

Labour Group Amendment

Mover: Cllr Elaine Taylor

Seconder: Cllr Graham Shuttleworth

Following the local election results, Oldham Labour has been clear that we will not stand in the way of any serious attempt to form a stable, lawful and functioning administration in the interests of Oldham.

We were also clear that we would not seek to work with any group who led divisive campaigns based on identity and grievance politics.

It is our understanding that the Liberal Democrats, the Conservatives and the Royton Independents have agreed to form a coalition with the Oldham Group, with their Group Leader, former Conservative, Cllr Kamran Ghafoor, as Leader.

We welcome parties working together, but the public interest test must be met. Given the deep concern that we have in their choice of Leader, Cllr Kamran Ghafoor, and our understanding of the multiple live investigations relating to the recent collapse of the King Street building, we cannot support his Leadership of the Council. Therefore, until those investigations conclude, it would be wholly inappropriate for the council as a lead agency to be led by a director of that company.

In light of the absence of any alternative viable leadership proposal, and Reform UK in Oldham seemingly refusing to lead an administration, the Council has little viable option but for the Chief Executive and Group Leaders to write jointly to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to seek guidance on leadership arrangements of the Council going forward.

We have not come to this decision lightly, but the interests of taxpayers, council workers and service users are paramount.