

Portfolio Report

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Fida Hussain,
Cabinet Member for Enterprise.



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

Willmott Dixon Supplier Event

Willmott Dixon held a supplier event at the Hive on 24th Sept 25. The purpose of the event was to help local businesses become part of the supply chain working in Oldham and further afield. Over 30 businesses attended the event and heard about the Willmott Dixon NW pipeline of work as well as practical support covering topics such as health and safety, quality, social value and procurement.

Oldham Business Awards

The 17th Annual Oldham Business Awards took place on 3rd Oct at the QE Hall. It was a spectacular night where over 500 guests were treated to dinner, entertainment provided by Justin Moorhouse and The NQBB as well as the presentation of 12 business awards. This year the winner of the Special Recognition Award went to Kim Rogers, funder of Spark Oldham.

Athena Labs Finale Event

The Athena Labs programme provided support for 9 female founders from Oldham who are looking to start their own business in Oldham. As part of the programme they received support on business and financial modelling, accessing funding and investor readiness as well as 1to1 coaching. Each of the founders successfully finished the programme and attended the finale event In Oct in Leeds which provided them with access to ecosystem experts and investors. Going forward it is hoped that each of the founders will continue to work with support providers in Oldham to enable them to start-up and grow their business in the Borough

Employment & Employability**Get Oldham Working – Update (July to October 2025)**

Between July and September 2025, Get Oldham Working (GOW) engaged over 2,400 residents and supported more than 700 people into employment, with several programmes exceeding targets — including Support to Succeed, which achieved 171% of its quarterly start goal, and In-Work Progression, helping over 100 residents move into better jobs or secure pay increases.

Recent independent evaluation work shows employment in Oldham has grown by around 15% over the past decade, highlighting the strength of GOW's locally focused model in sustaining participation and connecting residents furthest from the labour market into work — even amid significant structural and social challenges.

The Oldham Jobs Fair in September drew over 2,200 visitors and 100 employers, with strong engagement from communities in Alexandra, Werneth, Coldhurst, and St Mary's.

GOW also proudly sponsored Oldham Athletic's match against Bromley and the Oldham Business Awards, strengthening partnerships across local business and community sectors.

In recent months, GOW has also been shortlisted for two national ERSA Awards — recognising excellence in Working for Better Work (Health Solutions) and Partnership & Collaboration — alongside leading organisations from across the UK.

We have also secured £266,000 from the national Digital Inclusion Innovation Fund, which will enable new community digital hubs, mobile outreach, and volunteer training to tackle digital exclusion. Meanwhile, collaboration with Muse Developments and the Council's Inward Investment team ensures local people can access opportunities linked to new regeneration projects.

Operationally, GOW continues to modernise delivery with a central triage system, integrated CRM platform, and rollout of Outcome Star, aligned with Live Well Oldham and neighbourhood teams to achieve better outcomes for residents.

Finally, a huge thank you to all GOW staff and partners for their continued dedication to improving employment, wellbeing, and life opportunities for Oldham residents.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.