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COUNCIL
17/09/2025 at 6.00 pm



Present: The Mayor Councillor Moores (in the Chair)

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, M Ali, Z Ali, Arnott, Aslam, Azad, Ball, Bashforth, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Chauhan, Chowhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Ghafoor, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, Harrison, Hince, Hindle, Hobin, Hughes, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Kousser, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Navesey, Rustidge, Shah, Sharp, Shuttleworth, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodvine

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lancaster, Quigg and Sheldon.

2 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16th July 2025, be approved as a correct record.

3 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING

Councillor Ghafoor declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 14 (Introduction of Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation) and he left the room during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Hince declared a personal interest in agenda item 10 (Notice of Administration Business – Motion 2 (Setting out our ambition to become a 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough)).

Councillor Bashforth declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business – Motion 2 (Oldham Borough deserves a state-of-the-art police station which must include a custody suite)).

Councillor Murphy declared a personal interest in agenda item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business – Motion 2 (Oldham Borough deserves a state-of-the-art police station which must include a custody suite)).

4 TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS

The Mayor informed Council that regarding agenda item 14 (Introduction of Article 4 Direction for Houses of Multiple Occupation), there was a note in the supplementary agenda pack, at page 69, which detailed corrections to the report. At page 71 of the supplementary agenda pack there were details of a Liberal Democrat amendment to the report.

Regarding agenda item 17 (Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places), the Mayor noted that a revised and updated report had been published and circulated to Members.

5

TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor referred to the recent death of former Christine Dugdale, who represented the Waterhead Ward between 1994 and 2004. Accordingly, Councillors Sykes and Dean addressed Council paying their individual condolences and tributes.

Council held a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Dugdale.

The Mayor advised that the Chief Executive had been notified that Councillors Ball, Quigg and Wilkinson have formed a new Group and will now sit as Reform UK members, with Councillor Quigg as Group Leader. The Mayor informed Council that an updated report on changes to the political balance will be brought to the next Council meeting.

The Mayor confirmed the current political balance of the Council as follows: Labour – 27 seats, Liberal Democrats – 9 seats, Oldham Group – 9 seats, Conservatives – 4 seats, Reform UK – 3 seats, The Independent Group – 2 seats, Failsworth Independence Party – 2 seats, Royton Independents – 2 seats and Royton Local Group – 2 seats

Regarding agenda item 11 (Notice of Opposition Business), the Mayor noted that the timings for this item be allocated as follows: Oldham Group Motion – 12 minutes and 30 seconds, Liberal Democrat Group Motion - 12 minutes and 30 seconds and the Conservative Group's Motion – 5 minutes.

6

TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PETITIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

There were no petitions for this meeting of the Council to consider.

7

YOUTH COUNCIL

There was not a Youth Council Motion for this Council meeting to consider.

8

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

1. Question from Dilber Shabir

What is Oldham Council's plan for protecting the rights for the people and families living in a HMO?

Councillor Taylor, Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thanking Mr Shabir for his question. Oldham Council has a dedicated Housing Options Service which includes a Tenancy Relation's Service.

Any resident or household which needs help, advice and/or support in relation to their housing circumstances can contact the service who would be happy to help. We can offer advice in

person or via the telephone whichever is best for the resident. The resident will be made aware of their statutory rights in terms of tenancy sustainment and should a landlord be acting inappropriately or unlawfully the team can take the necessary action. This can range from ensuring the landlord is aware of their responsibilities and obligations through to undertaking enforcement action where needed.

2. Question from Syed Maruf Ali

I would like to ask the Council what steps it is taking, in partnership with local NHS and public health bodies, to address health inequalities affecting British South Asian communities in Oldham. National NHS data shows only 57% of Bangladeshi/South Asian patients start treatment within 18 weeks, with delays even worse in deprived areas like ours. Many face barriers to access, digital exclusion, and a lack of culturally appropriate care. What targeted work is being done to reduce waiting times, improve access, and ensure fairer outcomes for Bangladeshi/South Asian residents?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing replied, thanking Mr. Maruf for his question.

South Asian communities in Oldham experience notable health inequalities, including higher rates of Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease (CVD), and face barriers to accessing care. CVD risk factors emerge earlier and at lower weights in this population, and local services are under pressure. We are prioritising prevention and early identification to address these disparities.

We work through our **Community Health Champions network**, supported by **Action Together**, to engage anchor organisations and trusted community leaders. This empowers South Asian residents with knowledge about their health and how to access care.

Physical activity is a key focus. We co-develop culturally appropriate opportunities with community groups, embedding activity into daily life and reducing inequalities.

To prevent CVD and diabetes, we support residents to quit smoking and alternative tobacco use and maintain a healthy weight. **Your Health Oldham** provides tailored weight management and cessation services, including work with the **Women's Chai Project**.

The **ICB** and **Oldham Community Leisure** are collaborating on CVD prevention, with culturally aware education and train-the-trainer sessions to build community capacity.

3. Question from Lewis Farnworth

Due to the rise inflation of 3.9 what support will you give to the lowest paid households for example UNPAID CARERS and pensioners as food price continues to rise and the essentials becoming more unaffordable?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing replied, thanking Mr. Farnworth for his question. The cost of living crisis is sadly affecting households across the country.

We launched our 'We Can Help' campaign to ensure we are doing our bit to help here in Oldham. We can support residents to access food including emergency food parcels and vouchers including accessing day to day essentials. We can also support through our Warm Homes Odham team to keep their homes warm and also offer advice to save on energy bills.

Advice is also on hand on claiming benefits and with personal budgeting. Further information is available by visiting the Council Website, by calling the Helpline service on 0161 770 7007 or by visiting one of our Libraries or the Customer Service Centre at Spindles. We encourage this resident to share their contact details and we will arrange a call back from the Helpline Team at a convenient time.

In addition, for those unpaid carers requiring support, our Oldham Carers' Service (led by Adult Social Care) offers a range of free services for unpaid carers across Oldham.

If you are having difficulties caring for a partner, family member or friend who could not manage without your help, then you are a carer.

Oldham's Carers' Service can assist with information and advice about:

- Health issues
- Entitlement to benefits
- Equipment and assistive technologies
- Carers rights
- Carers employment issues
- One-to-One Practical and Emotional Support
- Carers Assessments
- Carers Personal Budgets (subject to eligibility)
- Signposting / Referrals to Social Services and Other Providers
 - Oldham Carers Emergency Support Scheme
 - Access to Carers Support Groups and Networks

I won't read the contact details out but I'll ensure constitutional services publish them so you can get in touch with the ASC Carers Team if need be.

By phoning 0161 770 7777 option 2, via email to ARCC@Oldham.gov.uk or our online referral form here: [Oldham Carers' Services](#) | [Oldham Carers' Services](#) | [Oldham Council](#)

4. Question from Richard Lowe-Jackson

Given the new EVCI strategy relies on commercially priced on-street chargers, what specific steps will the council take to mitigate the significant financial penalty imposed on the 60% of residents without driveways, many of whom have lower incomes, to ensure the transition to EVs is fair and equitable for all?"

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied

Thanking Mr Lowe-Jackson for his question.

Oldham Council is making several investments in Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure across the borough, which is targeted at residents who do not have the potential to install their own chargers at home.

As portfolio lead, I have asked officers working on the various projects to ensure that costs to residents are kept as low as possible, so the new charging infrastructure will generally be standard speed chargers so that residents are not paying a premium for rapid chargers.

I will also be writing to the government soon, requesting that more support is provided, including funding, lowering VAT rates for public chargers to match the VAT rate for domestic electricity supplies, and to require charge-point operators to pass on off-peak savings on electricity costs to their customers.

5. Question from Jeff Garner

Please could Oldham Council support the residents of Friezland, Greenfield, who lost the 356 bus service immediately after the Bee Network took over in April? This cut off the community by diverting the service elsewhere, due to having insufficient suitable vehicles to negotiate narrow roads. The service previously ran successfully.

I am asking the relevant person at the council to request the Mayor of Greater Manchester to insist that suitable vehicles are found immediately. Then local residents, in particular the disabled and those without cars, can resume using public transport for essential shopping and medical appointments. Five months on and they are still waiting.

Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport replied

Thanking Mr Lowe-Jackson for his question.

We are acutely aware of the impact this matter has had on local residents. Officers have been supporting myself and Cllr Charters as Deputy Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport Portfolio in raising this issue with TfGM on a number of occasions.

The most recent response to the Council from TfGM was on 4 September 2025, stating that new vehicles have been introduced and testing is ongoing – it is anticipated that once the vehicle transfers are complete, the 356 service will become operational – at this moment, it is expected to come online week commencing 22 September. TfGM have stated that they will confirm the exact date closure to the time.

The Council will continue to follow-up on this issue on behalf of residents of Oldham, as buses remain a key and important part of our transport network in Oldham.

6. Question from Michael Powell

To ensure good governance and accountability, this Council's leadership must be subject to effective scrutiny. At the previous meeting, just one opposition group leader was able to question the Leader. The other two main opposition leaders could not, and no other councillors were able to directly challenge the Leader either. Scrutiny was also limited when questioning cabinet members, as they appeared to read the reports throughout question time.

Will the Leader of the Council commit to upholding democratic principles by allowing all opposition leaders and councillors to scrutinise her and cabinet members at every Council meeting?

Councillor Jabbar, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Sustainability, replied, thanking Mr Powell for his question.

Effective scrutiny involved the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holders being scrutinised and held accountable by opposition members, so, in this regard, he emphasised the importance of allowing all opposition leaders and councillors to scrutinise her and cabinet members at every Council meeting?

7. Question from Matthew Broadbent

The Beal Valley-Broadbent Moss PFE allocation, covering the wards of Shaw, south Royton, and St. James', will see 1,600 houses built. Places for Everyone requires development to be in accordance with a masterplan agreed by the council. Approval of the masterplan will apparently be solely at the discretion of the cabinet. Given that no party in the chamber has a clear electoral mandate from the people of Oldham to govern and the impacted wards are excluded from cabinet representation, does the Leadership agree that it would be more democratic to let full council decide approval of the masterplan?

Councillor Taylor, Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thanking Mr Broadbent for his question.

To clarify – the Masterplan, if agreed by the Council, would be an informal planning policy document used to inform consideration of future planning applications. Such planning policy documentation is an executive function under national legislation and the Council's Constitution.

Section 9D of the Local Government Act 2000, any decision-making powers that aren't specifically listed in government regulations as being the responsibility of the full council are automatically the responsibility of the council's Cabinet.

The Local Authorities Regulations 2000 list which functions must be handled by the full council and not by the Cabinet. These include major decisions like setting the budget or approving the council's overall strategy.

In this regard, the Cabinet acts for the whole borough, as planning decisions, particularly those related to the provision of housing and employment land, have impacts beyond local wards and are necessary to ensure all development and infrastructure needs are met across the borough.

8. Question from Pat Cliffe

20mph zones are established in most Saddleworth villages but in Diggle, having Secondary, Primary, and Nursery Schools on the main road, there is, apparently, no progress, despite discussions with councillors, and speeds measured. Proposals are mooted for a scheme at the Secondary School, but not the whole village, where speeding cars are concerning residents, and where there have been two recent significant accidents - one near the Primary School, the other causing the main road to close due to injuries and police investigations. Please could the

cabinet member update on residents' consultation, and commit to a scheme covering the whole village?"



Councillor Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways replied, thanking Pat Cliffe for the question. The Council recognise and supports the need to improve road safety for all the boroughs residents and has been at the forefront of introducing 20mph schemes.

A 20mph speed limit scheme for Diggle, with traffic calming measures in the vicinity of the new school has been developed. The proposals have been discussed with the Ward Members and the Statutory Processes required to consult on and introduce the measures is underway.

The traffic calming measures are funded via a Section 278 agreement with Redrow which is attached to the Planning Consent for the new residential development. At present, there is no funding available for traffic calming features on a larger area. However, the whole village area of Huddersfield Road and residential side roads are included in the 20mph speed limit order. Once the limit has been in place for a couple of months, the Council will carry out speed surveys. If the sign only scheme hasn't achieved the desired reduction in speeds, we will look to install target traffic calming measures which will be consulted upon - these measures will be funded from 2026 Highways Capital Works budget. The public will be able to comment on the proposals when the Legal Orders and Notices are advertised in the next couple of months.

9. Question from Rita Ireland

Who decided on the name change for Oldham Library and did all councillors vote on this?

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth, replied Thanking Rita Ireland for her question.

Naming buildings, property, parks, does not require a decision or vote by all councillors.

The fact that members of this chamber have claimed they have not heard of John Robert Clynes says more about them. A man who worked in an Oldham cotton mill at ten years old, self-educated, who wrote passionately about the abhorrent conditions of child labour in the textile industry he toiled in.

He championed social reforms, including a plan for benefits for widows, orphans, and the elderly, which was later enacted by the Conservative government in 1925. He improved working conditions for miners, settled strikes, improved pay for labourers, deplored fascism and committed his life to making sure the working class were represented.

The fact he worked his way up from his humble beginnings to eventually become Home Secretary in 1929 is extraordinary, and we should all be proud of him, a truly great Oldhamer.

10. Question from Dawn Bardsley

As a resident of Shaw, I speak for residents with regards to the planning application of the 20-bedroom HMO at the former health centre, High Street, Shaw.

Why were residents not given a fair opportunity to sign the official ePetition on OMBC website, which ran without a functioning signature option? • Will the council commit to reopening the petition so that genuine community opposition can be registered and considered? This application is fundamentally flawed, and these questions demand clear answers before any decision is made. Anything less would be a failure of due process and a disregard for Shaw residents.

Councillor Taylor, Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods replied, thanking Dawn for her question. The Council recognises resident concerns regarding HMOs - however, consideration of a planning application by the council as local planning authority is governed by national legislation, and planning applications must be considered on the planning matters relevant to the particular application.

As a result, the comments on planning matters made within a petition are considered alongside the comments made directly on the planning application by residents when assessing the application, regardless of how many signatures are on the petition.

I am aware that a petition was received containing over 776 signatures opposing the HMO. As this is part of the planning process, it has been shared with officers in planning. There was also an online e-Petition and I am sorry to hear that there might have been an issue with this.

I have asked the Assistant Director of Governance to review the petitions process, and an update will be provided to the Group Leaders.

The Mayor advised that unanswered questions, that had been submitted, would be published to the Council's website, with written answers, in due course.

9

QUESTIONS TO LEADER AND CABINET

In respect of this agenda item Councillor Woodvine MOVED and Councillor Byrne SECONDED that Council Procedure Rule Part 4a, section 2.1.3 be suspended, to permit Councillor Woodvine to ask a question to the Leader of the Council, if time ran out on this item. On being put to the vote, the Motion was LOST.

The Mayor invited the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Members to present their reports and further invited non-executive members to ask questions thereon (written questions and answers submitted to the Leader and Cabinet Members were attached at Appendix A (and have been published to the Council's website):

Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Growth – including the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 16th June 2025; the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 27th June 2025; and the minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held 27th June 2025.

Councillor Sykes, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group

Question 1: Oldham Coliseum



Thank you, Mister Mayor

Last December, Councillor Shah made a clear promise to the people of Oldham, that the Oldham Coliseum would be open in time for the 25 Panto season. But we've known for a long time now that we've been unable to keep that promise. The refurbishment of the theatre has been delayed. We're waiting on whatever additional works means, which no one seems interested in explaining, and no date for the reopening has been set.

Mister Mayor, the community fought tooth and nail to save the Coliseum. They shouldn't be left in the dark over its future. A statement about the delays, or delay, but with no details was issued at the start of June. Its months now since I asked the Leader for details of its refurbishment, So I wrote to her at the end of July about these matters and got a non-answer with still no further information. So, since June, three months ago, we're no closer to the answers. So, I'll ask them again tonight. Can the Leader outline the new timeline for completion and when we can realistically expect the doors of the Coliseum to reopen. What are the extra costs required, and what will they cost? And can she confirm whether the budget allocated for this project is sufficient, or are we now looking at potential overspends, further delays or even a scaling back of the plans? Residents, the community, the business community, and everybody deserves some clarity and answers please.

Councillor Shah, the Leader of the Council replied that some of the information requested by Councillor Sykes cannot be shared publicly as it related to commercial activities being undertaken by the Friends of the Coliseum and of other contractors.

Councillor Shah added that the Friends of the Coliseum had asked for more time to be spent on the works, including an extension for additional works to be undertaken. The Leader was, therefore, unable to give a definitive date for the Coliseum's reopening. The Friends Group were aware that the Theatre wouldn't be ready for the 2025/26 Panto season.

Question 2:

Thank you, I thank the Leader for her 'I don't know' answer. My second question, Mister Mayor, is to ask why Labour and their colleagues can't get the basics right. Weeds are running riot across our borough, grids and drains are blocked and in my part of the world, we're told to wait until next May before they'll be attended to, and this just isn't acceptable. In Shaw and Crompton, like elsewhere, we've got weeds growing like it's some rewilding experiment gone wrong. Knee high, unkempt and completely ignored. We've reported them. Residents have reported them, but nothing changes. It's as if the Council's new environmental strategy is just wait for winter or a passing herd of cattle to come and eat them or kill them off. And let's not forget the blocked gulleys, which are overflowing and will need digging out if left to rot, which is the current strategy. It's a flooding hazard. It's an eyesore, and it's a symbol of this administration's

failure and makes our neighbourhoods look uncared and unloved.

Last year, we were told cuts to environmental services officers wouldn't affect frontline services. That was clearly nonsense, wasn't it? Streets aren't cleaned, weeds aren't treated, drains aren't cleared, and the only thing growing faster than the weed under this leadership is public frustration with these matters. So, my questions to the leader tonight are simple. Why can't your coalition get the basic services right, when you admit that your cuts have left neighbourhoods looking neglected and unloved? What will you actually do urgently to clear the weeds, clean the gulleys, and even restore a shred of civic pride to this borough?

Before Councillor Shah was able to answer Councillor Sykes' second question, the Mayor ruled that time had elapsed for this item. Therefore, Councillor Shah undertook to provide Councillor Sykes with a written answer.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Leader and Portfolio Holder reports be noted.
2. That the written questions and answers submitted to the Leader and Portfolio Holders, attached at Appendix A, be noted.
3. That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held 16th June 2025; the minutes of meeting of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority held 27th June 2025; and the minutes of the meeting of the AGMA Executive Board held 27th June 2025, be noted.

10

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza

Moved by Councillor Mushtaq

Seconded by Councillor Taylor

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7th, leaked data from the IDFs own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza war that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state "That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time."

When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties. The number of civilians impacted by this war in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

This Council notes:

- The UK Government's announcement on 29 July 2025 that it will formally recognise the State of Palestine in September.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government's aid delivery model as "dangerous, fuelling instability and

depriving Gazans of human dignity," and called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire".

- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as "inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability," and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.
- That the famine is a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict, displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access.

This Council believes:

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region.
- That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life.
- That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the famine.
- That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution, but the time for action has never been more apparent given that a famine has been declared.
- That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues.
- That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.

This Council resolves to:

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.
3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through

further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.

4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.

AMENDMENT 1

AMENDMENT 1 was MOVED BY Councillor Ghafoor and SECONDED BY Councillor Wahid.

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7th, leaked data from the IDF's own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza war **Genocide** that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state "That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time." **This level of civilian death is as a result of deliberate ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, deliberate act of forced starvation as a weapon of war consistent with the definition of genocide.**

When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties.

The number of civilians impacted by this war **Genocide** in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

This Council notes:

- The UK Government's announcement on 29 July 2025 that it will formally recognise the State of Palestine in September.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government's aid delivery model as "dangerous, fuelling instability and depriving Gazans of human dignity," and called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire".
- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as "inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability," and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of

extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.

- That the famine is a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict, displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access **not a natural disaster but a deliberate act of forced starvation as a weapon of war, consistent with the definition of genocide.**

This Council believes:

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region.
- That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life **is the result of deliberate ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, and mass displacement that demands urgent accountability as well as humanitarian action.**
- That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the famine **man-made famine and forced starvation.**
- That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution **failure of moral clarity when they praise "moral leadership" while continuing to arm and politically shield Israel.**
- That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues **and local authorities must not collude in the sanitisation of atrocity crimes. Our residents deserve honesty: this is genocide and ethnic cleansing, not simply a "humanitarian crisis."**
- That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood. **This Council reaffirms that recognition is long overdue and must be accompanied by a full suspension of UK arms sales to Israel and support for international accountability.**
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity **diplomatic progress, while recognising they fall short of calling out genocide and forced starvation by name.**
3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access **acknowledge genocide, suspend arms sales to Israel, accelerate and expand**

humanitarian assistance, and demand unrestricted aid access.

4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action **calling not only for recognition of a Palestinian state but also for explicit recognition of genocide, suspension of arms sales, and support for international criminal accountability.**

In accordance with Council Procedure Rules, 8.4(k) it was MOVED that this Council meeting be adjourned until Wednesday, 12th November 2025 at 4.30 p.m.

On being put to the VOTE, the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED: That the Council meeting be adjourned until Wednesday, 12th November 2025 4.30 p.m.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and was adjourned at 8.27pm.

COUNCIL
12/11/2025 (reconvened) at 4.30 pm

Councillor Moores (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Adams, Akhtar, Al-Hamdani, M Ali, Z Ali, Arnott, Aslam, Azad, Ball, Bashforth, Bishop, Brownridge, Byrne, Charters, Chauhan, Chowhan, Cosgrove, Davis, Dean, Ghafoor, Goodwin, Hamblett, Harkness, Harrison, Hince, Hindle, Hobin, Hughes, Hurley, A Hussain, F Hussain, J. Hussain, S. Hussain, Ibrahim, Iqbal, Islam, Jabbar, Kenyon, Kousser, Malik, Marland, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Nasheen, Navesey, Rustidge, Shah, Sharp, Shuttleworth, Sykes, Taylor, Wahid, Wilkinson, Williamson and Woodvine

On being reconvened the Mayor reminded Council that the meeting on 17th September had been adjourned, approximately 27 minutes into consideration of Agenda Item 10 - Notice of Administration Business – and Council was considering Motion 1 - 'Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza'. At the precise time of the adjournment Members were considering Amendment 1 from the Oldham Group.

The Mayor advised that any Member who was not at the meeting on the 17th September could remain in the Chamber to observe this item, however they could not take part in the discussion or vote on this matter as they were not present to hear the full debate, but were able to take part in the remainder of the business on the agenda.

In line with Council Procedure Rule 2.1.6, any motion under debate will be put to the vote and any outstanding motions will be moved and seconded and a vote taken.



Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid SECONDED a MOTION to suspend Council Procedure Rule 13.3, to allow for the amendment of the Oldham Group's submitted Amendment to this Motion.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION, as follows:

OUNCILLOR		OUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Fida	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Zaheer	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Azad Montaz Ali	APOLOGIES	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Kouser Aisha	FOR
Bishop Helen	FOR	Lancaster Luke	Absent on 17 th September
Bashforth Marie	APOLOGIES	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Chowhan Naveed	FOR	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	Absent on 17 th September
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	FOR
Hamblett Louie	FOR	Sheldon Graham	Absent on 17 th September
Harkness Garth	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST

Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wilkinson Mark	APOLOGIES
Hughes Jade	ABSENT	Williamson Diane	ABSENT
Hurley Maggie	ABSENT	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 19 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 31 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore LOST.

Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid SECONDED a MOTION to suspend Council Procedure Rule 12.4, to allow for the withdrawal of the Oldham Group's AMENDMENT to the Labour group's Motion.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION, as follows:

OUNCILLOR		OUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	FOR	Hussain Fida	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	FOR	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	FOR	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	ABSTAINED
Ali Zaheer	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	FOR	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Azad Montaz Ali	APOLOGIES	Kenyon Mark	ABSTAINED
Ball Sandra	FOR	Kouser Aisha	ABSTAINED
Bishop Helen	FOR	Lancaster Luke	Absent on 17 th September
Bashforth Marie	APOLOGIES	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	ABSTAINED
Byrne Pam	FOR	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	ABSTAINED
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Chowhan Naveed	FOR	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	Absent on

			17 th September
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	FOR	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	ABSTAINED
Hamblett Louie	ABSTAINED	Sheldon Graham	Absent on 17 th September
Harkness Garth	FOR	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	ABSTAINED
Hince Marc	ABSTAINED	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	ABSTAINED
Hobin Brian	ABSTAINED	Wilkinson Mark	APOLOGIES
Hughes Jade	ABSENT	Williamson Diane	ABSENT
Hurley Maggie	ABSENT	Woodvine Max	ABSTAINED
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 20 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 27 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 3 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore LOST.

Council voted on the AMENDMENT 1, submitted by the Oldham Group.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION, as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	ABSTAINED	Hussain Fida	AGAINST
Akhtar Shoab	ABSTAINED	Hussain Junaid	AGAINST
Al-Hamdani Sam	ABSTAINED	Hussain Sajed	AGAINST
Ali Mohon	AGAINST	Ibrahim Nyla	FOR
Ali Zaheer	ABSTAINED	Iqbal Nadeem	AGAINST
Arnott Dave	ABSTAINED	Islam Mohammed Nazrul	AGAINST
Aslam Naseem	AGAINST	Jabbar Abdul	AGAINST
Azad Montaz Ali	APOLOGIES	Kenyon Mark	FOR
Ball Sandra	ABSTAINED	Kouser Aisha	FOR
Bishop Helen	ABSTAINED	Lancaster Luke	Absent on 17 th September
Bashforth Marie	APOLOGIES	Malik Abdul	AGAINST
Brownridge Barbara	AGAINST	Marland Alicia	FOR

Byrne Pam	ABSTAINED	McLaren Colin	AGAINST
Charters Josh	AGAINST	Murphy Dave	FOR
Cosgrove Angela	AGAINST	Mushtaq Shaid	AGAINST
Chauhan Zahid	AGAINST	Nasheen Umar	AGAINST
Chowhan Naveed	ABSTAINED	Navesey Lisa	AGAINST
Davis Peter	AGAINST	Quigg Lewis	Absent on 17 th September
Dean Peter	AGAINST	Rustidge Ken	AGAINST
Ghafoor Kamran	ABSTAINED	Shah Arooj	AGAINST
Goodwin Chris	AGAINST	Sharp Beth	FOR
Hamblett Louie	ABSTAINED	Sheldon Graham	Absent on 17 th September
Harkness Garth	ABSTAINED	Shuttleworth Graham	AGAINST
Harrison Holly	AGAINST	Sykes Howard	FOR
Hince Marc	AGAINST	Taylor Elaine	AGAINST
Hindle Neil	AGAINST	Wahid Abdul	FOR
Hobin Brian	AGAINST	Wilkinson Mark	APOLOGIES
Hughes Jade	ABSENT	Williamson Diane	ABSENT
Hurley Maggie	ABSENT	Woodvine Max	FOR
Hussain Aftab	AGAINST	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	AGAINST

On a recorded VOTE being taken 0 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of AMENDMENT 1, with 30 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 20 ABSTENTIONS. AMENDMENT 1 Was therefore LOST.

AMENDMENT 2

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED AMENDMENT 2 as follows:

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7th, leaked data from the IDF's own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza war that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state "That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time."

When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties. The number of civilians impacted by this war in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

This Council notes:

- The UK Government's announcement on 29 July 2025 that it will formally recognise the State of Palestine in September, unless Israel meets certain conditions.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government's aid delivery model as "dangerous, fuelling instability and depriving Gazans of human dignity," and called for an "immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire".
- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as "inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability," and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.
- That the famine is a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict, displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access.

This Council believes:

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region, and should not be a bargaining chip in negotiations.
- That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life.
- That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the famine.
- That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution, but the time for action has never been more apparent given that a famine has been declared.
- That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues.
- That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.

This Council resolves to:

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace

process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July. This Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.

2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.
3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.
4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.

On being put to the VOTE AMENDMENT 2 was declared LOST.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

This Council resolves to:

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of moral leadership and international solidarity.
3. Urge the UK Government to accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access.
4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action.

Motion 2: Setting out our ambition to become a 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough

Moved by Councillor Brownridge

Seconded by Councillor Rustidge

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is one of the most urgent and time-critical medical emergencies — and without swift intervention, it is almost always fatal. Community defibrillators are a vital public health asset, offering immediate, life-saving support in those critical first minutes before emergency services arrive.

Thanks to the growing number of defibrillators across our borough, lives are already being saved. But we cannot afford to be complacent. The evidence is clear: rapid access to a defibrillator dramatically increases the chances of survival. Every second counts — and every community deserves to be protected.

By working in partnership with local organisations and empowering residents with the tools and knowledge they need, we can make Oldham a national leader, and potentially the first 'Defibrillator Friendly' borough in England.

This Council notes:

- Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is one of the leading causes of sudden death in the UK.
- Around 55 incidents occur per 100,000 people every year, and tragically, eight out of ten of these cardiac arrests happen at home.
- Survival rates remain desperately low, with only around 9% of patients surviving to hospital discharge.
- In these moments, every second counts, early CPR and access to a defibrillator can be the difference between life and death.

This Council further notes:

- Here in Oldham, we face a stark reality: 64 of our community defibrillators are currently offline.
- The local registered charity, Defibrillators Save Lives, has already proven its capability in supporting communities across Oldham, they have installed, maintained, and checked dozens of defibrillators.
- They work directly with the North West Ambulance Service to ensure these devices are correctly registered on The Circuit and activated in an emergency.

This Council resolves to work in collaboration with Defibrillators Save Lives to:

- Map and monitor all public-access defibrillators across the borough,
- Ensure offline devices are repaired, restored or replaced and brought back into service,
- Establish a routine checking and reporting system using The Circuit,
- Provide education and awareness so that residents not only know where defibrillators are but also how to use them with confidence, similar to the hugely success Defib Day they ran in The Spindles 9th August.

This Council further resolves:

- To firmly state our ambition for Oldham to become the first 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough in the England.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION was CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

1. This Council resolves to work in collaboration with Defibrillators Save Lives to:
 - a. Map and monitor all public-access defibrillators across the borough.

- b. Ensure offline devices are repaired, restored or replaced and brought back into service.
- c. Establish a routine checking and reporting system using The Circuit,
- d. Provide education and awareness so that residents not only know where defibrillators are but also how to use them with confidence, similar to the hugely success Defib Day they ran in The Spindles 9th August.
- 2. This Council further resolves, to firmly state our ambition for Oldham to become the first 'Defibrillator Friendly' Borough in the England.

11

NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS

Motion 1: Provision of Free School Travel for all Children in Temporary Accommodation

Moved by Councillor Akhtar

Seconded by Councillor Chowhan

1. Reason for Motion

To ensure that children living in temporary accommodation (TA) in Oldham are not disadvantaged by their housing situation and can maintain stability in education.

"No child should be punished for their family's housing situation".

2. Background (Latest Facts)

Oldham picture

- At 31 March 2025, there were 562 households in temporary accommodation in Oldham (Table TA4).
- In Q1 2025 (Jan–Mar) there were 310 households with children (748 Children between 0-18) in TA (most recently published government data).
- TA is intended to be short-term (around six weeks), but Oldham data show many households remain beyond 6 months across B&B and nightly-paid placements.
- Composition (Oldham, 31 Mar 2025):
 - B&B: 173 households (incl. cases over 6 months).
 - Nightly paid, self-contained: 259 households (many 6–12 months and 1–2 years).
 - Hostels: 5 | Private sector leased: 87 | LA/HA stock: 38.

National/GM context

- England total: 131,140 households in TA (31 Mar 2025).
- Law already provides free school travel if:
 - a. >2 miles (under 8) or >3 miles (8+), or
 - b. no safe walking route, or
 - c. child cannot walk due to SEND/disability/mobility needs.
- Locally, children with an EHC Plan are supported from a SEN perspective and continue to receive travel assistance where already in place.
- GM operating practice: when a family is in paid nightly TA in another GM borough, they can apply for bus passes

from the host borough, but only if they meet standard distance criteria—leaving a gap for many placed nearer than the mileage thresholds yet far from their original school.

Political momentum: The Manchester Evening News campaign calls for free bus passes for children in TA living >30 minutes' walk from school. As of 25 Aug 2025, six GM MPs publicly back the campaign. No GM local authority has yet adopted a borough-wide concession.

Why discretionary action is needed

Children rehoused (often suddenly) can face long, complex, and costly journeys to their existing school—leading to lateness, absence, and stress.

The statutory mileage rules do not cover many TA cases; discretionary support is therefore required to protect educational continuity.

3. Current Position in Oldham

Oldham complies with national transport duties and supports pupils eligible under distance/safety/SEND criteria. Children in TA who fall short of mileage thresholds (or are rehoused across GM) face a policy gap. Acting now would make Oldham the first GM authority to introduce a dedicated concession for children in TA.

4. Proposal

This Council resolves:

1. To extend free school travel (bus pass or taxi, as appropriate) to all school-aged children living in TA in Oldham, irrespective of statutory mileage thresholds.
2. To instruct officers in Children's Services, Education and Transport to:
 - a. Define eligibility based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM).
 - b. Develop delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid models), with clear safeguarding standards.
 - c. Assess financial implications and identify funding sources (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding; partnership with TfGM and operators; targeted charitable/hardship support).
3. To report back to Cabinet within 12 weeks with:
 - a. A recommended delivery model.
 - b. Estimated budget and funding options.
 - c. An implementation timetable aiming to begin before the next academic term.
4. To ensure the scheme embeds safeguarding, equality and inclusion, and aligns with existing SEND/EHC travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.

5. **Additional resolution** – The Council further resolves to:
 - a. Call on Oldham's two Members of Parliament to publicly support the campaign for free school travel for children in TA across Greater Manchester.
 - b. Urge the Mayor of Greater Manchester to introduce a regionwide scheme that guarantees free transport for children in TA, ensuring no child is penalised for their families housing situation.

6. **Expected Outcomes**

- a. Improved attendance and punctuality for children in TA.
- b. Educational continuity and wellbeing during periods of acute housing instability.
- c. Oldham leadership in closing a known policy gap ahead of GM peers.

7. **Recommendation**

That Oldham Council supports this motion, becoming the first authority in Greater Manchester to guarantee free school travel for children in temporary accommodation, setting a clear and compassionate standard for others to follow.

AMENDMENT 1

Councillor Ghafoor MOVED and Councillor Wahid
SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

1. Reason for Motion

To ensure that children living in temporary accommodation (TA) in Oldham are not disadvantaged by their housing situation and can maintain stability in education.

“No child should be punished for their family’s housing situation.”

2. Background (Latest Facts)

Oldham picture

- At 31 March 2025, there were **562 households** in temporary accommodation in Oldham (Table TA4).
- In **Q1 2025 (Jan–Mar)** there were **310 households with children (748 children aged 0–18)** in TA (most recently published government data).
- TA is intended to be short-term (around **six weeks**), but Oldham data show many households remain **beyond 6 months** across B&B and nightly-paid placements.
- Composition (Oldham, 31 Mar 2025):
 - **B&B:** 173 households (includes cases >6 months).
 - **Nightly paid, self-contained:** 259 households (many **6–12 months** and **1–2 years**).
 - **Hostels:** 5 | **Private sector leased:** 87 | **LA/HA stock:** 38.

National/GM context

- **England total:** 131,140 households in TA (31 Mar 2025).
- Statutory free school travel where:
 - **>2 miles** (under 8) or **>3 miles** (8+), or

- **no safe walking route**, or
- **SEND/disability/mobility** prevents walking.
- Locally, children with an **EHC Plan** are supported from a SEN perspective and continue to receive travel assistance where already in place.
- **GM practice:** families in **paid nightly TA** in another GM borough may apply for bus passes from the **host borough**, but only if they meet **standard distance criteria**—leaving a gap for many placed nearer than mileage thresholds yet far from their original school.
- **Political momentum:** the *Manchester Evening News* campaign calls for free bus passes for children in TA **>30 minutes' walk** from school. As of **25 Aug 2025**, **six GM MPs** publicly back the campaign. **No GM local authority** has yet adopted a borough-wide concession.

Why discretionary action is needed

Children rehoused (often suddenly) can face long, complex and costly journeys to their existing school—leading to **lateness, absence and stress**. The statutory mileage rules **do not cover many TA cases**; discretionary support is therefore required to protect educational continuity.

3. Current Position in Oldham

Oldham complies with national transport duties and supports pupils eligible under **distance/safety/SEND** criteria. Children in TA who fall short of mileage thresholds (or are rehoused across GM) face a **policy gap**. Acting now would make Oldham the **first GM authority** to introduce a dedicated concession for children in TA.

4. Proposal (Re-ordered to comply with Budget & Policy Framework)

This Council resolves:

1. **To request the Cabinet** to bring forward, within **12 weeks**, a report setting out **options** to improve access to school for children in TA, including (but not limited to):
 - The feasibility of **extending free school travel** (bus pass and/or taxi) to children in TA irrespective of mileage thresholds;
 - Eligibility definitions based on **verified TA status** (including placements within and across GM);
 - Delivery models (**bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts**, or hybrid), with clear **safeguarding standards**;
 - **Legal, financial and equality** implications (including Section 149 Equality Act assessment);
 - **Funding options** (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding, partnership with **TfGM** and operators, and targeted charitable/hardship support);
 - An **implementation timetable** (including scope for a time-limited **pilot**).
2. **That no decision to implement** any new concession is taken **until** Cabinet (or Council where required) has considered the report and **identified funding** in line

with the **Financial Procedure Rules** and the **agreed budget/MTFP** (or approved virement/other lawful funding mechanism).

3. **Subject to** such approval and funding being identified, to **proceed to implement** the preferred option, ensuring alignment with existing **SEND/EHC** travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.

5. Additional Resolution

This Council further resolves to:

- **Call on Oldham's two Members of Parliament** to publicly support the campaign for free school travel for children in TA across Greater Manchester; and
- **Urge the Mayor of Greater Manchester** to introduce a **region-wide** scheme that guarantees free transport for children in TA, ensuring no child is penalised for their family's housing situation.

6. Expected Outcomes

- **Improved attendance and punctuality** for children in TA.
- **Educational continuity and wellbeing** during periods of acute housing instability.
- **Oldham leadership** in closing a known policy gap ahead of GM peers.

7. Recommendation

That Council adopts this amended motion and refers it to **Cabinet** for the options report and subsequent decision in line with budgetary and constitutional requirements.

On being put to the VOTE, AMENDMENT 1 was CARRIED (and became the substantive Motion).

AMENDMENT 2

Councillor Taylor the MOVER of AMENDMENT 2 addressed Council outlining the reasons why AMENDMENT 2 should be withdrawn.

On being put to the VOTE the MOTION was CARRIED and AMENDMENT 2 was withdrawn

On being put to the VOTE, the MOTION, as AMENDED (by AMENDMENT 1), was CARRIED.

RESOLVED

This Council resolves:

1. To request the Cabinet to bring forward, within 12 weeks, a report setting out options to improve access to school for children in TA, including (but not limited to):
 - The feasibility of extending free school travel (bus pass and/or taxi) to children in TA irrespective of mileage thresholds;

- Eligibility definitions based on verified TA status (including placements within and across GM);
- Delivery models (bus passes, pre-approved taxi contracts, or hybrid), with clear safeguarding standards;
- Legal, financial and equality implications (including Section 149 Equality Act assessment);
- Funding options (e.g. Homelessness Prevention funding, partnership with TfGM and operators, and targeted charitable/hardship support);
- An implementation timetable (including scope for a time-limited pilot).

2. That no decision to implement any new concession is taken until Cabinet (or Council where required) has considered the report and identified funding in line with the Financial Procedure Rules and the agreed budget/MTFP (or approved virement/other lawful funding mechanism).
3. Subject to such approval and funding being identified, to proceed to implement the preferred option, ensuring alignment with existing SEND/EHC travel assistance so support is continuous where already in place.
4. That Council adopts this amended motion and refers it to Cabinet for the options report and subsequent decision in line with budgetary and constitutional requirements.

Motion 2: Oldham Borough deserves a state-of-the-art police station which must include a custody suite

Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani
Seconded by Councillor Marland

The Council notes that:

- With the closure of custody suites at both Oldham and Chadderton, Oldham Borough currently has no dedicated facilities open to process detainees.
- Additional services lost include the Magistrates Court, County Court, and police stations in Failsworth, Chadderton and Royton, with other facilities having no face-to-face service, and access to other sites removed, such as in Shaw.
- Current processes mean that officers are required to process detainees at Tameside, which means additional travel time of over an hour for each arrest.
- The current police station in Oldham has been beyond its service life for a number of years, with the current chief constable in 2021 describing the comparing the building to those in the old East Germany.
- The Chief Constable also noted that: “custody facilities being tethered to the right operating base is really important”.

The Council further notes the most recent report of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on custody provision in Manchester,

including that:

- Leadership for custody provision isn't strong enough to make sure the service is provided well and achieves appropriate outcomes for detainees. There is limited prioritisation of custody by senior officers or engagement in how custody is provided. There hasn't been enough improvement since our previous inspection. Significant concerns remain.
- The position is exacerbated by a large increase in the number of detainees entering custody. This makes it difficult for staff to fulfil all their duties and meet detainees' needs.
- The force should deal with detainees promptly and minimise the time they spend in custody by - booking detainees into custody promptly and prioritising them appropriately, especially children and those who are vulnerable; ... and finally, the Council notes that:
- Oldham Council has been in discussions with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Police for a number of years over a new site for a police station, with no location having currently been identified.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Kate Green has acknowledged in a written response to enquiries from the Liberal Democrats that: "there is no immediate intention to locate a custody suite in Oldham, but it may be sensible to future-proof the design of the site to enable this in future if needed".

Therefore, the Council resolves:

1. To formally note its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.
2. Set a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, to provide a report to the appropriate scrutiny committee detailing:
 - a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.
 - b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.
 - c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Aftab Hussain SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

The Council notes that:

- With the closure of custody suites at both Oldham and Chadderton, Oldham Borough currently has no dedicated facilities open to process detainees.
- Additional services lost include the Magistrates Court, County Court, and police stations in Failsworth, Chadderton and Royton, with other facilities having no

- face-to-face service, and access to other sites removed, such as in Shaw.
- Current processes mean that officers are required to process detainees at Tameside, which means additional travel time of over an hour for each arrest.
- The current police station in Oldham has been beyond its service life for a number of years, with the current chief constable in 2021 describing the comparing the building to those in the old East Germany.
- The Chief Constable also noted that: “custody facilities being tethered to the right operating base is really important”.

The Council further notes the most recent report of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on custody provision in Manchester, including that:

- Leadership for custody provision isn't strong enough to make sure the service is provided well and achieves appropriate outcomes for detainees. There is limited prioritisation of custody by senior officers or engagement in how custody is provided. There hasn't been enough improvement since our previous inspection. Significant concerns remain.
- The position is exacerbated by a large increase in the number of detainees entering custody. This makes it difficult for staff to fulfil all their duties and meet detainees' needs.
- The force should deal with detainees promptly and minimise the time they spend in custody by - booking detainees into custody promptly and prioritising them appropriately, especially children and those who are vulnerable; ...And finally, the Council notes that:
- Oldham Council has been in discussions with Greater Manchester Combined Authority and Greater Manchester Police for a number of years over a new site for a police station, with no location having currently been identified.
- During these conversations the Council has been clear that any new police station should have custody provision for the Borough and the north-east of Greater Manchester conurbation.
- These conversations have been well received by Greater Manchester Police's estates team.
- Police and Crime Commissioner Kate Green has acknowledged in a written response to enquiries from the Liberal Democrats that: “there is no immediate intention to locate a custody suite in Oldham, but it may be sensible to future-proof the design of the site to enable this in future if needed”.
- The Council and Oldham's MPs have called for this too, with Jim McMahon OBE MP recently raising this issue with the Mayor of Greater Manchester directly.

Therefore, the Council resolves:

1. To formally note its position that a new Police Station in

Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.

2. Set a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, to provide a report to the appropriate scrutiny committee detailing:
 - a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.
 - b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.
 - c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.

On being put to the VOTE the AMENDMENT was CARRIED

On being put to the VOTE the Motion as AMENDED was CARRIED

RESOLVED

Therefore, the Council resolves:

1. That Council formally notes its position that a new Police Station in Oldham should include appropriate custody provision.
2. That Council sets a target to agree a location for a new police station in Oldham within the next six months. If a location is not agreed within that timescale, that a report be submitted to the appropriate Scrutiny Board of the Council, detailing:
 - a. The requirements for any location for a new police station.
 - b. Any sites which have been discussed and the reasons why they have not been deemed suitable.
 - c. How the Council proposes to identify and bring forward future sites that meet the requirements for a police station in Oldham.

Motion 3: The Old Library: An Anti-Democratic Debacle

Moved by Councillor Woodvine

Seconded by Councillor Byrne

On 16th August 2025 the Leader of Oldham Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, announced she had unilaterally decided to rename the Old Library on Union Street the 'J. R. Clynes Building' to the bemusement of many residents of Oldham Borough.

This follows a £30+ million renovation project, yet the Council Tax paying public of Oldham were not given an opportunity to express their preference on the title that this public building would take.

The Conservative Group on Oldham Council believe this is not only anti-democratic but also shameful.

Therefore, this Council notes:

- That no public consultation took place in the naming

process of the Old Library building.

- That the Leader of the Council shamefully and willfully excluded democratically elected Councillors and the taxpaying public from the naming process.
- That the first decision to come out of the Borough's new Council Chambers is an anti-democratic diktat by Councillor Arooj Shah, which has no popular consent from the public.

This Council resolves:

1. To reveal all information, including associated costs, in relation to the naming process of the Old Library.
2. To review the naming process and suitability of 'J. R. Clynes' as the title of the building.
3. To consult the wider body of democratically elected Members of Oldham Council from across the Borough.
4. To present a suitable short list of names to the public of Oldham to give them a voice in the naming process of a building which should be the Borough's beating heart of democracy.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

On the 16th August 2025 the Leader of Oldham Council, Councillor Arooj Shah, announced she had unilaterally decided to rename the Old Library on Union Street the 'J. R. Clynes Building' to the bemusement of many residents of Oldham Borough.

This follows a £30+ million renovation project, yet the Council Tax paying **public** of Oldham were not given an opportunity to express their preference on the title that this **public** building would take.

The Conservative Group on Oldham Council believe this is not only anti-democratic but also shameful.

Therefore, this Council notes:

- a. That there was no process that took place in naming the building. There was just an announcement.
- b. That no public consultation took place in the naming process of the Old Library building.
- c. That the Leader of the Council shamefully and willfully excluded democratically elected Councillors and the taxpaying public from the naming process.
- d. That the first decision to come out of the Borough's new Council Chambers is anti-democratic diktat by Councillor Arooj Shah, which has no popular consent from the public.

This Council believes that the name of the building should have been an opportunity to involve the community and bring people together. There are many people who have provided exemplary service to our Borough, or the name represents the Borough's rich and diverse heritage.

This Council resolves:

1. To reveal all information, including associated costs, in relation to the naming process of the Old Library.
2. To review the naming process and suitability of 'J. R. Clynes' as the title of the building.
3. To consult the wider body of democratically elected Members of Oldham Council from across the Borough and hold a working group to provide a list of suitable shortlist of names for residents to be consulted on.
4. Allow residents to vote for the new name of the Old Library, to give them a voice in the naming process of a building which should be the Borough's beating heart of democracy, and endorse the public's choice with a formal agreement at the soonest Council meeting after the consultation, as a mark of that public voice and in the spirit of democracy.

On being put to the VOTE the AMENDMENT was LOST

On being put to the VOTE the Motion was LOST

12

UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL

Councillor Shah MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources which updated members on actions taken following the meeting of the Council held on 16th July 2025 and also on any updated responses from meetings held in the previous 12 months.

Further to Minute 11 (Notice of Opposition Business), Councillor Lancaster requested an update on Motion 3: A revision of the 'Don't Trash Oldham' Policy with regards to Gully Clearing, which was approved by Council. Councillor Shah, Leader of the Council replied that the Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways would provide a comprehensive update in due course.

Councillor Ball requested an update on the Old Failsworth Library Building that was the subject of a Motion at the Council meeting on 18th December 2024 (adjourned until 20th January 2025). Councillor Shah updated the meeting, advising that progress was being delayed because there were still tenants located in the Old Library Building.

RESOLVED:

That the actions regarding motions and issues from the meeting of the Council held on 16th July 2025, be noted and confirmed.

13

TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN REPORT 2024/25

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Director of Finance, which advised Council of the performance of the Treasury Management function for 2024/25

and provided a comparison of performance against the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.



Council was advised that the submitted report had been presented to and considered by the Audit Committee at its meeting of 23rd July 2025, the Committee having responsibility for scrutinising all of the Council's treasury management arrangements. The Committee was content to recommend the report to Cabinet for approval, which was granted at its meeting on 8th September 2025 and, in doing so, recommended that Council approve the report

RESOLVED

1. That Council approves the Treasury Management Outturn report for 2024/25 and the Treasury Management activity and Prudential Indicators, as presented in the submitted report.
2. That Council approves the proposed increases in the Operational Boundary and Authorised Limit in relation to PFI and Finance Lease debt liabilities as detailed in section 2.5 of the submitted report.

14

INTRODUCTION OF ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION FOR HOUSES OF MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Councillor Taylor MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Place/Deputy Chief Executive, which was a response to the motion that was submitted for Council consideration on 16th July 2025, regarding the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation.

AMENDMENT

Councillor Al-Hamdani MOVED and Councillor Taylor SECONDED the following AMENDMENT

(Paragraph 5.1 of the submitted report, currently reads)
“A period of consultation commencing 29 September to 9 November 2025 for 6 weeks is proposed. Following this the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods will then consider whether to confirm the Direction and bring it into effect on 1 January 2026, having considered all consultation comments received”

The amended paragraph 5.1 to read:

“A period of consultation commencing 29 September to 9 November 2025 for 6 weeks is proposed. Following this Full Council will then consider the consultation responses and then request that Cabinet do confirm the Direction and bring it into effect on 1 January 2026, having considered all consultation comments received” It would be correct this matter be a matter of special urgency and the chair of the Place Scrutiny board should agree that this Cabinet decision be exempt from the call in process so that the 1 January 2026 timeline remains”.

On being put to the Vote, the AMENDMENT was CARRIED

On being put to the Vote the MOTION as AMENDED was CARRIED.



RESOLVED

1. Council notes that a report was presented to Cabinet on 22nd September 2025, outlining recommendations for the introduction of an Article 4 Direction on Houses of Multiple Occupation.
2. Council agrees that a “period of consultation commencing 29th September to 9th November 2025 for 6 weeks, following which, after consideration of the consultation responses, request that Cabinet do confirm the Direction and bring it into effect on 1st January 2026, having considered all consultation comments received” It would be correct this matter be considered as a matter of special urgency and that the Chair of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board, be requested to agree that this Cabinet decision be exempt from the call in process, so that the 1st January 2026 timeline remains.

15

OLDHAM YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE STRATEGIC PLAN 2025/26

Councillor Mushtaq MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Children and Young People's Services that, in accordance with 'Regulation 4 of the Local Authorities (Functions and responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000', presented the Youth Justice Plan for the Oldham Metropolitan Borough, which was required to be formally approved by the full council.

The full plan was detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

RESOLVED

That the Oldham Youth Justice Service Strategic Plan 2025/26, as detailed at Appendix 1 to the submitted report, be approved.

16

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR OF AUDIT COMMITTEE - 2025/26

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED that the report, detailing the appointment of a Vice Chair of the Audit Committee 2025/26, be withdrawn from the agenda.

A recorded vote, in line with the Regulations was then taken on the MOTION, as follows:

COUNCILLOR		COUNCILLOR	
Adams Christine	AGAINST	Hussain Fida	FOR
Akhtar Shoab	AGAINST	Hussain Junaid	FOR
Al-Hamdani Sam	AGAINST	Hussain Sajed	FOR
Ali Mohon	FOR	Ibrahim Nyla	AGAINST
Ali Zaheer	AGAINST	Iqbal Nadeem	FOR
Arnott Dave	AGAINST	Islam	FOR

		Mohammed Nazrul	
Aslam Naseem	FOR	Jabbar Abdul	FOR
Azad Montaz Ali	APOLOGIES	Kenyon Mark	AGAINST
Ball Sandra	AGAINST	Kouser Aisha	ABSENT
Bishop Helen	AGAINST	Lancaster Luke	AGAINST
Bashforth Marie	APOLOGIES	Malik Abdul	FOR
Brownridge Barbara	FOR	Marland Alicia	AGAINST
Byrne Pam	AGAINST	McLaren Colin	FOR
Charters Josh	FOR	Murphy Dave	AGAINST
Cosgrove Angela	FOR	Mushtaq Shaid	FOR
Chauhan Zahid	FOR	Nasheen Umar	FOR
Chowhan Naveed	AGAINST	Navesey Lisa	FOR
Davis Peter	FOR	Quigg Lewis	AGAINST
Dean Peter	FOR	Rustidge Ken	FOR
Ghafoor Kamran	AGAINST	Shah Arooj	FOR
Goodwin Chris	FOR	Sharp Beth	AGAINST
Hamblett Louie	AGAINST	Sheldon Graham	ABSENT
Harkness Garth	AGAINST	Shuttleworth Graham	FOR
Harrison Holly	FOR	Sykes Howard	AGAINST
Hince Marc	FOR	Taylor Elaine	FOR
Hindle Neil	FOR	Wahid Abdul	AGAINST
Hobin Brian	FOR	Wilkinson Mark	APOLOGIES
Hughes Jade	ABSENT	Williamson Diane	ABSENT
Hurley Maggie	ABSENT	Woodvine Max	AGAINST
Hussain Aftab	FOR	Eddie Moores (MAYOR)	FOR

On a recorded VOTE being taken 30 VOTES were cast in FAVOUR of the MOTION with 22 VOTES cast AGAINST and there were 0 ABSTENTIONS. The MOTION was therefore CARRIED.

RESOLVED:

That the report – Appointment of Vice Chair of the Audit Committee 2025/26 be withdrawn from the agenda.

REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND POLLING PLACES

Councillor Jabbar MOVED and Councillor Shah SECONDED a report of the Executive Director of Resources that requested that Council consider draft proposals for the review of polling districts and polling places, across the Borough of Oldham.

RESOLVED

1. That the submissions made to the Council in respect of the review of polling districts and polling places, be noted.
2. That the polling districts and polling places as set out in the scheme contained in Appendices 1a and 1b, to the submitted report and in the maps found in Appendix 2 to the submitted report, be approved and adopted.
3. That the scheme contained in Appendices 1a and 1b, to the submitted report, be approved and adopted in relation to both Parliamentary and Local Government Elections.
4. That the Council requests that the Electoral Registration Officer makes the necessary amendments to polling districts for the 1st December 2025 electoral register.
5. That authority continues to be delegated to the Chief Executive to make, where necessary, alterations to the designation of any polling place prior to the next full review, in consultation with ward councillors and political group leaders.

The meeting started (after the adjournment on 17th September 2025) at 4.30pm and ended at 5.45pm