

Administration Motion on Housing policy – Conservative Amendment

To be proposed by Councillor M. Woodvine, and seconded by Councillor L. Lancaster

This Council welcomes the Prime Minister-elect, Rishi Sunak, who has set out clear and concise but bold policies for Planning in this country with an emphasis placed on protecting our precious, green, open spaces – particularly the Green Belt.

The 'Levelling Up' White Paper passing through Parliament and the grant funding received from the Conservative Government in its name has resulted in millions of extra pounds for this Metropolitan Borough Council.

This Council notes the impact of its own failing Labour Administration of the past decade, which has resulted in two of their consecutive Group Leaders losing their seats, has had on the Borough of Oldham, including:

1. Supporting and adopting into policy Mr. Burnham's 'Places for Everyone' strategic plan for Greater Manchester which will destroy hundreds of hectares of Green Belt across the Borough of Oldham.
2. Supporting Mr. Burnham as he has led Greater Manchester Police into special measures with spiralling crime rates (including crimes committed in housing settings) resulting in the intervention of the Conservative Government to turn things around.
3. Increasing Council Tax every year, adding greater financial pressure on homeowners who also have other costs, e.g. mortgage repayments, while recklessly spending the people of Oldham's money on vanity projects, with Spindles set to make a loss in turnover totalling hundreds of thousands of pounds.
4. Not balancing the books and going over Budget with at least a projected £6million overspend in this financial year alone, which adversely affects confidence in the Borough's economy, therefore diminishing the attractiveness to buy a home locally.
5. Approving Planning Applications in Oldham which are detrimental to the quality of life of the people living across our communities and contradict this Council's own Local Plan.

Therefore, this Council believes that the best solution to Oldham's so called 'housing crisis' is the premiership of Rishi Sunak.

This Council is ready for Rishi and resolves to write to the Prime Minister and his Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities to:

1. Welcome them into their positions, wish them well and wish them every

success as they deliver real change for the country and show real leadership.

2. Thank them for their generosity in investing £105.85 million into Oldham's business, (brownfield) housing, health and education developments – truly 'Levelling Up' our Borough.

3. Support the Ten Point Plan – as set out by Mr. Sunak – which will scrap VAT on energy bills, scrap all EU laws to boost the economy as it bounces back, tackle illegal immigration (which is itself causes unsustainable demand on domestic housing stock), and protect Green Belt.

4. Support the missions of the 'Levelling Up' White Paper including productivity, public investment, pride in place, public transport, and paths to home ownership, which represent the right priorities.

In addition, this Council will use its strategic powers in Planning to resolve to:

1. Promote democratic input into the Planning process, in developing the Local Plan and relevant associated policies, to ensure the confidence of the people of the Borough.

2. **End** any of its current land banking in the Borough of Oldham.

3. Prioritise housing for veterans and service personnel, to strengthen delivery of the Armed Forces Covenant, which this Council is a signatory of, and as set out in the Localism Act (2011).

4. Prioritise housing for local people, as permitted under the Localism Act, by using a residency test with a requirement of having worked or lived in Oldham's communities for 2+ years.

5. Condemn Mr. Burnham for his actions in causing undue distress to small/medium enterprises with his Clean Air Zone – which has so far wasted £60million of taxpayer's money – and welcome its scaling back.