



Oldham
Council

Report to COUNCIL – 13th December 2023

Cabinet Report of Business, Employment and Enterprise Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Cllr F Hussain, Cabinet Member for Business, Employment and Enterprise

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

Markets (Indoor)

The team have been working closely with the Market Trader Liaison Group to shape the application process for the new indoor market. Regular engagement is now in place with the Trader Liaison Group and monthly meetings for all stallholders to attend. Application forms for the new market were issued from Thursday 23 November, with a closing date of 31 January.

We continue to support Tommyfield Market including the free after 3pm weekday parking offer and 3 hours free parking at weekends, we have radio and social media ads running and a dedicated markets Facebook page where you can see all the latest offers and goods.

The market has some fantastic stalls so please support them as much as possible, especially in the run up to Christmas. Every penny spent with a local business supports local staff and local families.

Markets (Outdoor)

The team have been developing temporary site options for the outdoor market in readiness for relocation from the current site in 2024. A firm option has now been established and work taking place to design the site to ensure the market can operate effectively. Liaison with outdoor market stallholders commenced on Saturday 25 November, and will continue over the coming weeks to ensure stallholders can share their views and raise any concerns.

Get Oldham Working

Get Oldham Working Team has been awarded a 38% increase in National Careers Service provision following their excellent performance and support to local residents, allowing the Council to support an additional 840 residents over next 12 months.

The team has also just secured new funding from; the Shared Prosperity Fund Working Well: Support to Succeed programme, which will enable the team to work with more than 350 residents who have not been in employment for some time; and, £25k social value investment from our partners, Ingeus from the wider Working Well programme to support the staffing costs for the Working Wardrobe shop.

Frank's Business Visits

Frank Rothwell, Oldham's Business Ambassador, regularly visits Businesses within Oldham with an officer from the Business Growth & Investment team. These visits are intended to create contact with businesses, offer a point of contact within Oldham Council and inform them of any support that may be available to them.

The last visits were held on the 24th of October 2023 with Frank Rothwell and I had the pleasure to attend on the day. These visits usually consist of 4-5 business site visits each

lasting at least an hour. The visits open a conversation to what support the business needs to grow. Whether that be help with recruitment, funding, or upskilling staff. The officer in attendance of the business visits follows up with each business informing of them of the support that they can access.

I would encourage businesses to contact Invest@oldham.gov.uk if they would like to host a visit.

Business Support & Networking

We celebrated Small Business Saturday on 2 December by sharing stories of small businesses across the borough. This included independents like Oldham Superstore in Chadderton, Cissie Barlow's Sweet Shop in Shaw and The Box King in Coldhurst, to name just a few. It was a great opportunity to highlight the brilliant businesses we have in Oldham and encourage residents to support them as much as possible.

We had a fantastic response to the campaign with the 42 posts creating over 133,000 impressions and 15,000 engagements.

I was really pleased to get out and about in the town centre visiting some of these businesses on the day, I joined the Leader and senior Officers at the Outdoor Market on Saturday.

We're supporting local businesses every week on our social media channels. Oldham Business Hour takes place every Friday between 11am and 12noon. All you have to do is tag the council in your message and we'll share it on our Facebook and Twitter pages. Our Business Newsletter goes out every week with a roundup of all the local news and opportunities for Oldham businesses. You can sign up at oldham.gov.uk/biznews. And we run a Jobs Hour on social media every Monday at 8pm – so if you're looking for a new job, keep an eye out or follow the Get Oldham Working Facebook page.

Finally, within the Spindles redevelopment, the new Business Hive will open next year- a fantastic new place for Oldham's entrepreneurs to get support, grow and thrive.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.