

Report to Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Oldham Plan and Corporate Plan

Portfolio Holder:

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14 June 2022

Purpose of the Report

This report contains draft versions of a new Oldham Plan and a new Corporate Plan to be brought before Full Council later this year. The report seeks the views and insights of the Committee to inform further development and ensure the reports are as widely representative of councillors' views as possible.

Recommendation

The Committee are requested to consider draft versions of a new Oldham Plan and Corporate Plan and to provide feedback.

1 Background

- 1.1 The current Oldham Plan ran from 2017 to 2022. The plan provides an action statement for the Oldham Partnership, setting the borough's overarching goals and activities, enablers, and short- and medium-term outcomes. As the plan is due to expire this year a new long term vision is being developed to give the Oldham Partnership a shared sense of direction for the years ahead.
- 1.2 Oldham Council's last Corporate Plan ran from 2017 to 2020, establishing the Council's values (FORWARD) and behaviours, and the co-operative approach to working with residents. This plan expired when the borough was experiencing the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was decided that rather than produce a new Corporate Plan at that point, it would be more appropriate to produce a Covid Recovery Strategy as a roadmap to supporting residents in response to the pandemic. This Covid Recovery Strategy is due to expire this year.

2 Development of the Plans

- 2.1 The Council has consulted extensively over the last couple of years with residents to understand their priorities and ambitions for the borough. This consultation included 10,000 interactions online and 1,000 direct conversations across 17 events in 2020, a survey of over 600 residents in 2021, Big Oldham Conversation events in every part of Oldham in 2021/22, over 300 young people engaged in focus groups and surveys in 2022 and resident focus groups across the borough. The feedback from this engagement is summarized in the "What Residents Want" section of the draft Oldham Plan.
- 2.2 In addition to resident engagement, sessions have been held with councillors, with senior teams at a range of Oldham partners, and with Council staff through specific sessions and at the staff conference.
- 2.3 The new Oldham Plan and Corporate Plan are being developed in parallel to ensure that the Council's priorities over the next two years align as well as possible with the Partnership's broader vision for the future.
- 2.4 The plans, attached as appendices to this report, are in draft format and subject to substantial amendment before final approval. The draft Oldham Plan will return to the partners for further consideration and revision. The Corporate Plan has been considered at a departmental level but will be scrutinized again by the Cabinet before it is approved by Full Council. It was felt, however, that bringing the plans to Overview and Scrutiny now maximizes the potential for the Committee to contribute effectively to their development.

3 Key Issues for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

- 3.1 The Oldham Plan (currently entitled "Our Future Oldham") aims to provide a shared approach to the future of the borough. Clear feedback from residents and partners has been that the most significant issue facing Oldham in the coming years is the

amount of poverty and inequality in the borough. The plan centres, therefore, around a set of aspirational statements about what we expect for each of our residents (entitled “Uplifting Every Resident”). The intention is that these statements will act as goals for each partner, and as the basis for future decision making: does a decision positively contribute to uplifting every resident to this minimum standard? The Committee’s views would be welcome on whether the ambition to Uplift Every Resident is an appropriate focal point for the Plan, and whether the statements included properly capture that ambition.

- 3.2 Governance arrangements are to be determined in conjunction with partners to ensure everyone in Oldham is working together to deliver on our priorities, and that we hold each other to account. This includes an important role for residents and for the Council’s Scrutiny Committees. The Committee’s views would be welcome on the appropriate structure for Governance over the Oldham Plan, and the role that Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee may play.
- 3.3 The Corporate Plan sets out the Council’s contribution to delivering the Oldham Plan, with specific actions for the next two years. The Committee’s views would be welcome on whether the Corporate Plan priorities are the right ones, and whether the actions detailed will contribute to uplifting every resident.
- 3.4 Under “How We Work,” the Corporate Plan also sets out some key priorities for the Council’s approach: resident focus; place-based integration; digitisation and a preventative, collaborative approach with communities. The Committee’s views would be welcome on whether these are the right priorities.

4 Links to Corporate Outcomes

- 4.1 The Oldham Plan and Corporate Plan link to every Council activity, setting the agenda for future action. They also link to the Greater Manchester Strategy.

5 Additional Supporting Information

- 5.1 N/a

6 Consultation

- 6.1 Details of the consultation are included in the Oldham Plan.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 – Our Future Oldham: A Shared Vision for 2030 [DRAFT]
- 7.2 Appendix 2 – Oldham Council Corporate Plan 2022-24 [DRAFT]