

## Portfolio Report

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Elaine Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods.

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

**Public Protection:** Mayor Burnham's GM Good landlord Charter was developed in 2023 through the GMCA who led the process with advice and feedback from a coordinating group of stakeholders and industry experts. An independent body, the 'Implementation Unit' were recruited in November 2024 to deliver the charter, operating independently from the GMCA or any Greater Manchester local authority and being overseen by a Governing Board of tenants, landlords, and industry experts. The Good Landlord Charter is a pioneering initiative to improve rental standards for private and social tenants. The charter consists of 21 membership criteria across 7 categories covering affordability, inclusive, private and secure, responsive, safe and decent, supportive and well managed.

Food Service Plan 2025/26 - The Council has recently approved the yearly Food Service Plan 2025/26, for submission to the Food Standards Agency. In the plan, we are reporting a year-on-year increase in registered food businesses – currently we have 2,024 registered food premises across the Borough. The Council participates in the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme whereby qualifying businesses receive a food hygiene rating after their inspection. The highest rating is '5' – 'Very Good' and the lowest rating is 'zero' – 'Urgent Improvement Required'. The scheme includes catering and retail premises, and consumers can search for current food hygiene score ratings on the FSA or through Oldham Council's websites. This allows consumers to make an informed choice as to where to eat out or buy food. Currently, as reported in the service plan, 72% of businesses across the borough are rated at a 5 (very good) with another 16% rated a 4 (good) showing excellent compliance with the necessary standards and reassuring everyone that the food businesses with these ratings are showing a good understanding of the working practices required to be a food business as well as providing good quality premises that comply with the regulations.

**Planning:** I was pleased to take a number of planning-related reports to Cabinet last month, with two more going to Cabinet this month, which show the level of work ongoing in Planning to enable housing delivery in the borough, particularly on brownfield sites and to deliver affordable and social homes, enhancing our natural environment and public open spaces. Alongside the preparation of our own Part 2 Local Plan for Oldham, we will be commencing the preparation of a new Joint Minerals and Waste Local Plan for Greater Manchester, to guide how each of the 10 GM authorities will determine planning applications for minerals and waste developments in the future – something which is essential given the level of growth and development in the city region.

**Districts:** The District Teams have been undertaking a service restructure. This is now in the implementation period and will see each of the 5 teams back to full staffing capacity with each district having a District coordinator, a partnerships officer and a community engagement officer. Community Engagement activity – 1,843 residents have taken part in activities, supported by the district teams across a range of events. This has enabled residents to help shape the support and services available locally to ensure residents are directly supported at the right time and in the right place.

The Quarter 1 Cycle of Community Councils has concluded alongside the facilitation of district-based partnership meetings that has enabled Partnership working to deliver against District level priority plans and localised place based working arrangements to support residents.

**Community Safety & Cohesion:** Vulcan, Derker - commenced in March and continues in the area. The project includes a dedicated problem-solving team from GMP, which works alongside partner

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organisations and the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The project has adopted the principle of 'Clear, Hold, Build' (CHB). This is the first example of this operation in a residential area across the whole of Greater Manchester.

This operation aims to remove the immediate threats through coordinated enforcement, disruption of individuals and groups and their spheres of influence through arrests and disruption activity. While Vulcan is focused in Derker, because of the nature of work, it has a reach into areas right across the borough. The project is ongoing, and to date, there have been multiple warrants executed, arrests and charges, along with seizures of vehicles, including bikes, cash and illegal drugs. Recently, the first Vulcan-related prosecution resulted in a significant custodial sentence. FCHO are also proactively taking tenancy enforcement action. Recent resident engagement shows an increase in confidence in the community.

The MHCLG funded cohesion project - Boxing United – has completed its delivery. This highly successful pilot project was a partnership between a number of boxing clubs, the Youth Service and Action Together, bringing together young males aged 11-18 from the boxing clubs to take part in workshops and sessions promoting conversation and developing skills, knowledge and abilities in areas such as leadership, understanding hate, media literacy, challenging extremist narratives and ideologies, fostering cohesion and understanding self and others. I was pleased to attend a fantastic presentation evening where the young participants shared their learning and insights with an audience of key decision makers, family and friends. Following delivery of the programme, which includes a residential at the Castleshaw Centre for Outdoor Education, the groups will plan their own community-based activities to implement their learning and enhance cohesion within their communities and across Oldham.

**Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector:** A Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise and Public Sector Partnership Forum has been established. The purpose of the forum is to bring together public sector service leads and leaders of VCFSE organisations delivering activities in Oldham to provide a space for developing and implementing a shared strategy for the VCFSE sector in Oldham, embedding the commitments of GM Accord and Faith Covenant within Oldham and fostering collaboration. The current key priorities are; fair funding and commissioning approaches, embedding co-production and voice of lived experience, and bringing in more resources to Oldham. The forum will also be a key contributor to designing and delivering the Live Well ambition in Oldham.

Action Together continue to work alongside VCFSE organisations across the borough to build their capacity to deliver. The sector offers a huge range of opportunities for residents to get involved in their communities, as well as providing significant support to residents. During 24/25 this includes 1,139 new volunteers registered with the volunteer hub, 133 training events delivered, 652 VCFSE groups and organisations supported, and 62 people supported to start a new group or project.

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