Report to Council

Leader of the Council

Officer Contact: Heather Moore, Assistant Director of Governance
Email: heather.moore@oldham.gov.uk

18 November 2026

Reason for Decision

The report provides Council with a further opportunity to elect a Leader of the Council and, in doing so, progress the restoration of the Council's normal executive governance arrangements. The election of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

Recommendations

1. The Council receives nomination(s) for the office of the Leader of the Council.

2. The Council elects the Leader of the Council for a term of office starting on 18 November 2026 and ending on the day when the Council holds its first annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor, subject to paragraph 2.1 of the report.

Leader of the Council

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 The appointment of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000 as amended.

2 Background

2.1 The Leader of the Council (the "Leader") will be a Councillor elected to the position of Leader by the Council. The Council will decide on the term of office of the Leader which must expire no later than the day of which the Council holds its first Annual meeting after the Leader's normal day of retirement as a Councillor unless:

a. He or she resigns from the office, or
b. He or she is no longer a Councillor, or
c. He or she is removed from office by the resolution of the Council when a successor shall be appointed.

2.2 It is the responsibility of the Leader to determine the size and membership of the Cabinet (providing the membership comprises between two and nine members, not including the Leader). The Leader shall also determine the remit of each portfolio. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.

2.3 All executive functions are vested in the Leader and it is the Leader's responsibility to determine how such functions shall be delegated. This responsibility can be a simple re-affirmation of the existing delegation of executive functions to the Cabinet, and Officers. The Council does not have any decision-making role in this regard.

3 Current Position

3.1 The Council continues to operate without a Leader, Deputy Leader or Cabinet. Interim governance arrangements have therefore been put in place to enable essential Council business and executive decision-making to continue. These arrangements are mitigations and are not intended to replace the statutory political leadership and executive arrangements of the Council.

3.2 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government has stated that the priority for the Council remains electing a Leader as required by legislation. The interim governance arrangements agreed by the Council at its meeting on 16 September 2026 confirmed that the election of leader would be a standing item on each ordinary Council agenda.

4 Options/Alternatives

4.1 N/A.

5 Consultation

5.1 N/A.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 N/A.

7 Legal Implications

7.1 The appointment of the Leader of the Council is a Council function in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, as amended. A statutory report was issued by the Monitoring Officer pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. The report addressed the continuing inability of the Council to appoint a Leader and establish a functioning administration.

8 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

8.1 None.

9 Key Decision

9.1 No.

10 Key Decision Reference

10.1 N/A.

11 Appendices

11.1 None.

12 Background Papers

12.1 Section 5 Report of the Monitoring Officer.