,000

3.13 Highways Operations & Capital Delivery:

The Highways Service continues to deliver reactive maintenance and capital delivery programmes. Investment over the last 4 years and the current year is detailed in the table below. Capital delivery (resurfacing) has relied on capital provided by the city region settlement process. Oldham Council has not invested its own capital for highway delivery until this year, with an additional £2m capital investment.

	Capital Spend	**Revenue Spend**	**Total Spend**
2022/23	7,521,000	2,097,009	9,618,009
2023/24	3,067,000	2,508,000	5,575,000
2024/25	3,067,000	2,739,000	5,806,000
2025/26	3,067,000	2,459,000	5,526,000
2026/27 – projected	CRSTS, 5,392,000 Oldham Council, 2,000,000	2,156,000	Ongoing

Capital expenditure and Districts

3.14 The Council's capital programme is approved by Budget Council each financial year and sets out the capital funding priorities over a five-year period, funded in various ways such as through grant, capital receipts, prudential borrowing or revenue contributions. Since 2023/24, capital investment has been split across the borough as follows:

Area	**2023/24 £000**	**2024/25 £000**	**2025/26 £000**	**Total £000**
Town Centre	43,997	50,958	32,377	**127,332**
Districts	21,279	16,147	20,291	**57,717**
Equipment	872	1,540	626	**3,039**
IT	4,148	4,160	1,602	**9,910**
Other (REFCUS)	10,916	8,986	17,228	**37,130**
Grand Total	**81,212**	**81,791**	**72,125**	**235,127**

3.15 As can be seen in the table above, 54% of expenditure has been spent within the Town Centre with 25% spent across the districts.

3.16 Within the capital programme, funding for emerging priorities from 2027/28 is held at £5.000m, phased over the programme as follows:

	2027/28 £000	2028/29 £000	2029/30 £000	2030/31 £000	Total £000
Funding for Emerging Priorities	902	2,506	-	1,592	**5,000**

3.17 As part of the 2027/28 budget-setting process, Members may propose priorities for this funding in line with the approved funding profile. Any increase in allocations to the Emerging Priorities Fund will create an additional borrowing requirement and, consequently, will require the identification of ongoing revenue resources to meet the associated financing costs.

4. Service Improvement Options

4.1 Investment / budget realignment options based on the motion and linked to Service priorities are listed below. These are indicative and provide an estimate of what service changes / improvements could be realised if additional funding was to be made available/realigned.

4.2 Waste, Cleansing & Greenspace

Option 1 - Enhanced Service	**Option 2 – High Performing Service**
Indicative Cost £0.8m - £1.0m per annum Additional Resources Frontline Operations • 6 Street Cleansing Operatives • 4 Parks and Open Spaces Operatives • 1 Countryside Ranger • 1 Working Supervisor • Part-time Administrative Support	**Indicative Cost £2.4m - £3.0m per annum** Additional Resources Frontline Operations • 12 Street Cleansing Operatives • 10 Parks and Open Spaces Operatives • 2 Countryside Rangers • 3 Enforcement Officers Management **Professional Support** • 3 Supervisors • 1 Senior Supervisor / Area Manager • 1 Service Manager • 1 Tree Officer • 1 Funding Officer • 1 Performance and Data Officer • 1 Administration Officer Community Support • 3 Community Development Officers (Grade 6) • £100,000 community grants budget
Outcomes A targeted investment focused primarily on improving cleanliness, parks and open spaces, countryside management and tree maintenance. It strengthens frontline capacity and provides additional support to community environmental	**Outcomes** A substantially larger investment designed to deliver a more visible, proactive and comprehensive environmental service. Alongside significantly greater frontline capacity, it introduces dedicated enforcement, management, funding, performance/data and tree expertise, expands community development and grants, and provides greater investment

groups, while largely building on the existing service model.	in trees, fleet and operational infrastructure.

4.3 Public Protection

Additional Enforcement & Investigation Capacity
Indicative Cost £450K • 5 Waste enforcement/waste crime officers • 3 Technical Enforcement Officers (additional regulatory enforcement capacity) • 1 Trading Standards Officer – proactive investigation and enforcement • 1 Enforcement Support
Outcomes • Quicker response and investigation of fly tipping – link to cleansing service and therefore, removal of waste • Litter & dog waste enforcement • Proactive & Effective Enforcement for wide environmental protection
Additional Options Outsource litter FPNs to external providers and an income sharing model

4.4 Highways Operations

Additional capital funding to deliver greater highway maintenance to ensure a 'steady state'. Recent inspections of the network show that this needs to be in the region of an additional **£6.5m per annum** – separate to the CRSTS funding. **Additional Recruitment** • 1 Road Safety Officer • 1 Engineer to delivery disabled parking bay requests/implementation • 1 Technical Assistant to work on service requests • 1 Streetworks co-ordinator
Indicative Cost - £300K
Outcomes • Able to improve resident and member demand for highway assessments • Improved delivery of disabled parking demands • Improved customer service response • Improved coordination and network management

5 Consultation

5.1 Group Leaders, Deputy Leaders and Interim Lead Members have been briefed in detail on the Council's budget, in year pressures, savings plans, the detail set out in this report on

Environmental Services, and the proposals for the upcoming budget setting process for 2027/28.

5.2 Comments and suggestions were noted during the briefing session to inform the recommendations to this report.

5.3 Wider engagement with elected members and any form of public consultation is not required at this stage. This will follow in due course as part of standard budget setting processes.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 The report provides an overview of the Environment Services budget position from 2022 to the preset, highlighting movements in the budget over this period. It identifies areas of budget growth, including pay award and targeted investment, together with the savings proposals implemented by the service to mitigate the financial impact of these pressures.

6.2 The Council continues to operate within a challenging financial environment, driven by increasing demand, rising service costs and the cumulative impact of historical funding reductions. To align limited resources with statutory and corporate priorities, the Environment budget has reduced by £4.464m over the period (12.07%), with staffing levels reducing by approximately 30 FTE posts.

6.3 Whilst Environment Service improvement options have been presented (Section 4), these actions can only be implemented with a reprioritisation of Council/Place funding.

6.4 At the end of the 2026/27 Quarter 2 period, the Council is reporting an adverse position of £3.622m. Whilst the Council continues to work to mitigate this position by the end of the financial year, this financial position means that there are no available resources currently available to support an investment request during this financial year.

6.5 As per the Council's budget report approved by Budget Council in March 2026, the Council has a significant budget gap over the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) period. The Council is continuing its work to update budget assumptions to account for changes such as increased inflation and interest costs as part of the established budget setting process, with savings proposals required to bridge the budget gap

6.6 This means that further savings options in addition to those to bridge the 2027/28 budget gap will need to be identified from across the Council by Members for investment at this value to help set a balanced budget in 2027/28.

6.7 Once the budget gap has been fully offset by all agreed budget options, further budget realignment within the existing funding resource can be addressed.

6.8 The Council's capital programme was approved at Budget Council in March 2026 and includes £5.000m of funding for emerging priorities that Members may want to allocate to specific schemes as part of the budget setting process for 2027/28.

6.9 In line with the Council's approved budget strategy, no additional capital programme growth will be supported during the period covered by the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) to 2031/32, other than investments supported by a robust business case demonstrating the delivery of revenue savings. As part of the 2027/28 budget-setting process, any proposal to increase capital expenditure beyond existing programme assumptions would require financing through prudential borrowing.

6.10 Any additional borrowing would generate ongoing revenue costs through debt repayment and interest charges. Consequently, Members would need to identify recurring revenue savings or other sustainable funding sources to meet these costs and ensure that the Council can maintain a balanced budget position over the life of the borrowing.

(John Hoskins/Vickie Lambert)

7 Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report. (A Evans)

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District Funding –

Any proposed investment-to-save capital expenditure brought forward as part of the budget process would be subject to a robust business case and formal appraisal. The business case must clearly demonstrate that the forecast recurring savings are sufficient to fully offset all additional borrowing and financing costs, together with any ongoing revenue, maintenance, support and operational costs arising from the investment.

In addition, appropriate monitoring arrangements must be established from the outset, with the delivery of approved savings and associated benefits regularly tracked and reported to ensure the anticipated financial return is achieved. Schemes that do not provide a clear, sustainable and measurable financial benefit to the Council should not be progressed within the Budget setting process.

If the Council was to agree any additional capital works it would be required to borrow to fund them. The cost of borrowing to the Council would be at the Public Works Loan Board rate, currently 6.43% over twenty-five years.

The repayment cost would have to be found through additional budget savings from current council spending. The current Medium Term Financial Strategy is predicated on no additional borrowing.

Amount borrowed	Term	Repayments revenue cost (per year)	Total Repayment Cost
£5 million	**25 years**	**£367,000**	**£9.179 million**
£10 million	**25 years**	**£735,000**	**£18.359 million**
£20 million	**25 years**	**£1.469 million**	**£36.718 million**
£50 million	**25 years**	**£3.672 million**	**£91.795 million**

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Report to Council

Independent Member on Audit Committee

Officer Contact: Chief Executive

Report Author: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance
Email: heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk

18 November 2026

Reason for Decision

The Audit Committee has an important role in providing independent assurance and oversight of the Council's governance, risk management, internal control, financial reporting and audit arrangements. Effective participation by members of the Committee is important to supporting the discharge of these responsibilities.

Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

1. Agree to bring the appointment of Stuart Green as an Independent Member and Vice Chair of the Audit Committee to an end with effect from 19 November 2026.

2. Authorise the Assistant Director of Governance to make the necessary administrative arrangements arising from the decision; and

3. Authorise the commencement of arrangements to recruit a replacement Independent Member of the Audit Committee.

Independent Member of Audit Committee

1 **Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 12 November 2025, Council appointed Stuart Green as the second Independent Member of the Audit Committee which included the role of Vice Chair of the Committee. His appointment runs until 30 April 2029; however, may be reviewed before that date.

2 **Current Position**

2.1 Attendance and participation are inherent requirements of the role. The Independent Member has been unable fulfil these requirements for over six consecutive months. The Council is aware of personal circumstances which have affected the Independent Members' ability to undertake their role on the Audit Committee. In the circumstances, it is considered appropriate to bring the appointment to an end, and a replacement Independent Member be appointed.

3 **Options/Alternatives**

3.1 Council may determine that the appointment should continue.

4 **Preferred Option**

4.1 Having regard to the importance of effective participation by Independent Members in supporting the work of the Audit Committee, the preferred option is to seek a replacement.

5 **Consultation**

5.1 Director of Finance, Monitoring Officer and Independent Chair of the Audit Committee.

6 **Financial Implications**

6.1 Independent Members of the Audit Committee receive an allowance under the Council's approved Members' Allowances arrangements.

7 **Legal Implications**

7.1 The report outlines that unfortunately Mr Green has not attended the required meetings that he was required to attend as per his terms of appointment. Meetings to discuss the reasons for non attendance were not attended and communications including email's and calls were not responded to. The independent role on the audit committee is an important role and if Mr Green is not able to complete his duties then the Council will have to look to re-appoint. Upon the Council successfully agreeing to terminate the appointment, the position will be declared vacant and the Council can begin the process of appointing. (Alex Bougatef - Director of Legal Services, Monitoring Officer.)

8. **Procurement Implications**

8.1 N/A

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

9.1 No

10 **Key Decision**

10.1 No.

11 **Key Decision Reference**

11.1 N/A

12 **Appendices & Background Papers**

12.1 Report to 12 November 2025 Council

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Report to COUNCIL

Review of Political Balance on Committees

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Jack Grennan, Constitutional Services
Email: jack.grennan@oldham.gov.uk

18th November 2026

Reason for Decision
To enable the Council to note changes to the political composition of the Council owing from the formation of the Independent Alliance, the resignation of two Councillors and the outcome of the Failsworth West by-election, and to approve any consequential changes to political balance and the allocation of seats on committees in accordance with the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

Considering this, the Council is asked to review the political composition of committees and to note the composition of the political groups as previously notified under Regulation 8 (1) of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and under Section 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 for the remainder of the 2026/27 municipal year. The effect, in terms of committee places, is that there will be a change in membership on the Licensing Committee, Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board, Children and Young People Scrutiny Board, Audit Committee, Employment Committee and Audit Committee.

Recommendations

1. That the composition of the political groups as shown in paragraph 1.1 be noted.

2. That the number of seats on the various Committees as detailed in paragraph 1.4 be noted.

3. That Council confirms the allocation of seats to the political groups in accordance with Sections 15 and 16 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, as far as practicable.

4. That any outstanding appointments or changes be delegated to the Chief Executive in accordance with the wishes of the relevant political group.

5. That Council notes that a further political balance report will be submitted to the Council meeting in December, following the by-election in Royton North.

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.

Since the last ordinary meeting of the Council on 16th September, the Chief Executive has received notification of the formation of a new political group, the Independent Alliance, in accordance with the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 and the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The two members are Councillors Hobin (Leader of the Group) and Navesey (Deputy Leader).

There is also one vacancy on the Council. A vacant council seat is not occupied by a member and therefore does not count towards the representation of any political group pending the vacancy being filled.

The membership of groups has also changed due to the resignations of Councillors Quigg and Wilkinson (Reform UK) and the election of Councillor Baddeley (Reform UK) in November 2026.

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 – 15 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 Alliance – 2 Members
(viii) Two Independent Members

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 Baddeley, Ball, Barnes, Brooks, Eyre, Ford, Hanlon, Jackson, Klonowski, Pinder, Robinson, Ruthven, Tarbuck, Taylor 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 Alliance comprises: Councillors Hobin and Navesey.

h. Councillors Hince and Taleb are independent members not aligned to a political group.

1.2 **Political Balance**

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

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

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

Labour Group	18/59 x 100 = 30.51%	121 seats x 30.51% = 36.92	**37 seats**
Reform UK	15/59 x 100 = 25.42%	121 seats x 25.42% = 30.76	**31 seats**
Oldham Group	10/59 x 100 = 16.95%	121 seats x 16.95= 20.51	**21 seats**
Liberal Democrat Group	6/59 x 100 = 10.17%	121 seats x 10.17% = 12.31	**12 seats**
Conservative Group	4/59 x 100 = 6.78%	121 seats x 6.78% = 8.20	**8 seats**
Royton Independents	2/59 x 100 = 3.39%	121 seats x 3.39% = 4.10	**4 seats**
The Independent Alliance	2/59 x 100 = 3.39%	121 seats x 3.39% = 4.10	**4 seats**

There are two Independent Members not within a Group. Unallocated seats will be offered to them

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)	Independent Alliance
16	4.88	4.07	2.71	1.63	1.08	0.54	0.54
15	4.58	3.81	2.54	1.53	1.02	0.51	0.51

14	4.27	3.56	2.37	1.42	0.95	0.47	0.47
13	3.97	3.31	2.20	1.32	0.88	0.44	0.44
12	3.66	3.05	2.03	1.22	0.81	0.41	0.41
11	3.36	2.80	1.86	1.12	0.75	0.37	0.37
10	3.05	2.54	1.69	1.02	0.68	0.34	0.34
9	2.75	2.29	1.53	0.92	0.61	0.31	0.31
8	2.44	2.03	1.36	0.81	0.54	0.27	0.27
7	2.14	1.78	1.19	0.71	0.47	0.24	0.24
6	1.83	1.53	1.02	0.61	0.41	0.20	0.20
5	1.53	1.27	0.85	0.51	0.34	0.17	0.17
4	1.22	1.02	0.68	0.41	0.27	0.14	0.14
3	0.92	0.76	0.51	0.31	0.20	0.10	0.10

1.3 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**	**Ind Alliance**	**IND**
Licensing	15	5	4	3	2	1	1	1	0
Planning	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Audit Committee	9	3	2	2	1	1	0	0	0
Employment Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Charitable Trust Committee	6	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Standards Committee	7	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	0

Appeals Committee	5	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Total	**121**	**37**	**32**	**22**	**15**	**7**	**1**	**1**	**0**

The above total is 115 which leaves 6 committee places to be allocated

Adjustment of Seats

In accordance with the rules of political balance, so far as practicable, the number of seats must be allocated to accord with the rules above. It is therefore proposed that the number of seats on the various Committees for the remainder of the 2026/27 Municipal Year be fixed as follows, noting that a further report will be submitted to the Council in December following the by-election in Royton North.

Committee	**Seats**	**L**	**R UK**	**OG**	**LD**	**C**	**RI**	**Ind Alliance**	**IND**
Licensing	15	5	4	3	1	0	0	1	1
Planning	11	3	3	2	1	1	1	0	0
Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board	11	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board	11	4	3	2	1	1	0	0	0
Adults Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board	11	3	3	2	1	0	1	1	0
Children and Young People Scrutiny Board	11	3	2	2	1	1	0	1	1
Audit	9	3	2	1	1	1	1	0	0
Employment Committee	7	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
Commons Registration	5	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0
Highway Regulation Committee	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
Appointments Committee	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Charitable Trustee Committee	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Standards Committee	7	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0
Appeals Committee	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1
Total	**121**	**37**	**31**	**21**	**12**	**8**	**4**	**4**	**4**

1.5 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.

1.6 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.

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 as detailed in the report.

4 Consultation

4.1 Consultation has taken place with political group leaders.

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.

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Report to COUNCIL

Update on Actions from Council

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance

Report Author: Jack Grennan, Constitutional Services
jack.grennan@oldham.gov.uk

18th November 2026

Reason for Decision

To provide Council with assurance that actions arising from previous Council meetings are being appropriately progressed.

Recommendations

Council is asked to note the report.

Update on Actions from Council

1 Background

1.1 This report provides Council with an update on actions arising from previous meetings and sets out the progress made against each action. It is intended to provide greater transparency and accountability and to ensure that matters raised by Members are appropriately followed through.

2 Current Position

2.1 A new council action tracker has been introduced to provide a consistent and transparent approach to recording and monitoring actions arising from meetings of Council. The tracker identifies the action required, the responsible service or officer, progress made and the current status of each action.

2.2 The tracker will be maintained by Constitutional Services following each Council meeting and will provide a clear mechanism for monitoring outstanding actions through to completion. Regular updates will be reported to Council, enabling Members to have oversight of progress and providing assurance that matters raised at previous meetings are being appropriately followed up.

2.3 This report provides the latest position in relation to actions arising from previous meetings of Council, as detailed at Appendix 1.

3 Options/Alternatives

3.1 N/A

4 Preferred Option

4.1 N/A

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A

7 Legal Implications

7.1 N/A

8 Equality Impact, including Implications for Children and Young People

8.1 N/A

9 **Key Decision**

9.1 No

10 **Key Decision Reference**

10.1 N/A

11 **Background Papers**

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

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

12 **Appendices**

12.1 Appendix 1 – Action Tracker
Appendix 2 – Tackling Anti-social behaviour – reply from Sarah Jones M.P., Minister for Policing and Crime.

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Appendix 1: Council Action Tracker

July 2025				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**
10 - Administration Business - Motion 1 (Article 4 Direction)	1	1. That, as soon as possible, Cabinet be requested to consider and make a direction pursuant to Article 4(1) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 on a borough wide basis. Withdrawing the permitted development rights to convert a dwellinghouse (C3) to a House in Multiple Occupation (C4) is appropriate, and justified, to prevent harm to local amenity and promote the wellbeing of the aforementioned areas.	Completed	Cabinet approved this report on 22nd September 2025.
	2	2. That authority be delegated to the OMBC Planning Department to carry out all necessary consultation and to notify the Secretary of State in accordance with statutory requirements.	Completed	Included in the above report and consultation commenced: 29 September and 9 November 2025
	3	3. That, the Borough wide Article 4(1) Direction will come into effect once made.	Completed	Cabinet considered a further report post consultation on the 15th December 2025 & approved that the Direction goes into effect on the 1st January 2025
	4	4. That to put existing and prospective HMO landlords on notice that OMBC will look to implement the Article 4(1) Direction on 1st January 2026.	Completed	See above.
10 - Administration Business - Motion 2 (Fair Funding Review)	5	1. The proposed changes to improve funding for councils like Oldham who have a lower tax base, a lower Business Rates base and a higher level of demand for their services.	Completed	The Director of Finance responded to the consultation on behalf of the Council.
	6	2. A three-year funding settlement that will support long term planning		
	7	3. A level of funding that will ensure Oldham Council can provide the level of essential services needed by Oldham residents.		
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 1 (Adult Neurodevelopmental Assessment and Support)	8	1. To work closely with NHS Greater Manchester on the new pathway and model of services for adults.	Completed	NHS Greater Manchester attended a meeting of the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board on the 7th of October 2025.
	9	2. To ask NHS Greater Manchester, who are the commissioners of these mental health services for our residents, to come to the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board to provide updates and an account. We need assurance that there will be robust provision of these vital health services for adults, and that there will be a safe transition for children and young people into adult services at the appropriate time.		
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 2 (Investing in Coldhurst)	10	1. Reaffirm its full support for widening access to local sports and recreation facilities and recognises that the plan in place for West End Street will help deliver this.	Completed	
	11	2. Request that officers prepare a report for Place Scrutiny Committee at the earliest opportunity, which will: a. Assess the current physical condition, legal arrangements, and ownership or lease status of: West End Street pitch (Coldhurst) b. Explore further opportunities to: Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level. Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options. Secure investment or external funding to improve access and quality to West End Street Pitch. Develop open-access use models that prioritise youth, health, and local sport. Consider how existing and future government regeneration funding streams might be aligned with the improvement of community sports assets at ward level. Consult relevant community organisations, residents, and funding bodies in developing options. Ensure that any resulting recommendations are inclusive, transparent, and aimed at increasing the quality and accessibility of recreational spaces in Coldhurst.	Completed	This action has now progressed and is on track for the regeneration of the pitch and associated facilities. A funding bid through the community regeneration grant was approved with a lead being identified as Oldham Community Leisure. Planning application is progressing with an end date of completion of works at the latest December 2027. Report on hold as Scrutiny Committee not sat since grant awarded.
	12	3. Recognise and endorse the ongoing work of Cllrs Abdul Jabbar and Abdul Malik in championing improvements to West End Street, and the long-standing leadership of Jim McMahon MP in supporting regeneration for the Coldhurst community as Member of Parliament and now as a government minister.	Completed	Letter sent to Jim McMahon MP on 18th July 2025 & response received.
	13	4. Write to Jim McMahon MP to confirm the Council's formal support for this project and to thank him for his efforts in championing the interests of Coldhurst residents at a national level and confirm what the government can do to support this.		
	14	5. Continue to explore the feasibility of establishing a community-led cooperative model to govern the use and programming of West End Street pitch — ensuring the space is managed with and for the local community.	Completed	West End St pitches was a sucessful project in the Community Regeneration Partnership scheme.

11 - Opposition Business - Motion 3 (Gulley Clearing - DTO)	15	That the Director of Environment be requested to carry out a revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing.	Completed	The Director of Environment provided updates to the mover and seconder of the motion re the policy.
September 2025				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**
10 - Administration Business - Motion 1 (Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza)	16	1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.	Completed	Letters sent to the PM, FS & local MPs
	17	2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.		
	18	3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.		
	19	4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.		
	20	5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.		
10 - Administration Business - Motion 2 (Defib Friendly Borough)	21	1. This Council resolves to work in collaboration with Defibrillators Save Lives to: a. Map and monitor all public-access defibrillators across the borough. b. Ensure offline devices are repaired, restored or replaced and brought back into service. c. Establish a routine checking and reporting system using The Circuit, d. Provide education and awareness so that residents not only know where defibrillators are but also how to use them with confidence, similar to the hugely success Defib Day they ran in The Spindles 9th August.	In progress	The Deputy Chief Executive (Health and Care) has requested to meet with Defibrillators Saves Lives to progress the actions of the Council.
	22	2. This Council further resolves, to firmly state our ambition for Oldham to become the first 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough in the England.		
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 1 (Free School Travel for kids in TA)	23	1. To request the Cabinet to bring forward, within 12 weeks, a report setting out options to improve access to school for children in TA, including (but not limited to): o The feasibility of extending free school travel (bus pass and/or taxi) to children in TA irrespective of mileage thresholds; o Eligibility definitions based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM); o Delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid), with clear safeguarding standards; o Legal, financial and equality implications (including Section 149 Equality Act assessment); o Funding options (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding, partnership with TfGM and operators, and targeted charitable/hardship support); o An implementation timetable (including scope for a time-limited pilot).	Completed	This work has progressed significantly and is now being led at the Greater Manchester (GM) level. A GM-wide scheme has been implemented, providing free travel for school-aged children. For primary school-aged children, the scheme also allows one accompanying adult to travel free of charge. The initiative is now fully funded through Greater Manchester arrangements. Locally, the remaining activity relates to finalising operational responsibilities for the issuance of physical scratch cards and/or bus passes. Once these arrangements are confirmed, the scheme will be fully operational.
	24	2. That no decision to implement any new concession is taken until Cabinet (or Council where required) has considered the report and identified funding in line with the Financial Procedure Rules and the agreed budget/MTFP (or approved virement/other lawful funding mechanism).		
	25	3. Subject to such approval and funding being identified, to proceed to implement the preferred option, ensuring alignment with existing SEND/EHC travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.		
	26	4. That Council adopts this amended motion and refers it to Cabinet for the options report and subsequent decision in line with budgetary and constitutional requirements.		
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 2 (Custody Suite Police Station)	27	1. That Council formally notes its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.	Completed.	Officers working with GMP to action recommendations detailed in the Motion (update from 10th December)
	28	2. That Council sets a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, that a report be submitted to the appropriate Scrutiny Board of the Council, detailing: a. The requirements for any location for a new police station. b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable. c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.	In progress	GMP still working through their options appraisal, and the Council's resolution has been passed on.
November 2025				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**

11 - Administration Business - Motion 1 (Parking at ROH)	29	1. Request that Oldham Council works collaboratively with the Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust (NCA) and relevant partners to explore options for: a. Developing a multi-storey or expanded car park at or near Royal Oldham Hospital. b. Introducing fair and affordable parking arrangements for patients attending A&E, those with regular appointments, and NHS staff. c. Creating dedicated parking directly opposite the A&E department for patients attending A&E only. d. Improving access and facilities for wheelchair users and those with mobility needs.	Partially complete (in progress)	A meeting was organised between the Leader, reps from NCA & Deputy Chief Executive (Place) however the resignation of Cllr Shah as Leader and the lack of a new administration placed this on hold.
	30	2. Write to the Chief Executive of the NCA and the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB) expressing this Council's support for urgent improvements to parking provision at Royal Oldham Hospital.	Completed	Letters sent to NCA, GM NHS & Oldham's MPs
	31	3. Request that Oldham's Members of Parliament lobby the national government and publicly support a campaign for better parking provision for Oldham residents attending Royal Oldham Hospital.		
11 - Administration Business - Motion 2 (HMO Standards)	32	1. To review and strengthen local HMO Standards by: a. Undertake a comprehensive review of current HMO licensing and amenity standards within the borough. b. Introduce enhanced minimum requirements for space, fire safety, sanitation, and kitchen facilities, drawing on best practices from other councils. c. Ensure that all licensed HMOs are subject to regular inspections and compliance checks.	Completed	Officers have reviewed and started to implement revised standards in accordance with the approved Motion
	33	2. To Improve Transparency and Accessibility for Complaints by: a. Developing a clear, accessible online portal for residents to report concerns or complaints about HMOs. b. Publishing quarterly data on HMO complaints, enforcement actions, and outcomes to improve public accountability.		
	34	3. To Enhance Resident Engagement and Support, by launching a public awareness campaign informing residents of their rights and how to report unsafe or poorly managed HMOs.		
12 - Opposition Business - Motion 1 (anti-social use of off-road bikes)	35	1. Write to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Sir Stephen Watson QPM thanking him, the Officers and staff of GMP and the National Police Air Service (NPAS) for their continued hard work and dedication in tackling the anti-social use of these vehicles and ask him to ensure that this remains a priority for Greater Manchester Police.	Completed	Letters sent to GMP & Home Office
	36	2. Write to the Home Office and ask for further dedicated funding for GMP to use in tackling the anti-social use of off-road motorbikes, electric bikes and electric scooters.		
	37	3. Use Oldham Council's Media team and ask them to carry out a campaign educating the public into the legalities of these vehicles and encouraging residents to help build up an intelligence-led picture so that GMP can carry out targeted operations by reporting instances and homes suspected of housing anti-social users which can been done anonymously.	Completed	The Council continues to work with GMP and partners to promote reporting of incidents and intelligence relating to the illegal use of off-road motorbikes, e-scooters and e-bikes. Communications activity is delivered through established channels, supporting both public awareness and the sharing of information where appropriate.
	38	4. Ask housing providers such as First Choice Homes, Great Places, Guinness Partnership to work with Oldham Council's media team and develop and plan of education and intelligence to support GMP in operations to tackle the anti-social use of offroad motorbike, e-scooters, and e-bikes.	Completed - now BAU activity	The illegal use of off-road motorbikes e- scooters and e-bike nuisance continues to be a problem in Oldham. However, a district-by-district problem solving meeting is established with GMP which includes Housing providers and other agencies. This anti-social activity is now a standard agenda item at the meetings with a view there is a partnership approach to identifying key locations and a partnership approach to combating. In addition, Oldham continues to utilise a GM resource to target hot spot areas through GMP's operation hurricane.
	39	5. Write to the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police Sir Stephen Watson QPM asking him to make more use of the tactical contact/stopping and to ensure more officers are trained in its use, this method allows a police car to make controlled contact with a moped or motorcycle.	Completed	Letter sent to GMP
	40	1. Agreement with Rochdale and Bury That Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council (OMBC) continues on the path it is already on and formally agrees to the joint procurement and delivery of the Digital Post-Mortem Services, contributing a proportion of the total cost (based on population, and requests that Bury Metropolitan Borough Council likewise confirm its participation, ensuring consistent funding and governance across the Greater Manchester North Coroner's Service.		

12 - Opposition Business - Motion 2 (Digital Post-Mortems)	41	2. Free at Point of Need That when the service goes live in 2026 all non-invasive (digital) post-mortems authorised by the Greater Manchester North Coroner for Oldham residents be funded through the coronial service budget, and that no bereaved family will be charged directly.	Completed	The digital service has been successfully procured, is in operation and does include Oldham. The service is free at the point of use, with the coroner and medical professionals making the determination about circumstances for which this approach is suitable. Awareness of the issue has been raised through faith groups and burial service providers and is being led on by the coroner's office.
	42	3. Inter-Authority Funding Agreement That the Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer cannot instruct the Coroner's Office to pay for private scans carried out before the joint facility becomes operational in 2026.		
	43	4. Financial Compliance That any implementation of this policy be carried out within approved budget allocations for the coronial service allocations to the coronial service, and subject to the approval of the Section 151 Officer under the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.		
	44	5. Public Awareness and Faith Engagement That the Council continues to work with local faith leaders, funeral directors, and NHS Bereavement Services to publicise the availability of non-invasive post-mortems and to support families requiring rapid burial.		
	45	6. Scrutiny and Reporting To note that the coroner's office is a statutory service outside of the Council's control, but asks that the relevant Scrutiny Board consider inviting the Coroner to provide an update which may cover: o o o o the number of non-invasive vs invasive post-mortems. turnaround times. cost implications; and family satisfaction feedback.	In progress	Any scrutiny of the process, feedback and improvements needed will be led on and managed by the coroner's office as they are taking the lead on this issue. Coroner's office was formally invited to attend the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Board meeting in March 2027.
December 2025				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**
7 - Youth Council - Young Men's Mental Health	46	1. That Oldham Council acknowledges and recognises the scale of the challenge to prioritise men's mental health within local strategies, and to work with partners to reduce stigma, improve access to support, and ultimately, save lives.	Completed	Letters sent to DHSC
	47	2. That the Chief Executive, on behalf of Oldham Council be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, the Rt. Hon. Wes Streeting MP, to advocate for urgent and targeted investment in young men's mental health services.		
10 - Administration Business - Motion 1 (Strengthening Standards)	48	1. That the Council welcome the Government's proposals to strengthen the standards regime and restore confidence in local democracy.	Completed	Letter sent to MHCLG
	49	2. That the Council commits to adopting the mandatory minimum code of conduct once implemented in legislation.	In progress	On hold pending Government decision
	50	3. Ensure that the Council's Standards Committee be fully prepared to meet the new requirements, including publishing investigation outcomes transparently and regularly reporting these outcomes to Council.	In progress	On hold pending Government decision
	51	4. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government expressing our support for these reforms and urging timely implementation.	Completed	Letters sent to MHCLG & LGA
	52	5. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Local Government Association, urging them to consider the development of a training programme aligned with the new standards regime		
	53	6. Request that the Council's Standards Committee work with the relevant Officers locally to review Oldham's elected member behaviour standards training programme and ensure it is fit for purpose, with a view to making it a mandatory training unit.	In progress	Officers continue to work with Members on this, this has been paused as Standards Committee paused since May 2026
	54	1. That the Council formally supports Jim McMahon MP's campaign for fairer and more transparent parking charges at Manchester Airport.		

10 - Administration Business - Motion 2 (Fairer Parking Charges at Manchester Airport)	55	2. That the Council requests that the Chief Executive write to Manchester Airport Group urging: A review of the current charging structure with a view to reducing costs. o Improved signage and introduction of a "tap-out" payment option at exit points. o Publication of data on income from drop-off and pick-up charges. o A fair and accessible appeals process that does not increase penalties for unsuccessful appeals. o That the Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester and Leaders of the other 9 GM Local Authorities to share this motion seek wider regional support.	Completed	Letters sent to MAG, Mayor of GM & 9 GM LAs.
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 1 (Werneth Music Rooms)	56	1. That the Council welcomes any viable Community-Led Regeneration of Werneth Park Music Rooms	In progress	The Council is happy to explore proposals from any community groups to deliver a future use for the Music Rooms
	57	2. That the Council continues to explore all options to bring Werneth Park Music Rooms back into use for the community,	In progress	The Council is exploring all possible uses and funding schemes to deliver a new use for the Music Rooms
	58	3. That the Council continues to work proactively with interested community organisations and Greater Manchester Building Preservation Trust to explore viable options for the future of Werneth Park Music Rooms.	In progress	The Council will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders and bodies to deliver a viable future for the music rooms.
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 2 (Fair Funding for Local Govt)	59	1) That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to welcome action taken by the Government to urgently reform local government funding including: a. The introduction of a Fair Funding Formula that recognises deprivation, need and areas with low council tax bases. b. A commitment to rebuilding a sustainable funding foundation for local government after years of cuts. c. The move towards multi-year settlements, giving councils the certainty and stability required for long-term planning. d. A review of local government fiscal arrangements, ensuring fairness and long-term stability.	Completed	Letters sent to MHCLG
	60	2) That the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and to the three local MPs, who represent the Borough in Parliament, outlining this council's support for a fair funding system for local government and thanking them for their work in resolving this, especially the work of the MP for Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton, who spearheaded this approach as a shadow minister and as the Minister for Local Government.		
	61	3) That the Council continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA) and other partners to lobby collectively for fair and sustainable funding.	Completed	BAU Activity
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 3 (PfE Masterplans)	62	1) That the Beal Valley-Broadbent Moss masterplan (and future PfE masterplans) shall be pursued and adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), requiring: Council-led public consultation (min. 4 weeks, Regulation 12). Sustainability appraisal. Formal adoption by Cabinet, with Overview and Scrutiny Committee review.	Completed	Reports presented to Scrutiny and Cabinet and an all member briefing was held to update on the progress and why changes to legislation meant that elements of the resolutions of this motion are no longer possible. Report considered by Full Council in September 2026.
	63	2) That the Council's Monitoring Officer shall: a. Confirm the masterplan's progression to SPD status within 3 months. b. Advise on any procedural adjustments. c. Ensure no non-statutory "agreement" precedes SPD adoption.		
	64	3) That all PfE-related planning applications shall reference the adopted SPD as a material consideration, decided by the Planning Committee or delegated officers, with full transparency.		
	65	4) That Officers be requested to report progress to the Cabinet meeting, scheduled to be held on 19th January 2026, including timelines for consultation and adoption.		
March 2026				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**
7 - Youth Council - Opposing the under-16 social media ban	66	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.	Completed	Letter sent & response from the former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Science, Innovation & Technology

under-16 social media ban	67	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.		The Government consultation on proposals to introduce a social media ban for under-16s was already underway at the time of the Council motion and closed in May 2026. As a result, the action could not be fully progressed within the consultation period. The Government has since announced that it intends to proceed with the ban.
10 - Administration Business - Motion 1 (Tackling fly tipping, waste crime & litter)	68	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 flytipping 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.	Completed	Letter sent to DEFRA & Response received
	69	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.	Completed	Oldham Council Environment Directorate works closely with a range of partners, including GMP and the EA to deal with waste sites across the borough. In addition, a data led approach is taken and hotspots have been identified for cleansing and enforcement – this is done proactively, in response to enforcement action and as a result of reports from residents and elected members. The council is fully aligned for regulatory standards, following national legislation and FPN levels. Furthermore, teams regularly coordinate with local groups, volunteers and elected members to support fly tip removal, litter picking and alleyway clearances.
	70	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.	Completed	
	71	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.	Completed	
10 - Administration Business - Motion 2 (Fireworks)	72	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.	Completed	Letters sent to Borough's MPs and MHCLG
	73	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.		
	74	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.	Completed	Letter sent to MHCLG
	75	4. Write to all local event venues reminding them of the law and exploring the possibility of requiring registration/licensing for firework use.		GMP, Community Safety and Environment Health have engaged with a number of wedding venues/fireworks suppliers across the borough and outlined the legislation with regards to the use of fireworks. Additional visits to venues, fireworks suppliers and locations where fireworks are set off are also planned with a view to catching those responsible in action.
	76	5. Introduce a requirement for community notification of firework use by venues hosting private events.		

	77	6. Require all public firework displays within the borough to be advertised in advance, allowing residents to take precautions for animals and vulnerable people.	Completed	There is no legal basis by which the council or the police can demand prior notification – the use and timings of fireworks is clearly stipulated in legislation. Any Council or partner organised events such as bonfire night or new years, is clearly advertised and information shared through relevant communication channels.
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 1 (Get the basics right)	78	1. Prioritise frontline neighbourhood maintenance in future budget cycles.	Completed	Frontline operational services continue to deliver activities that matter to residents; this includes highways operations and repairs , winter highway maintenance, gulley cleaning, fly tip and waste removal and seasonal operations such as weed spraying and grounds maintenance across the borough. Members can consider this in the budget-setting process for 2027-2028.
	79	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.	Completed	This investment continues, both through grant funding and council revenue funding of frontline operational services
	80	3. Produce a public action plan within six months setting out clear service standards and response times for environmental and highways issues.	Completed	We have statutory service standards for highways operations. Similarly for waste and fly tipping collection. Other operations are seasonal, and by their very nature, are impacted by weather (weed spraying/grounds maintenance etc)
	81	4. Report annually to Full Council on performance in tackling fly-tipping, potholes and street cleanliness.	In progress	Director of Environment to report to Council annual from December 2026
11 - Opposition Business - Motion 2 (Keep the Covenant)	82	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.	Completed	Letter sent to the Minister for Veterans and People & response received.
	83	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.		
	84	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.		
	85	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.	In progress	The expanded covenant duty has not yet come into effect. The Council's 'Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) Champion' has been monitoring the progress of the 'Armed Forces Bill' currently progressing through Parliament, which includes details about the potential expanded covenant duty. The AFC Champion will be working with colleagues in impacted departments to ensure we are compliant with the expanded policy areas and updates will be shared with members as required.
May 2026				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**
Proposed Council Constitution Amendment	87	That the Amendment, submitted by the Reform UK Group, be referred to the Governance, Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Board for consideration.	In Progress	Report scheduled to go to GSR Scrutiny on the 26th November 2026
July 2026				
Agenda Item	**Unique #**	**Action**	**Status**	**Notes**

Motion 3: Fair and Affordable School Uniforms for Oldham Families	88	1. Write to all schools, governing bodies, and multi-academy trusts operating in Oldham, urging them to: ·Comply fully with the statutory cap on compulsory branded items ahead of its commencement in September 2026 and go further than the statutory minimum wherever possible.; · 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.	Completed	All schools, governing bodies and multi-academy trusts operating in Oldham were written to on 3/11/2026.
	89	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.	Completed	A survey of questions on this was sent to schools on 3/11/2026.
	90	3. Instruct appropriate Council officers to engage with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester People Inclusion Standards to develop a regionwide approach to affordable uniforms and greater supplier competition.	In progress	The Director of Education and Early Years has contacted the GMCA SEND and Project lead to ask that the issue of school uniform cost is discussed at the GMCA Education Inclusion sub group. He has also contacted the GMCA Executive Director for Education Work and Skills to raise this concern and asked for it to be considered as a GMCA wide issue for discussion.
	91	4. Establish an Oldham School Uniform Charter, inviting schools and trusts to voluntarily commit to: going beyond the statutory minimum set out in the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 by: · Promoting fair competition between suppliers; · Maximising choice and quality for parents and carers; · Supporting uniform recycling, reuse, and swap shop initiatives.	In progress	The current legal position under the Department for Education's statutory guidance on school uniform and whether schools are expected to keep costs down and avoid limiting competition between suppliers. Updated statutory guidance on the cost of school uniforms. It contains statutory guidance, as well as draft statutory guidance. The draft statutory guidance relates to the proposed limit on the number of branded items of school uniform and PE kit that schools can require. The government intends to make this a legal requirement from September 2026 through the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill.
	92	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.	Completed	This has been added to the CYP Scrutiny Board Work Programme and Constitutional Services are liaising with Officers in education about when would be best to bring this report forward.
	93	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.	Completed	Done & reply received
August 2026				
Section 5 Report	94	15.1 Receive and note the statutory report of the Monitoring Officer issued under Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. 15.2 Acknowledge that the continued failure to appoint a Leader of the Council and a Lead member for Childrens services, places the authority in breach of its own constitution and Section 9I of the Local Government Act 2000 and Section 19 of the Children Act 2004. 15.3 Proceed immediately at this meeting to nominate and vote upon the appointment of a Leader of the Council in accordance with council standing orders. 15.4 In the event an appointment is not made the Monitoring Officer will notify the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government of the ongoing governance breakdown.	Completed	Reply received. Letter and response attached as Appendix.
September 2026				

Motion 1: A New Start for Oldham Borough	95	To request the relevant officers to produce a budget report to explore how existing funding can be reprofiled to address the priorities set out in this motion and specifically addressing: environmental crime (including littering, dog fouling, fly-tipping and graffiti); frontline services (including drain clearance, road repairs, and park and green space maintenance) and delivering fair district funding. The report will come back to the next council where the report can be considered and voted upon.	Completed	A report on this is on the agenda for the meeting of Council on 18th November 2026.
	96	Instruct the Chief Executive to write within 14 days to the Chief Constable of GMP demanding enhanced cooperation on masked bikes, speeding cars and illegal fireworks, and seeking a written joint working protocol covering intelligence sharing, hotspot identification, increased targeted patrols and presence, escalation and regular performance reporting—agreed within three months.	Completed	Letter sent to the Chief Constable on 24th September 2026 via email.
	97	Identify and regularly update hotspots for all three problems ('masked bike thugs, reckless speeding cars or illegal midnight fireworks) jointly with GMP, using resident reports, 101 calls and local intelligence. Maintain and review a current hotspot map at least quarterly.	Completed	Community Safety Officers continue to collate and review incident data from Council services, resident reports, elected member enquiries, environmental crime reports, anti-social behaviour complaints and intelligence received from GMP. This information is used to identify emerging and persistent locations of concern and inform multi-agency problem-solving activity. Regular operational discussions take place with GMP neighbourhood teams to review intelligence, agree priorities and target resources towards areas experiencing repeated incidents. The Community Safety Service leads a monthly multi-agency problem-solving meeting involving key partners, focused on hotspot locations experiencing the highest levels of crime and anti-social behaviour. This information is developed from data held on police systems, the local knowledge of partners and reports received from members of the Community. The meeting enables the development of targeted problem-solving plans for high-harm locations and individuals, informing coordinated enforcement, intervention and prevention activity and ensuring that partner resources are directed towards those issues presenting the greatest risk to local communities. This includes addressing issues of firework related nuisance. The Community Safety Service has developed a Seasonal Risk Calendar using three years of Greater Manchester Police crime and anti-social behaviour data. This supports the proactive identification of emerging and seasonal community safety issues, enabling targeted intelligence led multi-agency prevention, intervention and enforcement activity.
	98	Demand significantly increased intelligence-led targeted patrols and high-visibility presence by GMP (supported by Council officers where possible) in hotspots at peak risk times—more frequent, sustained and visible to deter offenders and reassure residents.	Completed	Intelligence from Council services, GMP, housing providers, elected members and residents is regularly reviewed to identify locations experiencing recurring anti-social behaviour, fireworks misuse, nuisance vehicles and other community safety concerns. This information informs targeted patrol activity by neighbourhood policing teams and partner agencies. Joint problem-solving activity is undertaken where appropriate, with a focus on visible reassurance, disruption of offending behaviour and gathering intelligence to support enforcement action. Intelligence-led patrol activity has been increased through initiatives including Safe4Summer, Operation Treacle and hotspot-focused multi-agency deployments. Patrols have been targeted at locations experiencing repeat ASB, off-road bike nuisance, fireworks misuse and criminality, providing visible reassurance, gathering intelligence and supporting enforcement action

Motion 2: Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour	99	Ensure every relevant Council complaint is shared promptly with GMP and reinforce clear single points of contact so patterns of offending are spotted and acted on.	Completed	Community Safety Services and GMP maintain regular information-sharing arrangements to ensure complaints and intelligence are exchanged promptly. Designated contacts within both organisations support coordinated responses to community concerns, with cases discussed through established operational meetings and partnership forums. Intelligence from residents, elected members, Council services and partner agencies is used to inform joint action, targeted patrols and problem-solving activity. Each Place area has a dedicated Community Safety Officer and there are established positive working relationships with the respective neighbourhood policing teams.
	100	Establish a clear escalation process: joint case conferences and the full stepped use of warnings, Community Protection Notices, Public Spaces Protection Orders, licensing action, vehicle seizures, prosecutions, tenancy enforcement and all ASB powers.	Completed	Reports of persistent anti-social behaviour are reviewed through established community safety case management and problem-solving processes. Community Safety Officers work with GMP, housing providers and other partners to assess complaints, gather evidence and determine the most appropriate intervention. Over the last 6 months, 12 Closure Warnings were issued in relation to properties associated with serious anti-social behaviour, criminality and community harm, with most cases resolved at the warning stage. 3 Closure Orders applications were prepared for during this period. Ultimately only 1 Order application was required and was successfully secured. Matters were resolved in the other 2 cases and the offenders are no longer resident at the properties. Additional measures taken including the issue of Community Protection Warnings, Community Protection Notices, warning letters and Criminal Behaviour Orders. Tenancy enforcement action by housing providers is also used either stand-alone or in parallel to action taken by the Council where appropriate.
	101	Demand that anti-social and criminal use of off-road bikes, e-bikes and fast speeding cars be made a GMP force priority, with dedicated resources, specialist bike units, roads policing, drones, aerial support and maximum use of section 59 warnings and seizures.	Completed	Tackling off-road bikes, e-bikes and nuisance vehicles remains a joint priority for the Council and GMP. Community Safety Services and GMP continue to work in partnership to address concerns relating to off-road bikes, e-bikes and speeding vehicles. GMP's specialist operation, Operation Hurricane, has been deployed within Oldham. Intelligence and ASB reports from residents, elected members and partner agencies are regularly reviewed to identify priority locations and patterns of offending. Information sharing supports targeted operational activity, vehicle seizures and wider enforcement action. Over 20 vehicles were seized through the Vulcan partnership. Where off-road bikes are being stored or used from properties owned by registered housing providers, the Council and Greater Manchester Police work closely with landlords to pursue tenancy enforcement action. This may include warning letters, tenancy breach proceedings and legal notices, with the potential for court action where serious or persistent offending is identified, which may result in the loss of the offender's home.
	102	Write within 14 days to the Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Mayor of Greater Manchester demanding extra dedicated funding for GMP and a review of laws to strengthen powers against masked riders and reckless speeding.	Completed	Letters sent on 24th September 2026 via email. Response received from Policing Minister on 22nd October 2026 (Appendix 2)

103	Launch within 28 days a high-profile, borough-wide public campaign stating zero tolerance, explaining how to report (including anonymously), seeking intelligence on storage locations, and publicising enforcement successes—running for at least 12 months.	Completed	Community Safety Services continues to develop and deliver communications aimed at increasing public awareness of the impact of off-road bike nuisance, speeding vehicles and fireworks-related anti-social behaviour. Messaging is disseminated through Council and partner communication channels, community engagement activity and seasonal awareness campaigns such as Safe4Summer and Treacle. A borough-wide communications campaign has been delivered through Council media channels, partner networks and seasonal campaigns including Safe4Summer and Operation Treacle. Messaging has focused on reporting ASB, tackling off-road bike nuisance, fireworks misuse, community safety and available enforcement powers.
104	Write immediately to all major housing providers in Oldham requiring them to treat storage or use of vehicles linked to ASB or crime as a serious tenancy breach, share intelligence, take robust enforcement (including possession where appropriate) and report back within three months.	Completed	Community Safety Officers continue to engage with housing providers regarding reports of anti-social behaviour linked to off-road bikes, nuisance vehicles and fireworks. Established information-sharing arrangements support joint case management, evidence gathering and consideration of tenancy-related interventions where appropriate. The Community Safety Service has supported the establishment of the Oldham Housing Providers Forum and currently serves as Vice-Chair. The forum enables housing providers to share information, identify emerging trends and promote good practice in tenancy enforcement, supporting a coordinated approach to addressing anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns.
105	On illegal fireworks specifically: Share all fireworks complaints promptly with GMP. Urge residents to report illegal use (after 11 pm) to GMP on 101 or online as it happens, and persistent nuisance to Environmental Health. Deploy the full toolkit against persistent offenders: warnings, CPNs, PSPOs, licensing reviews, seizures, prosecutions and ASB powers.	Completed	Reports relating to fireworks misuse and associated anti-social behaviour are routinely assessed and shared with GMP and relevant partners, including Environmental Health, to support enforcement opportunities, hotspot identification and operational activity. The intelligence gathered informs specialist multi-agency patrols. Community Safety Officers continue to encourage residents, community groups, housing providers and elected members to report incidents involving illegal fireworks and associated anti-social behaviour. Reporting routes are promoted through communications campaigns, engagement activity and partnership networks to support intelligence gathering and enforcement action. Community Safety Services, GMP and Environmental Health continue to adopt a coordinated approach to tackling fireworks-related anti-social behaviour. Enforcement options include seizure of fireworks, police warnings, criminal investigations, Community Protection Warnings, Community Protection Notices, Acceptable Behaviour Agreements, tenancy enforcement measures, Environmental Health investigations, and prosecution where evidential thresholds are met. Preventative and educational interventions continue alongside enforcement activity. Enforcement powers have been utilised through warning letters, police interventions, closure activity, tenancy action and intelligence-led operations targeting repeat offenders.
106	Require officers to report to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee (then quarterly, and to the Community Safety Partnership) with data by ward, seizures, warnings, arrests, prosecutions, hotspots, patrols conducted (including increased presence), progress on every resolution, and clear reduction targets within six and twelve months.	Completed	There is already reporting into the Community Safety Partnership as part of existing arrangements. There will also be reporting through the Place scrutiny arrangements. Reporting will include enforcement activity, trends and partnership outcomes.

	107	Strengthen prevention and diversion work with youth services, schools, children's services and Youth Justice while ensuring full use of powers against those who keep offending.	Completed	Community Safety Officers continue to work with schools, Youth Services, Children's Services, Youth Justice, housing providers and safeguarding agencies to identify individuals at risk of involvement in anti-social behaviour, criminal exploitation or other harmful activity and the Community Safety Partnership provides significant grant funding for the delivery of activities and interventions. Referrals into support services and diversionary interventions are used to reduce vulnerability and prevent escalation. Diversionary provision is promoted during school holidays and seasonal periods albeit there is a limited resource. The Community Safety Service and Greater Manchester Police regularly deliver interventions within schools aimed at challenging offending behaviour and raising awareness of the consequences of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour, helping to prevent young people from becoming involved in such activity. As an example, the Community Safety Partnership has provided externally sourced grant funding to support the delivery of Under the Skin, a theatre production commissioned through Oldham Theatre Workshop. The production explores the impacts of serious youth violence and is designed to educate and challenge young people around the consequences of their actions. To further strengthen prevention activity an additional resource would be required to bolster the current district and detached youth service offer.
	108	Report overall progress to full Council (or appropriate scrutiny) within six months and regularly thereafter.	Completed	Progress updates continue to be provided through Community Safety Partnership governance arrangements and Council reporting processes. This could also be presented at Place Scrutiny.
Motion 3: Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss: Ensuring a Robust Masterplan	109	The relevant officer ask if the developer consortium would be willing, as part of their ecological assessments supporting their planning applications, to update the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal underpinning their section of the proposed spine road to reflect the revised route and assess its implications for habitats, protected species and ecological connectivity, with the findings reported to the Council as part of the planning applications;	Completed	AD Planning & Development wrote to representatives of the developer consortium 5th October – response awaited
	110	An assessment of projected school-place requirements across the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss masterplan area to 2039 be undertaken, taking account of the cumulative impact of development across both allocations, and reported to Council, including an assessment of whether land should be safeguarded for a primary school;	In progress	Report to be brought to Council on 16th December 2026
	111	A Health Impact Assessment for the Beal Valley and Broadbent Moss masterplan area be undertaken and reported to Council, assessing the cumulative impact of the proposed development on local health services and associated infrastructure;	In progress	Report to be brought to Council on 16th December 2026
	112	The existing infrastructure phasing and delivery strategy within the masterplan be reviewed and strengthened in accordance with Policy JP-D1, clearly identifying what infrastructure is required, when it is required, the trigger points for delivery, and who will fund and deliver each element, with the revised strategy reported to Council;	In progress	Report to be brought to Council on 16th December 2026

	113	A report be requested from Transport for Greater Manchester setting out the current status and deliverability of the proposed Metrolink stop and Park and Ride facility south of Cop Road, including: o the necessary stages for progressing the proposal and what each stage entails; o TfGM's current prospective timetable for those stages; and o the findings of any geotechnical assessments undertaken in relation to the Cop Road site, including any implications arising from the 2024 landslide affecting the Shaw-Derker line.	Completed	AD Planning & Development wrote to TfGM 5th October – response awaited
Motion 4: Strengthening Controls on the Sale and Use of Fireworks	114	Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State urging the Government to introduce legislation that would: a. Restrict the sale of fireworks solely to named individuals acting under a permit issued for a specific event. b. Make possession of fireworks without a valid permit an offence, subject to appropriate exemptions for licensed retailers and professional operators. c. Place legal responsibility upon the named permit holder or holders for compliance with permit conditions, regardless of who physically discharges the fireworks. d. Strengthen enforcement powers available to police and local authorities.	Completed	Letter sent 29th September 2026
	115	Request that the Chief Executive of the Council write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester seeking support from all Greater Manchester local authorities for a coordinated campaign calling for reform of national fireworks legislation.	Completed	Letter sent 29th September 2026
	116	Request that the Mayor of Greater Manchester be encouraged to work with other combined authority mayors and regional leaders to build wider support for changes to the law.	Completed	Letter sent 29th September 2026
	117	Request that the Monitoring Officer investigate whether any existing by-law, Public Spaces Protection Order, licensing power or other local mechanism could be utilised to introduce stronger controls on the possession and use of fireworks within Oldham, and report findings to the appropriate committee.	Completed	Community Safety Services continues to work with GMP, GMFRS, Trading Standards, Environmental Health and Legal Services to understand available powers and identify opportunities to strengthen local responses within existing legislation. Whilst measures such as Public Spaces Protection Orders are available, these are intended to address gaps in existing legislation and should not be used to replicate controls already provided through national law. There is already a comprehensive legislative framework governing the sale, possession, storage and use of fireworks, with enforcement powers available to a range of agencies. Existing legislation includes the Fireworks Act 2003 and associated regulations, which restrict the sale of fireworks to persons under the age of 18, regulate times of use, and provide powers to control the supply of fireworks in specified circumstances. Enforcement powers are primarily exercised by the Police, GMFRS and Trading Standards. Recent high-visibility Op Treacle patrols involving Police and Community Safety Officers have identified individuals involved in firework-related nuisance. To date, seven individuals have received warning letters and have been invited to attend warning interviews with the Community Safety Team and GMP. Patrols remain ongoing, with further criminal and civil enforcement action to be taken where appropriate, as and when individuals are identified.

	118	Submit a formal response to the Government's consultation on Fireworks and Pyrotechnics in the UK, supporting stronger controls on the sale, possession and use of fireworks, including consideration of a permit-based system restricting sales to named individuals for authorised events only.	Completed	Responses have been submitted to national consultations relating to fireworks legislation as part of the Council's wider approach to supporting legislative reform and stronger controls. Responses submitted by the Council supported stronger controls on the sale and possession of fireworks, enhanced enforcement powers, greater accountability for users and measures designed to reduce firework-related nuisance affecting residents, communities and animals. Community Safety Services also shared the details of the 2026 national fireworks consultation exercise with wider partners across the borough to enable the impact of firework nuisance to be fully recorded and represented to government.
	119	Continue to support measures aimed at reducing noise nuisance, improving public notification of organised displays and protecting vulnerable residents and animals from the harmful effects of anti-social firework use.	Completed	Targeted communications continue to promote the safe, legal and responsible use of fireworks. The Council has supported awareness campaigns highlighting the impact of fireworks on vulnerable residents and animals, while encouraging attendance at organised displays and promoting reporting routes for concerns.
	120	For all group leaders to engage with their counterparts in other authorities to ensure that this proposal has genuine cross party support nationwide.	Completed	The motion supports ongoing engagement across local authorities and Greater Manchester partnership structures to build wider support for improvements to fireworks legislation, policy and enforcement arrangements. Active participation in the Greater Manchester ASB Theme Group via the nominated elected member lead at the Greater Manchester Police and Crime Leads meeting ensures that Oldham's views and experiences are represented in regional discussions and national consultations relating to firework-related nuisance, including the development of policy, strategy and legislative change.
	121	Develop an Oldham Child Poverty Reduction Strategy within 12 months, led by the Council and developed with partners, children, young people and families. The Strategy should establish a clear baseline, identify priority interventions and set measurable targets and timescales.	In Progress	Development of Oldham's Child Poverty Strategy is progressing, with initial work focused on establishing the evidence, priorities, and partnerships needed to deliver a more coordinated response to child poverty across the borough. This included examining the local drivers and impacts of poverty, mapping existing activity across key services, and identifying opportunities to strengthen prevention, early intervention, and support for families. The findings from this initial phase will help shape the strategy's priorities, providing a foundation for further engagement with partners, elected members, and residents.
	122	Establish a cross-party Child Poverty Partnership comprising councillors from across the political groups, relevant Council officers, schools and education leaders, health and public-health partners, voluntary and community organisations, faith groups, local businesses, parents, children and young people. Its purpose should be to advise on, monitor and help deliver the Strategy.	In Progress	
	123	Introduce an annual Child Poverty and Family Wellbeing Impact Statement alongside the Council's major budget and policy decisions, identifying where decisions may increase or reduce financial pressure on children and families and setting out appropriate mitigation where necessary.	In Progress	

Motion 5: A Borough-Wide Strategy to Reduce Child Poverty and Improve Life Chances for Children in Oldham	124	Publish an annual Child Poverty Scorecard for Full Council, including progress against agreed indicators such as child poverty, free-school-meal eligibility, food insecurity, school attendance and attainment, access to early help, housing insecurity, employment and financial resilience, with data broken down where appropriate to identify inequalities between communities.	In Progress	
	125	Prioritise early intervention and prevention, including strengthening the reach of Family Hubs, breakfast provision, holiday food and activity programmes, welfare and debt advice, housing support, employment and skills support, and routes into training and secure work.	In Progress	
	126	Improve access to support by reviewing how residents are informed about available help and by developing a simple, coordinated communications approach across Council services and partner organisations, with particular attention to families who may not currently access support.	In Progress	
	127	Work with schools and education partners to identify practical opportunities to reduce the effects of poverty on children's education, including access to free school meals, uniform and essential cost support, attendance initiatives, enrichment and digital access.	In Progress	
	128	Use the Council's convening and commissioning role to bring together public, voluntary, community, faith and business partners to identify additional resources, funding opportunities and practical initiatives that can reduce hardship and improve children's life chances.	In Progress	
	129	Ask officers to identify external funding and best-practice opportunities and report to the relevant scrutiny body on potential initiatives that could be adapted for Oldham.	In Progress	
	130	Write to Oldham's Members of Parliament and the Government's relevant Child Poverty Task Force setting out the scale of the challenge in Oldham, sharing local evidence and calling for national measures and funding that will help reduce child poverty.	In progress	
	131	Bring the completed Strategy and first-year implementation plan to Full Council for consideration and debate within 12 months, followed by an annual progress report.	In Progress	

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Home Office

Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime

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Ms Shelley Kipling
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Oldham
OL1 1AL

DECS Reference: MIN/1577566/26

22 October 2026

Dear Ms Kipling,

Thank you for your letter of 24 September regarding the Council's concerns about reckless driving and the use of vehicles such as off-road bikes, e-bikes and e-scooters for crime and anti-social behaviour.

I recognise the serious concerns raised about the dangerous and anti-social use of off-road motorcycles, illegally modified e-bikes and other vehicles, and the distress and disruption this behaviour can cause to residents and local communities.

The Government is committed to ensuring that the police have the powers they need to tackle vehicles being used illegally or anti-socially. We have also strengthened police powers to deal with the anti-social use of vehicles. Changes to section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002 remove the requirement for officers to issue a warning before seizing a vehicle being used in a manner causing alarm, distress or annoyance. This makes it easier and quicker for police to seize vehicles being used anti-socially, supporting more immediate action against off-road bikes, dangerous e-scooters and other vehicles being used unlawfully or irresponsibly.

On your point about concealing identity, wearing a face covering is not in itself an offence. However, Section 60AA of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 gives police the power to require individuals to remove face coverings where they believe they are being worn for the purpose of concealing identity, subject to geographical and time limits.

We are also strengthening the powers available to the police and other local agencies by increasing the upper limit for fixed penalty notices for breaches of Community Protection Notices and Public Spaces Protection Orders from £100 to £500, increasing the time a dispersal direction can be implemented from 48 to 72 hours and giving registered social housing providers the power to issue closure notices, amongst others.

Combined, these proposals will help tackle the scourge of vehicles being ridden anti-socially and illegally by sending a clear message to would-be offenders and local communities that this behaviour will not be tolerated.

Alongside legislative action, the Government is investing in neighbourhood policing through the Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee, recognising the vital role that visible local

policing plays in preventing crime and anti-social behaviour and maintaining public confidence. This includes strengthening the neighbourhood policing presence in communities and improving engagement between police forces and local residents.

I can also advise you that the Home Office is piloting Young Futures Panels, which bring together the police, children's services, education and youth justice to identify children and young people at risk of being drawn into crime and refer them to suitable support earlier. In the first six months of delivery, Panels discussed more than 3,000 children, leading to over 1,700 referrals to early intervention support and more than 350 referrals to statutory services. This work complements, rather than replaces, robust enforcement against those who commit criminal offences or persistently harm their communities.

With regard to police funding, since the election, we have increased funding to policing by £2 billion. Total investment in the overall policing system is £21.2 billion this year. This year, funding to police forces has increased to its highest cash level of up to £18.5 billion, a 4.5% cash increase compared to the previous year. All forces will receive a real terms uplift in their funding this year.

In 2026-27, Greater Manchester Police will receive up to £911.5 million of funding, an increase of up to £33.3 million compared to 2025-26, which equates to a 3.8% cash increase and 1.8% real terms increase. Forces are operationally independent, and the deployment of resources remains an operational decision.

Thank you again for contacting me.

Very best wishes,



Sarah Jones MP
Minister of State for Policing and Crime