



**Oldham**  
Council

## Report to Council

# The Oldham Plan 2024 – 2030; Pride, Progress, Partnership

### Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

**Officer Contact:** Shelley Kipling, Acting Chief Executive

**Report Authors:** Jonathan Downs, Policy Lead / James Mulvaney, Policy Manager

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### Reason for Decision

The previous iteration of the Oldham Plan was adopted by the partnership in 2022. However, since this time, the environment in which partners and the council are operating in has changed significantly. To reflect these changes, and to coordinate Oldham's Partnerships response with the missions of the new government, a new version of the Oldham Plan (Pride, Progress, Partnership), has been developed and approved by the Oldham Partnership – Leading Oldham.

### Executive Summary

The Oldham Partnership is a collaboration of leaders from across Oldham, working together to address the borough's challenges. The Oldham Plan serves as the blueprint which is going to guide the next six years of the Oldham Partnership.

Extensive consultation and resident feedback have shaped the new Plan, with three missions – Healthier, Happier Lives; Great Place to Live; and Green and Growing – each supported by specific deliverables to drive progress and positive change for Oldham's communities.

### Recommendations

1. Note the content of the Oldham Plan 2024 – 2030: Pride, Progress, Partnership and acknowledge the continued work of the partnership to improve the Borough.

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## 1. Background

- 1.1. The Oldham Partnership brings together business, community, and public sector leaders from across Oldham to tackle the challenges we face together. By working across different sectors, we can create lasting positive change for everyone in Oldham.
- 1.2. The Oldham Plan is a blueprint for the borough, setting out the collective vision for Oldham over the next six years. The Plan provides a shared roadmap for addressing key challenges such as health inequalities, housing, economic growth, and environmental sustainability.
- 1.3. It became clear towards the end of 2023 that the Oldham Plan required a refresh. The previous version of the plan was set in the context of Covid-19 recovery and the cost-of-living crisis. Two years later and we are now in a very different place. The regeneration of Oldham Town Centre is underway, and a visit from the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review team in November 2023 recommended an update to the plan “as a means of harnessing the collective power of partners towards improving the borough and capitalising on all of the opportunities now being created in Oldham”.

## 2. Current Position

- 2.1. Over the last nine months, in a co-ordination role, the Council have been working with partners to agree what our revised priorities should look like. With this in mind, we reflected on resident feedback from ‘the Big Oldham Conversation’ and conducted an extensive period of engagement with partner organisations. (More on consultation in section 6).
- 2.2. Following this, the Oldham Partnership – Leading Oldham agreed three key missions with supporting deliverables on 25 October 2024.

## 3. The Oldham Plan Missions and Deliverables

- 3.1 The Oldham Plan is the partnerships shared vision for shaping the future of our borough. It’s grounded in partnership and collaboration, bringing together the public sector, local businesses, community groups, and residents. By working together, we’ve set three clear missions to achieve by 2030 to make Oldham a fantastic place to live and work. Each of our collective missions will deliver real improvements to the lives of Oldham people.
  - **Healthier, Happier Lives** – In Oldham, every individual matters. We aim to build a community where everyone has access to the care, support and opportunities they need to live a good life. We are committed to tackling poverty, improving health and wellbeing, providing high-quality social care and promoting lifelong learning.
  - **Great Place to Live** – We know Oldham is a place where people love to live, and we’re committed to building on that pride by providing more affordable, quality homes, improving public spaces, and creating a strong local economy with vibrant communities that get on well.

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- **Green & Growing** - We will make Oldham a place where economic growth benefits all residents, creating opportunities for businesses to succeed while ensuring our community and environment thrive. By attracting new investment, supporting local businesses, and leading in green technologies, we will generate quality job opportunities and equip people with the skills they need to succeed.

#### **4. Options/alternatives**

- 4.1. Option 1: Note the content of the Oldham Plan and agree to adopt the Oldham Plan. This course of action would allow the council to work effectively and strategically with our borough partners.
- 4.2. Option 2: Do not agree to adopt the Oldham Plan. This course of action would leave Oldham Council without a strategic partnership plan, making it more difficult to work effectively and strategically with our partners.

#### **5. Preferred Option**

- 5.1. Option 1 would be the preferred option, leading to more effective and strategic action with our partners.

#### **6. Consultation**

- 6.1. We have undertaken extensive engagement for the development of the Oldham Plan to ensure that it reflects the needs and aspirations of our residents, businesses, and community partners. By gathering diverse perspectives through consultations, workshops, and surveys, we are able to co-create a plan that addresses the challenges facing the borough while building on its strengths.
- 6.2. Throughout the process of developing this plan we have kept in mind that this is a plan meant to be for the partnership, by the partnership. We began with a number of interviews with our key partners to understand what a successful renewed partnership plan should look like. During this phase we began to unpick how a shorter, more resident focused set of missions would provide a greater footing for the partnership to stand on, and how these needed to be owned by the partnership to really be a collaborative success.
- 6.3. Following this, we launched a survey with the partnership to begin to understand what those new missions should look like, and how the partnership should operate in the future. From this we were able to start drafting a set of missions with a resident focus that could be easily understood by residents.
- 6.4. We then convened a partnership meeting to further consult on how we could all contribute to supporting the partnership and the borough going forward. The Partnership shared which issues we could achieve most improvement on by working together and the contributions their own organisations could make.
- 6.5. Through conversations with the youth council, we know our emerging generation wants to be able to live in a safer borough, where there is affordable housing, good employment opportunities, and places where there are things to do with friends and family. They are proud to be from Oldham and feel a sense of identity from the districts they live in.

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## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. All the actions that are included within the Oldham Plan that are to be delivered to achieve corporate objectives will be financed within approved budgetary resources. Ensuring that the Council remains financially resilient and sustainable in the future will form a key part of the on-going budget setting process and medium-term financial strategy.
- 7.2. The availability and the alignment of resources to deliver the actions will depend to a significant extent on the allocation of resources by Central Government and may need to be revisited in light of shifting national policy and budgetary priorities. *(Sarah Johnson – Director of Finance)*

## **8. Legal Services Comments**

- 8.1. The Oldham Plan should be read in conjunction with the Corporate Plan. The Plan has been prepared with extensive resident consultation having taken place and with the assistance of Council partners.
- 8.2. It is important that the Council is forward-looking and is seeking to put policies in place that help the Council consider key social issues such as Health Inequalities, Housing and environmental sustainability within the Borough.
- 8.3. The Council recently engaged in a local Government Association peer review and one of the recommendations was to update the Oldham Plan. It would defeat the purpose of engaging in such a process and cause a reputational issue if it did not update the Oldham Plan.
- 8.4. The recommended option will help enable joined up working with Council partners and does not commit the Council to any new spending. *(Alex Bougatef – Interim Borough Solicitor)*

## **9. Co-operative Implications**

- 9.1. The Oldham Plan is a resident-focused strategic partnership plan, which aims to improve the lives of residents, while also growing the economy, supporting VCFSE organisations, and greening the borough. The Plan has been co-produced with council partners and residents, with an aim to improve the lives of residents and organisations in the borough. As such, the plan is supportive of our cooperative agenda. *(James Mulvaney, Policy Manager)*

## **10. Community cohesion, including crime and disorder implications in accordance with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998**

- 10.1. None

## **11. Equality Impact – including implications for Children and Young People**

- 11.1. Some of the missions and deliverables in the plan look to improve opportunities for children and young people, by offering them the chance to reach their full potential, to improve their mental health and wellbeing, and ensuring they get the right care and support at the right time. *(James Mulvaney, Policy Manager)*

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## **12. Key Decision**

12.1. No

## **13. Background Papers**

13.1. None

## **14. Appendices**

14.1. The Oldham Plan 2024 – 2030; Pride, Progress, Partnership