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:-

Free Bulky Waste Collections for Households on Council Tax Reduction

THIS COUNCIL NOTES THAT:

1. Fly-tipping is a serious and growing problem in Oldham. Official DEFRA figures for 2024/25 record 5,959 incidents, up 19% on 2023/24 (5,022). That is 23.7 per 1,000 residents, against 21.5 for England. 44% of incidents (2,648) were in back alleyways and 30% (1,760) on highways.
2. Officer figures provided on 2 November 2026 show that in 2025/26 the Council spent £623,321 clearing fly-tipping, before overheads. This included disposing of 1,088.76 tonnes of fly-tipped waste.
3. Residents are charged £10 per item for a bulky waste collection, under the 2026/27 fees and charges approved by this Council on 4 March 2026. The in-house service has an income target of £140,000 a year.
4. On 1 January 2026, 19,495 Oldham households were receiving Council Tax Reduction: 13,108 of working age and 6,387 of pension age (Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2026/27 report).
5. Since September 2025, Bolton Council has offered households receiving Council Tax Support one free bulky waste collection each financial year, from a limited fund, while that funding lasts.
6. Officers have advised that the cost of making bulky collections free for every household could be well over £1m a year, because demand would rise, including from households that would never fly-tip. They have also advised that any new discretionary spending must have an identified funding source.
7. The 2027/28 budget, including fees and charges, will be set by Full Council at its Budget meeting on 3 March 2027.

THIS COUNCIL BELIEVES THAT:

1. Collecting household waste is a core public service that residents already pay for through their council tax. A free bulky collection does not reward fly-tippers. It helps residents who want to do the right thing.
2. For households living on the lowest incomes, often without a car, a £10-per-item charge is a real barrier. A family clearing a sofa, a mattress and a broken fridge pays £30.
3. Targeting help at households on Council Tax Reduction, as a year-round service and not a one-off allowance, puts support where the charge bites hardest and where fly-tipping hits communities hardest. Oldham should go further than Bolton's single free collection a year. Targeting also keeps the cost far below a borough-wide free service. The charge income given up cannot exceed the current income target of about £140,000 a year.
4. Any change must be lawful, properly costed and fully funded, and decided openly through the budget.

THIS COUNCIL RESOLVES TO:

1. Instruct Officers to liaise with colleagues at Bolton Council to explore best practice options on how this proposal can be implemented.
2. Note that the Oldham Group will bring forward this proposal, fully funded, in its alternative budget for 2027/28.
3. Note that this motion does not commit any spending in 2026/27 and does not change the approved 2026/27 budget or fees and charges.

The Oldham Group believes that, by acting first for those who need it most, this Council can help residents do the right thing, keep our alleyways and highways clean, and stop paying twice for fly-tipping. Making collections

free for every household remains our longer-term ambition, as and when it can be fully funded.

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 Kamran Ghafoor	Signature:
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Naveed Chowhan	Signature:

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