

Lab Amendment to Tory Motion

Moved by Cllr George Hulme, Seconded by Cllr Chris Goodwin

Oldham Council like others who provide local services needs to strike the right balance when it comes to spending public money and how they deliver those local services.

Plans made today soon age and become historic in the changing world we live in and as quickly as circumstances around them change the need to change and adapt those plans grows stronger. Housing, transport, and local services are not purely a numbers issue, they are in fact a social, economic, and political issue. Building cohesive communities that last and that have good access to key transport infrastructure in the long term means people will want to live in those communities. That means growth and prosperity.

~~Delete: Sadly, Oldham has poor transport links, not helped by the fact that unlike neighbouring Rochdale which maintained its five train stations, and introduced the Metrolink, Oldham ripped out its rail links for the Metrolink, with Greenfield station officially being Oldham's sole station.~~

Insert: Sadly, Oldham has poor transport links thanks to funding cuts by successive Conservative Governments.

~~Delete: Despite the Borough being the gateway to the Pennines Oldham has failed to capitalise on that unique position leaving us overly dependent on the economic tides of Manchester rather than opening opportunities to West Yorkshire and beyond.~~

Insert: As the Borough of Oldham is the gateway to the Pennines, we are in a unique position to develop links between Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire

~~Delete: As the Council focuses its regeneration projects on Oldham Town Centre, there is considerable disquiet in the districts where they feel abandoned and neglected. Given many of these districts are net contributors to the Council budget and are the growth areas for people, businesses, and housing it is not unreasonable for people who live there to ask why the Council isn't treating them equally and invest in those districts as well.~~

Insert: As the Council focuses on delivering its ambitious plans for the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration to provide much needed housing on brownfield sites and protect our greenbelt, we continue to explore opportunities to carry regeneration projects in the districts such as the redevelopment of Royton Town Hall, Diggle Clock Tower, Chadderton Town Hall, Northern Roots, Foxdenton & Broadway Green, Hollinwood Junction and our focus on delivering services at a neighbourhood level.

~~Delete: Coupled with high levels of immigration into the United Kingdom, there has been a significant strain put on public services and community cohesion due to levels being far too high for far too long. It is why a balance must be struck with those already living here as well as maintaining a sustainable supply of housing and need. That is why we need to deliver the quality homes we need, the quality services we need whilst being aware of the genuine and legitimate concerns of residents already living in our Borough.~~

Insert: Since the coalition government implemented austerity measures on local government, there has been a significant strain put on public services and community cohesion. It is why a balance must be struck with those already living here as well as maintaining a sustainable supply of housing and need. That is why we need to deliver the quality homes we need, the quality services we need whilst being aware of the genuine and legitimate concerns of residents already living in our Borough.

~~Delete: The Greater Manchester Spatial Framework and its subsequent replacement, the Places for Everyone plan was and is so unpalatable to so many people in the Borough due to its use of Green~~

~~Belt land. The Office of National Statistics published the 2021 census relating to household growth. Their findings clearly indicate that projected household growth across Greater Manchester has been severely over-estimated over the preceding ten years (actual growth of 50,000 households as opposed to the projection of 101,000).~~

Insert: The original GMSF was unpalatable to so many people in the Borough due to the number of allocations on Green Belt land, thanks to the hard work of the former Cabinet Member for Housing and Officers at Oldham Council, it's replacement Places for Everyone removes swathes of the Green Belt from the plan. Oldham Council continues to monitor Local Housing Need and recognises that Oldhamers want good quality affordable housing in the Borough.

~~Delete: Oldham's household growth was consistent with the general pattern (actual growth of 3,400 households in contrast to the projected 6,900). The Government's stance is reasonable, and it is the Government's expectation for councils to proceed cautiously, to meet provision within an area.~~

~~Delete: However, now that we have hard data available to us in the form of the Census, we believe that the severely erroneous projections that underpin the housing targets—and therefore the Green Belt release—would qualify under the provision set by the Government that a deviation from the standard methodology would be justified in “exceptional circumstances”. If the GMCA and the councils are to maintain an evidence-based approach to planning, then the evidence needs to be correct. The evidence needs to change.~~

Insert: The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that in establishing Local Housing Need Local Authorities should use the 2014 based household projections as a starting point. The GMCA has already requested that more up to date figures be used but the Government refused to change the guidance.

Delete: This Council resolves that:

- ~~• The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to adjust the Places for Everyone Plan under the provision set out by the Government that the housing figures meet the request for a deviation from the standard methodology using the “exceptional circumstances” criteria.~~
- ~~• Brownfield sites be prioritised over Green Belt development.~~
- ~~• Shovel ready projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and that they are included in the overall housing figures in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.~~
- ~~• Oldham Council look to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and practicable.~~
- ~~• Local communities can access neighbourhood plans and referenda in order to sustainably build homes in their area in order to secure local support rather than through top-down targets.~~
- ~~• The Council confirms homeownership as being a fundamental tenant of building stronger communities.~~
- ~~• The Council devolve further competencies both politically and budgetary to the districts.~~
- ~~• That the Council look beyond funding just Oldham Town Centre and apply for funding in any future grant rounds to improve our district town centres.~~
- ~~• Will restrict the number HMO's in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough area and using the Article 4 direction across the Borough, which removes permitted development rights.~~
- ~~• The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with neighbouring authorities on a bilateral basis and looks to maximise the potential economic benefits of maximising the opening of new road and rail links between Oldham and West Yorkshire.~~

Insert: This Council resolves that:

- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council continues to use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to monitor the Places for Everyone plan and ensure that Oldham's housing needs are met.
- That insofar as national planning policy allows, brownfield sites will continue to be prioritised over Green Belt development by the administration.
- To continue to ensure shovel ready projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and notes that they are included in the overall housing supply (SHLAA) in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.
- Oldham Council continues to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and practicable, including the regeneration of the civic centre site after the council moves into the Spindles Shopping centre.
- Local communities can access neighbourhood plans which need to be adopted by referenda in order to sustainably build homes in their area in order to secure local support rather than through top-down targets.
- The Council confirms homeownership as being one of the fundamental tenets of building stronger communities and regrets that due to the recent Conservative Government crashing the economy home-ownership is now unattainable by many Oldhamers.
- The Council continues to deliver its plans for Place Based Integration, as set out in the Oldham and Corporate Plans, to district and neighbourhood level.
- That the Council continues to look for funding beyond Oldham Town Centre and apply for funding in any future grant rounds to improve our district town centres.
- Regrets that the high evidence base for an Article 4 direction relating to HMO permitted development rights is not met.
- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with the GMCA, WYCA and both Mayors, to maximise the potential economic benefits of maximising the opening of new road and rail links between Oldham and West Yorkshire.

~~Delete: The Council further resolves:~~

~~That the Chief Executive will write to the government to:~~

- ~~• Seek a meeting with the Department of Transport and relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to seek extra funding for improved transport in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham.~~
- ~~• Explore the options of reopening existing railway stations such as those at the Middleton Junction in Chadderton, Diggle in Saddleworth or a new Oldham line which connects to Oldham, Manchester and West Yorkshire for both freight and passenger services which can service the Borough more widely.~~
- ~~• Support the government's plans to control immigration and deter illegal immigration into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.~~

Insert: The Council further resolves:

The Chief executive will write to the government to:

- Seek a meeting with the Department of Transport, TfGM, and the relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to restore public transport funding that has been cut by consecutive Conservative Governments
- Build on the initial work done by Oldham's Members of Parliaments regarding the option of reopening existing railway stations such as those at the Middleton Junction in

Chadderton, Diggle in Saddleworth or a new Oldham line which connects to Oldham, Manchester and West Yorkshire for both freight and passenger services which can service the Borough more widely.

- iii. Request that the government restore brownfield remediation funding to help make brownfield sites more attractive to developers, instead of insisting that Oldham meet its housing targets through developing on Greenbelt land

Amended motion to read:

Oldham Council like others who provide local services needs to strike the right balance when it comes to spending public money and how they deliver those local services.

Plans made today soon age and become historic in the changing world we live in and as quickly as circumstances around them change the need to change and adapt those plans grows stronger. Housing, transport, and local services are not purely a numbers issue, they are in fact a social, economic, and political issue. Building cohesive communities that last and that have good access to key transport infrastructure in the long term means people will want to live in those communities. That means growth and prosperity.

Sadly, Oldham has poor transport links thanks to funding cuts by successive Conservative Governments.

As the Borough of Oldham is the gateway to the Pennines, we are in a unique position to develop links between Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire.

As the Council focuses on delivering its ambitious plans for the Oldham Town Centre Regeneration, we continue to explore opportunities to carry regeneration projects in the districts such as the redevelopment of Royton Town Hall, Diggle Clock Tower, Chadderton Town Hall, Northern Roots, Foxdenton & Broadway Green, Hollinwood Junction and our focus on delivering services at a neighbourhood level.

Since the coalition government implemented austerity measures on local government, there has been a significant strain put on public services and community cohesion. It is why a balance must be struck with those already living here as well as maintaining a sustainable supply of housing and need. That is why we need to deliver the quality homes we need, the quality services we need whilst being aware of the genuine and legitimate concerns of residents already living in our Borough.

The original GMSF was unpalatable to so many people in the Borough due to the number of allocations on Green Belt land, thanks to the hard work of the former Cabinet Member for Housing and Officers at Oldham Council, it's replacement Places for Everyone removes swathes of the Green Belt from the plan. Oldham Council continues to monitor Local Housing Need and recognises that Oldhamers want good quality affordable housing in the Borough.

The Conservative led Government cannot be both friends to developers who want to build on our greenbelt and blame local authorities for following their direction.

The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that in establishing Local Housing Need Local Authorities should use the 2014 based household projections as a starting point. The GMCA has already requested that more up to date figures be used but the Government refused to change the guidance.

This Council resolves that:

- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council continues to use her position on the Greater Manchester Combined Authority to monitor the Places for Everyone plan and ensure that Oldham's housing needs are met.
- That insofar as national planning policy allows, brownfield sites will continue to be prioritised over Green Belt development by the administration.
- To continue to ensure shovel ready projects on brownfield sites are not held back by delays, and notes that they are included in the overall housing supply (SHLAA) in the Oldham Metropolitan Borough.
- Oldham Council continues to rationalise its brownfield site assets where reasonable and practicable, including the regeneration of the civic centre site after the council moves into the Spindles Shopping centre.
- Local communities can access neighbourhood plans which need to be adopted by referenda in order to sustainably build homes in their area in order to secure local support rather than through top-down targets.
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- The Council continues to deliver its plans for Place Based Integration, as set out in the Oldham and Corporate Plans, to district and neighbourhood level.
- That the Council continues to look for funding beyond Oldham Town Centre and apply for funding in any future grant rounds to improve our district town centres.
- Regrets that the high evidence base for an Article 4 direction relating to HMO permitted development rights is not met.
- The Leader of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council will look to create a Pennines Economic Co-operation Board which works with the GMCA, WYCA and both Mayors, to maximise the potential economic benefits of maximising the opening of new road and rail links between Oldham and West Yorkshire.

The Council further resolves:

The Chief executive will write to the government to:

- i. Seek a meeting with the Department of Transport, TfGM, and the relevant Oldham Council Cabinet member to restore public transport funding that has been cut by consecutive Conservative Governments.
- ii. Build on the initial work done by Oldham's Members of Parliaments regarding the option of reopening existing railway stations such as those at the Middleton Junction in Chadderton, Diggle in Saddleworth or a new Oldham line which connects to Oldham, Manchester and West Yorkshire for both freight and passenger services which can service the Borough more widely.
- iii. Request that the government restore brownfield remediation funding to help make brownfield sites more attractive to developers, instead of insisting that Oldham meet its housing targets through developing on Greenbelt land.