

Public Questions - Full Council 10th July 2024

	From / Date	To	Question	Response
1	Rita Ireland 15/3/24 14:11	Cllr Goodwin	<p>How does the Labour leader justify spending £460K on Alexandra Park's Conservatory then closing it less than 12 months after it was re-opened?</p> <p>Preferably without blaming the Government.</p>	<p>Many thanks for your question Rita, but there seems to be some confusion or miss-communication as the Conservatory at Alexandra Park remains open and is fully stocked with plants for the public to enjoy. There are no plans to close this facility.</p>
2	Lucia Rea 11/5/24 22:06	Councillor Shah/Leader	<p>In light of the current situation of uncertainty of the council demographics and division across our town, I pose this question to the council:</p> <p>Can we set aside our differences and come together to support a central program that embodies the spirit of community and collaboration? By each contributing just £50 of your allowance, you have the power to provide the Oldham Theatre Workshop with £3000, assisting them in their invaluable work with classes, workshops, and productions, that so many of our</p>	<p>Thank you for your question Lucia.</p> <p>I would fully support anything that seeks to bring people together in the spirit of collaboration and community and especially that brings the people in this chamber together in the spirit of collaboration and community.</p> <p>Oldham Theatre Workshop are an absolute gem in Oldham's crown and I can think of nobody better to create something special that brings people from across Oldham together.</p> <p>As you know Councillors have individual control over how they spend their councillor budgets but I am more than willing to support you in putting this ask to all sixty of us in this chamber to see if we can make it happen.</p>

			<p>children, young people and volunteers are part of.</p> <p>This gesture not only demonstrates your commitment to supporting the arts and enriching our community, but also serves as a display of hope for our residents, showing that cross-party working is not only possible but essential in making Oldham a better place.</p> <p>Will you join me in this endeavour to showcase unity and solidarity for the betterment of our town? Furthermore would you commit to more collaborative work that benefits the town?</p>	
3	Peter Roberts 28/6/24 17:17	Councillor Goodwin/ Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham	As I travel around Oldham, I am frequently concerned by the speeding of both cars and motorcycles. I would like to know what measures the council are taking to ensure road safety for both road users and pedestrians.	<p>Thank you for your question Peter. The Council takes road safety concerns very seriously, and we regularly work with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to help ensure roads across the borough are safe. This includes investigating reports after serious accidents or collisions occur so that any identified changes can be made to ensure safer roads across Oldham.</p> <p>The Council also undertakes regular traffic/speed assessments in response to concerns from local communities and where necessary, traffic calming measures are</p>

				<p>introduced. Where significant concerns are noted, and there is sufficient evidence to confirm the installation, the Council has and will continue work with Transport for Greater Manchester to install speed cameras.</p> <p>However, sometimes there is no engineering solution to solve the speeding or road safety concerns, so the Council always urges all road users to ensure they adhere to the speed limits, be mindful of the road conditions and provide a safe place for our local communities at all times.</p>
4	David Barter 28/06/24 18:01	Councillor Shah/Leader	<p>Whilst walking through the town centre it is pleasing to see the redevelopment of the new market hall progressing. Could I ask for an update as to how the project is progressing? and when it is due to be completed?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question David. It is good to see the new market hall taking shape and the redevelopment work progresses. The stallholders have been to visit the new market and have seen the internal space which will be their new home from next year. We have more visits booked in for stallholders to view the space, as they choose their locations and plan the design of their new stalls. This work will continue through to early Autumn as we capture all the design and fit-out works for all the stallholders. This detailed process of individual stall fit outs is required for us to confirm the final completion and opening date of the new market.</p> <p>It is also very important that we continue to support our local markets and we celebrated all our markets in May as part of the Love Your Local Market national campaign. This received great feedback from local communities as there were activities at Shaw, Royton and Oldham markets, and I encourage all our residents and members to continue to show their support for our market stallholders, and local businesses.</p>
5	Leanne Munroe 28/6/24 18:25	Councillor Mohon Ali/Cabinet	<p>I have recently heard that Saddleworth School will shortly become part of an Academy</p>	<p>Saddleworth School governors have applied to become an academy and to join the Cranmer Education Trust. The final decision about academisation is for the Department for</p>

		Member for Education and Skills	Trust. I would like to ask in practice what will this mean for students? And why is this happening?	<p>Education. In due course they will publish information about this on the government website.</p> <p>Saddleworth Headteacher, Mike Anderson, has said that “Governors chose The Cranmer Education Trust because they feel it was the best fit for Saddleworth as a well-respected local multi-academy trust with lots of experience and expertise in the secondary sector. The trustees at Cranmer are local people who are committed to improving the outcomes and experience of young people in Oldham.”</p> <p>The school has a ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ section on its website which will keep students, staff, parents, carers, and the wider community informed.</p>
6	Paul Scoltock 30/6/24 10:27	Councillor Fida Hussain/ Cabinet Member for Enterprise	Following the closure of Yodel in Shaw, what steps are the Council taking to support employment opportunities for those affected?	<p>Thanks for your question Paul. The Council has been working closely with the management team at the Yodel Distribution Centre in Shaw as part of their formal consultation with the 373 affected staff.</p> <p>The Get Oldham Working team have offered careers advice and guidance through their National Careers Service team and the team set up and delivered a jobs fair on site on the 21st June with 300 Yodel staff attending.</p> <p>This event included employers such as Stagecoach, DX delivery service, Royal Mail, Evri and Danish Crown. The Get Oldham working team will continue to support those affected.</p>
7	Dominic Wall 30/6/24 23:37	Cllr Shah/Leader	I am pleased that our local bus services have been brought under local control as part of the Bee Network, but I would like to know when communities will get	<p>Thank you for your question Dominic. The Bee Network allows all bus services to be managed as a whole system, alongside metrolink, trains, and other modes of transport, to create opportunities for connected timetabling, simpler</p>

			<p>their chance to have a say over changes to the routes of services?</p>	<p>ticketing and information, and allowing fare levels to be set appropriately.</p> <p>The change over to the Bee Network had to pick up the current / previous bus service arrangements in March 2024, so there has not been any changes to routes, services or timetables yet. However, we know that the Bee Network will soon be reviewed and this will be the time to make changes and amendments or to request additional services as part of the consultation process. We understand that Oldham's network review will take place in 2025, but at this time, we are waiting for further details of the process from Transport for Greater Manchester.</p>
8	<p>Syed Maruf Ali 7/7/24 23:50</p>	<p>Councillor Mohon Ali/Cabinet Member for Education and Skills</p>	<p>What percentage of young people between the age of 16 to 24 are doing apprenticeship? Can you please break this by ethnicity? There are number of educational risk factors contributing to young people's NEET status but the most significant was that of low educational attainment at GCSE. How many pupils in Oldham received 5 GCSE including maths and English. Please break down the figure by ethnicity and ward? Can we please share the NEET figure in Oldham and ward by ward and ethnicity? what intervention and strategies are in place to reduce the NEET figure in Oldham?</p>	<p>There are currently 540 16 – 24 year old apprenticeship starts for Oldham in the academic year 2023/24. This equates to 2% of the 16 - 24 Oldham population. GOV.UK does not publish this data by ethnicity so we are unable provide this requested data.</p> <p>In 2023 there were 55.3% of pupils in Oldham gaining 5 GCSE grade 5-9, including maths and English. The figures by ethnicity were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asian 56.5% • Black 60.1% • Mixed 56.8% • White 54.1% <p>I won't stand and read out the entire ward by ward breakdown because I don't think this would be a good use of anyone's time, but I can confirm this data will be published by</p>

			<p>"We are all travellers from birth till death; we travel through countries, cultures and eternities. Our journeys are shaped by the people we meet, the places we see and the moments we experience".</p>	<p>Constitutional Services when they publish the answers to Public Questions.</p> <p>Oldham Council works closely with our commissioned partner, Positive Steps, to deliver support to NEET young people via our NEET contract. Examples of strategies and interventions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tracking of Year 12/13 cohort to ensure all are offered support. This includes evening and weekend tracking • Team of Level 6 Career Advisers working with Year 12/13 NEET to engage and support • Working closely with Post 16 providers and picking up young people when they are wobbling or when they become NEET • "Open house" support at Positive Steps – young person, parent/carer or other agency can alert us to a young person who has become NEET via Careers Inbox, live chat on website, telephone line, or by calling in. • Appointments with advisers available all week • Advisers allocated to ward areas so appointments can be arranged at home if required, or in localities if preferred • Weekly afternoon and twilight Careers Drop every Thursday 2 – 6pm for NEETs, but will have a chat with anybody who comes in. Three Careers Advisers available, often regular education or training providers/employers attend to recruit for programmes/vacancies.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly outreach/doorstep visits by a Youth Engagement worker to engage NEET and young people with Not Known destination • Work closely with local providers to ensure there is a good offer for NEET young people • Refer into personal development programmes, for those who need more intensive support and access to the opportunities below. • Work closely with staff from Empower Oldham, lead and support with activities such as Apprenticeship workshops. • All of the above advertised regularly on social media platforms <p>GMCA have provided additional funding to support NEET young people. Known locally as Empower Oldham, this project is linked directly to the NEET contract and delivers interventions such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive mentoring to help removing barriers and moving people closer to labour market e.g. building confidence, improving motivation • Young people offered support with CV, effective job search, interview preparation and expectations of behaviour in the workplace • Maths and English sessions – leading to functional skills level 2 exam if young person at this level • Dedicated wellbeing practitioner offering 1:1 therapeutic interventions, group workshops and informal support via drop-in session.
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular apprenticeship and job search workshops • Transition support to college • Support to access partner agencies offering longer term training (study programme) or life skills support • Bespoke courses to support accessing labour market e.g. CSCS card, lifeguarding, SIA license. • Support to access 'our pass' to enable easier travel around Greater Manchester • Travel training to promote independence • AQA award in Digital Skills • Access to ESOL support • Access to careers IAG with Level 6 qualified careers adviser • Provide funding for necessary equipment to enable young person to access job opportunity/education e.g. steel toe cap boots for someone who gained labouring job, clothing suitable for job interview • Work experience/volunteering opportunities • Social activities to promote teamwork and develop social skills e.g. bowling, table tennis, football <p>The GCSE grade 5-9 data by ward is:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Alexandra</td> <td>37.10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chadderton Central</td> <td>63.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chadderton North</td> <td>58.80%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chadderton South</td> <td>50.40%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Coldhurst</td> <td>59.00%</td> </tr> </table>	Alexandra	37.10%	Chadderton Central	63.60%	Chadderton North	58.80%	Chadderton South	50.40%	Coldhurst	59.00%
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				Crompton	55.00%
				Failsworth East	57.50%
				Failsworth West	60.00%
				Hollinwood	44.40%
				Medlock Vale	50.80%
				Royton North	59.60%
				Royton South	63.90%
				Saddleworth North	72.00%
				Saddleworth South	69.90%
				Saddleworth West and Lees	49.40%
				Shaw	67.60%
				St. James'	43.20%
				St. Mary's	43.60%
				Waterhead	47.20%
				Werneth	55.00%
				NEET % by Ward (June 2024)	
				Borough	4.7%
				Alexandra	6.3%
				Chadderton Central	2.7%
				Chadderton North	1.1%
				Chadderton South	3.9%
				Coldhurst	3.4%
				Crompton	6.6%
				Failsworth East	4.5%
				Failsworth West	6.9%

				Hollinwood	5.2%
				Medlock Vale	3.4%
				Royton North	4.5%
				Royton South	4.4%
				Saddleworth North	4.1%
				Saddleworth South	3.0%
				Saddleworth West & Lees	4.8%
				Shaw	5.3%
				St. James	7.7%
				St. Mary's	6.7%
				Waterhead	5.9%
				Werneth	3.1%
				NEET by Ethnicity % (June 2024)	
				<i>Figures are % of NEET cohort, not population</i>	
				White British	64.59%
				White Irish	0.60%
				White Roma	0.93%
				Other White Background	1.55%
				White and Black Carribean	2.79%
				White and Black African	0.31%
				White and Asian	2.17%

				Other Mixed Background	0.93%	
				Indian	0.31%	
				Pakistani	12.42%	
				Bangladeshi	6.83%	
				Other Asian Background	0.31%	
				Black Caribbean	0.31%	
				Black African	2.79%	
				Other Ethnic Group	2.48%	
				No information/Refused	0.31%	
				Other Black Background	0.31%	