

**OLDHAM**  
**GREEN NEW DEAL**  
**STRATEGY**  
**2020 - 2025**

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## 1. Foreword - Cllr Sean Fielding, Leader of Oldham Council



Oldham Council has a long and proud history of taking action to safeguard and improve our environment for the next generation, with many award-winning schemes and initiatives under our belt over the last decade.

However, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the impacts of climate change could be worse than many of us feared, and we are more and more being held to account by the next generation who will have to live with the consequences of the way we live our lives today.

We do believe though that there is potentially a huge opportunity in tackling the climate emergency – the opportunity to safeguard and create jobs and training opportunities for Oldham residents in the growing green economic sector, and to support our businesses to ‘go green’, to cut their operating costs and expand their offer to access new low-carbon markets and customers. With bold and exciting projects such as Northern Roots and the new Eco-Centre at Alexandra Park, we can reinforce Oldham’s reputation as a destination for green business and tourism, and attract and keep the talent and investment we need and that the borough deserves.

So in this Oldham Green New Deal Strategy we will set two challenging new targets for carbon neutrality – 2025 for the Council, and 2030 for the Borough – and put in place a framework which will help us work together with our residents and partners to make Oldham an even greener, smarter, more enterprising place than the borough we already know and love.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

### **The Green New Deal strategic context**

- 2.1. Oldham Council has a strong history of action on climate change and wider environmental issues. The “Climate Change and Green Oldham” report to full Council in July 2019 set out the full range of the Council’s achievements so far on key environmental work areas such as:-
- Air Quality
  - Transport (active travel and low carbon transport choices)
  - Recycling, promoting behaviour change and Single Use Plastics
  - Tree Planting and Valuing Oldham’s Urban Forest
  - Warm Homes Oldham
  - Carbon reduction in Council buildings
  - Street lighting
  - Renewable and community energy
  - Sustainable and community-led food and growing
  - Engaging residents through social media and other initiatives
- 2.2. The Council has delivery programmes in all of the above work areas, which continue to be a top priority for the Council and also deliver on the Council’s commitments at Greater Manchester level, cementing our leadership role at city regional level.
- 2.3. Many of these areas featured in the Council’s Climate Change Strategy, which ran from 2013-2020. As the Climate Change Strategy expires, it is clear that many of these programmes are on a solid footing in respect of Council resourcing, prioritisation and governance, and will continue to deliver environmental excellence for Oldham across the piece.
- 2.4. The July 2019 Council report set out that the next stage of policy and programme development for the Council and borough would be a “Green New Deal Strategy”, setting challenging new carbon neutrality targets whilst bringing a new focus on building the green economic sector in Oldham to generate inward investment, jobs and training opportunities for residents.
- 2.5. This “Oldham Green New Deal” strategy will therefore focus primarily not on the Council’s existing and continuing successful environmental programmes, but on areas which require more development and investment of both time and resources if we are to achieve these challenging new carbon neutrality targets.

2.6. However, the “Green New Deal” approach will necessarily need to be embedded in all Council work areas, including the existing successful environmental programmes listed above, and so although this strategy is focused and targeted on new work, it is not exclusive and to succeed will need to be integrated with Business as Usual programmes across the organisation and wider public, private and community sectors, in a truly co-operative approach through Team Oldham.

### **Targets, metrics, method and priorities for action**

2.7. Central to this Green New Deal Strategy are two new ambitious targets for achieving carbon neutrality:-

- carbon neutrality for the council by 2025;
- carbon neutrality for the borough by 2030.

2.8. These targets reflect the Council’s commitment to, and understanding of, the urgency in helping to tackle the severe impact of the climate crisis. The Green New Deal Strategy sets out the overall approach to achieving these targets, enabled by the development of, and investment in, the ‘green’ sector in Oldham’s local economy.

2.9. The metrics for measuring progress against these two targets are as follows:-

- The measure for the 2025 target will include Council buildings and street lighting, as announced by the Deputy Leader in full Council in July 2019 when the 2025 target was set. The Council will also aim to reduce emissions from other areas under its control and influence such as the Council fleet, business travel, schools and waste
- The measure for the 2030 target is a metric currently published by central government two years in arrears and broadly splits emissions into domestic, business and transport sectors

2.10. Achieving these targets will be very challenging. The necessity of doing so is evident and coupled with the very substantial potential benefits for the people, communities and businesses of Oldham, it is imperative they are realised. The approach set out in this Strategy provides the route to achieving these goals - as a response to the climate crisis it is at the leading edge of local government developments in this field.

2.11. Alongside the initiatives and projects the Council will deliver, it also has a key role as a community leader and enabler of the wider changes that will also be necessary to deliver the borough-wide target.

2.12. In summary, the Strategy aims to meet the two targets through:

***Carbon Neutrality for the Council by 2025;***

1. Reducing CO2 emissions from Council buildings and street lighting by as much as possible where the business case allows and beginning where investment or rationalisation gives the highest financial benefit
2. Investing in large-scale renewable energy generation to meet the remaining carbon requirement, whilst generating financial savings or revenue income through the investment, as part of the Council's overall Investment Strategy
3. Implementing local, meaningful and verifiable 'carbon offset' measures such as tree planting

***Carbon Neutrality for the Borough by 2030***

1. Leading a strategic partnership of major energy users across all sectors in Oldham to achieve carbon neutrality within the partnership and demonstrate community leadership, using the approach set out above for the Council's own decarbonisation plan for 2025
2. Developing a Local Energy Market which will change the economic dynamic to incentivise renewable energy development across all sectors through enabling of the business case. Initial evidence indicates that this approach:-
  - could have the necessary large-scale impact on carbon emissions reduction
  - could cut energy bills for the Council, homes and businesses
  - may only require minimal initial investment of time and money
3. Investing in and supporting the development and roll-out of large-scale low carbon anchor energy infrastructure such as low carbon heat networks. Evidence from other towns and cities shows that this type of infrastructure:-
  - is capital intensive but can deliver a return on investment
  - can set the foundations for a heat system which can approach the required scale of change which will be necessary to meet the 2030 borough-wide decarbonisation target
  - can attract inward investment from the private sector
4. Supporting the development of the Green Technology and Services sector across the borough and support and incentivise the wider business community to engage the GTS sector to decarbonise. Initial evidence suggests that:-
  - Oldham has a strong base of engineering, connectivity and affordable premises which the sector needs

- the Team Oldham approach adopted by business engagement services already has strong engagement with Oldham businesses in the area of resource efficiency
  - this asset base can be built upon to harness resources from GM universities and business support organisations and enable Oldham businesses to innovate and diversify
  - Clustering of green businesses in Oldham can create a virtuous reputational circle which can support decarbonisation of the wider economy
5. Maximising the local benefits from Greater Manchester and national level schemes which aid decarbonisation, including in the areas of Air Quality, Transport, Waste and other key priority sectors, securing inward investment for 'clean growth' from public and private sectors

### **The Green New Deal Approach**

- 2.13. Fundamental to a green 'new deal' approach is the alignment of sustainable economic development with delivery of carbon reduction targets, as set out above.
- 2.14. The Oldham Green New Deal Strategy aims to put in place the framework and proposals to achieve these dual benefits for the borough: an expanding 'green' economy alongside delivery of challenging carbon reduction targets which will catalyse action and drive the scale and pace of change.
- 2.15. It builds on solid foundations - in 2013 there were 118 'green' businesses in Oldham, employing 2,300 people (ESTA study 2013, Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services Sector in Greater Manchester) - and sets out a vision, priorities and outcomes, alongside a delivery programme that is aimed at giving a major boost to Oldham's green economy.

### **Wider Benefits**

- 2.16. A focus on building the green economy will also support Oldham's other priorities including health and wellbeing and the "Team Oldham" co-operative agenda, through for example the Northern Roots project. The Green New Deal approach also has many co-benefits in terms of social value, quality of life for residents and an improved environment for nature and wildlife.
- 2.17. One of the over-arching principles of the Green New Deal approach is investment in the green economy to generate both a financial and a social value return, and all of the key projects in the programme of delivery will be required to demonstrate robust business cases in this respect.

### **3. THE OLDHAM GREEN NEW DEAL – VISION, OBJECTIVES & APPROACH**

3.1. The Oldham Green New Deal Vision summarises the overall ambition and purpose of the Strategy to:

***“Make Oldham a greener, smarter, more enterprising place”***

3.2. The objectives define in broad terms what the Strategy aims to achieve, not only in terms of the headline objectives of carbon reduction and clean growth, but also the co-benefits of this Green New Deal approach. Linked to these are a set of outcomes - described as a set of ‘pledges’ – that define what will be delivered and provide the basis for measuring our success. (Appendix A) These will be quantified as part of delivery planning.

#### **Green New Deal objectives**

- Make Oldham a leading local authority area for environmental quality and play a leading role in meeting the GM Mayor’s Green City Region objectives
- Deliver a sustainable economy, tackling fuel poverty and generating training and employment opportunities in the growing green business sector
- Maintain a high-quality local environment which delivers health and wellbeing benefits for residents, including food and recreation, reducing costs for public services
- Generate inbound tourism for the borough by building on Oldham’s reputation for being a green, attractive and forward-thinking sustainable borough
- Keep Oldham at the forefront of development and deployment of cutting-edge environmental technologies, and ensure that the benefits are kept locally
- Future-proof the regeneration of the borough by establishing Oldham as an exemplar Green City on energy, carbon, water and green infrastructure
- Ensure that Council staff and strategic partners, residents, schools and businesses are ‘carbon literate’ and actively engaged in delivering environmental change
- Help deliver the GM2040 Transport Strategy Right Mix target for 50% of all journeys in Greater Manchester to be made by walking, cycling and public transport by 2040.

### **Framework for the Strategy**

- 3.3. The Strategy has three broad components related to development and delivery of GND projects and a fourth focused on embedding environmental sustainability approaches and solutions in other Council initiatives and plans.
- 3.4. The three GND Programme components are:
- Green Economy, including work, skills and business engagement
  - Low Carbon (physical infrastructure enabled by a Local Energy Market)
  - Northern Roots (the 160-acre eco-park at Snipe Clough and its attendant brand and initiatives, and the state of the art zero-carbon Eco-Centre at Alexandra Park).
- 3.5. Embedding the Green New Deal approach in all Council activities, especially wider environmental programmes, will however be key to achieving the stretching carbon neutrality targets and the most benefits for Oldham residents and businesses.

### **Funding Approaches for the Oldham Green New Deal**

- 3.6. Many of the initiatives envisaged as part of the Green New Deal delivery programme are likely to require substantial capital and revenue investment. With the continuing financial pressures facing the public sector in Oldham this requires different approaches to funding green initiatives and projects.
- 3.7. The focus will be on the creation of investable packages which can either be investment opportunities for the Council or for external funders, or a blend of both. Therefore, the projects and programmes put forward in this strategy will have their own cost / benefit analyses in terms of return on investment for the Council, and the potential to secure inward investment into the borough – although some will require at-risk seed corn feasibility funding from the Council. A further option is to develop projects and then sell them on to the private sector.

### **Delivering the Programme in Partnership**

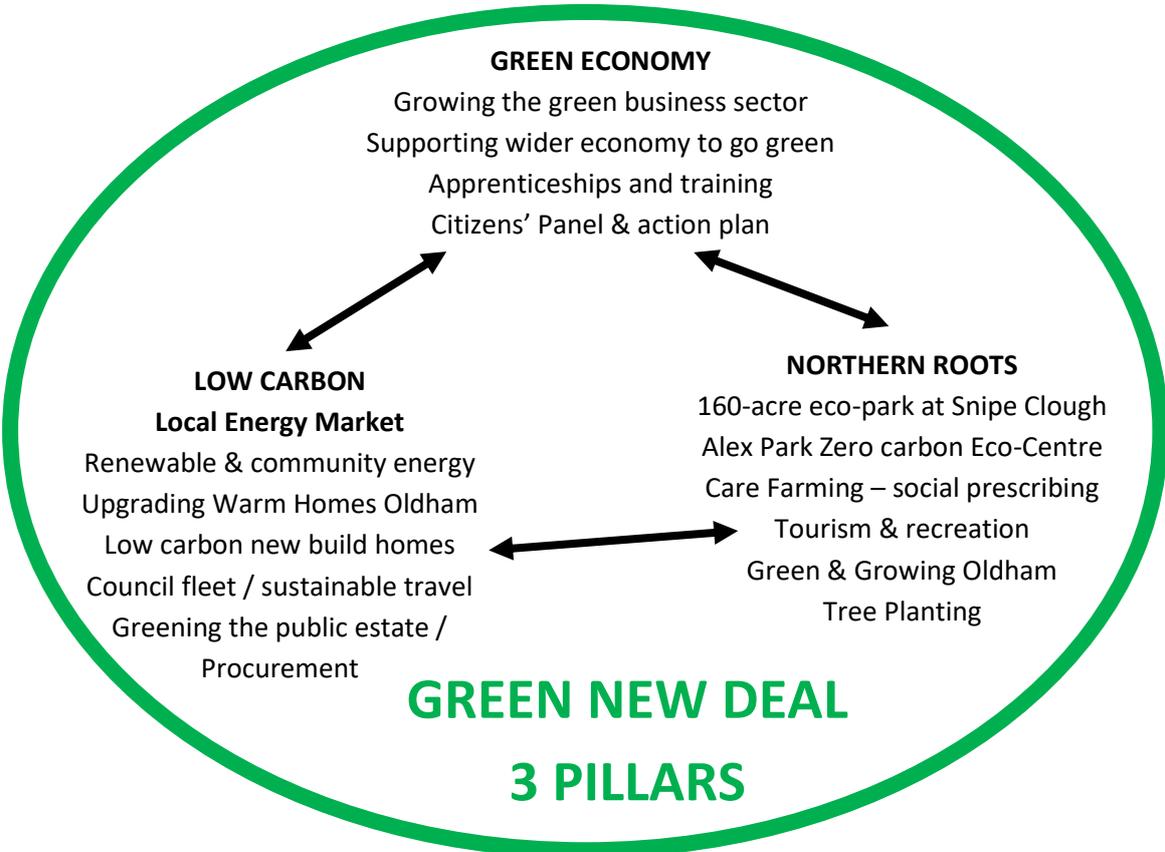
- 3.8. The Strategy has been put together in consultation with Elected Members, strategic partners and Council officers. Over the lifetime of the strategy, the delivery programme will be co-produced with residents, businesses and the Oldham Partnership.
- 3.9. Delivery will be led by the Council, working co-operatively with community organisations and local businesses, other GM Local Authorities, the Greater Manchester Green City Region Board and GM Mayor, as well as other key regional partners such as Electricity North West and the Local Energy North West Hub, and national and international partners such as national UK

government departments, non-governmental organisations, and other European regions.

**4. STRATEGIC PILLARS AND FRAMEWORK FOR THE OLDHAM GREEN NEW DEAL**

4.1 The strategic aim of the Strategy is to meet our environmental targets whilst maximising the benefit of this action to develop Oldham’s green economy. The three pillars of the strategy are Green Economy (including work, skills and business engagement), Low Carbon (including infrastructure and technology) and Northern Roots (including green infrastructure and tourism). All three main pillars work together under the Green New Deal approach. A fourth pillar is the embedding of the Green New Deal approach across everything the Council does.

**Diagram 1: Green New Deal Framework**



**GROWING OLDHAM’S GREEN ECONOMY**

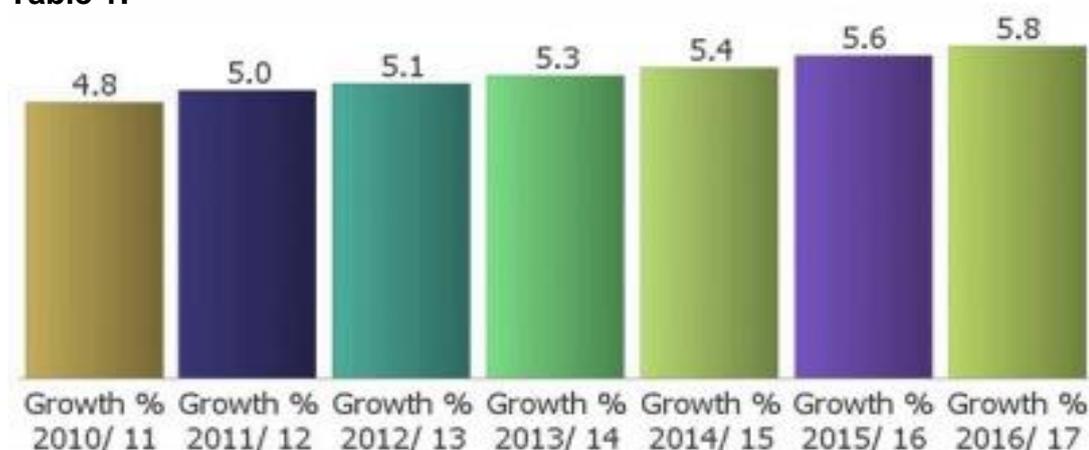
- 4.2 This includes four areas:
- **Growing the Green Technology and Services Sector** This is about attracting businesses in the fast-growing GTS sector to Oldham, creating jobs and bringing inward investment, and supporting our existing GTS businesses to thrive

- **Supporting the wider economy to go green** This can both create business for GTS sector companies and reduce energy and resource costs for businesses in the wider economy
- **Skills, Training & Apprenticeships** There is potential to create educational and training opportunities for Oldham’s young people in the growing green business sector
- **Public sector procurement** This can be targeted to support the green economy whilst cutting energy costs for the Council and partners

### Growing the GTS sector

4.3 The Green Technology and Services (GTS) sector (formerly the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services LCEGS sector) is one of the fastest growing UK economic sectors, outperforming the background economy considerably, as illustrated in the table below (source: DECC):

**Table 1:**



4.4 The 2016 “Deep Dive” into Greater Manchester’s economy (Manchester Growth Company), found a vibrant and growing GTS sector across Greater Manchester:

- over 37,000 jobs and almost 2,000 companies in GM, with total sales estimated at £5.4bn
- within GM, opportunities for employment at all skills levels, including potential to create a wide range of innovative activities, which demand high-levels of technical skills;
- Manchester Energy (University of Manchester) brings together over 600 researchers, supporting research and education across the energy spectrum and Salford University Energy House supporting leading academics and researchers to research and test green technologies in collaboration with industry.

4.5 ***The GTS sector in Oldham*** The 2013 Environmental Sustainability Technical Assistance (ESTA) study on the size of the LCEGS sector in Greater Manchester showed the following for Oldham's low carbon business sector comprised:

- 118 companies
- employing 2,300 people
- with a market value of £338 million

Oldham has a strong asset base for developing the GTS sector: a solid engineering presence, affordable and available premises, good connectivity to Manchester and the motorway network, high-quality natural capital in terms of the rural parts of the borough and the Peak District National Park, and desirable and affordable residential accommodation.

4.6 ***Attracting GTS businesses to Oldham*** The Council should develop a package of measures aimed at attracting new GTS business into the borough, as well as promoting 'home grown' businesses. This package could include:

- reduced business rates to locate or relocate to the borough
- suitable accommodation at competitive rent levels
- the creation of a 'green business district'
- a pool of people with the required skills

4.7 While these businesses do not necessarily require 'specialist' locations or office/industrial premises, the creation and marketing of a 'green business district' can act as a catalyst to attract environmental and low carbon businesses.

4.8 Making the site, buildings and facilities an exemplar of low carbon approaches, with the advantage of low running costs, would strengthen the attractiveness of such a district.

4.9 As well as initiating green businesses, the Council can also support independent green sector businesses through a range of incentives, encouraging them to set up and operate in the borough and to service non-green sector businesses in such a way that the whole local economy can achieve efficiencies and cost savings which translate to business expansion and job creation.

4.10 There is potential for this Green New Deal approach to secure significant inward investment for the borough through this methodology, and flagship schemes such as the redevelopment of Oldham Town Centre and the Northern Roots eco-park can use this approach to establish Oldham as an attractive place for investors and businesses alike.

### **Supporting the Wider Economy to 'Go Green'**

- 4.11 **Energy and resource efficiency for businesses** Help is already available for Oldham businesses to receive professional advice on energy and resource efficiency through the Greater Manchester Business Growth Hub. In light of the new focus on 'clean growth' as per the Local Industrial Strategy, the Council has an opportunity to build on the way it already engages with Oldham businesses to ensure not only that they continue to be aware of this support, but to enable them to source green technology and services from other businesses located within Oldham borough wherever possible, or even to diversify their own business into the green sector.
- 4.12 Additionally, the Council could consider incentives for businesses to 'green' their operations such as loans for energy efficiency works, or reduced business rates for businesses installing renewable energy, including those doing so by working with a community energy group such as Oldham Community Power

### **Skills, Training and Apprenticeships**

- 4.13 The Council has worked together with representatives from community energy organisations from across the UK and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to develop the UK's first community energy apprenticeship standard.
- 4.14 With a new focus on green construction for developments such as the Town Centre and Northern Roots, there is also potential for apprentices to be taken on to learn green building skills on these projects, making use of the significant sums of money in the Council's Apprenticeship Levy payment which are currently unallocated within the organisation.
- 4.15 It may also be possible to make courses in energy efficiency awareness available to residents who benefit from the Warm Homes Oldham scheme.

### **Public sector procurement**

- 4.16 The public sector, including the Council, is a major purchaser of goods and services. This expenditure could potentially be directed in such a way as to support the GTS sector and encourage businesses in the wider economy to 'go green'.
- 4.17 In terms of the Council's procurement of energy, The Council currently spends in the region of £5 million annually on energy, and the last time it was procured prices had risen around 20% in 12 months. A new approach to the procurement of energy has the potential to save the Council money on its energy bill – revenue expenditure which can then be reinvested in frontline services or meeting the budget challenge – whilst at the same time supporting

local renewable and community energy projects, and cutting fuel poverty, through the development of a Local Energy Market.

## **DEVELOPING LOW CARBON INITIATIVES**

- 4.18 The Low Carbon theme of this strategy focuses on the generation, distribution and use of energy in the Council and wider public sector, businesses, homes and community buildings across the borough, as well as transport.

### **Citizen-centric energy**

- 4.19 The Government report, “Upgrading our Energy System”, (July 2017) proposed radical changes to the way the UK’s energy system is set up. This developing new approach offers Oldham residents, businesses and communities much more control of their energy supply.
- 4.20 Through a technology-led Local Energy Market approach and various reforms to the energy market being brought in at a national level by OFGEM (including multiple suppliers on a single meter), Oldham can help to put energy generation and use back in the hands of citizens, creating more self-reliant and empowered communities in charge of their own resources.
- 4.21 The Council will seek to enable delivery of these cutting-edge technologies in Oldham for the benefit of residents, businesses and to ensure that Oldham is seen as a home and destination for business and education opportunities which realise the value of these new technologies, and to continue to secure associated external funding for projects in Oldham.
- 4.22 The Council has strong strategic partnerships with key players such as the local Distribution Network Operator (Electricity North West) and local GTS companies, who in combination can help us to deliver a world-class citizen-centred energy system for the borough. The Greater Manchester Combined Authority is developing its own approach to a Local Energy Market, including the mapping of physical infrastructure opportunities. There are also private sector companies offering LEM solutions, and grant funding available for research projects which could help the Council develop its approach to procurement of a LEM solution.
- 4.23 As well as the importance of tackling energy use in achieving carbon neutrality, the financial impact of high energy costs is highlighted through the following:
- the Council spends around £5 million annually on energy
  - the borough spends around £500 million.

- fuel poverty in Oldham is currently running at around 13% of households – over 12,000 homes, despite 6,000 people being brought out of fuel poverty by Warm Homes Oldham
- 4.24 Making a substantial impact on these costs requires radical solutions. This Strategy proposes the development of a Local Energy Market, encompassing and catalysing several key components and outcomes:
- building renewable energy generation, including public and community owned schemes
  - developing low carbon housing, including enabling the transition to electrical heating systems
  - supporting the transition to electric transport
  - enabling the redevelopment of Oldham Town Centre as a zero-carbon regeneration scheme
  - the creation of a Council-led Oldham Virtual Energy Company to accelerate the finance, installation and operation of renewable energy and Nature Based Solutions
  - tackling fuel poverty with innovative approaches such as special tariffs for residents on pre-payment meters, and generating funds for energy efficiency retrofit measures in fuel poor homes
- 4.25 There are several initiatives already underway or in place that will (subject to Planning Permission) contribute to the development of a Local Energy Market including the proposed solar farm at Wrigley Head, the RED WoLF project, Oldham Community Power Phases 1 and 2, renewable energy in the new Town Centre and the work on Local Wealth Building.

## **NORTHERN ROOTS**

- 4.26 The first phase of the exciting and ambitious Northern Roots initiative will create an exemplar Eco-Centre on the site of the current Alexandra Park Depot.
- 4.27 This facility will replace the current depot and provide a new depot facility for the Council, as well as accommodating the existing community growing hub and providing extra community and educational facilities.
- 4.28 The Eco-Centre will be zero carbon in its operation and will aim to reduce the energy running costs of the facility to zero also, through the installation of renewable energy technologies and highly energy efficient buildings. It will demonstrate both new and existing trusted technologies in a future-proofed facility of national significance.

- 4.29 The second phase of Northern Roots will create a national-class eco-park on the 160-acre site at Snipe Clough, to the South-East of Alexandra Park, as its second phase.
- 4.30 The new facility will combine community food growing and food businesses with visitor attractions, educational courses and facilities, 'care farming' (a form of social prescribing), and a range of other offers in a single one-stop destination for sustainability and outdoor pursuits.
- 4.31 A major element of Northern Roots will be the incubation and hosting of community-owned food businesses, both at the Snipe Clough site and further afield across the borough.
- 4.32 **Eco-Tourism** The Northern Roots site will be a destination for local, regional and even national and international tourism.
- 4.33 As well as showcasing sustainability, growing and food production technologies and approaches, the site will also host a range of recreational activities, from walking and mountain biking to wilderness activities, bushcraft, glamping and an events space.
- 4.34 As well as Snipe Clough, there are plenty of other 'green' tourism destinations in Oldham, and so there is also potential for an eco-tourism strand of Oldham's Tourism Strategy.

## 5. DELIVERY OF THE STRATEGY

5.1 The development and delivery of the programme will be underpinned by:-

- the Council acting as the ‘commissioner’ of green projects and initiatives;
- a flexible approach to financing green schemes and programmes;
- the Council using its key position to facilitate / amplify change in the wider economy
- recognising and working with favourable market trends;
- securing significant inward investment.

5.2 ***The Council as a ‘Green Commissioner’*** The Council will continue to provide seed corn funding for projects and initiatives, used to carry out feasibility work, to bring projects to the point where they are investable opportunities.

5.3 Then when projects are ready to be delivered, the Council will either seek to secure external investment to deliver the projects or will itself become an investor in these projects, or a combination of the two. The Council can broker multi-partner Joint Ventures and set up Special Purpose Vehicles if necessary to turn green business models into operating green sector businesses in the borough. Each project will be assessed on its own merits as to what is the best route for delivery and what additional resources or expertise it might require.

5.4 This strategy will explore the potential of the Council to generate revenue income from new legislation e.g. around ‘Biodiversity Offsetting’, which will be a new requirement on developers akin to Section 106 payments (NPPF makes reference to Biodiversity Net Gain and GMSF will also have a requirement for this). It may be possible for the Council’s own Environmental Services Teams to provide these services to developers through new projects on Council-owned land.

5.5 ***Funding Green Initiatives*** The Green New Deal programme will take a balanced approach to risk and to the demands on the Council’s Capital Programme in terms of its environmental aspirations – the programme will seek to streamline environmental investment opportunities into ‘business as usual’ processes, including regeneration schemes and rationalisation of the public sector estate.

5.6 Some of these business opportunities will be able to convert capital investment into revenue income or cost savings which can then be reinvested in front-line services or used to help meet the budget challenge, and some will deliver primarily in terms of social value, or a mixture of the two. However, all

projects and proposals will seek to deliver quantifiable benefits for the wider economy.

- 5.7 Those projects which the Council chooses not to finance itself can instead be 'sold on' to third parties for **significant inward investment** and development, bringing money into the borough and enabling the Council to recoup the initial costs of feasibility and project development.
- 5.8 **The Council facilitating / amplifying change** No other organisation in the borough occupies such a pivotal position as the Council in terms of influence, and so to release the full potential of some borough-wide initiatives, the Council alone is in a position to precipitate that change. The main Green New Deal initiative for which this is true is the development of a Local Energy Market, which can be designed, implemented and shaped by the Council in partnership with technology providers and key regional organisations such as the GM Combined Authority.
- 5.9 **Favourable Market Trends** Energy prices are generally rising and the cost of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies is falling, and where the business case for a project may currently only be marginal, it is likely that over time it will become viable due to these two trends. So whilst action on climate change is urgent, the potential to act will only increase over time.

## **APPENDIX A – Green New Deal Pledges and Target Outcomes**

### **Pledges**

1. We will make Oldham a destination for green tourism regionally and nationally, taking pride in our towns, villages, countryside and communities.
2. We will achieve carbon neutrality for the Council by 2025 and for the borough by 2030
3. We will continue to support community energy in Oldham and we will encourage other GM local authorities to work with their own community groups to build the community energy sector across the city region.
4. We will ensure that lower income households can take part in, and benefit from, the Green New Deal, along with all sections of the community.
5. We will develop a new 'Oldham Code' to reduce carbon emissions from new build homes.
6. We will continue our commitment to new woodland creation.
7. We will regenerate our town centres to a standard of environmental excellence, and ensure that new developments across the borough are built to high environmental standards to ensure resilience to the impacts of a changing climate.
8. We will explore ways to deliver a 'Citizens' Panel' on climate change and a Community climate change action plan.
9. We will make it easier for people to make greener travel choices by investing in cycling, walking, public transport and other sustainable transport infrastructure.

### **Target outcomes**

1. Oldham remains the borough with the lowest carbon footprint in GM.
2. Oldham to have the most renewable energy generation in community ownership in the city region.
3. Eradicated fuel poverty in the borough.
4. Improved air quality in Oldham.

## Appendix B – Key Greater Manchester level strategies

### The Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan

The GM 5-year Environment Plan is unique in terms of the strategic context of the Oldham Green New Deal Strategy. It is a plan for the whole of the city region to which a wide range of stakeholders have signed up, including the ten local authorities of which Oldham is one.

It sets a target of 2038 for carbon neutrality for the city region, and although Oldham's local target of 2030 is even more challenging, most of the themes of the GM 5-year Environment Plan read directly to areas that Oldham will be working on.

It should however be highlighted that historically Oldham's local climate change initiatives tend to lead, rather than follow, the GM level plans and strategies, and Oldham has successfully influenced the new 5-year Environment Plan through its lead on GM-level projects such as COALESCCE (community energy) and FoodChains4EU (sustainable food), both of which are mentioned explicitly in the new GM plan. Thus it is not surprising that the GM plan already reflects Oldham's own initiatives and priorities in many areas.

The GM Mayor leads the Green City Region initiative, and two Green Summits were held in March 2018 and March 2019 to develop an ambition and action plan for the city region as a whole. Oldham fed directly into both of these events with community energy and sustainable food 'listening events'.

The Vision for the GM 5-year Environment Plan is as follows:-

#### A long-term vision for our environment:

We want Greater Manchester to be a clean, carbon neutral, climate resilient city-region with a thriving natural environment and circular, zero-waste economy where:

- Our infrastructure will be smart and fit for the future: we will have an integrated, clean and affordable public transport system, resource efficient buildings, greater local community renewable energy, cleaner air, water and greenspace for all.
- All citizens will have access to green space in every community, more trees including in urban areas, active travel networks, environmental education and healthy and locally-produced food.
- Citizens and businesses will adopt sustainable living and businesses practices, focusing on local solutions to deliver a prosperous economy.

The 5-year Environmental Plan sets out a number of aims, to be delivered in a way which maximises positive impacts on health and prosperity (co-benefits):-

1. Aim for our mitigation of climate change: For our city-region to be carbon neutral by 2038 and meet carbon budgets that comply with international commitments.
2. Aim for air quality: To improve our air quality, meeting World Health Organisation guidelines on air quality by 2030 and supporting the UK Government in meeting and maintaining all thresholds for key air pollutants at the earliest date.
3. Aim for sustainable consumption and production: To put us on a path to being a circular economy, recycling 65% of our municipal waste by 2035 and reducing the amount of waste we produce.
4. Aim for our natural environment: To protect, maintain and enhance our natural environment for all our benefit, taking steps to implement and achieve environmental net gain.
5. Aim for resilience and adaptation to climate change: To be prepared for the impacts of climate change and already be adapting to the future changes from any increase in climate shocks and stresses.

### **GM Spatial Framework**

The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework is Greater Manchester's plan for the expansion of the city region to 2035. The GMSF aims to deliver the required number of new homes and employment sites across the city region. In many GM local authority areas, this will mean that some areas of land currently under Green Belt designation will be redesignated as development land.

Oldham Council will look at ways in which some of the loss of Green Belt in Oldham can be mitigated by enhancing it in other key areas, for the benefit and enjoyment of residents and visitors. Northern Roots could contribute in this area.

### **GM2040 Transport Strategy**

The Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 - developed by TfGM in partnership with the ten Greater Manchester local authorities on behalf of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) - focuses on creating an integrated, sustainable and well co-ordinated transport system. It sets out long-term proposals to create a cleaner, greener, more prosperous city region through better connections and simpler travel. The long-term transport strategy is supported by five-year Delivery Plans which are updated regularly.

The GM2040 Transport Strategy focuses on tackling the critical long-term challenges facing in Greater Manchester, such as a rapidly growing and ageing population, climate change and the need to improve productivity and reduce social inequality in the city region.

The GM2040 vision is for Greater Manchester to have '*World class connections that support long-term, sustainable economic growth and access to opportunity for all*'.

Protecting the environment is one of the four key objectives of the GM2040 Vision, which will be achieved by increasing the use of sustainable transport, to reduce emissions; making the best use of existing infrastructure; and protecting the natural and built environment. The other key objectives are:

- Supporting sustainable economic growth;
- Improving quality of life for all;
- Developing an innovative city-region.

## **GM Natural Capital programme and DEFRA Urban Pioneer**

### GM Natural Capital Group

The Natural Capital Group (NCG), GM's Local Nature Partnership, and its partners continue to play a key role in acting as an ambassador for Greater Manchester's natural environment, supporting delivery through existing partnerships and structures and showcasing headline initiatives.

Greater Manchester plays host to many forward-looking environmental projects, including the Urban Pioneer, which is described in more detail below. A sub-group of the Natural Capital Group has been set up to specifically oversee delivery of the Urban Pioneer (below), exploring opportunities to build cross-sector partnerships and secure direct benefits for the environment, local people and the economy.

### GM / DEFRA Urban Pioneer programme

Greater Manchester was selected by Defra to act as the UK's Urban Pioneer in late 2016. The Urban Pioneer is one of four national, three year pilots instigated by DEFRA in order to determine future policies, strategies and ways of working that could deliver the step change necessary to achieve the Government's commitment to reverse declines, and leave the environment in a better state than it currently is within a generation, as set out in the DEFRA 25-year Plan. The Urban pioneer focuses on governance, decision making and the urban environment.

The Urban Pioneer programme has four objectives:-

1. Develop and test a communications and engagement model that brings together sectors, organisations and the public to deliver more for the environment
2. Demonstrate a place-based approach to delivery that improves policy and decision making
3. Develop a demonstrator project that shows the benefit of a Natural Capital Approach on project funding
4. Create a Natural Capital Investment Plan for Greater Manchester