

Minutes

MEETING: Chadderton Neighbourhood Board (Plan for Neighbourhoods)

DATE: Tuesday, 30 September 2025

TIME: 10:00

VENUE: Virtual meeting on Microsoft Teams

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	Ahmad, Zakir	CEO, Yuvanis Foundation
	Ashraf, Kashif	Oldham President, Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce
	Chamberlain, Chris	Chief Executive, Oldham RLFC Foundation
	Chapman, Suzy	Business Development Manager, Oldham College
	Consterdine, Neil	Director of Communities, Oldham Council
	Drake, Rebecca	Director, Fullcircle nw
	Freaney, Nicky	North West Group Employer and Partnership Manager, Department for Work and Pensions
	Lockwood, Stuart	Chief Executive, Oldham Community Leisure
	Mahmood, Aisha	Director, Clear Watch Security
	McLaren, Colin (Vice-Chair)	Chair, Chadderton Together
	Nugent, Martin	Senior Policy and Partnership Officer, Safer and Stronger Communities, Greater Manchester Combined Authority
	Partington, Ian	Chief Inspector, Greater Manchester Police
	Taylor, Catherine	Oldham Partnership Manager, Department for Work and Pensions
	Taylor, Councillor Elaine	Deputy Leader, Oldham Council
	Windsor-Welsh, Laura (Chair)	Oldham Director, Action Together
OTHERS PRESENT	Chapman, Dom	Co-Director, Thrive Economics
	Longsdon, Angela	District Co-ordinator for Oldham West (Werneth and Chadderton), Oldham Council
	Penn, Jennifer (Minutes)	Place Making Manager, Oldham Council
APOLOGIES RECEIVED	Jordan, Simon	Principal and Chief Executive, Oldham College
	Mathieson, Estelle	District Commander Oldham, Greater Manchester Police
	McMahon, MP Jim	MP, Oldham West, Chadderton and Royton

	Shah, Councillor Arooj	Leader, Oldham Council
	Shuttleworth, Councillor Graham	West District Community Lead and Councillor for Chadderton South, Oldham Council
	Todd, Christina	Director of Communities, First Choice Homes Oldham

1. Welcome and housekeeping (Chair)
Housekeeping matters were covered, and new and returning members were welcomed.
2. Introductions and apologies for absence (Chair)
Introductions were made and apologies noted.
3. Notice of any urgent business to be accepted onto the agenda and reasons for that urgency (Chair)
None.
4. Procedural business and any items accepted as urgent business (Chair)
<p>i) Declarations of interest</p> <p>Existing declarations were noted. No new declarations were received.</p> <p>ii) Review of minutes and action updates from last meeting</p> <p>The minutes dated 9 September 2025 were agreed as a true record and approved for publication online at oldham.gov.uk.</p>
5. Budget (Chair / Neil Consterdine)
<p>Overall, the Board will receive funding and support totalling up to £20 million. The funding will be split 75% capital and 25% revenue, with slightly different allocations each financial year. The first capital payment will be released in 26/27, <i>subject to Government approval of the Regeneration Plan due for submission by 28 November</i>.</p> <p>In terms of capacity funding (revenue), £250k was received during 23/24 and 24/25. Approximately £89k remains from 23/24 and 24/25, and £200k has been received for 25/26.</p> <p>i) Spend approvals process</p> <p>ACTION: Chair to circulate the draft spend approvals process for comment.</p> <p>ii) Allocations for FY 25/26</p> <p>Indicative allocations were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement/consultation (£50k estimate) • Programme management (£50k estimate) • Regeneration plan (£10k estimate)

- Participation payments (£5-6k estimate)
- Board capacity (£ TBC)
- Community infrastructure/capacity (£60k min. estimate)

6. Engagement and communications – phase two (Chair / Angela Longsdon)

Phase two involves a residents' survey and focus groups by VCFSE organisations by mid-October. It is an opportunity to seek new ideas, as well as to re-visit the original vision, investment plan and pipeline of projects. Outputs will feature in the Regeneration Plan.

There was a general discussion about building alliances with the community and enabling residents to co-design and select projects that reflect local ambitions for Chadderton.

The Board might consider commissioning a third party to go into communities and engage on specific projects, which is the method used by GMCA. Where possible, communities should be empowered to review proposals/bids for support and deliver some of the interventions.

7. Governance (Chair / Dom Chapman)

i) Project approvals process

The Board must include its intended project selection route(s) in the Regeneration Plan. With community collaboration and project co-design being central to programme delivery, and so many project types being considered, the Board may need multiple selection/approval routes.

The Board must apply a degree of both autonomy and flexibility if it is to add value to existing work across all sectors and support established agendas e.g. live well. It will need time to identify possible community leads and/or partners for specific proposals, enable project co-design, and embed participatory processes into decision-making.

Rather than relying solely on the community and business grant schemes to generate specific proposals, the Board will employ lots of methods including networked approaches.

ii) Monitoring and evaluation process

In the absence of national monitoring and evaluation guidance, there was a discussion about setting outputs and outcomes that relate to strategic objectives; taking an approach to monitoring that is proportionate to the level of investment; using local data to establish a baseline; ensuring due diligence (including in relation to subsidy control); and sourcing a facilitator to lead a workshop to inform the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework.

The Board might need to offer extra support to grassroots organisations to help them navigate potentially unfamiliar project/programme management processes and terminology. The Board will need to review/evaluate proposals in the context of existing work to avoid duplication of effort, and accept that some organisations may be unable to deliver large and/or complex schemes, even with the offer of full Board support.

There will be an initial resident survey to create a baseline, followed by annual surveys to measure project and programme impacts against the original priorities and baseline. Traditional and digital survey methods will be employed to ensure accessibility. The resident survey undertaken by GMCA at the local authority (borough) scale could offer high-level data on community perceptions of safety and wellbeing.

The Board will employ a range of measures including proxy measures to gauge both immediate/short-term impacts in years 0-4 *and* longer-term impacts.

ACTION: Chair to determine if other Boards have plans to develop project business cases.

ACTION: Monitoring and evaluation framework workshop to be held in early 2026, led by a facilitator.

Oldham Council will use established mechanisms and processes to monitor projects and the programme. Data must be accessible and not too onerous to collect and interrogate.

8. Regeneration Plan (Vision and Investment Plan) (Dom Chapman)

The current projects are on the Government's list of pre-approved interventions. Although the Government does not require formal business cases for projects, the Board could choose to develop them to ensure transparency and provide the Section 151 Officer with enough detail to review and approve expenditure. Oldham Council can supply business case templates and governance support. Depending on the scale of the project in question and the availability of resource, the Board might develop to Outline Business Case only, or to Full Business Case.

ACTION: Oldham Council to map out governance requirements and introduce proportionate controls relating to risks and finance.

Board members reviewed the indicative spend profile for projects in years 0-4:

- 1) Foxdenton Hall – see agenda item (9)
- 2) Town centre management roles
- 3) Business capital grants scheme – to be part of a broader package of support, promoted to businesses via various means including visual aids
- 4) Community capital grants scheme
- 5) Cultural identity
- 6) Transport/connectivity improvements
- 7) CCTV – provisionally recommended for delivery in years 3-4
- 8) Youth provision
- 9) Programme monitoring and evaluation

There was a consensus to move the precinct project into the latter stages of the programme i.e. beyond years 0-4, partly as a means of freeing up resource early on for the youth project.

Members discussed making the budgets for the community and business capital grant schemes equal. Under both schemes, applicants will be asked to contribute an affordable percentage.

Work is underway to map the investment being leveraged through the programme, and to bring the indicative spend profile in line with that published by Government. The published profile allows for significant revenue spend in 26/27, followed by a more modest revenue allocation for 27/28. The investment plan for years 0-4 requires only headline costs and overall ambitions, but the Board will also work up the detailed spend profile for completeness. The Board might need to use capacity funding revenue or loan funding to bridge any gaps, now that capital will not be released until April 2026 (earliest).

The Government has announced plans to build on the Plan for Neighbourhoods via the Pride in Place Programme. No impacts on the Plan for Neighbourhoods are expected.

ACTION: Aisha Mahmood and Kashif Ashraf to meet in January to start identifying demand for business support and, thereafter, develop a package of financial and non-financial support.

ACTION: Dom Chapman to circulate the revised Regeneration Plan for feedback.

ACTION: Oldham Council to arrange access to the Regeneration Plan portal for Dom Chapman.
9. Update on Foxdenton Hall (Vice-Chair)
<p>The delivery phase will finish next summer, having been extended following delays to the announcement of the grant award; architects have been appointed to complete the Stage 1 process involving submission of planning application by September.</p> <p>Yesterday's in-house workshop with volunteers and cafe supervisors generated many ideas for the events programme. There will be a similar workshop with Board members in Oct/Nov.</p> <p>A target of £50k has been set to cover expected running costs from summer 2028, not accounting for possible inflation and cost increases. The total raised so far is £11k. The aim is to cushion the effects of developing the hall and running the events programme.</p>
10. Action review / next steps (Chair)
See actions in main body of minutes, plus on the action tracker.
11. Any other business (Chair / Angela Longsden)
<p>The Place Making Officer will join the Council's West District Team in Oct/Nov, subject to the usual recruitment checks. The candidate has many transferable skills and vast experience of project and programme management involving the public, private and VCFSE sectors.</p> <p>Angela Longsden spoke on behalf of Councillor Shuttleworth, to present evidence of demand for CCTV at Coalshaw Green Park and ask if the project might be fast-tracked for approval.</p> <p>ACTION: Neil Consterdine and Angela Longsden to explore alternative delivery options for the CCTV project and feed back to Councillor Shuttleworth.</p> <p>ACTION: Dom Chapman to review the sequencing of projects to reflect the day's discussions.</p> <p>ACTION: Chair, Colin McLaren and Liz Dryden-Stuart (Oldham Council) to discuss the work of the New Chadderton Partnership to develop a Neighbourhood Plan by 2027, in the context of the emerging Regeneration Plan and wider programme delivery.</p> <p>ACTION: Angela Longsden to share proposals for ongoing/long-term engagement work for feedback.</p>
12. Time and date of next meeting (Chair)
<p>Tuesday, 21 October (13:00-15:00) at Lydia's Tearoom, Foxdenton Park, Chadderton.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 11:45.</p>