



Oldham
Council

Report to COUNCIL – 13 December 2023

Cabinet Report of Neighbourhoods Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities.

Prevent

The Council is implementing recommendations from the recently published statutory Home Office Prevent and Channel Duty guidance, including updating relevant policies and procedures to ensure compliance.

Hate Crime

Raising awareness of hate crime and providing support to victims is a key area of work for both the Council and partner agencies. Preparations are now underway to deliver Oldham's participation in Greater Manchester's Hate Crime Awareness week which will take place in February 2024. The Sophie Lancaster Foundation has been commissioned to deliver a free hate crime 'train the trainer' session for Secondary School teaching staff. The hate crime training covers the five hate crime strands and has been expanded to also include misogyny.

Asylum Seekers

The Council continues to work with a range of partner agencies to support asylum seekers and refugees to integrate within the community, including providing support with housing, employment and volunteering opportunities.

Community Safety

Community Safety Services is currently in the process of a statutory review of over 200 Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) in the borough which protect the properties of over 8,000 residents. As part of this process, we are amending the terms to enable residents to develop alleyways into community spaces. This follows on from and builds upon the work undertaken as part of the Don't Trash Oldham campaign. Going forward, we are aligning the PSPOs to the Place areas, which will enable residents to find full details of Orders much easier on the Council's website.

The Service continues to respond to ASB and crime in an intelligence led way, applying solution focused methodology, in partnership with colleagues internal and external to the Council. As an example, there is an ongoing piece of work relating to the King Street Tram Stop and surrounding area, and there is close working with Oldham Sixth Form College, Oldham College, the Youth Service, GMP, TfGM and Highways.

Public Protection – Food Safety

The Public Protection Team has undertaken a range of enforcement. Examples include:

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- 2 fly-tipping cases where the offenders have not paid the correctly issued Fixed Penalty Notice. These individuals were taken to court. In both cases the magistrates agreed with the Council and issued fines plus an element of costs. The fines from the 2 cases totaled £780 and a £1,000 in costs also awarded to the Council.

The Service continues to undertake its statutory duty relating to food safety inspections – 174 in quarter 2 - making sure the food being served in the borough is safe for residents. A number of inspections have led to legal action at the Magistrates Court – 3 businesses were found guilty of various offences and fines and costs issued by the courts totaled almost £10,000.

Public Protection

Between June and October 2023, the Council and Greater Manchester Police, have been working tirelessly to crack down on the sale of non-compliant disposable vapes and illicit tobacco.

In total, Officers have seized around 6,500 vapes, 19,000 cigarettes and almost 10kg of hand rolling tobacco, all of which were illegal – all with a street value of almost £100K

On one operation, a specially trained dog sniffed out a haul of illegal tobacco in the boot of a car linked to a shop involved in the trade. All the products seized over the last few months will be destroyed and the traders face the possibility of further action through the courts.

417 Fixed Penalty Notices, prosecution outcomes in court & legal notices issued for fly tipping in quarter 2.

Highways & Engineering

The service continues to deliver on a range of highways and Access Oldham schemes to improve the road network and resident experience. Examples of this work include:

- Rock Street Park/cycling and walking scheme under construction – planned completion Summer 2024
- West Street phase 1 nearing completion, footway surfacing and tree/planting due pre-Christmas
- Cheapside closure – approval gained from Key Stakeholders to make it a permanent and amended design issued to Contractor for construction – planned completion early late Spring 2024
- Additional circa £1.3m (circa £2.5m overall) of United Utilities Green Recovery funding approved for sustainable drainage and tree/planting in the Town Centre (Market S/Curzon St areas)
- Automated bollards at Henshaw St & Albion St fully operational and resulting in fewer vehicles entering the Town Centre during pedestrian zone times
- 1680 pothole repairs in quarter 2

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.