

Labour Group Amendment:

Moved by Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconded by Cllr Abdul Jabbar

Delete

Insert

~~Time to Scrap the Spin and~~ Getting the Basics Right

This Council notes that:

- ~~1. Residents across Oldham repeatedly tell councillors that the Council is failing to get the basics right — overgrown weeds on pavements, crumbling roads, poorly maintained parks, blocked drains and widespread fly-tipping.~~
- ~~2. Oldham is now one of the worst areas in the region for fly-tipping, with rubbish blighting neighbourhoods, attracting vermin and leaving residents feeling ignored.~~
 1. Fly-tipping blights neighbourhoods, attracts vermin and leaves residents feeling ignored. The council has cleared over 1,100 tonnes of illegally dumped waste in 2025, identified 38 fly-tipping hotspots across the borough for targeted enforcement and engagement, and is establishing a new Rapid Action Team in 2026/27 to further strengthen its response.
 2. Potholes continue to damage vehicles and pose safety risks, ~~while many repairs are temporary and fail within months.~~ which is why the council invested £5.575 million in highway repairs in 2024/25, and has allocated £18 million for local roads in the 2026/27 budget with an additional £2 million from Council capital to accelerate repairs.
 3. Weed growth along highways and pavements ~~has been allowed to spiral out of control in many areas, making streets look neglected and poorly cared for.~~ remains a concern in some areas. Following the failure of an external contractor, the council brought weed spraying in-house, training its own staff and deploying specialist equipment across the borough.
 4. Blocked drains and gullies are ~~frequently left uncleared, increasing the risk of surface water flooding during heavy rain.~~ cleared on a cyclical basis with the programme currently making its way through the 14th ward on the schedule published on the Council's website – while a second wagon returns to previously inaccessible blocked gullies or those needing repair.
 5. Parks and green spaces across Oldham are ~~once~~ a source of pride for the Council and our residents. ~~— are too often left looking tired and under-maintained.~~
 6. This visible ~~decline follows two years of deep cuts to Environmental Services and frontline maintenance budgets under the Labour and Independent Coalition.~~ pressure on Environmental Services and frontline maintenance budgets is the consequence of more than a decade of central government austerity and real-terms reductions to local government funding, aided by the Liberal Democrats decision to enter coalition with the Conservatives in 2010.
 7. ~~Rather than reversing these cuts, the administration has too often relied on flashy PR campaigns such as “Don't Trash Oldham”, which may generate headlines but do not substitute for properly funded, routine street cleaning, enforcement and maintenance.~~ The Don't Trash Oldham programme has delivered measurable results: 38 hotspots identified, intensive enforcement in 29 residential areas, fly-tippers prosecuted, and community groups mobilised across the borough. Effective communication supports service delivery — it does not substitute for it.

8. In successive budgets, the Liberal Democrat Group ~~has proposed amendments to invest more in highways maintenance, street cleaning, environmental enforcement and neighbourhood services — amendments which the ruling Coalition has chosen not to support.~~ has accepted all savings identified in the Environment directorate; however, their alternative investment proposals are largely generic, aspirational statements that lack detailed justification and involve only small financial commitments.

This Council further notes that:

At the 2026/27 Budget-setting meeting, this Labour administration ~~—backed by the Shaw & Crompton Independents—voted down Liberal Democrat alternative budget proposals including:~~ proposed a budget which directly addresses the issues raised in this motion, the Liberal Democrat Group voted against it but it included;

- ~~• Additional investment in parks and green spaces~~
- ~~• Additional investment in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour~~
- ~~• Additional investment in youth services~~
- £18 million for local roads, with an additional £2 million from Council capital to accelerate repairs;
- A new Rapid Action Team to tackle fly-tipping, with local apprentices to be recruited into the roles;
- The bulky waste collection service brought back in-house at a simplified fee of £10 per item, reducing a key driver of fly-tipping;
- £100,000 for strengthened youth services across districts.

On Sunday 22nd March the Labour Government announced that Oldham Council would receive part of £18m fund to upgrade and restore playgrounds in the Borough.

This Council believes that:

- Residents ~~do not want slogans — they~~ want clean streets, safe roads, maintained parks and visible action.
- The Council should ~~quietly and~~ competently deliver the everyday services that residents pay their council tax to receive.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Prioritise ~~reversing the deep cuts to Environmental Services and neighbourhood maintenance in the next budget cycle.~~ frontline neighbourhood maintenance in future budget cycles.
2. ~~Reallocate funding away from non-essential publicity and marketing campaigns and into frontline services including:~~ Continue to invest in frontline services including:
 - Pothole prevention and permanent repairs;
 - Regular weed clearance on highways and pavements;
 - Systematic drain and gully cleaning;
 - Increased park maintenance;
 - Stronger enforcement and rapid response to fly-tipping.
3. Produce a public action plan within ~~three~~ six months setting out clear service standards and response times for environmental and highways issues.
4. Report ~~quarterly~~ annually to Full Council on performance in tackling fly-tipping, potholes and street cleanliness., ~~including benchmarking against neighbouring authorities.~~

Amended motion to read:

Getting the Basics Right

This Council notes that:

1. Fly-tipping blights neighbourhoods, attracts vermin and leaves residents feeling ignored. The council has cleared over 1,100 tonnes of illegally dumped waste in 2025, identified 38 fly-tipping hotspots across the borough for targeted enforcement and engagement, and is establishing a new Rapid Action Team in 2026/27 to further strengthen its response.
2. Potholes continue to damage vehicles and pose safety risks, which is why the council invested £5.575 million in highway repairs in 2024/25, and has allocated £18 million for local roads in the 2026/27 budget with an additional £2 million from Council capital to accelerate repairs.
3. Weed growth along highways and pavements remains a concern in some areas. Following the failure of an external contractor, the council brought weed spraying in-house, training its own staff and deploying specialist equipment across the borough.
4. Blocked drains and gullies are cleared on a cyclical basis with the programme currently making its way through the 14th ward on the schedule published on the Council's website – while a second wagon returns to previously inaccessible blocked gullies or those needing repair.
5. Parks and green spaces across Oldham are a source of pride for the Council and our residents.
6. This visible pressure on Environmental Services and frontline maintenance budgets is the consequence of more than a decade of central government austerity and real-terms reductions to local government funding, aided by the Liberal Democrats decision to enter coalition with the Conservatives in 2010.
7. The Don't Trash Oldham programme has delivered measurable results: 38 hotspots identified, intensive enforcement in 29 residential areas, fly-tippers prosecuted, and community groups mobilised across the borough. Effective communication supports service delivery — it does not substitute for it.
8. In successive budgets, the Liberal Democrat Group has accepted all savings identified in the Environment directorate; however, their alternative investment proposals are largely generic, aspirational statements that lack detailed justification and involve only small financial commitments.

This Council further notes that:

At the 2026/27 Budget-setting meeting, this Labour administration proposed a budget which directly addresses the issues raised in this motion, the Liberal Democrat Group voted against it but it included;

- £18 million for local roads, with an additional £2 million from Council capital to accelerate repairs;
- A new Rapid Action Team to tackle fly-tipping, with local apprentices to be recruited into the roles;
- The bulky waste collection service brought back in-house at a simplified fee of £10 per item, reducing a key driver of fly-tipping;
- £100,000 for strengthened youth services across districts.

On Sunday 22nd March the Labour Government announced that Oldham Council would receive part of £18m fund to upgrade and restore playgrounds in the Borough.

This Council believes that:

- Residents want clean streets, safe roads, maintained parks and visible action.
- The Council should competently deliver the everyday services that residents pay their council tax to receive.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Prioritise frontline neighbourhood maintenance in future budget cycles.
2. Continue to invest in frontline services including:
 - Pothole prevention and permanent repairs;
 - Regular weed clearance on highways and pavements;
 - Systematic drain and gully cleaning;
 - Increased park maintenance;
 - Stronger enforcement and rapid response to fly-tipping.
3. Produce a public action plan within six months setting out clear service standards and response times for environmental and highways issues.
4. Report annually to Full Council on performance in tackling fly-tipping, potholes and street cleanliness.