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:-

Oldham objects to the National Scheme of Delegation

The **National Scheme of Delegation** is a standardised set of rules for English local planning authorities that replaces local delegation schemes and came into force on 31st October 2026.

It is authorised under the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025. The system was intended to speed up decision-making and ensure elected councillors focus only on major, strategic developments.

However, the Government's own working paper noted that 96% of decisions in the second quarter of 2024 were made by officers. It is only in an extremely rare set of cases that councillors call in applications.

According to the Campaign for Rural England, in 2023-2024 86% of all planning decisions were approved and decisions were only overturned in 2.7% of cases for major applications and 1% of minor applications.

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has warned that the new National Scheme of Delegation could lead to an increase in harassment of planners.

While the Local Councils Network's research showed that 84% of its member councils are struggling to recruit and retain planning staff.

Oldham Conservatives have joined over 1,000 Conservative Councillors across the country in writing to the Prime Minister to oppose the changes to legislation.

Oldham Council updated its Constitution on 16th September 2026. However, the Planning Committee has already found its hands tied by the new law and it has made Councillors' role in the planning process much more challenging.

Therefore, this Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Communities, Housing & Local Government to state its opposition to the changes and ask for the unnecessary new law to be reviewed.

Date of Council meeting: 18th November 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: Councillor Max Woodvine	Signature:
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Beth Sharp	Signature:

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