

Notice of Motion for Full Council

Under Paragraph 12 of the Council Procedure Rules



The following Motion to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

This Council notes with deep concern and rising anger the linked problems blighting Oldham residents' quality of life:

A. Masked and balaclava-clad youths on off-road motorbikes, high-powered e-bikes (including Surron-style machines) and similar vehicles terrorise our streets. They race at high speed on roads, pavements, parks and open spaces, weave recklessly through traffic and pedestrians, ride without lights in dark clothing, and vanish into estates. These vehicles fuel drug dealing, robbery, theft, criminal damage, intimidation and the exploitation of children. Fast speeding cars compound the danger—driven recklessly at excessive speeds through residential roads and estates, creating noise, fear and risk. Residents feel unsafe and powerless. Many say “no one can catch them.” Despite GMP operations such as Operation Hurricane, both problems remain widespread and unacceptable.

B. Illegal and nuisance fireworks. Under the Fireworks Regulations 2004 it is a criminal offence to use fireworks between 11:00 pm and 7:00 am (except limited permitted nights). Throwing or setting off fireworks in streets or public places is also illegal. Repeated early-hours explosions rob residents of sleep, distress children, older people, those with sensory issues or PTSD, and terrify animals. Areas including Chadderton report being woken at 2:00–3:00 am and beyond. Previous promises of better checks and mapping have failed to stop the nuisance.

Effective action demands tight, structured cooperation between the Council and GMP.

This Council believes:

Oldham residents should not have to endure masked bike thugs, reckless speeding cars or illegal midnight fireworks as “just the way it is.”

Existing powers under road traffic law, the Fireworks Regulations, the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014, statutory nuisance rules, licensing and tenancy enforcement must be used systematically, robustly and visibly. Better multi-agency working, intelligence-led targeting, clear escalation and significantly increased visible patrols and presence are essential.

This Council therefore resolves:

Instruct the Chief Executive to write within 14 days to the Chief Constable of GMP demanding enhanced cooperation on masked bikes, speeding cars and illegal fireworks, and seeking a written joint working protocol covering intelligence sharing, hotspot identification, increased targeted patrols and presence, escalation and regular performance reporting—agreed within three months.

Identify and regularly update hotspots for all three problems jointly with GMP, using resident reports, 101 calls and local intelligence. Maintain and review a current hotspot map at least quarterly.

Demand significantly increased intelligence-led targeted patrols and high-visibility presence by GMP (supported by Council officers where possible) in hotspots at peak risk times—more frequent, sustained and visible to deter offenders and reassure residents.

Ensure every relevant Council complaint is shared promptly with GMP and reinforce clear single points of contact so patterns of offending are spotted and acted on.

Establish a clear escalation process: joint case conferences and the full stepped use of warnings, Community Protection Notices, Public Spaces Protection Orders, licensing action, vehicle seizures, prosecutions, tenancy enforcement and all ASB powers.

Demand that anti-social and criminal use of off-road bikes, e-bikes and fast speeding cars be made a GMP force priority, with dedicated resources, specialist bike units, roads policing, drones, aerial support and maximum use of section 59 warnings and seizures.

Write within 14 days to the Home Secretary, Policing Minister and Mayor of Greater Manchester demanding extra dedicated funding for GMP and a review of laws to strengthen powers against masked riders and reckless speeding.

Launch within 28 days a high-profile, borough-wide public campaign stating zero tolerance, explaining how to report (including anonymously), seeking intelligence on storage locations, and publicising enforcement successes—running for at least 12 months.

Write immediately to all major housing providers in Oldham requiring them to treat storage or use of vehicles linked to ASB or crime as a serious tenancy breach, share intelligence, take robust enforcement (including possession where appropriate) and report back within three months.

On illegal fireworks specifically:

Share all fireworks complaints promptly with GMP.

Urge residents to report illegal use (after 11 pm) to GMP on 101 or online as it happens, and persistent nuisance to Environmental Health.

Deploy the full toolkit against persistent offenders: warnings, CPNs, PSPOs, licensing reviews, seizures, prosecutions and ASB powers.

Scrutiny and prevention:

Require officers to report to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee (then quarterly, and to the Community Safety Partnership) with data by ward, seizures, warnings, arrests, prosecutions, hotspots, patrols conducted (including increased presence), progress on every resolution, and clear reduction targets within six and twelve months.

Strengthen prevention and diversion work with youth services, schools, children's services and Youth Justice while ensuring full use of powers against those who keep offending.

Report overall progress to full Council (or appropriate scrutiny) within six months and regularly thereafter.

This Council declares zero tolerance for masked youths on illegal bikes, dangerous speeding cars and illegal fireworks.

No excuses. No delay. No dilution. We will hold ourselves, GMP, housing providers and partners to account until residents can live, sleep, walk, use parks and drive without fear or disturbance. The safety and quality of life of Oldham residents come first.

Date of Council meeting:

16/09/2026

Notice submitted from (must be received no later than noon, seven working days before the meeting e.g. the Monday before the meeting on Wednesday)

The submission must be signed by at least one Member

Councillor Proposing: Peter Hanlon

Signature: *Peter Hanlon*

Councillor Seconding: Stephen Eyre

Signature: *Stephen Eyre*

On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk