

Portfolio Report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Chris Goodwin
Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham

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

Waste Collection Service

The Service continues to collect waste from almost 100,000 residential properties and over 1,900 businesses throughout the borough. Since the last update, the Council teams have:

- Collected an average of 3,000 tonnes of general waste per month
- Collected an average of 775 tonnes of recycling waste per month
- Travelled approximately 120,000 miles to deliver the services

Work also continues to support residents with recycling through the delivery of bins, education, advice and guidance. Since the last update, the teams have:

- Delivered, exchanged and repaired over 7,000 waste bins/containers
- Undertaken 424 bin audits to ensure that the bins are used correctly

Importantly, the Council has focused on ensuring support for residents who need the assisted collections service, teams have also removed contaminated bins across the borough, and where necessary, taken enforcement action against those who fly-tip or fail to dispose their waste or use bins correctly.

Highways & Engineering

With more success in securing external funding to support road maintenance, pot-hole repairs and bridge maintenance being reported to Cabinet next week – some of the main activities underway to ensure Oldham's roads are safe and accessible are:

- Work ongoing at Rock Street Park/cycling and walking scheme - planned completion is in August 2024. This work also includes a section of the town centre park.
- Major works at West Street/Cheapside were completed in May 2024. Planting work is ongoing, and the area is now open for use
- Market St Phase 1 commenced in June 2024 and additional works have now been programmed

The Council is concerned about the recent spate of accidents on the boroughs road, some of which, have, unfortunately, resulted in a loss of life. The Council's Highways team is working closely with Greater Manchester Police and Transport for Greater to understand the cause of the accidents. It does appear that excessive speed and driver behaviour may be responsible for some of the incidents. Once investigations are concluded, Council officers will work with partners to bring about any necessary and recommended safety improvements.

Public Protection, Food Safety & Standards

The food safety team has a duty to inspect all food businesses in the borough and to ensure that they comply with legal requirements. Officers also investigate food poisoning outbreaks and respond to national food safety alerts to ensure unsafe foods are not sold to residents in the borough. As part of the inspection, the team issue a food hygiene rating, so residents are better informed about the level of compliance at the business. Where the business fails to meet standards, the inspecting officer will use a range of legal options to secure compliance, and safeguard public health.

Over the past 12 months, the team have completed 765 food hygiene inspections. In order to support businesses, the team will also undertake revisits to improve food hygiene scores so businesses can trade through online platforms. There are currently almost 1,400 businesses rated 5 and an overall compliance rate of 93% for all businesses.

Public Protection, Trading Standards

The Trading Standards team's role is to promote a fair, healthy and safe trading environment by ensuring compliance with regulatory legislation, protecting consumers and supporting local businesses. Trading Standards has a statutory responsibility to enforce a range of legislation aimed at protecting consumers, particularly the most vulnerable and preventing businesses from engaging in unfair, illegal or unsafe practices

The team also leads on consumer protection, particularly with respect to illegal tobacco/Vapes and the sale of alcohol and tobacco products to those underage – a major national public health priority. Over the last 12 months, during inspections and visits to premises, the team seized over 60,000 illegal cigarettes and almost 8,000 illegal vapes. Intelligence led operations continue to address this major risk to public health.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.