

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:-

Strengthening Controls on the Sale and Use of Fireworks

This Council has repeatedly highlighted the serious impact that the anti-social use of fireworks has on residents, animals, emergency services and local communities. Despite existing restrictions on the sale and use of fireworks, complaints continue throughout the year. Enforcement remains difficult because proving who has actually discharged a firework is often challenging, even when anti-social use is clearly taking place.

Whilst fireworks can be enjoyed safely as part of properly organised celebrations and community events, the current regulatory framework is no longer fit for purpose. The growth of online sales and the widespread availability of fireworks throughout the year has made it increasingly difficult for enforcement agencies to prevent misuse.

This Council believes that a more robust permitting and accountability system is required.

Fireworks intended for private use should only be available in connection with approved events, with clear responsibility placed upon those obtaining the fireworks and organising their use.

This Council notes:

- Anti-social use of fireworks continues to generate significant complaints from residents across Oldham.
- Fireworks can cause distress to vulnerable residents, including those with sensory sensitivities, veterans suffering from PTSD, young children, and pet owners.
- Current legislation places significant limitations on enforcement because agencies often need to identify the individual who discharged a firework before action can be taken.
- Greater accountability for the purchase, possession and use of fireworks would strengthen enforcement and improve public safety.
- Local authorities currently have limited powers to regulate fireworks beyond existing national legislation.

This Council further notes:

- That the Government has launched a UK-wide consultation entitled "*Fireworks and Pyrotechnics in the UK*", published on 16 July 2026, which specifically seeks views on reforms to fireworks legislation aimed at addressing noise nuisance, anti-social behaviour, public safety concerns and the impact of fireworks on vulnerable people and animals. The consultation acknowledges growing public concern regarding the misuse of fireworks and recognises the need to consider stronger regulatory controls whilst maintaining the ability for communities to celebrate safely and responsibly

This Council resolves to:

1. Request that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State urging the Government to introduce legislation that would:
 - a. Restrict the sale of fireworks solely to named individuals acting under a permit issued for a specific event.
 - b. Make possession of fireworks without a valid permit an offence, subject to appropriate exemptions for licensed retailers and professional operators.
 - c. Place legal responsibility upon the named permit holder or holders for compliance with permit conditions, regardless of who physically discharges the fireworks.
 - d. Strengthen enforcement powers available to police and local authorities.
2. Request that the Chief Executive of the Council write to the Mayor of Greater Manchester seeking support from all Greater Manchester local authorities for a coordinated campaign calling for reform of national fireworks legislation.
3. Request that the Mayor of Greater Manchester be encouraged to work with other combined authority mayors and regional leaders to build wider support for changes to the law.
4. Request that the Monitoring Officer investigate whether any existing by-law, Public Spaces Protection Order, licensing power or other local mechanism could be utilised to introduce stronger controls on the possession and use of fireworks within Oldham, and report findings to the appropriate committee.
5. Submit a formal response to the Government's consultation on *Fireworks and Pyrotechnics in the UK*, supporting stronger controls on the sale, possession and use of fireworks, including consideration of a permit-based system restricting sales to named individuals for authorised events only.
6. Continue to support measures aimed at reducing noise nuisance, improving public notification of organised displays and protecting vulnerable residents and animals from the harmful effects of anti-social firework use.
7. For all group leaders to engage with their counterparts in other authorities to ensure that this proposal has genuine cross party support nationwide.

Date of Council meeting: 16th September 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: Barbara Brownridge

Signature: B.Brownridge

Councillor Seconding: Mohon Ali

Signature:

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