

Portfolio Report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Fida Hussain
Cabinet Member for Enterprise

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

Markets

Monthly stallholder meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month between 5-6pm and are open to all stallholders to attend. Over the last two meetings we have discussed lease terms for the new market to seek views from the stallholders on lease length and breaks. Over the coming year we will be working with the stallholders to promote, raise awareness and ensure we have clear communication for both the existing market offer and the move to the new market.

In May we took part in the National Love Your Local Market campaign, with a combination of free events and music, special offers and video features of the market stallholders. This was well received by the public with activity covering Shaw, Royton and Oldham markets.

Business Engagement

The first town centre meeting is taking place on Wednesday 26 June. These were cancelled in COVID and hadn't been restarted. These are scheduled to take place every two months. Additionally, we have met with the police to re-establish the town centre security meetings which haven't been taking place. The Evening and Night Time Economy task force met for the first time on Monday 17 June to start to shape thinking and agree priorities and actions.

Business Support

The Business Growth Hub are planning a retail support package for Oldham. A meeting is taking place on 25 June with officers, the Growth Hub and the Spindles Centre Manager to discuss how this can best be designed and delivered to ensure it meets the needs of our businesses in this sector across the borough.

Through the UKSPF funding we are currently offering support to businesses across Oldham through: A Business Growth Grant managed by the Business Growth and Investment team of up to £180,000 with a target of 72 enterprises receiving non-financial support and 72 new jobs created.

A start-up grant scheme managed by Oldham Enterprise Trust. A maximum of £40,000 available for business to apply for up to £1000 per business, with a target of achieving 40 new enterprises created and 40 enterprises receiving non-financial support.

The first panel met in June and approved two applications and a further three applications are currently being assessed. There are around 40 expressions of interest being developed into applications currently.

The Hive: Social Enterprise

The Hive is a dedicated space in the Spindles Shopping Centre aimed at support Social Enterprises and early start businesses. The draft lease is being reviewed by legal representatives prior to signing. Final arrangements are being made to install digital connectivity to the space. A phasing plan is being developed around the opening of the space, to cover the move of the tenant's team into the space, go live dates for permanent users, and then go live dates for the membership scheme.

Get Oldham Working Redundancy Support Update – Yodel, GXO, Acorn

The Council has been informed that 4 companies have begun consultation with the intention to close operations, which it is estimated will impact c. 600 employees.

- Yodel Distribution Centre, Shaw – 373 employees (plus agency staff)
- GXO Logistic, Raven Mill, Chadderton – 123 employees (plus agency staff)
- Acorn Care Home, Failsworth – 100+ employees
- Another to be confirmed includes 30+ staff

The Get Oldham Working team have set up a working group with each employer to help secure progression into employment with the aim to reduce levels of unemployment. The primary offer will involve the National Careers Service team, who will then link in with training providers such as Lifelong learning service, Oldham College, Mantra depending on needs of employees.

The team are working with local employers and **have secured c. 500 vacancies in appropriate sectors** including: NHS, Stagecoach, DX delivery service and Danish Crown. Targeted Jobs Fairs will be held at employers' place of business, including 17th June 2-5pm at Yodel, Shaw. 21st June 11am – 4pm at GXO, Raven Mill, Chadderton.

Get Oldham Working Performance

Since being launched in May 2013 the Get Oldham Working team have created 18,685 opportunities of which 14,429 have been filled (10,917 jobs, 1525 apprenticeships, 367 Traineeships and 1667 Work Experience placements) and the team are on track to achieve their annual target of 1250 residents into employment by March 2025.

GOW Restart Contract Extension Cabinet Report 15th July 2024.

On the 15th July, Cabinet will be asked to approve the acceptance of the Restart contract extension. Oldham Council have been offered a further £2.6m for a new contract to continue with Restart from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2027, to work with approx. 1,000+ Oldham residents with an expectation that at least 455 Oldham residents will secure sustainable employment.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.