

**COUNCIL**  
**08/01/2020 at 6.00 pm**



**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor G. Alexander (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Alyas, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Curley, Davis, Dean, Fielding, Garry, C. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Hewitt, Hudson, Hulme, A Hussain, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Jacques, Judd, Leach, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Phythian, Price, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Taylor, Toor, Ur-Rehman, Williamson and Williams

1           **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Briggs, Councillor H. Gloster, Councillor Hobin, Councillor Ibrahim and Councillor Sykes.

2           **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2019 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

3           **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 C. Gloster declared a pecuniary interest at Item 8d by virtue of his employment by Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Garry declared a pecuniary interest at Item 8d by virtue of her husband's employment by Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Roberts declared a personal interest at Item 8c, Cabinet Minutes, 18 November 2019, by virtue of her appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

Councillor Harkness declared a personal interest at Item 8c, Cabinet Minutes, 18 November 2019, by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

Councillor Shuttleworth declared a personal interest at Item 8c, Cabinet Minutes, 18 November 2019, by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

Councillor Malik declared a personal interest at Item 8c, Cabinet Minutes, 18 November 2019, by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

Councillor Haque declared a personal interest at Item 8c, Cabinet Minutes, 18 November 2019, by virtue of his appointment to the Positive Steps Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 8c, Cabinet Minutes, by virtue of his work with the Homeless Friendly Charity.

Councillor Chadderton declared a pecuniary interest at Item 9, Motion 2, by virtue of her employment with Manchester City Council.

Councillor Hamblett declared a personal interest by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

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

There were no items of urgent business.

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

The Mayor made reference to the recent death of former Councillor and Mayor Derek Heffernan.

Council held a minute's silence.

Councillors C. Gloster, Harkness, Hudson, Fielding, Ball, Ur-Rehman and Williams paid tribute to the work of former Councillor and Mayor Derek Heffernan.

Council congratulated Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member Health and Social Care, on the award of his OBE.

Council also congratulated Mohammed Ashraf Ali on being awarded an MBE, Ibrahim Yousaf, the youngest person in the country to be awarded a BEM and Subnum Harrif-Khan and Hilda Broadbent on being awarded a BEM.

The Mayor informed the meeting that a request had been received from Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, who wished to make statement. Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, provided the following statement:

“Since allegations of malpractice around historic child sexual exploitation cases first surfaced, we have taken them seriously. It is important that residents feel assured that the Council and its partners are doing everything possible to keep children safe. For that reason I, along with Henri Geller, the chair of the Safeguarding Partnership for Oldham, wrote to Andy Burnham requesting that an independent review into historic safeguarding in Oldham take place as part of a major piece of work looking to improve safeguarding across Greater Manchester. I'm now providing an update to councillors and the public on progress. Mayor Burnham also holds the role of Police and Crime Commissioner. In September 2017 he launched an independent assurance exercise to consider how Greater Manchester does and should respond to child sexual exploitation.

Using the same methodology and approach for the Oldham review makes it possible to utilise the same team, expertise and processes. This will make the Oldham review as effective and thorough as possible.

As for the first stage of the Greater Manchester review into historical CSE, the Oldham workstream will be led by Malcolm Newsam CBE and Gary Ridgway. Malcolm and Gary will bring their huge experience in children's social care and policing to the work, and I can assure residents that they will have the full cooperation of the council for anything they require. Malcolm and Gary will bring a level of knowledge, true independence and expertise that is unsurpassable, which includes looking at cases in other places like Rotherham and Manchester.

The terms of reference for the review, which set out its scope, methodology, governance and resourcing, will be confirmed next week. These will be publicly available. Timelines for reporting will be determined by the review team themselves, to make sure their report is conducted thoroughly, while also recognising the need for public clarity as soon as possible in relation to historic allegations.

For the review team to conduct their work effectively it is absolutely vital that anyone with evidence of historic failings presents this for consideration. As we have previously said, if anybody has evidence of offences, recent or historic, or concerns about the safety of an individual or group of individuals, please contact Oldham's multi-agency safeguarding hub in the first instance. If the reviewers do not have full information our ability to learn lessons from the past is restricted, and may put young people at risk.

Child sexual exploitation is abhorrent. It would be naïve to think that cases of child sexual exploitation don't take place, and the council and our partners must be equipped to prevent and detect it in all its forms. Our systems and services are relied upon by young people to keep them safe. I am grateful to the survivors who have spoken about their experiences, and am confident that if the council or our partners could have done more to protect or support them and others that Malcolm and Gary will identify this."

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

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

### People and Place

Reference 2019-11: Petition regarding the Footpath on the Bridge on Delph New Road (Saddleworth North Ward) received on 8 November 2019 with 483 signatures

Reference 2019-02: Petition requesting a 20 MPH Scheme for Dobcross (Saddleworth North Ward) received on 8 November 2019 with 523 signatures

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

## 7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council **PROPOSED** the following **MOTION**:

## Make Your Mark

“Make Your Mark is a UK wide consultation on issues important to young people aged 11 – 18. This ballot goes out to all high schools in Oldham, so that pupils can vote on what they feel is important in their lives and what they think Members of the Youth Parliament should campaign on for the year ahead. For the last 7 years the Youth Council has co-ordinated the consultation for Oldham.

Due to the devolved nature of politics and services such as the NHS and Policing, this year the consultation changed and young people were given 3 different categories with 5 issues within each category to vote upon. The 3 categories with 5 issues within each category to vote upon. The 3 categories were:

- UK wide issues
- Devolved issues
- Local issues.

The issues for UK wide and devolved categories were debated and chosen by the UK Youth Parliament and the local issues were debated and chosen by the Oldham Youth Council. Young people taking part in the consultation had the opportunity to vote for 1 issue from each category.

This year approximately 11,500 young people across Oldham were involved in the consultation which represents over 45% of Oldham’s 11 – 18 population.

Of the 5 issues in the UK wide issues category, unsurprisingly, ‘Protect the Environment’ was the top UK wide issue for Oldham’s Young People, with 4,515 votes. This represented nearly 40% of all votes cast and was over double the number of votes cast on any other issue. There was a similar in the Devolved issues category with ‘Put an end to Knife Crime’ gaining 4,199 votes (36.7% of votes cast) again nearly double the votes cast any other issue.

The local issues category results had a clear winner, public transport was the top issue with 3,855 (34.8% of the votes cast). The Youth Council have drafted a report, with a full breakdown of the Make Your Mark results both locally and nationally, that elected Members should have received. The report also breaks down the results by school which will allow Members to see how young people in your ward voted.

The results of the consultation have enabled the Youth Council to prioritise our work on environment, knife crime and youth violence and looking at public transport. We had already started work on environmental issues through a programme named Pioneers of Sustainable Hope (or POSH). A charter of young people’s environmental rights has been developed (that is out for consultation), are creating resources to help young people be more environmentally friendly – which will be handed out at our Eco festival (as part of our youth summit) and we have joined your cross-party climate change group.

Knife crime will also be one of the topics that we look at during our youth summit in February 2019. We are also researching how other areas of the UK, such as Glasgow and Brixton, have tackled youth violence through the public health model and hope to visit some places to see what could work here in Oldham.

We feel public transport will be a difficult issue to tackle as we are not sure how much influence we can have over private companies. However, we plan to consult young people to see if it is the cost, safety concerns, reliability or a combination of all 3 that needs to be addressed.

While we have already started the hard work on addressing these issues, we realise our influence on decision makers and those responsible for making a difference may be limited, therefore we ask that Full Council resolved to:

1. Note the results of the Make Your Mark consultation.
2. Hold a task and finish group with relevant Cabinet members to explore what is being in Oldham to address these issues.”

Councillor Chadderton **MOVED** and Councillor Williamson **SECONDED** the **RESOLUTIONS** as outlined in the **MOTION** presented by the Youth Council.

Councillor Chadderton asked that the Make Your Mark outcomes be addressed at the Corporate Parenting Panel. Councillor Williamson requested feedback be provided on the issues.

Councillor Shah spoke in support of the Youth Council Motion.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The results of the Make Your Mark Consultation be noted.
2. A task and finish group with relevant Cabinet Members be held to explore what was being done in Oldham to address these issues.

**NOTE:** Councillor S. Bashforth entered the meeting during this item.

8

**QUESTION TIME**

a

Public Questions

The Mayor advised that the next item on the agenda was Public Question Time. 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, the question would be read out by the Mayor.

The following questions were submitted:

1. Question received from Ruth Major via email:

“I’m an active member of the community and regularly encourage residents to partake in litter picking activities, not only in Oldham but across the country. You can see all the work I do if you follow me on twitter @ruthmajor44 and on my blog page:

www.rubbishruthsrambles.co.uk. I am aware of the Leader's investment in street cleaners so please could you tell me if recruitment to the new posts has now been completed? I'm also interested to know what we, as a town, are doing to actively engage schools/ communities/ businesses & commerce in the reduction of littering and in the encouragement of people to 'love where they live'."



Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Services, thanked Ms. Major for her fantastic campaign and service to the community. While the Council had invested to increase the amount of street cleaning in the borough, Oldham would only be clean and tidy with the support and efforts of residents and Ms. Major represented the very best in that regard. It was confirmed that all the appointments had now been made with the additional funding put into street cleaning and the Council continued to work with local schools on a variety of campaigns often supported by the work of local communities which varies in each of the local Districts. For a more detailed update in each area and how best to engage with local activity, residents were encouraged to contact the local District officers. A full list was available on the Council's website.

2. Question received from Maureen Aldred via email:

"My husband and I took our Grandchildren to the Oldham Christmas Lights Switch On and I just want to say what a fantastic event it was. It was well organised and the Grandchildren particularly enjoyed Hey Duggee from CBeebies. Despite the cuts, and the criticism which I am sure you must get from some quarters for spending money on this, I want to praise the Council for continuing to run this event. It is great for families and, of course, is free. I hope that you will continue to run these types of events and wonder if you could tell us what other free Council-organised events we have to look forward to over the coming months?"

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise thanked Mrs. Aldred for her question and feedback. The Leader responded that there was no better place to be at Christmas than Oldham. There were a number of free high-quality events lined-up across the festive season which included Santa's Reindeer Parade, Oldham's Christmas Lights Switch-On and Brass Monkeys. There was no shortage of fantastic entertainment to enjoy and a penny did not have to be spent. In February 2020 Oldham would be seen in a new light as three of the town centre's most iconic venues played to the borough's late-night arts festival, 'Illumnate', followed by 'Accelerate' in May, part of the UK's only festival of art dedicated to transport, travel and motion – 'SpareParts'. Oldham Pride in July was a community led day of celebration which included a parade and participatory programme. Whilst Oldham Histories Festival in September will be the largest heritage festival in Greater Manchester including heritage open days and other events. The Council would also have the 'Big

Bang Festival of Fire' in November to mark Bonfire Night with fire drawing, live performances and a fantastic fireworks display. There were also loads of free activities and exhibitions at Gallery Oldham and Oldham Libraries or take a look at the visitor website at VisitOldham.com for more inspiration of things to do, many of which were free.



3. Question from Huma Bibi via email:

“The council has faced almost a decade of cuts since 2010 under governments run by the Conservatives. Does the cabinet member for finance expect this new government to be any different and allow Oldham council’s financial position to improve?”

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, responded that the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was notified to the Council on 20 December 2019. It advised the Council of major grant funding allocations for 2020/21 which would enable the budget for 2020/21 to be finalised. The settlement confirmed that the Government had halted the continuing reduction in Government funding experienced since 2010. Instead, general grant funding had been uplifted for inflation and other major grants had been continued at 2019/20 values. Additional funding had also been allocated for Social Care. This was much better than the initial estimated budget reduction. However, £208m had been taken out of the Council’s budget under austerity and there were still major funding shortages which included social care, Dedicated Schools Grant and Home to School Transport. The local government sector had been the first to face cuts. It was hoped that when the new budget was set more funding would be provided. The Council had lost one-third of its workforce but continued to provide the same services, especially in social care.

4. Question received from Mark Rooney via email:

“The council leader posted on Facebook that he has made a bid to greater Manchester for money from the housing investment loans fund to support residential developments in Oldham town centre. He said that this could offset green belt allocations in the GMSF. Is the Leader confident that there is a market for residential property in Oldham town centre?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council had approved a refreshed vision for the town centre in June last year, whereby a town centre would be created where people would want to live. The vision comprised a number of priority areas and work on these was underway. Public realm improvements in the town centre would begin this summer. The Council had set up a Night-time economy task force which was looking at how the leisure offer in the town centre could be improved. Work on the refurbishing the former library on Union

Street into the new Heritage and Arts Centre would start in the spring. The Council continued to work with the Coliseum and Arts Council to bring forward plans for a new performance space in the town. The Leader was confident that these improvements, together with emerging plans for Tommyfield Market, would transform Oldham Town Centre and an attractive place to visit, work and live be created. Further announcements and other proposals would be forthcoming in the next few weeks. If there was interest in the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework (GMSF) further announcements would be made over the next few weeks.



5. Question received from Deborah Barratt via email:

“Can the council tell the people of Oldham why they have sold land at under-market value to communities who have or did not pay for nearly 20 years like with Oldham Central Mosque and not pay one penny in interest in all that time and can the council tell the people of Oldham why they sold Glodwick Baths during the time of purdah when the bidding system had already closed and can the council tell the people of Oldham who allowed the land to be sold for yet another place of worship on Copsterhill road when the land could have been used to build the much needed homes.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the question referred to three separate land transactions. In respect to the terms and sale price of land to Oldham Central Masjid and Mosque, this was agreed by the Council in 1995 at a price below market value. In accordance with the agreed procedure for selling land at under value, the consent of the Secretary of State (Environment) was sought and agreed in August 1997. The sale of this land at under value was therefore subject to independent scrutiny by Central Government and followed due process and provided independent scrutiny of the sale price and process. With regard to Glodwick Baths, a full response had already been given to a Freedom of Information request submitted and published in the public domain. The property was declared surplus on 17 November 2015 and a tender exercise was undertaken as per the Land and Property Protocols. Cabinet agreed to this sale at its meeting on 25 January 2016 and the transaction was then progressed by officers which resulted in the sale and the Council received the full amount of the agreed sale price. The decision by the Cabinet to agree to sell this surplus asset was not in the purdah period which began on 23 March 2016. With regard to the disposal of the former Copsterhill Road, the Council undertook a restricted tender exercise of interested parties to sell the site which included a housing provider. The outcome of this was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 26 February 2018. At this stage, the transaction was not yet completed therefore the Leader could not be specific about the price submitted by the successful bidder. However, the Council accepted the most economically advantageous offer and had to-date received the stage



payments expected from the sale of the land. The transaction had followed the Council's Land and Property Protocols.



**Oldham**  
Council

6. Question received from Shirley Blower via email:

"I have heard talk of a new secondary school in Oldham possibly being run by Blue Coat. If this is true I think it would provide more choice for parents. Is it true and if so would it be open in time for my daughter who is in year 3 to attend there?"

Councillor Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, responded that the Council was working with the Cranmer Trust who had made a successful bid to the ESFA to build a free school in Oldham. The Cranmer Trust ran Bluecoat. Preparations were still early but it was anticipated the new school may be ready for opening by September 2022. If this timing remained on track, this would mean that the child in year 3 would be eligible to apply for a place in the new school. The new Blue Coat School would be a significant addition to Oldham, providing more place for Oldham children to gain an excellent education and an excellent start in life.

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.

b Questions to Leader and Cabinet

The Deputy Leader of the Main Opposition, Councillor C. Gloster, raised the following two questions:

Question 1: Adopt the 50 Point Climate Action Plan

"I hope that all members present will agree that arguing and debating for green policy at a local level makes all the difference when we take the challenge to central government. The Liberal Democrats bringing the issue of climate change to council sets us on the right track, but it does not take us all the way. The threat of climate change can be seen globally and locally as our weather becomes increasingly unpredictable. Although some here might chuckle that Oldham weather has always been unpredictable. In all seriousness, it's one thing declaring a climate change emergency, but we must follow this through. We are part of this world, and if we fail to acknowledge it, we fail in every other purpose we strive towards. We must act on the declaration and make headway towards achieving an environmentally friendly Oldham Borough. The environmental charity Friends of the Earth have realised a 50-point plan for Councils. This is to help authorities like Oldham enact on our emergency climate change declaration. As Councillors we campaign through Council to make our voice heard by the UK government. I will not sound off every single points of the plan here tonight, but I do ask the Leader if he will prescribe this Borough to the Friends of the Earth 50 point climate action plan so that officers and members can be made best aware of how to tackle the issue of climate change in Oldham Borough."



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, wished the Leader of the Opposition, Councillor Sykes, a speedy recovery. Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council confirmed that as a result of a Liberal Democrat motion the Council had declared a Climate Emergency. Prior to that the Labour Administration had put forward a motion to establish a Green New Deal. Declaring a Climate Emergency was not enough and it was the action that followed that determined how the authority would tackle the climate emergency. In time, the Green New Deal would be declared and contained measures intended to take on energy efficiency, improve recycling rates, reducing the use of plastics and combatting climate change generally. The Leader welcomed the support from the Opposition on this matter. It was incredibly important which had been brought home particularly by the Australian bushfires. The Leader was keen that the Council was at the forefront of plans in Local Government to tackle Climate Emergency and would be when the Green New Deal was published.

#### Question 2: Interserve £10 Million Scheme

“In October 2019 it was revealed that Interserve will receive 13 million pounds of Oldham Council money to redevelop Oldham’s cultural art centre. Culture is incredibly important, it defines who we are and our civilisation. Teaching old and young about our local worth, arms our economy and society with confidence to do great deeds themselves. A 13-million-pound scheme must be incredibly complex to finance, but I wonder if this Council made any effort to find a firm locally that could have done the same as Interserve? For members that do not know, Interserve is a firm based in Reading. How on earth are we keeping the money in Oldham by spending millions of pounds down south? The point is, is that we not spending locally. Although there will be a cultural return on the project, the workers of Oldham Borough will see little economic benefit. I find it highly unlikely that this council will reverse such a large contractual decision with Interserve. It is a shame we cannot now procure a local firm to envision the development of the Heritage and Arts centre. Considering this, I must ask what efforts will be made by the recently established Cultural Governance Board. Will these efforts be concentrated on finding local businesses and contractors from Oldham Borough, to work on the project throughout its duration? We must procure locally if we are to improve locally.”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, highlighted the heritage and arts centre which was going ahead and would be an incredible cultural asset for the town. The Leader also referred to the the ambitious regeneration plans that would be forthcoming around Oldham Town Centre. The Leader had been vocal in how key cultural assets would be in the ambition for Oldham through the establishment of the night-time economy, the continued commitment to the Oldham Coliseum and supporting the Music Service when other authorities had made cuts to that type of service. The Leader said it was correct that the Council should be spending as much money as possible in the borough for the creation of jobs, well-paid jobs and use local firms. The process to the contract for the development of the Heritage and Arts Centre was part of a pre-determined tender process. The Leader added that there was a commitment to significant increase in the amount of money spent

locally within Oldham with a target of 60%. In terms of spending money within the Borough's boundaries, this compared favourably to neighbouring authorities in Greater Manchester and across the country. The Leader was proud of the amount of money the Council kept within the borough which sustained local jobs into the pockets of local people. Where the Council could do more, it would but sometimes that was not entirely possible.

Councillor Hudson, Leader of the Conservative Group, asked a question related to Troubled Families and was due to receive a £165m boost. Councillor Hudson said the fund had been launched in 2012 by David Cameron and the programme had proved a success in transforming lives. The programme had been revamped in 2015 to help 4000 families. Councillor Hudson asked if the authority had made any claims on this fund to date.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, responded that the number of families with significant needs had increased significantly and whilst any money to support Council was welcome, the programme labelled Troubled Families was an insult. The Council would make bids to the scheme and also needed a local government settlement to properly help those who needed it. The Leader would find out the amount of funding received through the programme to date.

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 Davis asked the following question:

"Non-driving staff members of Private Hire and Taxi companies deal with personal and sensitive information. Can the Cabinet Member for Social Justice and Communities confirm whether it is a requirement that these staff be trained in GDPR and be DBS checked on a regular basis?"

Councillor Shah, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Social Justice and Communities advised that Private Hire Operators who ran the companies had already received training on Data Protection which the Council had supplied last year. It was for the Operators to implement that knowledge and convey it to their staff. In terms of staff DBS checks, this was currently being implemented by the Council's Licensing Team and would be rolled out this spring. The Deputy Leader also said that staff DBS checks, staff recruitment and data protection policies were included in the Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards which was to be consulted upon in the coming months.

2. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question:

"The Government has handed more than 100 councils across England a share of around £4m to crack down on criminal landlords and letting agents. Has Oldham received any of this funding?"

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that the Government had announced a number of one-off short-term funding opportunities which sounded more impressive than they were in reality. This money was one of those schemes. The Government announced a £3.8m pot for tackling rogue landlords across the country on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2019 with a very tight closing date for applications of the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019. The funding had to be spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 and could not be used for permanent staffing roles so would not have helped the Council's main priority of inspecting people's homes and taking action when necessary, including prosecution. Given competing priorities for a team which like many Council services was under great pressure, a decision was taken to focus efforts on the next phase of private rented sector consultation that was due to start in the middle of January 2020. This consultation would explore the opportunity to continue with the good work surrounding the selective licensing scheme in some neighbourhoods within the Borough and this approach was something that was more sustainable over a longer timescale. What the Council needed was long-term revenue funding to enable the provision of effective and quality public services and not stop gap and one-off funding announcements.

3. Councillor Surjan asked the following question:

“In recent years there has been a huge increase in the number of people driving, particularly in the Coldhurst area as it leads to the main Town Centre, Colleges and has crucial links to the motorway. With many drivers using the big Tesco roundabout off Chadderton Way and Featherstall Road, local people have asked what will be done to reduce road traffic accidents and to make it safer for all drivers? During rush hour traffic cars on Chadderton Way are usually backed up all the way to Rochdale Road making it difficult for residents to cross safely despite zebra crossings or for drivers to turn on to side streets, and cars coming down Featherstall Road North (Oldham Hospital side) and also the bypass, form long queues causing huge risks for those at the give way with oncoming cars approaching at great speed. Does the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods agree with me that it is time traffic lights are installed at this busy roundabout for the safety of both local residents and drivers?”

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Services, responded that the Council's Traffic and Road Safety officers were already working closely with colleagues at Transport for Greater Manchester into the viability of the introduction of traffic signals at the Featherstall Road Roundabout to ease congestion particularly at busy periods. In recent years changes were made to the road markings on the roundabout that resulted in significant improvements to road safety and ultimately far fewer road traffic injury collisions at the junction – this was closely monitored and reflected in Greater Manchester Police's accident figures. It was also to be noted that the road safety measures, which included Zebra Crossings

and road humps along Featherstall Road continued to contribute to the road safety of the area since their introduction a number of years ago.



**Oldham**  
Council

4. Councillor Harkness thanked the Cabinet Member for the work which addressed road safety in Dobcross, recognised the hard work put in by the Dobcross community and hoped the petitions as noted would be reviewed. Councillor Harkness referenced the closure of Thurston Clough Road and the decision to suspend gritting without consultation with local councillors. Councillor Harkness asked if this could be looked at again and to support gritting so residents did not become isolated.

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Services, responded that he would look into the issue, establish why the gritting service had been suspended, review if it could be reinstated and involve local ward councillors.

5. Councillor Hulme asked the following question:

“I welcome the allocation of funding from the new Local Government Fund to tackle speeding in Denshaw, an issue of concern for many residents. Can the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods confirm the timescale for the work to be completed?”

Councillor Ur-Rehman, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods Services, responded that it was hoped that the measures could be introduced during this financial year, likely toward the end of March 2020. The process would begin with a residents’ consultation on the proposals followed by the compilation of the TMU Report which summarised the initial consultation phase with key stakeholders (Emergency Services, Public Transport, Ward Councillors and local residents). On completion, the TMU report would form the basis of the subsequent ModGov report. This document would include the outcomes of the consultation process, detailed estimates and comments from both legal and finance heads and was necessary to acquire scheme approvals and authority to proceed with the works which included all Statutory Advertising of the associated Road Hump Notices, etc. Once the ModGov report had been approved, the Statutory Advertising of the proposals could begin which takes 28 days to complete. Following this, actual construction works on site should take no more than a week or so.

6. Councillor Leach asked the following question:

“I welcome the decision to move to the new process of using development funding via the Local Improvement Fund and the decision to grant the funds for improvement to Lees Village. I want to commend the work of the active Lees, Springhead and Grotton business hub, as well as Council district officers who have made this a practical project with such excellent prospects for success. Can the Cabinet member confirm the arrangements for implementing the improvement work?”



Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that in advance of the work commencing, the District Team with the support of Environmental Services, would engage with surrounding properties and stakeholders to discuss these and potential future uses of the space surrounding the library. The proposals and designs set out within the LIF project would also be shared to ensure that the layout appeals to visitors, businesses and residents and that any positive suggestions could be included where possible. Some elements of the scheme were designed to be flexible which meant that there could be future changes to the layout should they be required. The work would be implemented with Environmental Services acting as main contractor with some aspects potentially being carried out by sub-contractors. There would be lead-in times for street furniture which would be factored into the scheduling and a design meeting would be held within the next couple of weeks in order to develop the detail of the programme moving forward. It was anticipated that the work would also act as a catalyst for discussions with private landowners in the village and that there would be scope for further improvements to take place in due course.

7. Councillor Phythian asked the following question:

“Royton has recently concluded what will now be round 1 of a bidding process for match funding of shop front improvements on the Middleton Road and Rochdale Road areas of the town centre. A second round will now be made available by an additional £25,000 from the Local Improvement Fund. This is helping to deliver the long-standing commitment of this Labour Council to regeneration of the Royton Town Centre following the opening of the Leisure Centre and the Health and Wellbeing Centre and inclusion of Royton in the GM Mayor’s town centre challenge. Could the relevant Cabinet Member comment on the difference this investment will make to Royton?”

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that along with the ambitious programme for the development of Oldham Town Centre, the Council was also committed to investing in improvements in the Districts. This was the idea behind the instigation of the Local Improvement Fund. The Councillors in Royton had been extremely pro-active in supporting the recent Business Improvement Grant scheme for independent businesses along Middleton Road and Rochdale Road. This had now been matched with an additional £25K from the Local Improvement Fund, which would enable the scheme to be expanded. This investment, alongside the inclusion of Royton in the GM Mayor’s Town Centre challenge, and investment in Royton Town Hall, would make real differences for the community of Royton. It would bring jobs and trade opportunities for local people, attract new customers to Royton, spend money locally and show Royton as a well looked after

area with inward investment. Changes in shopping habits and the arrival of national brands and supermarket chains to District Centres provided a wider choice for residents so it was essential that independent traders were supported in order to retain their local, unique distinctiveness.

8. Councillor C. Gloster asked a question related to the Local Improvement Fund and noted how well Royton had done and gained in excess of what had been available under the old area scheme, but Shaw had received nothing. Despite an evidenced application which included a survey of local youth who wanted improvements to the skate park. Councillor C. Gloster asked when the park could be improved?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the size of the Shaw bid was £250k. There was not an upper limit on bids but the Leader made reference to the previous arrangements which had allocated £10,000 per ward to spend. The Leader advised that not all money under the LIF had been allocated and another mini-bidding round would be arranged. The Leader encouraged submission of another bid. The Leader stated that £500K had been made available for the entire borough and significant investment had been awarded across the Borough including Saddleworth and Crompton.

9. Councillor M. Bashforth asked the following question:

“Cabinet has resolved that Oldham Council pledge to become Homeless Friendly, this and the decision to take the Housing Options service back in-house to me is welcome news. Can the cabinet member responsible explain the Homeless Friendly culture and how this will be adopted and implemented by the council?”

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing responded that Homeless Friendly was a registered charity that was founded in 2017 as part of not-for-profit social enterprise Beacon GP Care. The charity asked that services examine the way business was conducted and pledge to make them accessible to homeless people. The aim was to promote a cultural shift in how homeless people were viewed and treated, for example offering understanding and flexibility in terms of difficult circumstances. Oldham Council had agreed to adopt the following Homeless Friendly pledges:

- Help meet the needs of homeless people;
- Speak to homeless people with understanding and compassion;
- Examine policies and procedures to ensure they were homeless friendly;
- Train staff in the needs of Homeless People;
- Work with partners and including and encourage they care for the homeless; and
- Act as a hub for communities in efforts to help the

homeless.

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.

c Questions on Cabinet Minutes

Council were requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the undermentioned dates and to receive any questions on any items within the minutes from members of the Council who were not members of the Cabinet and receive responses from Cabinet members. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were submitted.

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Hamblett, Cabinet Minutes 18 November 2019, Item 9, Homeless Friendly. Councillor Hamblett referred to the Housing Options service being returned in-house and sought assurance that those who were homeless without means of travel could access the service.

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that a review was being undertaken on the way housing options was delivered as it had been in operation for six months and would ensure that the issue would be taken into account with staffing structures.

2. Councillor Al-Hamdani, Cabinet Minutes 21 October 2019, Item 7, Saddleworth School Update. Councillor Al-Hamdani welcomed the work to have a school of a decent standard and the additional funding. Councillor Al-Hamdani had been notified of work being initiated before the licence related to bat roofs. What engagement was in place between the Council and residents to manage the process to address concerns and if any oversight was in place so this did not happen on this or any development.

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that she was aware of the issue with the bats and would have an answer later in the week. With regard to the issue of addressing concerns, Councillor Roberts explained that the issue had already been raised between the Council's responsibility and the construction company's and had asked that when work was about to begin understand what resident needed to know and contact information be made available about relevant works with clear indications as to whom to approach on any issues.

3. Councillor C. Gloster, Cabinet Minutes, 18 November 2019, Item 10 Proposed Charging Scheme for Pre-Application Advice for Planning Proposals. Councillor C. Gloster asked about the reasons behind the decision, when charging would start, was it



intended to recruit additional staff or just receive the money for same staff and an overworked service?



Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that it was not yet clear what the level of income would be. The intention was to use the income to support the service and this would be reviewed. There would be a charge for advice which was not different from other local authorities and it was not sure what would happen with the workload.

**Oldham**  
Council

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 and 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

d

Questions on Joint Arrangements/Partnerships

Council was asked to note the minutes of the following Joint Authority and Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members.

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

Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee	12 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
Oldham Leadership Board	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	24 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
Police and Crime Panel	23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019
Commissioning Partnership Board	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	25 <sup>th</sup> October 2019
Greater Manchester Transport Committee	11 <sup>th</sup> October 2019

Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor Murphy, Greater Manchester Waste and Recycling Committee Minutes, 12 September 2019, Item WRC 19/27 – Waste Management Contract Update. Councillor Murphy asked about the recent changes to the number of journeys residents could make to local tips, what the mechanics were, how the system would be operated and what would happen if residents exceeded the number of visits?

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council responded that there was only a problem if visits were made more than 52 times a year. This would cause the vehicle to be flagged up and the vehicle checked. The system had been introduced as there had been an abuse of the system with commercial operations and people from outside Greater Manchester. The introduction of this scheme brought Greater Manchester into line with other parts of the country.

2. Councillor Hamblett, Health and Wellbeing Board, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019, Item 11 GM Common Standards for Population Health – Update. Councillor Hamblett asked about

what management would be put into place to ensure the borough became a healthier place to live.



Councillor Harrison, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, responded that she would respond to Councillor Hamblett's question regarding each section. In terms of public health interest across Greater Manchester attainment of similar standards across GM had been highlighted to Board. Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care added that there were a number of areas to address related to prevention which included keeping future generations happy and working with schools which would include health checks. Councillor Chauhan also highlighted tackling obesity, designing specialist services and other issues at a good level.

3. Councillor S. Bashforth, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Item 224/19 Greater Manchester Armed Forces Covenant Delivery, Bullet Point 8. Councillor S. Bashforth asked if the change in housing policy to assist veterans to be rehoused quickly had been implemented.

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded that the policy had been adopted.

4. Councillor Hulme, Greater Manchester Transport Committee, 11 October 2019, GMTC 47/19, GM Prospectus for Rail & Strategic Rail Update: HS2 / NPR and Tram-Train. Councillor Hulme asked about progress regarding potential of expansion with a train station in Diggle.

Councillor Fielding, Leader of the Council, responded that he had raised the issue as it had not been represented in the 2014 Master Plan and Saddleworth was underserved with transport links. It was important to secure a station given the lack of transport links in the vicinity.

5. Councillor Ball, Oldham Leadership Board, 21 November 2019, Item 4 Poverty Truth Commission. Councillor Ball commented on the success of the Commission.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Joint Authorities and Partnership meetings as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

9

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1 – Tackling Harassment and Abuse in Public Life

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Hamblett SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council acknowledges the announcement in the Queens Speech that ‘Ministers will develop legislation to improve internet safety for all’ and note many recent reports on online harassment and abuse of those in public life.

This council also notes representations made by the cross party Local Government Association where they state; ‘Harassment, threats and intimidation of local elected representatives are completely unacceptable, and must be dealt with robustly at all levels. This includes the Government, by councils, private sector; by the police and, where relevant, by the social media companies which provide platforms for specific forms of abuse’. This council believes in the right of those democratically elected by the residents of the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham to carry out their duties without the fear of harassment and abuse. We therefore support any efforts by government and those of the Local Government Association in ensuring the protection of our democracy, while recognising the importance of free speech and expression.

This Council resolves:

- To write to the borough’s MPs to seek their support in tackling harassment and abuse in public life.
- To write to the Minister for the Cabinet Office to seek a cross government response in tackling harassment and abuse in public life.
- To write to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Local Government Association to thank them for representations made to date on the issue.”

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Taylor spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Ur-Rehman spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Toor spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor S. Bashforth spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Fielding spoke in support of the Motion.

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Borough MP’s be written to, to seek their support in tackling harassment and abuse in public life.
2. The Minister for the Cabinet Office be written to, to seek a cross government response in tackling harassment and abuse in public life.
3. The Chair and Chief Executive of the Local Government Association be written to, to thank them for their representations made to date on the issue.

**Motion 2 – Government-funded Pay Rise for Council Staff**

Councillor Stretton MOVED and Councillor Phythian SECONDED the following motion:

“This council notes that since 2010 Oldham Council has lost £208million from its annual budget following government cuts, with local councils facing a funding gap of £8 billion by 2025 according to the LGA. These cuts have meant the local

government workforce has endured years of pay restraint with the majority of pay points losing 22 per cent of their value since 2009/10. At the same time workers are asked to do more, taking on additional responsibilities and heavier workloads. Without the professionalism and dedication of our staff, the council services Oldham residents rely on would not be deliverable. Government funding has been cut to the extent that a proper pay rise could result in a reduction in local government services. This council believes that the government needs to take responsibility and fully fund increases in pay; it should not put the burden on local authorities whose funding has been cut to the bone.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the NJC pay claim submitted by GMB, UNISON and Unite on behalf of council and school workers for a 10 per cent uplift across paypoints in 2020/21.
- Call on the Local Government Association to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.
- Write to the Chancellor and Secretary of State to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
- Meet with local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
- Encourage all local government workers to join a union.

Councillor Stretton did not exercise her right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The NJC pay claim submitted by GMB, UNISON and Unite on behalf of council and school workers for a 10 per cent uplift across paypoints in 2020/2021 be supported.
2. The Local Government Association be called upon to make urgent representations to central government to fund the NJC pay claim.
3. The Chancellor and Secretary of State be written to, to call for a pay increase for local government workers to be funded with new money from central government.
4. A meeting be held with Local NJC union representatives to convey support for the pay claim.
5. All local government workers be encouraged to join a union.

10

**NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

Motion 1 – Confronting the school's cuts crisis

Councillor Harkness, as MOVER of the MOTION had indicated that he wished to alter the MOTION. The ALTERED MOTION was SECONDED by Councillor Williamson.

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Williamson  
SECONDED the following motion:



“This Council notes that:

- Although additional funding has been allocated to schools for 2020/21, this does not compensate for the lack of real terms funding to reflect pay and price increases in previous years.
- Oldham Borough is ranked 73 out of 149 local authorities (149 being the lowest funded) in England for 2020-2021 school funding.
- Schools are struggling to maintain the standard of education due to the cumulative effect of underfunding over many years, particularly as the level of High Needs funding has not kept pace with the increase in pupils with Special Educational Needs.
- Some schools are attempting to reduce the number of special needs pupils accepted because of the funding gap.

The Council resolves to:

- Have the Leader of the Council write to the Minister of Education asking for recognition of the harm that the underfunding of schools has had on the standard of education in this country and in Oldham Borough and to do more to address the shortfall in funding for schools.

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Moores  
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“Add new section after this Council notes:

This Council further notes the pledges made during the 2019 General Election on school funding by the 3 main UK-wide parties:

- The Conservatives’ manifesto confirmed previously committed funding through to 2022/23 only. Schools will have £2bn less spending power in 2020/21 than they did in 2015/16.
- Labour pledged to reverse school cuts in the first year of Government and introduce ‘a fairer funding formula’ that would have left ‘no child worse off’. As a result, schools would have had £1.4bn more spending power in 2020/21 than they did in 2015/16. Funding would have been £3.2bn higher than the 2015/16 baseline in 2023/24.
- The Liberal Democrats promised to restore school funding to the 2015/16 per-pupil baseline in real terms. They pledged the same real terms spending power in 2020/21 as schools had in 2015/16. However, their manifesto did not address historic underfunding prior to 2015/16.

The amended motion to read:

This Council notes that:

- Although additional funding has been allocated to schools for 2020/21, this does not compensate for the lack of real

terms funding to reflect pay and price increases in previous years.

- Oldham Borough is ranked 73 out of 149 local authorities (149 being the lowest funded) in England for 2020-21 school funding.
- Schools are struggling to maintain the standard of education due to the cumulative effect of underfunding over many years, particularly as the level of High Needs funding has not kept pace with the increase in pupils with Special Educational Needs
- Some schools are attempting to reduce the number of special needs pupils accepted because of the funding gap.

This Council further notes the pledges made during the 2019 General Election on school funding by the 3 main UK-wide parties:

- The Conservatives' manifesto confirmed previously committed funding through to 2022/23 only. Schools will have £2bn less spending power in 2020/21 than they did in 2015/16.
- Labour pledged to reverse school cuts in the first year of Government and introduce 'a fairer funding formula' that would have left 'no child worse off'. As a result, schools would have had £1.4bn more spending power in 2020/21 than they did in 2015/16. Funding would have been £3.2bn higher than the 2015/16 baseline in 2023/24.
- The Liberal Democrats promised to restore school funding to the 2015/16 per-pupil baseline in real terms. They pledged the same real-terms spending power in 2020/21 as schools had in 2015/16. However, their manifesto did not address historic underfunding prior to 2015/16.

This Council resolves to:

Have the Leader of the Council write to the Minister of Education asking for recognition of the harm that the underfunding of schools has had on the standard of education in this country and in Oldham Borough and to do more to address the shortfall in funding for schools."

Councillor Jacques spoke in support of the Amendment.

Councillor Hudson spoke against the Amendment.

Councillor Harkness exercised his right of reply.

Councillor Mushtaq exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put to the vote, 44 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT and 3 votes were cast AGAINST with 6 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore CARRIED.

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Mushtaq SECONDED to MOVE to the VOTE. The MOVE to the VOTE was AGREED.

Councillor Harkness did not exercise his right of reply.

On being put to the vote, 51 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION and 2 votes were cast AGAINST with 0 ABSTENTIONS. The SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was therefore CARRIED.



**RESOLVED** that the Leader of the Council write to the Minister of Education asking for recognition of the harm that the underfunding of schools has had on the standard of education in this country and in Oldham Borough and to do more to address the shortfall in funding for schools.

**NOTE:** Councillor Sheldon was not in the room during the vote on the Amendment or the Substantive Motion.

Motion 2 – Urban Meadows and Bee Corridors for a greener Oldham

The Chief Executive had been notified that Councillor Sykes was unable to attend the meeting and was unable to Move the Motion and notice had been given that Councillor Al-Hamdani would Move the Motion in his absence which was AGREED. Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Murphy SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council notes that:

- Recent work in other areas of the country has seen grass verges and dual carriageway centres transformed into wildflower corridors teeming with flora and fauna.
- These urban Meadows have multiple benefits for the areas that have been created. They enhance the support for wildlife thus delivering biodiversity and increasing the natural beauty and appeal of an area.
- Nature sites attract new visitors who come to see the colourful arrays created.
- Bee Corridors will reduce the maintenance costs due to the low maintenance of such areas.
- With bits of wood and plastic and in partnership with schools and youth groups, Insect Hotels will be built along the flowery corridors to attract as much wildlife as possible.
- The purpose of this scheme is to combat the dramatic loss of habitat and falling bee numbers. Insect numbers influence plant pollination and other species depend upon their existence.
- Although these urban Meadows are not for every community space and roadside, by increasing the local biodiversity in Oldham borough will have a positive effect on learning, mental health and overall appeal in the area.
- If a green Oldham is the ambition, this motion takes us a step forward to achieving that.

This Council resolves to:

- Have officers assess the feasibility of establishing Wildflower corridors, insect hotels and urban meadows across the Borough. Officers should also work closely

with Parish Councillors and Borough Councils on this matter.

- A report highlighting potential locations and areas suitable should be presented to Cabinet before work can begin in 2020.
- The report will focus on working with the local community, businesses and Councillors to distinguish good and bad practice areas for this scheme.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Judd  
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

“Bullet point 1 of this council notes:

Delete ‘in other areas of the country’

Bullet point 8 – delete ‘If’ and insert ‘As’

In This Council resolves:

Bullet point 1

Delete ‘Have officers assess the feasibility of establishing’ –  
insert ‘Welcome’

Delete ‘insect hotels

After ‘urban meadows’ insert already in place across the  
borough

Delete last sentence

Bullet point 2 delete and insert, ‘Support further work to extend  
this approach and ask officers to investigate including insect  
hotels’

Bullet point 3

Delete ‘The report will focus on working’

Insert ‘Encourage local councillors to work with’

Insert ‘and’ between community and ‘businesses’

Delete ‘and Councillors to distinguish’

Insert ‘in identifying suitable sites and’

Delete: ‘areas for this scheme’ and insert ‘in promoting urban  
wildflower sites’.

Amended motion to read:

“This Council notes that:

- Recent work has seen grass verges and dual carriageway centres transformed into wildflower corridors teeming with flora and fauna.
- These urban Meadows have multiple benefits for the areas that have been created. They enhance the support for wildlife thus delivering biodiversity and increasing the natural beauty and appeal of an area.
- Nature sites attract new visitors who come to see the colourful arrays created.
- Bee Corridors will reduce the maintenance costs due to the low maintenance of such areas.
- With bits of wood and plastic and in partnership with schools and youth groups, Insect Hotels will be built along the flowery corridors to attract as much wildlife as possible.



- The purpose of this scheme is to combat the dramatic loss of habitat and falling bee numbers. Insect numbers influence plant pollination and other species depend upon their existence.
- Although these urban meadows are not for every community space and roadside, by increasing the biodiversity in Oldham borough will have a positive effect on learning, mental health and overall appeal in the area.
- As a green Oldham is the ambition, this motion takes us a step forward to achieving that.

This Council resolves to:

- Welcome wildflower corridors and urban meadows already in place across the borough.
- Support further work to extend this approach and ask officers to investigate including insect hotels.
- Encourage ward councillors to work with local community and business groups in identifying suitable sites and good practice in promoting urban wildflower sites.

Councillor Al-Hamdani did not exercise his right of reply.  
Councillor Chadderton did not exercise her right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

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

Councillor Al-Hamdani did not exercise his right of reply.

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

**RESOLVED that:**

- Wildflower corridors and urban meadows already in place across the borough be welcomed.
- Further work to extend this approach be supported and officers investigate insect hotels.
- Ward Councillors be encouraged to work with local community and business groups in the identification of suitable sites and good practice in the promotion of urban wildflower sites.

Motion 3 – A sensible approach to firework displays

The Chief Executive had been notified that Councillor H. Gloster was unable to attend the meeting and was unable to Second the Motion and notice had been given that Councillor Williamson would Second the Motion in her absence which was AGREED.

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following MOTION:

“This Council notes that:

- The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) says the law is failing. It does not prevent or sufficiently reduce the risk of fireworks causing

distress, injury or anxiety to people, as well as death, injury or distress to animals.

- That further research is needed to properly understand the impact of noise on animals and people. In the meantime, several things can be done to improve the situation for wildlife and people at risk of being affected by firework explosions.
- Applying the same Challenge 25 legislation to fireworks as there is with Alcohol will ensure that less young people will be injured by fireworks.
- Review of the licensing all public firework displays is needed, ensuring displays are better advertised to the public informing of noise levels and how it may affect people and animals.

This Council resolves to:

- Ensure all public firework displays within Oldham Borough to be advertised in advance of the event, with appropriate advertising for the size of the display, allowing residents to take precautions for people in their care and pets.
- Actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
- Encourage local suppliers of fireworks to separate ‘quieter’ fireworks from the loud ones so people can choose which ones they prefer with animal and people safety in mind. And give large labels to sticker the products with: green for quiet, red for loud.
- Applying Challenge 25 legislation to the sale of fireworks in Oldham Borough. Challenge 25 is a scheme that encourages anyone who is over 18 but looks under 25 to carry acceptable ID when they want to buy alcohol. With the danger that Fireworks carry, the same policy should be applied for people who want to possess fireworks.

Councillor Roberts MOVED and Councillor Chauhan SECONDED that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4(d) the motion be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

Councillor Al-Hamdani did not exercise his right of reply.

On being put to the VOTE, that the MOTION be REFERRED to Overview and Scrutiny was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4(d) the motion be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Board.

## **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 issues raised at those meetings.

Councillor Fielding spoke on the report.

**RESOLVED** that the actions taken regarding motions and actions from previous Council meetings be agreed and correspondence and updated received be noted.

12

### **LEVY ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY AGREEMENT**

Consideration was given to a report of Director of Environmental Services and the Director of Finance which provided an update on the Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA).

The Waste Management Levy Allocation Methodology (LAMA) was a proposed 6-year agreement between the 9 District Authorities subject to the Combined Authority waste disposal arrangements which fairly allocated fixed and variable disposal costs through the levy. A review of current methodology, the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) was deemed appropriate following the recent procurement exercise which resulted in a fundamentally revised contract to deliver waste disposal. Agreement to the methodology was sought partially through the first year of a 7-year contract. There was the option to extend the contract by a further 3 years following a review with the contractor. The LAMA, as outlined at Appendix A to the report, was the proposed method for allocating the Waste and Resources budget between the constituent Districts and replaced, for 2019/20, the current Inter Authority Agreement (IAA).

The revised agreement had been subject to scrutiny by the Overview and Scrutiny Performance and Value for Money (PVFM) Select Committee at its meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and was considered and agreed by Cabinet on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Council must give formal approval to comply with the requirements of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA).

**RESOLVED** that the contents of the Levy Allocation Methodology Agreement (LAMA) report be noted and that the LAMA be accepted as the new agreement between the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

13

### **TREASURY MANAGEMENT MID-YEAR REVIEW**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Finance which advised on the performance of the Treasury Management Function of the Council for the first half of 2019/2020 and provided a comparison of performance against the 2019/2020 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 therefore set out the key Treasury Management Issues for Members information and review and outlined:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2019/20;

- 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 2019/20;
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2019/20;
- Why there had been no debt rescheduling undertaken during 2019/20; and
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2019/20.

The mid-year 2019 treasury management position had been scrutinised by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 14 November 2019 and was considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 18 November 2019. Both the Audit Committee and Cabinet were content to commend the mid-year report to Council for approval.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Treasury Management activity for the first half of the financial year 2019/2020 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 amendments 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 2019/2020 with regard to specified investments as presented at Appendix 3 to the report be approved.

14

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

Consideration was given to a report which sought approval for amendments to the Council's Constitution.

A refresh of the Council's Constitution had been undertaken with two principal objectives. The first was to ensure that all legislative and procedural references were current and up to date, including cross referencing to detailed procedures from more descriptive content and, secondly, looked to simplify, so far as possible, what would always be a complex procedural document to aid both understanding and application to practical circumstances.

The Council's Constitution was based around guidance and a suggested model proposed in conjunction with the Local Government Act 2000. Whilst the Council's procedures and principal references in the Constitution had been updated over time, the piecemeal nature of the legislative developments had likewise been reflected in the piecemeal amending of the Constitution. Amendments over time had been made to deliver the immediate implication of the legislation. As a result, content might not 'flow', cross referencing might not be complete and incidental change not always be appreciated. The Review sought to bring coherence to these piecemeal amendments and

ensure that incidental and cross references were incorporated in full.



**Oldham**  
Council

The highlights of the review included:

- Part 1: Summary and Explanation;
- Part 2: Articles;
- Part 4A: Council Procedure Rules;
- Part 4B: Access to Information Procedure Rules;
- Part 4C: Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules; and
- Part 4D: Executive Procedure Rules.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The suggested amendments to the Constitution as detailed at Appendices 1 – 6 of the report be agreed.
2. Any consequential amendments arising from the suggested amendments be delegated to the Director of Legal.

15

**FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Finance on Revision to Finance Procedure Rules.

There was a requirement to review the Financial Procedure Rules (FPRs) on a regular basis. Over the past few months a detailed review had been undertaken by officers from Finance, Internal Audit and Constitutional Services Teams. This had resulted in a range of proposed changes to improve the Financial Procedure Rules so they reflected current best practice.

Whilst the currently rules had served the Council well and remained fully functional, the revised Financial Procedure Rules as outlined at Appendix 1 to the report was recommended for approval. The summary of changes was quite extensive and outlined at Section 2.3 of the report. It was essential that the Council's FPRs reflected best practice and were updated with recent local and national changes.

**RESOLVED** that the revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules be approved.

16

**CIVIC APPRECIATION NOMINATION 2020**

Consideration was given to a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval for the nomination of Myra Wyers to receive the Council's Civic Appreciation Award.

The nomination was in recognition of Ms. Wyers' significant voluntary contribution and dedication to the local community and borough of Oldham.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The nomination of Myra Wyers to receive the Civic Appreciation Award be agreed.
2. The ceremony for the award to take place at the Council meeting to be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

**MUNICIPAL CALENDAR 2020/2021**

Council gave consideration to a report of the Director of Legal Services which sought approval of the draft Calendar of Meetings for the 2020/2021 Municipal year.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Council's Calendar of Meetings for the Municipal Year 2020/2021 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.
2. Approval of any outstanding dates be delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with Group Leaders.

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and ended at 9.08 pm