

A proud history and a bright future



Oldham
Council

History of Oldham

With a proud industrial heritage dating back to the cotton mills of the 19th century, and stunning landscapes on the doorstep, Oldham is an ambitious and diverse borough with a wealth of investment, regeneration and recreational opportunities, right on the edge of the Pennines.

Oldham's story is one of resilience and transformation. Once at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution, this town is forging a new future for those who live here now and for generations to come – with vibrant arts and culture, world-class educational opportunities and a supportive business environment in which start-ups and multinational corporations alike can thrive.



Oldham's economic history

1764

First water powered cotton mill in the world at Thorp Mill, Royton.

1840s

A few thousand people arrive from Ireland providing cheap labour.

1913

The peak year for the cotton industry. Oldham boasted more spindles than any town in the world.

1950s

First migrants from Mirpur in Pakistan young men to fill demand for cheap labour in the cotton mills.

1980s

End of large scale textile industry, recession begins with large scale job losses.

2001

Riots in Oldham. Unemployment rates are high amongst minority ethnic groups.

1800s

Oldham at the centre of a fast growing cotton industry. Most work is related to the cotton industry.

1861

Orange and Green riots Catholic churches attacked.

Late 1940s

Over 2000 former refugees (Poland, Ukraine and elsewhere) settled in Oldham and worked in the mills.

1960s

Migrants continue to come from Pakistan and Sylhet in Bangladesh. Women also migrate to join the men.

1998

The last cotton mill in Oldham, Elk Mill closed.

2011

High birth rates and continuing immigration take ethnic minorities to 22.5% of Oldham's population.



Proud history

The Oldham Mills Strategy signifies a pivotal moment in the borough's history, showcasing our leadership in heritage preservation and urban planning. Oldham's pioneering status as one of the first to adopt a dedicated mill strategy underscores its proactive approach to safeguarding our industrial heritage.

In response to rapid urban development and economic shifts, Oldham took decisive action to address the future of our textile mills. Commissioning the Oldham Mills Strategy demonstrated foresight, setting a precedent for other regions facing similar challenges.



This initiative reflects Oldham's unwavering commitment to preserving our cultural heritage while embracing innovation. By leading with a comprehensive strategy for mill sustainability, Oldham has become a model for heritage conservation, inspiring others to follow suit.

As Oldham advances its visionary heritage management, the Oldham Mills Strategy cements its legacy of leadership and innovation. By preserving our past and paving the way for a sustainable future, Oldham solidifies its reputation as a trailblazer in progressive urban planning.

Levelling Up Oldham

Investment is central to Oldham's quest for economic prosperity and regional advancement. Levelling Up Oldham uplifts the borough and contributes to Greater Manchester's agenda.

Diverse investment opportunities, from public, private, and mixed sources, await exploration in Oldham. Infrastructure investments, especially in transportation and utilities, enhance connectivity and quality of life, boosting economic competitiveness.

Regeneration projects, backed by council investments and funds like the Levelling Up Green Tech Fund, breathe new life into neighbourhoods, attracting businesses and creating jobs.

Strategic investment aligns with Oldham's strengths, fostering business growth and workforce development. Embracing green technology promotes sustainability and resilience, while investments in tourism, education, housing, healthcare, and digital infrastructure enrich the community.

Oldham's investment drive not only propels its own growth but also contributes to Greater Manchester's vision of advancement. Through strategic investment, Oldham emerges as a beacon of progress, advancing economic prosperity and societal well-being for all residents.



Celebrating our diverse communities



Oldham's diverse population is a wellspring of opportunity for economic growth and community unity. The Asian Business Network exemplifies this diversity, providing a platform for Asian-owned businesses across various industries such as technology, retail, and healthcare to connect and collaborate.

Facilitating robust communication and information sharing, the network fosters lucrative business

opportunities among its members while leveraging cultural and linguistic ties to forge partnerships both locally and globally. Through initiatives like promoting exports and attracting investments, the network drives economic diversification and growth in Oldham.

Advocating for its members' interests and offering business development support, including training workshops and mentoring programmes, the network

ensures Asian entrepreneurs have the resources they need to succeed. Additionally, its involvement in community projects underscores Oldham's commitment to diversity, fostering cultural understanding and integration.

By embracing its diverse population, Oldham not only paves the way for economic prosperity but also fosters a more inclusive and cohesive community for all its residents.

Enterprising spirit

Oldham's enterprising spirit drives a vibrant economy, fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and resilience. Recognised among the UK's top entrepreneurial towns, Oldham's diverse industry base, supportive infrastructure, and commitment to innovation and sustainability contribute to its economic vitality.

Entrepreneurs thrive in Oldham's culture of risk-taking and innovation, supported by a growing start-up ecosystem of incubators, accelerators, and networking events. The town's diverse economy spans manufacturing, technology, healthcare, education, and retail, offering ample opportunities for business growth.

Access to funding sources, supportive infrastructure, and collaboration among businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies further bolster Oldham's entrepreneurial ecosystem. With a focus on skills development and sustainability, Oldham continues to pave the way for economic prosperity and community well-being.



One of the greenest boroughs

Oldham's place strategy emphasises sustainability as a cornerstone, ensuring economic growth without depleting natural resources or harming the environment. By integrating social, economic, and environmental considerations, the strategy promotes well-being, equity, and inclusivity within the community.

Incorporating sustainability into Oldham's place strategy involves investing in education, healthcare, social inclusion, community development, affordable housing, cultural diversity, social services, safety, transportation, and youth development. These initiatives collectively enhance quality of life, foster social cohesion, and promote long-term resilience.

With a focus on sustainability, Oldham's place strategy seeks to create a thriving and inclusive community where residents have access to essential services, opportunities for advancement, and a safe, vibrant environment to call home.



Our delivery pillars



People

Empowering Oldham's community through education, innovation, and opportunity. We envision a future where every individual has the tools to thrive, contributing to a dynamic and inclusive economy.



Place

Oldham, a beacon of heritage and progress. Our commitment is to enhance our town's unique character while building a resilient infrastructure that supports growth and connectivity.



Planet

Championing sustainability, Oldham leads by example in the fight against climate change. Our green initiatives and environmental stewardship aim to preserve the planet for future generations.



Prosperity

Driving economic success, Oldham's strategic investments and business-friendly environment foster a flourishing local economy where prosperity is shared by all.

Our place vision for 2030



Oldham, with its rich history rooted in the Industrial Revolution and a vibrant cultural heritage, is at the threshold of a new era. To transform the borough into a prosperous future, we must acknowledge our past while embracing innovation and modernisation.

We have a vision for success.

Everything we aim to achieve through the delivery of the Oldham Growth Plan 2030 is to improve current and future life and employment opportunities for our **People**.

Place is about recognising the natural and built-environment assets at our disposal, and the changes we can make to our district centres and

our neighbourhoods to make them an even more attractive location for existing business growth and inward investment opportunities.

We are also committed to creating a sustainable future so recognising our obligation to the **Planet** is also part of the plan, seeking low carbon and net zero solutions, and tackling the health and other challenges of climate change.

And finally, we want the **Prosperity** this plan will create to be shared across all communities, and economies.

Councillor Arooj Shah,
Leader of Oldham Council



Building on GM's plan



Like Greater Manchester, we want a place where everyone can live a good life, grow up, and get old in a greener, fairer and more prosperous region. This is our commitment to the people of Oldham.

Greener

Fairer

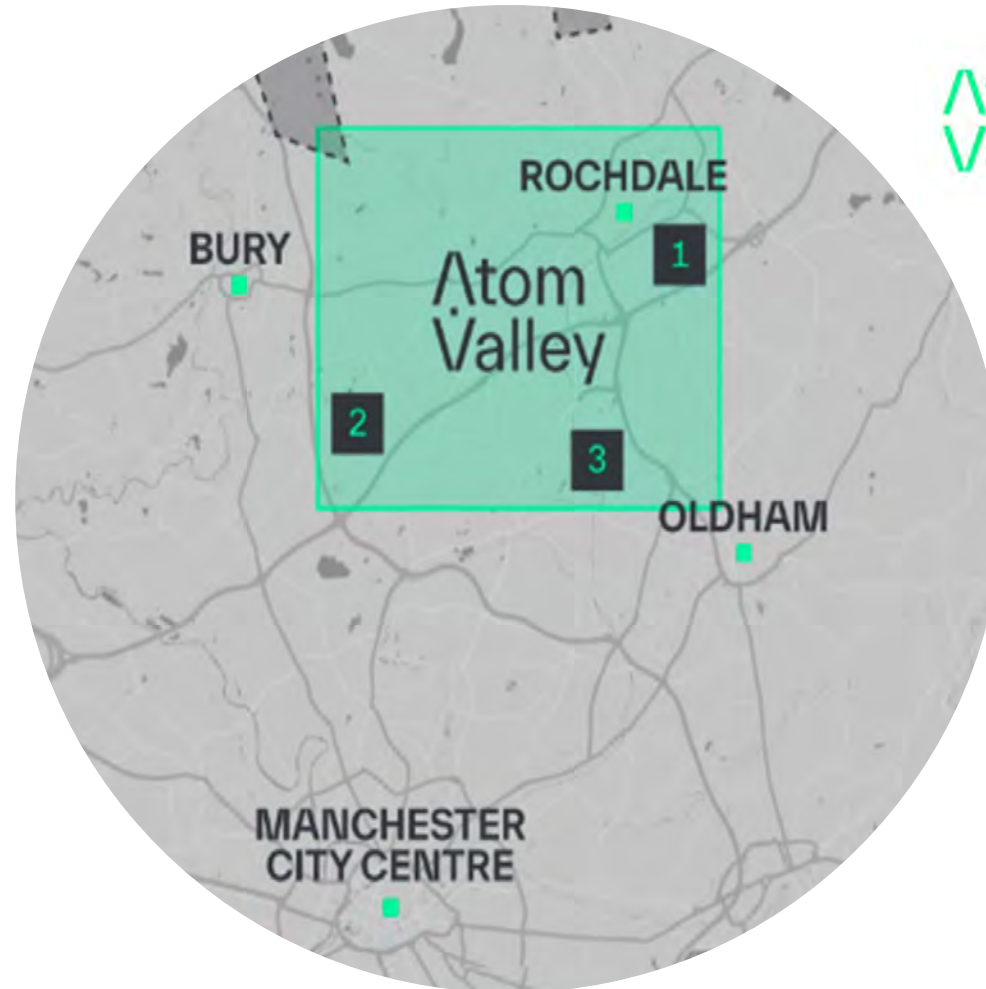
**More
prosperous**

Atom Valley

Covering sites in Oldham, Rochdale and Bury this vast innovation mega-cluster will play a pivotal role in making GM one of the best places in the world to grow up, live, work, and grow old in.

The Vision:

The potential to create **17million sq ft** of employment space, **20,000** new jobs and **7,000** new homes through public-private partnership. Designated a Mayoral Development Zone – one of the first in the country – we're uniting stakeholders to unlock funding, drive progress and close the gap.



Atom Valley

Greater Manchester
Mayoral Development Zone

1. AMPI/KINGSWAY BUSINESS PARK
2. NORTHERN GATEWAY
3. STAKEHILL

Stakehill

Envision a vibrant, sustainable neighbourhood poised for the future: **1,680 new homes** set the stage for community growth, complemented by expanded educational facilities. A **150,000 sqm green employment park** emerges as a beacon of opportunity, fostering advanced manufacturing, green innovation, and technology sectors.

Connectivity flourishes with an active travel network, inviting residents to embrace cycling and walking. The 'garden village' concept promises a unique living experience, reducing journey times and car dependency. This strategic blueprint is not just about building spaces; it's about crafting a legacy of sustainability and progress.



Our future town centre



Our future town centre

We've partnered with Muse to develop 2,000 new homes across Oldham town centre.

Together, we'll deliver homes of all types and sizes which will be built on pieces of land including Oldham Civic Centre – which is being freed up by staff moving into Spindles. The former leisure centre site and former Magistrates' Court site will also be redeveloped.

Five other possible sites across the town centre are also identified, including the Tommyfield Market site, which will relocate into the new-look Spindles, unlocking the land for development alongside a new town centre park.

Muse is an award-winning national placemaker, headed up by Phil Mayall – a born and bred Oldhamer. Having a development partner for this major scheme allows the council to draw on the highest levels of knowledge and expertise.

The partnership could last for up to 25 years and will mean that brownfield (previously developed sites), in the town centre are built on rather than green space.



A new park for our town centre

Oldham's town centre is undergoing a remarkable transformation with the creation of a **new linear park**. This ambitious project is fuelled by the redevelopment of Spindles Town Square Shopping Centre and the relocation of Tommyfield Market. By freeing up previously developed land, Oldham aims to breathe new life into the heart of the town.

The **5.7-acre park** will be a vibrant hub for the community, offering a place to **exercise, play, and connect**. Whether it's a morning jog, a family picnic, or a friendly gathering with colleagues, this green space will provide a refreshing escape in the midst of urban life. Oldham's vision is to create an inviting oasis where residents and visitors can enjoy the outdoors, fostering well-being and community spirit.

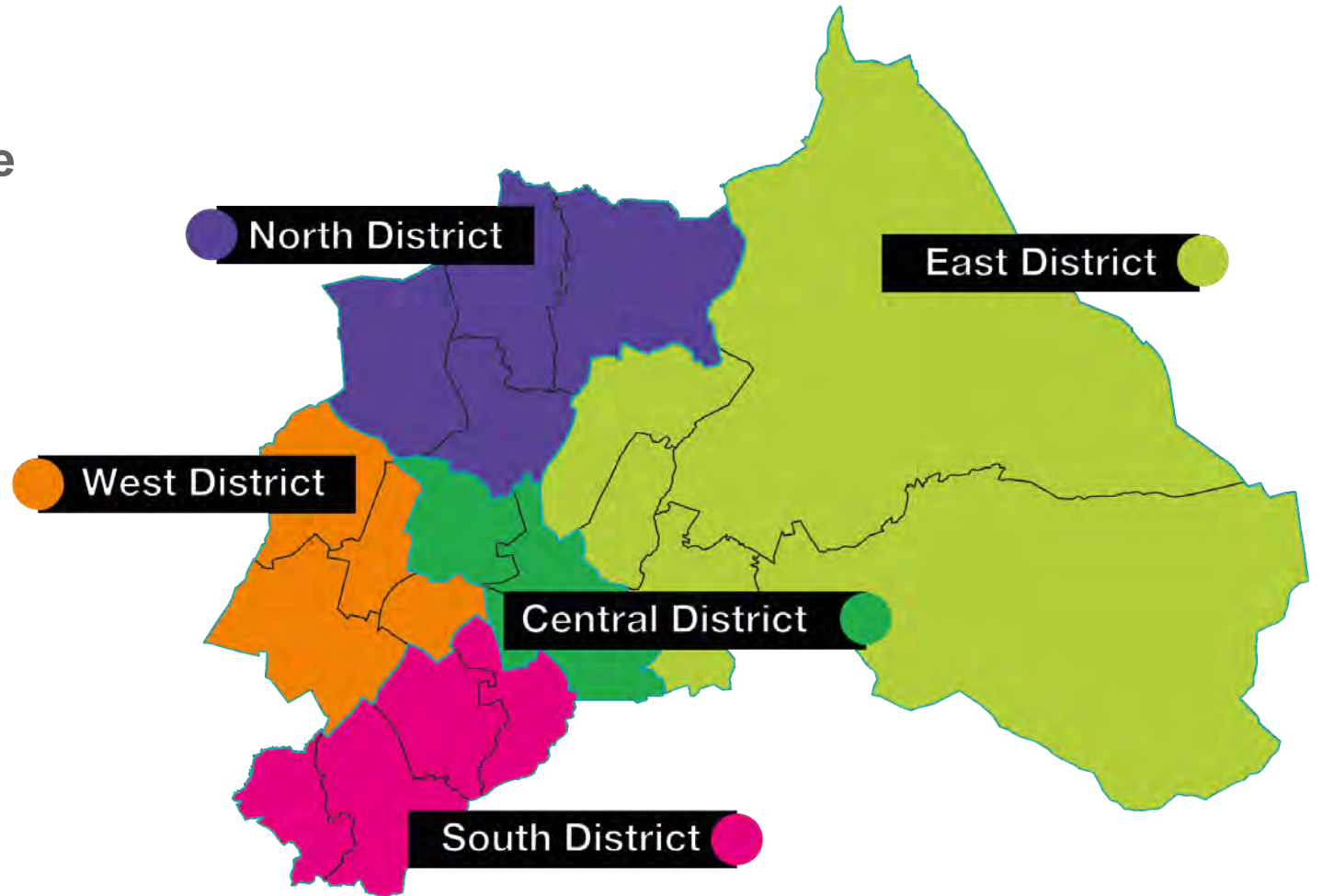
Multiple growth opportunities

Oldham's vision crafts a future that celebrates its rich industrial heritage and diverse towns.

Our strategy focuses on enhancing connections to Manchester's economic hub while embracing the Pennines' natural splendour. This approach aims to foster a community that honours its past and looks ahead to a prosperous future.

By improving transport links and promoting local diversity, we're creating a vibrant borough that's well-positioned for growth.

Oldham's transformation is about more than just physical connectivity; it's about weaving the fabric of a sustainable and thriving society.



North - Royton, Shaw and Crompton

Our North district holds a rich and industrial heritage – it once had more millionaires per capita than anywhere else in the world.

Looking ahead, redevelopment projects such as the transformation of Royton Town Hall and the opening of a new health centre in Shaw signal a commitment to modernisation and community wellbeing.



Shaw Medical Centre

Royton Town Hall



East – Saddleworth, St James and Waterhead



Dove Stone reservoir

This district boasts picturesque villages, landmarks and bustling urban areas. It presents us with opportunities and challenges.

Upgrades to the TransPennine route and Greenfield Station, coupled with housing developments, plus a vision for integrated development and improved amenities, signal future growth and prosperity.



Greenfield Station

South – Failsworth, Hollinwood and Medlock Vale

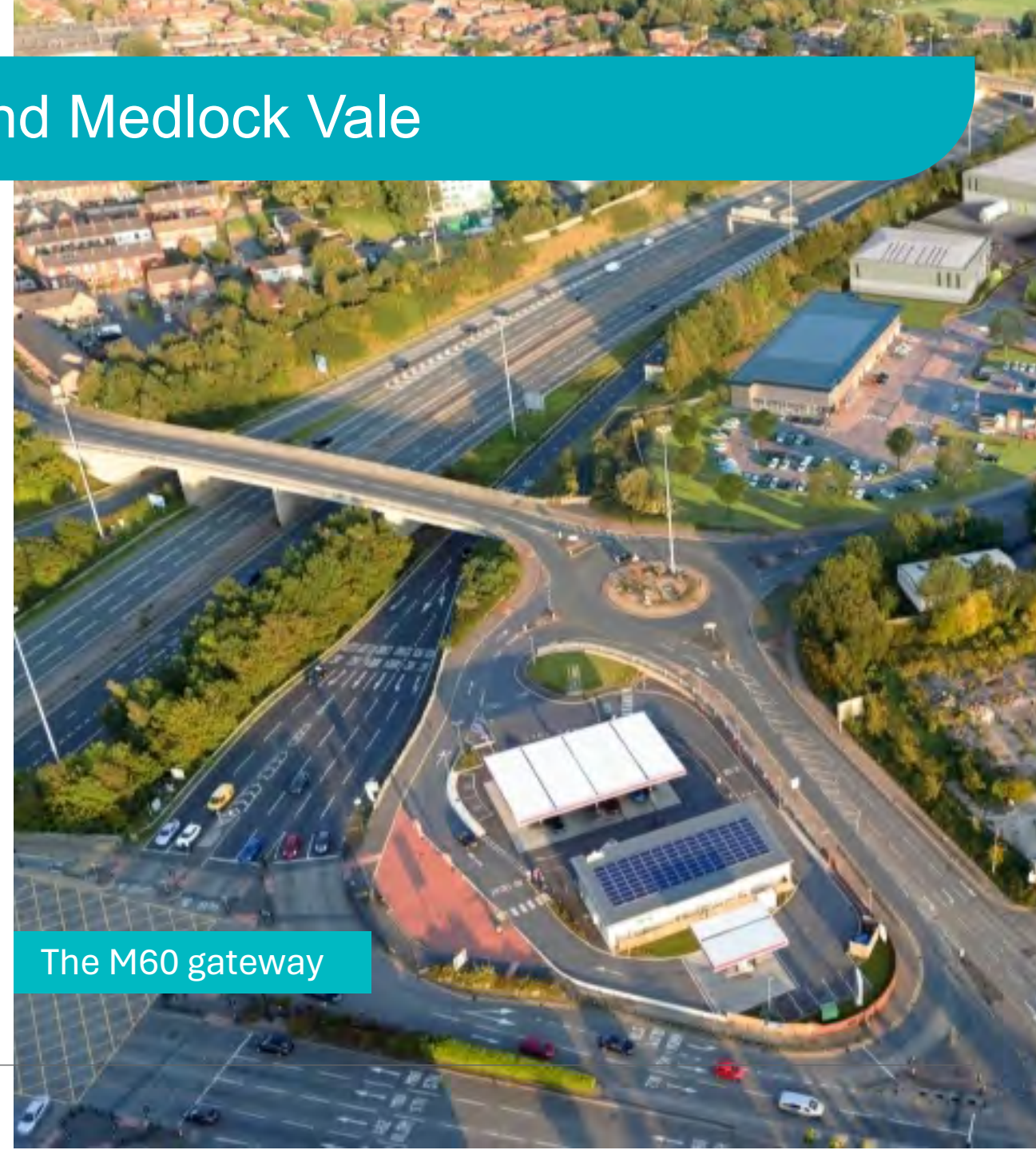
Ideally placed close to Manchester and the M60, the area has witnessed economic shifts but retains its rich heritage, thanks to its past as an industrial hub.

A 10% population increase over the last 10 years signals significant growth and development potential, especially for businesses.

However, addressing issues such as youth unemployment and educational outcomes are a priority to help the district prosper.



The former Roxy Cinema, Hollinwood



The M60 gateway

West – Chadderton and Werneth



Chadderton Town Hall

The West District bears witness to a rich tapestry of history, with notable historic figures such as pioneering suffragette, Lydia Becker and Olympic swimmer, Henry Taylor bringing a spotlight to the town.

Looking towards the future, the West District finds itself at the forefront of government initiatives, with Chadderton set to receive a **£1.1 billion** fund earmarked for long-term regeneration projects.



Broadway Green Linear Park

Central – Alexandra, Coldhurst and St Mary's

The Central wards stand as a testament to our borough's ongoing evolution.

The district boasts expansive green spaces such as Alexandra Park and Snipe Clough – home to Northern Roots – plus urban communities.

The ongoing regeneration of Oldham Town Centre remains a focal point for innovation and connectivity, plus it encompasses our commitment to sustainable infrastructure – ensuring a bright future for residents.



Visitors Centre, Northern Roots



Oldham Town Centre regeneration

Connectivity is key

We want a better transport system which works for residents and tackles the climate emergency.

With the rising cost of living more Oldhamers should be able to travel without using their cars. Building an affordable and reliable public transport system will help to cut pollution and free up road space for essential journeys.

Better transport links benefit Oldhamers and in the long term this will help support the development of new homes, jobs and businesses whilst opening up the rest of Greater Manchester to our residents.



Measuring our success

People

Oldham residents enjoy new opportunities in work, training and skills to:

- reduce the entrenched inequalities prevalent within the borough
- narrow the life expectancy gap to the national average
- close the healthy life expectancy gap to the national average
- increase the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths
- shrink the number of residents with no qualifications or NVQ Level 4+
- reduce the proportion of 16 – 17-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- increase the number of adults who are successfully completing high-quality skills training



Eton Star College



Spindles new offices

Measuring our success



Place

Oldham is a borough with an infrastructure which supports growth and connectivity to:

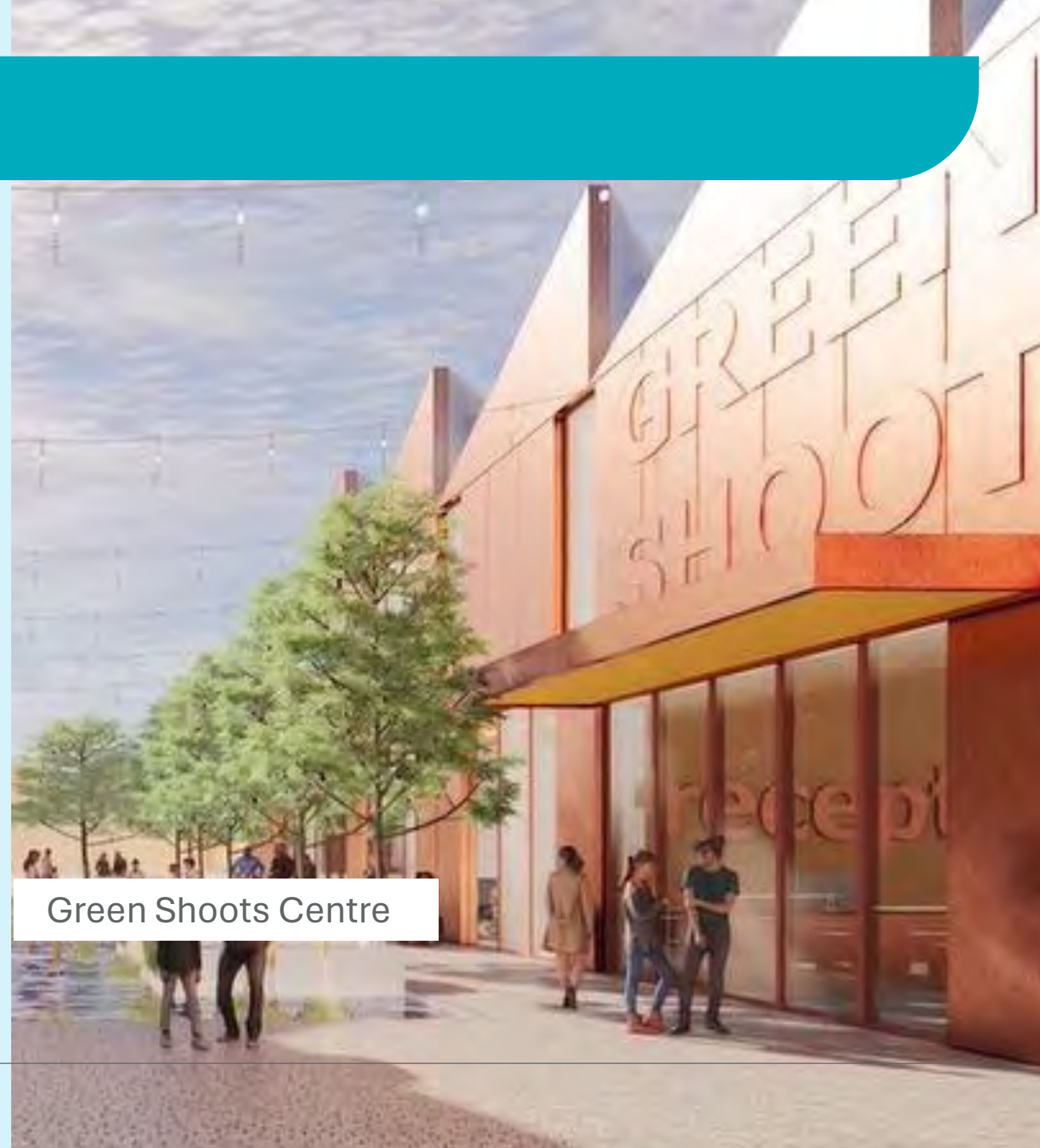
- increase the number of new businesses
- improve Key Economic Growth Indicators such as Gross Value Added (GVA)
- increase the total number of jobs
- increase the range, affordability and quality of the housing stock within Oldham
- increase the number of first-time buyers
- increase the ratio of business start-ups by population
- increase the proportion of private rented properties which meet the Decent Homes Standard
- reduce the number of people who are registered as homeless
- increase percentage of public transport trips as a proportion of total
- increase visitor numbers, tourism stays, and attendances at events and attractions

Measuring our success

Planet

Oldham leads in the fight against climate change, promoting sustainability and sound environmental stewardship to:

- reduce carbon emissions and increase renewable energy usage
- grow 'green' businesses and sustainable practices
- make the borough carbon neutral by 2030
- improve housing energy efficiency through retrofit and new technology
- protect the environment for every child in the borough



Green Shoots Centre

Measuring our success



Family Hubs

Prosperity

Oldham drives economic success, attracts strategic investments, and generates a business-friendly environment to foster a flourishing local economy for all to:

- improve average income and living standards
- increase local business investment
- increase the proportion of working age population who are economically active
- reduce the gap of median household income to the national average
- reduce unemployment, especially youth
- reduce the levels of poverty, especially amongst families with children



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