

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Peter Dean  
Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities and Culture

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

### **Stronger Communities**

**Prevent** - The council has a critical role to play in countering terrorism at a local level and ensuring that people who are susceptible to radicalisation are supported. In March 2024, the Council participated in the Home Office's annual Prevent Assurance Review process which enabled the Council to undertake a self-assessment of delivery against the statutory Prevent Duty. The outcome was positive, showing compliance.

**Hate Crime**- In February 2024, groups from the voluntary, community and faith sector were awarded funding to raise awareness of hate crime and encourage reporting as part of the Greater Manchester Hate Crime Awareness week. Communities Inc, a creative and innovative social enterprise, have been commissioned to deliver Bystander Intervention training, titled 'Stand by Me' to frontline staff from the Council, voluntary, community and faith sector and Greater Manchester Police.

### **Community Safety Services**

The borough's Violence Reduction Strategy was published at the end of February and work has commenced on the associated action plan, with partners from the statutory and the VCSFE working together. There is a significant amount of work ongoing already which is being mapped to identify both areas of strength and those for development.

Partnership problem-solving continues in the Place areas with civil tools and powers being used. As an example, in May, the Council secured a 3-month Closure Order to protect residents, many of whom were identified as vulnerable. The Team worked closely with the Police and a housing provider to close a residential premise which were being used by the tenant and his visitors for criminality, causing residents to fear for their safety. The closure provided immediate respite for the community and residents have responded very positively to this action. Work is ongoing with the housing provider to ensure tenancy enforcement powers are used in parallel to the action by the Council.

Recently the Team also secured 3 Criminal Behaviour Orders against 3 offenders who had worked together to commit violent robberies, including on the tram network. Individuals are now prohibited from associating with each other in any place to which the public has access for a 5-year period.

### **District Working and Place-Based Integration**

Following the official launch of our partnership support offer in February, we are now seeking to continue to develop and grow this offer, to ensure that people can access the help that they need, closer to home. The next major milestone in this work will be the opening of Royton Town Hall, later this year, which will bring an improved offer for residents in the North of the Borough, as well as providing a new space for partners working in Royton, Shaw and Crompton to collaborate and problem-solve local issues.

Our programme of Community Councils, bringing together Members and key partners working in each District, will begin again in July. Over the course of the first two rounds of meetings this year, each Community Council will be asked to develop an action plan against their key objectives. To help inform this, the District Teams will be arranging a quarterly partnership marketplace event in each District. These events will give the opportunity for residents to attend to speak to Elected

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Members, Council services, partner organisations and local community groups, in order to raise issues and find out about what's happening in their area.

### **Heritage, Libraries and Arts**

The team successfully delivered **Festival Oldham** on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June. Over 6,000 people attended the festival. **Ocean Drifters** launched on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May– this will run until 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024. **Oldham Theatre Workshop** are working on two new partnership projects: '**Viewpoint**' which focuses on reducing youth violence using 3d photographic modelling and '**Credible Witnesses**' which aims to understand how life performance enhances young people's capacity to speak out about their experience of testimonial injustice and how these modes of performance can encourage more critical and reflexive responses in those who listen to young people.

**Exhibition: One Seven Five: An Incomplete History of Oldham in 175 objects** opened to the public on **Sat 15<sup>th</sup> June**. As part of the exhibition and to celebrate, a variety of today's Oldhamers have selected objects which tell fascinating stories about our area through the years.

### **Sport and Leisure**

The Tour of Britain Women's 2024 on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June saw the world's top female riders and teams go head-to-head across four tough stages of racing, in what was the first major international stage race delivered by British Cycling Events. The Greater Manchester anticlockwise route crossed the Ashton Canal, heading northeast to Oldham shortly before riders faced the first Queen of the Mountains (QOM) segment of the day at Grain Bar. The rolling route also took in the areas of Failsworth, Hathershaw, Oldham Town Centre, Clarksfield, Lees, Springhead, Grotton, Grasscroft, Uppermill, Dobcross, Delph, Shaw and Higher Crompton before leaving Oldham at the Rochdale border. The Council activated our borough so that residents, community groups, sports clubs, faith establishments and businesses along the route were aware of this prestigious event and informed of timing, any temporary parking restrictions & rolling roadblocks. The event was featured in TV coverage via a YouTube live stream of the event and a highlights programme later that evening on ITV4.

Last year, Oldham Councils Active Through Football took a team of refugees from our weekly Thursday football project to the Greater Manchester Refugee World Cup. Without losing a game, they won the tournament beating 16 teams in the process.

Working in partnership with Manchester F.A, Nike, Oldham Athletic Community Trust and Shree Swaminarayan Mandir Oldham. Through community engagement with the residents about what they would like to see in their area, a women's only football project was established. This has been recognised by Nike who want to create a video demonstrating the work that is going on. This was chosen out of all their projects that they currently run nationwide.

### **Customer Services**

Preparation is underway to deliver the council's new Customer Service Centre in July. Located in Spindles, the new space will replace Access Oldham at the Civic Centre. The support and services available have also been reviewed with the new site becoming the main access point for Central Oldham. A communications plan is in place to ensure awareness of the new location and offer. An automated switchboard was launched in May. Over 80% of calls received via the switchboard are now handled by the self-service solution with staff on hand to support residents who prefer or need to speak to a member of the team. This change is supporting capacity to be diverted to other service lines.

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