

## **Report to Place, Economic Growth & Environment Scrutiny Board**

### **Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 Q3 (1<sup>st</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024)**

**Portfolio Holder (CPR):**

Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

**Officer Contact (CPR):**

Steve Hughes, Assistant Director Strategy & Performance

**Overview Report Author (CPR):**

Gail M. Stott, Performance Improvement Lead, Strategy & Performance

**CPR collated by:** Performance Improvement Team, Strategy & Performance

**Contact:** [StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk)

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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#### **Reason for decision**

Scrutiny of corporate performance aims to provide assurance that:

- services are aligned to corporate priorities the needs of our residents (resident focus)
- our services are good, or are on track to good
- any services that are not on track, or have identified risks, are being supported or challenged to rectify this
- any demand indicators or resource pressures are being noted and service provision is being re-assessed accordingly
- the organisation has robust performance management processes in place.

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## Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of corporate performance against agreed service business plan measures for the relevant reporting quarter.

## Recommendations

Scrutiny Board members are asked to:

- note the progress in implementing the business plan objectives
- celebrate areas of consistent good performance
- note the comments on progress
- consider areas for review (good or poor) that could produce learning for the organisation
- note the interconnection of these actions with ongoing activities in other portfolio and Scrutiny Board remits and key projects.

## **Appendix:**

1. PEGE CPR – Communities, Economy, Environment

# Report to Place, Economic Growth & Environment Scrutiny Board

## Corporate Performance Report 2024/25 for Quarter 3: 1st October to 31st December 2024

**Portfolio Holder (CPR):** Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

**Contact Officer (CPR):** Steve Hughes, Assistant Director Strategy & Performance

**Report date:** 13th March 2025

**CPR collated by:** Performance Improvement Team [StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk](mailto:StrategyandPerformance@oldham.gov.uk)

Place

Key Performance Indicators

RED

KPIs underperforming by more than 5%

AMBER

KPIs underperforming by less than 5%

GREEN

KPIs meeting or outperforming target

TEAL

KPIs with no targets set



# Communities

## Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

**Portfolio Holders:** Cllr Peter Dean (Communities, Districts, Libraries, Heritage and Arts) & Cllr Elaine Taylor (Housing Needs)

**Officer Contact:** Neil Consterdine, Director of Communities

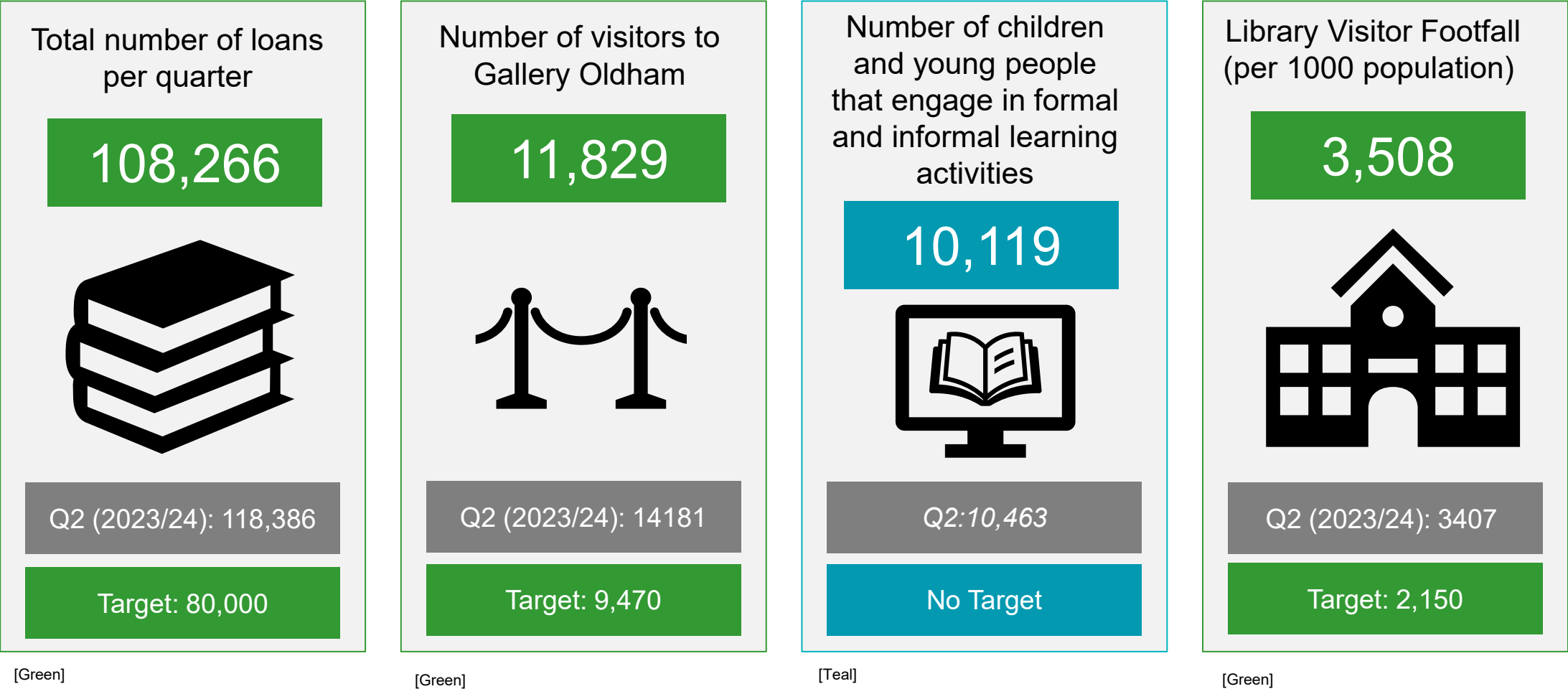
### Service Summary:

Delivery of a range of community services and provision including – Housing Needs, Youth Work, Heritage, Libraries and Arts, Community Development, Placed based and District Working, Community Safety and Stronger Communities. Resident focussed services closer to where people live.

***Note: Youth Services is now reported to the Children & Young People Scrutiny Board***



# Heritage, Libraries & Arts Key Metrics (against target where set)



# Heritage, Libraries & Arts

## Successes/Areas of Development

<b>Successes</b>	<p>Delivery of the Live@thelibrary Christmas show in partnership with Oldham Theatre Workshop 'Tales of the ToyMender'.</p> <p>Secured £41k from Art Fund to redesign natural history gallery working in partnership with Family Hubs to ensure we are designing family friendly exhibition spaces.</p>
<b>Areas of Development</b>	<p>Capacity in procurement has delayed tender going live for several ACE Funded projects. Projects delayed by several months – have managed relationship with ACE and got permission for extensions</p>

# Heritage, Libraries & Arts Summary Comment

## **Q2 Summary Comment: Subnum Hariff-Khan (Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts)**

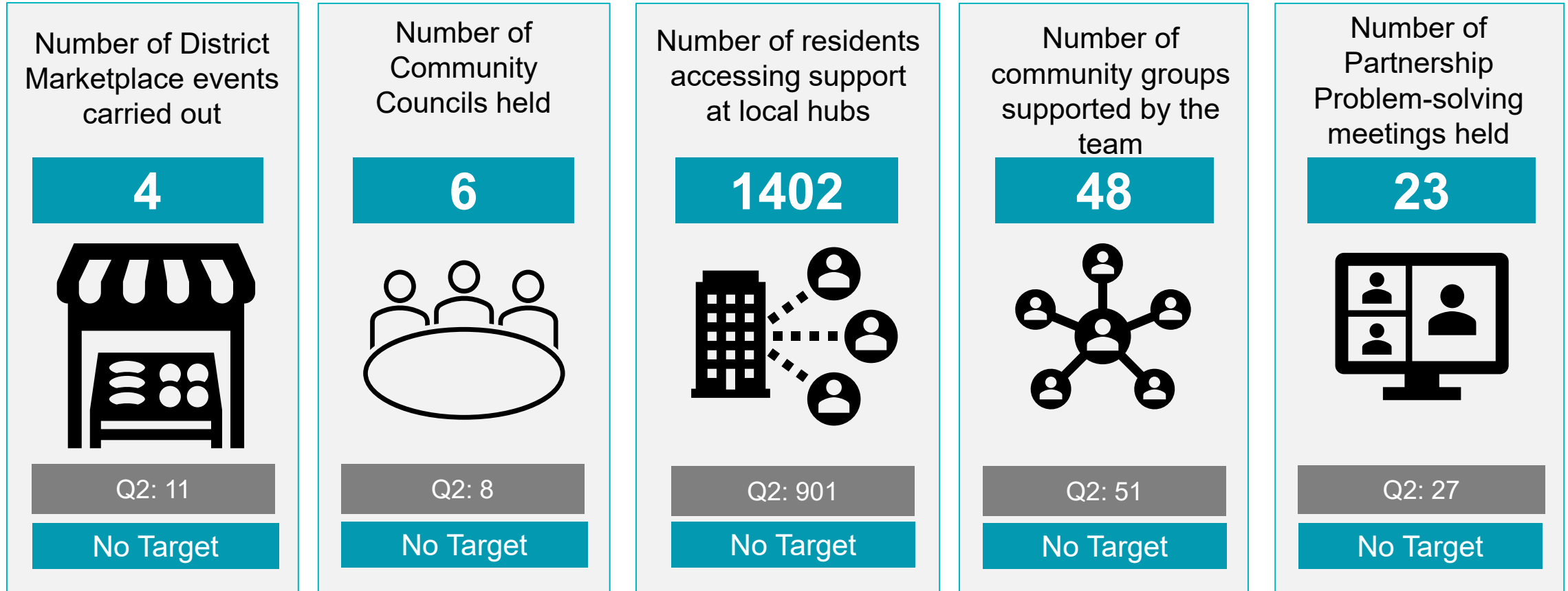
Performance for HLA targets remain on track. Gallery Oldham exhibitions programme popular with a range of audiences. Re-opening of Royton Library has increased footfall. The annual Summer Reading Challenge saw 1778 children sign up to boost their reading over the summer holidays, with 842 receiving a medal for completing the challenge.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Subnum Hariff-Khan (Head of Heritage, Libraries and Arts)**

HLA performance targets remain on track. OTW delivered UKSPF funded satellite programme this quarter at the Ghazali Trust engaging boys and girls from South Asian communities. Library visitor footfall continues to increase with a range of Christmas and winter themed events and activities including Live@theLibrary shows.



## Districts Key Metrics (no targets set)



## Districts Successes/Areas of Development

<b>Successes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pension Credit campaign – effective partnership work to promote pension credit take-up. 70 referrals for support have been received by the team, and the Engagement Co-ordinators are directly supporting eligible residents to apply for pension credit via community hubs and other local venues, as well as home visits.</li><li>• Development of the offer from the District Hubs is seeing numbers accessing support continue to increase. Addition of new partners to the mix (e.g. midwifery offer from Failsworth Town Hall) is helping to drive this.</li></ul>
<b>Areas of Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Re-shaping of the service currently taking place – casework function being moved out of the service, and greater emphasis to be placed on development of partnership working and the resident offer at a District level.</li><li>• Capacity of partners to commit to quarterly marketplace events in each District is proving a challenge. There is a need to review this offer, potentially delivering fewer of these events, but continuing to engage via other local events and activities (e.g. HAF)</li></ul>

# Districts Summary Comment

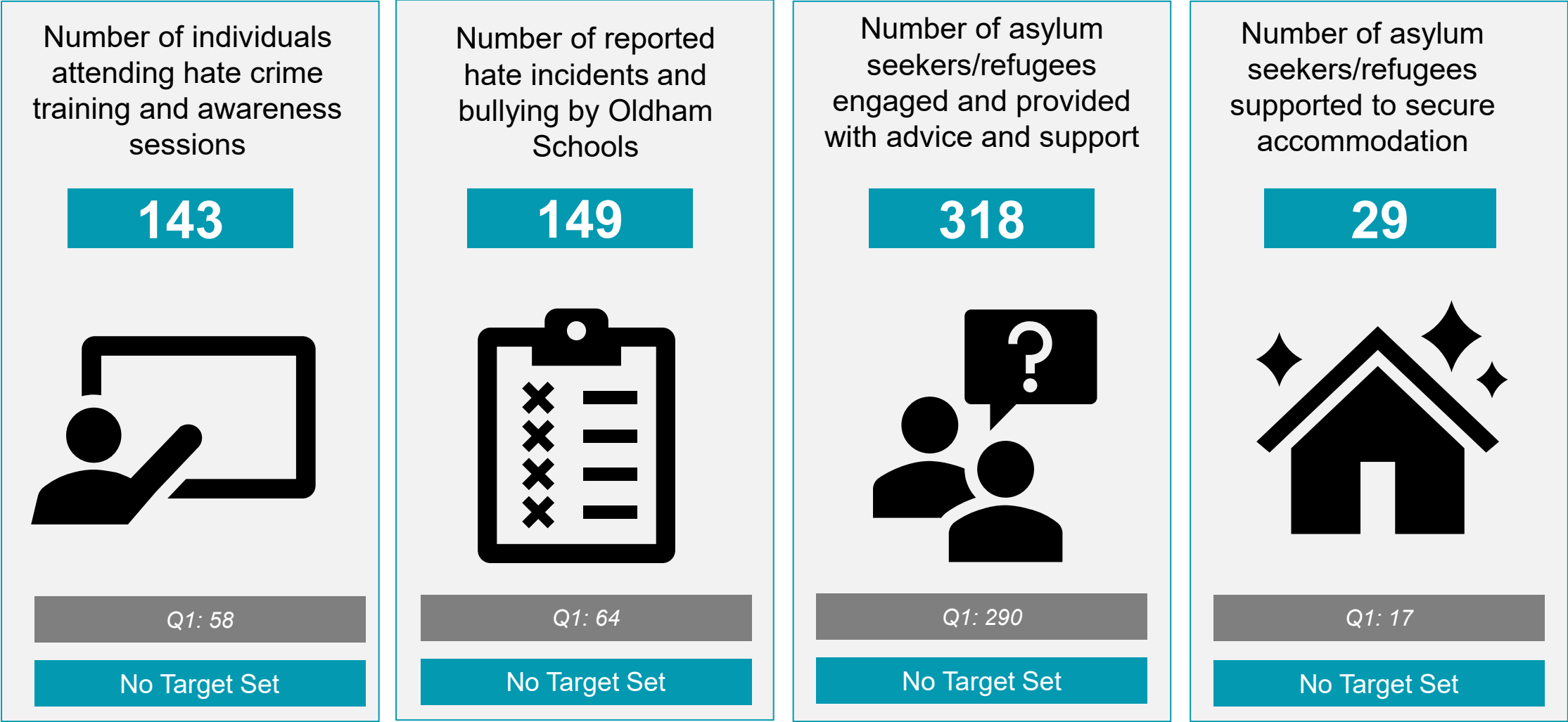
## **Q2 Summary Comment: Simon Shuttleworth (Service Manager - Districts)**

More consistent monitoring arrangements have been put in place with partners to capture delivery from the hubs, and we are now working to add capturing of case studies to this, both for reporting and for Comms purposes. Two rounds of Community Councils were held this quarter, and marketplace events have also started, creating regular community engagement events for local people to meet Elected Members and partner organisations. Local partnership meetings continue, and we are working to further standardise these, to ensure consistent delivery and understanding of the framework across partners.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Simon Shuttleworth (Service Manager - Districts)**

The capacity of the service has been stretched by voluntary redundancies and vacancies, but the team continues to develop and deliver a quality offer within the five Districts. The upcoming re-shaping of the service will allow for better alignment of capacity to key priorities, particularly in ensuring the continued development of the resident-facing offer at a local level.

# Stronger Communities Key Metrics (no targets set)



# Stronger Communities Successes/Areas of Development

<b>Successes</b>	<p>The mandatory Prevent e-learning has been undertaken by over 1000 members of staff within the Council.</p> <p>The benchmark assessment, due in January 2025 has been developed in readiness, showing significant progress on the recommendations made in 2024.</p> <p>The Homes for Ukraine Scheme has continued to provide accommodation and support.</p>
<b>Areas of Development</b>	<p>The face to face Prevent training needs to be developed. This will be progressed following completion of the restructure within the Communities directorate in early 2025.</p> <p>Work on the Cohesion Framework. This will also be progressed following the restructure.</p>

# Stronger Communities Summary Comment

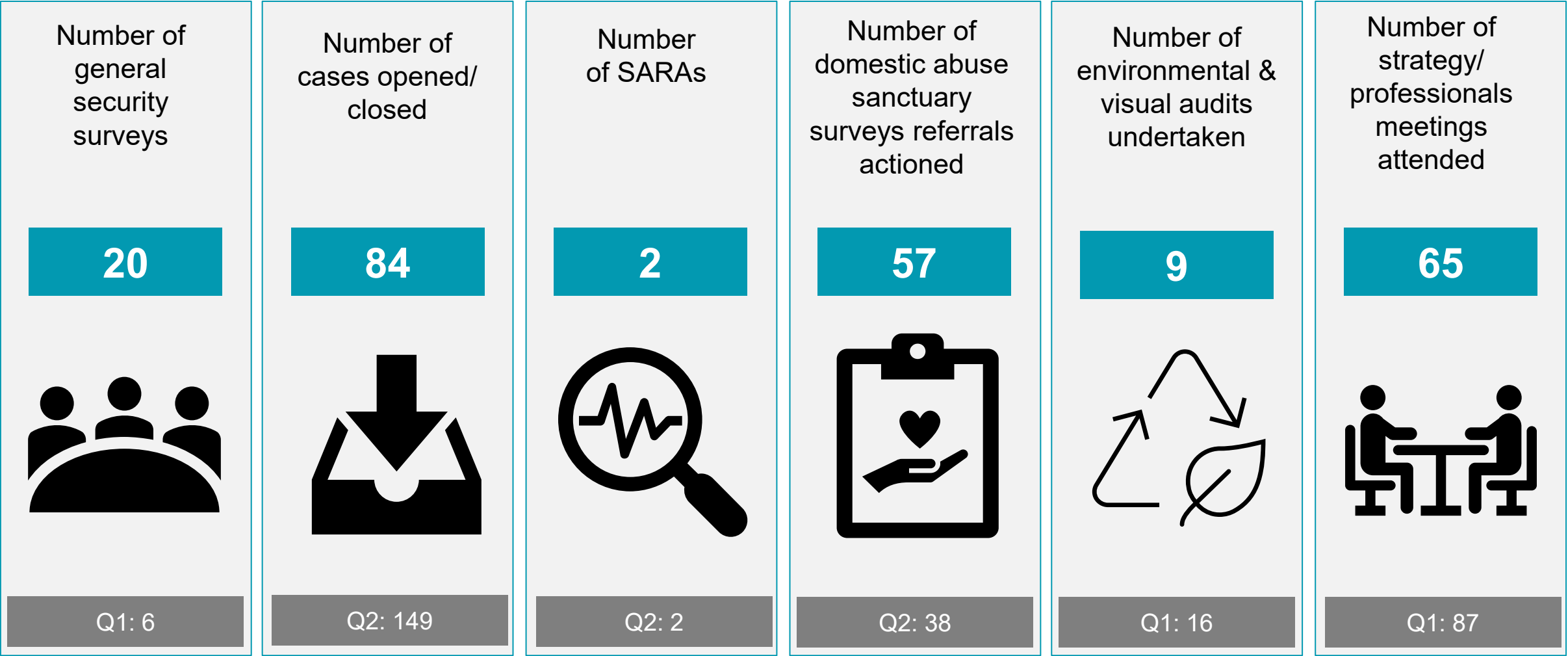
## **Q2 Summary Comment: Natalie Downs (Stronger Communities Manager)**

The number of asylum seekers receiving a Home Office decision on their asylum claim has started to increase and this is impacting on the caseloads being managed by the LAASLOs. The number of families/individuals receiving a positive decision will inevitably impact upon the number of referrals to homelessness for temporary accommodation/ABEN. Due to a lack of accommodation for single males, there is a likely to be an increase in the number becoming homeless and classified as destitute.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Lorraine Kenny (Head of Community Safety Services)**

The Prevent Risk Assessment, Partnership Plan and preparation of the Prevent Benchmark Assessment have been the focus of the work by the Stronger Communities Manager, alongside handover of workstream areas pending the service restructure.

# Community Safety Key Metrics (no targets set)



# Community Safety

## Successes/Areas of Development

<b>Successes</b>	<p>Over 96% of new ASB Complainants have received a response within five working days. This is despite the team being short staffed.</p> <p>There continues to be a significant amount of victims of domestic abuse who are able to remain in their own homes due to the sanctuary surverys being carried out.</p>
<b>Areas for Development</b>	<p>The online reporting system still needs developing. This has been delayed due to the demands on management within the Service.</p> <p>Opportunities to secure feedback also need development.</p>



# Community Safety

## Summary Comment

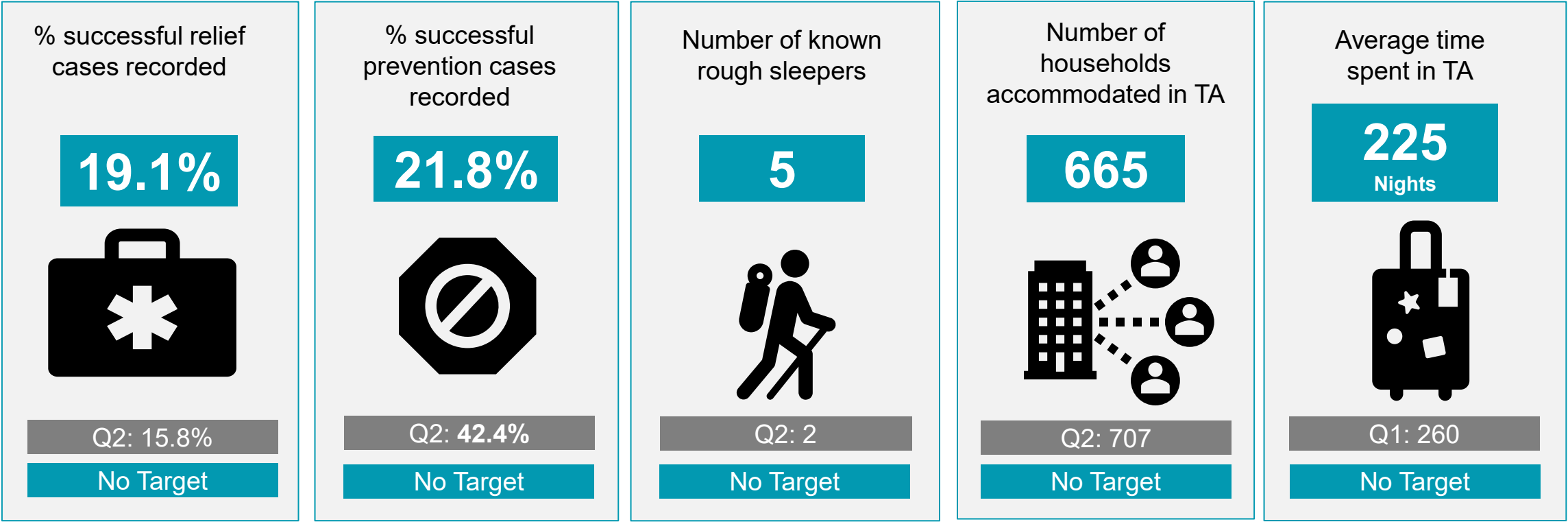
### **Q2 Summary Comment: Lorraine Kenny (Head of Community Safety Services)**

Demand remains significant and the team has continued to face issues with capacity due to the vacant post. Officers have been working cross Place area to meet demand. Capacity to undertake Environmental Visual Audits and security surveys, including domestic abuse sanctuary surveys has increased recently following the completion of the Crime Prevention Qualification by the Community Safety Officer who was recruited in July 2023. Both the Operational Manager and the Head of Service have supported complex case work activity.

### **Q3 Summary Comment: Lorraine Kenny (Head of Community Safety Services)**

Demand remains significant and the team has continued to face issues with capacity due to the vacant post. Work has been progressed to secure the 5 new Place PSPOs which will be finalised in Q4.

# Housing Key Metrics (no targets set)



## Housing Successes/Areas of Development

<b>The numbers in TA have started to slowly reduce. This is due to a more robust investigation with regards to homelessness presentations prior to any placement.</b>	We have recently secured £210k additional funding from MHCLG to assist with the reduction of B&B temporary accommodation. We will utilise this funding to firstly assist with preventing homelessness but where this is not possible, ensuring more suitable self contained accommodation is sought.
<b>Customer feedback has now started to take place and the initial feedback is really positive.</b>	The main reason for customer contact in relation to the feedback received is in relation to progress chasing. This is an area which can be workshopped to put measures in place so residents can either self-serve to understand where their application is up to and we can build in additional feedback mechanisms from officer to resident to offer the reassurance they need.

# Housing Summary Comment

## **Q2 Summary Comment: Victoria Wood (Head of Housing Needs)**

Demand remains significant and the teams have continued to face issues with capacity due to the high level of vacant posts. The number of households requiring TA has increased again this quarter which is a reflection on the demand.

Service standards for Housing Options Services have now been agreed and implemented and customer feedback will now be captured so this can be monitored accordingly.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Victoria Wood (Head of Housing Needs)**

Initial customer feedback in relation to the housing options service standards is really positive with 95% of residents feeling they have been listened to and helped accordingly, 98% felt they were treated with empathy and respect. The main reason for the residents visit was progress chasing either a housing application or homelessness application.

The consultation for the service re-design is now underway and is due to close on 5th March. Initial feedback from the team is generally positive and they welcome the additional capacity the proposed new structure will bring if implemented.

# Communities Director Comments

## **Q2: Neil Consterdine (Director of Communities)**

Demand continues to be significant across all services within the Communities Directorate. The opening of Royton Town Hall has been a significant success which has allowed a new library to open along with a wider resident offer. Resident feedback is really positive. A new Housing front door has also now opened to our residents and is working well. However, number of residents needing temporary accommodation is still rising. Mitigations to reduce those in temporary accommodation are in place. An extensive summer activity programme was delivered across the summer supported by Holiday Activity Funding. Priority in the directorate continues to be looking to reduce residents in temporary accommodation along with prevention.

## **Q3: Neil Consterdine (Director of Communities)**

Youth continues to run over 40 sessions per week and is stretched meeting the demand for Youth provision in the Districts. It is pleasing to see that Castleshaw Outdoor Education Centre has now had its new roof finished which was paid through external grant funding and will continue to allow over 8000 young people to continue to use the centre. Heritage Libraries and Arts has also been extremely successful this last period with some significant grant income which will improve the structure of some of our libraries but also allow more activity such as funding for illuminate. All PSPO's which the community safety manage have now been implemented. This involved consulting with over 8000 residents. The team also supported Operation Avro a Police led operation that saw some significant arrests and seizures. Demand in Housing continues to be a real issue although this quarter has seen a slight decrease. Mitigations continue to be implemented. Overall the Directorate is seeing high demand but has seen some real success across all services.

Signed Off: 28.01.2025

## Communities Portfolio Holder Comments

**Cllr Peter Dean (Communities, Libraries, Heritage and Arts)**

I'm pleased to see that footfall at our libraries continues to increase, our libraries offer a fantastic service to our residents and this has been recognised by being shortlisted for Library of the Year Award at the British book awards this week. Our districts and community safety service restructures are designed to make sure both services deliver better outcomes for our residents and I'm pleased with the progress we're making.

## Cllr Elaine Taylor (Housing Needs)

The Housing Needs service clearly continues to be in high demand and we continue to work to support residents in the best way we can, the service redesign mentioned in the comments by the Head of Housing needs is to ensure the team are in the best place to deliver the best possible outcomes for our residents, many of who come to us in crisis.

Signed Off:       xx

# Economy

## Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham and Cllr Elaine Taylor, Cabinet Member for Decent Homes

**Officer Contact:** Paul Clifford, Director of Economy

**Service Summary:** Economy consists of three functions: Planning, Transport and Housing Delivery; Estates and Place-Making; and Creating A Better Place.

## Economy Key Metrics (where targets set)

*FY to date = Financial year to date – numbers are added up as the year goes on*

Residents Supported  
(FY to date)

Q3: 4739



*\* new measure for  
2024/25*

Number of dwellings  
delivered (total) (FY to  
date)

Q2: 122

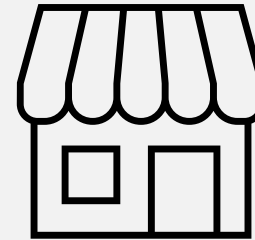


Q1: 57 Q2: 39  
Q3: 26

No target

Outdoor Markets Pitch  
Occupancy

Q3: 90.9



Q2: 90.9

No target

Social Value achieved  
against contacted value

Q2: 25.29%



Q1: 23.05%

No target



# Economy Successes/Areas of Development

<u>Title of Success/Area of Development</u>	Comment
Continued Progress on council-owned land for housing development	Oldham Town Centre Living Partnership with Muse progressing, with the finalisation of the Town Centre Development Framework and steps taken toward adding Prince's Gate to the agreement. Agreements over Southlink and Former South Chadderton School site reached with Vistry and Rowland Homes respectively.
Spindles Phase 3 office accommodation.	Strong progress being made on strategic accommodation with Spindles Phase 3 enabling Children services to relocate from Met Place into the Spindles which is currently on programme to be complete for the end of March 25. Benefits of the approach include Met Place to be released for redevelopment and increased collaboration between children services and other services and partners already located within the Spindles.
Oldham outdoor market	Publication of George Square as the location for the outdoor market, project team established, and early design work is underway. Stallholders will feed into the practicalities and logistics of the site design working with the market team.

## Economy Successes/Areas of Development

Royton Town Hall	Memorial stone unveiled at the John Hogan VC memorial garden. In addition, a special rededication service took place to officially commemorate the first world war memorial in its new home in the Library.
The Hive	The Hive is now fully open and hosting a range of events for businesses across Greater Manchester. Permanent tenants have moved into the offices spaces. The co-working offer has been soft tested and will be actively marketed across the region from February / March.

# Economy Summary Comments

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Chris Lewis (Assistant Director - Creating a Better Place)**

Strong progress continues on various Capital delivery schemes including the MEA Spindles development, Oldham Coliseum, Northern Roots Visitor/ Learning Centre, Old Library, Marlborough Street Centre and George Square which was publicly announced as the new location for Oldham's outdoor market. CaBP continues to deliver various benefits including Social value which to date totals £31.6m.

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Maria Cotton (Assistant Director Place Making)**

Detailed progress made in planning for the stallholder move into the new market. Stalls are now being constructed ready for individual fit out. Similarly plans for the programme for the new event space and the move of the existing programme from Queen Elizabeth Hall are progressing well. Projects funded by the High Street Accelerator programme which is shaped and steered by the businesses in the town centre, are coming to fruition, with improved CCTV, event and street art all underway. Works to improve greening on Yorkshire Street are be planned for delivery in early Spring. The Hive is establishing itself well as the hub for the business community in Oldham with key events including the Bank of England using the space for meetings and seminars.

*Signed off: 12.02.2025*

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# Economy Summary Comment

## **Q3 Summary Comment: Peter Richards (Assistant Director - Planning, Transport & Housing Delivery)**

Amidst various announced changes to the Planning system nationally, we continue to see new employment and residential development come forward in Oldham, with large new employment units being occupied at Broadway Green and several council-owned housing sites across the borough moving forward with partners. Higher numbers of planning applications being received suggest this growth is set to continue. The Transport team continues to work with TfGM to improve the Bee Network and bring forward new transport schemes across the borough.

*Signed off: 12.02.2025*

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# Economy Comments

**Councillor Arooj Shah, Leader & Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham:**

I'm delighted to report that Inspired Global Cuisine are set to move into one of the recently developed units off Lydia Becker way in Chadderton, bringing up to 750 jobs to Oldham – and 200 new opportunities for Oldhamers shows that the Council's approach was the right one with this site.

Contractors are making fantastic progress on our town centre regeneration works, including the market and events space at Spindles, the Coliseum and Old Library. 2025 will be a massive year of delivery for our Creating a Better Place Programme and Oldhamer's will finally see our bold vision come to life.

**Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Decent Homes:**

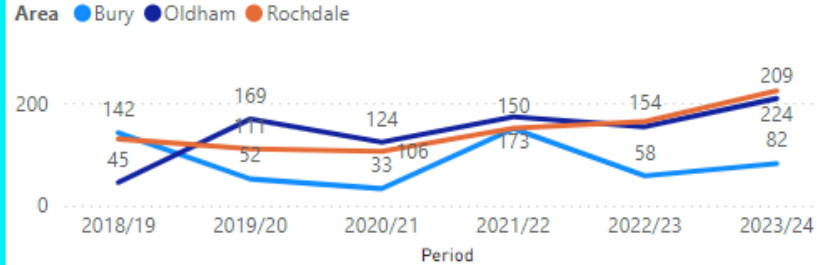
Huge steps are being taken to build the homes Oldhamers need across the Borough, the Oldham Town Centre Living Partnership with Muse is progressing, and Prince's Gate has now been added to the agreement. We've also reached agreements over with Vistry to build on Southlink and Rowland Homes at the Former South Chadderton School site.

Signed Off:       xx

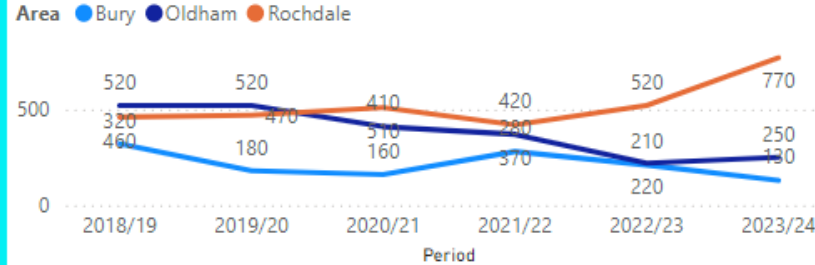
# Supplemental Benchmarking Data

## Economy - Homes and Planning

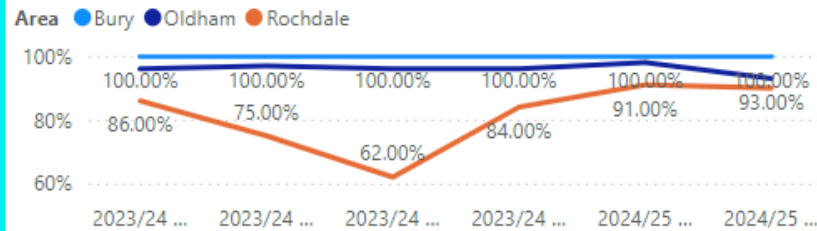
Additional completed affordable homes



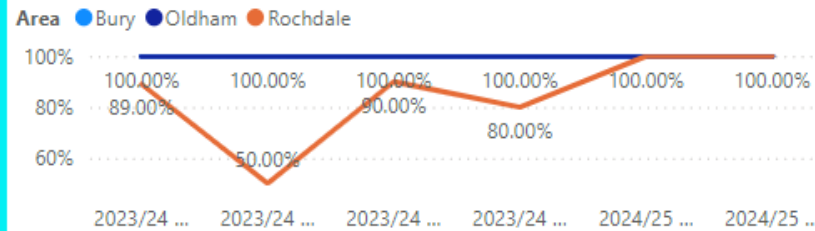
Total new dwellings



% of minor planning applications (PAs only) decided in time - Quarterly



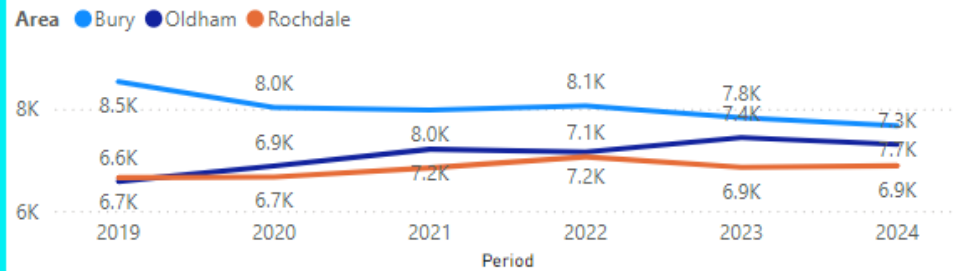
% of major planning applications (PAs only) decided in time - Quarterly



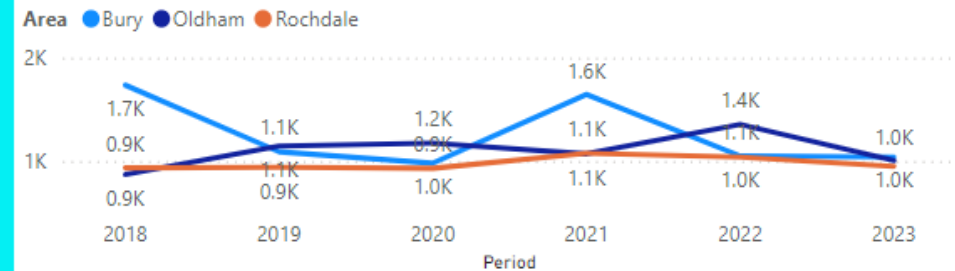
# Supplemental Benchmarking Data

Economy - national  
organisation for local  
economies measures  
(CLES)

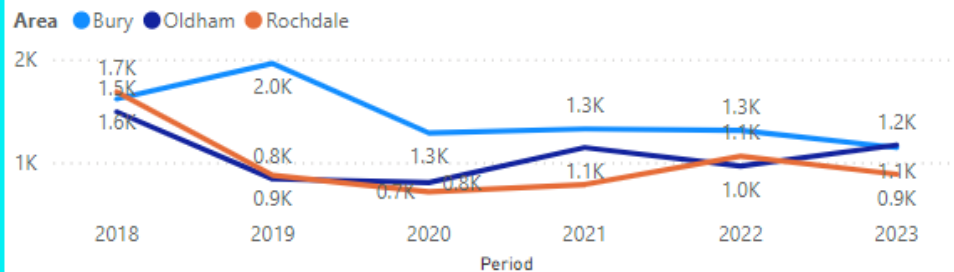
Number of enterprises



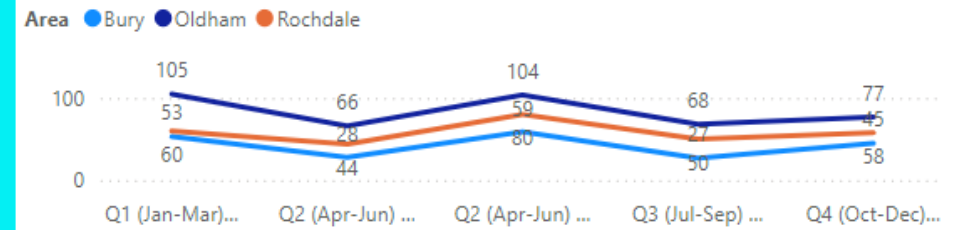
No. of births of new enterprises



No. of deaths of enterprises



Total number of publicly available electric vehicle charging devices at all speeds



# Environment

## Performance Measures & Business Plan Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham & Cllr Elaine Taylor, Cabinet Member for Decent Homes (Licensing)

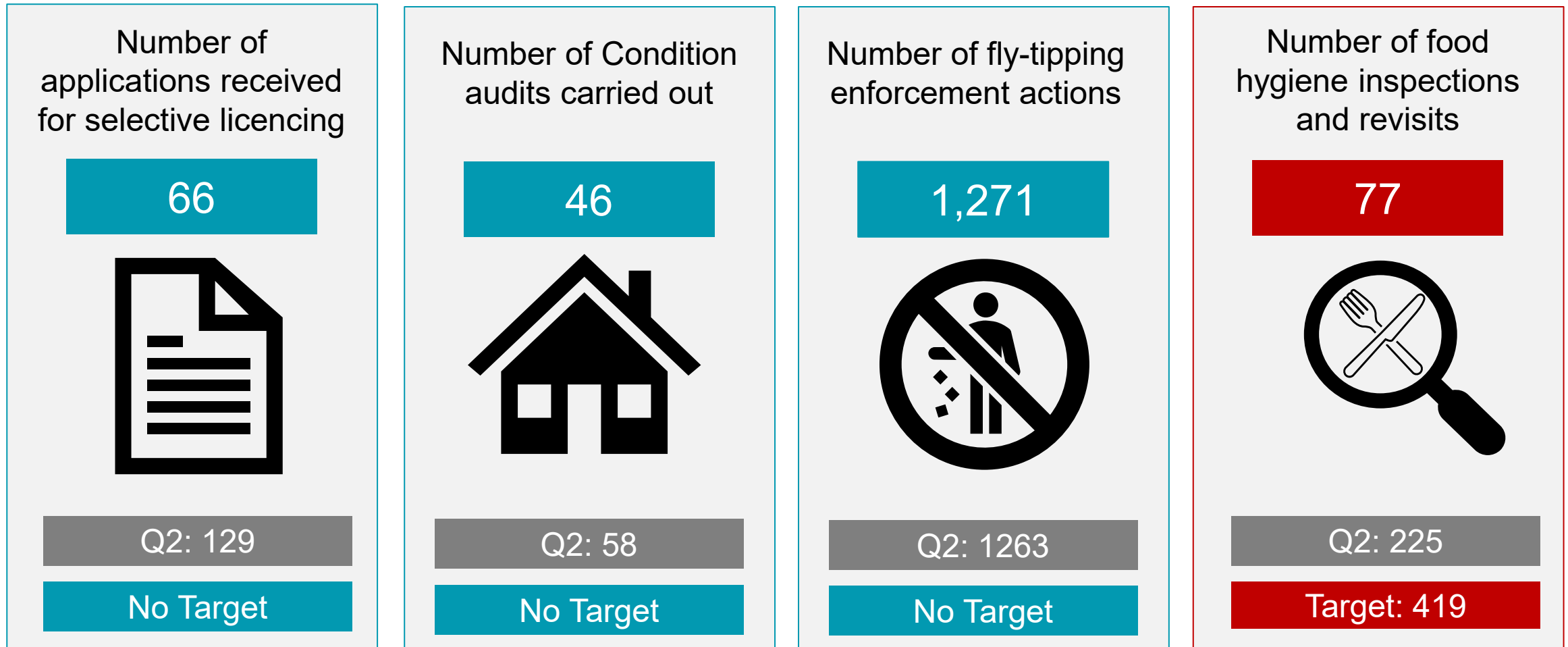
**Officer Contact:** Nasir Dad, Director of Environment

### Service Summary:

Environment consists of 3 main sub-directorates areas: Public Protection; Highways Engineering & Operations; Waste, Cleansing & Greenspace. In addition, the Streetlighting Maintenance and Replacement programme also sits in the Environment Directorate; each area has their own vision and 2023/27 Business Plan.



## Environment Key Metrics (against target where set)



# Environment

## Successes/Areas of Development

	Comment
<b>Successes</b>	<p>Noise prosecution allowing officers to remove the equipment affecting the adjacent resident.</p> <p>Govt agreement to the 'Investment led' Clean Air Plan – no Clean Air Zone. Signs to be removed.</p> <p>Most taxis are now compliant - Only 11 non-compliant Hackney Carriages from 85 licenced and only 63 non-compliant from 1885 private hire licenced vehicles.</p> <p>Register of all properties licensed in Selective license neighbourhoods now available online with updates live from back-office database</p>
<b>Areas for development</b>	<p>Focus the 'free' Pest control service for residents claiming means tested benefits.</p> <p>Ongoing work to prepare response to the implications from the Renters Rights Bill and changes to Council statutory duties.</p> <p>Respond to lack of capacity - examine opportunity to create and 'grow our own' professionals with career graded roles. Create the roles within the pending service reviews</p> <p>Create licensed HMO register online with live updates</p>

# Environment Summary Comment

## **Q2 Comments: Neil Crabtree (Assistant Director - Public Protection)**

The resource available to carry out the condition audits of all licensed rented properties in the Selective Licensing scheme will be increased to make sure all licensed properties have an audit carried out during the lifetime of the scheme ( to the end of June 2027). This will increase the numbers being delivered quarter by quarter as the scheme progresses

Working in partnership with the Government's Food Standards Agency, the Council is examining the possibility to bolster the current resource by using a combination of agency provision and the recruitment of fully qualified officers via a recruitment campaign . This will ensure the required Food Hygiene inspections are carried out in Oldham Food businesses maintaining and where necessary improving standards of food hygiene.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments: Neil Crabtree (Assistant Director - Public Protection)

665 Private rented properties are now licensed in phase 1 selective licensing scheme. Ongoing partnership working within the neighbourhoods to identify unlicensed privately rented properties and address neighbourhood issues.

The Env. Health team received 754 service requests during the quarter across all the disciplines from private housing disrepair, noise nuisance, food hygiene complaints and notifications of infectious diseases.

Agency provision has now been secured to ensure delivery of the required number of programmed Food Hygiene inspections of businesses on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.

Most taxis are now compliant with the Clean Air provisions - only 11 non-compliant Hackney Carriages from 85 licenced and only 63 non-compliant from 1885 private hire licenced vehicles. These remaining will become compliant this calendar year when licence is renewed.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q2 Comments : Darren McGrattan (Interim Assistant Director - Waste Cleansing and Greenspace)

**Fleet Management:** Have installed an additional MOT bay in the workshop at Moorhey Street Depot which will assist with the additional demand of new taxi vehicles being licenced in the Borough.

**Greenspace:** In addition to the tree planting, the Service will also aim to deliver a further 2.5 hectares of new woodland across the borough during the 2024/25 planting season. This programme is consistent with the aim of increasing woodland and tree planting year on year.

**Play Areas:** Parks play a vital role in promoting healthy lifestyles by providing well-maintained spaces that encourage positive user experiences. Staff are trained to horticultural standards, and partnerships with apprenticeships, schools, and volunteers help build community engagement. Collaborations with local groups also bring recreational and educational activities to parks, widening participation and promoting healthy living. Parks are continuously improved with funding from various sources, including investments in outdoor gym equipment, which are highly utilised.

**Cleansing:** Street Cleaning teams play a crucial role in maintaining public health, safety, and environmental quality under the banner of 'Don't Trash Oldham.' By removing litter, debris, and hazards from streets and public spaces, they prevent flooding, reduce pest infestations, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighbourhoods.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments : Darren McGrattan (Interim Assistant Director - Waste Cleansing and Greenspace)

### **Fleet Management:**

The additional MOT bay in the workshop at Moorhey Street Depot which will assist with the additional demand of new taxi vehicles being licenced in the Borough is expected to be operational in the spring.

### **Business Waste:**

The business Waste Collection team are introducing new services and bin sizes late spring, to support businesses in complying with Simpler Recycling.

### **Greenspace:**

The tree planting programme for Winter 24/25 is not drawing close to completion and plans for 25/26 will then start to be drawn up and funding sought.

The Species Survival project at Leesbrook aided by 250k of external funding started in earnest last week with significant woodland improvement works across several hectares of neglected and low-quality woodland.

This will be complemented by habitat creation works, tree planting, invasive weed control, in channel river works to improve fish passage and access and footpath works All over the next 12 months.

### **Play Areas:**

Parks are continuously improved with funding from various sources, including investments in outdoor gym equipment, which are highly utilised. They play a crucial role in supporting healthy lifestyles by offering well-maintained spaces that enhance visitor experiences. Our dedicated staff are trained to horticultural standards, and we actively collaborate with apprenticeships, schools, and volunteers to strengthen community engagement. Partnerships with local groups also introduce recreational and educational activities, increasing participation and promoting well-being.

We carry out 12,960 playground inspections annually to ensure the safety and quality of our play areas

### **Cleansing:**

Street Cleaning teams play a crucial role in maintaining public health, safety, and environmental quality under the banner of 'Don't Trash Oldham.' By removing litter, debris, and hazards from streets and public spaces, they prevent flooding, reduce pest infestations, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of neighbourhoods.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q2 Comments : Gordon Anderson (Assistant Director - Highways Engineering and Operations)

**Highways:** The Council's highways team continues to undertake a range of work across the borough. As part of the 2024/25 resurfacing programme, 6 schemes have been completed to date. A further 8 schemes will be completed before the end of March 2025. The routine safety inspection and maintenance of all the network is also ongoing. This is both in response to reports by residents via web forms and the contact centre, and also planned according to the network hierarchy to ensure the network is safe. Where repairs are needed, these are programmed and completed as soon as possible.

The highways team also inspects permits for all works on the highway to ensure that the contractor, whether our own or utilities', is following health and safety and highway safety practices. Where contractors fail to do this, the team undertakes legal action to ensure compliance. In extreme cases, the team also withdraws permission to work on Oldham's highways until it is satisfied that the contractor will be compliant and can meet the necessary standards.

**Winter Maintenance:** Preparations are complete for Winter Maintenance operations. Vehicles, materials, grit and the staffing resource is all in place to ensure that main roads are kept open during the winter months. Highways colleagues will be constantly monitoring forecasts, road conditions and will undertake gritting as necessary. If there is snow, as with previous years, our teams will be out to clear the roads as quickly as possible.

As far as reasonably possible, we will look to keep the primary highway network free of ice and snow at all times, to help ensure safe journeys. Our teams are out filling the borough's grit bins and we have contingency plans in place, including for heavy snowfall. The council has a good supply of grit which was bought earlier in the year when prices were lower – providing value for money for residents.

The council's social media accounts will also share up to date winter information, including traffic and road closure updates and more details about our winter work are on the council's website - <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/winter>. It features the news on gritting routes, locations of grit bins, and tips on how residents can stay safe and get help and support.

We will also update the winter webpage with any school closures that we are notified about. Schools also have a text messaging system to inform parents if they are closing for the day.

# Environment Summary Comment

## Q3 Comments : Gordon Anderson (Assistant Director - Highways Engineering and Operations)

Winter Maintenance activities have continued throughout this quarter with the only significant snow so far being over a few very cold days in the New Year following a very mild Christmas Holiday period. The cold snap in the New Year lasted for approximately a week requiring virtually 24hrs a day patrols with gritting / salt spreading of all the 6 primary routes covering over 230 miles of the network, requiring the use of all resources available, including all 7 gritter vehicles. The secondary routes and "lanes" routes were also gritted when resources allow and conditions required. More salt/grit has been recently purchased following this event to keep stocks at the suitable level.

As it was a very sudden "cold snap", although predicted, and was accompanied by a Met Office Amber Warning for cold, ice and snow, it was reported widely on the national news as a matter of possible national health concern – this resulted in the BBC requesting a live interview at the Moorhey St Depot and a segment was broadcast live, interviewing myself live and highlighting the Council's considerable efforts – this seemed to be very positively put forwards by the BBC, it was live on BBC Breakfast, with elements of the interview repeated throughout the day on the BBC News channel and the various national news programmes.

The council's social media accounts will continue to share up to date winter information, including traffic and road closure updates and more details about our winter work are on the council's website - <http://www.oldham.gov.uk/winter>. It features the news on gritting routes, locations of grit bins, and tips on how residents can stay safe and get help and support.



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## **Q3 Comments: Councillor Chris Goodwin (Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham)**

The environment directorate is one of the most important in the Council, it's the front facing services that residents expect us to deliver most. Our winter maintenance was once again a huge success, with the team working round the clock to keep Oldhamers safe wherever they needed to travel in the Borough.

Our parks team continue to do exceptional work to ensure that our parks are in the best possible condition and are truly assets Oldham should be proud of, I'm particularly pleased to see outdoor gym equipment installed at a number of sites across the Borough.

## **Q3 Comments: Councillor Elaine Taylor (Cabinet Member for Decent Homes)**

I'm pleased with the progress being made in to work with partners to identify unlicensed privately rented properties and address neighbourhood issues, under selective licensing phase 1. Work continues to develop phase 2 and we await further guidance from MHCLG.

The additional MOT bay at Moorhey street will be welcomed by the taxi trade as this is something they have been asking for to improve their experiences dealing with the licensing process. And I'm sure Cllr Jabbar will be delighted that the majority of Oldham's taxi fleet are compliant with clean air emissions standards and that the rest will soon be as part of the annual review process.

*Signed off: xx*

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