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29th July, 2020 Ref: AB/ PD/ AD

Oldham Council Motion - 'Preventing modern slums in Oldham Borough'

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter regarding the recent Oldham Council motion 'Preventing Modern Slums in Oldham Borough'. We share your concern about the proposed deregulation of planning laws to allow conversion of commercial buildings into dwellings without the need for planning permission as this removes the ability of local authorities to properly 'place-make' and does not necessarily result in high quality homes.

In terms of the GMSF, all 10 Boroughs approved the GMSF 2019 in January 2019. This contained a policy (GM-H 3) which required all new dwellings in Greater Manchester to comply with the nationally described space standards and be built to the 'accessible and adaptable' standard in Part M4(2) of the Building Regulations. It is the intention that this policy will be carried forward into the Publication Plan. As the plan is a joint Development Plan Document of the 10 local authorities, the Publication Plan will be considered for approval by Oldham in the autumn.

Yours sincerely,

ANDY BURNHAM Mayor of Greater Manchester

PAUL DENNETT
City Mayor of Salford
GM Portfolio Lead for Housing,
Homelessness and
Infrastructure

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