

## 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.

### **Strategic Transport & Bee Network:**

**Rail** - GMCA are currently producing their draft Rail Vision for the region - we welcome this and have fed comments into the process, asking for greater collaboration between combined authority areas to realise the vision.

Trans-Pennine-Route-upgrade works continue, and we continue to work with Network Rail to ensure that the benefits for the borough are realised.

**Tram-Train** - We have been speaking with TfGM about the proposed tram-train Pathfinder scheme, which would operate along a c.24km route, enhancing connectivity between the town centres of Oldham, Rochdale, Castleton, Heywood, and Bury and between homes and the key employment sites across Atom Valley, including Northern Gateway and Kingsway Business Park.

The scheme would significantly enhance public transport connectivity across the north of GM and with the National Rail network, acting as a pilot for future tram-train expansion across Greater Manchester. This improved connectivity would significantly reduce public transport journey times, with ~40% reductions forecast for some movements, making public transport a true alternative to car travel.

We continue to work with TFGM colleagues on this potential development to get the best for the borough.

**Bus** - We continue to work with TfGM to ensure that bus services are improved across the borough. We are working closely with the Network Review team to ensure that progress is made as quickly possible.

**Active Travel** - Increasing the opportunities for Active Travel remains one of our top priorities and, alongside our Local Sustainable Transport Fund infrastructure schemes, we are now working on activation activities including bikeability and walking groups. Our Schools Streets programme continues to grow, ensuring that more children across the borough can travel to school actively in a safe environment.

### **Highways Maintenance:**

**Gully Cleaning** - The planned gully cleansing programme is continuing cleaning via ward, there are 20 listed on the Council website - to date approximately 47,500 gullies have 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 timetables, also we are experiencing vast numbers of parked cars that is also impacting the amount of cleans carried out daily, we are working closely with ward members to try and get parked cars removed, as ever, we will keep ward members and residents updated.

**Potholes** - Between April and July 2025, we received 592 enquiries regarding Potholes / Road Defects which has resulted in 335 Jobs being raised for Pothole repairs.

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Just for your information the performance is as follows:

	PH Enquiry	PH Job	Ad Hoc Jobs	No. Complete	Average time	Safety Inspection Jobs	All Jobs	No. Complete	Average time
April	120	103	41	39	11	62	103	99	15
May	155	73	27	25	10	46	73	68	11
June	134	65	36	34	7	29	65	62	7
July	183	94	43	38	8	51	94	86	8

**Drainage** - Following approval of the Council budget on Monday, 22nd July 2025, this year's Minor Drainage programme is now in the pre-construction phase. There are numerous schemes with the current total estimate being around £88k at present. The number of projects and the total cost is subject to alteration based on new and emerging flooding risks that may or may not manifest themselves in the coming winter months. The implementation of construction projects is data-led and is based on flooding severity risk and other factors.

**Highway Structures** - We are continuing to maintain detailed asset data for all types of highway structures within the Oldham Council Highway Structures Asset Management System, Pontis. General and principal inspection regimes, in line with government codes of practice and guidance, are in place and carried out every 2 years and every 6 to 12 years, respectively.

We have completed numerous capital schemes, one of them being Ash Footbridge, situated within Brookdale Golf Club in Failsworth, and we are nearing completion of the detailed design stage for the £6.5 million Manchester Street Viaduct refurbishment scheme. In addition, we continue to carry out reactive works across the borough.

**Winter Service:** Last winter the Council used approximately 3 tonnes of road salt to grit the network and fill up the grit bins around the borough. We have replenished our stock of road salt in preparation for the upcoming Winter period to 6 tonnes. By taking deliveries over the summer, we have been able to take advantage of a discount on the cost of salt during the off-peak period. A 6-tonne supply should be sufficient to see us through the winter, but we will monitor usage over the winter period and will be able to bring in more salt over the winter season if needed.

The gritters were delivered to Moorhey Street depot at the beginning of September and have been fitted with dashcams offering live video streams which will enable our Winter Duty Managers to better monitor prevailing weather conditions and aid their decision making. Grit bins are currently being filled across the borough.

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