

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways.

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

### Highways, Operations & Engineering:

The Highways service has continued to deliver strategically and reactively.

The 2024/25 Capital programme has been successfully delivered. Due to the diligent approach, Oldham council was successful in securing additional support from the region, and therefore, deliver additional schemes already identified as being necessary. Similarly, for 2025/26, the capital highways and engineering programme has been put together based on a data led approach covering highways / footway surfacing; drainage schemes; bridges & structures works; safety engineering and traffic related schemes – last year for example over 31,000 sqm of capital resurfacing was carried out across the borough.

So far, in April and May 2025, the service has received nearly 1,900 highways related enquiries with associated volume of works orders made, with scheduled highways safety inspections carried out totaling 980km so far this quarter by the Council's inspectors. This includes over 2,500 streets visited as part of the scheduled inspection programme, proactively identifying issues that may impact the boroughs residents and visitors.

The Highways team also continues to administer permit applications, mostly from utility companies to the Council, to coordinate and allow them to work on the highway, and causing the least amount of disruption - from April to June 2025, almost 1,300 permit requests have been received and processed – for context, in 2024/25, over 13,000 applications were received.

The planned gully cleansing programme is currently visiting the 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> wards out of the 20 listed on the Council website - to date approximately 17,000 of the 47,500 gullies having been visited. Work remains ongoing – a significant number of gullies are requiring revisits to 'dig out' and repair the network – this is having an impact on the proposed timetable. However, as ever, we will keep ward members and residents updated.

### Strategic Transport & Bee Network:

I was pleased to take our new Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy and Action Plan to Place Scrutiny Board and to Cabinet last month – thank you to the members of Place Scrutiny who engaged positively in the discussion and are so keen to support the ongoing implementation of the Action Plan as we seek to enable a greater provision of EV infrastructure across the borough.

At their last meeting, the GMCA also approved the reallocation of City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement funding to invest an additional £7.3m in two key cycling and walking projects in the borough, as well as an additional £2.2m of highways maintenance funding. £19m was also reallocated to the Bee Network, for improvements like enhancing the tap & go functionality on the Bee Network amongst other things, and £21m was reallocated to Active Travel Funding, which Oldham will be able to utilise for the creation of more of our highly successful school streets.

### Street Lighting:

The service continues to replace the final 20% of lighting assets as they expire. Replacements have been taking place in Chadderton area with 748 columns and lights replaced in 2024-25 as part of the annual investment programme. The assets were replaced with new modern LED lighting within the contractual time limit, helping reduce both energy consumption and carbon emissions. Over the

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last twelve (12) months, energy consumption has reduced by 294,014 kWh (3.65%) and carbon production has reduced by 62 tonnes CO2 (3.60%).

The service is continuing to achieve above contractual performance standards for the number of assets working as intended each month with an average of 99.30% across 2024-25. All faults are being attended to within contractual performance requirements with a small number of third-party vehicles blocking access to complete some repairs.

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