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PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD
Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Agenda

Date	Thursday 5 November 2026
Time	6.00 pm
Venue	J R Clynes Council Chamber - The JR Clynes Building
Notes	1. Declarations of Interest- If a Member requires advice on any item involving a possible declaration of interest which could affect his/her ability to speak and/or vote he/she is advised to contact Alex Bougatef or Constitutional Services at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

2. Contact officer for this agenda is Constitutional Services email constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk

3. Public Questions - Any Member of the public wishing to ask a question at the above meeting can do so only if a written copy of the question is submitted to the contact officer by 12 noon on Monday, 2 November 2026.

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

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

Membership of the PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD
Councillors Brooks (Chair), Charters, Ghafoor, J. Hussain, Kouser, Murphy, Rustidge, Sharp, Shuttleworth and Williams

Item No

1 Apologies For Absence

2 Urgent Business

Urgent business, if any, introduced by the Chair

3 Declarations of Interest

To Receive Declarations of Interest in any Contract or matter to be discussed at the meeting.

4 Public Question Time

To receive Questions from the Public, in accordance with the Council's Constitution.

5 Minutes (Pages 3 - 8)

The Minutes of the meeting of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 7th October 2026 are attached for approval.

6 Fly-tipping and Waste Management

Presentation by the Director of Environment (to follow)

7 Adult Skills (Pages 9 - 20)

To note the report, review performance and review assurance provided.

8 Get Oldham Working (Pages 21 - 24)

To note and discuss the information presented at the meeting

9 Work Programme (Pages 25 - 28)

The Scrutiny Bord's Work Programme for 2026/27 is attached for information

10 Key Decision Document (Pages 29 - 44)

PLACE, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD
07/10/2026 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor Brooks (in the Chair)
Councillors Barnes, Charters, J. Hussain, Kouser, Rustidge, Shuttleworth and Williams.

Also in Attendance:

Alex Bougatef	Director of Legal (Monitoring Officer)
Neil Consterdine	Director of Communities
Nasir Dad	Director of Environment
Simon Shuttleworth	Service Manager - Strategic Housing Recovery Service
Edward Rigby	Housing Projects Manager
Victoria Wood	Assistant Director of Housing
Peter Thompson	Constitutional Services
One member of the press	

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ghafoor and Sharp.

2 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business received.

3 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Brooks declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6 (Regulator of Social Housing – Improvement Plan).

4 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions for this meeting of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board to consider.

5 **MINUTES**

Resolved:
That the Minutes of the meeting of the Place, Economic Growth Environment Scrutiny Board, held on 19th March 2026, be approved as a correct record.

6 **FOOD SAFETY - SERVICE DELIVERY BRIEFING**

The Scrutiny Board considered a report and presentation of the Director of Environment which updated members on issues relating to Food Safety. The Director advised the meeting that the Council had a statutory duty to enforce food law and, in this regard, the Council's aim was to protect the health of residents, visitors and those working in the Borough through the efficient and effective enforcement of food safety laws.

The report submitted outlined the key challenges the service faced and the control measures that were in place to ensure that Oldham Council currently meets and will continue to meet in future years its statutory duties in relation to the delivery of official food controls.

The meeting was informed that Oldham had approximately 2,025 registered food businesses. The Council's Commercial Protection Team were responsible for both food safety and food standards enforcement in food businesses.

In accordance with Food Standards Agency (FSA) Statutory Codes of Practice, food safety and food standards inspections were carried out on a risk priority basis with higher risk premises being inspected more frequently. After each inspection, the food business received a risk rating. The frequency of inspection was determined by these risk scores. Food officers carried out both safety and standards inspections during the same visit where possible to ensure the most efficient use of resources.

The performance of the Council, in this regard, was monitored by the FSA. Authorities were required to submit twice yearly returns. During 2024, the FSA contacted Oldham Council and commenced performance engagement due to the number of overdue interventions. Subsequently, an action plan was put into place for the authority to realign to the inspection frequencies in the code of practice. The authority had been progressing well through the delivery of the intervention programme and in June 2026, the FSA reduced the status of engagement with the Council from Level 1 engagement, to monitoring. The action plan remained in place, with an objective to ensure full realignment to the code of practice by 31st March 2027.

Since the onset of Covid-19 restrictions, in March 2020, the service had been dealing with an ongoing backlog of inspections. Demand for the service was increased due to a continual rise in newly registered food businesses, and there were significant resource pressures due to recruitment difficulties and staff vacancies. Recruitment efforts had proved to be unsuccessful and alternative measures, including agency staff and overtime, were being used to maintain service delivery. To combat an industry shortage of qualified Environmental Health Officers, the service has introduced a career graded Environmental Health Officer position to attract graduate students and currently have a Regulatory Compliance Trainee in post, due to working with the Greater Manchester Regulatory Centre for Excellence.

The service continued to face significant resource pressures due to recruitment difficulties and staff vacancies. However, during 2025/2026 the number of food hygiene inspections increased by 40%, with 891 carried out at premises due/overdue for an inspection. In comparison 638 inspections were carried out during 2024/2025.

There was a total of 1,249 premises that were due a food hygiene inspection during 2026/2027. Considering current resources and vacant posts in the team, the delivery of all due interventions posed a significant challenge, however, the service

is striving to complete all interventions in 2026/2027 to ensure realignment with the Food Law Code of Practice.

The volume of inspections and other associated work could not be met with the allocated resources available (particularly as 1.7 FTE Food Environmental Health Officer posts in the team were currently vacant. Therefore, funding via the vacant posts would be utilised for agency staff and overtime for qualified food officers, to ensure that the work detailed in the submitted report could be completed. Alongside this, recruitment was undertaken to fill the vacant positions.

Food Standards inspections would be prioritised on a risk basis; therefore, all category priority 1,3 & 6 inspections would be completed, and unrated premises were to be inspected as they were due to receive a hygiene inspection. The premises overdue a food standards inspection will be completed alongside their food hygiene inspection.

Resolved:
That the Director of Environment's report and presentation on Food Safety in the Borough of Oldham, be noted.

7 **REGULATOR OF SOCIAL HOUSING – IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Members scrutinised a report of the Director of Communities, that provided background on the inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing, and an update on the current improvement plan process.

It was reported that the Council owned almost 2,100 homes within the Borough. These properties were not directly managed by the Council, with management functions delivered under four separate sets of contractual arrangements:
a. PFI 2 – Oldham Retirement Housing Partnership (Housing 21). A 30-year contract covering 1429 homes for older people, including Extra Care accommodation.
b. PFI 4 – Inspiral Partnership (Great Places and Wates) – 25-year contract for 615 general needs homes.
c. Primrose Bank – a non-PFI arrangement covering 18 homes managed under an agreement with Great Places.
d. Holly Bank – a non-PFI arrangement, covering the management of a 20 flat adults' scheme, with care provision by MioCare

While the Council does not directly manage these properties, its legal status as landlord for these homes meant that it was responsible for compliance with statutory obligations, including under the Social Housing Regulation Act (2023). During 2025, the Council was subject to an inspection by the Regulator of Social Housing, to determine compliance with the new mandatory Consumer Standards introduced in April 2024. These standards comprise of:
1. Safety and Quality.
2. Transparency, Influence and Accountability.
3. Neighbourhood and Community.

4. Tenancy.

The Council received a grade of C3, indicating that the Regulator had identified “serious failings” in delivery of the Consumer Standards outcomes, and a need for significant improvement. Key areas of the judgement included: a lack of evidence that information around the delivery of the consumer standard outcomes that is reported to or considered by senior officers or Councillors; a general theme relating to the lack of sufficient assurance and verification of outcomes reported by providers; Particular failings relating to the Safety and Quality standard; Particular failings in relation to the Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard; and some weaknesses in the approach around the Tenancy Standard and Neighbourhood and Community Standard.

The Council subsequently, in consultation with the Housing Regulator, developed an improvement plan process. The first meeting thereon, with the Regulator, was scheduled for 5th February 2027 and to be held monthly thereafter. Following this engagement, a draft improvement plan was produced. This has subsequently gone through a series of iterations, to ensure that it was sufficiently robust, and had recently received approval from the Regulator. Engagement with the providers on the key elements of this plan was, thus far, positive and a number of improvements were already under way.

Consultation had recently concluded on a service redesign, which will ensure the provision of additional staffing for the Service, in order to ensure that there will be sufficient capacity to both deal with the day-to-day contract management of the properties owned by the Council, while also ensuring compliance with the Consumer Standards, and readiness for future inspections.

A new Consumer Standards Improvement Board is being established, with the first meeting scheduled for late October 2026. The Improvement Board will include tenant representation and have responsibility for signing off each action as complete, at the appropriate time.

Members of the Scrutiny Board discussed the report in some detail, requesting that the Director of Communities forward a copy of the full Regulator of Social Housing’s report to members of the Scrutiny Board for information. Members also requested that the Director of Communities be requested to present a comprehensive report to the Scrutiny Board’s meeting, scheduled to be held on 21st January 2027, detailing actions being taken to address the items that were identified as requiring attention by the Housing Regulator in the Improvement Plan. Members of the Scrutiny Board also requested that a report on the wider provision of Housing Services, in the Borough be presented to a future meeting of the Scrutiny Board.

Resolved:

1. That the report of the Director of Community Services be noted.
2. That the Director of Communities be requested to forward a copy of the full Regulator of Social Housing's report to members of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board.
3. That the Director of Communities be requested to present a comprehensive report to the Scrutiny Board's meeting, scheduled to be held on 21st January 2027, detailing actions being taken to address the items that were identified as requiring attention by the Housing Regulator in the Improvement Plan.
4. That the Director of Communities be requested to present a report, detailing the provision of Housing Services in the Borough, to a future meeting of this Scrutiny Board.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 7.35pm

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Report to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny

Adult Skills: Overview of Oldham Lifelong Learning Service

Officer Contact: Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Report Author: Jon Bloor – AD Economy and Skills
Email: jon.bloor@oldham.gov.uk

5th November 2025.

Reason for Briefing

To provide the committee with an overview and oversight of the Council's Lifelong Learning Service.

Executive Summary

The Council's Lifelong Learning Service has evolved from the borough's traditional adult and community education provision into a modern, community-based learning service. For many years it has supported residents to gain skills, qualifications and confidence through learning delivered in neighbourhood venues across the borough. Today, the service plays a key role in Oldham's skills, inclusion and employment ambitions, helping adults improve their prospects, support their families and contribute to their communities. The service is now entirely funded through the devolved Adult Skills Fund to a value of c.£3.3m per year.

The service has a clear set of Governance arrangements which are intended to challenge the service to ensure it delivers good value and supports local residents to achieve their goals. The report sets out how the service is funded, a high-level overview of performance, governance arrangements and how Members can be assured of the quality of provision.

Service Overview

Area	Position	Update
Participation & Outcomes		Learner numbers, starts, retention, achievement and contract profile all exceeded annual targets. Achievement stands at 86.67% with a pass rate of 98.58%.
Quality & Learner Experience		Learner satisfaction remains exceptionally high at 99.13%. Progression into further learning remains strong and quality improvement actions are on track.
Safeguarding & Inclusion		99.42% of learners report feeling safe. No significant achievement gaps are evident for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities and learners receiving support have lower withdrawal rates overall.
Finance & Delivery		Delivery remains ahead of profile at 105% against a target of 103%, providing assurance that funding allocations have been met.

Recommendations

Note the report, review performance and review assurance provided.

Adult Skills: Overview of Oldham Lifelong Learning Service

1 Background

1.1 The Lifelong Learning Service (LLS) has evolved from the borough's traditional adult and community education provision into a modern, community-based learning service. For many years it has supported residents to gain skills, qualifications and confidence through learning delivered in neighbourhood venues across the borough. Today, the service plays a key role in Oldham's skills, inclusion and employment ambitions, helping adults improve their prospects, support their families and contribute to their communities.

1.2 The service is primarily funded through the Adult Skills Fund, devolved to Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and supports residents to improve their skills, gain qualifications, progress into employment and participate more fully in community life.

1.3 LLS contributes to the Council's wider ambitions for inclusive growth, workforce development and reducing inequalities by supporting residents furthest from learning and employment, whilst responding to local skills and labour market needs. The service is also aligned with the Greater Manchester Strategy[i] and Oldham's Employment and Skills Plan[ii].

1.4 Provision is delivered through three learning centres and over 25 community venues across the borough, helping to ensure accessibility and engagement with local communities.

1.5 The service operates within a robust framework of performance management, quality assurance and external accountability. In December 2021, Ofsted judged the provision delivered by Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council as **Good**, in June 2026 the service maintained its Matrix accreditation and in July 2026 GMCA awarded the service the highest score in relation to funding compliance (Substantial Assurance).

1.6 This briefing report aims to provide assurance regarding the service's performance, quality arrangements, governance, external validation and risk management.

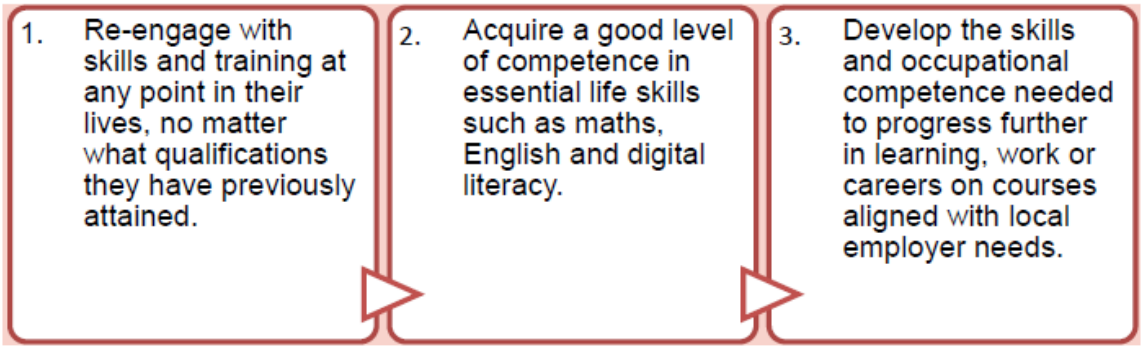
2 Current Position

2.1 The Lifelong Learning Service (LLS) is predominantly funded through the devolved Adult Skills Fund. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has set the framework and strategic goals for providers of adult skills across GM. The Combined Authority is currently consulting on the way the fund operates with any new framework expected to be in place by 1st August 2027 in line with next academic year.

2.2 GMCA's current programme seeks to create "an integrated education, skills and employment support system that works for everyone" as set out within the Greater Manchester Strategy 2025–35 – Together we are Manchester. The strategy is structured around two interdependent priorities:

- Sustained economic growth, driven by innovation, investment, and sector development; and
- Improved quality of life, ensuring residents can access opportunities, support, and good living standards.

2.3 The ASF funding allocation is a key element of the Adult Skills Programme of GMCA's Education, Work and Skills Directorate and has three objectives linked to its priorities. These are to ensure that all residents over the age of 19 can:



2.4 For the academic year 2026 – 2027, the Lifelong Learning Service has been awarded an increased Adult Skills Fund grant with a value of **£3,301,621**. This total allocation is the total sum of the core Adult Skills and Level 3 Adult Skills funding, Learner Support and where applicable, tailored learning. The service has maintained a high value, high-performance programme which has led to increased investment and therefore increased level of funding being applied over the last 2 years (incrementally from £2.8m per academic year in 2024/25). Funding had remained static for the 5 years previously and due to lack of growth in the adult skills funding allocation, it is anticipated that any future growth will need to be because of significant change (See section 7.1).

2.5 GMCA has removed the tolerance for under-performance to manage flex and growth across Greater Manchester. This means that if the service does not meet their stated full target, then it will be penalised (historically achievement of between 95-99% delivery of targets by providers were rewarded with 100% of the contract value). The Lifelong Learning Service has never under achieved. In fact, with the exception of 2019/20 due to the impact of the Covid lockdown in the final half of the academic year, the service has over delivered and sets an internal target to achieve 103% of contract value. This is to support the service meet increase costs of delivery.

2.6 All funds are to be used to support delivery to residents as set out in the Oldham Lifelong Learning Service's Strategic Plan, Self-Assessment Report (SAR), Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), the Oldham Community Learning and will support c. 2,500 learners.

2.7 The ASF allocation for 2026-2027 includes Adult Skills, Tailored Learning, (formerly Community Learning) and Discretionary Learner Support as a combined sum. The Adult Skills element is used to fund the accredited programmes offered by the Service. Tailored Learning will be used to fund the non-vocational programme offered by the Service. Discretionary Learner Support is used specifically for childcare provision and to provide financial support towards the cost of fees, books, travel costs and equipment for learners who otherwise would be unable to attend classes.

3. LLS Strategic Context, Structure and Offer

3.1 Oldham continues to experience significant socio-economic challenges, including concentrations of deprivation, lower qualification levels and higher levels of economic inactivity than regional and national averages. The Service is designed specifically to address these challenges through targeted skills provision and community-based learning.

The Service's strategic priorities focus on:

- Unemployed and economically inactive residents.
- Low-paid residents.
- Hard-to-reach and disadvantaged communities.
- Skills for Life learners.
- Parents and families.
- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities.

3.2 Two-thirds of learners live within Oldham's seven most deprived wards and 44.4% live within the borough's most deprived neighbourhoods.

3.3 The Service underwent a restructure in 2025 which reduced the curriculum structure from 4 curriculum areas to 3. This reduced management overheads and allowed the creation of new frontline roles to support increased targets. The current structure is based around three interconnected Curriculum areas:

- Digital Skills, Employment & Education ()
- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- English & Maths

3.4 The curriculum areas are supported with a range of support teams (Learner support, Safeguarding team, community outreach team, MIS and accreditation)

3.5 Figure 1 sets out the range of courses being offered by the curriculum teams for 2025-26. This is reviewed every year as part of the annual “Plan, Do, Review” cycle.

Figure 1 – 2025/26 Curriculum plan offer.

<table>
<tr><th>Curriculum Area</th><th colspan="3">Offer / Course type</th></tr>
<tr><td>Digital Skills, Education and Employment (DSEE)</td><td>Digital Skills
Qualification & non-qualification courses Entry Level – Level 2</td><td>Education, Training, Early Years, Youth Work and Employment skills
Qualification & non-qualification courses Entry Level – Level 3</td><td rowspan="3">DSEE, English and Maths and ESOL Community Engagement and Delivery
Qualification & non-qualification courses Entry Level – Level 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>English and Maths (E&M)</td><td>English
Functional Skills, GCSE, non-qualification courses Entry Level – Level 2</td><td>Maths
Functional Skills, GCSE, non-qualification courses Entry Level – Level 2</td></tr>
<tr><td>English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL)</td><td>ESOL
Qualifications & non-qualification – Entry Level – Level 1</td><td>British Values / Community Interpreting
Entry Level / Level 1</td></tr>
<tr><td>Full Cost Recovery (FCR) – Not ASF Funded</td><td colspan="3">Art / Water Colours
Full cost leisure courses (cost of delivery is recovered)</td></tr>
</table>

4. LLS Performance

4.1 The service closed the 2025/26 academic year in a strong position, exceeding targets for learner numbers, starts, achievement, retention and contract profile. A full PowerBi dashboard has been created which allows the service to review and analyse the performance of the service in significant detail and this can be demonstrated if Members would like to review.

4.2 The service key performance indicators all exceeded targets for 2025/26 and they include:

- **2,427 learners** and **7,466 starts**, exceeding annual targets.
- Pass rate of **98.58%**.
- Qualification Achievement Rate of **86.67%**, exceeding the 85% target.
- **99.13% learner satisfaction**.
- **99.42% of learners report feeling safe**.
- Delivery achieved a minimum of **105% against profile** and above the 103% service target.
- **More than half** of learners progressed into further learning and **17.42%** reported progression into employment or promotion (please note that this is early analysis and further tracking will take place).
- Early analysis continues to show positive outcomes for learners receiving additional support, with no evident achievement gap for learners with learning difficulties and disabilities.

4.3 The service has persistently achieved a higher achievement rate than both the average provider group (other LA Adult Education provision) and the National average QAR (see figure 2).

Figure 2 - Qualification Achievement Rate Benchmark – 2022/23 to 2024/25

Provider Type	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
OLLS	90.4	90.2	89.6
Provider Group	86.8	87.2	85.9%
National	85.8	87.4	87.1%

Source: DfE National achievement rates tables

4.4 The service minimum Achievement Rate target was set at 85% in line with national and provider average. In 2024-25, whilst the service saw a 0.6% reduction in achievement rate from 2023-24 this was deemed insignificant as the service still posted a proportionally significant higher result to the provider group comparator.

4.5 **Challenges**

4.6 The service is awaiting the final approved report on key performance indicators for 2025-26 which will be released in early November (in line with all skills providers). The service has identified a number of areas that it intends to analyse with a view to putting in place measures to improve the service.

4.7 Whilst retention remains above target at 87.92%, further analysis is required to understand withdrawal patterns at course and curriculum level.

- Attendance remains an area for continued focus, with additional work underway to develop a richer understanding of the factors influencing learner engagement.
- Emerging data shows a significant proportion of learners study multiple curriculum areas, whilst this is positive and shows a broad learning plan, it requires further investigation to understand attendance and withdrawal patterns.

5. Service Internal Quality Assurance and Planning.

5.1 Planning activity is structured across the academic year (see figure 3).

5.2 Autumn Term one – Senior Management carry out a **strategic review –** ensuring alignment with policy shifts. From November onwards final data is available and performance reports are generated. These enable the service to develop curriculum and service level Self Assessments and identify areas for improvement (as set out in the Quality Improvement Plan – which is monitored each quarter)

5.3 Winter – Term 2 – Self assessment and quality assurance panel (Members, officers peers and stakeholders) – Self Assessment submitted to Ofsted.

5.4 Summer – Term 3 - **curriculum design**, reflection on current year performance, target setting, operational planning, Strategic Curriculum Plan Validation (July) initial recruitment (July–September).

5.5 Throughout the year, LLS Senior Management team review monthly performance, produce portfolio updates and provide a termly self-assessment and Quality Improvement Plan review which is presented at the Director Assurance Meeting.

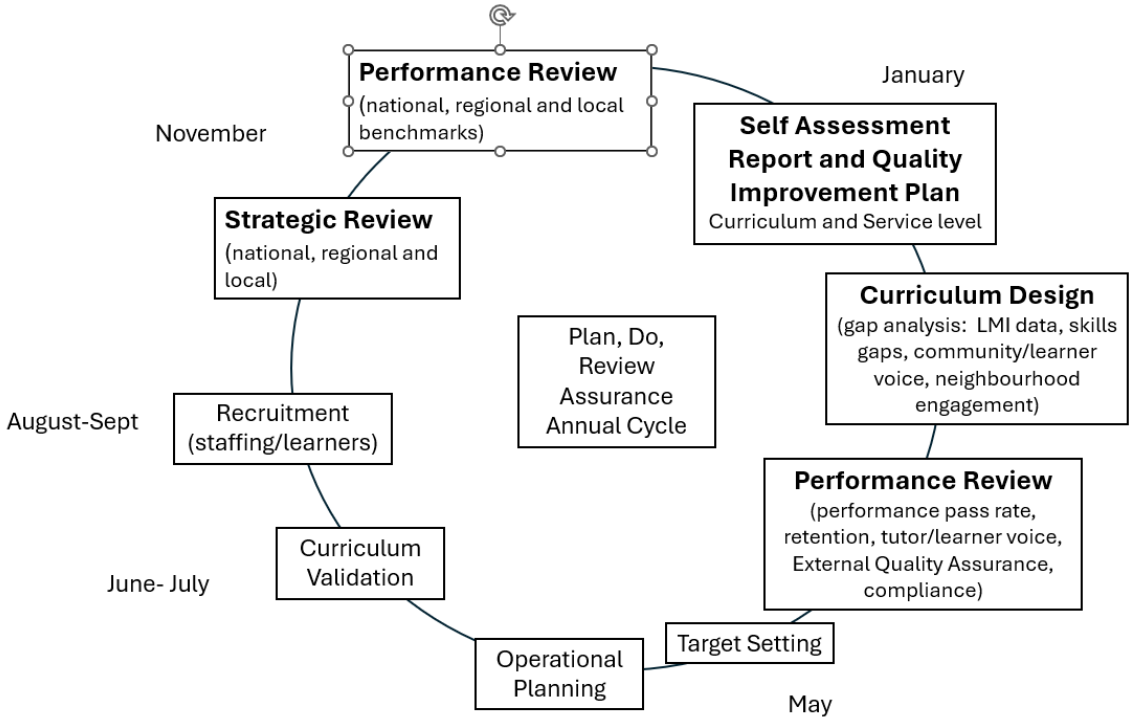
5.6 Quality assurance and planning is a multi-faceted area of work and includes:

- **Quality of Teaching and Learning –** this includes:
  - **Collaborative Learning Walks** - **classroom observation** practices where small groups of educators or leaders visit peer classrooms together to study teaching and learning
  - **Walkthroughs** - **Oversight of quality of education** and learner experience on a service level
  - **Classroom Visit - Curriculum specific** and have specific areas of focus. E.g. subject knowledge, classroom practice.
  - **Desktop audits** – sampling of documentation to ensure compliance.
  - **Peer Review** – opportunity for staff to visit a peer to support professional development.

- **Quality of experience/meeting needs**
  - Learner voice – Feedback from learners
  - Stakeholder voice – Feedback from partners including voluntary,community sector, JCP, Colleges and schools etc.

5.7 All of which culminates into a **Self-Assessment Report,** from which the service sets out key areas for improvement in the published **Quality Improvement Plan.**

Figure 3 – OLLS Curriculum Plan Cycle



6. External Validation of quality assurance

6.1 The service has four main external agencies that provide an assessment as to the quality of provision. These are:

- Ofsted – HM Inspectorate will carry out an inspection every 4 years following the new national Education Inspection Framework.
- Matrix - Accreditation body evaluating the quality of Information, Advice and Guidance (full inspection every 3 years, with an annual progress assessment).
- Awarding Body External Quality Assurance.
- Funder – Annual finance and quality assurance audit

6.2 Ofsted.

6.2.1 The Service is due an inspection imminently. The last inspection took place in December 2021. The service was rated as being Good[iii] across all measures under that inspection framework (quality of education, behaviour and attitudes; personal development; leadership and management and adult learning programmes).

6.2.2 In November 2025, Ofsted published a new Education Inspection Framework, which is now in operation and the service is using the new Further Education and Skills Toolkit[iv] for the next Self Assessment.

6.2.3 The new inspection process focus has a stronger emphasis on leadership and governance as a driver of sustained improvement and inclusion.

6.2.4 Inspectors work with the provider's staff to build an accurate view of the quality of the provision. This includes knowing and understanding how well learners:

- achieve – academically and personally
- belong – feel that they belong to, and are valued as part of, the provider's community, so that they attend, behave and contribute positively to what the provider offers
- thrive – benefit from the right systems, processes and levels of oversight, so that they are kept safe and are able to flourish and/or fulfil their potential, whatever their background or individual needs

6.2.5 The Inspection team will focus on 6 key areas:

- **Safeguarding** – how effectively learners are kept safe and supported.
- **Inclusion** – how well the provider identifies and meets the needs of all learners, particularly those facing barriers to learning.
- **Leadership and Governance** – the effectiveness of strategic leadership, accountability, quality improvement and oversight.
- **Curriculum, Teaching and Training** – the quality, design and delivery of education and training.
- **Achievement** – the progress learners make, qualifications achieved and progression outcomes.
- **Participation and Development** – learner attendance, behaviour, personal development, wellbeing and preparation for future learning and employment

6.2.6 Ofsted will make a judgement for each area which will either be:

1. Exceptional
2. Strong Standard
3. Expected standard
4. Need Attention
5 Urgent improvement.

6.2.7 The next Self-Assessment Report, which is due in February 2027, will be reported against these 6 key areas with an internal self-assessment as to where the service thinks it can place itself. This can be shared with the Scrutiny Committee.

6.3 Matrix Standard Accreditation

6.3.1 The Matrix Standard is the national quality standard for information, advice and guidance services. Accreditation provides independent validation that the service delivers high-quality learner information, advice and guidance and operates arrangements for continuous improvement.

6.3.2 Organisations are assessed against four key areas:

- Leadership and management
- Resources
- Service delivery
- Continuous quality improvement

6.3.1 The Service was last inspected in June 2025 and passed the standard. The service undertakes an annual review meeting with the inspector to ensure that progress is being made on any recommendations. The service has maintained the standard at year 1 assessment was exceptionally positive.

6.4 Awarding Body External Quality Assurance.

6.4.1 The Service maintains **Exam Board Direct Claim Status –**which is an earned trust-based status awarded by UK exam boards which allows the service to direct award qualifications. To maintain this status the service undergoes regular assurance visits to examine internal quality assurance processes. The service has direct claim status with Ascentis, NCFE, NOCN and Pearson. This is an important standard to achieve as it recognises that the internal quality assurance processes are at a very good standard.

6.4.2 External Quality Assurance reviews involve the sampling of learner work, assessment decisions and internal quality assurance arrangements to provide independent assurance that qualifications are being delivered and assessed in accordance with awarding body requirements

6.5 Funder Assurance - Provider Compliance Assurance Review

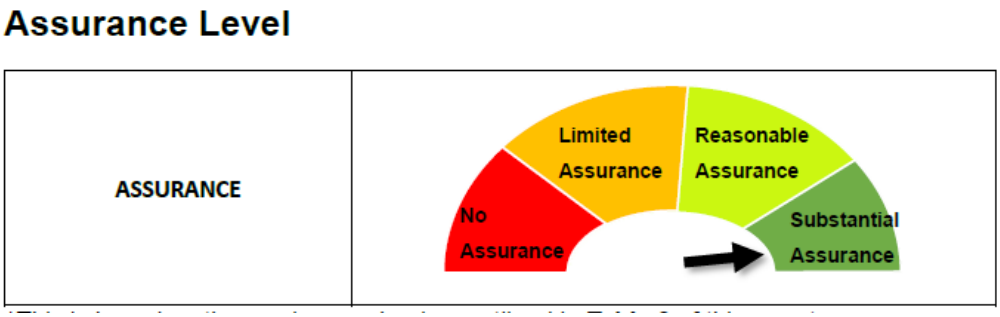
6.5.1 GMCA carry out at least one audit per year, based on risk. The service has maintained a "green" audit from the very first year of devolved funding. The service also attends a monthly compliance and performance meeting and submit a biannual performance returns and reports.

6.5.2 The purpose of the annual Provider Compliance Assurance Review is to provide GMCA with assurance that providers have appropriate systems, processes, and quality arrangements in place, including oversight of any subcontractor arrangements. It also assesses compliance against the Adult Skills Funding and Performance Management Rules 2025-26. The service does not subcontract.

6.5.3 The ASF compliance assurance review of Oldham Council identified "a strong overall control environment, resulting in an overall score of 1 – Substantial Assurance. Evidence reviewed demonstrated consistent ILR data quality, effective initial assessment and prior attainment checks, robust eligibility and residency evidence, and clear use of registers and learner documentation to support learner status, outcomes and guided learning hours. Performance is reported to be on track against the profiled position, with no performance concerns identified."

6.5.4 The Audit Team use a 4 scale assurance dashboard – with substantial assurance being the highest level – see figure 4.

Figure 4 – Assurance Level



7. Governance and Accountability

7.1 Oldham Lifelong Learning operates within the Council's governance framework, ensuring clear oversight, accountability and independent challenge. Governance arrangements are designed to provide assurance that the service delivers high-quality provision aligned to local priorities, Greater Manchester skills strategies and national policy requirements.

7.2 Key elements include:

- **Political oversight** through regular Portfolio Governance meetings involving the Cabinet Member, Deputy Portfolio Holder and senior officers. These meetings monitor strategic priorities, emerging opportunities and risks, and ensure alignment between learning, employment and economic growth objectives.
- **Executive oversight** through Director Assurance meetings, which review service performance, financial management, compliance, risks, learner outcomes and progress against improvement plans.
- **Independent challenge and quality assurance** through a twice-yearly Validation Board comprising external peers, employers, community representatives, learners, strategic partners and Greater Manchester Combined Authority representatives. The Board acts as a critical friend, reviewing service performance, validating self-assessment and improvement planning, and providing challenge on curriculum development and responsiveness to local skills needs.

7.3 In addition, the Council's Post-16 Learning, Skills and Employment lead provides strategic coordination across education, employment and skills policy, maintains relationships with regional partners, and ensures that local delivery remains aligned with wider Greater Manchester and government priorities. This role supports strategic oversight but does not have operational responsibility for the service.

7.4 Together, these arrangements provide a robust framework for political oversight, executive accountability, quality assurance and continuous improvement, helping to ensure that Oldham Lifelong Learning remains responsive to residents, employers and the wider economy.

8. Adult Skills Funding review and Risk Assessment

8.1 GMCA is reviewing its operating model for employment and skills. It is moving towards developing its "LiveWell Journey to employment". The aim is to support the Mayoral ambition to targe interventions at a neighbourhood level, involving local voluntary, community, faith and social enterprises. The review is looking at how much delivery should be delivered at a local level and how much at a GM level.

8.2 Under national government policy, GMCA continues to receive more devolved funding, but the Adult Skills Fund budget has not increased since 2018. The Adult Skills Fund is now under review to see how it can fit within the LiveWell Journey to Employment model and potentially will lead to significant change to both grant and procured provision. The review is due to be published by the end of the calendar year.

8.3 A full-service risk register is available on request, and most risks are managed within the service. This deals with day-to-day operational issues (e.g. data breach, loss of ICT access, loss of facilities etc). However, it is appropriate to state that as the service is 100% reliant on external funding, the impact of the Adult Skills Fund review has the potential to either grow or reduce the service.

9. Conclusion.

9.1 Members are invited to comment on the report. The service prides itself on openness and transparency and would welcome Member involvement in visiting the service, meeting learners and reviewing any operation matters.

i https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/greater-manchester-strategy/
ii https://www.oldham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/8288/employment_and_skills_strategy_summary.pdf
iii https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50177151

iv https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/further-education-and-skills-inspection-toolkit-operating-guide-and-information/inspection-information-for-further-education-and-skills-providers-for-use-from-september-2026

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Report to Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Get Oldham Working – Performance and Funding Review

Officer Contact: Deputy Chief Executive (Place)

Report Author: Jonathan Phillips - Head of Employment and Skills
Email: jonathan.phillips@oldham.gov.uk

5th November 2025.

Reason for Briefing

To provide Members with an overview of Get Oldham Working (GOW), including its role, performance, current funding arrangements, future priorities and key risks within the changing employment and skills landscape.

Recommendations

To note and discuss the information presented at the meeting

Get Oldham Working – Performance and Funding ReviewBackground

1.1 Get Oldham Working (GOW) was established in 2013 as Oldham Council's employment and skills service. Since its inception, the service has evolved into a comprehensive employment, careers, skills, wellbeing and employer engagement service supporting residents and businesses across the borough.

1.2 The service supports unemployed and economically inactive residents, young people, individuals facing barriers to work, and residents looking to progress within employment. The service also works extensively with employers to support recruitment, workforce development and access to local talent.

1.3 Since April 2026, Get Oldham Working has formed part of the Economy and Skills Division alongside the Lifelong Learning Service, Business Growth and Investment Team and Strategic Partnerships function. Together these services support Oldham's ambitions for inclusive economic growth, workforce development and reducing economic inactivity.

1.4 The service delivers a broad range of support including:
- Employment support;
- Careers information, advice and guidance;
- Skills and training provision
- Apprenticeship support
- Employer engagement and recruitment
- Digital inclusion programmes
- Health and Wellbeing support
- Specialist programmes for targeted groups

2 Current Position

2.1 Contracts and Funding

2.1.1 Get Oldham Working is 100% externally funded and operates within a complex funding environment and currently delivers a number of externally funded programmes including:
- Restart.
- Work Well Vanguard.
- Support to Succeed.
- National Careers Service.
- Careers Advancement Service.
- Digital Inclusion and Removing Barriers.
- Trailblazer.
- GOW Healthy.

2.1.2 Current core income exceeds £1.6m per annum, with a wider funding position exceeding £2.4m through additional grant funding and commissioned activity.

2.2 Performance

2.2.1 Performance during 2026/27 has remained strong and includes:
- 1,850 jobs created.

- 1,399 vacancies filled.
- 8,400 residents engaged.
- More than 40,000 appointments delivered.
- £3.5m contracts delivered.
- 1,120 economically inactive residents supported towards employment.
- Launch of the Employment and Skills Plan.
- £1.43m Integrated Settlement Employment Support funding secured.

2.3 Careers and Employment Support Changes

2.3.1 The National Careers Service (NCS) has historically formed an important part of the Get Oldham Working offer. National changes are expected to see careers activity transition towards a broader Jobs and Careers model through the Department for Work and Pensions.

2.3.2 From the 1 October 2026, the NCS team has transferred over to DWP management and oversight (4 staff transferred under TUPE conditions). Whilst this presents opportunities for closer integration between employment and careers support, there is a potential risk that future provision may focus primarily on unemployed residents and reduce the offer for those in work to progress in their careers and could reduce the support for acquiring vocational and technical skills. Consequently, work is being undertaken to understand how local provision can continue to support:

- Residents already in work seeking progression.
- Residents requiring retraining or career change support.
- Careers education activity.
- Young people requiring careers guidance.

2.4 Youth Hub Development

2.4.1 The Youth Hub continues to experience increasing demand and has become a significant component of the wider Get Oldham Working offer.

2.4.2 Activity supports young people into education, employment and training and aligns closely with Greater Manchester Youth Guarantee ambitions.

2.5 **Accommodation Review**

2.5.1 Get Oldham Working currently operates from a number of locations including:
- First Choice Homes Oldham, Union Street.
- Spindles Level 8.
- Youth Hub Shop, Spindles.

2.5.2 Opportunities are currently being explored to develop a more integrated accommodation model that would bring together employment, skills, careers, youth and employer support functions within a central location, creating a more accessible and visible service offer.

3 Future Direction

3.1 The service will continue to develop and strengthen its contribution to Oldham's employment and skills ambitions through:
- Increased investment in Youth Hub activity.
- Greater focus on employer engagement for young people.

- Enhanced support for residents with SEND and learning disabilities.
- Increased apprenticeship and work experience opportunities.
- Continued delivery of Youth Guarantee ambitions.

3.2 The service will continue to improve customer experience through:
- Improved triage arrangements.
- Enhanced front-of-house services.
- Streamlined customer journeys.
- Greater integration of service offers.

3.3 Innovation and digital transformation will remain a priority, including exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence and related technologies to improve productivity, efficiency and service effectiveness.

3.4 The service will continue to pursue external funding opportunities and investment, including emerging innovation programmes and future employment and skills funding rounds.

3.5 Further development of holistic support services will continue, including employment-related wellbeing support through initiatives such as GOW Therapy.

4 Risks and Challenges

4.1 The principal risks facing the service remain:

- Reliance on short-term contracts and grant funding.
- Potential funding gaps between programmes.
- National policy and commissioning changes.
- Workforce uncertainty linked to funding cycles.
- Maintaining continuity of support during programme transitions.

4.2 A particular area of uncertainty relates to the future of the Restart Programme. Delivery has been paused by the Department for Work and Pensions and it is anticipated that future employment support provision will sit within Greater Manchester Integrated Settlement arrangements.

4.3 Whilst this presents opportunities for greater local integration, uncertainty remains around future delivery models, funding allocations and implementation timescales.

5 Recommendations

5.1 To note and discuss the information presented at the meeting.

PLACE SCRUTINY BOARD

WORK PROGRAMME 2026/2027

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
7th October 2026 (special meeting)				
Housing Regulator Action plan	*Update in findings and progress to date*	*Neil Consterdine*	*Presentation / Briefing with questions*	
Food Safety	*Awareness of importance and key issues*	*Nasir Dad*	*Presentation / Briefing with questions*	

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
5th November 2026				
Fly-tipping & Waste (missed bins)	1) funding challenges inc opportunities from GMCA contracts for disposal of waste through the recycling centres and trade waste; 2) challenges with prosecution 3) strategies for combating fly tipping 4) update for members on challenges with waste service – missed bins due to heat over summer	Nasir Dad Darren McGrattan Beckie Wylie-Rothwell Mark Ireson	Presentation with questions	
Adult Skills	Overview and scrutiny and briefing for members to embed leadership and governance ahead of Ofsted inspection	James Kington Jon Bloor	Presentation with questions	
Get Oldham Working	Funding review and performance monitoring	James Kington Jon Bloor	Presentation with questions	

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
		Jonathan Phillips		

Agenda item	Purpose	Portfolio lead & officer lead	Method of scrutiny	Additional information
21st January 2027				
Performance Assurance Report	26/27 Q1 & 2	Emma Barton Neil Consterdine Nasir Dad James Kington	Presentation with questions	
Housing Regulator Update	Update on Progress	Neil Consterdine Victoria Wood Edward Rigby	Presentation	As requested at Oct Scrutiny meeting
Changes to the Constitution around Planning processes		James Kington Peter Richards Heather Moore	Presentation / Briefing on changes	As requested by Group Leaders on 7th September
Review of Residents Parking Scheme Policy		Nasir Dad Alistair Storey	Presentation / Briefing on Policy	As requested by Group Leaders 14th September

11th March 2026				
Performance Assurance Report 2026/27		Emma Barton Neil Consterdine Nasir Dad James Kington	Presentation with questions	
Trading Standards	Awareness of importance and key issues	Nasir Dad	Presentation / Briefing with questions	
Poverty Trust Commission	Awareness of importance and key issues	Jodie Barber Subnum Harif Khan	Presentation / Briefing with questions	

Task and finish group deep dives:

Deep dive area:	Expanded proposal:
Green New Deal / Energy Efficiency Plans	Update on OJEU procurement and net zero progress monitoring

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KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-01	Saddleworth Neighbourhood Plan	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	October 2026	Cabinet
Description: Following receipt of the Inspector's Report on the Independent Examination of the Saddleworth Neighbourhood Development Plan, Oldham Council and the Peak District National Park Authority must now decide what action to take in response to the recommended modifications; and if the Neighbourhood Plan should proceed to referendum.				
KDD-26-13	Active Oldham Strategic Partnership Agreement	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-40 **New!**	Additional Highways Grant Funding Acceptance Report	Director of Environment	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To accept a £5.258m grant from the Mayor's Pothole Fund allocation				
KDD-26-22	Approval For Insurance Tender Process and Award of Contracts	Director of Finance	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To secure appropriate insurance arrangements from 1 April 2027, and to authorise the procurement of new insurance contracts through the YPO Framework in line with Procurement's recommended route to market.				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-18	Approval of Rubrik Backup and Recovery Solution	Director of Digital	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
FCR-16-26	Capital and Revenue Outturn 2025/26	Director of Finance	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: The report provides Cabinet with an overview of the Council's revenue budget position for 2025/26.				
KDD-26-10	Cloud hosted parking enforcement solution	Director of Environment	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To seek approval to procure and implement a modern, cloud hosted parking enforcement solution that enables digital service delivery, improves operational efficiency, and meets future service delivery requirements.				
KDD-26-06	Contract extension – Mental Health Supported Living Services	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-07	Contract extension – Oldham Advocacy Service	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To extend the contract of the Oldham Advocacy Service				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-03	Contract Renewal for IDOX		November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-15	Digital and Data Strategy Documents	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: The purpose of these strategies is to guide the digital transformation of council operations, empower the workforce, and deliver resident-focused results, aligning with national digital strategies and local economic priorities. The aim being to become a leading smart borough, where digital technologies, data-driven insights, and intelligent infrastructure create a connected, sustainable, and inclusive Oldham, empowering residents, businesses, and communities to thrive**.**				
KDD-26-08	Domestic Property Disability Adaptations Bathing Services	Executive Director Health & Care (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Decision to award the contract for the provision of DPDA Bathing Services following completion of an open procurement process. Approval is sought to award the contract to the successful bidders and to enter into the contractual arrangements in accordance with the outcome of the procurement evaluation.				
KDD-26-05	Expert at Hand Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Reforms Phase 1b	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)	November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description:				
KDD-26-20	Extra Care Housing Re-tender 2026/27	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-09	High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding - Oldham College	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)	Before November 2026	Cabinet
Description: The decision is required to enable the delivery of capital works funded through the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) programme at Oldham College. The projects will increase local specialist capacity, improve the suitability of educational provision for children and young people with SEND, and support the Local Authority in meeting growing demand closer to home. Any delay in approving the funding may affect project delivery timescales and the availability of planned specialist places, reducing the Local Authority's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities and deliver its SEND sufficiency strategy.				
KDD-26-02	High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding - St Agnes Church of England Primary	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)	Before November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: The decision is required to enable the delivery of capital works funded through the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) programme at St Agnes Church of England Primary School. The projects will increase local specialist capacity, improve the suitability of educational provision for children and young people with SEND, and support the Local Authority in meeting growing demand closer to home. Any delay in approving the funding may affect project delivery timescales and the availability of planned specialist places, reducing the Local Authority's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities and deliver its SEND sufficiency strategy.				
KDD-26-19	Oldham Total Care Governance	Executive Director Health & Care (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-12	Prudential Building Stabilisation	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To approve works to the Prudential Building				
KDD-26-21	Route Optimisation	Director of Environment	November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: Approval to purchase software, via a framework direct award to an existing software supplier to the Council. The purpose of this software will be to undertake regular route optimisation exercises for all waste, cleansing and litter bin operations across the borough, leading to more efficient operations and ultimately, delaying the need for further operational growth in the service to meet resident and business growth				
KDD-26-11	Staying Close Delivery Plan Funding	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Staying Close helps care leavers transition to independent living by providing high quality accommodation and practical or emotional support to young people.				
KDD-26-14	Youth Futures Hubs and Local Youth Transformation programme – grant acceptance	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-16	Zoning Co-ordination Body	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Approval of grant acceptance				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-45 **New!**	Refurbishment of a Council property to be converted into a Children's Home.	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)	November 2026	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)
Description: To progress with the extension and refurbishment works at 1 School House, Rosary Road, in Oldham to enable the Council to operate the property as a Children's Home and to deliver two new placements, as approved in the Cabinet report on the 18 March 2024. The report sets out the rationale and challenges faced in the current context with regards to the increasing number of cared for children in residential placements, the lack of sufficient placements, provides detail about the activity already underway to manage this and outlines the proposals to further improve accommodation choices for children who are cared for by the local authority. We know that children and young people have better outcomes when they live in their local communities.				
KDD-26-47 **New!**	Acceptance of Funding and Commencement of Delivery of the National Jobs Guarantee Programme	James Kington	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To approve Oldham Council's participation in the National Jobs Guarantee Programme as a delivery partner within the GC Employment supply chain, including acceptance of external funding, establishment of staffing resources required for delivery, and commencement of programme activity supporting approximately 410 young people between November 2026 and May 2028.				
KDD-26-53 **New!**	Appropriation of Land at Southlink	Director of Growth	November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: Stage 2 report to appropriate land at Southlink following statutory consultation period and no objections recieved.				
KDD-26-25	Approval of the 2026/27 Rough Sleeping Programme Grant and Proposed Expenditure.	Director of Communities	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-32	Contract Award - Care at Home & Night Support Service	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Decision to award the Care at Home and Night Support Service contracts following completion of a competitive tender process. Approval is sought to award the contracts to the successful providers and enter into the associated contractual arrangements in accordance with the procurement outcome.				
KDD-26-29	Firewall Colocation Hosting & Data Centre Exit		November 2026	Cabinet
Description: This report seeks executive approval to proceed with establishing a resilient colocation hosting service for Oldham Council firewalls at Tameside and Salford data centres. This approach enhances continuity, strengthens security, and reduces single-site dependency by leveraging two geographically diverse, enterprise-grade facilities. This also facilitates the final exit from the Civic Centre Data Centre. Implementing this service will provide a stable, scalable platform for critical network infrastructure and ensure the Council's firewall estate is protected, resilient, and future-ready.				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-33	Fleet Managed Stores	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Direct Award for the provision of a Fleet's stores provider.				
KDD-26-52 **New!**	Free School Meals Eligibility Service		November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-41	Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Plan Update	Director of Growth	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Report to update the Council on the production of the Greater Manchester Joint Minerals and Waste Plan and secure appropriate delegation to progress the plan in a timely manner				
KDD-26-23	Green Heat Network Fund	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Grant Acceptance				
KDD-26-26	Highways Asset Professional Services Contract	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description:				
KDD-26-24	Homelessness Strategy	Director of Communities	November 2026	Chief Executive
Description: The Homelessness Act 2002 places a statutory requirement on local authorities to publish a Homelessness Strategy based on a review of homelessness in their district at least every 5 years, Publishing a new Homelessness Strategy assists Oldham Council to meet its Statutory obligations under this Act				
KDD-26-51 **New!**	Income Maximisation Update	Director of Finance	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Appointment of partner to recover aged debt and review Single Person Discounts				
KDD-26-48 **New!**	Live Well Journey to Employment Future Delivery Proposal for a 15 - 24 Education, Employment and Training (EET) Support Service	Director of Education and Early Years	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-28	Local Area Network (LAN) Refresh		November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: This report seeks executive approval to proceed with the replacement of ageing LAN switches across Oldham Council sites. The current infrastructure is increasingly prone to faults, lacks modern security capabilities, and cannot support the performance requirements of upcoming digital services. Upgrading these switches will improve network reliability, strengthen cybersecurity, and ensure the Council can deliver resilient, future-ready services to staff and residents.				
KDD-26-50 **New!**	Local Council Tax Support Scheme		November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Approval of new Local Council Tax Support scheme for coming year				
KDD-26-31	Oldham Council Policy: Civil penalties for civil contraventions or as an alternative to prosecution	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-17	Poppyfield House and Willow House	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	November 2026	Chief Executive
Description:				
KDD-26-35	Pride in Place Programmes – Grant acceptance and Governance Arrangements	Director of Communities	November 2026	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: To enable Oldham Council to accept and administer Pride in Place funding allocations for Alt/Holts and Chadderton, establish appropriate governance arrangements, and ensure local decision-making through Neighbourhood Boards whilst maintaining the Council's responsibilities as Accountable Body.				
KDD-26-27	Public Desktop Hardware Refresh		November 2026	Cabinet
Description: This report seeks executive approval to procure and replace old Windows 10 public access desktop computers at libraries, lifelong learning, Access Oldham, Housing Needs and other service areas. These computers provide access to online Council services, digital forms, learning platforms, job search tools, email, document production, public browsing, printing and other essential community functions.				
KDD-26-04	Revenue Monitor and Capital Investment Programme 2026/27 Quarter 2		November 2026	Cabinet
Description: To receive a Quarter 2 update on the Council's 2026/27 forecast revenue budget position and the financial forecast of the Dedicated Schools Grant (at Annex 1) alongside the financial position of the capital programme together with the revised capital programme 2026/27 to 2030/31 (at Annex 2).				
KDD-26-34	Sustainable Rainwater Management donation agreement acceptance report	Director of Environment	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-46 **New!**	Transformation Programme	Executive Director of Resources	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Noting the purpose and rationale for the Transformation Fund and approval of utilizing the fund for cases for change.				
KDD-26-39 **New!**	Treasury Management Strategy Mid -Year Review 2026/27	Director of Finance	November 2026	Cabinet
Description: Review of the performance for the first half of the financial year in relation to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2026/27.				
KDD-26-30	United Utilities Plc Partnership Agreement	Executive Director Place (Deputy Chief Executive)	November 2026	Cabinet
Description:				
KDD-26-36	High Needs Provision Capital Allocation Funding - St Thomas Church of England Primary Moorside	Executive Director Children and Young People (Director of Childrens Services)	January 2027	Cabinet
Description: The decision is required to enable the delivery of capital works funded through the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation (HNPCA) programme at St Thomas Church of England Primary School Moorside. The projects will increase local specialist capacity, improve the suitability of educational provision for children and young people with SEND, and support the Local Authority in meeting growing demand closer to home. Any delay in approving the funding may affect project delivery timescales and the availability of planned specialist places, reducing the Local Authority's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities and deliver its SEND sufficiency strategy.				

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
KDD-26-38 **New!**	Implementation of a healthier food and drink advertising policy	Director of Public Health	January 2027	Chief Executive
Description: To consider a report on the implementation of a healthier food and drink advertising policy for council owned assets and estates across Oldham, to support residents to make healthy choices				
KDD-26-43 **New!**	Updates to Adult Social Care Charging Policies	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	January 2027	Cabinet
Description: Policies haven't been fully reviewed for a number of years				
KDD-26-37	Revenues and Benefits Policies Review	Director of Finance	February 2027	Cabinet
Description: Approval of Revenues and Benefits policies for coming year				
KDD-26-49 **New!**	Adult Social Care - Learning Disability & Autism - Supported Living 2 Year Direct Award	Director of Adult Social Care (DASS)	February 2027	Cabinet
Description: To seek approval to do a direct award under the Greater Manchester Framework to continue service delivery of the current LDA Supported Living providers				
KDD-26-42	NHS Health Checks Commissioning	Director of Public Health	February 2027	Cabinet

KEY DECISION DOCUMENT – COVERING DECISIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2026

Key Decision Reference	Subject Area For Decision	Led By	Decision Date	Decision Taker
Description: Approval is sought for the legal framework that enables the continued delivery of the NHS Health Check programme through primary care. This will ensure the continuation of a key Public Health statutory responsibility, providing eligible residents with access to cardiovascular disease prevention, risk assessment, and early intervention services. The proposed arrangements will support ongoing programme delivery in line with statutory duties and local health improvement objectives.				
KDD-26-44 **New!**	Section 31 Public Health Grant Allocation and Spend	Director of Public Health		Cabinet
Description:				

Key:

New! - indicates an item that has been added this month

Notes:

1. The procedure for requesting details of documents listed to be submitted to decision takers for consideration is to contact the Contact Officer contained within the Key Decision Sheet for that item. The contact address for documents is Oldham Council, J.R Clynes Building, Greaves Street, Oldham, OL1 1AL. Other documents relevant to those matters may be submitted to the decision maker.
2. Where on a Key Decision Sheet the Decision Taker is Cabinet, the list of its Members are as follows:
3. Full Key Decision details (including documents to be submitted to the decision maker for consideration, specific contact officer details and notification on if a report if likely to be considered in private) can be found via the online published plan at: http://committees.oldham.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=144&RD=0

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