

Harry Catherall  
Chief Executive  
Oldham MBC  
Level 3,  
Civic Centre West Street,  
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30<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Harry

**Re: Oldham Council Resolutions**

Thank you for your letter regarding the resolution of Oldham Council on Levelling Up, debated at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

The resolution rightly notes the excellent job which Oldham and other boroughs across Greater Manchester did in providing support for their communities and businesses during the Covid lockdowns. Despite the fact that the costs of the pandemic were not fully covered, Oldham and other councils managed to deliver grants to thousands of businesses across Greater Manchester to sustain them. While we did not have the resources to support every business to the extent we would have liked, I am proud of what our councils were able to achieve.

As the resolution says, you have an impressive record of bringing investment to Oldham. I was delighted that the Combined Authority has been able to work with you on the Brownfield Housing Fund and through the Evergreen investment in delivering Broadway Green. We will continue to support your work through our Delivery team bringing development of housing projects forward, as well as continuing the direct support from our Culture team into the Council to support your town centre regeneration plans. I know that our teams are also continuing to develop the detail of how a Mayoral Enterprise Zone for Oldham could work in practice.

The Council's commitment to work with us on the Greater Manchester trailblazer devolution negotiation which the Government announced in the Levelling Up White Paper is very welcome. I look forward to working closely with you on that both in your role as the Green City Region portfolio lead for Greater Manchester and to ensure that the opportunities and requirements of Oldham are embedded in the process. The 12 Levelling Up missions mentioned by the Council have a strong overlap with the Shared Commitments recently agreed in the refreshed Greater Manchester Strategy. Thanks again for the input provided by your officers and other partners across Oldham into that Strategy. It provides a strong basis for the trailblazer discussions.

There is also an opportunity, following the excellent work of the Oldham Economic Review Board, to use the Innovation Greater Manchester network – including the Innovation Accelerator which was announced by the Government in the Levelling Up White Paper - to support the wealth of ideas, entrepreneurial activity and small business start ups across Oldham. I know that colleagues at Oldham Borough Council and the Combined Authority are already in touch on that.

Finally, we would be happy to continue to work with you to better utilise data and information on skills from Government, building on the links our teams already have to provide labour market intelligence through the Skills Observatory, providing system stewardship for apprenticeships and technical education, and direct support for businesses and residents through devolved programmes, including Adult Education Budget, National Skills Fund and Working Well. This joint working can help to deliver a cohesive labour market system where: young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market; adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives; and employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs.

Thank you again for passing on the Resolution and if there is anything we can do to assist with your requests to Government then do let us know.

Yours sincerely



Eamonn Boylan  
Chief Executive  
**Greater Manchester Combined Authority &  
Transport for Greater Manchester**