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# Chadderton
# Pride in Place

## Board Briefing Paper

**Date:** Monday 14th September 2026

**Subject:** Consideration of partnership with the New Chadderton Partnership. For decision.

Oldham Council

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## 1. Purpose

To provide members of the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board with information regarding the role of a Neighbourhood Forum, the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan, the activities of the New Chadderton Partnership, and to consider what future relationship should exist between the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board and the New Chadderton Partnership**.**

## 2. Background

The New Chadderton Partnership was formally designated by Oldham Council as the Neighbourhood Forum for Chadderton in February 2022. The designation enables the organisation to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan covering the Chadderton area.

Colin McClaren, a representative of the New Chadderton Partnership, and vice chair of the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board discussed the work of the New Chadderton Partnership at the June board meeting. Since then, officers have met with Colin to learn about the partnership in more detail, and reviewed information relating to their emerging neighbourhood planning activity.

This paper has been prepared to support Board members in understanding the role of the New Chadderton Partnership before considering any future working relationship.

## 3. What is a Neighbourhood Forum?

A Neighbourhood Forum is a community organisation formally designated under the Localism Act 2011 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Once designated, a forum gains the legal right to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan and becomes a recognised planning consultee.

The purpose of a Neighbourhood Forum is to bring together residents, businesses and local stakeholders to develop planning policies within a defined area. It shapes how land is used and creates the rules within which local planning decisions are made. Meaning its policies carry legal weight in deciding local planning applications.

## 4. What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A Neighbourhood Plan is a statutory planning document that allows local communities to influence future development within their area. Plans can address matters such as housing, transport, heritage, green spaces, environmental quality, town centres and infrastructure.

Neighbourhood Plans must align with national planning policy and the strategic policies contained within the local development plan. They cannot conflict with those higher-level planning frameworks.

The process typically includes:

- Community engagement and evidence gathering.
- Development of planning policies.
- Draft plan preparation.
- Public consultation.
- Independent examination.
- Local referendum.
- Adoption by the local authority.

**Local Referendum**

Following successful examination, a Neighbourhood Plan is put to a local referendum. Residents registered to vote within the designated neighbourhood area are asked whether the plan should be used to help determine future planning applications.

If more than 50% of those voting support the plan, the local authority is required to formally adopt the plan. Once adopted, it becomes part of the statutory development plan and must be considered when all planning decisions are made.

## 5. What is the New Chadderton Partnership?

The New Chadderton Partnership is the designated Neighbourhood Forum for Chadderton. Its stated purpose is to promote the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of Chadderton and to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the area.

The organisation has undertaken a range of community engagement activities including public consultations, workshops, questionnaires, online engagement and local events. It has also begun developing an outline policy framework covering matters such as housing, heritage, transport, green spaces, environmental sustainability and community facilities.

## 6. Comparing the Roles of the Two Organisations

Whilst there are areas of overlap between the New Chadderton Partnership and the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board, their primary functions differ.

| Theme | New Chadderton Partnership | Chadderton Neighbourhood Board (Pride in Place) |
|---|---|---|
| **What?** | Prepares a Neighbourhood Plan to shape future planning policy | Delivers neighbourhood improvements and community capacity building |
| **Why?** | To shape how land is used and developed | To deliver improvements identified by local people |
| **How?** | Using engagement and consultation to develop planning | Using engagement and consultation to develop projects, investment and |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | policy, ultimately adopted through examination and local referendum | community action |
| **Output** | A planning framework that guides future development and planning decisions | Delivery of community, environmental and physical improvements which operate within local planning guidelines |
| **Success** | An adopted Neighbourhood Plan that informs future planning decisions | Delivery of capital and revenue projects based on priorities identified by residents |

**Key Observation**

The New Chadderton Partnership is primarily focused on influencing future planning and development decisions through a statutory planning framework, whereas the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board is focused on identifying, funding and delivering projects that improve communities and neighbourhoods. Whilst complementary, these functions are distinct and do not necessarily require a formal governance relationship.

## 7. Potential Opportunities for Collaboration

Both organisations undertake engagement activity with residents and stakeholders. There may be opportunities to share information, avoid duplication and reduce consultation fatigue. The New Chadderton Partnership may provide a valuable delivery partner for specific engagement exercises where its local knowledge, community relationships or subject expertise can add value. Both organisations have identified priorities relating to heritage, green spaces, connectivity, accessibility and public realm improvements.

However, the Board should remain mindful that the purpose of Pride in Place engagement is to inform the delivery of the Chadderton Regeneration Plan. Any support provided to the New Chadderton Partnership should therefore be proportionate, targeted and aligned to Board priorities rather than being directed by the requirements of the neighbourhood planning process.

## 8. Resource Implications

During discussions with officers, the New Chadderton Partnership advised that progressing the Neighbourhood Plan remains a significant undertaking and that additional capacity, specialist support, and funding support is necessary to continue the development of the neighbourhood plan. The Partnership has identified the need for further evidence gathering, policy drafting, consultation activity and professional planning input to progress the plan through to examination and referendum.
Members should note that any future relationship between the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board and the New Chadderton Partnership may generate requests for officer support, access to engagement resources, participation in project activity or consideration of

funding opportunities. These requests would need to be assessed on their individual merits and against the agreed objectives of the Pride in Place programme.

## 9. Options

**Option 1: Establish a Formal Partnership Arrangement**

**Description:** The Board formally recognises the New Chadderton Partnership as a partner organisation and establishes a structured relationship through governance arrangements, reporting mechanisms or dedicated representation.

**Advantages**

- Creates a formal mechanism for collaboration.
- Strengthens links between neighbourhood planning and wider place-based activity.
- Provides a clear route for regular information sharing.

**Disadvantages**

- Creates additional governance arrangements.
- May duplicate existing community engagement structures.
- Risks diverting focus away from agreed Pride in Place priorities.
- Could create uncertainty around the distinct roles of each organisation internally.

**Option 2: Maintain an Informal Collaborative Relationship**

The Board maintains a constructive relationship with the New Chadderton Partnership and works collaboratively where priorities align. No formal governance relationship would be established and Pride in Place resources, engagement activity and officer capacity would remain focused on the delivery of agreed Regeneration Plan priorities. Any requests for support from the New Chadderton Partnership would be considered on a case-by-case basis and would need to demonstrate a clear contribution to the objectives of the Regeneration Plan.

**Advantages**

- Encourages collaboration where there is mutual benefit.
- Enables sharing of local intelligence and engagement findings.
- Avoids unnecessary bureaucracy.
- Allows both organisations to focus on their core functions.

**Disadvantages**

- Opportunities to align neighbourhood planning activity with Pride in Place initiatives may be missed.
- Expectations regarding officer support, engagement activity and resource sharing may require ongoing management.

**Option 3: No Formal Relationship**

**Description:** The Board decides not to pursue any ongoing relationship with the New Chadderton Partnership beyond existing public meetings and engagement activity**.**

**Advantages**

- No additional resource commitment.
- Clear separation between organisations.

**Disadvantages**

- Missed opportunities for collaboration.
- Reduced awareness of neighbourhood planning activity and evidence gathering.
- Potential duplication of engagement activity.
- Misunderstanding from residents about the functions of the two organisations.

## 10. Key Considerations

- The New Chadderton Partnership performs a statutory neighbourhood planning function that differs from the role of the Chadderton Neighbourhood Board.

- Both organisations engage with residents and identify local priorities, creating opportunities for collaboration.

- Maintaining clarity regarding the different purposes of both organisations will be important.

- Limited officer, volunteer and Board capacity should be directed towards activities that deliver the greatest benefit for Chadderton residents.

## 11. Suggested Way Forward

If prioritising:

- Closer strategic alignment and formal coordination → Option 1
- Collaboration whilst maintaining clear organisational roles → Option 2
- Maintaining complete separation of activity → Option 3

## 12. Recommendation (Optional Framing)

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**A preferred option could be Option 2, as it:**

- Recognises the value of the New Chadderton Partnership's neighbourhood planning role.
- Recognises the dedicated work and local knowledge of the New Chadderton Partnership and its volunteers.
- Supports collaboration on shared priorities and community engagement.
- Maintains clear distinctions between planning activity and Pride in Place delivery.
- Avoids creating additional governance arrangements.
- Enables both organisations to focus on their respective objectives whilst working together where appropriate.

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