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COUNCIL
16/03/2022 at 6.00 pm



Present: The Mayor – Councillor Harrison (in the Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Alexander, Ali, Alyas, Arnott, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Birch, Briggs, Brownridge, Byrne, Chadderton, Chauhan, Curley, Davis, Garry, C. Gloster, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Hindle, Hobin, Hulme, A Hussain, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Lancaster, Malik, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, C. Phythian, Roberts, Salamat, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Toor, Wilkinson, Williamson, Williams and Woodvine.

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cosgrove, Dean, F Hussain, Ibrahim, Kenyon, Leach, K Phythian and Salamat.

2 TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 15TH DECEMBER 2021 AND 2ND MARCH 2022 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Council meetings held on 15th December 2021 and 2nd March 2022, be approved as correct records.

3 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING

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

Councillor Chris Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 8d by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Hazel Gloster declared a non-registerable interest at Item 8d by virtue of her husband's receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Wilkinson declared a non-registerable interest at Item 8d by virtue of his receipt of an occupational pension from Greater Manchester Police.

Councillor Chris Gloster declared an other interest at Item 8d by virtue of his being a member of the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Jabbar declared an other interest at Item 8d by virtue of his being a member of the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Hamblett declared an other registerable interest at Item 8d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being a Council nominee on the Board.



Councillor S Bashforth declared an other registerable interest at Item 8d in relation to MioCare, by virtue of being Chair of the Board.

Councillor Roberts declared an other registerable interest at Item 8d as a Trustee of Positive Steps.

Councillor Birch declared two other registerable interests at Item 8d as a Trustee of Positive Steps and Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Councillor Malik declared an other registerable interest at Item 8d as a Board Member of Positive Steps.

Councillor Shuttleworth declared two other registerable interests at Item 8d as a Board Member of Positive Steps and a Board member of Unity Partnership

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 Council was informed that several Members had indicated they would be retiring at the end of the current Municipal Year.

Councillors Shah, Moores and Al-Hamdani paid tribute to the work of Councillor Leach.

Councillors Shah, Roberts, Williamson and Byrne paid tribute to the work of Councillor Toor.

Councillors Shah and Birch paid tribute to the work of Councillor Alexander.

Councillors Stretton, Hobin and C. Gloster paid tribute to the work of Councillor Briggs.

Councillors Sheldon, Woodvine, Shah and Al-Hamdani paid tribute to the work of Councillor Curley.

Councillors Sheldon and Shah paid tribute to the work of Councillor Abid.

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

There were no petitions received to be noted.

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council PROPOSED the following MOTION:
Safer Streets

Our motion today has come about because of personal experience of some of our Youth Councillors. Family members and close friends have been the victims of crime on the streets of Oldham. While the criminals were apprehended, some of us still feel unsafe walking around our local community especially at night. In working with other youth voice groups and consulting with Oldham's young people we have found that others feel the same way.

The 2019 UK Youth Parliament's consultation 'Make Your Mark', had 'Put an End to Knife Crime' as its top issue. Since that time, we have been working and talking to young people about being safe on Oldham's streets.

Police figures for Oldham do suggest that Oldham has a higher-than-average crime rate for Greater Manchester. However, looking at crimes you would expect to increase people feeling unsafe (such as theft from a person, possessions of weapons and drugs offences) these were all lower than the Greater Manchester Police average and were between 1 and 2 per 1,000 population. Even though violence and sexual offences recorded at around 40 per 1,000 population, this too was below the greater Manchester average. While we realise crime is still an issue (like the rest of Greater Manchester) it is perhaps the perception of safety that is causing people to not want to go out.

From our consultation approximately one third of young people feel unsafe in their local community at least half of the time and this rises further to 56.5% in communities outside their local area. Young people told us that they fear crimes such as being mugged, drug related crime and bladed weapon related crime as well as large groups who maybe using alcohol and/or drugs. This would seem to dispute the figures given for crime in Oldham and does suggest that it is a perceived fear rather than and actual one.

To help feel safer 67% of the 400 respondents wanted more trusted adults such as Police to be more visible and approachable and over half felt that Oldham needed better street lighting to make it lighter while walking at night. The main suggestion to do this was the use of white LED streetlights rather than the old orange sodium lighting. Young people also wanted to make any existing CCTV more visible, perhaps with signage or by making it more prominent, so that people knew where to walk.

Following our consultation and research over the past 2 years, we ask:

That Council resolves to:

1. Ask the relevant department to complete a review of the street lighting and CCTV that is used within the borough.
2. Investigate if it possible and practicable, that existing lighting is changed to LED lights and CCTV is made as visible as it can be
3. Investigate the possibility of installing LED lights in all new street lighting especially in the plans for the town centre.

Councillor Hazel Gloster spoke in support of the Motion
Councillor Chadderton spoke in support of the Motion
Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke in support of the Motion
Councillor Shah spoke in support of the Motion.



Councillor Chadderton **MOVED** and Councillor Moores **SECONDED** the MOTION as presented by the Youth Council.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be requested to ask the relevant Council department to complete a review of the street lighting and CCTV that is used within the borough.
2. The Chief Executive be requested to ask the relevant Council department to investigate if it possible and practicable, that existing lighting is changed to LED lights and CCTV is made as visible as it can be.
3. The Chief Executive be requested to ask the relevant Council department to investigate the possibility of installing LED lights in all new street lighting especially in the plans for the town centre.

8

QUESTIONS TIME

9

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question received from Julie Heywood
'I attended the big conversation event where I asked a question of Arooj Shah regarding why she originally failed to declare her ownership of Gelato's ice lounge. The leader of Oldham council responded by clearly stating she had been wrongly advised by a council officer when making this declaration, can the appropriate member responsible please confirm: 1. What actions have been taken against this officer who offered this unlawful guidance?; 2. What steps, if any, have been made to review all other councillor declarations to make sure that they have not made the same mistake as Arooj Shah in failing to declare interests in a business that they own?; and, 3.What training, if any has been implemented to make sure that Oldham council officers that advise councillors are familiar with the law?'

Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, replied... 'that, it would be inappropriate for the council to comment on any action or proceedings relating to individual members of staff. we can confirm that all staff who support members in filling in their declarations are trained and that elected members are provided with guidance and support in making their declarations.'

2. Question received from Paul Shilton
'Following another incident of treacherous ice and snow causing traffic chaos on ungritted major roads, many residents in Saddleworth West and Lees did their communities proud by assisting the Council in gritting major roads to prevent serious injuries, accidents and keeping traffic flowing. Many streets were identified where additional grit boxes were needed, yet, multiple requests for siting of essential grit boxes have been rejected without consideration, citing a failure to meet winter criteria.

Residents have been frustrated by receiving a stock e-mail response that fails to provide confidence that the request has actually been considered. These grit boxes are only being requested where a real need has been identified, and siting should be considered as an exceptional circumstance. Will the Council review the winter criteria in exceptional circumstances in order to enable the community to assist the Council during annual incidences of severe ice and snow?’

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied... ‘that it is inevitable that some disruption will occur during heavy snowfall, the Highways team monitor conditions and forecasts 24/7 throughout the winter months with all major roads being gritted in advance, during and after winter weather as they are included in the primary gritting network.

I can assure you that grit bin requests are all considered independently against a well-established criteria that reflects such things as land height, gradient and climatic zone, however we do not place grit bins on roads treated as part of our primary gritting network.

In light of your feedback I have asked that the full assessment for each grit bin request is shared with the resident making the request going forward.’

3. Question received from Gareth Evans

‘We at Hollinwood FC who have been in existence since the 1960’s and provide football for all ages from age 6 up to open age in the Hollinwood. We were the first and the last users of Chapel Road and was one of the main tenants throughout all the years it was open. The bidding procedure for the transfer of ownership of this sports site started in 2018 and we and our local community backed Oldham’s Sixth form’s bid on this site. Ultimately the sixth form won the bid and I believe reading council minutes it was approved in June 21. To date nearly 7 months after the agreement nothing has been heard by Oldham Sixth form. Obviously we as a club have been nomadic for the last 4 years playing a lot of the time outside the borough and are desperate to get back to our roots as our the local girls league. Could someone please tell us the time frame when the keys to the property will be handed over so the site can once again be used by the community for the purpose it was designed for. At the moment the premises are in a state of disrepair and will become a hazard if it’s not brought up to scratch soon?’

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied... ‘Many thanks for submitting this question - a sales marketing exercise was undertaken in July 2018 which resulted in a preferred bidder being selected. However, this decision was legally challenged therefore the Council took full account of the challenge and cancelled the tender exercise.

Following a full review of the site status, the needs of the adjoining school and other uses and the disposal processes the Council decided to proceed with the disposal through an open procurement exercise.



The Council commenced a new procurement exercise in November 2020 and the successful tenderer was confirmed at the end of January 2021, and the contract for sale to the successful tenderer was completed in June 2021.

The disposal of the site, and the grant of a lease to the adjoining school, both require the approval of the Secretary of State. The application was made in November 2020 and a decision is awaited. The Council is not in control of the timing of the consents, but we continue to liaise with the Secretary of State to support progression.

The Council is committed to working with the successful tenderer to facilitate the regeneration of the site but is unable to give a timetable for when the successful tenderer will be able to proceed with the necessary works.

It is acknowledged that the site has been targeted by vandals, but the Council continue to carry out appropriate repair work while formal processes are completed.'

4. Question received from Debbie Barratt Cole
'Due to recent leaks in national newspapers and Sky News regarding the Review under Gary Newsom and Malcom Ridgway will the council leader Arooj Shah now call for a Full Public Investigation that is fully needed not only the Victims but the Entire Borough and Will the Council Leader now step aside and allow a full examination of all council files that have been hidden from authorities and Victims?'

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that... 'when the full report is published a public meeting would be held to discuss the findings.'

5. Question from Karl Bardsley
'Over recent weeks, there has been announcements of early retirements of 4 high profile management positions in the catering and cleaning department at the council and coupled with the lack of staff recruitment over the last year, front line catering and cleaning staff are getting worried about losing there jobs in the near future. Can I ask the council are you planning on closing down the councils catering and cleaning department? If not could you please reassure the front line staff of the catering and cleaning dept that their jobs are safe and not under threat, thank you?'

There are absolutely no plans to close down the catering or cleaning services – the Council remain committed to delivering both services, especially given the importance of providing

quality food for our young people and protecting living wage/local employment opportunities.



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Councillor Stretton, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, replied... that 'while members of the senior management team have decided to retire recently, we have supported and respected their individual decisions after years of service to the Council, their services and our communities. Alternative management arrangements in place and teams are actively recruiting to vacant positions.'

6. Question from Stephen Ingham

'Can the Cabinet Member for Housing tell me what progress is being made in implementing the Council's Housing Strategy and building more homes that are truly affordable for people on the Housing Register?'

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, replied that...'Oldham's Labour Council is investing to deliver the many more quality, modern, affordable homes we need. We will provide a diverse housing offer that meets the needs of people at different times in their lives, championing carbon efficient affordable homes. Too many people live in poor quality housing affecting their health and prospects. We've achieved a lot in recent years including the direct delivery of 19 five-bedroom eco-friendly homes at Primrose Bank and a 20-apartment purpose-built supported housing scheme at Holly Bank, Limehurst Village.

Our Housing Delivery Strategy, reviewed at Cabinet next week, sets out how we will lead the way to get up to 3,000 much-needed new homes built on more than 20 council-owned sites across the borough, including in the Town Centre. Unlocking key brownfield sites, they include 140 new homes in Derker and 150 new homes around the former Oldham Mumps railway station.

In Derker. 44 affordable homes will be constructed to carbon neutral standards and 90 market sale homes will be built using low carbon standards. The whole development will be gas free so residents will enjoy far cheaper heating costs.

I can confirm that the Council, as land owner of the other sites, will ensure that at least 25% of new homes will be affordable, rather than the 10% normally required as part of the Planning Process. On many sites the numbers will be higher.

We also plan to build around 31 council owned wheelchair or accessible and adaptable homes across vacant brownfield sites. The homes will be a mix of two and three-bedroom bungalows and three and four-bedroom houses and will be either low or zero carbon. These will be owned by the council and let at an affordable rent through the Housing Register to households with a disabled person. This type of accommodation is in high demand but in very short supply and unlikely to be provided by

other housing developers due to the additional costs involved in constructing level access homes.'



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7. Question from Lisa Phillips

'The recent Cabinet meeting agreeing next steps on Creating a Better Place included an update on the Mills Strategy. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing say this will be publicly available and how it will help Oldham deliver a Brownfield First policy?'

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet Member for Housing, replied that...'
Oldham's Mills Strategy can be found online on the council's Local Plan Review Evidence webpage. (Oldham Mills Strategy/Oldham Mills Strategy/Oldham Council)

It sets out a robust strategy to ensure the sustainable future of the textile mill stock across Oldham, which considers their potential for future development for residential, employment and other uses.

The strategy forms a key part of our positive approach to making the most efficient use of brownfield land and existing buildings, reducing the need for additional pressure on greenfield sites and reducing our carbon footprint.'

8. Question from Gary Tarbuck

'I am firstly a father of two children in this town. With the recent further delays to the CSE report being published I, like many fathers in Oldham, have a deep concern for the safety of my children. Irrespective of when or if the repeatedly delayed CSE report will ever be published, the Council knows the truth of what has taken place. I ask the leader of Oldham Council to clarify once and for all, did her Labour Party controlled Council cover up the grooming and gang rape of our town's children or is it to quote your ex leader "all bare faced lies?"

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied that... 'it would be inappropriate to comment prior to the publication of the independent report being undertaken into this matter'.

9. Question from Neil Wilby

On 8th March 2022, on the Recusant Nine Facebook page it was revealed, in open space, that at least one member of the local Conservative Group had leaked documents to the operator of that site. Can the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and the Group Leader of the Conservatives all please assure Full Council that an appropriate investigation into that admitted leak will take place? Thank you.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform replied denying that any Members of the Labour Group had leaked any document to the operator of the Recusant Nine Facebook page. Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group, addressed the Council, denying that any Members of the Labour Group had leaked any document to the operator of the Recusant Nine Facebook page.

10. Question from Leanne Munroe

Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in St James ward, particularly around Derker, has been increasing over recent years. A small number of people are making the lives of the majority a misery. I was pleased to see recent reports that one of the perpetrators of the ASB has now been jailed. Can the relevant cabinet member tell me what more Oldham Council, Greater Manchester Police and other partners, are doing to stamp this out?

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied... 'we recognise that the issues in Derker and the St James ward as a whole and we are working together with partners in the neighbourhood to reduce anti-social behaviour and crime. The Council, GMP and wider partners have been undertaking a significant amount of work to offer support to victims and witnesses, and to take action against individuals involved in anti-social behaviour and crime.

It is essential that residents continue to report incidents and crimes directly to GMP either by telephone or through the online portal at www.gmp.police.uk This will ensure they receive a log or crime number and can be kept up to date on progress by the officer in the case.

In addition to criminal prosecutions, we are exploring opportunities to use civil powers too as much as we can, such as criminal behaviour orders and tenancy enforcement, through joint working with the Neighbourhood Policing Team, the Community Safety Team and FCHO.

This work will continue and where we are able to do so, information will be shared with the wider community on the actions being undertaken to make our neighbourhoods safer places.

10

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrats Group:

Question 1 – CSE Report

My first question to the Leader tonight is on an issue that many people need much re-assurance on. That is that the report into CSE will be delayed yet again!

This is after previous delays in January this year and November 2021.

I agree that it is extremely important to ensure that anyone who is bringing forward evidence must be given the opportunity, and I am glad that the people in question now feel confident to bring forward their evidence.

However, it is vital that for public support in this process to be maintained, there must be a transparent process for the continued investigation taking place.

Even more important there must be clear support for the people who have already given their evidence and who have expected this report to be issued three times already.

Could the Leader of the Council please confirm?

What additional support is being given to those members of the public who have courageously stepped forward to give evidence, while this process is delayed again?

Whether the oversight board for the investigation has agreed with the extension of the investigation in this way? If so, why have they not issued a statement to help re-assure the public. Also are there any strands of the investigation which are unaffected by the additional interviews, and whether the report could be released in stages, or as an interim report which would allow some of the survivors affected a degree of closure on this stage of their traumatic experiences?

In addition to the promised public meeting is now not the time that a special Council meeting also considers the report and that a special dedicated scrutiny panel/committee makes sure it is examined in detail and lessons and recommendations are actioned.

This special scrutiny committee/panel should report regularly to Full Council on progress and on any other matters it sees fit.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that a public meeting to discuss the outcomes of the report would be convened at the earliest possible opportunity following the publication of the report.

Question 2 – Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone

My second question tonight is on what can only be called the shambles that is the Greater Manchester Clean Air Zone.

Thank goodness the scheme has been delayed until at least July.

I do hope the Tory Government, Mayor Burnham and the 10 Leaders in GM have not just kicked the can down the road until after the local elections.

- ***Who decided that we needed a scheme that covered the whole of GM?***
- ***A scheme would have a major impact on jobs and businesses?***
- ***A scheme that treated air quality on Saddleworth Moor the same as in city centre Salford or Manchester?***
- ***A scheme that excludes the motorway and trunk road network.***

What planet were they on?

Did people not learn anything from the failed congestion charge?

Mayor Burnham must keep his manifesto promise to clean up air pollution in Greater Manchester without “the loss of a single job or business”.

This is something this Labour administration and others in GM failed to do first time round.

Even if people wanted to comply, they cannot as the supply chain just does not exist to deliver the conversions or new complainant vehicles in time and that assumes people can afford them! That situation will not have changed in July.

So, my question tonight is what assurance can the citizens of Oldham have that their interests will be championed and fought

for by those who make the decisions about Clean Air Zone 2, if indeed we need one?

This includes the boundary of the Zone and the vehicles it will or will now not include? Also, that a realistic the financial support package is available for those impacted.

Or will 'CAZ 2 the sequel' just get pushed through quietly in the summer and you hope nobody notices.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic and Social Reform, confirmed that implementation of the Clean Air Zone had been delayed and there was a need for all Local Authorities, across greater Manchester, to be fully compliant by 2026.

Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group:

Question 1 – Ukrainian Refugees

The World seems powerless to stop the war in Ukraine and the consequent problems that arise including the stream of refugees from the conflict zone. With this in mind, has consideration be given to using the old school buildings in Uppermill has a place of shelter for those seeking to escape the conflict?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that this matter would be investigated.

Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party:

Question 1 – Leaks of Information

Further to the question, I asked of the Leader, at the Council meeting held on 15th December 2021, could the Leader request that the Labour Member responsible for leaking confidential information, apologise to this Council meeting for their actions?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic and Social Reform, responded that it was inappropriate to comment at this stage as this matter was subject to an ongoing investigation and had been referred to the Council's Standards Committee.

1. Councillor Marie Bashforth asked the following question: I welcome the decision to pay social care workers the Real Living Wage and am proud to have supported this – can the Leader confirm how the Council is ensuring care workers are paid the increase, how many of our committed care workers will receive the increase and what we can do to encourage other Oldham employers to become accredited Living Wage Foundation employers?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, responded that Adult Social Care will work with the care sector during 2022 to understand how the fees paid for care services will need to be adjusted to enable employers to pay their staff the Real Living Wage from October 2022. We know that there are around 7000 people working in the care sector, and for those providers we commission with directly, we will incorporate real living wage compliance into their contracts and into our contract monitoring activity.

For those care providers operating in Oldham whose services we do not directly commission, we will be actively encouraging them to pay the Real Living Wage through our Market Position Statement and the fair cost of care work we need to undertake this year. It is also highly likely that in order to be able to recruit, those organisations will need to align their rates of pay to those of commissioned providers, and we will monitor this through our market oversight activity.

The Council will continue to promote the GM Good Employment Charter to all companies in Oldham to support the commitment to the Real Living Wage.

2. Councillor C. Phythian asked the following question: Unfortunately, young people are on the receiving end of some very negative and unjustified press, that being said some behaviour is a cause for concern. Could the cabinet member responsible for young people, say how plans in Labour's 2022/3 budget will help young people and their communities?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet member for Children and Young People, responded that, the budget investment will enable us to increase the youth work offer from our Youth service, enhancing what we already offer by increasing access to youth workers and youth work sessions across the borough – We will be able to have a formalised district team in place that will enable a minimum delivery of 15 additional youth work sessions per week (that's 45 hours extra youth work each week). Each district would have 3 dedicated sessions per week (that's 9 hours of extra youth work in each district)

Each District would have a named lead youth worker, who would support the development of the youth work offer, ensuring that we are able to deliver youth work opportunities matched to specific needs. This could be universal provision in communities that provides a range of positive and enriching activities for young people or targeted youth work interventions addressing a range of key themes including reducing youth violence, improving emotional wellbeing, supporting future aspiration or community based social action projects. This is additionality to the current established youth work offer. That includes our Detached team who deliver 15 sessions across the districts each week and Boroughwide team who deliver 5 evening sessions per week) The investment into the youth service will enable us to increase the number of core weekly established sessions by 75% from 20 to 35.

In total the youth service would then be offering 35 sessions per week on average. (this doesn't include the additional youth work sessions we deliver each week as part of our more response-based work i.e., residential, youth voice activities, one to one work, and specific, time bound - needs led projects)

The Budget will also see investment into the Mahdlo Youth zone of £100k taking the total annual investment to 300k, this will enable the continuation of the current Mahdlo offer and the delivery of their universal youth work sessions each day as well as a community-based youth offer from the team in each of our districts.

3. Councillor Davis asked the following question:
Could the lead member confirm that the popular Don't Trash Oldham scheme where every entry will be cleaned up in the Borough, will be rolled out in Failsworth in May despite the fact that the Failsworth Independent Party wanted to scrap it in their budget proposals at the recent budget meeting?

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, replied, confirming that the Don't Trash Oldham scheme will be delivering in Failsworth East and West from 1st to 31st May 2022.

4. Councillor Woodvine asked the following question:

Thank you, Madam Mayor. As an accessible attraction for all our visitors to Saddleworth the Huddersfield Narrow Canal has been the victim of its own success - suffering from deteriorating surfaces along the towing paths.

I was interested to see that Kirklees Council, along with the new metropolitan Mayor on the other side of the Pennines, are investing £2.7million into walking and cycling along the sections of the same canal which also travels through parts of their Borough. This includes a 4.3km stretch. Please will Oldham Council commit to restoring this tourist attraction to its former glory and, along with the Combined Authority, find funding to complete the repair works necessary following the lead of West Yorkshire?

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied... thank you for bringing this to my attention. The Huddersfield canal remains an important and significant feature within the Saddleworth, Kirklees and Tameside landscape and as such officers are currently liaising with our neighbouring authorities to ensure that this remains the case.

It is great news that Kirklees has been able to secure funding to enhance the work that has already been undertaken and Oldham continues to look for opportunities to ensure that the stretch that runs through Saddleworth attracts further/continued investment in addition to the revenue funding that is already in place to maintain this section of the route at the highest level possible.

LIF funding bids were welcomed in 2019 and 2021 for projects that required capital investment - unfortunately no such bids were received for the Huddersfield canal. The Tripart agreement that Oldham, Kirklees and Tameside had with the Canals and Rivers Trust has come to an end: this has only recently come to our attention after making contact to pay the £95k annual payment. After several weeks on engagement and lack of response from C&R Trust, this week we have established the right contacts in neighbouring authorities – who have confirmed they were also unaware of the agreement coming to an end - and a meeting has been agreed for 2:00pm on 6th April 2022. We are really concerned that the end of the agreement could leave the council with the potential of a significant and ongoing cost - especially if anything was to go wrong with any of the bridges and structures or even the integrity of the canal itself. We will obviously report back once the meeting has been held. Work is due to start on £2.7 million walking and cycling boost for two West Yorkshire canal towpaths - CityConnect (cyclecity@connect.co.uk).

5. Councillor Williamson asked the following question:
The Cabinet Member may be aware of a scheme where developers are trialling the use of nappies to make road surfaces last twice as long.

The project is being piloted in Wales, and it could mean fewer nappies are thrown into landfill. Fibre from nappies is added to bitumen gluing together asphalt road surfaces.

According to media sources the Welsh government is backing the project with £180,000 funding, and a stretch of the A487 between Aberystwyth and Cardigan in Ceredigion has already been replaced with the nappy formula road surface. The trial could also help offer a solution to the nappy waste problem, with about 140 million disposable nappies tossed in the bin annually in Wales. And anything that increases how long a highway surface lasts has to be a good thing.

The Liberal Democrats have suggested something similar where waste from unwanted plastic and waste tyres could be used in roads.

Would the Cabinet Member be opposed to approaching any of these companies to make an offer that would see Oldham's roads trailed in a future scheme?

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied that Oldham was part of both the Local Council Roads Innovation Group (LCRIG) and the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and as such we are constantly collaborating and sharing information with our colleagues across numerous local authorities, Oldham Highways are not opposed to trying new products that are sustainable and reduce our carbon footprint by either extending the lifecycle of the product or utilising material that would otherwise go to landfill.

As part of Oldham Highways proposed new surfacing delivery programme 2022/23 intend to Trial a Rubber Modified Asphalt which incorporates the rubber from one tyre per tonne of asphalt, giving the potential to recycle about 500 tyres per kilometre of road, depending on layer thickness.

This product has been extensively tested and all the results look positive.

With regards the Nappies trial that has been carried out in Wales on the A487 between Cardigan to Aberystwyth which states more than 107,000 used nappies will be recycled, it would be prudent of Oldham council to wait to see how this material performs and to ascertain if there are any potential issues such as micro plastics or contaminated waste issues when removing the product at the end of its life cycle.

We will continue to collaborate with both GMCA and LCRIG to explore innovative ways to both extend the lifespan and reduce the carbon footprint of the products that we use when carrying out resurfacing works in the borough.

6. Councillor Briggs asked the following question:

The Tory cost of living crisis is hitting families hard. Households in Failsworth are already beginning to receive letters advising them that their energy bills are set to increase dramatically. While the Government have done nothing more than give people £150 off their Council Tax bill, and a £200 loan which they will have to pay back through future energy bills, Labour have pledged that they would improve energy efficiency in 19million homes via the warm homes scheme, saving each an average of £400 per year.

Oldham's Labour Council has been running an award-winning warm homes scheme for many years. Can the relevant Cabinet Member advise Council how many households in Failsworth have benefitted from this scheme since its inception and what measures were implemented in those homes?



Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Low Carbon, replied that over 15,000 households had received assistance from Warm Homes Oldham since its inception 9 years ago of which an estimated 900 households were in Failsworth. The measures provided include broken boiler replacements, first time central heating, loft insulation, wall insulation, windows and doors. In addition, the Warm Homes Oldham service has provided:

- Small energy saving measures, such as draught-proofing, LED light bulbs, and reflective radiator foils.
- Essential furniture, white goods and bedding packs.
- Minor home repairs.
- Advice on reducing energy use around the home and using heating controls effectively.
- Help with switching energy supplier or tariff, claiming the Warm Homes Discount, and registering on the Priority Services Register.
- Support with maximising income, claiming benefit entitlements, getting out of energy or water debt, and making trust fund applications.

7. Councillor Shuttleworth asked the following question: May I ask the Cabinet Member responsible for planning to confirm: How many homes have been built within the Borough, or are in progress, during the last 12 months? How does this figure compare with the previous 12 months? How many planning applications have been granted for housing developments in the Borough over the last three years? How many such approved developments are yet to commence?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet member for Housing, replied that given we monitor housing completions annually (April - March), we do not have a complete set of figures for the current financial year yet, and so our answers would still be the same as that provided in December. It might also be worth pointing out to Cllr Shuttleworth that housing completion data is publicly available on the Council's website as part of our Annual Monitoring Report.

We can pull down the number of housing completions, planning applications, etc. for April-December 2021 if you wish, but this will not provide a direct comparable for previous years' data, being only 9 months of the current year, so I would suggest we simply re-provide the answers given for the December council meeting for consistency.

8. Councillor Taylor asked the following question:

Used cars can be sold from showrooms or on-line and this is a growing business. Either way, the vehicles for sale need to be stored waiting for a buyer. In my ward a number of these types of facilities have sprung up. Some of these businesses are in residential areas and they can have a significant impact on residents. We receive regular complaints of roads being blocked when vehicles are delivered and inconsiderate parking on residential streets, and this is happening even when businesses describe themselves as being online only. Residents ask, have these businesses received planning permission and we are not able to provide a definitive answer

Could the relevant Cabinet please clarify a number of points: Is there a requirement for a facility that stores vehicles on open land to comply with any planning regulations? In planning terms, Is there a difference between a car storage facility and a car sales showroom? What limitations there are on an online business receiving customers to their premises to carry out business?

Councillor Roberts, Cabinet member for Housing, replied that the answer to this question depended on the circumstances of the individual case. Although in general, any new development for a scrap yard, breakers yard, and car sales showroom and forecourt usually falls outside any specific Use Class and will always require planning permission. Where vehicles are parked on open land purely for storage purposes, this would generally be considered as use falling within Use Class B8 (storage and distribution), but this would still require a planning permission where the land in question is not already in that use.

Yes. Exclusive use of land and/or a building for storage or cars would generally fall within Use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution) in the same way as any warehousing use or outdoor storage use would. Land and/or buildings used as a car sales showroom would always require planning permission (unless it already benefits from a historic established use).

If an online business relies upon a physical location in which to receive customers and carry out part of their business, then the land where that takes place would be treated no differently than if the business operated only in person/physically and was not online. Additionally, if vehicles are being parked on the highway they must be insured and taxed, and this would be a matter for the Police.

9. Question asked by Councillor Sharp

Thank you. Madam Mayor. The Roman Catholic Diocese have closed several churches in Oldham, they now stand empty and are being vandalised. The Sacred Heart Church Building in Derker is one of them. There are numerous rumours surrounding its future, one of them is the council intends paying to demolish the church and turn it into a car park.

Last year I placed an expression of interest into the LIF fund to turn the church into a community centre. Unfortunately, this was rejected. The Leader and Chief Executive will remember at the Big Conversation in St James, the strength of feeling regarding lack of facilities in Derker and an opportunity to explore providing further facilities to the community has been wasted.

Can the Council provide an update on this building and whether they support historic buildings being turned into car parks instead of facilities for the wider community? Thank you.



Oldham
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Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, replied that the Council supports the restoration and ongoing use of historic buildings throughout the borough wherever possible. The Sacred Heart Church building in Derker is not owned by the Council and we are not involved with any proposals/discussions in relation to the building.

10. Councillor Islam asked the following question:

It was very encouraging to see last year, the Council launching its own 'Kickstart' Programme, participating in the national programme, in creating job opportunities for young people. This programme was aimed at young people, between the ages of 16-24 who are on Universal Credit. The Council agreed to take on 50 young people and give them 6 months paid job-based opportunity. This is a great initiative, and one that would go a long way in helping young people gain skills and work experience within the town's largest and reputable employer. Please can the relevant cabinet member report the progress to date, including confirming the number of young people taken on?

Councillor Akhtar, Cabinet member for Employment and Enterprise, replied that Oldham Council has committed to creating 50 Kickstart placements. It created 67 and has to date filled 55. 15 have completed their placement with 9 progressing into employment or apprenticeships. The Council is committed to supporting the cohort through Get Oldham Working.

11. Councillor Surjan asked the following question:

Can the relevant cabinet member please give an update on the issues around pavement parking and speeding in the Westwood and Chadderton areas?

Councillor Chadderton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, replied that problematic Pavement Parking and Inappropriate Speeding were not only issues experienced in some parts of Chadderton and Westwood but they occurred across the borough, around other Greater Manchester areas and indeed across the whole country. Traffic and Road Safety officers are committed to managing the demand for residential street parking whilst at the same time reviewing the speed of vehicles in built-up residential areas.

We are awaiting the conclusion of the Department for Transport's Pavement Parking – Options for Change Consultation carried out in 2020 – following which we will accelerate appropriate policies and strategies to best tackle problematic pavement parking in line with the new Governmental guidelines.

On the matter of tackling inappropriate speeding - officers will continue to work with Greater Manchester Police in the roll out of the new Speed Complaints Process.

Specifically, with regards to Westwood, officers will continue to work closely with residents and elected members in their joint commitment to develop a successful Active neighbourhood scheme.

QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the undermentioned dates, to receive questions on any items within the minutes from members of the Council that are not members of the Cabinet and to receive responses from Cabinet members. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 15th November 2021, 13th December 2021 and 24th January 2022 were submitted.

Members asked the following questions:-

Councillor Hulme asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 13/12/21, Item 9, page 106

I note the decision taken by the Council to lease land to enable the NHS to build a Community Diagnostics Hub. Could the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care say how much this will help hard pressed GP services across Oldham and whether he knows if the NHS is able to fund a new GP health centre in Uppermill?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet member for Health and Social Care, replied that with regard to the CDH development, this is part of a national capital investment programme to help improve access to diagnostic facilities to enable elective surgery waiting lists to be reduced. Members will be aware that there is now a growing backlog of people waiting for surgery.

In terms of Saddleworth, in the past week the Council Chief Executive, CCG Chief Officer and local GPs at Saddleworth Medical Practice have met to discuss in detail the situation. This has led to a firm commitment to start the process for a feasibility study about healthcare provision and access within the Saddleworth area. No timelines have yet been agreed for this work to complete but the scope was broadly agreed as incorporating the generation of a single understanding of the health and care needs of the local population along with current access to services and facilities with a view to identifying any subsequent options that may be available. The views expressed in the recent Meet the Leader conversations have been heard and are being used to shape this stage of the work and the matter is receiving serious consideration.

Councillor Islam asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 24/1/22, item 9, page 106

Recent press reports have highlighted issues with the recruitment and retention of children's Social Workers in Oldham. Could the Cabinet Member please tell me if this is an issue and if it is, to what extent this contract provides agency social workers to the Council and what other steps are being put in place to rectify the situation?

Councillor Moores, Cabinet member for Children and Young People replied that, in response to your question regarding the issues raised in recent press coverage of the recruitment and retention of children's Social Workers in Oldham we provide the following response:

The turnover rates for qualified children's social workers in Oldham is 17% compared with the overall Council turnover rate of 11.4%. This is above the England, NW and GM all at 15% but below our Statistical Neighbours at 18%.

The reason that social workers leave the authority are varied and can include personal reasons, such as moving away from the area, or professional to seeking promotion or a change of career path. Exit interviews are conducted with all departing social workers in order to capture the reasons and to see whether or not there are actions that can be taken to support the social worker to remain in Oldham.

A number of our Frontline and Newly Qualified Social Workers leave Oldham upon completion of their courses in order to return to their home area. We have learned from this and are keen to encourage applicants who wish to make a commitment to develop their career in Oldham and better reflect our diverse communities.

Currently, 25% of permanent social work posts are covered by agency social workers sourced through the Reed Framework. There is a national shortage of experienced social workers and Oldham Council is competing with Greater Manchester Local Authorities, and those further afield, to recruit to these roles. We are working hard to ensure that our recruitment campaign promotes Oldham as an 'Employer of Choice' and we emphasise the benefits of joining our authority. This includes our competitive pay and rewards, the bespoke workplace designed for social workers, employee assistance scheme and the support and development opportunities that we provide. We are simplifying our recruitment processes and supporting staff and managers to tell our story through the use of social media and our recruitment site:

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6907296552621330432>

We are considering other ways of bringing social workers into Oldham via our links with universities and expansion of our apprenticeship scheme led by our Principal Social Worker. Members can play an active role in promoting Oldham Council as a social care employer of choice through their available networks.

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 24/1/22, item 6, page 101 (Review of the Council's Wholly Owned Company: Unity Partnership Limited):

Following the decision of this Council to revert Unity Partnership back into the Council rather than remain a wholly owned separate entity I would like to ask the following questions that residents of Oldham would be grateful to hear.

- When will we know how much this reorganisation will cost?

- What are the consequences to continuation of services for residents
- How many projects will be delayed?
- Importantly, when will we see service improvements and when will we see a saving to Oldham?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that as advised in the report to the Cabinet on 24th January 2022, the costs were initially estimated at £1.3m to support additional identified costs including any requests to join the GM Pension Fund. This £1.3m was to be included in the Council's 2022/23 Revenue Budget on a one-off basis funded from Council reserves in the first instance, with the expectation that the efficiencies and opportunities to redesign service delivery would fund this investment over a two-year period.

The £1.3m investment in Organisational Redesign funded by reserves, was included in the Council's Revenue Budget Report approved on 2 March. However, as the £1.3m was based on best estimates and it won't be until the transfer is complete and revised working arrangements have settled, that the final position will be known.

The decision to move Unity Partnership Services back into the Council will have minimal impact on current service delivery, the Services will continue to be provided by the same expert staff who will TUPE transfer from Unity into the Council and residents should feel no negative impact. Indeed, we intend to use this opportunity to improve how we deliver services over time but the immediate focus is on ensuring we undertake a smooth and safe transition that ensures we retain a high standard of service delivery.

The transition of services and staff from Unity Partnership into the Council will have no material impact on the various projects that are already underway or on the 'starting blocks', there is additional work that officers are having to manage as a result of the transition but at this stage, officers are reporting that it is having no direct impact on projects.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy also approved at Council on 2 March 2022 identified expected cost reductions of £0.650m in both 2023/24 and 2024/25 thus funding the cost of the initial investment. Any additional savings will be identified in preparing the budgets for 2023/24 and future years.

Councillor Hamblett asked the following question in relation to Cabinet 15/11/21, Item 6, page 85 (Oldham Council Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan):

The Peer Review which took place in January 2020 highlighted numerous ways in which Oldham as a Council and a Borough could improve both effectively and economically.

Although COVID-19 might have been a stumbling block to developing the outcomes of the review, which was very warmly accepted at the time, we are now two years later on and the findings of the review are still to be actioned although we now apparently have an action plan.

Why is it the action plan from that review and its key recommendations have taken until November 2021 to be presented to Cabinet. And those Cabinet minutes are before us tonight in March 2022.

The review process has several stages with the LGA willing to return to see how we are progressing.

Can I ask therefore if we have a timescale when we can expect to see a meaningful outcome from the action plan and importantly when our critical friends, the LGA are likely to return to reassess our progress against the accepted recommendations?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Economic and Social Reform, replied that the Cabinet had agreed to implement the Corporate Peer Challenge Action Plan in accordance with timeframe that was detailed in the appendix to the Cabinet's report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 15th November 2021, 13th December 2021 and 24th January 2022 be noted.
2. The questions and responses provided be noted.

12

QUESTIONS ON JOINT ARRANGEMENTS

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 Joint Authorities and Partnerships were submitted as follows:

Commissioning Board	Partnership	21 st October 2021 27 th January 2022
Health and Wellbeing Board		16 th November 2021
AGMA Executive Board		25 th June 2021
GM Transport Committee		15 th October 2021
GMCA		26 th November 2021 17 th December 2021 28 th January 2022
Miocare		14 th October 2021
National Park Authority		12 th November 2021 7 th January 2022
Police, Fire and Crime Panel		22 nd October 2021 14 th January 2022 31 st January 2022 10 th February 2022

Members raised the following questions:

Councillor Ali asked the following question in relation to Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel 31st January 2022, Minutes PFCP/14/22 p 231
GMP Performance Update

As we speak there are many victims of crime. A few residents who had been the victims of crime have contacted me; they feel let down by the police response. It was great to have Chief of Oldham Police in this Council, talking about their planned changes on reducing crime and improving services offered to victims of crime – while the Council can see a GM wide update from these minutes, it would be helpful for the Council to see a progress report on policing here in Oldham. Will the Leader of the Council be prepared to write to the Chief of Oldham Police and request for a report on their plan to improve services to victims of crime and clearing up crimes to be presented to this Council, sooner rather than later?

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked the following question in relation to Greater Manchester Police, Fire and Crime Panel 31st January 2022, Minutes PFCP/14/22 p 243

GMP Updates on Areas of Focus

In referring to the update on the progress made with the continuing development of GMP's integrated operational policing system (i-OPS) technology, he queried why no decision had been taken regarding the implementation of the project.

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked the following question in relation to Greater Manchester Combined Authority meeting, 17th

December 2021, Minute GMCA/239/21 p 169

GMCA Delivering Net Zero Carbon Social Rented Homes

Councillor Al-Hamdani queried the accuracy of the report that was submitted to the GMCA meeting, on 17th December 2021, regarding this matter, in that no affordable rented homes have been built in the Oldham Borough since 2015. Homes England have not been able to release the land on which new properties can be built.

RESOLVED that:

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

13

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Roberts SECONDED the following MOTION:

Tackling the Tories cost of living crisis

This Council notes:

Families across Oldham are facing the worse cost of living crisis in a generation, brought on by political decisions of this Conservative Government and the cumulative effects of 12 years of austerity, welfare cuts and a race to the bottom on wages through the "gig economy".

Oldhamers are facing their highest tax burden on record, with National Insurance set to rise as well as indirect taxes. In addition, fuel, food and energy costs have increased dramatically in the last few months. Aside from general inflation, profit-motivated fuel and petrochemical companies continue to

make billions in profits, paid from the pockets of Oldhamers into the pockets of their shareholders. Petrol has reached a high of 151p per litre and diesel is at a record high of 155p per litre and may well be more when this motion is presented. While it is understood that global conflict raises the price of Brent crude prices, government is just not doing enough to make fuel companies pass on price reductions at the pump.

Energy costs, similarly, are rising by an average of 54% and the government's price cap is set to rise to £1,970 per year on April 1st, with a further rise expected later in the year. Wholesale gas prices have rose to an all-time high in December 2021 and are set to exceed that level again later this year. This is not only a damning indictment of the governments underfunding and underinvestment in sustainable and reliable green energy, energy efficiency in Oldham's homes and our national power infrastructure, but of energy suppliers too.

Despite taxes being at their highest in living memory, the government's 12-year austerity agenda has stripped public services of any capacity to deal with an inflation crisis. Indeed, benefit cuts have been a choice made by this government and as more people turn to find support, they will sadly discover it already cut away. In-work benefits are needed by many because of the unregulated gig economy operating carte blanche in UK workplaces, workers have no security, and the government is doing nothing to address this, or indeed the horrific practice of "fire and re-hire".

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that they:

1. Implement emergency measures to ease food, fuel and energy prices on Oldham residents.
2. Reverse cuts to welfare, specifically Universal Credit and restore the Triple-Lock Guarantee to the state pension to support our most vulnerable residents in this time of crisis in the cost of living.
3. Accept that families are facing a cost-of-living crisis and therefore reverse the decision to raise National Insurance, affecting not only workers but jobs and businesses.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor H Gloster SECONDED the following AMENDMENTS:

- a. Change in the final paragraph in line three the word 'request' to 'implore'
- b. Change the wording of the final paragraph to read:
Accept that families are facing a cost-of-living crisis, and therefore reverse the decision to raise National Insurance, which affects workers but jobs and businesses, and institute universal free school meals, which will assist struggling families to properly feed their children.

The amended Motion to read:



This Council notes:

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Oldhamers are facing their highest tax burden on record, with National Insurance set to rise as well as indirect taxes. In addition, fuel, food and energy costs have increased dramatically in the last few months. Aside from general inflation, profit-motivated fuel and petrochemical companies continue to make billions in profits, paid from the pockets of Oldhamers into the pockets of their shareholders. Petrol has reached a high of 151p per litre and diesel is at a record high of 155p per litre and may well be more when this motion is presented. While it is understood that global conflict raises the price of Brent crude prices, government is just not doing enough to make fuel companies pass on price reductions at the pump.

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Despite taxes being at their highest in living memory, the government’s 12-year austerity agenda has stripped public services of any capacity to deal with an inflation crisis. Indeed, benefit cuts have been a choice made by this government and as more people turn to find support, they will sadly discover it already cut away. In-work benefits are needed by many because of the unregulated gig economy operating carte blanche in UK workplaces, workers have no security, and the government is doing nothing to address this, or indeed the horrific practice of “fire and re-hire”.

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1. Implement emergency measures to ease food, fuel and energy prices on Oldham residents.
2. Reverse cuts to welfare, specifically Universal Credit and restore the Triple-Lock Guarantee to the state pension to support our most vulnerable residents in this time of crisis in the cost of living.
3. Accept that families are facing a cost-of-living crisis and therefore reverse the decision to raise National Insurance, affecting not only workers but jobs and businesses, and institute universal free school meals, which will assist struggling families to properly feed their children.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT and which was CARRIED and became the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.



Councillor Woodvine spoke against the Motion
 Councillor Mushtaq spoke in favour of the Motion
 Councillor Stretton spoke in favour of the Motion
 Councillor Goodwin spoke in favour of the Motion

Councillor Shah exercised her right of reply.

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Roberts SECONDED the AMENDED Motion:

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Abid Sahr	ABSENT	Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES
Ahmad Riz	FOR	Iqbal Javid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nasrul	FOR
Alexander Ginny	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Kenyon Mark	APOLOGIES
Ali Mohon	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Alyas Mohammed	FOR	Leach Valerie	APOLOGIES
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	McLaren Colin	FOR
Bashforth Steve	FOR	Moores Eddie	FOR
Birch Ros	FOR	Murphy Dave	FOR
Briggs Norman	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Phythian Clint	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chadderton Amanda	FOR	Roberts Hannah	FOR
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Salamat Ali Aqeel	APOLOGIES
Cosgrove Angela	APOLOGIES	Shah Arooj	FOR
Curley Jamie	ABSENT	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Davis Peter	FOR	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Dean Peter	APOLOGIES	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Garry Elaine	FOR	Stretton Jean	FOR
Gloster Chris	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR

Goodwin Chris	FOR	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Toor Yasmin	FOR
Hindle Neil	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hobin Brian	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hulme George	FOR	Williams Steve	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	APOLOGIES	Harrison Jennifer	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 44 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION and 6 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

This Council resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to implore that they:

1. Implement emergency measures to ease food, fuel and energy prices on Oldham residents.
2. Reverse cuts to welfare, specifically Universal Credit and restore the Triple-Lock Guarantee to the state pension to support our most vulnerable residents in this time of crisis in the cost of living.
3. Accept that families are facing a cost-of-living crisis and therefore reverse the decision to raise National Insurance, affecting not only workers but jobs and businesses, and institute universal free school meals, which will assist struggling families to properly feed their children.

14

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1

Councillor Arnott MOVED and Councillor Sharp SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 1 – Child Sexual Exploitation

The Council notes that.

After a number of significant delays, Greater Manchester Mayor, Andy Burnham made a firm commitment in December 2021, that the independent report by Malcolm Newsam CBE and Gary Ridgeway into the response to historic Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) in Oldham, would be published in week ending 28th January 2022.

Just days before this latest deadline for publication, Mr Burnham released a further short statement, to the effect that the report would not be released in time to meet the deadline, with no further date for publication suggested.

This series of delays causes considerable emotional distress to the victims and their families and a lack of trust in the integrity of the report from the public in Oldham.

There is a growing feeling of unease amongst the residents of Oldham, and a suspicion that this latest delay of nearly eight weeks, is an indication that Mayor Andy Burnham is seeking to delay the publication of the report until after the local elections in May.



This Council resolves that:

1. This council has lost its confidence in the ability, or ambition of the Mayor of Greater Manchester to publish the results of the review into CSE in Oldham with the urgency and expediency that the victims, their families, and the residents of Oldham deserve.
2. The Chief Executive of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council write to the Home Secretary asking for urgent and immediate direct Government intervention and assistance in ensuring that the report is published as quickly as possible and without any further delay.
3. The Home Secretary is further requested to establish whether previous delays could have been avoided, and to establish whether there had been any direct or indirect influence exerted to delay the publication of the report until after, or until a date very close to, the local government elections in May 2022.

Councillor Lancaster spoke in favour of the Motion

Councillor Al-Hamdani spoke on the Motion

Councillor Shah spoke on the Motion

Councillor Hobin spoke on the Motion

Councillor Arnott exercised his right of reply

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Abid Sahr	ABSENT	Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES
Ahmad Riaz	AGAINST	Iqbal Javid	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Alexander Ginny	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Kenyon Mark	APOLOGIES
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	FOR
Alyas Mohammed	AGAINST	Leach Valerie	APOLOGIES
Arnott Dave	FOR	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Bashforth Steve	AGAINST	Moore Eddie	AGAINST
Birch Ros	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Briggs Norman	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST

Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Phythian Clint	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	FOR	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chadderton Amanda	AGAINST	Roberts Hannah	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	AGAINST	Salamat Ali Aqeel	APOLOGIES
Cosgrove Angela	APOLOGIES	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Curley Jamie	ABSENT	Sharp Beth	FOR
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Sheldon Graham	FOR
Dean Peter	APOLOGIES	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Garry Elaine	AGAINST	Stretton Jean	AGAINST
Gloster Chris	FOR	Surjan Ruji Sapna	AGAINST
Gloster Hazel	FOR	Sykes Howard	FOR
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Toor Yasmin	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	FOR
Hobin Brian	FOR	Williamson Diane	FOR
Hulme George	AGAINST	Williams Steve	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Fida	APOLOGIES	Harrison Jennifer	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 16 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 34 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore **LOST**.

Motion 2

Councillor Hazel Gloster MOVED and Councillor Al-Hamdani SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 2 – Fly Tipping

The Council notes that:

Increased levels of fly tipping at across Oldham Borough, in particular organised criminal, commercial dumping of waste, despite the best efforts of the *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign. The costs involved in responding to this problem, both in terms of the specific *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign, but also the necessary costs of clearance and prosecution, where possible. The widespread upset caused by the effect this has on residents' environment, the associated health and safety issues, and the dangers of a further acceleration of this problem. The connection residents make between this growing problem and the increased charges/reduced availability of bulky waste collection and household waste facilities.

That if convicted, fly-tippers can face unlimited fines, and up to five years in prison.

That the Government is currently investigating options to introduce a move towards a permit-based system for disposal of waste rather than registration.

This council agrees:

1. To produce an annual report, clearly detailing the costs of managing this issue, both specific campaigns, and associated clearances and prosecution, and any income generated through enforcement measures and bulky waste collections.
2. To ensure that the report also identifies any correlation between fly-tipping and other social factors.
3. To introduce a credible and effective enforcement strategy, with clear criteria and approaches for the introduction of fixed and mobile CCTV at or near known fly-tipping sites, and barriers to prevent access where necessary.
4. To introduce a clear information and education strategy to sit alongside *Don't Trash Oldham* to ensure residents are clear about what services are available for clearing waste, how to report fly tipping, and their responsibilities and the potential for prosecution if they do not dispose of waste correctly.
5. To ensure that the Council's response to the current Government consultation strongly supports any measures which make it easier to crack down on commercial, criminal activity, and ensure that any revenue generated by this can be used by the Council to cut the costs of recycling and bulky waste removal for residents.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Davis SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Insert before para 1:

The ongoing efforts to clean up Oldham as part of Don't Trash Oldham. We recognise the huge impact Don't Trash Oldham has had and the amount of work that has already been undertaken.

In six months Don't Trash Oldham has:

- Cleared up 144 tonnes of rubbish, fly tipping and over-grown shrubs.
- We've cleaned 1755 streets and 292 alleyways.
- Knocked on 18,000 doors.
- Given out 301 fines.
- Prosecuted 18 people for environmental crimes.

However, we continue to see

Increased levels of fly tipping at across Oldham Borough,

Delete at para 1

in particular organised criminal,

Insert at para 1

Including the dumping of commercial waste

Delete at a para 1

despite the best efforts of the *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign.

Insert at para 3

and the detrimental effect this can have on people's lives.

Delete at para 3 and 4

the associated health and safety issues, and the dangers of a further acceleration of this problem.

The connection residents make between this growing problem and the increased charges/reduced availability of bulky waste collection and household waste facilities.

This council agrees:

Delete bullet points 1 and 2

Amend bullet point 3 to read

Update our enforcement strategy to ensure it reflects the learning from Don't Trash Oldham and includes the priorities we have identified since the start of Don't Trash Oldham. Ensure this includes clear criteria and approaches for the introduction of fixed and mobile CCTV at or near known fly-tipping sites, and barriers to prevent access where necessary.

Amend bullet point 4 to read

Work with the newly recruited Environment Marshalls in each District to produce a plan to ensure residents are clear about what services are available for clearing waste, how to report fly tipping, and their responsibilities and the potential for prosecution if they do not dispose of waste correctly.

Amend bullet point 5 to read

To ensure that the Council's response to the current Government consultation strongly supports any measures which make it easier to crack down on commercial, criminal activity.

Insert additional bullet point to read

Write to Greater Manchester Police asking for any information they have on criminal gangs dumping commercial waste and if so, what can the council do to support them to stamp this out.

The amended Motion to read:

This council notes:

The ongoing efforts to clean up Oldham as part of Don't Trash Oldham. We recognise the huge impact Don't Trash Oldham has had and the amount of work that has already been undertaken.

In six months Don't Trash Oldham has:

- Cleared up 144 tonnes of rubbish, fly tipping and over-grown shrubs.
- We've cleaned 1755 streets and 292 alleyways.
- Knocked on 18,000 doors.
- Given out 301 fines.
- Prosecuted 18 people for environmental crimes.

However, we continue to see Increased levels of fly tipping across Oldham Borough, including the dumping of commercial waste.

The costs involved in responding to this problem, both in terms of the specific *Don't Trash Oldham* campaign, but also the necessary costs of clearance and prosecution, where possible. The widespread upset caused by the effect this has on residents' environment and the detrimental effect this can have on people's lives.

That if convicted fly-tippers can face unlimited fines, and up to five years in prison.

That the Government is currently investigating options to introduce a move towards a permit-based system for disposal of waste rather than registration.

This council agrees:

1. Update our enforcement strategy to ensure it reflects the learning from Don't Trash Oldham and includes the priorities we have identified since the start of Don't Trash Oldham. Ensure this includes clear criteria and approaches for the introduction of fixed and mobile CCTV at or near known fly-tipping sites, and barriers to prevent access where necessary.
2. Work with the newly recruited Environment Marshalls in each District to produce a plan to ensure residents are clear about what services are available for clearing waste, how to report fly tipping, and their responsibilities and the potential for prosecution if they do not dispose of waste correctly.
3. To ensure that the Council's response to the current Government consultation strongly supports any measures which make it easier to crack down on commercial, criminal activity.
4. Write to Greater Manchester Police asking for any information they have on criminal gangs dumping commercial waste and if so, what can the council do to support them to stamp this out.



Councillor Davis spoke on the Motion

Councillor Hazel Gloster exercised her right of reply

On being put to the vote, the MOTION as amended was CARRIED

RESOLVED that:

- a. The Director of Environmental Services be requested to update the Council's enforcement strategy to ensure it reflects the learning from Don't Trash Oldham and includes the priorities we have identified since the start of Don't Trash Oldham. Ensure this includes clear criteria and approaches for the introduction of fixed and mobile CCTV at or near known fly-tipping sites, and barriers to prevent access where necessary.
- b. The Director of Environmental Services be requested to work with the newly recruited Environment Marshalls in each District to produce a plan to ensure residents are clear about what services are available for clearing waste, how to report fly tipping, and their responsibilities and the potential for prosecution if they do not dispose of waste correctly.
- c. The Director of Environmental Services be requested to ensure that the Council's response to the current Government consultation strongly supports any measures which make it easier to crack down on commercial, criminal activity.

- d. That the Chief Executive be requested to write to Greater Manchester Police asking for any information they have on criminal gangs dumping commercial waste and if so, what can the council do to support them to stamp this out.

Motion 3

Councillor Lancaster MOVED and Councillor Woodvine SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 3 – Levelling Up

The Council notes that:

On Wednesday 2nd February, the UK Government announced its flagship 'Levelling Up' White Paper -a document which sets out a plan to transform the United Kingdom by spreading opportunity and prosperity to all parts of it, including across our Borough of Oldham.

This Council notes that:

- The UK Government has ably assisted our Borough throughout the pandemic, supporting the employment of almost 40,000 residents through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), the provision of several grant schemes available to thousands of local businesses, and in awarding funding to Oldham Coliseum through the Culture Recovery Fund.
- Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the UK Government has already made significant financial contribution and progress in encouraging growth across our Borough, including with a £6.5m award from the Brownfield Housing Fund, a £10.75m award from the Future High Streets Fund, a £24.4 million award from the Towns Fund, a £9.7m award for the Oldham Opportunity Area, a £22m uplift in school spending; and a new £4.5m diagnostics centre in Royton, set to benefit up to 30,000 people across the Borough, and a £28m extension to the Oldham Royal Hospital via the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group.
- In designating Oldham as an Education Investment Area to drive school improvement, intervention in underperforming schools, growth of strong trusts and the retention of high-quality teachers, the UK Government has clearly recognised our Borough as being central to its national 'Levelling Up' agenda going forward.
- The twelve missions contained within the 'Levelling Up' White Paper, including productivity, public investment, pride in place, public transport, paths to home ownership, amongst others, represent the right priorities for this national agenda.

This Council resolves to:

- a. Proactively work with the UK Government in seeking further national investment, including making an application for our Borough to host the new home of the Great British Railways (GBR) Headquarters.

- b. Align with the UK Government's ambition for Local Government Pension Funds to increase asset investment in projects which support local areas, and work with Tameside MBC and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure this ambition is realised with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) in our Borough.
- c. Proactively work with the UK Government, via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), in the negotiation of a new devolution deal for the City Region.
- d. Support the establishment of and practically cooperate with the UK Government's intended new independent body to assess performance and strengthen transparency across the local government sector.
- e. Ensure that its senior executive staff partake in the leadership capability training which will be made available through the new Leadership College for Government from April 2022.
- f. Utilise the spatial modelling techniques for planning which the UK Government is investing in through an Office for National Statistics (ONS)-led collaboration platform and which is to be made available throughout local government.
- g. Develop relations with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, local businesses and research and development (R&D) institutions with a view to increasing R&D activity in our Borough, and to seek to derive benefit for our Borough from the UK Government's new Innovation Accelerator for Greater Manchester.
- h. Utilise the data and information to be made available through the Department for Education's intended Unit for Future Skills, in order to inform local policies and provisions, alignment with labour market need, and the updating of apprenticeship programmes.
- i. Adopt policies in favour of local community empowerment and partnership and to contribute the UK Government's review of neighbourhood governance accordingly.
- j. Support future bids to the UK Government's Safer Streets Fund, building on the initial investment to the GMCA of £550k late last year.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Akhtar SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Para 1, delete "[which] sets out a plan to transform the United Kingdom by spreading opportunity and prosperity to all parts of it, including across our borough of Oldham" and replace with: "[which] fails in its ambition for Oldham and does not deliver the funding, powers or long-term prosperity plans this council strives for."

At "This Council notes that..." delete all to "This Council resolves to..." and replace with:

Delete bullet point 1 from The UK Govt to (CJRS)

Insert

- The UK Government has provided some short-term

assistance for our Borough in the last financial year – though it has not “covered the cost of the pandemic” as it promised to do. As well as some one-year funding,

Continue with:

schemes have included the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), allowing Oldham Council to design and administrate significant grants to businesses, and awarding funding to Oldham Coliseum through the Culture Recovery Fund.

Delete from a £22m uplift to NHS Group.

Add new bullet point 2

- Take the challenges of the pandemic into account, Oldham Council and its heroic staff have had to maintain vital services despite £230 million worth of cuts to its budget since 2010. Moreover, this is a council striving to achieve more for Oldham, making successful bids to a range of funds to bring investment to Oldham to compliment the extensive capital investment program we have developed locally – but it is still not enough.

Add new bullet point 3

- We congratulate Oldham Council in its work to deliver successful and strong bids and bring investment to Oldham, these include: £6.5m award from the Brownfield Housing Fund, £10.75m award from the Future High Streets Fund, £24.4 million award from the Towns Fund, £9.7m award for the Oldham Opportunity Area. We note that these are only achievable because of the visionary and aspirational investment plans already set out by Oldham’s Labour administration.

Delete original bullet point 3, add as bullet point 4

- Oldham’s schools have seen millions cut from their budget collectively since 2010, if the Government wants to “Level Up” it should start with investing in skills, schools, and further education. We call on the Government to work with us and our hard-working educational organisations who are already “Levelling Up” students and life chances for Oldham’s young people.

Continue with original bullet point 4 as new 5

- The twelve missions contained within the ‘Levelling Up’ White Paper, include productivity, public investment, pride in place, public transport, paths to home ownership, amongst others. Delete from represent to national agenda

Add new bullet point at end

- We and towns across the North know that the occasional new building does not “Level Up” a place. Government must realise that only by empowering strong communities, through investing in people and their long-term wellbeing and life chances will we truly “Level Up”. Oldham Council and Oldham Labour have plans to do this and have been delivering for the last decade, despite Conservative cuts to Oldham’s ambitions.

At “This Council resolves to...”

Delete bullet point 1 replace with new bullet point 1

- Continue with our ambitious improvement and capital investment programs to truly deliver “Levelling Up” to Oldham. We ask Government to proactively work with us in seeking

further national investment.

Add: continue to at start of bullet point 2

Bullet point 3 unchanged

Delete original bullet point 4 & 5.

Retain original bullet point 6 as new 4

Add continue to as start of existing bullet point 7 (now bullet point 5)

Retain original; bullet point 8 as new 6

New bullet point 7 previously 9 add continue to at the beginning and delete from the UK Govt to end – insert as a leading co-operative council-

New bullet point 8 previously 10 delete from building ‘on the’ to ‘late last year’

- Add at end new bullet point 9

- Note that while the Government talks the talk on “Levelling Up” it has cut £230 million from our budget since 2010 and so cannot begin to walk the walk while public services – especially in areas such as skills - continue to be cut year on year.

The amended Motion to read:

On Wednesday 2nd February, the UK Government announced its long awaited ‘Levelling Up’ White Paper - a document which fails in its ambition for Oldham and does not deliver the funding, powers or long-term prosperity plans this council strives for. This Council notes that:

- The UK Government has provided some short-term assistance for our Borough in the last financial year – though it has not “covered the cost of the pandemic” as it promised to do. As well as some one-year funding, schemes have included the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CJRS), allowing Oldham Council to design and administrate significant grants to businesses, and awarding funding to Oldham Coliseum through the Culture Recovery Fund.

- Take the challenges of the pandemic into account, Oldham Council and its heroic staff have had to maintain vital services despite £230 million worth of cuts to its budget since 2010. Moreover, this is a council striving to achieve more for Oldham, making successful bids to a range of funds to bring investment to Oldham to compliment the extensive capital investment program we have developed locally – but it is still not enough.

- We congratulate Oldham Council in its work to deliver successful and strong bids and bring investment to Oldham, these include: £6.5m award from the Brownfield Housing Fund, £10.75m award from the Future High Streets Fund, £24.4 million award from the Towns Fund, £9.7m award for the Oldham Opportunity Area. We note that these are only achievable because of the visionary and aspirational investment plans already set out by Oldham’s Labour administration.
- Oldham’s schools have seen millions cut from their budget collectively since 2010, if the Government wants to “Level Up” it should start with investing in skills, schools, and further education. We call on the

Government to work with us and our hard-working educational organisations who are already “Levelling Up” students and life chances for Oldham’s young people.

- The twelve missions contained within the ‘Levelling Up’ White Paper, include productivity, public investment, pride in place, public transport, paths to home ownership, amongst others.
- We and towns across the North know that the occasional new building does not “Level Up” a place. Government must realise that only by empowering strong communities, through investing in people and their long-term wellbeing and life chances will we truly “Level Up”. Oldham Council and Oldham Labour have plans to do this and have been delivering for the last decade, despite Conservative cuts to Oldham’s ambitions.

This Council resolves to:

- a. Continue with our ambitious improvement and capital investment programs to truly deliver “Levelling Up” to Oldham. We ask Government to proactively work with us in seeking further national investment.
- b. Continue to align with the UK Government’s ambition for Local Government Pension Funds to increase asset investment in projects which support local areas, and work with Tameside MBC and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure this ambition is realised with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) in our Borough.
- c. Utilise the spatial modelling techniques for planning which the UK Government is investing in through an Office for National Statistics (ONS)-led collaboration platform and which is to be made available throughout local government.
- d. Proactively work with the UK Government, via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), in the negotiation of a new devolution deal for the City Region.
- e. Continue to develop relations with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, local businesses and research and development (R&D) institutions with a view to increasing R&D activity in our Borough.
- f. Utilise the data and information to be made available through the Department for Education’s intended Unit for Future Skills, in order to inform local policies and provisions, alignment with labour market need, and the updating of apprenticeship programmes.
- g. Continue to adopt policies in favour of local community empowerment and partnership as a leading cooperative council.
- h. Support future bids to the UK Government’s Safer Streets Fund.
- i. Note that while the Government talks the talk on “Levelling Up” it has cut £230 million from our budget since 2010 and so cannot begin to walk the walk while public services – especially in areas such as skills - continue to be cut year on year.

A vote was taken on the Amendment, which was CARRIED

and became the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

On being put to the vote, the MOTION as amended was CARRIED.



RESOLVED:

That this Council resolves to:

1. Continue with our ambitious improvement and capital investment programs to truly deliver “Levelling Up” to Oldham. We ask Government to proactively work with us in seeking further national investment.
2. Continue to align with the UK Government’s ambition for Local Government Pension Funds to increase asset investment in projects which support local areas, and work with Tameside MBC and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure this ambition is realised with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund (GMPF) in our Borough.
3. Utilise the spatial modelling techniques for planning which the UK Government is investing in through an Office for National Statistics (ONS)-led collaboration platform and which is to be made available throughout local government.
4. Proactively work with the UK Government, via the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), in the negotiation of a new devolution deal for the City Region.
5. Continue to develop relations with the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, local businesses and research and development (R&D) institutions with a view to increasing R&D activity in our Borough.
6. Utilise the data and information to be made available through the Department for Education’s intended Unit for Future Skills, in order to inform local policies and provisions, alignment with labour market need, and the updating of apprenticeship programmes.
7. Continue to adopt policies in favour of local community empowerment and partnership as a leading cooperative council.
8. Support future bids to the UK Government’s Safer Streets Fund.
9. Note that while the Government talks the talk on “Levelling Up” it has cut £230 million from our budget since 2010 and so cannot begin to walk the walk while public services – especially in areas such as skills - continue to be cut year on year.

Motion 4

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following MOTION:

Motion 4 – Speed Cameras

This Council notes that:

Current guidance from the National Government and Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership means that at least

three separate collisions involving deaths or serious injuries must happen on a road before a fixed speed camera will even be considered for installation.

Statistics are not currently kept on non-injury incidents; it is estimated that for each injury incident or fatality there are between are up to 100 non-injury incidents, meaning there could be nearly 300 incidents at a location before action is even considered.

A freedom of information request sent by the BBC Panorama programme to all British police forces found that the road fatality rate has increased by five per cent, the first significant increase in 40 years, and that the same investigation revealed up to 50% of fixed cameras were not working.

Of the current speed cameras installed in Greater Manchester only around 40% are functional the rest are former 'wet film cameras' that are still waiting to be digitalised before they become operational.

From May 2022, local councils can apply to the Department for Transport for powers to enforce moving traffic offences. These can include the power to enforce school streets by issuing fixed penalty notice fines of up to £70 to anyone who violates them.

The council believes that:

- One serious injury on the road is one too many and we should not have to wait until a death to take enforcement action on dangerous drivers.
- Fair and appropriate measures must be taken to minimise the potential for dangerous driving, and to identify and stop dangerous drivers.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. write to the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership and the Westminster Government to update the criteria for speed cameras, making it easier to install cameras where there is evidence to do so including community demands, without having to wait for serious injuries or deaths to occur.
2. write to the GMCA to reinforce the need for any non-working cameras to be replaced as soon as possible, as part of the work to replace 'wet film cameras' across the region with digital cameras.
3. endorse the 20s Plenty campaign, in line with Resolution 11 of the Stockholm Declaration, which was signed by the UK government in 2020, introducing 20mph as the default speed limit for residential streets – particularly streets around schools.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Chadderton MOVED and Councillor Garry SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Delete bullet point 3.

The amended Motion to read:

Current guidance from the National Government and Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership means that at least three separate collisions involving deaths or serious injuries

must happen on a road before a fixed speed camera will even be considered for installation.

Statistics are not currently kept on non-injury incidents; it is estimated that for each injury incident or fatality there are between are up to 100 non-injury incidents, meaning there could be nearly 300 incidents at a location before action is even considered.

A freedom of information request sent by the BBC Panorama programme to all British police forces found that the road fatality rate has increased by five per cent, the first significant increase in 40 years, and that the same investigation revealed up to 50% of fixed cameras were not working.

Of the current speed cameras installed in Greater Manchester only around 40% are functional the rest are former 'wet film cameras' that are still waiting to be digitalised before they become operational.

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The council believes that:

- One serious injury on the road is one too many and we should not have to wait until a death to take enforcement action on dangerous drivers.
- Fair and appropriate measures must be taken to minimise the potential for dangerous driving, and to identify and stop dangerous drivers.

Council therefore resolves to:

1. write to the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership and the Westminster Government to update the criteria for speed cameras, making it easier to install cameras where there is evidence to do so including community demands, without having to wait for serious injuries or deaths to occur.
2. write to the GMCA to reinforce the need for any non-working cameras to be replaced as soon as possible, as part of the work to replace 'wet film cameras' across the region with digital cameras.

A recorded vote was requested and taken on the MOTION, as AMENDED, as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Abid Sahr	ABSENT	Ibrahim Nyla	APOLOGIES
Ahmad Riaz	FOR	Iqbal Javid	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	FOR
Alexander Ginny	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Kenyon Mark	APOLOGIES
Ali Mohon	FOR	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Alyas Mohammed	FOR	Leach Valarie	APOLOGIES

Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Malik Abdul	FOR
Bashforth Marie	FOR	McLaren Colin	FOR
Bashforth Steve	FOR	Moores Eddie	FOR
Birch Ros	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Briggs Norman	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Phythian Clint	FOR
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	Phythian Kyle	APOLOGIES
Chadderton Amanda	FOR	Roberts Hannah	FOR
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Salamat Ali Aqeel	APOLOGIES
Cosgrove Angela	APOLOGIES	Shah Arooj	FOR
Curley Jamie	ABSENT	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Davis Peter	FOR	Sheldon Graham	AGAINST
Dean Peter	APOLOGIES	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Garry Elaine	FOR	Stretton Jean	FOR
Gloster Chris	AGAINST	Surjan Ruji Sapna	FOR
Gloster Hazel	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Toor Yasmin	FOR
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Wilkinson Mark	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Williamson Diane	AGAINST
Hulme George	FOR	Williams Steve	FOR
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Fida	APOLOGIES	Harrison Jennifer	FOR

On a recorded vote being taken, 34 VOTES were cast in favour of the MOTION, as AMENDED with 16 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION as AMENDED was therefore carried.

RESOLVED that:

1. The Chief Executive be requested to write to the Safer Roads Greater Manchester Partnership and the Westminster Government to update the criteria for speed cameras, making it easier to install cameras where there is evidence to do so including community demands, without having to wait for serious injuries or deaths to occur.
2. The Chief Executive be requested to write to the GMCA to reinforce the need for any non-working cameras to be replaced as soon as possible, as part of the work to replace 'wet film cameras' across the region with digital cameras.

PAID SERVICE

Councillor Shah MOVED, Councillor C. Gloster SECONDED and Councillor Sheldon SUPPORTED a report of the Director of Workforce and Organisational Design, which asked Council to determine the recommendation of the authority's Appointments Committee, which met on 10th January 2022, to appoint Mr. Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service on a three-year fixed term contract starting 1st April 2022.

RESOLVED - that Council confirm the recommendation of the Appointments Committee to appoint Harry Catherall as Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service (including as Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer) for a three year period from 1st April 2022.

16

OLDHAM'S COVID-19 RESPONSE - UPDATE

Councillor Chauhan MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report which provided an update on how the Council and its partners continue to monitor and manage the impact of COVID-19 in Oldham.

Council was informed that most remaining Covid restrictions were lifted on 24th February 2022. Although the sense of 'getting back to normal', was welcomed it was still evident that Coronavirus was and still circulating in the community and workplaces. Given Oldham's experience of COVID-19 to date, the Council's response was well established and wide in scope and as such was well placed to be able to adapt as needed.

As of 3rd March 2022, there had been 73,654 cases of COVID-19 identified in Oldham; the weekly infection rates were running at around 136 cases per 100,000 people. This was currently the lowest rate in England. However, changes in testing policy mean that recorded case rates were likely to be below the true level of infection. In understanding case rates it should be noted that testing rates in Oldham were lower than the national average.

In the seven days ending 3rd March White/White British was the ethnicity with the highest case rate. Over the same period Saddleworth South was the ward with the highest case rate (339.2 per 100,000 population) and Coldhurst had the lowest (44.8 per 100,000).

There had been 900 Covid-19 related deaths in Oldham (up to 3rd March 2022). The number of deaths from Covid-19 has slowed significantly since the start of the vaccination programme, with 1 Covid-19 death in the last seven days (up to 3rd March 2022).

Increasing vaccination uptake remained the primary focus of the local response. Over 168,000 Oldham residents had received their first doses (77.2% of Oldham's eligible population) and over 156,000 have received second doses (71.7% of Oldham's eligible population), with an additional 110,370 booster shots or third doses delivered (54.4% of Oldham's eligible population).

As the vaccination programme evolved in Oldham the number and range of settings where vaccination clinics are provided has widened substantially, informed by feedback from residents. Vaccinations have been delivered in GP surgeries, pharmacies, the hospital, and community venues. In addition, vaccinations for 12–17-year-olds have been offered in education settings.

Councillors asked the following questions:

Councillor Al-Hamdani asked:

There has been a backlog on isolation payments in Oldham. Applicants were being told that they would receive payments within 21 days, but many were having to wait much longer. What percentage of payments were not made within 21 days? What is the longest any one person for whatever reason has had to wait? What is the current number of applicants still waiting for payment?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that Test and Trace Support Payments were designed to support residents on a low income who would lose earnings because of self-isolating. There was a huge increase in applications because of the rise of the Omicron variant in recent months which affected the administration of Test and Trace Support Payments not only in Oldham but for Local Authorities across the Country. Oldham received an average of 297 applications a month over the September to October 2022 and this increased over Christmas to a peak of 1,297 applications in January 2022. This has inevitably impacted on processing times which are currently averaging 6 weeks. The Council did not set a benchmark of 21 days so performance to this timeline has not been recorded. The longest time to process a claim was an exceptional case which was received during the pilot Test and Trace scheme in Sept 2020, the claim was closed due to lack of sufficient information to assess the case and following multiple follow up activities was reopened and paid in January 2022. This is not representative of normal timescales. The Test and Trace Support Payment scheme ended on Thursday 24 February. We have increased resources on the team to clear all outstanding work as quickly as possible. The Council currently has 634 applications which have yet to complete the application process, 544 of which are awaiting further information from the resident to verify the claim.

Councillor H. Gloster asked:

How many free tests have been given out in Oldham each month, and what will be the cost to residents of having to purchase these once free testing disappears? Does Oldham have a plan for maintaining preparedness for distributing free tests should there be a stronger strain of Covid in the future, and free testing be reinstated?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that since the 1st April 2021 until 28th February 2022, Oldham Council have distributed 99,462 boxes of free LFD tests through our community settings. This is the equivalent

to 1,763,349 individual tests. In addition, Oldham has delivered 44,905 on sites tests through the Councils commissioned services including our outreach provider and participating pharmacy's – these have been free of charge to residents and have included assisted testing available for residents that cannot test themselves. The national website has also taken orders online and delivered 90,791 boxes to Oldham postcodes. Oldham Council will not be able to sell test kits, but a number of commercial routes have emerged with varying prices. These appear to range from around £2-£4 a test currently. Should Oldham Council have access to free test kits in the future, all our distribution methods such as libraries, leisure centres and other community settings remain in place ready to help support those who live, work and visit Oldham. Our ability to deliver onsite testing provision in the future is currently being reviewed. Any national policy to reinstate free PCR testing would be supported by the Local Authority, although the test sites are not commissioned or delivered by the local authority.

Councillor Murphy asked:

Will Oldham Council be reintroducing face-to-face services for residents who are not comfortable online, at the one-stop-shop at the Civic Centre once the restrictions are removed? If this has not been decided, how does that fit with the Council's equalities strategy?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded

That the service continues with access and support through crisis drop ins, signposting, self-serve PCs and free phones at the Civic Entrance and on an appointments basis via the Council's Support and Inclusion Team, but we recognise there is more help needed and therefore work is currently underway to enable Access Oldham to reopen in order to provide a public space where residents can physically access support when they are in crisis, are vulnerable and/or need some direct support to help them access services digitally. The service will offer both pre-arranged appointments and a facility to see residents on a drop-in basis. Residents will be able to seek support such as advice on Council Tax, Housing Benefit, debt, wellbeing or emergency support issues. Free internet and telephone access to Council Service will also be available.

Councillor Hamblett asked:

Will the council still be able to support families who are struggling due to Self-Isolation if they are extremely vulnerable or vulnerable and are shielding if they have covid symptoms? Will the council be able to commit to support our NHS colleagues in ensuring those working on the front line or high-risk jobs are not having to pay for LFT or PCR tests themselves should the government choose to no longer make them chargeable?

Councillor Chauhan, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded it was recognised this is a tough time for families in Oldham, but we can help. We've all faced difficulties,

coming out of the Covid pandemic, the rising cost of basic goods and even the ability to heat our homes. That's why Oldham partners are working together to offer residents and families a little more help.

We've put together a range of support and guidance that can be accessed through the Oldham Council Website – We Can Help <https://www.oldham.gov.uk/wecanhelp> or alternatively residents can always ring us via the Oldham Helpline - 0161 770 7007 (9am – 5pm on weekdays). From the 1st April, the Council is unlikely to have access to test kits in line with the governments 'living with covid plan'. In preparation for potential changes to free testing for NHS staff, the Council has been encouraging NHS organisations such as Royal Oldham Hospital to encourage their staff to make use of the free test kits currently available via the government website, also available free of charge in Oldham Libraries and Leisure centre until the end of March. Just in case NHS organisations no longer have access to free test kits after March, Oldham Council delivered their remaining stock, which was a sizable quantity of LFD test kits, to Royal Oldham Hospital on the 15th March 2022.

Councillor Hamblett asked:

Covid grant fraud diverts much needed money away from protecting jobs and businesses in Oldham. Given that HMRC have estimated that the rate of fraud in some national covid relief schemes runs at 9% with over £5.5bn lost, can the Council comment on whether they have been given extra resources to investigate fraud and recover funds, can they estimate the rate and amount of fraud for council administered covid relief schemes?

Councillor Chauhan Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care responded that the Council has received funding to administer all the Government COVID Business Grant schemes. When administering such schemes, the Council developed robust assurance processes that balanced prompt payment to businesses against obtaining appropriate evidence to minimise the risk of fraud and loss. Local Authorities have been given discretion as to the levels of pre and post payment checks carried out. This Council undertook comprehensive checks using the Government Grants Management Function Spotlight system (a tool to detect potential fraud pre-payment) and undertook appropriate bank account verification checks – the aim was to minimise fraud loss and protect tax-payers money. Pre-payment checks via the "Grants Management Function" Spotlight system highlighted 53 (1.17%) of all applications made for all schemes were from dissolved or liquidated companies. As a result, these grant payments were refused at source. A further 46 (1.02%) of cases have been referred for further investigation for alleged fraud. In total 99 (2.2%) of cases were either refused at source or continue to be investigated for alleged fraud.

RESOLVED – that the contents of the report be noted.

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Legal Services, which informed members of actions taken following the meeting of the Council on 15th December 2021.



RESOLVED - that the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council on 15th December 2021 be noted.

18

ANNUAL REPORTS

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report which presented the Member Annual Reports for 2021.

As part of the ongoing work to strengthen accountability to local people and their role as a Councillor in a co-operative borough, Elected Members were asked to produce an annual report that presented information regarding their work in the community over the last 12 months. Individual reports included ward priorities, work in the community, their responses to the Covid-19 pandemic and contact information.

Members were informed that their Reports were available to view under the Councillors' section on Oldham Council's website.

RESOLVED - that the Member Annual Reports be noted.

19

ADOPTION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 CONCERNING NAMING OF STREETS

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED a report of the Director of Environmental Services that sought the adoption by the Council of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough.

Council was reminded that a report concerning the adoption of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 was considered at the previous meeting on 15th December 2021.

To adopt sections 17 and 19, the Council would be required to publish a notice for 2 consecutive weeks in a local newspaper, circulating in their area, of the intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 and 19. The date the resolution is to take effect is not earlier than one month from the date of the resolution.

Notice of the intention to pass a resolution applying the provisions of sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 with effect from 1st May 2022 was published in the Manchester Evening News on 7th March and was also published in the Manchester Evening News on 14th March 2022.

RESOLVED – that the Council adopts sections 17 and 19 of the Public Health Act 1925 relating to the naming of streets within the Borough, with effect from 1st May 2022, to ensure that the Council has the legal power to operate a street naming policy.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.45pm



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