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:-

Eton Star Oldham

This Council notes:

That the Department for Education has approved proposals to establish a new sixth-form college (Eton Star Oldham) in partnership between Star Academies, Eton College and the DfE, with a preferred location being upon the former Tommyfield Outdoor Market site in Oldham town centre.

That all local authorities in England are required to transfer land to the Department for Education (DfE) under the Academies Act 2010 (Schedule 1), as amended by the Education Act 2011 (Schedule 14).

That in accordance with the Land and Property Protocols detailed in the Constitution, this sort of land disposal is an executive decision. The Corporate Property Board (chaired by Executive Member at the time) reviewed the proposed disposal, noting the statutory direction made by the DfE.

That the Cabinet endorsed the Oldham Town Centre Development Framework on 18 November 2024 and this included an Appendix which referred to the Tommyfield Market site for the new sixth-form college.

That in accordance with the Land and Property Protocols detailed in the Constitution, Heads of Terms (HoT) have been discussed with Legal Services and the agreed HoT have been released to the DfE.

That no formal contract for the transfer or disposal of the land has yet been completed. Once the documents have been formally signed by both parties the delegated report will be published and therefore the site remains in the ownership of the Council at this time

This Council notes that concerns have been raised by some elected members, education stakeholders and residents regarding the impact on existing post-16 provision, the suitability of the location and whether the proposal represents the best use of a prime commercial regeneration site.

This Council therefore resolves:
That consideration be given to members with concerns regarding the new sixth-form college provision and provide a report to members by the end of January 2027 outlining the following:

1. the impact on existing sixth-form and further education provision in the borough, from both the council perspective and the views of other sixth-form providers within the borough;
2. the school admissions arrangements for the proposed Eton Star Academy and how they will serve the widest possible cohort of Oldham's young people, rather than students from across Greater Manchester, as is presently the case;

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 Paul Taylor	Signature:
Councillor Seconding: Councillor Andrew Brooks	Signature:
On completion of the above please submit your motion to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk	