



Communities and Culture Portfolio Report

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Peter Dean, Cabinet Member for Communities and Culture

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

District Working and Place-Based Integration

In late February, we launched the face-to-face support element of Placed Based Integration. The development of this offer will mean that residents are able to get the support they need closer to home, with partners such as Citizens' Advice, TOG Mind, DWP and First Choice Homes joining Council's services such as the Support and Inclusion Team in locations across the Borough. Whether people are struggling to manage their money, need advice on housing issues, or want support around mental health, that help will now be closer and easier to access than ever.

We are also continuing to work with partners to bring even more services into this offer. Behind the scenes, we are also continuing to develop our partnership hubs, bringing officers from across the Council and the wider partnership together in new offices that will allow them to work side by side, jointly solving local problems, and working to ensure that our whole approach is as joined up as possible.

The third round of Community Councils has now taken place across all five Districts, with Members being updated on ongoing partnership work within each area, as well as discussing the rollout of our face-to-face PBI launch. A review of these meetings will now take place, to look at how we can further improve upon them as a way for Members to have more influence on service provision within their local area.

Sport and Leisure

Park Tennis Courts Improvements - In February 2024 Oldham Council and the LTA announced a partnership to invest in and refurbish public park tennis courts across the borough. In total, 6 park tennis venues will be renovated, with an investment of £240,908 (£11,136 will also be invested by Oldham Council) helping ensure that quality facilities are available for the local community. The park venues being renovated are Alexandra Park, Chadderton Hall Park, Dunwood Park, Higher Crompton Park, Lower Memorial Park and Werneth Park.

Active Through Football - Active Through Football is now supporting 26 physical activity projects within West Oldham and one of the key highlights from this will be the inception of the Indian Temple Women's football session. Several other projects to increase participation have also been established including a Fitton Hill mums club, over 55 Women's football session in partnership with the salvation Army.

School Swimming - Senior School Swimming Championships took place at Oldham Leisure Centre on Wednesday 24th January, with 9 Oldham schools Y7-Y11 boys and girls taking part, it was a great success with over 100 pupils swimming. School Swimming results have been fantastic so far this year with over 70% of Oldham School achieving the National Curriculum.

Heritage, Libraries and Arts

An interim Local Studies Offer re-opened temporarily at Oldham Library on the 1st March and Oldham Theatre Workshop are now delivering their offer from Gallery Oldham Café space until Old Library building is ready (Spring 2025).

Upcoming Events and Exhibitions

- Carboniferous Monsters: 150 million Years before the Dinosaurs (21st Oct 2023– 27th Jan 2024)
- Wild Colour (9th Dec 2023 - 9th March 2024) and
- Places Nowhere by Lee Cooper (9th Dec 2023 – 9th March 2024)
- Exhibition (Gallery 2) - 10th Feb- 11 May – In Which Language do we dream? LGBTQ+ History Month – February – celebrating with displays and book promotions throughout the month.
- Women’s History Month in March – 3 Live@theLibrary shows including ‘Ayse Balko, *Canine Teeth*’ on Thu 7th March, ‘*On Me*’ by Dangerous2know Theatre on Thu 14th March and ‘*Ladies that Monologue*’ on Tue 26th March.
- Saturday Feb 24th – Illuminate Festival and Sunday 25th Feb – Illuminate Festival at Northern Roots
- Exhibition (Gallery 3) 23 March – 1st June – The Song by Bani Abidi
- Exhibition (Gallery 4) 23 March – 1 June – Melting Pot by Soleil Dee

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.