

**Briefing to -
Overview and Scrutiny
Board
Health Scrutiny
Committee**

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Subject:

United Nations – Sustainable
Development Goals

For Information

Report of:

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Sign-off:

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Communities & Reform (20.02.2020)

Summary of the issue:

The purpose of this report is to highlight how Oldham is championing and implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, providing an overview of the work that is being undertaken across the organisation to support this.

Recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Board:

To note the work being undertaken by Oldham that contributes to the ambitions of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 as a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".
- 1.2 In July 2019, at Oldham's Full Council meeting, a unanimous motion was passed to commit Oldham to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals set out at the United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Developmental Agenda meeting, 'as far as it is practicable and within its power and resources'.
- 1.3 The purpose of this report is to highlight how Oldham is championing and implementing the SDGs, providing an overview of the work that is being undertaken across the organisation to support this. Please note, this report provides a high-level summary of the work which aligns to each goal. It is not an exhaustive list of all Council activity in relation to the SDGs.

2. Sustainable Development Goal 1 – No Poverty

'End poverty in all its forms everywhere'

- 2.1. Oldham Council is committed to tackling poverty and inequality, helping everyone across the borough to achieve their full potential. This includes:
 - Providing financial support to residents through **Oldham's Welfare Rights Service**, advising about entitlement to welfare benefits and supporting residents to challenge benefit decisions.
 - Establishing the **Oldham Poverty Action Group (PAG)** in 2013 which includes representatives from the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise sector, Oldham Council, housing associations, local businesses and DWP representatives. The Poverty Action Group meets with the overall aim to reduce the impact of poverty on the most vulnerable people in the borough. This has included working with the Department for Work and Pensions to change how benefit sanctions are administered and supporting the Oldham Food Network successful crowdfunding efforts for Oldham's foodbank kitchen.
 - Helping people into employment through **Get Oldham Working and the Career Advancement Service**, which has secured over 6264 work related opportunities for Oldham residents to date.
 - Delivering the award-winning **Warm Homes Oldham** programme which continues to pull people out of fuel poverty every year. So far, an estimated 6000 people have been helped out of fuel poverty because of the scheme.
 - Redirecting Council spend through our **local wealth building** approach, which currently sees 55% of all Council spend retained within Oldham (and over 80% in GM) creating more opportunities for Oldham residents.

- Working with the Department of Education and Oldham Education Commission to deliver Oldham's **Opportunity Area** programme, aiming to improve social mobility and using education as a key driver to achieve this.
- Undertaking **Poverty Proofing Audits** in schools, which aims to support schools to identify and overcome the barriers to learning that children and young people from families with less financial resources face. To date three schools in Oldham have been audited: Broadfield Primary School, St Hilda's CE Primary and Hathershaw College. The next steps will be to review the process and learning from this with a view to carrying out 3 more pilots.
- Successfully achieving accreditation as **Foundation Living Wage Employer** in November 2019. The accreditation commits Oldham Council to paying at least the Foundation Living Wage of £9 per hour to all staff, and to work with suppliers to ensure that they do the same. This rate is above the Government's current National Living Wage of £8.21.

Next Steps

- 2.2 Oldham Council will continue to work co-operatively with our communities and our partners to reduce poverty together. At present, The Council is engaged in a national pilot alongside three other local authorities and being led by the Children's Society, to explore how crisis support can be better co-ordinated. The pilot involves the scrutiny of the Council's Local Welfare Assistance Scheme and explores how it is used in relation to other sources of crisis support from VCFSE partners. The aim is to ensure that resources are maximised through better co-ordination and elimination of duplication to ensure that no-one falls through the welfare safety net.
- 2.2 We are supporting a Poverty Truth Commission (led by Action Together) aimed at putting the voice of people experiencing poverty at the heart of our decision and policy making. The findings of this work will be used to inform the Council's development of a poverty strategy and action plan to inform changes that we may need to make to our systems, processes and procedures, within and across organisations to tackle poverty in the borough.
- 2.3 Additionally, at a GM level, Oldham is participating as a pilot authority in a project to explore the impacts of welfare reform and Universal Credit on Council services and on recipients, with a view to informing systems change to ensure people receive the help they need when they need it and lobby, with GMCA, for changes to Government policy where needed.

3. Sustainable Development Goal 2 – No Hunger

'End hunger and achieve food security'

- 3.1 Oldham Council is working to tackle food poverty across the borough, aiming to ensure that all people have access to high quality, nutritious food. This includes:
- Establishing a cross-sector food partnership to develop a sustainable approach to food in Oldham. The '**Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition**' Partnership is chaired by Oldham Council and has been meeting regularly since it was established in 2016. The purpose of Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition is to work in partnership to support key

food priorities and drive a sustainable and co-operative approach to food, Coordinates approaches through closer partnership working.

- Delivering the provision of free food and enrichment activities during school holidays for disadvantaged children. Oldham's **Holiday Hunger** scheme aims to match food provision with holiday enrichment activity. The scheme has grown over the past year and proposals are in place to extend provision for a further two years, across all 13 weeks of the school holidays.
- Supporting Oldham's **emergency food providers**, including Oldham Foodbank. In 2019, as part of potential EU Exit mitigation planning, £20k was committed to strengthen and increase resilience in the emergency food provision sector in Oldham. Doctors, social workers, health visitors, CAB, and police all receive training about the offer of Oldham Food Bank and each organisation can refer people to the food bank for emergency food supplies.
- Coordinating the delivery of '**Fair Access to Food For All**' in Oldham through Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition. The Partnership captures insight from all parts of Oldham's food system and effectively links strategic policies and decisions around food, to actions making a real difference on the ground. Through these relationships across people and partners, the group can realise a lasting and effective approach to the future of food in Oldham.
- Participating in **The Food Chains 4 EU** project is an INTERREG European-funded programme led by Oldham Council and Manchester Metropolitan University on behalf of GM. Working with international partners from Netherlands, Italy, Bulgaria and Romania, it is looking at informing and influencing regional strategic priorities. Food Enterprise is one of the main focusses in how regional funding can be used grow the sustainable food and drink sector for Greater Manchester. Oldham recently co-hosted a GM Peer Review, bringing international experts from the participating countries into the region to look at four key issues – including Food Enterprise – and how the current training, business planning and development for food businesses could be strengthened further.

Next Steps

- 3.2 The *Growing Oldham Feeding Ambition* Partnership will continue working with communities and partners across Oldham to tackle food poverty across Oldham. Expert support is being provided by Foodsync to develop this partnership, our vision for food in the borough and the action plan to achieve Sustainable Food Cities Silver Award.
- 3.3 There is a commitment, subject to securing continued funding, to increase and expand the Holiday Hunger initiative. As well as to explore how we can commit to a long-term plan (e.g. 5 years) that alleviates child food poverty, both inside and outside of the school day.

4. Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing

‘Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages’

4.1 In Oldham we are committed to creating the conditions for residents to take greater control over their own lives, including their health and wellbeing. Our approach to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents is based on the three pillars of the Oldham Model:

- Thriving Communities – Enabling communities to make the right health and wellbeing choices and investing in community capacity.
- Inclusive economy – Building wealth for our communities and the right type of business opportunity that provide jobs and career paths linked into Education for the people of Oldham
- Co-operative services – Integrating services around local resident need. This includes:
 - Delivering Oldham’s **Right Start Programme** which is a service that works with parents from pregnancy until children are five years old. The service provides a range of support from Right Start practitioners such as health visitors, community nurses and early years staff. These practitioners will work closely with other Right Start partners such as midwives, GPs, school nurses, early years settings and schools.
 - Delivering the **Pre-school Oral Health Improvement Strategy** which embeds oral health improvement activity across the Right Start Service, School Nursing and preschools. The strategy includes establishing a culture that supports good oral health across Oldham, changing the culture so that there is a reduction in the use of feeding bottles containing sugared drinks, especially at night and engaging in social marketing programmes to promote oral health and uptake of dental services among preschool children and families.
 - Implementing our **Thriving Communities Programme** which focuses on building on the strengths, people and groups that already exist within our communities and highlights how by using our community resources we can tackle problems earlier, rather than dealing with the symptoms later.
 - Supporting our population to age well through our **Ageing Well** initiative is, supporting our older population to continue to thrive in employability. In March 2018, Oldham Council launched the Ageing Well Oldham Hub at Werneth Lifelong Learning Centre, a hub to help residents over the age of 50 further their career, get help with business funding and improve their overall health and wellbeing. Saddleworth and Lees has recently been named as one of the best places in Greater Manchester to grow old in the Greater Manchester Mayor’s Age Friendly Challenge. The award recognises all the good work being carried out by a wide-range of organisations and groups, including the council, GPs, churches, residents, volunteers and partners.
 - Providing a range of services to encourage and support residents to live healthier lives e.g. stop smoking services, weight management support and leisure services.
 - Our **Making Every Contact Count** (MECC) programme promotes healthy behaviour changes such as stopping smoking, physical activity, eating healthily and positive

mental wellbeing. The MECC approach encourages 'health chats' and sign posting. MECC aims to reduce health inequalities.

Next Steps

- 4.2 Oldham is working hard to continue our health and wellbeing priorities and improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. In 2020 we will be developing a new Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will set out our vision and priorities for improving health and reducing health inequalities in Oldham.

5. Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Good Education

'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'.

- 5.1 Oldham has a rich variety of schools, and a thriving community with signs of improving performance across many educational indicators. We are continuing to improve educational attainment across Oldham. This includes:

- Improving outcomes at a faster rate than national growth at: Good Level of Development (GLD) and Key Stages 1, 2 and 5. Work continues to improve outcomes at Key Stage 4 and this is a key priority for the Service working with schools and the Opportunity Area in 2019-2020.
- Oldham's revised **Developing School Improvement Strategy** is also generating some interest beyond the Borough, given its ambitious objective of integrating the school improvement role of Multi Agency Team's (MATS) and the local authority in a sector led model - which will be predicated on a 'place based' philosophy.
- Oldham is making significant improvements for the education provisions for our children and young people with special educational needs. In September 2019, Ofsted/CQC revisited the borough and recognised Oldham's improvement journey and the positive changes made since 2017 in terms of provision for children and young people with SEND.
- To make education and learning accessible for all, our **Oldham Lifelong Learning (OLL) Service** offer a range of courses and qualifications to help our population improve their employment including nationally recognised qualifications in English and maths, including GCSE level. Other courses include vocational care and education courses, information and communication technology and digital Skills, languages and arts and craft.

Next Steps

- 5.2 Oldham Council will continue to work with our schools, The Opportunity Area and our parents to achieve our priorities set out in the Opportunity Area plan 2017-20. These priorities are:
- To ensure all children are school ready by the age of five.
 - Raise attainment for all and raising it fastest for disadvantaged pupils.
 - All children and young people to be ready for life, learning and work.

6. Sustainable Development Goal 5 – Gender Equality

‘Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls’

6.1 Oldham has taken steps forward to challenge gender inequality through series of initiatives and campaigns. This includes:

- Developing **The Oldham Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2017-2020** which aims to tackle domestic violence and abuse. The Oldham Local Safeguarding Children’s Board have responsibility for the formal governance of this Strategy, with the Domestic Violence and Abuse Partnership being the core body responsible for ensuring delivery of the action plan.
- In 2019 Oldham gained **White Ribbon Accreditation**, demonstrating Oldham Council’s commitment to stop violence against women. To achieve accreditation, organisations are required to submit action plans which highlight how they will drive social change to strengthen gender equality and stop violence against women, improve organisational culture, safety and morale and increase knowledge and skills of staff to address violence against women.
- Ensuring any project, policy or proposal that has the potential to disproportionately impact on gender / sex is highlighted and, if possible, mitigated through the **Equality Impact Assessment** process.

Next steps

6.2 Oldham Council will continue to champion gender equality, including ensuring Oldham’s workforce is representative of the communities it serves as part of the Workforce Strategy.

7. Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation

‘Ensure access to water and sanitation for all’

7.1 Oldham Council has a responsibility under the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 to sample and monitor the water quality of Private water. This includes:

- Ensuring there is an adequate quality water supply to premises involved in food manufacture and food handling.
- As a Council, we have been actively promoting the refilling of drink bottles with water to staff and citizens to ensure there is greater access to water, but to also encourage sustainability and to reduce our reliance on single use plastics. Staff and building users, i.e. students at Lifelong Learning Centres, have been encouraged to carry a drink bottle and refill with water. Citizens have been encouraged to access free drinking water at designated water refill sites, i.e. organisations that have signed up to the Refill Campaign. Oldham Council sites, including Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre, the Boathouse at Alexandra Park and Dunwood Park café have all signed up to the campaign. Oldham Council has promoted these sites plus other sites across the borough.

- In addition to supporting the Refill Campaign, Oldham Council is participating in a Greater Manchester (GM) initiative (co-ordinated by GMCA and the Environment Agency) to position water fountains in key locations across GM. Two water fountains have been identified for Oldham: one in the town centre and the other at a popular tram station.

Next Steps

- 7.2 Oldham is committed to carrying out its duties under the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 to ensure that our population has access to clean and safe water.

8. Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy

‘Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy’

- 8.1 Working co-operatively with the community, the Council have developed several strategies to transform Oldham into a more energy efficient place and support our population access affordable and renewable energy. This includes:

- Implementing **Oldham’s Climate Change Strategy 2013-2020** which sets out the way the Council will work in partnership with public, private and third sector organisations, as well as communities, to tackle the issues presented by climate change.
- Delivering several clean energy initiatives, including working in partnership with **Oldham Community Power**, a local community energy group to install community-owned renewable energy onto community and council owned buildings. This has included installing a 120kW solar PV system on Tommyfield Market, and around 220kW of solar PV has been installed on five schools and a community centre.
- Delivering Award-Winning **Warm Homes Oldham** programme is continuing to provide advice, support and energy saving measures to residents who are struggling to pay their energy bills and heat their homes.
- Leading the Interreg Europe funded **COALESCCE** project, which aims to build the community renewable energy sector across seven partner EU regions.

Next Steps:

- 8.2 The Council is developing a **Green New Deal Strategy** and is committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2025, as well as achieving carbon neutrality as a borough by 2030.
- 8.3 Moreover, the new **Alexandra Park Eco-Centre** will run entirely from renewable energy generated on-site. In addition, a piece of feasibility work is underway looking at the potential to extract ground source heat from flooded disused coal mines using heat pumps, which could potentially provide low carbon heat to Oldham Town Centre.

9. Sustainable Development Work 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth

‘Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all’

9.1 Oldham is committed to creating the conditions for a fair and inclusive economy, set out in The Oldham Plan 2019-2022. Oldham’s vision is for Oldham to become Greater Manchester’s Inclusive Economy capital by making significant progress in living standards, wages and skills for everyone. This includes:

- Working with educational institutions, training providers and Lifelong Learning facilities to ensure a great education and vocational training offer and enable residents to be life ready and work ready.
- Helping people into employment through **Get Oldham Working and the Career Advancement Service**, which has secured over 7800 work related opportunities for Oldham residents to date.
- Delivering free advice, information and guidance through a range of employability programmes through Get Oldham Working, offering access to a range of accredited courses and training opportunities to upskill and increase individual educational attainment.
- Running the **Oldham Lifelong Learning (OLL) Service** which offers a range of courses and qualifications to help residents improve their employment including nationally recognised qualifications in English and maths, including GCSE level. Other courses include vocational care and education courses, information and communication technology and digital Skills, languages and arts and craft.
- Running the **Oldham Council Traineeship Programme**, a monthly initiative to get young people onto the career ladder. Whilst on the 6-month traineeship, candidates undergo employability training and receive assistance in finding progression opportunities towards the end of their traineeship.
- Providing support through **Ageing Well Oldham** which aims to help anyone over 50 get the support to further their career, get enterprise advice and health and wellbeing support.

Next Steps

9.2 We will continue to improve the skills base of adults while developing accessible pathways into work. We will continue to promote the value of higher-level study, ensuring it is linked to key sector priorities of the GM Local Industrial Strategy.

10. Sustainable Development 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

‘Build resilient infrastructure’

10.1 Infrastructure plays an important part of people’s lives, contributing to our sense of identity and well-being, and bringing enjoyment and inspiration. Oldham Council is committed to building resilient infrastructure. This includes:

- Growing a sustainable new economy that builds upon our existing strong partnership with our voluntary and community sector. We have recently secured significant investment (£2.2m) from the **Local Access Fund**, working in partnership with our social enterprise sector, to provide more support for the sector’s development. This proposal purposefully seeks to develop alternative business models that will build and retain social enterprise skills in the town and offer stable, well paid employment for Oldham residents.
- The **Northern Roots** project which seeks to support the development of Oldham’s economy and build local skills as part of the development of the UK’s largest urban farm and eco-park. Initially the focus will be on investigating ways to enhance the sustainability and biodiversity of the site, to offer even greater opportunities for recreation and leisure for local people, and to promote growing and green enterprise projects. It presents a significant opportunity to work with local communities to investigate ways that we can celebrate, protect and enhance our green spaces for the benefit of local people, the local economy and the planet.
- 99.1% of Oldham’s Residents and Businesses have the potential to access **Fibre Internet** (speeds of over 24 Mbps). There are plans to launch access to 5G in Greater Manchester over the next few years. These will likely be centred around the city centre area. The combined authority has successfully bid for more than £23 million from the government to create a local full fibre network linking across the ten boroughs.

Next Steps

10.2 Implementing the recently approved proposals for a £306m town centre regeneration scheme, which will potentially include building 2,000 new homes and regenerating the town centre.

11. Sustainable Development Goal 10 – Reduced Inequality

‘Reduce inequality within and among countries’

11.1 Inequality exists in many forms and Oldham aims to reduce inequalities that exist in all areas including: health and wellbeing, economic prosperity, education, and access to services. This includes:

- Publishing a **Fairness Statement** that sets out the overall objective of achieving an Oldham which is fairer and a more equitable place for all. The Council aims to achieve fairness across the borough for staff and residents through delivering services that are accessible, sensitive and responsive to the diverse needs of Oldham’s individuals,

families and communities. Service design will prioritise community involvement, consultation and research enabling us to deliver services that meet the needs of our citizens.

- Reducing inequalities in education through **The Opportunity Area programme**, which is a Government initiative targeting specific places to improve literacy and give children with disadvantaged backgrounds the language skills to excel in education.
- Reducing financial inequality through **Oldham's Welfare Rights service**. The Welfare Rights Service provides free advice and support in relation to benefits, entitlement advice, assistance completing benefit forms, mandatory reconsideration, appeals and tribunals.
- Delivering the **Locality Plan**, which aims to tackle the large inequalities in health outcomes that exist across the borough. To achieve this, we are addressing the wider determinants of ill health including access to good education and employment and focusing our efforts on early intervention and prevention. We are also working with people and communities to enable them to take more control of their lives, be more involved in their communities with a focus on eating better, being more active and reducing alcohol consumption and smoking prevalence.
- Helping local people with disabilities find and keep a job through **The Wellbeing Service** which gives advice about best practice in the recruitment and retention of disabled employees.

Next Steps

- 11.2 We will continue to identify and address the causes of inequality across Oldham, working with services through the Equality Impact Assessment Process to identify any potential negative impacts on any identified equality groups.

12. Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities

'Investing in public transport, creating green public spaces, and improving urban planning and management in participatory and inclusive ways'

- 12.1 We are committed to make Oldham a place where everyone feels safe and everyone can thrive. This includes:
- Improving Oldham's air quality by changing the Council fleet to electric vehicles or, where that is not practical, vehicles that are compliant with Euro 6 lower emission standards. We will also support the wider change to electric vehicles across the borough by installing more charging points.
 - Delivering a major tree planting programme and work with GM for look at opportunities to introduce a **Clean Air Zone** across the region.
 - Continuing to invest in our 22 parks (two of which are green flag recipients), ensuring everyone in Oldham can access high quality public spaces for leisure and recreation.

- Exploring options to further develop Oldham’s Metrolink Service to create an ‘orbital’ tram route linking Oldham to Ashton-under-Lyne to boost connectivity across the boroughs. Transport for Greater Manchester’s (TfGM) long-term 2040 Transport Strategy aims to deliver several improvements to the transport network by 2025.
- Increasing the number of cycle routes by creating 65 miles of new cycling and walking routes, as part of a proposal for Greater Manchester to create the UK’s biggest network for people travelling by bike or on foot. The plans are part of a new 1,000-mile-long network – named **Beelines** – which will be the largest joined-up network in the UK and has been developed with all 10 GM authorities.

Next Steps

- 12.2 We will continue to invest in Oldham through our ambitious vision and strategic framework for the borough ‘Creating a Better Place’, which has been coproduced with partners, services, elected members, public sector organisations and different voices from our local communities to help clearly define regeneration ambitions, and to ensure that a vision was in place that was alignment with national, regional and local strategic priorities. This include the development and delivery of the Eco-Centre at Alexandra Park.
- 12.3 Culture is also central to the vision with facilities already delivered and the £13m project to transform the town’s library into OMA – a new heritage and arts centre – getting underway in 2020. Momentum continues at Prince’s Gate, with major players signing up to operate a supermarket and hotel at the scheme, kick-starting the wider regeneration of the Oldham Mumps area.

13. Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production

‘Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns’

- 13.1 Oldham is committed to promoting sustainable consumption and production and promoting sustainable consumption largely through our behavioural change in the manufacture, use and disposal of goods. Environmentally friendly practices are also expected to save money through the more efficient use of available resources. This includes:
- Implementing a **Single Use Plastics Strategy** which aims to reduce the use of single use plastics in the organisation and across the borough wherever possible.
 - Delivering the **Get Oldham Growing project** which promoted local food growing and production. The programme works in partnership with local people, community groups and local organisations to improve peoples’ health, skills and environment through growing, cooking and eating local food.
 - Delivering the **Northern Roots** project, a 160-acre eco-park hosting many activities including the growing and processing of local organic food. The borough also has four community growing hubs – at Alexandra Park, Failsworth, Lees and Waterhead parks.
 - Continuing to deliver the Council’s **School Meals Provision** service which has won several sustainability awards for using local high quality, local produce.

Next Steps

- 13.2 We will continue to explore how we can become more sustainable as an organisation, including aiming to become paperless to reduce unnecessary waste.

14. Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Climate Action

‘Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts’

- 14.1 Our industrial ways of living mean greenhouse gas levels continue to rise, trapping CO₂ in the air atmosphere and its effects are evident with temperature rising, sea levels rising and recent Amazon fires. Oldham is dedicated to tackling climate change. This includes:
- Reducing our energy use and making our buildings more energy efficient to reduce the council’s energy costs as well as cutting carbon emissions, renovating the corporate building stock to reduce the overall energy costs, associated carbon emissions and to take advantage of any opportunities for renewable energy generating technologies and associated subsidies which might exist.
 - Implementing our **Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC)** Energy Efficiency Scheme. The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory government carbon tax scheme for large organisations. Oldham Council qualified to participate in Phase 2 of the scheme as our baseline electricity consumption is over 6,000MWh per annum. The purchase of carbon allowances costs the Council several hundred thousand pounds every year to comply. The Council is implementing ways to reduce its energy use, to reduce its energy bill and the cost of its CRC allowances.
 - Developing Oldham’s **Green New Deal Strategy** which will set out how we make the borough carbon neutral by 2030 and at the same time grow the green economy, creating jobs and training opportunities for residents in this high-value and fast-growing economic sector. One aspect of the new strategy will be a Citizens’ Panel, which the Council will support to create and deliver its own climate change action plan, so that communities can improve their own neighbourhoods whilst tackling the climate and ecological emergency. The Council has set targets for carbon neutrality:
 - For the Council as an organisation by 2025
 - For the borough by 2030
 - As part of the Greater Manchester city region by 2038

Next Steps

- 14.2 Oldham is committed to radically cut carbon emissions from council buildings, schools and homes, maximising low carbon energy production and using available energy more efficiently. We will work towards significantly cutting carbon emissions from transport by encouraging modal shift and active travel.

15. Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Life Below Water

- 15.1 Oldham Council does not have any direct responsibility for supporting this Sustainable Development Goal, however, we actively work with our partners including the Environment Agency, RSPB and Canal and Rivers Trust to ensure that Oldham's waterways, lakes and reservoirs are protected.

16. Sustainable Development Goal 15 - Life on Land

'Halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss'

- 16.1 Oldham is known for its renowned greenspace, including parks, woodland and wild moorlands. Oldham is committed to protecting and preserving our natural greenspaces and wildlife, this includes:

- Implementing two **Public Spaces Protections Orders** (PSPOs) to protect huge swathes of moorland and wildlife following several devastating fires over the last few years. The PSPOs ban fires and barbecues from being used on Oldham's moorlands.
- Creating more wildflower verges and meadows, creating natural corridors for bees and insects. Over time the variety of plant life will increase, helping to support even more wildlife species.
- Continuing to plant more trees to improve air quality, providing habitats for wildlife, and to absorb carbon.
- Delivering **The Green Dividend Fund** which puts residents at the heart of design, delivery and maintenance of community gardens and edible landscaping projects. So far over 500 households and 1,500 residents have been involved, many of whom were not previously active in their communities. Over 50 projects are being delivered in spaces across the borough and this activity is helping communities develop a shared sense of belonging and promoting closer neighbourhood ties through their enjoyment of greener spaces, as well as promoting and enhancing local biodiversity.

Next steps

- 16.2 Oldham is committed to preserving nature and wildlife and a significant amount of funding has helped to improve the moorland habitats for wildlife, including restoring areas severely damaged by fire, increasing the heather on the moor, creating wet heath and pond areas, restoring drystone walls, the regeneration of clough woodlands and the management of conifer plantations for wildlife.

17. Sustainable Development Goal 16- Peace, Justice and Institutions

‘Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for all’

17.1 At a local level, preserving peaceful communities through justice and ensuring services are available and inclusive to all is a key priority for Oldham’s Stronger Communities Service. This includes:

- Responding to community tensions, tackling hate crime, preventing violent extremism & counter-extremism (objectives in the **Community Safety and Cohesion Plan**).
- Supporting the integration of migrant and new communities through a range of community development and engagement activities through **The Community Safety and Cohesion Partnership**. The partnership aims to support the integration of new communities, to prevent problems arising as a result of migration into the Borough and build positive relationships between new and existing communities. The current Community Safety and Cohesion Plan is currently being refreshed, ensuring it continues to align to Oldham’s wider strategic priorities.
- Developing Oldham’s partnership **Serious Violence Strategy**, which will aim to prevent and tackle young people falling into crime. This will also include working with parents, helping them understand the implications of knife crime and gang violence.
- Actively participating in the **GM Hate Crime Awareness weeks**, Oldham Pride and annual commemorative events including Holocaust Memorial Day and Remembrance Sunday.

Next Steps

17.2 We will work together with our communities and our partners to deal with issues such as reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, effective drug treatment, support for people experiencing domestic violence or hate crime, protecting you from fire and burglary, or nuisance neighbours.

18. Sustainable Development Goal 17 - Partnership for the Goals

‘Strengthen the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development’

18.1 Oldham has a strong and successful history of working in partnership. with its local organisation to support the delivery of a ‘Co-Operative Service, Inclusive Economy and Thriving Community’ set out in The Oldham Plan. Our partners work together to improve outcomes for people and places in the borough. This includes:

- Establishing **The Oldham Leadership Board**, a cross partnership group which is responsible for driving the Oldham Model, as set out in the Oldham Plan 2017-22 and sets the overall direction for the borough. The Board share a common vision ‘to make Oldham a place of ambition and are committed to working with each other and with

the people of Oldham to create a productive place with healthy, aspirational and sustainable communities.

- Championing health and social care and **place-based integration and reform**. Oldham has led the way regionally and nationally in developing a model for public service that puts the needs of people and communities before that of individual organisations. The approach is supported across Oldham, through the Joint Leadership Team, the Oldham Leadership Board and, at GM through the Wider Leadership Team and the GM Health and Social Care Partnership.
- Working in partnership through Oldham's Place Based Integration (PBI) initiatives which has seen multi-agency teams established to support residents and communities, providing a single approach to building resilience, informed by insight into what drives demand and shapes behaviour in communities, will there be a shift in inequalities that exist within the borough.
- Participating in the **Co-operative Councils' Innovation Network**, a national Network of 28 local authorities committed to finding new ways of working with residents and partners to find solutions to the collective challenges facing our communities.

Next Steps

- 18.2 We will continue to work through our collective challenges by drawing on the energy and creativity of our workforce, residents and partners to find solutions together.