

**Present:** The Deputy Mayor – Councillor Moores (in the Chair)

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, Ali, Arnott, Ball, M. Bashforth, S. Bashforth, Birch, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Fryer, Ghafoor, H. Gloster, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, H. Harrison, J. Harrison, Hince, Hobin, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Iqbal, Irfan, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Quigg, Rea, Salamat, Shah, Sharp, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Surjan, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Williamson and Woodvine

1           **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, Councillor Chauhan, Councillor Hindle, Councillor Ibrahim and Councillor Lancaster.

2           **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 12TH JULY 2023 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023, be approved as a correct record, subject to an amendment at Minute 9 (Notice of Administration Business: Motion 1 – Oldham Assurance Review – Final Stage) regarding the numbering of the resolutions, after resolution 2, which should read 3, 4 and so on.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

4           **TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent items of business for this meeting of the Council to consider.

5           **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Deputy Mayor advised Council of the absence of the Mayor Councillor Chauhan and he permitted the Leader of the Council, Councillor Shah, to address the meeting thereon. Councillor Shah advised that the Mayor's wife had recently been diagnosed with a serious illness, which meant that the Mayor would be undertaking fewer civic duties in the coming weeks and months. Council sent its best wishes to the Mayor, the Mayoress and their family at this difficult time.

The Deputy Mayor referred to the recent sad news of the passing of former Mayor and Councillor, Val Sedgwick and he permitted Councillors Sykes, Al-Hamdani, Jabbar and Woodvine

to pay their individual condolences and tributes. Council held a minute's silence in memory of former Mayor and Councillor Val Sedgwick.

The Deputy Mayor advised that Members would be aware that this is the last Council meeting that the Director of Finance, Anne Ryans, would be attending prior to her impending retirement. Accordingly, the Deputy Mayor called on Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services, to speak in tribute to Anne's service to the Authority and to mark the occasion with a presentation, as a mark of esteem.

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

There were no petitions for this meeting of the Council to consider.

7 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There was no Youth Council business for this meeting of the Council to consider.

8 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

1. Question submitted by Megan Birchall

I saw the video of the old T.J. Hughes building being demolished I can also see a visible difference already in the town centre. There's still lots of work going on and lots to do I was wondering what the timescale is for the various projects?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question.

The new workspace in Spindles will be completed first with council staff moving into the space over the winter months ahead of the new year, this will immediately increase footfall in the spindles and spending in our town centre businesses, it will then also free up the site where the civic centre is for some much-needed housing land.

This includes moving Access Oldham and the TfGM Travel Shop into the unit that used to house H&M opposite Rhode Island Coffee, to provide a new single front door to access help and support in the Town Centre.

The HIVE social enterprise hub will also be completed later this year to support local residents with business start-up support, and to provide enhanced opportunities for local businesses to network and grow.

In 2025, the new market hall, archives & heritage centre, and the new event space are due for completion – and following the demolition of TJ Hughes the steel works for the new structure will start to go in place before Christmas this year.

2. Question submitted by Shadab Qumer,

I saw the press release about the new partner for the Town Centre regeneration and development of the area including housing. I want to know what type of housing will be built and will there be affordable housing for those that are finding it hard to afford good housing?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing and Licensing replied, thank you Mr Mayor and thanks to Shadab for his question.

All of us in Oldham Council are really excited about the next stage in our town centre regeneration and the appointment of Muse as our private sector development partner.

The exact type of housing that will make up the 2,000 town centres homes hasn't yet been decided and will be subject to formal planning applications – including consultation with residents – in due course.

There will however be a range of housing to be provided, both in terms of type – i.e. the number bedrooms - and tenure and the Council will seek to ensure that a minimum of 25% of the new homes are affordable homes, as per our stated targets.

We will also look to make sure that all homes are built to zero or low carbon standards to help Oldham meet its ambitious climate emergency targets.

### 3. Question submitted by Adam Pape Jones

What does appointing a private sector development partner mean?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, Thanks, Adam for your question. Appointing a private sector partner allows the Council to harness Muse's considerable experience, resource capacity, technical expertise, financial resources, and strong relationships with key stakeholders including Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Homes England and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (amongst others) to accelerate progress and delivery of the much-needed new homes in the town centre.

The Council are delighted to have selected Muse Places (who are a multi-award-winning master-developer of national acclaim) as its partner, especially given the personal commitment from their Managing Director who is himself an Oldhamer, who understands the importance of our heritage, the pride in our communities and shares our passion to have quality, affordable, efficient and sustainable homes.

### 4. Question submitted by Shona Farnworth

In Oldham there are many unpaid carers to friends and families, such as providing personal care, arranging medical and social support, and attending appointments and with the carer's leave bill being passed recently in parliament does the council believe that more action is needed, both nationally and locally, to support people in work with caring responsibilities and the boroughs unpaid carers.

Will the council support this effort by launching an unpaid carers survey in Oldham so that carers can have their say on the support and services they need, and will the council offer efficient, effective support and guidance that is always available for carers, throughout the borough?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care, replied thank you Mr Mayor and thanks to Shona for

asking a really important question. Here in Oldham 9.8% of our population are unpaid carers and they do an amazing job. We do believe we – as an organisation – can do more to support unpaid carers and later this year the Council will launch a new Carers Strategy.

A recent survey has helped inform the strategy and the priorities for the next few years. The Carers strategy will focus on early intervention and prevention for unpaid carers and ensuring there is sufficient information, advice and support to unpaid carers. Ongoing annual surveys will take place with carers, but the carers service is happy to hear your thoughts and feedback at any time. We are re-establishing the carers partnership board and are always looking for board members to represent the views of unpaid carers, so if you'd like to participate drop me an email and I'll pick this up with officers.

#### 5. Question from Connor Green

What conversations has the council had with TfGM and Transpennine Express about the potential closure of the ticketing office at Greenfield train station?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied, thank you for your question. The Council have been working with TfGM in relation to the proposals to close the rail ticket office at Greenfield, following announcements from Transpennine Express.

Both the Council and TfGM have significant concerns about this proposal and have expressed strong objections back to Transpennine through consultation responses, I've written a joint response with the Oldham's MPs Jim McMahon and Debbie Abrahams. We are currently waiting for feedback on this matter. I think it's a disgrace that last week the rail operators themselves admitted that they knew that this would make it harder for older and disabled residents to travel by train and yet they've put these proposals forward anyway with apparently no shame. Railways are a vital connection for many of our residents – especially in Saddleworth – and preventing vulnerable residents from being able to access the city-region and beyond is unforgivable.

As I said, we've objected to this as a Council and we hope that the plans do not go ahead.

#### 6. Question from Latif Choudhury

How will the Council and TfGM measure success when it comes to the school streets schemes across Oldham?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied, thank you for your question and I'd like to say I'm really positive about the school streets scheme. This will improve the safety of our children and their parents or guardians and will also reduce the number of pollutants in the air around our schools - the air that our children breath.

The council measures the success of school street schemes via the school's travel plan and a hands-up surveys conducted twice a school year. This shows changes over time and before/after results for the school streets schemes, based on how children

travel to the school – ideally moving from car trips to active travel choices, which includes walking, cycling, scootering. From the outset, all schools are made aware of the Mode-shift Stars accreditation scheme and that every scheme needs to achieve a minimum of “bronze” award. However, in Oldham, schools aim for “silver” accreditation, which means the children at the school are achieving at least a 10% shift from cars to active travel choices, like walking, cycling, or scooting. The council also does multiple informal consultations with parents and residents to understand their experiences before/after a school street trial, to measure the success. This includes views on driver behaviours, safety, congestion and impact on the local community.

7. Question received from Stephanie Shuttleworth  
I know Broadway is managed by National Highways but is there anything the Council can do to work with National Highways and Costco to try and mitigate against the queues of traffic caused by people wanting to fuel up at Costco?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, replied, thank you for your question. The Council is aware of these concerns and is working with National Highways on this matter. National Highways are looking at ways in which they can increase the number of traffic lanes along Broadway, especially on the approach to the motorway junction, to increase capacity and reducing congestion.

The approach to the Costco/Long Lane junction is also included in the investigation. The council has been informed that proposals are being developed and new road layout designs are being finalised with the intention of consultation early next year. Depending on feedback from local communities and understanding any complexities for the construction programme, this could be underway next year.

The Council has been liaising with National Highways regarding this problem and together we have also been working with Costco on their internal operations for accessing and egressing the car park. I will take this opportunity to assure residents that despite statements by individuals on social media, there has not been any planning application from Costco to provide an alternative exit since the erection of the petrol station. Transport for Greater Manchester (Urban Traffic Control team) have also been involved with regards to reviewing the signal timings, where appropriate, to ease congestion in the meantime.

8. Question submitted by Anita Lowe  
On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023 the Manchester Evening News and in a report in the Oldham Times produced results of the 12 worst rated GP Surgery’s according to a patient survey in Greater Manchester. Out of those 12 listed, five were rated poor in Oldham.

They are listed as follows

- 1) Werneth Medical Centre
- 4) Oldham Medical Service
- 6) Royton Medical Centre
- 8) Medlock Vale Centre
- 8) Kapur medical Werneth



I would like to question cabinet member for Health and Social Care Councillor Barbara Brownridge or her deputy Councillor Marie Bashforth? Since this was published what contact have you made - if any - with these practices in Oldham to support and offer guidance in bringing patient satisfaction up to an acceptable standard?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet member for Health and Social Care replied, that this survey was just one way to understand GP performance, but all practices have been contacted by Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board – which I’m a member of - and asked to submit plans to address the concerns. All the practices were obviously disappointed with the results of the survey and accepted that further action is required to address issues.

All 5 practices highlighted in the Oldham Times piece are among 26 Oldham practices that have submitted an expression of interest for Modern General Practice Access funding because they recognise residents’ frustrations.

Clearly there is work to be about access to appointments and understanding how the GP system works and I just want to reassure residents and councillors that access to GP appointments is an issue that’s constantly raised with the new integrated care system – both locally and at a Greater Manchester level – as it’s one of the number one complaint that residents have when we’re out on the doorsteps.

9. Question submitted by Imran Choudhary

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Nazrul Islam and Mohon Ali both continue to openly fraternise with the former Chairman of Oldham Central Mosque. This man is a convicted sex offender. How can Oldham Council promote a Victim and Survivors Charter for victims of CSE whilst its councillors take part in this behaviour? Does the Council feel it is appropriate for any of its councillors to attend community events and sit alongside convicted sex offender(s)?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet member for Finance and Corporate Services replied, that a key part of the role of a local councillor is to attend local events and to engage local communities.

We end up sitting next to and meeting with loads of people. We have no way of knowing what someone does in their private life and equally we don’t DBS check everyone before attending events.

Sexual abuse, exploitation and violence in any form is abhorrent. We stand firmly with survivors and victims of CSE. We support the Police and criminal justice system in wanting to ensure anyone found guilty of these offences is brought to justice.

10. Question submitted by Kyle Phythian

How can regular Oldhamers help those who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis and sky-rocketing demand at community hubs like Oldham Foodbank?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that Oldhamers who wish to help their fellow residents can volunteer their time to help others in need. There are several opportunities available, residents wanting to get involved can find more info on either the Council's website or on Action Together's website.

Can I just take this opportunity to thank Action Together for everything they do for the people of Oldham by the way, Laura and her team are really good assets for the Borough, and I can say this as the GM Lead for Communities – our voluntary and community sector is miles ahead of others in GM and we should cherish it.

Back to the question at hand, over 90% of the food distributed by foodbanks is donated by the public – the foodbank relies on the goodwill and support of the people of Oldham helping their fellow Oldhamers. If you want to help there is the page on the foodbank's website all about donating food, money or time to them. I know there's plenty of Councillors in the Chamber tonight – including our Deputy Mayor Cllr Moores - who have given up their time to deliver food-parcels on behalf of the foodbank.

I also want to give a shout out to the Saddleworth Labour Party's second annual Tea for Trussell event held in July this year where they raised £450 and hundreds of items of food donated by the community.

#### 11. Question submitted by Sharon Jones

Was the Council aware that Chief Superintendent Chris Bowen had fled the town? Can the Council reassure the public that we are safe and that nothing untoward has taken place with the sudden departure of Oldham's most senior police officer?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied, thank you for your question. I'm grateful for the opportunity to clear this up and to prevent the spread of further conspiracy theories. Obviously, personnel decisions taken by Greater Manchester Police are up to them but I can say that Greater Manchester Police frequently reviews the portfolios for which its senior employees are responsible for; moving senior officers into different roles to provide specialist skills where they are needed and to maintain professional development. Chief Superintendent Goodman-Bowen had been in post as District Commander for Oldham for nearly two years and, rather than fled Oldham, has now been reassigned by Greater Manchester Police in a role appropriate for his skills and experience.

Temporary Chief Superintendent Phil Hutchinson, who has been the Operations Superintendent for the Oldham district since early 2022, is currently providing leadership to the district pending their routine scheduled promotion process and I'd like to reassure the public that nothing untoward has taken place and police operations are continuing as normal.

#### 12. Question submitted by Sheila Brophy

Knife crime destroys lives and blights communities. Will the relevant Cabinet member of Oldham Council therefore please detail what the Council is currently doing to raise awareness of

the dangers of knife crime and do they agree that anyone found to be guilty of wielding a machete should be nowhere near a councillor or the council chamber?

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied that Oldham Council recognises the significant impact and harm that knife and weapon crime has on Communities and has implemented a number of measures to attempt to reduce such types of behaviour, using research from the Greater Manchester Violence Reduction Unit, adapting recognised good practise from other areas, and listening to residents to establish why they feel the need to carry a knife or weapon.

The responses have included inputs in schools using presentations and the commissioning of a play regarding knife crime. And we've commissioned targeted works with individuals at risk of engaging in knife crime and focusing on messaging on how we keep residents safe, so they do not feel the need to carry a knife or weapon.

We are also working closely with Greater Manchester Police to identify individuals involved in knife crime, supporting their criminal prosecutions, where appropriate, through Civil remedies such as Criminal Behaviour Orders.

We've also funded knife arches in the past at the request of GMP, which were deployed in hotspot locations.

And in reference to the Council Chamber, I can confirm that we have robust security and screening operations in place to ensure that no member of the public is able to access the chamber with a knife or a weapon to protect both elected members and the general public during public meetings.

Members across the chamber will be grateful for your concerns for our safety.

Several questions submitted by members of the public remained unanswered at the end of the allotted 30 minute period for this item. The Deputy Mayor advised that the unanswered questions would be published, with appropriate answers, on the Council's website in due course.

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## **QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET MEMBERS**

### **Councillor Sheldon, Leader of the Conservative Group**

#### Question 1: Oldham Coliseum

It was noted that the Oldham Coliseum theatre closed at the end of March 2023 but according to a recently published independent report £137,000 could have saved it from closure. The Council has authorised £1 million of grant funding recently to preserve activities at Boundary Park yet has provided nothing for Oldham Coliseum. The new theatre building is smaller, with a reduced seating capacity and will lack the necessary atmosphere. Will the Leader of the Council authorise expenditure in the sum of £137,000 to, at least temporarily, keep the Coliseum theatre open?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that it wasn't a decision of the Council that led to the closure of the Oldham Coliseum theatre. The building would have cost too much to



properly repaired and maintained. The Council was not able to authorise additional funding but is engaged in ongoing discussions, with the Coliseum's management committee regarding future plans.



**Question 2: Government Funding**

Councillor Sheldon commented on additional funding that the Council had received, from the Conservative Government to finance projects in the Oldham Borough. The additional funding included approximately £6 million for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) services and £1.5 million for various traffic and transport initiatives. Councillor Sheldon, therefore, asked if the leader of the Council would join him in welcoming the additional funding, that the Council has received, which will benefit the local community.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that she did indeed welcome the additional funding that the Borough of Oldham had recently received from the Government but she also advised that the Council's services had been underfunded by the Government over a number of years.

**Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group**

Thank you, Mr Deputy Mayor,

I want to begin by paying tribute to all the pupils across Oldham Borough who have received their A Levels, T Levels, B Tecs, GCSEs and other qualifications recently.

Mr Deputy Mayor, as a Council, we have MUCH work to do when it comes to education in our Borough.

The latest OFSTED inspections across some of our secondary schools paint a very mixed picture.

For far too many people in Oldham, there just isn't the option of sending your children to a high performing school.

Too many secondary schools are rated as inadequate or in need of improvement.

The impact of the pandemic years is still keenly felt across the schooling system and too little is understood about the impact that these years of disruption have had on pupil attainment.

School absences are spiralling out of control.

Persistent absences have risen by more than 80% in the last four years. The damage that this missed classroom time is doing to the future life chances of our next generation cannot be overstated.

This is unacceptable. And it should be the top priority of this Council to help put it right.

Last month I wrote to the Director of Children's services following the mixed OFSTED findings, asking him to outline the Council's strategic response.

Since then, we have had results day and another set of OFSTED findings, this time dealing with SEND provision in the Borough.

The outcome? Widespread systemic failings which must be urgently addressed.

So will the Leader outline her own administrations' plan to tackle these important issues and play a leading role in delivering the first-rate Education offer that Oldham deserves.

Or is the strategy just to wait for handouts from the great and the good at Eton College?



**Oldham**  
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Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that not schools in the Borough were the responsibility of Oldham Council but the Council's Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Councillor Ali, was working closely with the Leader in lobbying the Government for additional funding that would help alleviate some of the issues raised in the question and would help to produce better educational outcomes for young people in Oldham.

**Councillor Hince, Leader of the Independent Group**

The findings of a recent 'OFSTED report following a SEND inspection into schools in the Oldham Borough had found that the Council was failing pupils in terms of their educational prospects'. He asked who, within the Council, would take responsibility and apologise for these failings in Oldham's schools?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that whilst it was unfair to attack Council Officers, she did share some of his concerns regarding the results of the inspection. The Council was doing all that it could to improve educational performances for all children.

**Councillor Hobin, Leader of the Failsworth Independent Party**

With reference to the Borough's 'Don't Trash Oldham' campaign, Councillor Hobin asked if rules regarding the size of vehicles that could access the council's tips and recycling facilities could be relaxed. He asked if by not permitting larger and wider vehicles access to these facilities 'was it not encouraging fly-tipping'?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, undertook to investigate the issues raised by Councillor Hobin.

**Question from Councillor Davis**

Could the member responsible for the war memorial in the town centre please look into the situation where motor vehicles are parking on the cobbled area it appears to be from the property which used to be the former Greaves Arms they are taking the bollards down on the road and leaning them on the war memorial!

This is a total lack of respect to people who paid the ultimate price.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied The area where vehicles are parking is an unadopted highway. However, the vehicles do cross and remove bollards from a part of the highway that is adopted. We have recently been made aware of bollards being removed and placed against the memorial so vehicles can access this 'parking space'. Officers from the Corporate Landlord team will be working with local businesses and users of the area to ensure that where

bollards are removed, they are placed in a safe area and away from the memorial.



**Oldham**  
Council

Question from Councillor Holly Harrison

Coercive control is on the rise; in fact, according to the ONS (25th November 2022) significantly so. There were 41, 626 offences of coercive control recorded, in England and Wales in the year ending March 2022. This is up from 33,954 the year before and 24,856 the year before that.

In September 2022, Refuge launched their, 'Make It Mandatory Campaign' - a campaign to ensure that 16- to 19-year-old receive education on domestic abuse and controlling or coercive behaviour. It is my personal belief that this is not early enough, but in any event, they found that less than half of 16- to 19-year-old are receiving this education.

Please can the cabinet member for education provide the statistics on the number of 16- to 19-year-olds who receive this education in Oldham. A breakdown of each educational facility would be great too.

Councillor Ali, Cabinet member for Education and Skills replied The Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education (England) Regulations 2019, made under sections 34 and 35 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017, make Relationships Education compulsory for all pupils receiving primary education and Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) compulsory for all pupils receiving secondary education. Therefore, the schools in Oldham that have a sixth form attached (Bluecoat, Crompton House and North Chadderton) are statutorily obliged to deliver this education and do so as part of their personal development curriculums. Oldham College and Oldham Sixth Form College deliver this education as part of their contextualised safeguarding curriculum, or tutorial curriculum, which is delivered to all students. In addition to the standard curriculum, any students experiencing, or perpetrating abuse is provided with additional education and support on a 1 – 1 basis.

The Oldham Safeguarding Children Partnership training officer delivers online safety and healthy relationships assemblies to primary, secondary and FE students which include elements of coercive control. In the last term she delivered sessions to over 7,500 students.

The secondary assembly offer for the 2023/24 academic year has been refreshed and will include a focus on teenage relationship abuse and adolescent stalking and harassment. This reflects issues requested by schools.

During the last academic year, the Partnership also launched a high quality Happy and Safe Curriculum resource for primary schools. This is available on the Partnership website and includes a lot of lessons that lay the foundation of understanding about coercive and controlling behaviour. Linked to this, as part of the 2023 White Ribbon fortnight of action, a conference is being held with young people on 29<sup>th</sup> November to develop peer leadership around promoting healthy and respectful relationships.

Question from Councillor Byrne

My question is again about Road Speed Limits.

During COVID we were able on a National Basis to reduce Town and village centres to 20MPH.

Whilst not popular at first more and more 20MPH have been requested and implemented.

I was told some 4 years ago by a previous Senior Highways Officer that there would be a study of all the speed limits on all the road in the borough.

This never took place as far as I am aware and many roads in the Saddleworth wards, without footpaths, are still at the upper end of the National limit of 50 mph and are used in excess of these speed limits.

I have even presented Petitions to lower the speed limits in my Ward.

I understand that more 20mph area are to be proposed but when can I expect a thorough study of other limits than 20mph.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet member for Neighbourhoods replied

The previous speed limit review for all 10 Manchester Borough's was led by TfGM. This review led to the creation of the policy for setting speed limits, which is in line with National Policy. This is to ensure that there is a constant approach in setting limits.

Currently, speed limits are set based on collision data and in agreement with Greater Manchester Police.

The TfGM led Road Danger Reduction Group are currently re-assessing the speed limit policy and the implementation of lower speed limits in the light of the ever-increasing use of the highway by non-motorised users.

The existing Temporary 20-mph speed limits introduced in the Saddleworth Villages were done so using temporary powers, granted by Central Government, during the Covid Pandemic. These powers expired in April 2022.

There has been a long-standing request for a 20-mph limit in villages - data shows that the signs have resulted in a reduction in speeds. However, this has not led to full compliance.

As and when funding becomes available, Oldham Council highways are changing covid era temporary measures to permanent physical restrictions. Linked to this, funding has been confirmed for a traffic calming and permanent 20-mph limit within the Uppermill and Dobcross areas which will be consulted upon in the next couple of months.

It should be noted that Greater Manchester Police don't support the introduction of permanent 20-mph speed limits without physical measures (traffic calming) to make them self-enforcing.

Question from Councillor Kenyon

Every ward in the Oldham Borough has been affected by the telecommunication mast installations by IX telecom.

Whilst these street work poles deliver a choice of mobile connectivity providers to residents and businesses, this comes at a cost to our landscape. I'd be surprised if there was a councillor in this room who hadn't been contacted by a resident complaining about the eyesore of one of these new masts plonked outside their home with no consultation.

But what have Oldham Council done so far – very little apart apparently apart from a meeting with IX wireless and a trial supposedly starting in Chadderton soon. What has been the outcome of this trial? Nothing so far as nothing as been communicated to Councillors and residents.

One of the key fundamental functions of the planning requirements is that all operators are required to explore site-sharing opportunities under the terms of their licences. What evidence does the Council have from Telecommunication operators that this has been done for every proposed new mast or monopole location? If they have provided evidence, who, as a technical expert, has reviewed their justification. Which have been challenged, questioned or refused as a result?

The electronic communications code is set out in Schedule 3A of the Communications Act 2003 and it is a set of rights that are designed to facilitate the installation and maintenance of electronic communications networks. The operators and their contractors, such as IX, are not working illegally, so if we want to make a change to their procedures and the planning requirements, this means a change to the code and Act which would need to be brought before Parliament.

Residents, Councillors and local Councils cannot make any change unless this is done.

So, my question to the cabinet member is, have they written to the relevant Member of Parliament or Select Committee requesting that this code or Act is changed as a result of the detrimental affect these unsightly structures are having to our town and villages? And if so, when?

Councillor Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for Housing and Licensing replied, thank you for your question. The Council is aware of proposals by IX Wireless to roll out their infrastructure in the borough utilising rights available to them through national planning legislation meaning that some of it does not require approval from the Local Planning Authority. These are known as permitted development rights.

However, where masts are proposed to be erected under these rights, the operator must first obtain what is known as 'Prior Approval' from the Local Planning Authority. This requires them to make an application and the Local Planning Authority will then need to determine on a case-by-case basis whether their siting and appearance is acceptable or not. No other matters can be considered under this process.

Whilst such legislation exists the Council must accept that operators such as IX Wireless have rights to install their infrastructure, albeit subject to compliance with any conditions contained within them. Council officers have ensured that IX Wireless are aware of these requirements.

I am aware that some equipment has been installed in the form of poles to support wires in the Chadderton area. These have been assessed by officers and fall within the provision of permitted development rights. Where this is the case, they do not require approval from the Local Planning Authority.

Former Councillor Chadderton has written to the Secretary of State raising concerns about the permitted development rights



afforded to electronic communication operators. I too share these concerns.

In respect of the wider requirement for telecommunication code operators to adhere to their codes of practice, which includes a requirement to share sites where possible, I understand this is a matter for OFCOM.

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## **QUESTIONS ON CABINET MINUTES**

The Council was requested to note the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023. The Council was asked to receive questions on these minutes, from members of the Council that are not members of the Cabinet and to receive appropriate responses from Cabinet members.

Members asked the following questions: -

a. Question from Councillor Harkness

Further to Minute 13 of the Cabinet meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Councillor Harkness asked about the impact of local rail ticket office closures and also asked the Leader of the Council if she would enlist the support of the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the Greater Manchester Bee Network Committee to campaign against this measure.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that she shared Councillor Harkness' concerns at the proposed closure of ticket offices on the rail network and would seek the support of the Borough's three Members of Parliament and the Greater Manchester Bee Network Committee to campaign against this measure.

b. Question from Councillor Kenyon

Further to Minute 10 of the Cabinet meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Councillor Kenyon asked how many houses were proposed to be built on the 'key strategic sites in Oldham Town Centre' that were detailed in the Minute.

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council, replied that there were no plans to build housing on these sites.

c. Question from Councillor Hamblett

Further to Minute 9, of the Cabinet meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Councillor Hamblett asked, for progress on work being undertaken regarding the approval to award a contract under the Tree Surgery Framework.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that the original contractor had withdrawn and a new contractor had started work.

d. Question from Councillor Byrne

Further to Minute 9, of the Cabinet meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Councillor Byrne, sought clarification on the number of contracts being awarded under the Tree Surgery Framework contract.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods, replied that there would be five separate contracts awarded in respect of this matter.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the Minutes of the meetings of the Cabinet held 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023, be noted.
2. That the questions above and responses thereon be noted.

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**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

**Motion 1 – Fragility in the Social Care Sector**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Brownridge SECONDED the following Motion:

The Social Care sector is in crisis. The market is failing residents who need society's care and support the most. Oldham Council recently announced that it would be acquiring Chadderton Total Care Unit to prevent the nursing home from closing and creating over two-hundred redundancies and create continuity of care issues for over a hundred vulnerable residents.

The social care system is not fit for purpose and is failing the people who rely on it, despite the incredible efforts made by those who work in it.

Long-term problems, including high levels of unmet need and care providers struggling to deliver the quality of care that older and disabled people deserve, are compounded by rising demand, backlogs caused by Covid-19 and a workforce crisis. Pressures in the NHS compound these challenges even further and can sometimes lead to 'bed blocking'.

We need reform now – government cannot wait any longer to act.

This Council notes:

- That there are no quick and easy fixes to the crisis in social care, but this cannot be ignored.
- That the fragility of the care sector market is putting Oldhamers' health, quality of life and livelihoods at risk
- The council continues to receive an increased number of complaints linked to unaffordability of financial contributions and linked to the cost-of-living crisis.

This Council further notes:

- The decision to acquire the Total Care Unit in Chadderton was not one taken lightly but allowing the second biggest care-home in the Borough to close would've been cruel.
- The acquisition of the Total Care Unit has protected over 100 vulnerable residents from being moved out of borough and ensured that 200 hardworking social care staff did not lose their jobs.
- That the nursing sector in particular is facing huge challenges in recruiting staff, that agencies are driving up the cost and making it difficult for the NHS to compete and offer parity.

This Council resolves to:

- Use the newly created Oldham Total Care to combat bed blocking at the Royal Oldham Hospital, relieve some pressure in the social care sector and provide the support Oldhamers need in Oldham.
- Write to the Department for Health and Social Care to urge them to urgently adopt the delayed reforms to care sector funding and eligibility.
- Write to the Department of Health and Social Care to ask them to urgently commission a review on market volatility in the Care and Nursing Home Sectors.
- Work with the Integrated Care System across Greater Manchester and the North West, as well as the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services to raise awareness and address issues of care home market fragility, and lobby for reform to create a care system that meets resident's needs, accepts that a greater personalisation of services is required, and increases the availability of care services.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

### **RESOLVED**

This Council resolves to:

1. To use the newly created Oldham Total Care to combat bed blocking at the Royal Oldham Hospital, relieve some pressure in the social care sector and provide the support Oldhamers need in Oldham.
2. To write to the Department for Health and Social Care to urge them to urgently adopt the delayed reforms to care sector funding and eligibility.
3. To write to the Department of Health and Social Care to ask them to urgently commission a review on market volatility in the Care and Nursing Home Sectors.
4. To work with the Integrated Care System across Greater Manchester and the North West, as well as the Association of Directors of Adults Social Services to raise awareness and address issues of care home market fragility, and lobby for reform to create a care system that meets resident's needs, accepts that a greater personalisation of services is required, and increases the availability of care services.

### **Motion 2 – No More Profits Over Pollution**

Councillor Goodwin MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED the following Motion:

Across the borough of Oldham, our rivers are treasured by residents, as vital waterways that supported Oldham's growth during the industrial revolution. Water from the Tame, Medlock and Irk contributed to our mills, our canals and help connect us to our neighbouring towns.

Since the failed experiment in privatising our water utility in 1989, residents have seen bills go up, yet have suffered with issues getting water delivered to their homes, with leaks and

water shut offs increasing in frequency whilst shareholders increase their dividends.

United Utilities was identified in 2022 as the worst water polluter in the UK, with “10 of the country’s 20 pipes that spilled the most sewage in 2022 were owned by United Utilities” (The Guardian, April 2023). The River Trust identified 31 sites in Oldham where raw sewage is discharged into rivers.

One of Oldham’s MP’s has raised this issue in their role as Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the government have voted against parliamentary measures to stop sewage being pumped into our rivers.

Sampling at the River Tame near Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate. These are all chemicals that are harmful to both humans and wildlife, showcasing that pollution in our rivers is extremely harmful to the residents of the borough.

This Council notes:

- a. The data from the River Trust that shows details of 31 raw sewage discharge into rivers and streams across Oldham in 2022, including along the River Tame in Saddleworth, the River Medlock at Bardsley and the River Irk in Royton.
- b. Water sampling at Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate.
- c. That despite United Utilities reporting £788m profits in the year to 31st March 2023 and paying dividends of £300m to their shareholders, UU proposes to add the costs of any clean up to our bills.

This Council Resolves to:

1. Write to United Utilities requesting that they respond to each of these 3 points separately, giving detailed plans, including a timetable, to ensure these discharges into our local waters are prevented in future and calling for the clean-up costs to be met by United Utilities and their shareholders and not paid for by customers.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking for the government to strengthen environmental protections around sewage discharges, including increasing fines for discharges and stronger regulatory action including mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets.
3. Write to the Borough’s 3 MPs asking them to pressure the Government to require mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets and an increase in fines for sewage discharges.

## AMENDMENT

Councillor Quigg MOVED and Councillor Arnott SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

Across the borough of Oldham, our rivers are treasured by residents, as vital waterways that supported Oldham’s growth during the industrial revolution. Water from the Tame, Medlock and Irk contributed to our mills, our canals and help connect us to our neighbouring towns.

United Utilities was identified in 2022 as the worst water polluter in the UK, with “10 of the country’s 20 pipes that spilled the most sewage in 2022 were owned by United Utilities” (The Guardian, April 2023). The River Trust identified 31 sites in Oldham where raw sewage is discharged into rivers.

One of Oldham’s MP’s has raised this issue in their former role as Shadow Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, James Ignatius O’Rourke McMahon put forward a bill in March 2023 which was then voted upon on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2023. The Labour Party ABSTAINED on their own bill and were unable to vote in favour of reducing sewage discharges. It was only thanks to Conservative MP’s that these proposals were passed, voting in FAVOUR, of reducing sewage discharges. Indeed, claims by the Sun Newspaper that the Labour farce in Parliament resulted in Labour MP James Ignatius O’Rourke McMahon being overheard saying: "We've been made to look like t\*\*ts".

The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan, published in August 2022, set out stringent targets to protect people and the environment, backed up by up to £56 billion capital investment – the largest infrastructure programme in water company history. The government announced on Tuesday 25th April 2023 that its target to reduce storm overflows will be enshrined in law.

This builds on:

- The requirement for all storm overflows to be fitted with monitors by the end of 2023. 91% currently have them fitted, up from only 7% in 2010. It is as a result of this monitoring that the government is able to see the extent of what is happening and take action to address it.
- The recent Plan for Water – the government’s five year strategy on water – which includes bringing forward £1.6 billion investment, with £1.1bn specifically on storm overflows
- Proposals for unlimited penalties to be imposed on water companies that break the rules. More than £142 million has already been levied in fines since 2015. Money from those fines and penalties will also now be channelled back into the environment.
- The commission from the Secretary of State to ask water companies to provide action plans on every storm overflow.
- The legally binding targets that already exist through the Environment Act 2021 to cut 80% of total phosphorus pollution from sewage treatment plants by 2038.

Sampling at the River Tame near Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate. These are all chemicals that are harmful to both humans and wildlife, showcasing that pollution in our rivers is extremely harmful to the residents of the borough.

This Council notes:

1. The data from the River Trust that shows details of 31 raw sewage discharge into rivers and streams across Oldham in



2022, including along the River Tame in Saddleworth, the River Medlock at Bardsley and the River Irk in Royton.

2. Water sampling at Pingle Mill in Delph found 2,4-

Dichlorophenoxyacetic Acid, PFOS, and pFoctanoate.

3. United Utilities operations generated £788m of net cash, more than 15% lower than a year earlier, as inflation pushed its costs higher and its customers used less water. United Utilities also recorded a fall in both revenue and pre-tax profit, which tumbled by over 40% to £256m.

4. The £114 million United Utilities invested between 2014 and 2017 for a cleaner River Irk, and building a new works at the Oldham wastewater treatment plant in Chadderton, off Foxdenton Lane, with a new pipeline running from Royton to Chadderton to handle greater volume.

This Council Resolves to:

1. I request that the Chief Executive to write to United Utilities requesting that they respond to each of these points separately, giving detailed plans, including a timetable, to ensure these discharges into our local waters are prevented in future and calling for the clean-up costs to be met by United Utilities and their shareholders and not paid for by customers.
2. Write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking for the government to strengthen environmental protections around sewage discharges, including increasing fines for discharges and stronger regulatory action including mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets.
3. Write to the Borough's 3 MPs asking them to confirm, whether Labour will indeed keep to its 2019 manifesto promise to nationalise water companies in England and confirm how much it would cost taxpayers to nationalise water, as well as clearly identifying the economic impact on pensioners who have their pension funds invested with water companies; to work with the Government to require mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets and an increase in fines for sewage discharges.

This Council further resolves to:

1. Write to United Utilities to confirm if they have plans to expand the sewage treatment works in Chadderton, and what capacity they would need in terms of storage and land in the medium to long term to avoid future sewage discharge.
2. For the Council to specifically consider the impact of further house building on local infrastructure, such as water and sewage across the Borough. More house building means more people, which naturally means more sewage.
3. Confirm how much it would cost taxpayers in Oldham for Oldham Council to set up its own Municipal Water Company.

A vote was taken on the AMENDMENT which was LOST.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED.

## RESOLVED

Council Resolves to:

1. That the Chief Executive writes to United Utilities requesting that they respond to each of these 3 points separately, giving detailed plans, including a timetable, to ensure these discharges into our local waters are prevented in future and calling for the clean-up costs to be met by United Utilities and their shareholders and not paid for by customers.
2. The Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking for the government to strengthen environmental protections around sewage discharges, including increasing fines for discharges and stronger regulatory action including mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets.
4. The Chief Executive to write to the Borough's 3 MPs asking them to pressure the Government to require mandatory monitoring of all sewage outlets and an increase in fines for sewage discharges.

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## NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

### **Motion 1 – A State of the Art Health Centre for Saddleworth**

Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Sheldon  
SECONDED the following Motion

The Civil Parish of Saddleworth is the only District in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham to have not had the provision of a Health Centre planned for despite the overwhelming public support for one.

While the current Centre, situated in Uppermill, has given care to many people over the years, the modern medical needs of the population of Saddleworth are not met by the current site. Many people living in Saddleworth's village communities have to travel to central Oldham for basic treatment – to Glodwick, Littlemoor, Moorside, or the Integrated Care Centre.

The provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre of all of Saddleworth is the single biggest issue and this was made clear to The Council Leader, Councillor Arooj Shah, when she visited us in 2022 at her 'Meet the Leader' event in Saddleworth Civic Hall. Despite her warm words, no action has been taken.

The content of this Motion has an electoral mandate - in recent Elections, all successful Candidates in Saddleworth have been nominally or actively in favour of a Health Centre.

Increased pressure is being placed on the already stretched healthcare provisions in Saddleworth resulting from the increased house building, including the 78 dwellings on Huddersfield Road, Diggle, with the prospect of more developments to come at Knowls Lane, Birks Quarry, Bailey Mill, Fletcher's Mill and possibly Stonebreaks in years to come.

The Member of Parliament for Oldham East & Saddleworth hosted an event too to discuss the prospect of developing a new Health Centre, but she did not invite the Councillors for the area and we have never seen any outcomes from this discussion, at which there were senior Officers of the Council.

The Integrated Care System for Greater Manchester has stated in the past that funding is not necessarily the problem in preventing progress, but the options for siting a Health Centre in Saddleworth is the stumbling block. However, a strategic site has opened up in a central, accessible location in Uppermill with the demolition of Saddleworth School and this is in the ownership of the Council.

Therefore, this Council commits:

- To prioritise the provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre for all of Saddleworth.
- To commit to making the site of the old Saddleworth School mixed-use, and ear marking some space for a state-of-the-art Health Centre.
- To improve the pitches and playing fields on the old Saddleworth School site for the use of local people, and for increased sporting provisions.
- To consider ways to increase capacity at the Delph site in the meantime, whilst a new Health Centre is established, as it is a source of local commentary that this service is underutilised.
- To schedule a meeting with all stakeholders, including the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care and the Saddleworth North, South, and West & Lees Councillors, to discuss our priorities for the people we represent.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Brownridge MOVED and Councillor Marie Bashforth SECONDED the following AMENDMENT:

The Civil Parish of Saddleworth is the only District in the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham to have not had the provision of a Health Centre planned for despite the overwhelming public support for one.

While the current Centre, situated in Uppermill, has given care to many people over the years, the modern medical needs of the population of Saddleworth are not met by the current site. Many people living in Saddleworth's village communities have to travel to central Oldham for basic treatment – to Glodwick, Littlemoor, Moorside, or the Integrated Care Centre.

The provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre of all of Saddleworth is the single biggest issue and this was made clear to The Council Leader, Councillor Arooj Shah, when she visited us in 2022 at her 'Meet the Leader' event in Saddleworth Civic Hall, where she was supportive of resolving this issue, whilst reminding people that responsibility for the provision of new health centres lies with the NHS and Integrated Care System, not Oldham Council.

The content of this Motion has an electoral mandate - in recent Elections, all successful Candidates in Saddleworth have been nominally or actively in favour of a Health Centre.

Increased pressure is being placed on the already stretched healthcare provisions in Saddleworth resulting from the increased house building, including the 78 dwellings on Huddersfield Road, Diggle, with the prospect of more developments to come at Knowls Lane, Birks Quarry, Bailey Mill, Fletcher's Mill and possibly Stonebreaks in years to come.



**Oldham**  
Council

The Member of Parliament for Oldham East & Saddleworth hosted an event too to discuss the prospect of developing a new Health Centre.

The Integrated Care System for Greater Manchester has stated in the past that funding is not necessarily the problem in preventing progress, but the options for siting a Health Centre in Saddleworth is the stumbling block.

Therefore, this Council commits:

- To work alongside the GM Integrated Care System and NHS England to prioritise the provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre for all of Saddleworth and find a suitable site within Saddleworth.
- To making the best use of the site of the old Saddleworth School for the people of Saddleworth
- To work with the GM Integrated Care System to consider ways to increase capacity at the Delph site in the meantime, whilst a new Health Centre is established, as it is a source of local commentary that this service is underutilised.
- To invite all relevant stakeholders, including the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Place Lead for Health and Care Integration to a meeting of East District Community Council to discuss this issue with residents and local Councillors.

On being put to the Vote the AMENDMENT was CARRIED.

On being put to the Vote the MOTION as AMENDED was CARRIED.

**RESOLVED:**

The Council commits:

1. To work alongside the GM Integrated Care System and NHS England to prioritise the provision of a state-of-the-art Health Centre for all of Saddleworth and find a suitable site within Saddleworth.
2. To making the best use of the site of the old Saddleworth School for the people of Saddleworth
3. To work with the GM Integrated Care System to consider ways to increase capacity at the Delph site in the meantime, whilst a new Health Centre is established, as it is a source of local commentary that this service is underutilised.
4. To invite all relevant stakeholders, including the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care and the Place Lead for Health and Care Integration to a meeting of East District Community Council to discuss this issue with residents and local Councillors.

**Motion 2 – Raw Sewage Discharges**

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following Motion:

This council notes that:

In 2011, the Environment Agency reported that our rivers were cleaner than at any time since the Industrial Revolution.

In March this year the same agency noted that there were more than 300,000 raw sewage discharges into rivers and coastal areas in 2022, lasting for more than 1.75 million hours.

In the same period our local water company, 'United Utilities', was responsible for 69,245 of those sewage discharges lasting for 425,491 hours.

In Oldham alone, raw sewage has been discharged into our waterways more than 2,500 times since 2021, lasting for more than 14,000 hours.

These hours of raw sewage went into the waterways alongside which Oldham residents walk, cycle and ride; and in which families go boating, fishing and paddling.

Raw sewage in open waters has been shown to increase the risk of diseases such as hepatitis and Weil's disease.

The deterioration in the quality of our water is so apparent that it is evidenced not only by Environment Agency data but by the observations of Oldham residents who have noted the rise in unpleasant odours and visible pollution in the water.

The sewage discharge data, provided by the water companies themselves, demonstrates that not a single discharge in 2022 resulted from exceptional circumstances - rainfall or storms – but due to a lack of treatment and investment by the same water companies.

Yet since 1989, they have paid out £72 billion in dividends to shareholders and bonuses of millions of pounds to executives while accruing industry wide debts of £60 billion and inflicting a 40% real terms price increase on ordinary people.

So much value has been extracted from the sector that one of the largest companies is currently failing under its huge level of debt and there are forecasts of future huge price rises across the country, including Trafford, to make up for decades of lack of investment.

This situation is unfair and unsustainable – ordinary people are paying ever higher prices for the privilege of having raw human sewage dumped in their communities while the industry is allowed to be run for the enrichment of shareholders and executives.

This council resolves to:

Call upon Central Government to firmly establish the 'Polluter Pays Principle' across the industry". Water companies must operate in the interests of the Public, not shareholders. They must make meaningful provision for the monitoring of water quality, publish a strategy with targets for the reduction of sewage discharges, including meaningful economic impact assessments, and provide for financial penalties in relation to sewage discharges and breaches of monitoring requirements.

On being put to the vote the MOTION was CARRIED

**RESOLVED:**

This council resolves to call upon Central Government to firmly establish the 'Polluter Pays Principle' across the industry". Water companies must operate in the interests of the Public, not shareholders. They must make meaningful provision for the



monitoring of water quality, publish a strategy with targets for the reduction of sewage discharges, including meaningful economic impact assessments, and provide for financial penalties in relation to sewage discharges and breaches of monitoring requirements.

13 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SCONDED a report which presented Members with details of the actions officers have taken on Motions that were approved at the 12<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Council meeting and informed on the response position regarding outstanding matters from previous meetings.

Resolved:

That Council notes the actions taken and notes the correspondence has been received regarding some Motions agreed at previous Council meetings.

14 **CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS**

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Sheldon SECONDED a report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services that sought to amend the constitution as detailed in the report with the amendments to the Rules specified.

Council was advised that the Constitution required regular reviews to ensure that it remained fit for purpose and that it reflected best practice. There were a number of areas detailed, in the report, for Council to consider, appertaining to Contract Procedure Rules; Financial Procedure Rules; Access to Information Procedure Rules; and Contract Procedure Rules.

Resolved:

That the amendments to the Constitution, detailed in the report of the Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Finance and Director of Legal Services, be approved.

15 **YOUTH JUSTICE PLAN 2023/24**

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Charters SECONDED the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24. The Oldham Youth Justice Plan sets out the strategic direction for youth justice in Oldham, taking a partnership approach to reducing re-offending, reducing the number of first-time entrants into the criminal justice system and reducing the use of custody.

There had been an acknowledgment that the plan is significant in length. However, this is dictated by the template provided by the national Youth Justice Board. A Service Development Plan was attached at Appendix 4 to the report.

Resolved:

That Council approves the Youth Justice Plan 2023/24.

16 **TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 2022/2023**

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance concerning the Treasury Management review 2022/23. Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003, to

produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2022/23. The Director of Finance's submitted report met the requirements of both the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).



During 2022/23 the minimum reporting requirements were that the full Council should receive the following reports: An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved by Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023); a mid-year treasury update report (which was approved by the Council on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022); and an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report) The regulatory environment places responsibility on Members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy and activities. This report was therefore important in that respect, as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Council approves the actual 2022/23 prudential and treasury indicators presented in the Director of Finance's report.
2. That Council approves the annual treasury management review report for 2022/23.

The meeting started at 6.00pm and ended at 9.10pm