

## Reform and Regeneration Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Arooj Shah  
Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Reform and Regeneration

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

---

### Oldham Commitment to those impacted by Child Sexual Exploitation

Since the publication of the Independent Review into Child Sexual Exploitation in Oldham in June 2022 the Council has been working with both survivors of, and those impacted by Child Sexual Exploitation to improve the support we offer to them.

Over the past few months KOGs (Keeping our Girls Safe), an inspirational local organisation that supports survivors and others affected by CSE, supported directly by survivors of abuse and those affected by it, have worked with the Council to develop a commitment which outlines what people affected by this horrendous crime can expect in their interactions with services both in Oldham Council and other partners organisations across Oldham.

The commitment, which will be rolled out with training to all council service areas over the spring and summer, focuses on six key statements that outline how those affected by CSE can expect to be treated when accessing services or seeking support. It reflects on the lived experiences of those affected and will help to make sure that they are well supported, trusted, provided with easy access and clear information and have the opportunity to hold us to account where we do not get it right.

In the coming months we hope that this commitment can be agreed by the borough's other safeguarding partners including Greater Manchester Police and health care services.

### Oldham Coliseum Theatre launches the 'Coliseum at the Roundabout'

Since its closure last year the Council has been working closely with the Oldham Coliseum Theatre's new Board to provide all of the support it needs as it rebuilds the organisation and creates a new business plan for the future of the theatre.

The Council continues to work with Board members and the Chief Executive to bring forward plans for a future permanent home for the Coliseum as a central part of the town's cultural offer. As part of these discussions the Coliseum and the Council continue to reach out to other stakeholders with an interest in theatre to ensure our plans are both sustainable and provide the facilities that local people want and need.

Alongside this work the Oldham Coliseum, supported by the Council and Arts Council have been working hard to make sure Oldhamers, and those visiting the borough, continue to be able to access the very best in live performance and theatre.

---

Recently the Council has been proudly working with Oldham Coliseum Theatre on its spring and summer programme of theatre, live performance and creative activities which includes the 'Coliseum at the Roundabout', a 167-seater pop-up theatre that will host a variety of live events and an artistic programme focusing on work made in Oldham.

The 'pop up' theatre will open in April and run until July, with many events being free of charge to attend. A full programme of activities due to be delivered by Oldham Coliseum will be released shortly at [www.coliseum.org.uk](http://www.coliseum.org.uk)

Oldham Council is delighted to see Oldham Coliseum back in the heart of Oldham creating and producing work for Oldham people by Oldham people.

### **Supporting Oldham's Night Time Economy**

We know that our residents want a vibrant and diverse night-time economy in Oldham. and during February the Council invited Sacha Lord, the Greater Manchester Night Time Economy Advisor to provide advice and support to help tackle some of the challenges faced by the night time economy sector nationally, and how this is impacting here in Oldham. This follows the Council's successful bid for £237,000 of High Street Accelerator Funding, which will be used to improve empty shops and boost the night time economy on Yorkshire Street and Union Street. Oldham was one of just ten successful towns who bid for this money.

Sacha will support the Council in hosting an event for representatives and stakeholders from the night time economy on 22 March. This session will allow an honest and open conversation about how we can support and work together to tackle the challenges we are facing with ideas and actions from the event used to help us shape how we use funding in the coming year.

Using the funding, the Council is also working to recruit a dedicated officer to support evening and nighttime economy businesses and work to attract new businesses to the town. This role will also be responsible for connecting local artists and performers with our venues, giving local talented people, commercial opportunities in the town centre.

### **Work begins to create plans for much needed Town Centre Homes**

Late last month the first exploratory works began on the Civic Centre site as our partner Muse developments take forward their plans to build 600 new homes for Oldham families on this site alone.

The Civic Centre is the largest of a number of sites in the town centre that will deliver the 2,000 much needed new homes which will be built alongside a new urban park and with easy access to all of the opportunities being provided by our wider town centre regeneration.

The site has been made available for early works due to the transfer of 700 Civic Centre based staff to the new offices based at the Spindles Shopping Centre – a move supported by Spindles traders who are already seeing increased spend and footfall as a result of the offices opening.

**Recommendations:** Council is requested to note the report.