

Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

Subject: Amendment to United Nations – Sustainable Development Goals Report to Council

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to discuss the Amendment as proposed by Liberal Democrat Councillors at Full Council on 9 September 2020 to the report submitted in response to 'Making a Commitment to the UN Sustainable Development Goals' Motion.

Executive Summary

An amendment was proposed by the Liberal Democrats to the report commended to Council in response to the motion which the Overview and Scrutiny Board and the Health Scrutiny Committee were asked to identify the work that was being done by the Council and its partners and what more could be done with its' findings and recommendations. The amendment was referred to Overview and Scrutiny for their consideration as the information had not been included in the original report commended to Full Council.

Recommendations

The Overview and Scrutiny Board and Health Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the inclusion of the information as submitted in the Amendment be included in the report.

1 Background

- 1.1 Members will recall that consideration was given to a report by the Overview and Scrutiny Board on 3 March 2020 and by the Health Scrutiny Committee on 7 July 2020 in response to a motion that requested the committees identify the work that was already being done by the Council and its partners, what more could be done and to present a report to full Council with its findings and recommendations.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 Both Overview and Scrutiny Board and Health Scrutiny commended a report which detailed work being done in support at a local level. At the full Council meeting on 9 December, an Amendment was proposed which including information which had not been provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Board nor the Health Scrutiny Committee following the commendation to Council of the original report. It was agreed that the original report as submitted to Council be agreed, but that the Amendment would be referred to Overview and Scrutiny for their consideration.

- 2.2 The Amendment to be considered is as follows:

Add at the top of page 16, a new Section 17.2 to read:

“17.2 Oldham is the first borough in the UK to have embraced the Pledge to Peace, an initiative launched in the European Parliament in November 2011 to promote ‘a culture of peace across Europe’.

This has attracted significant positive coverage for Oldham, with the borough increasingly seen as a place of peace and an exemplar to others.

- Oldham Council and Shaw and Crompton Parish Council are currently the only two local authorities in the UK to have become signatories of the Pledge.
- Oldham Council was the first organization to appoint a Pledge to Peace Mayor, former Councillor Derek Heffernan.
- The Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum now has 52 affiliated signatory organisations, making the Forum the biggest organisation of its kind representing the Pledge to Peace. These affiliates include Oldham Council, Shaw and Crompton Parish Council, twenty-six of our borough’s schools and colleges, and the Oldham Youth Council.
- Delegates from the Oldham Pledge to Peace Forum have represented Oldham – at their own expense – at high-level peace events in the UK, Italy, Germany and Australia, as well as visiting the European Parliament.
- This has included making presentations on Oldham’s work in the UK and Europe to four conferences and at meetings with Ambassadors, Mayors, Members of the European Parliament, and the Ambassador to the Pledge to Peace, Mr. Prem Rawat.
- For five consecutive years, until 2019, the Forum also hosted, with the support of Council officers, a celebratory event at Gallery Oldham / Oldham Library to mark the UN International Day of Peace (21 September).
- Oldham Council is also an affiliate of the International Mayor for Peace initiative, which campaigns for a nuclear weapon free world.

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- Consequently, Oldham was one of only three locations in the UK visited by two delegations from Hiroshima – one from the National Peace Memorial Hall for Atomic Bomb Victims, which met with the Oldham Youth Council, and one of Hibakusha (Japanese A-bomb survivors), who at Alexandra Park planted seeds received as a gift from the Mayor of Hiroshima.
 - These seeds were sourced from city-centre trees which survived the atomic bombing. Later this year they will be planted in several parks and at Pledge to Peace Schools.
 - Oldham is also the only municipality to have hosted a delegation from Neve Shalom – Wahat al-Salam (Oasis of Peace), a village founded in Israel on the basis of equality and co-operation between its Jewish and Arab inhabitants, to sign an exclusive international agreement to work for peace with this village.
 - The Forum is now working to develop links for peace with Australian partners, including Toowoomba, which is working towards UNESCO recognition as an International City of Peace and Harmony, and Saddleworth, which was named by its founder after his former West Yorkshire home town.”

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 Overview and Scrutiny are asked to discuss the inclusion of the amendment to the report.

4 Key Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Consider

- 4.1 Does Overview and Scrutiny agree to the inclusion of the Amendment to the report and commend the Amendment back to Council?

5. Links to Corporate Outcomes

- 5.1 N/A

6 Additional Supporting Information

- 6.1 N/A

7 Consultation

- 7.1 N/A

8 Appendices

- 8.1 None