COUNCIL
12/12/2018 at 6.00 pm

Present: The Mayor – Councillor Iqbal (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Briggs, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Fielding, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Harkness, Harrison, Heffernan, Hewitt, Hudson, F Hussain, Jabbar, Jacques, Jacques, Judd, Leach, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Qumer, Roberts, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Ur-Rehman, Williamson and Williams

1 **QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ON WARD OR DISTRICT ISSUES**

The Mayor advised the meeting that the first item on the agenda was Public Question Time. The questions had been received from members of the public and would be taken in the order in which they had been received. Council was advised that if the questioner was not present, then the question would be read out by the Mayor.

The following questions had been submitted:

1. Question received from Judith Maughan via email:

   "Why is it that council services are on line and encourage to do on line, I cannot Pay for a application for a blue badge by cash or debit card only by cheque please email me back with a reply. Thanking you."

   Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that the issue had been recognised and that residents would be able to pay for a Blue Badge online or by telephone soon. The Blue Badge service had moved to Access Oldham and the service would be available for five days instead of two days. Access Oldham was closer to the bus station and parking.

2. Question received from Syed Maruf Ali via Twitter:

   "Oversubscription criteria is when a school receives more applications than there are places available (published admissions number, or PAN), the oversubscription criteria is used. Every school has an oversubscription criteria and it dictates the order in which places are allocated. Many existing faith schools have complex policies for allocating school places when oversubscribed, which critics say advantage more affluent parents over families from working-class backgrounds. A report from the social

mobility charity Sutton Trust in March last year suggested faith schools were among the most "Social selective" of top state schools in the country. More than three times as selective as non-faith schools, and make up 33.4% of the list. Converter academies admit the lowest rate of disadvantaged pupils of the main school types, and comprise 63% of the top schools, compared to just 40% of all secondary's. We the residents of Coppice/Primrose Bank believe that many School in Oldham discriminate pupils from Town Centre Base using the oversubscription criterial especially the Faith School. I would like to know if the cabinet members have seen the oversubscription criteria for Cranmer Education Trust or have a copy of the over-subscription criteria? Has there been a discussion with Cranmer Education Trust about their over-subscription criteria and has this been shared with the Town centre base Cllrs? What criteria will Cranmer Trust use for example if they receive 300 pupils applying under faith base criteria and 300 pupils applying from 3 geographical zones?"

Councillor P. Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the over-subscription criteria for the proposed new secondary school had not yet been set as the school had yet to be approved. The over-subscription criteria would be addressed during the pre-opening phase should the school be approved. The over-subscription criteria would be subject to further consultation. School admissions proposals would be reviewed by the School Adjudicator as the Department for Education (DfE) would want assurances that the school was inclusive and addressed deprivation. It was the Council's and the Trust's clear expectation that the school would be multi-cultural and inclusive. Further details about the proposed school could be found on the trust's website at https://cranmereducationtrust.com/new-school/

3. Question received from Mr. Stephen Kenyon via letter:

"At a recent Oldham Council meeting, Sean Fielding, the Leader of Oldham Council, stated that YouTube footage was only edited when the Mayor of Oldham adjourned the meeting. On the very same meeting, however, the camera was switched off and the sound was edited because I had questioned the integrity and honestly of Oldham Council and its Councillor's. Are Oldham Council in breach of their code of practice for hiding and/or editing the truth? Transparency and Openness should be the fundamental principle of everything that Local Governments and Local Government Bodies do."

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that what happened that evening was, that in accordance with the rules of Open Council, Mr. Kenyon had pre-submitted a written question about Subject Access Reports. In

accordance with the rules Mr. Kenyon was invited to the microphone to read the question as submitted, which he did. Councillor Fielding responded. Immediately after that, and not for first time, Mr. Kenyon broke the rules of Open Council by attempting to ask follow-up questions and shout out points that had not been submitted as questions. Despite the Mayor's objections and instructions, in his capacity as chair of the meeting, the Mayor asked Mr. Kenyon to come to order. Mr. Kenyon persisted in shouting from the dais, including allegations about a council member which could all be clearly heard on the video. This webstream is run by a third party for the Council. Mr. Kenyon said the sound was edited. It was not. It appeared that by appealing across the back of the stage to Mr. Kenyon with his microphone turned off – the words of the Mayor subsequently became very quiet on the clip. However, if the clip was played through a bigger speaker, such as a TV set, what happened could clearly be heard. Only the Mayor spoke at the time where the audio was quieter – which lasted about 20 seconds – and the Mayor simply stated that there was a time limit for questions and that all questioners, in accordance with the rules, should stick to the text of the question which had been originally submitted and that the Mayor needed to move on with the next public question. There was no editing of the audio – otherwise it would have been silent. Nor was the camera switched off as implied. At that point in time the camera operator simply moved to look towards the mace at the front of the stage. The picture coverage was clearly still live as councillors' heads could be seen moving and looking towards where Mr. Kenyon stood and remonstrated from. The camera operator was not instructed to do this, but probably did so because they felt that an adjournment of the meeting might be imminent – something Mr. Kenyon's behaviour had caused in the past. In short, there was no cover-up, no video or audio editing and no conspiracy. If the questioner stuck to the fair spirit of the rules of Open Council – asked the question that had been submitted – then there would not have been a problem. Open Council was a transparent and democratic forum, and that was based on respect – something which Mr. Kenyon was reminded of again.

4. Question received from Warren Bates via email:

"Members of the public in Failsworth are very concerned and have continually requested a "Detailed Itemised Public Spend" on the following.

(1) Cllr Elaine Gary £750 "entertainment at mayors Irish night"?

(2) "Failsworth Festive Feast" Wednesday Dec 13th 2017.?

Furthermore in order to avoid this Public Question to-night.

I wrote to Cllr Barbara Brownridge regarding this "Detailed Itemised Spend" request of this public money "cabinet member for cooperatives and neighbourhoods". Possibly seen by her but received no response whatsoever. Because of the continued lack of detailed information regarding the " itemised public spend". I wrote to the borough solicitor about the concerns by the public of Failsworth and I have been promised an "internal review". As leader of the council in the interest of transparency will you publically confirm this please."

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise highlighted the link to the meetings and agendas page on the Council's website, and the link to the Failsworth and Hollinwood District Executive budget report at the meeting held on 15th March 2018 which provided itemised spend. The meeting was held in public and the report could be accessed at any time. Councillor Garry did donate money to the Mayor's Appeal Irish Night and former Councillor Bates had contributed to the Failsworth Feast. The total donated by Councillor Garry was £670 and the event held on 16 March 2018 raised £875 for the Mayor's Appeal Fund 2018/19. The Failsworth Festive Feast was a concept devised by a former Councillor for vulnerable people to celebrate Christmas. This was a ticketed event bought in advance. Funding was secured by the former Councillor Miss Brock and from former Councillor for Failsworth West – Mr. Bates. Miss Brock advised the District Team what materials were required to make the event a success. Former Councillor Bates had been briefed on how the funding was being used as he was a frequent visitor to the office, had several conversations with Miss Brock and attended the event which he had supported. The Failsworth and Hollinwood budget report on 15th March 2018 stated that former Councillor Bates had allocated £500 to the Failsworth Festive Feast – contribution towards equipment and decorations. At no point had former Councillor Bates contacted the District Team since funding was secured in November 2017 asking for further details.

5. Question received from Louise McCallum via email:

"Please can the following question be put forward to highways or whoever is responsible for traffic management? Ashton road Oldham from Crofton street to the centre of Oldham is completely congested all the time, impassable at rush hour. The bus lane from Copsterhill Road to Oldham needs suspending to allow the traffic to flow properly. I have sat in traffic from Crofton street to king street roundabout for forty minutes for the past two evenings, it should be a 5 minute journey, maximum. The bus lane is a complete waste of time as this is what is causing the congestion and the buses are stuck in it until they can get past Copsterhill Road and

into the bus lane. This needs urgent reviewing as it is causing unnecessary congestion and delays."

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the traffic congestion currently experienced by road users, particularly during morning and afternoon peak periods, was mostly as result of the essential roadworks taking place on adjacent routes towards and around the Town Centre, in particular, King's Road which had been closed since 5th December and was due to open on Friday, 14th a few days ahead of schedule following the completion of urgent carriageway repairs, Oldham Way which had lane restrictions and slip road closures had been in place along this route since Spring earlier this year to be able to carry out vital repairs to the bridge structure. This work had now been completed and the associated traffic management diversion measures had been removed earlier this week. Once the traffic patterns had settled down back to normal levels in the coming days, the congestion issues along the route would be reviewed by Highway Engineers.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired. During the proceedings, the Mayor was constantly interrupted by a member of the public and a disturbance occurred. The Mayor as Chair of the meeting gave repeated warnings. The meeting was adjourned at 18.25 and reconvened at 18.50.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Council had previously agreed that questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council. The following questions were submitted by Councillors on Ward or District matters:

1. Councillor Harrison asked the following question:

"Some time ago, there was a public consultation on Alt Estate about a proposed new housing development on the vacant land on Cherry Avenue. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell me the outcome of the consultation and if there are any plans to start building on this site?"

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that First Choice Homes Oldham had held a consultation event at the Alt community café to gauge local resident's opinion on the re-development sites at Cherry Avenue. Plans were presented that included a range of houses and bungalows intended for affordable rent. Residents who had attended and submitted postal responses were very supportive. At the moment, the development proposals for the Cherry Avenue site were being reviewed alongside wider strategic aims for the area and to consider feedback, particularly on property

types gathered at the consultation event. First Choice would provide a further update to residents in due course.

2. Councillor Stretton asked the following question:

"I am concerned about the effect that noise from the United Utilities works at the Hathershaw School Playing field site is having on residents in the Garden Suburb area of my ward. Please may I be advised as to the agreed hours of working during the works and also the expected end date for these works."

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the contractors working for United Utilities on this essential piece of infrastructure had notified the Environmental Health Team of their intentions. It was agreed with the contractors that their hours of operation would be limited to the following: Monday to Friday – 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.; Saturday - 9.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. only for works needed outside of a normal working week; and not work on a Sunday or Bank Holidays. Environmental Health had only received one complaint since the works had started in June 2018. The expected date for completion of the works was late December 2019.

3. Councillor Goodwin asked the following question:

"It's welcome to see the transformation of the alleyway to the rear of properties in my ward on Turf Lane, Long Lane and Chestnut Street by the residents of those properties who were able to gain funding to commence this project. Could the relevant cabinet member advise how it is possible for other groups of residents to apply for funding for similar projects?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that the work undertaken by the residents of Turf Lane, Long Lane and Chestnut Street was an excellent example of a co-operative borough. Action Together provided practical support services to voluntary sector organisations and community groups within Oldham and could identify and signpost to funding opportunities. Action Together could be contacted on 0161 633 6222. The service was open Monday to Friday, between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. Residents could also contact their District Team who might be able to provide details of any additional funding opportunities which become available. Contract details for each District Team could be found on the Council's website.

4. Councillor C. Gloster asked the following question:

"Shaw town centre businesses are currently experiencing a crime wave in that numerous premises have either been broken into or suffered an attempt, some on repeat occasions. Shaw and Crompton Councillors have called police to a meeting of the Community Forum to be told CCTV would be helpful. Traders who are also victims of crime have fed back to us that although the Greater Manchester Police are aware of their crime, they have CCTV evidence available, it is not being collected and the crimes are not being further investigated due to the lack of threat, harm or risk. Does this mean that theft and burglary is no longer a priority for the Police across Shaw and Crompton?"

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Policing and Community Safety responded that Greater Manchester Police had led in the preparation of a plan for reducing burglaries in Shaw. As part of this plan, two weeks ago the police had established a dedicated team to investigate repeat offences of serious acquisitive crime (including burglaries and robberies). A briefing session would be arranged for ward councillors by the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

5. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

"Failsworth Councillors were recently joined by a huge number of local volunteers to take part in the fourth "Big Failsworth Clean Up" event. Over the four events we collected dozens of bags of rubbish that may otherwise have still been on our streets around Ash Street, Old Road, Minor Street, Wesley Street and Oldham Road. It's disappointing that people drop litter but fantastic that there are local people who genuinely care about our town and want to get involved and be a part in making it a better place. Does the cabinet member agree that community activity like this complements the £600,000 recently invested in street cleaning by the Council and will the cabinet member offer their thanks to the local volunteers on behalf of the Council?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services agreed that communities working to improve their areas was fundamental to any long-term improvement. People coming out to clean an area helped to dispel the myth that all cleaning was the Council's responsibility and, supported by active enforcement, shamed many residents into not throwing waste into public areas, hoping that someone else would clear up after them. The work of a number of active community groups was really starting to show what a difference could be made when people took pride in their areas. The Cabinet Member was proud of the various community groups who led by example and was a good example of a co-operative borough.

6. Councillor Dean asked the following question:

"The Clarksfield community are delighted at the Council's decision to invest over £4 million in remodelling Clarksfield Primary School and welcome the new management arrangements lead by Oasis Academy. The parents and pupils are determined to work with staff at the school to bring improvements and upgrade the school rating to outstanding. The addition of an extra intake of pupils will give more local children an opportunity to attend their local school. Could the Cabinet member give me a timeline for the building works, the date the school management changes will happen, and when the addition intake of pupils will take place."

Councillor P. Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that on condition that the school converted to academy status in January 2019, it was anticipated that the 1 form entry (FE) expansion would be completed in time for additional places in September 2019. The school was on track to convert in January 2019. Oasis had held a meeting on 27 November 2018 with an invitation that was open to all interested parties who wanted to know more about the Trust and its plan for the school. The Cabinet Member commented on bringing the community together for the school to be much improved.

7. Councillor Brownridge asked the following question:

"Chadderton Wellbeing Centre is a PFI building accommodating leisure facilities, Chadderton Library and The Chadderton District Team. The library also contains a café facility which has stood empty for some 2 years. Many residents have expressed concern that the only refreshments available are from vending machines which, given the focus on the council's ambition to promote physical and mental health and wellbeing, are not a healthy option. It would be much appreciated if the Leader and Cabinet Member responsible could arrange a meeting with Community First (who own the café) with a view to discussing how the café might be brought back in to use. This would help to promote other council initiatives, for example, extending social inclusion, promoting cohesion and reducing isolation. Community First should recognise that they have a responsibility to the wider community and can help by introducing some element of social value into their daily operations instead of simply viewing the Wellbeing Centre as a means of increasing their profits (and shareholders dividends). Any support from the Leader and the Cabinet Member would be very welcome."

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the

wellbeing centre was an excellent centre and as a user it was a shame to pass what had been an excellent café in the past. The café was not owned by the Council but by Community First. Representations had been made and the Council were aware of an interest. The Council would keep in contact with regular dialogue in the case the situation changed.

8. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

"Following suggestions from this Administration to "come and talk to us" and "give us your suggestions" I wrote to the Deputy Leader on 2nd October about speeding and put forward some practical steps the Council could take to which I am awaiting a response. Many councillors have raised issues about speeding in their wards and residents in my ward are concerned about speeding. In Saddleworth, Derek Heffernan and myself have arranged for a number of surveys across some of the Saddleworth villages and it is clear in a number of places there is a problem. My suggestions are:

1. We purchase and deploy mobile speed cameras to catch offenders. Such a measure will, I believe, pay for myself very quickly and will help change driver behaviour and improve road safety
2. That we look to work with community and residents' group to establish Community Speed Watch schemes in the Borough
3. Other local authorities are introducing 'bus gates' outside schools to limit vehicular through traffic to cycles and local buses at the start and end of the school day, with a fixed penalty for transgressors. This would reduce the likelihood of other traffic speeding past schools when pupils are entering or exiting schools.
4. Increase Community Concern speed enforcement sites

I would appreciate comment from the cabinet member about how this Administration might work with local elected members to take these suggestions forward in Saddleworth and in other areas of Oldham affected by speeding?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that under the current national policing regulations, Drivesafe (who are the region's Safety Camera Partnership) was the only enforcing body in Greater Manchester that could issue Fixed Penalty Notices to speeding motorists. Any monies that were generated by the subsequent fines went directly to the Government's consolidated Treasury Fund. The Mayor of Greater Manchester was keen to develop such initiatives in Greater Manchester in association with Drivesafe. For any potential location, the Police must lead, organise and manage any approved site, staffed by appropriately

trained operatives. Highways Engineers would be pleased to assist in this process with Drivesafe. In Oldham, road safety was taken very seriously, particularly around schools where an evidence based, data led strategy was used to best direct limited budgets which allowed the introduction of bespoke safety measures that achieved the greatest benefits which such problems existed. Currently a range of innovative walking and cycling solutions were being considered as part of the Manchester Mayor's Fund. Highways Engineers would be pleased to work with the elected member to identify the most appropriate solution where some form of road safety intervention had been identified. The Mayor of Greater Manchester was keen to increase Community Concern speed enforcement sites across the region. Unity Partnership would be pleased to assist in this process with Drivesafe.

9. Councillor Harrison asked the following question:

"Boston House in Hathershaw is a former respite care home and later a New Bridge School Annex. Since New Bridge moved out, it has remained empty and has fallen into unsightly dereliction and has become a magnet for many types of anti-social behaviour. Can the appropriate cabinet member tell me if there are any plans for this building and can steps be taken to tidy up the exterior and grounds?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council had sold this premises on 10th October 2017 to Mr. Amjad Hussain and therefore was not in control of the premises. The Council's Planning Department had visited the premises and found that the building itself was in a reasonable condition with all doors and windows boarded up and gates padlocked. The hedges needed trimming, but the building had not deteriorated to such a condition that a S.215 notice would have been sought and justified in this case. Nevertheless, the owner had been sent a letter pointing out that some complaints had been received about the state of the property and asked for the owner's comments and actions. To date, no response had been received. This would be followed up.

10. Councillor S. Bashforth asked the following question:

"We are seeing many of our pubs close down and become empty or lost to other uses. There are many reasons for pubs to close and we fully appreciate this but when what is a successful and well used establishment is looking to change its use the community can apply that establishment to be listed as an Asset of Community Value. In Heyside residents and the local ward members wish to apply for such an order, will the cabinet member

responsible arrange of officer support so the order can be quickly and successfully applied for?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the value pubs could add to a community could be undervalued. Consumption of 2 or 3 pints with friends was preferable as it allowed for social interaction instead of buying it at a local store. The Localism Act 2011 allowed local groups within a community the right to nominate a building or an area of land as an 'Asset of Community Value'. The Council, as it has done previously, would work with any local groups who were interested in submitting a nomination as an Asset of Community Value. Any nomination would then be considered for approval in line with the requirements and criteria outlined in the Localism Act 2011. The Council was also required to keep a register of the successful nominations for assets of community value as well as keeping a list of any unsuccessful nominations the Council had received. The information, along with further guidance, was available online on the Council's website. The Leader gave a personal commitment to provide the support needed to progress the matter.

11. Councillor Akhtar asked the following question:

"In June, I asked a question about repairing potholes on Werneth Hall Rd and Napier St East/West and was reassured that the necessary work will be carried out with a month. However, several months on, partial work has been carried out and there are still numerous potholes on Werneth Hall Road and Napier St, East, the depth of the remaining potholes is similar to those that have been repaired. Could the Cabinet member responsible please inform the Council when the remaining potholes will be repaired?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that inspections had been carried out on Werneth Hall Road and Napier Street East and West which had resulted in actionable potholes being appropriately identified in all locations. There were still some outstanding repairs from previous inspections pending which were to be completed at both Werneth Hall Road and Napier Street East. These were currently being programmed in the system and would be actioned shortly. Further inspections were due to take place at Werneth Hall Road, Napier Street West and Napier Street East on 18 December 2018.

12. Councillor Sheldon asked a question related to the Royal George crossroads and Manchester Road. There were different views as to how to tackle the notorious junction which included the installation of a mini-roundabout and

reducing the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph. Councillor Sheldon asked if there were any plans to improve the safety of the junction?

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that she would look into the issue concerned and meet with officers.

13. Councillor Briggs asked the following question:

"Would the Cabinet member responsible for transport join me in supporting residents to overturn the decision to withdraw the 74 bus service in the evenings and weekends to and from Woodhouses. This leaves the old and most vulnerable, cut off from friends and family, or having to walk almost a mile to the nearest bus stop. We talk about social isolation but appear to have little control over bus companies who make arbitrary decisions without acknowledging their actions severely reduce opportunities to socialise with others or make essential trips to hospitals and other necessary appointments."

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that TfGM had been contacted about the changes to the 74 service and had explained that the changes had been made as a result of changes that Stagecoach were making to the 76 service from last October by way of additional evening and Sunday journeys which catered for the majority of passengers on the 76 route. When TfGM reviewed the sections of the 76 route that would not be served by these new journeys, very low passenger usage was found on the Woodhouses section – 0.53 passengers per trip and TfGM were unable to justify maintaining provision at that time. TfGM would be asked to review the decision. In the meantime, TfGM were exploring options on behalf of GMCA that would allow for greater control of routes, frequencies, timetables, fares and quality standards for all buses across the Greater Manchester network. This had come about as a result of the Bus Services Act 2017, which gave Mayoral authorities like Greater Manchester powers to improve bus services by reforming the current bus market. If the GM Mayor did decide to take up bus franchising powers, it would be some time before any changes were seen on the ground, so in the meantime, TfGM was looking at how bus services could operate more effectively under existing operator arrangements. Discussions were taken place with TfGM on how members could get involved in this piece of work.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

NOTE: Councillor Byrne left the meeting during this item.

2 **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors G. Alexander, Haque, A. Hussain, Larkin, Rehman, Salamat and Turner.

3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 7TH NOVEMBER 2018 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 11th November 2018 be approved as a correct record.

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

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, elected members declared the following interests:

Councillor M. Bashforth declared a personal interest in Item 14a by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest in Item 14a by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor F. Hussain declared a personal interest in Item 14a by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor Heffernan declared a personal interest in Item 14a by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.
Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary interest in Item 14b by virtue of her husband's employment by Greater Manchester Police.
Councillor C. Gloster declared a pecuniary interest in Item 14b by virtue of his employment by Greater Manchester Police.
Councillor H. Gloster declared a pecuniary interest in Item 14b by virtue of her husband's employment by Greater Manchester Police.
Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest in Item 19 by virtue of her appointment to the Positive Steps Board.
Councillor P. Jacques declared a personal interest in Item 19 by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.
Councillor Ali declared a personal interest in Item 19 by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.
Councillor Malik declared a personal interest in Item 19 by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

There were no communications for Council.

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

The Mayor advised that four petitions had been received for noting by Council:

People and Place

Reference 2018-17: Petition entitled “Greenfield by Name; Greenfield by Nature”, Objections to Planning Application PA/342222/18 – Land to Rear of 29 – 51 Shaw Hall Bank Road and 5 – 23 Shaw Hall Close, Greenfield, Saddleworth, OL8 7LD (Saddleworth South Ward) received on 29 October 2018 with 665 signatures.

Reference 2018-19: Petition requesting Traffic Calming Procedures on Keb Lane (Medlock Vale Ward) received on 15 November 2018 with 99 signatures.

Reference 2018-21: Petition for Street Lighting and Tackle Anti-Social Behaviour behind Garforth Street (Coldhurst Ward) received on 3 December 2018 with 51 signatures.

Corporate and Commercial

Reference 2018-20: Petition related to Welfare Rights, Benefits and Adult Social Care (Borough Wide), received on 26 November 2018 with 251 signatures.

RESOLVED that the petitions received since the last meeting of the Council be noted.

8 **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Air Quality

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Jabbar SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council notes that air quality remains a significant issue affecting the life quality of the residents of Oldham, with levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2) driven up primarily by road transport. Local modelling has identified a number of stretches of road in the borough where NO2 levels are expected to exceed legal limits beyond 2020, mainly on major roads near our town centres.

Air pollution recognises no boundaries, so a response is needed from individuals, from local governments and from national government. This council notes the important work ongoing across Greater Manchester to campaign for clean air, and welcomes the commitment of the Combined Authority to hit World Health Organisation targets for air quality by 2030 as part of being a WHO Breathelife City. Greater Manchester councils have also pledged to be 100% fossil fuel free by 2050.

Given the scale of the challenge, this council notes with concern that national government has recently removed grants to encourage the take up of electric vehicles, and acknowledges the criticism of this decision by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee.

This council resolves:

1) To work closely with the GMCA to deliver the Clean Air Plan, and to continue to promote the GM Clean Air campaign to encourage residents to think about how they can do their bit to reduce air pollution.
2) To ask the Chief Executive to seek immediate clarification from the Secretary of State on how national government will support Oldham's ambitions to improve air quality, particularly given recent decisions to cut grants for electric vehicles.
3) To seek new opportunities to further establish Oldham as the region's greenest borough and improve the life chances of residents and particularly young people beyond the Clean Air Plan, including:
    a. Reducing air pollution cause by vehicle use around schools at the start and end of the school day.
    b. Incentivising the use of electric vehicles through improved access to charging points and other preferential schemes, preparing the borough for a future where 3 million charging points will be needed nationally by 2040.
    c. Growing trees in key sites in the borough to dampen pollution effects and make more liveable places."

AMENDMENT

Councillor C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Amend resolution Point 3a) by adding at the end 'and at play areas, care homes and medical facilities by:

- Looking to Introduce pilot schemes such as enforceable 'no-idling' zones, street closure orders or 'gates' outside schools and children's play areas in the Borough.
- Working with our NHS partners, to look at extending 'no-idling' zones outside Medical Centres, care homes and in hospital 'pick up' areas.'
- Discouraging, through our licensing powers, idling by taxis and private hire vehicles, using enforcement powers when necessary.
- Requiring drivers of Council operated vehicles not to idle, and ask the same of our public sector partners and our public transport providers with respect to their own vehicles.
- Conducting an information campaign to influence driver behaviour by urging motorists to turn off their engines if they think they are not going to move for around two minutes and asking them not to manually override 'stop-start' systems.'

Amend resolution Point 3b) by adding at the end 'by:

- Hosting on its website:

- Information about the grants made available by the Government to the public and to businesses through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles for the installation of electric vehicle charging points on its website
- Information about approved installers engaged in this work
- An online register of electric vehicle charging points that are publically accessible

- Developing proposals to bid for grants from the:
  - Workplace Charging Scheme to install charge points in Council buildings to encourage a greater use of electric or hybrid vehicles by its staff
  - On-Street Residential Charging Scheme to install, in conjunction with our PFI contractor, charge points in street lighting columns, where appropriate, in instances where there is current on-street parking provision
  - Taxi Infrastructure Scheme to provide charging points at taxi ranks
- Working to install public charging points in each of the districts, focusing on public car parks
- Encouraging local taxi drivers to move to hybrid or electric vehicles
- Looking to replace, at the end of their operational life, Council vehicles with new hybrid or electric vehicles
- Encouraging the establishment of Electric Car Clubs across the Borough
- Establishing principles for use in procurement to encourage use of electric or low emission vehicles by contractors
- Reviewing our planning conditions to pre-empt anticipated Government legislation in requiring new housing developments and businesses to install electric vehicle charging points
- Exploring the possibility of Oldham being a location for a battery storage facility and charging hub as part of the nationwide network, given the borough's proximity to the motorway network'

Add resolution Point 3d) 'To look at the practicalities of installing a network of air pollution monitors across the borough, and of introducing mobile monitors to test outside schools and outside care homes and in play areas.'
Add a resolution Point 4) 'To ask the responsible Cabinet Member to provide a written annual report to full Council on progress made.'

Motion as Amended to read:
"This council notes that air quality remains a significant issue affecting the life quality of the residents of Oldham, with levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) driven up primarily by road transport. Local modelling has identified a number of stretches of road in the borough where NO_2 levels are expected to exceed legal limits beyond 2020, mainly on major roads near our town centres.
Air pollution recognises no boundaries, so a response is needed from individuals, from local governments and from national government. This council notes the important work ongoing across Greater Manchester to campaign for clean air, and welcomes the commitment of the Combined Authority to hit

World Health Organisation targets for air quality by 2030 as part of being a WHO BreatheLife City. Greater Manchester councils have also pledged to be 100% fossil fuel free by 2050.
Given the scale of the challenge, this council notes with concern that national government has recently removed grants to encourage the take up of electric vehicles, and acknowledges the criticism of this decision by the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Select Committee.
This council resolves:

1) To work closely with the GMCA to deliver the Clean Air Plan, and to continue to promote the GM Clean Air campaign to encourage residents to think about how they can do their bit to reduce air pollution.
2) To ask the Chief Executive to seek immediate clarification from the Secretary of State on how national government will support Oldham's ambitions to improve air quality, particularly given recent decisions to cut grants for electric vehicles.
3) To seek new opportunities to further establish Oldham as the region's greenest borough and improve the life chances of residents and particularly young people beyond the Clean Air Plan, including:
    a) Reducing air pollution caused by vehicle use around schools at the start and end of the school day and at play areas, care homes and medical facilities by:
        - Looking to Introduce pilot schemes such as enforceable 'no-idling' zones, street closure orders or 'gates' outside schools and children's play areas in the Borough.
        - Working with our NHS partners, to look at extending 'no-idling' zones outside Medical Centres, care homes and in hospital 'pick up' areas.'
        - Discouraging, through our licensing powers, idling by taxis and private hire vehicles, using enforcement powers when necessary.
        - Requiring drivers of Council operated vehicles not to idle, and ask the same of our public sector partners and our public transport providers with respect to their own vehicles.
        - Conducting an information campaign to influence driver behaviour by urging motorists to turn off their engines if they think they are not going to move for around two minutes and asking them not to manually override 'stop-start' systems.'
    b) Incentivising the use of electric vehicles through improved access to charging points and other preferential schemes, preparing the borough for a future where 3 million charging points will be needed nationally by 2040 by:
        - Hosting on its website:

- Information about the grants made available by the Government to the public and to businesses through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles for the installation of electric vehicle charging points on its website
- Information about approved installers engaged in this work
- An online register of electric vehicle charging points that are publically accessible

- Developing proposals to bid for grants from the:
  - Workplace Charging Scheme to install charge points in Council buildings to encourage a greater use of electric or hybrid vehicles by its staff
  - On-Street Residential Charging Scheme to install, in conjunction with our PFI contractor, charge points in street lighting columns, where appropriate, in instances where there is current on-street parking provision
  - Taxi Infrastructure Scheme to provide charging points at taxi ranks
- Working to install public charging points in each of the districts, focusing on public car parks
- Encouraging local taxi drivers to move to hybrid or electric vehicles
- Looking to replace, at the end of their operational life, Council vehicles with new hybrid or electric vehicles
- Encouraging the establishment of Electric Car Clubs across the Borough
- Establishing principles for use in procurement to encourage use of electric or low emission vehicles by contractors
- Reviewing our planning conditions to pre-empt anticipated Government legislation in requiring new housing developments and businesses to install electric vehicle charging points
- Exploring the possibility of Oldham being a location for a battery storage facility and charging hub as part of the nationwide network, given the borough's proximity to the motorway network

c) Growing trees in key sites in the borough to dampen pollution effects and make more liveable places.

d) To look at the practicalities of installing a network of air pollution monitors across the borough, and of introducing mobile monitors to test outside schools and outside care homes and in play areas.

4) To ask the responsible Cabinet Member to provide a written annual report to full Council on progress made."

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.
Councillor C. Gloster exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, 7 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and 45 votes were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

Councillor Shah did not exercise her right of reply.

On being put to the vote, the ORIGINAL MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council work closely with the GMCA to deliver the Clean Air Plan and to continue to promote the GM Clean Air campaign to encourage residents to think about how they could do their bit to reduce air pollution.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to seek immediate clarification from the Secretary of State on how national government would support Oldham's ambitions to improve air quality, particularly given recent decisions to cut grants for electric vehicles.
3. To seek new opportunities to further establish Oldham as the region's greenest borough and improve the life chances of residents and particularly young people beyond the Clean Air Plan, including:
   a) Reducing air pollution caused by vehicle use around schools at the start and end of the school day.
   b) Incentivising the use of electric vehicles through improved access to charging points and other preferential schemes, preparing the borough for a future where 3 million charging points will be needed nationally by 2040.
   c) Growing trees in key sites in the borough to dampen pollution effects and make more liveable places.

9 YOUTH COUNCIL

There were no items submitted by the Youth Council.

10 LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME

The Leader of the Main Opposition, Councillor Sykes, raised the following two questions:

Question 1: Who decides on the GMSF Plan?

"My first question to the Leader tonight returns to a subject that I asked him about in September – who will be responsible for taking the decision in this Council whether to adopt the final proposals for the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework. I make no apology for asking this question again as circumstances seem to have changed on this issue since we last spoke in this Chamber about it. On 1 October 2018, the Mayor of Greater Manchester and the ten Council leaders who are the Greater Manchester Combined Authority issued a media release which stated categorically that:

‘Leaders also commit to ensuring that the formal draft plan is put before each Council to ensure real democratic debate and scrutiny. The draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework must be approved by each and every local council next summer. The Mayor and Leaders have today made clear that regardless of the requirements, they are committed to ensuring that the formal draft Plan is put before each Council to ensure real democratic engagement, debate and scrutiny. Local ward councillors will have their say on this plan. Throughout this process we have always committed to taking the GMSF through local councils.’
On 30 November 2018, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority issued a further statement which stated categorically: ‘Before we go out for a second time (in the summer of 2019) the revised Greater Manchester Spatial Framework will be taken to all the local authorities and councils within the city-region for discussion, debate and ultimately sign-off.’
As I read these two statements, they would appear to imply that all Greater Manchester local authority leaders, including yourself, have agreed to bring the draft GMSF plan before a full meeting of their Council for scrutiny and debate and for ward members to vote on whether their local Council chooses to adopt the plan? This appears to be contrary to the one you outlined in your response to my question on the matter at the September meeting of full Council. Here you indicated that you as Leader would make the final decision. Please can I ask the Leader to clarify the current position as he sees it?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, advised the meeting he stood by his response to that question when it was previously asked at a previous Council meeting. It was not intended to bring the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) prior to consultation to this meeting as the consultation needed to be undertaken. It had been delayed too many times. People were getting frustrated at the number of times GMSF had been delayed given that it was such a significant strategic plan that affected so many residents across the borough. What was the case and had not changed was that the deposit version of the plan would be coming forward for consultation and voting on by members of the Chamber and in all other Council Chambers across Greater Manchester. Councillors would have the opportunity to debate GMSF and for it to be considered by all elected members next summer before the plan was deposited with the Government.

Question 2: Coping with Brexit

“For my second question to the Leader tonight I would like to turn to Brexit, more specifically the serious threat a No-Deal Brexit will pose. The last Council presented a report which stated that: ‘It is looking increasingly likely that a ‘no-deal’ Brexit is the most likely outcome…’ This would result in a downturn in economic productivity and growth in our region as the EU accounts for almost sixty percent of our export market. The cost of imported raw materials and components are already increasing, in part because of the falling value of the pound. This will also impact on employment and on wage rates which

will be devastating as Oldham working families are already amongst the poorest in the UK. But this is not the worst of it. Former Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab admitted the Government was preparing to stockpile food. Health Secretary Matthew Hancock admitted discussions on building up NHS reserves of vaccinations, blood products and medical supplies had been held. But it is impossible to stockpile advance supplies of fresh food, as by their nature they are perishable, and many patients rely on medicines with a short shelf-life. Essentials will therefore have to be flown into the UK at great expense, while stuff rots at our ports which become gigantic truck parks with no drivers to drive them. I say flown, but this is of course assumes that the Government can obtain the necessary export permits, complete the necessary new bureaucracy and obtain the flight-certified aircraft to do the job. Frankly this sounds like a scenario akin to the Berlin Airlift of 1948 rather than Great Britain in 2018. Seventy years ago, the Western allies had to overcome the Communist Soviet military blockade of that city to prevail. Here common-sense has yet to prevail. Here common-sense has yet to prevail against the bigotry, narrow-mindedness of Little Englanders and the swivel eyed loons determined to break faith with our European neighbours. This is frightening stuff, made more so in a borough where we already have so many poor citizens reliant on emergency Food Bank supplies, a great many with chronic and long-term health conditions. I am sorry to say that this is not the script of a post-Apocalyptic movie this is just weeks away. The people in charge of this mess and our country; in the middle of the most important constitutional change since Henry VIII or Oliver Cromwell; now decide to have a leadership contest and oust the Prime Minister. They have done more to damage our reputation in the world; and the Union that is the United Kingdom; at a single stroke than any event in modern history. Words fail me. Firstly please, could the leader tell us what is being done by this Council, in conjunction with our partners in the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, to plan measures to mitigate for a possible No-deal Brexit? Secondly, would he be willing to join with me in sending a joint letter to the three Members of Parliament who represent our Borough asking them to support a second people's referendum, with the option on the ballot paper to remain in the European Union and retain the many benefits accruing from membership, before any move by this Government to take our nation over the abyss into Brexit?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, responded that since the referendum had taken place, all there was, was uncertainty. There was uncertainty on anything related to Brexit. The Leader responded that the only certainty was the nation in this situation was going to face national humiliation. The Leader referenced three possible outcomes.

1. With the Prime Minister's deal or whatever had been cobbled together after having run off to Brussels, the UK effectively remained in the EU but relinquished a seat at the table to determine the rule to be governed by which the people so objected to and were vocal in saying that they disagreed and led them to vote for Brexit.

2. The second option was to be faced with national humiliation of no deal which Councillor Sykes had raised. National humiliation was faced from the economic calamity that would come from no deal. Planes would not be able to fly, inflation out of control with jobs going offshore, particularly from an already decimated manufacturing industry which would be a disaster and humiliating for the country.
3. The third option was to drop it all, forget it, call a second referendum and it could go the other way or drop it without a second referendum but that would be humiliating. Two years would have been spent negotiating, economic growth would have been lost and the relationship with our partners in Europe lost.

Councillor Hudson, Leader of the Conservative Group, expressed concern related to the continued withdrawal of funding from the Revenue Settlement Grant to Saddleworth Parish Council. Councillor Hudson had received a letter from the Secretary of State with the explanation that it was for the billing authority to pass down an appropriate level of funding. Oldham Council had withdrawn £16,000, with a further £23,490 to be withdrawn and £10,000 in 2019/20 which could result in losses in jobs and to the community. Would the Leader reconsider the continued withdrawal of council funds which supported the parish council?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that he had concerns about the revenue support which had been withdrawn from Oldham Council which had lost £208 million and affected the services to the elderly and vulnerable, children and other vital services. The Leader suggested lobbying the Conservative party to reinstate funds taken from the Council.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that the Council had agreed that, following the Leaders' allocated questions, questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council.

1. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

   "The Cabinet Member for Employment & Skills will be aware that young people in Oldham from lower income backgrounds are less likely to have access to the networks of advice, information and work experience to enable them to turn aspiration into reality. It is very hard to aim for an opportunity that you know does not exist. Research has shown that even when people from disadvantage areas succeed in education, they achieve poorer career outcomes than their more affluent peers with the same qualifications. I have seen young people from my ward and neighbouring ones; often graduates with fantastic CV's yet struggle to secure employment; or in the case where they do, it is at minimum wage. I know that no one idea or lever can resolve this issue, however, we need to do our bit as a council to ensure everyone can build a rewarding career and provide opportunities for

all who want to retrain and upskill. I would like to know what additional networks, advice, information and work experience opportunities can be made available for our young people and adults other than the basics provided by schools and colleges."

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills responded that social mobility was key issue for Oldham's communities. It was a complex area for which there was no single solution. The Social Mobility Commission had published 5 annual reports which consistently pronounced the lack of progress made by the Government in improving social mobility. The key issue was being the lack of progress out of low wage employment as well as poor educational attainment the development of zero hour contracts. The Social Mobility Commissions Great Escape report found that just 1 in 6 low-paid workers (17%) managed to permanent escape from low pay in the last decade. A key aspect to address social mobility was to improve access to business sectors outside of a potentially limited circle of friends and family. What the Council had done to support social mobility was the Get Oldham Working Programme which had filled over 7,550 opportunities since May 2013. The Council launched the Career Advancement Service in 2016 as an extension of the Get Oldham Working to improve social mobility. This provided individualised support, offered mentoring, further learning pathways, confidence building, etc. To date 423 residents had engaged with the average citizen earning over £6K per annum after being on the programme. The team had been instructed to do some targeted work in communities which included Glodwick, Coldhurst and Shaw targeting those from lower income households. In addition, there was support for young people in school and colleges. Careers Education was a statutory duty for schools to provide careers education, information advice and guidance (IAG) for all students. As from September 2018, all schools had a named careers lead to drive the agenda in schools. Through the Opportunity Area Programme, the Council supported social mobility through the work of the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) – working with all secondary schools in Oldham, each had a CEC advisor who worked with leadership on careers strategy, advisors were professionals from different employment sectors who supported schools to address any gaps in their Careers Education offer (as per Gatsby Benchmarks). Bridge GM aimed to close the gap between boardroom and class room. It brought employers into schools, offered mentoring support to increase individual access to the right networks which was kay to breakdown down access to network barriers. The Council was committed to reviewing how it could develop the co-ordination and identification of appropriate quality work experience placements for school and college students and adults,

using the public and private sector networks which would support citizens to engage with new networks.

2. Councillor Akhtar asked the following question:

"I welcome the Council's decision to create extra school places at Crompton High school. As you will know, Crompton High school is a Church of England school and thus priority will be given to pupils of this particular faith. Could the cabinet member inform the Council if any changes have been made to the admissions criteria for Crompton High and if so will they benefit the pupils from high demand neighbourhoods. If no changes have been made to the admissions policy then why not?"

Councillor Jacques, Cabinet Member for Education and Culture responded that the Admissions Policy for Crompton House would be considered and reviewed at the school's Governing Body meeting in January. The local authority would feed into that process. More information would be available once that process had been finalised.

3. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:

"Hollinwood tram stop has a park and ride facility, and in recent months for those arriving just after 9.30 can have difficulty in finding a parking bay. From personal experience I have managed to occupy the last available one while on other occasions, none at all and I have not been in a position to use the service. Obviously I would not be the only one in this situation. It has even got to the stage where vehicles are being parked immediately outside the car park. TfGM do of course have a parking restriction at their tram stops, with parking being limited only to those using their service. While it is to be welcomed that so many residents appear to be using public transport may I request that the appropriate Cabinet Member seeks clarification from TfGM on the following points:

- how many parking bays are that at the Hollinwood stop?
- what is the midweek daily average number of tickets sold for travel in both directions between the hours of 7.30a.m - 9.30a.m?
- what action do TfGM take to ensure that the disabled bay facility is used only by those displaying a blue badge?

and finally, what action do TfGM take to ensure that those using the car park are in fact using it in accordance with their rules and regulations?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services responded that TfGM had been contacted and provided the

information requested. There were 190 bays in total at Hollinwood which included 12 blue badge spaces. The midweek daily average number of tickets sold for travel in both directions between the hours of 7.30 and 9.30 a.m. was around 100 (figure accounted for 94% of tickets sold as it excluded purchased tickets for travel at anytime. In terms of parking enforcement the contractual warning signs through the site stated – 'A Parking Charge will be issued when parking in a disabled bay without clearly displaying a valid disabled badge'. The signage also included a pictogram of a wheelchair and stated 'Only vehicles displaying a current Valid Disabled badge may park in these Disabled Bays'. The operatives visited the site on a daily basis and checked all vehicles parking within a Disabled Bay were displaying a valid blue badge. Any vehicle which did not display a valid blue badge would receive a Parking Charge Notice (PCN). The signage also states that the car park is for the use of Metrolink Passengers only and that 'If you park on this land contravening the above parking restrictions you are agreeing to pay a parking charge to the sum of £100.00'. TfGM acknowledged that it was difficult to enforce the condition of 'non Metrolink users' as they operated free park and ride facilities network wide which were all inspected on a daily basis. Whilst the operatives were on site, proof of tickets would be sought and the necessary fines issued if there was a breach. TfGM also carried out random inspections whereby teams were posted to car parks and would challenge people heading away from the tram stop. They were looking to introduce barriers to car parks in the future once the smart ticketing system had evolved there was no timescale for this at present.

4. Councillor H. Gloster asked the following question:

"One of the first issues I encountered after election was dog fouling. I was asked for signs in May and was advised that they were on order. I have chased the signs on pretty much a fortnightly basis. I was told in November that the signs had arrived but I was also told that the fixtures for them had not. Can the Cabinet Member clarify why the signs are manufactured on Mars and the fixings on Venus and which space shuttle will be delivering them as we are still waiting for them on site?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services confirmed that the signs were ready for installation. Officer had to redesign the signs due to legislative changes and then unfortunately the wrong fixing brackets were delivered with the newly designed signs. The correct fixings had now been received and so were ready for installation. An officer has been asked to liaise with members regarding the location.

5. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

"How many freedom of information requests have been submitted this year to the Council, and what is the approximate cost to the tax payer for each request?"

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Resources responded that the Council had received 1,428 freedom of information requests to date in 2018 and had managed 13 appeals. The requests varied quite significantly in complexity and the time needed to prepare a response. Response times varied from a few minutes to many hours where requests were more complicated. The Council did not record the time taken to prepare individual FOI responses or consideration of appeals. The law required the Council to answer FOI requests that could take up to 18 hours to complete. An average cost of £25 per hour to determine a response to a request had been assumed to date which resulted in a maximum cost of £450 per FOI. However, this came with a caveat because of the wide range of and complexity of FOI request and therefore did not give a full picture of the range of costs by request type.

6. Councillor Davis asked the following question:

"Could the member responsible for housing give an update on the Burnham bed initiative for rough sleepers? I work very closely with various departments council voluntary and the housing sector on this and after some teething issues there seems to be significant progress being made and can I personally thank all because there are a lot of people in Oldham with somewhere warm to sleep and have a wash."

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that since the launch on 1st November, 'A Bed for Every Night' has accommodated 30 people who were either sleeping rough, or at risk of doing so, in Oldham. A dedicated night shelter run by DePaul, which could accommodate up to 10 men, had been set up at Oldham Fire Station providing a bed, food and hot shower. The opening of this facility had been delayed by a few days whilst health and safety checks were carried out, but it was now fully operational and being well used with approximately 9 men sleeping there each night. A local housing provider, Yale Housing, were also opening up their town centre office as a hub people accessing the shelter could use during the day. For female rough sleepers, provision was made available in existing supported housing schemes and for couples, bed and breakfast accommodation was being provided. Feedback about the night shelter and the support offered had been positive and it was report that 10 people had already been successfully supported to move out of ABEN into more previous accommodation.

7. Councillor Heffernan asked the following question:

"Taxi and private hire drivers convicted of serious offences could be banned across Yorkshire, under proposals that could see Bradford**,** Calderdale**,** Leeds**,** Kirklees**,** Wakefield and York Councils agree a common legal position. Does the relevant Cabinet Member feel that this is a good idea in Greater Manchester and, if so, would this Council be prepared to lead on this proposal with other GM local authorities and the GM Mayor's Office?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services noted the work that Yorkshire Authorities were doing and commended their proposals. Oldham already had a robust policy and Licensing Members regularly refused applications for licences from applicants with convictions. The Council's Licensing Manager chairs the Greater Manchester Licensing Network which was embarking on a project early next year to unify its approach to a policy on convictions. It was hoped that this piece of work would strengthen the Greater Manchester position and that all members would endorse the work when it was published next year.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

RESOLVED that the questions and responses provided be noted.

11 **TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, INCLUDING THE ATTACHED LIST OF URGENT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, AND TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON ANY ITEMS WITHIN THE MINUTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, AND RECEIVE RESPONSES FROM CABINET MEMBERS**

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd October 2018 were submitted.

There were no questions or observations.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 22nd October 2018 be noted.

12 **NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1 – Universal Credit

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Judd SECONDED the following MOTION:

"This council notes with great concern the recent reports from the United Nations on extreme poverty and human rights in the UK, and from the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the unequal (and possibly illegal) impact of government cuts. The UN highlighted a number of issues that we as Oldhamers know through experience, including that:

- 'Local authorities … which perform vital roles in providing a real social safety net have been gutted by a series of government policies'
- 'As a result of changes to taxes, benefits and public spending from 2010 through 2020, Black and Asian households in the lowest fifth of incomes will experience the largest average drop in living standards, about 20%'
- 'Another 1.5 million more children will fall into poverty between 2010 and 2021/22 as a result of the changes to benefits and taxes, a 10% increase.'
- 'The experience of the United Kingdom, especially since 2010, underscores the conclusion that poverty is a political choice.'

Universal Credit, introduced by the Coalition Government, is at the heart of the misery inflicted upon so many of our communities. While the government stoically insists on a punitive five week wait time before receiving any benefits, the Peabody Trust estimates that more than 100,000 children are a risk in households struggling with this wait over Christmas. The government's solution – advance loans for those able to prove they can't afford to eat – only serves to extend the hardship with one in three claimants losing up to 40% of their monthly income to repay these debts.

Government welfare reform policy has increased the overall level of deprivation in Oldham and resulted in 40.66% of our children living in poverty.

The latest Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, and fifth in a little over two years, has acknowledged the 'real problems' with Universal Credit and promised a root-and-branch review.

To this end, this council resolves to instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, inviting her to:

1. Visit Oldham as part of her review, to learn from councillors, officers and residents about the effects of her government's policies since the borough became a pathfinder for Universal Credit in 2013.
2. Eliminate the five week delay in receiving benefits, as recommended by the UN, or at least reduce it to two weeks, as recommended by the Peabody Trust.
3. Review the effectiveness of the 'digital by default' approach to managing and maintaining Universal Credit claims for vulnerable residents.
4. End on-going austerity measures such as the benefit freeze to working age benefits which are set to continue until 2020

Councillor Harkness spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Ball spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor P. Jacques spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Ahmad spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Jabbar exercised his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 48 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 0 votes were cast AGAINST with 3 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Rt. Hon. Amber Rudd MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, inviting her to:

1. Visit Oldham as part of her review, to learn from councillors, officers and residents about the effects of her government's policies since the borough became a pathfinder for Universal Credit in 2013.
2. Eliminate the five week delay in receiving benefits, as recommended by the UN, or at least reduce it to two weeks, as recommended by the Peabody Trust.
3. Review the effectiveness of the 'digital by default' approach to managing and maintaining Universal Credit claims for vulnerable residents.
4. End on-going austerity measures such as the benefit freeze to working age benefits which are set to continue until 2020.

Motion 2 – Gender Based Violence

Councillor Ur-Rehman MOVED and Councillor Stretton SECONDED the following MOTION:

"This council notes that Monday 10th December was Human Rights Day, marking the end of an international 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. The campaign aims to shine a light on the scale of gender-based violence that continues to blight our society.
Gender-based violence remains an issue of fundamental importance affecting Oldham residents, with signs that the challenge is growing. Across Greater Manchester, reported sexual offences increased by 44% between 2016 and 2017 to over 9,000, and 27 women were murdered by their partners. Over 6,000 incidents of domestic violence and abuse are reported to the police each year in Oldham alone.
In addition to action taken by the police to prosecute offenders, there are a range of services concerned with supporting survivors and addressing the behaviour of perpetrators including:

- Referral to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub to assess the support needs of survivors and their families;
- Refuge provision to provide emergency accommodation and support;

- Four Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs), working with survivors and a Greater Manchester team of three specialist IDVAs, based in Oldham, who support survivors of so-called 'honour-based' violence – such as forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- The REFRAME programme to challenge the behaviour of perpetrators of domestic violence;
- Work of voluntary and community groups such as Inspire Women Oldham which involve survivors of violence and abuse.

This council resolves to:

1. Produce a comprehensive action plan with its partners to marshal the resources and influence of Oldham Council and the community to tackle gender-based violence in the borough, working towards a White Ribbon Award.
2. Commit to raising awareness of the scale of gender-based violence, and the resources and services available to residents.
3. Expand our work with community groups and those with experience of gender-based violence, putting them at the heart of solutions, in line with this year's 16 days of activism theme, #HearMeToo."

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. A comprehensive action plan be produced by the Council and its partners to marshal the resources and influence of Oldham Council and the community to tackle gender-based violence in the borough, working towards a White Ribbon Award.
2. To commit to raising awareness of the scale of gender-based violence, and the resources and services available to residents.
3. The work with community groups and those with experience of gender-based violence be expanded putting them at the heart of solutions, in line with this year's 16 days of activism them, #HearMeToo.

<u>Motion 3 – Suffrage and Peterloo</u>

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Roberts as Mover of the Motion and Councillor Chadderton as Seconder of the Motion requested the following motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting.

"In 2018 Oldham has celebrated the centenary of women's parliamentary suffrage and the 90th anniversary of universal adult suffrage.

This Council welcomes the installation of Annie Kenney's statue in Parliament Square and the unveiling on the 14th December 2018, the anniversary of the first general election when women could stand as candidates and vote.
This Council recognises that the struggle for equality and the right to vote was long and hard fought. We reaffirm our commitment to commemorating the Peterloo Massacre of 16th August 1819 as a significant contribution to the struggle.
This Council resolves to:

1. Thank everyone who has contributed to commemorative and celebratory activities, events and everyone who has helped to raise the money to pay for Annie Kenney's statue.
2. To invite Oldham residents and community organisations to join with the Council in commemorating Peterloo and the fight for equal rights."

RESOLVED that the Motion be rolled over to the Council meeting to be held on 20th March 2019.

13 **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

Motion 1 – Improving Public Safety in Oldham's Night time Economy

Councillor H. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following MOTION:

"Council notes that:

- In Bradford and Manchester local businesses and community groups have joined with local colleges and universities to establish Student Safe Spots/Zones; these are premises self-identifying as havens for students who are being followed,or are feeling vulnerable and unwell. Staff at these venues offer assistance in booking taxis home; in contacting the emergency services if their assistance is required; or offer a temporary safe haven until a problem has passed. Venues signed up to the scheme receive a sticker to place prominently to advertise their involvement and a list and map of venues is published on line for students to access.
- In Bradford, there also exists an agreement with local taxi businesses that students without money but presenting with a valid student ID badge will be offered carriage and the bill is then sent to the student for payment, via the relevant college and university authorities.
- The 'Ask for Angela' scheme is operated nationwide in many pubs and clubs. If a member of the public who feels vulnerable and threatened 'Asks for Angela' of the on-premises staff, they know to take that person to a safer location and offer them assistance, such as calling a taxi, contacting friends or in certain circumstances ringing the police. Premises promoting the scheme display posters, which are usually placed in the toilets of those establishments to be discreet.

Council believes that establishing such schemes in our borough would help safeguard vulnerable people in our Borough, especially students and women enjoying our night time economy, and would complement the excellent work being done by the Oldham Street Angels.
Council therefore resolves to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Board to examine in conjunction with relevant partners, including the Oldham College, Oldham Sixth Form College, University Campus Oldham, schools with post-16 provision, licensed premises and public and private hire taxi businesses, the practicality of establishing such schemes as soon as possible in our town and district centres."

Councillor Iqbal spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Shah spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Shuttleworth spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor McLaren spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Williamson spoke in support of the Motion.

Members recorded their thanks for the work of the Street Angels.

Councillor H. Gloster did not exercise her right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Overview and Scrutiny Board be asked to examine in conjunction with relevant partners, including the Oldham College, Oldham Sixth Form College, University Campus Oldham, schools with post-16 provision, licensed premises and public and private hire taxi businesses, the practicality of establishing such schemes as soon as possible in our town and district centres.

<u>Motion 2 – Changes to the Planning System to Fast-track Fracking:</u>

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Heffernan SECONDED the following motion:

"Council notes:

- With concern that the government is proposing two major changes to the planning system as it applies to shale gas extraction (or fracking) by:
  - Granting automatic planning permission for exploratory drilling prior to fracking, using 'permitted' development rules. This would remove the need for companies to submit a planning application and so also reduce local democratic scrutiny.
  - Including shale gas production projects in the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime. This would take decision-making powers on shale gas

production away from local councils and hand it to central government.

- That wherever fracking has been proposed, it has been opposed by the public and local authorities because of the real fears about noise, traffic, air pollution, the impact on the countryside, and the effects on climate change.
- That the Cardiff Business School has produced a report that reveals that to replace 50% of the UK's projected future gas imports for 2021 – 2035 would in the most likely scenario require around 6100 fracking wells to be built on well pads that could cover the area of 4900 football pitches. This would require the equivalent of drilling and fracking one well every day for fifteen years.

Council believes that:

- The Government's proposals completely contradict the principles of localism and set a dangerous precedent for planning authorities in denying them the right to determine certain types of planning applications locally and in denying members of the public and communities their say during the planning process.
- 'Permitted Development' – the category of planning that the government wants to move shale gas exploration drilling into – which was designed for developments with a low environmental impact and is an inappropriate category for drilling which has such wide-reaching implications for local communities and climate change.
- Bringing fracking applications under the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects regime will be harmful to local communities.
- Local authorities and local people are best placed to continue to make decisions throughout the planning process on matters that affect their locality, including fracking.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to:

- Write to the relevant government ministers outlining this Council's objections to the proposed changes and requesting that fracking applications, or indeed on any other planning matter relating to our locality and its people, be determined locally.
- Copy in our three local Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester and ask for their support on this issue."

Councillor Roberts spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor S. Bashforth spoke in support of the Motion.
Councillor Sykes spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that the Chief Executive be asked to:

1. Write to the relevant government ministers outlining this Council's objections to the proposed changes and requesting that fracking applications, or indeed on any other planning matter relating to our locality and its people, be determined locally.
2. Copy in the three local Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Greater Manchester and ask for their support on this issue.

Motion 3 – Sustainable Public Health Funding

Councillor C. Gloster MOVED and Councillor Harkness SECONDED the following MOTION:

"Council notes that:

- Around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol. Smoking accounts for 80,000 early deaths every year and remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world. Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively. All three increase the risk of: cancer, diabetes, lung and heart conditions poor mental health and create a subsequent burden on health and social care.
- The public health grant funds vital services and functions largely delivered by local authorities to prevent ill health and reduce the burden placed upon the NHS and local authorities; for example, social care for smoking-related illnesses is estimated to cost local authorities £760 million per annum.
- In 2018/19 and 2019/20 every local authority will have less to spend on public health than the year before.
- The Government is looking to phase out the Public Health Grant by 2020/21 and to replace this with funding via business rates retention.

Council believes that:

- The impact of cuts to public health on our communities is becoming difficult to ignore.
- It is vital that local authorities have enough funding to deliver the functions and services they need to provide. Deprived areas, like Oldham, suffer the worst health outcomes, so it is also vital that areas with the greatest need receive sufficient funding to meet their local challenges.
- Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health services, people suffer, demand on local health services increases and the economy suffers. Poor public health cost local businesses heavily through sick days and lost productivity.
- We must restore public health funding or our health and care system will remain locked in a 'treatment' approach,

which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents.

Council resolves to:

- Continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of our abilities – to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.
- Ask the Chief Executive to:
    - Cancer Research UK setting out this Council's support for their call for increased and sustainable public health funding.
    - The Secretary of State for Health calling on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a 'prevention first' approach."

Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor C. Gloster did not exercise his right of reply.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. The Council continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of its abilities to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that was fit for the future.
2. The Chief Executive be asked to write to:
    a. Cancer Research UK setting out this Council's support for their call for increased and sustainable public health funding.
    b. The Secretary of State for Health calling on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a 'prevention first' approach.

14a To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the following Partnership meetings were submitted as follows:

MioCare Board	17th September 2018
Health and Wellbeing Board	25th September 2018

There were no questions or observations on the Partnership minutes.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Partnership minutes as detailed in the report be noted.

14b To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the following Joint Authorities meetings were submitted as follows:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority Waste And Recycling Committee	13th September 2018
Police and Crime Panel	30th October 2018
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	26th October 2018
National Park Authority	5th October 2018
Transport for Greater Manchester	14th September 2018
Greater Manchester Health and Care Board	14th September 2018

There were no questions on the Joint Authorities minutes.

Members raised the following observations:

Councillor H. Gloster – GMCA Waste and Recycling Committee, 13th September 2018, Item WRC 18/24 – Plastic Free GM. Councillor H. Gloster raised the GMCA requirements and that the local authorities knew their communities better in order to reduce plastics and found it difficult that 'one size fits all' would be successful.

Councillor Hewitt, Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee Representative, responded that GMWDA worked with local authorities and did not dictate but overseen. The local authority was charged with recycling.

Councillor Sheldon, GMCA, 26th October 2018, Item 219/18 – Northern and Transpennine Express Rail Performance Update. Councillor Sheldon raised that the Leader of Tameside Council had raised the poor service. Councillor Sheldon expressed disappointment that the Leader had not mentioned that poor service at Greenfield with ongoing poor service and disruption caused daily. Councillor Sheldon asked that Greenfield not be forgotten as public transport should be promoted.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise assured that Greenfield Rail Station was not forgotten and the issue raised a number of times including the Leader's first GMCA meeting In June. The issue of Greenfield Station was lobbied regularly and the Leader would ensure that it was raised at the next meeting.

Councillor Sykes, Police and Crime Panel, 30th October 2018. Councillor Sykes raised the issues that were discussed on the agenda and raised that no issues such as those raised at Council were on the agenda and asked if this was just a 'blip' and raised the shortage of uniformed officers and other work to be done.

Councillor Williams, Police and Crime Panel representative raised

the precept for police expenditure. The Steering Group addressed most of the 'nitty gritty' work. The Panel's responsibility was to ensure that the Deputy Mayor did what she was supposed to do.

Councillor Sykes, GMCA, 26th October 2018, Item 222/18 – Devolution of the Adult Education Budget. Councillor Sykes raised the issue of the allocation of the funding provision. Adult Education was to provide better life chances. The total spend could have been used in Oldham alone for essential skills needed to allow an unqualified workforce access to better jobs.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise highlighted the principle of devolution and agreed with the observation related to funding.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Partnership minutes as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The observations and responses provided be noted.

15 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which informed members of actions that had been taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

RESOLVED that the update on Actions from Council be noted.

16 **FAILSWORTH EAST BY-ELECTION RESULT AND POLITICAL BALANCE UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which detailed the results of the recent Failsworth East By-Election and notification that one Borough Councillor was no longer a member of the Labour Group. A review had been undertaken and changes made to committee members related to political groups.

RESOLVED that:

1. The result of the Failsworth East By-election held on 29th November 2018 be noted.
2. The new composition of the political groups as outlined in the report be noted.
3. The following Committee changes be agreed:
    - The two vacancies on Licensing be filled by Councillor Harrison and Councillor Haque
    - The vacancy on the Charitable Trust be filled by Councillor E. Jacques
    - Councillor Malik step down as a member of the O&S Performance and Value for Money Select Committee
    - Councillor Azad step down as an Independent Member on Audit

- Councillor Azad be appointed as an Independent Member of O&S Performance and Value for Money Select Committee
- Councillor Rehman be appointed as an Independent Member on the Audit Committee.

4. The following substitutes be agreed:
   - Councillor Davis on Audit Committee
   - Councillor E. Jacques on Overview and Scrutiny Board.

17 **BREXIT UPDATE**

Council gave consideration to an update on the potential implications of the 'leave' result for Oldham and Greater Manchester. The report provided an update on the latest GMCA Brexit Monitor report dated 30th November 2018. The report referenced the latest analysis, key aspects of the Withdrawal Agreement which included the financial settlement, citizen rights, transition period and the Northern Ireland protocol. The Brexit Monitor also examined the impact of Brexit on the economic function. It was reported that the Gross Domestic Product had grown to 0.6% between Q2 and Q3 (which was below the pre-Brexit predicted 2.1%).

Councillor Fielding spoke on the report.
Councillor Judd spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that the update on the European Union Referendum be noted.

18 **CIVIC APPRECIATION NOMINATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive which sought approval for the nomination of Alan Noble and Trevor Warren to receive the Council's Civic Appreciation Award.

The nomination was in recognition of Mr. Noble's and Mr. Warren's significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the borough and community of Oldham.

RESOLVED that:

1. The nomination for Mr. Noble and Mr. Warren to receive the Civic Appreciation Award 2018 be agreed.
2. The ceremony for the award to take place at the Council meeting to be held on 20th March 2019.

19 **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN**

Council gave consideration to the Youth Justice Strategic Plan which set out the strategy for the Youth Justice Service (YJS) for 2018/19. It was a statutory duty that the Local Authority produce an annual plan. The strategy also set out an outline action plan which set out how the Youth Justice Service would achieve its primary functions and key objectives. The service was overseen by the Youth Justice Management Board which included representatives from the Local Authority and other statutory

partners. The Board held the service to account for the achievement of performance targets, provided challenge where required and endorsed the strategic direction and operational delivery of the service.

Councillor Chadderton spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that the Youth Justice Service Plan 2018/19 be approved.

20 **GAMBLING POLICY REVIEW**

Council gave consideration to the revised Gambling Policy.

The Gambling Act 2005 created a new system of licensing and regulation for commercial gambling. The Act gave local authorities new and extended responsibilities for licensing premises for gambling and associated permissions. The Council must show how it sought to promote the licensing objectives under the Act. The role of the licensing authority was outlined in the report.

The current policy was adopted in January 2016 and had to be reviewed every 3 years. Most gambling policies issued by Councils would use the same template issued by the Local Government Association based on best practice and to ensure a consistent approach nationally

RESOLVED that the Gambling Policy be approved.

21 **A- BOARDS POLICY STATEMENT UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report which identified issues caused by the inappropriate placing of 'A' boards on the highway and pavements and a policy response as part of the Council's 'Who Put That There' street charter.

RESOLVED that the advertising 'A' Board and Signage policy be approved.

22 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance which advised of the performance of the Treasury Management function of the Council for the first half of 2018/19 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2018/19 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.

The Council was required to consider the performance of the Treasury Management function in order to comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised 2017). The report set out key Treasury Management issues for members' information and review and outlined:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2018/19;
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy;

- The Council's capital expenditure, as set out in the Capital Strategy (and prudential indicators);
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2018/19;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2018/19;
- Why there had been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2018/19; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2018/19.

The Treasury Management Half-Year Review 2018/19 report had been presented to and approved by Cabinet on 19 November 2018 and commended the report to Council. The Audit Committee will give consideration to the report in January 2019.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2018/19 and the projected outturn position be approved.
2. The amendments to both Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.
3. The amendment to the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) as set out in the table at Section 2.4.5 of the report be approved.
4. The addition to the Treasury Management Strategy 2018/19 with regard to specified investment as presented at Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

23 **ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK**

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service which provided an update to the Pay Policy Statement.

There had been significant changes and developments across a wide range of services and models of delivery since the Greater Manchester Devolution Agreement had been signed in November 2013. In particular, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care devolution had driven changes to arrangements for health and social care structures and modes of delivery. In order to ensure that the organisation delivered against each key plan and continued to respond to its statutory services and its priorities, there was a requirement to ensure the Council continued to have appropriate Executive Leadership arrangements in place.

The Pay Policy Statement 2018/19 had included the re-designation of senior posts, establishment of the role of Strategic Director of Reform and interim arrangements put in place for the statutory role of Director of Children's Services. Approval was sought to appointment to a permanent position of Managing Director, Children's Services with a level of remuneration in excess of £100,000 but not higher than

£120,000 per annum which was in line with benchmark data. Approval was also sought for the role of Strategic Director of Reform to move from an interim arrangement to a permanent basis. The remuneration for the post was £122,000 per annum.

Councillor Chadderton spoke on the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Executive Leadership arrangements in place be noted.
2. The post of Managing Director, Children's Services being moved from an interim arrangement to a permanent appointment and to hold the statutory responsibility for Children's Services be agreed.
3. The post of Strategic Director of Reform being moved from an interim arrangement to a permanent appointment be agreed.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.39 pm