Dear Shelley Kipling,

In response to the Oldham Council Motion (16 September 2026): Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding concerns raised through the Council Motion relating to vehicle-related crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), and the illegal or nuisance use of fireworks. These matters remain established priorities within the district's community safety framework and continue to receive focused attention through both enforcement activity and partnership-led prevention initiatives

Vehicle Crime and Associated Anti-Social Behaviour

Greater Manchester Police remains committed to proactively addressing vehicle-related offending and associated anti-social behaviour across Oldham. A dedicated Inspector has thematic responsibility for delivering improvements and regular targeted traffic enforcement operations are executed by the neighbourhood policing teams across the district to tackle criminality. During the last quarter, these resulted in 842 vehicle stops. Of these, 58% generated positive outcomes, including warnings, fixed penalty notices, and vehicle seizures.

In partnership with Oldham Council and key stakeholders, GMP has delivered Operation Hurricane, a multi-agency initiative that brings together officers, staff and partners from across Greater Manchester to tackle the illegal and anti-social use of motorbikes, e-bikes and quad bikes. The operation achieved significant outcomes, including 7 Section 59 warning/seizures, 14 Section 165 vehicle seizures and 30 reported traffic offences. Enforcement actions also included arrests for dangerous and drug-driving offences, positive stop-search results and community resolutions. These activities demonstrate the effectiveness of a coordinated partnership approach in addressing community concerns.

We recognise that public confidence can be affected by the perception that offenders involved in vehicle-related ASB are not being held accountable. Reports of anti-social behaviour are subject to ongoing assessment and oversight to ensure that proportionate and effective interventions are implemented. Neighbourhood teams work alongside local authorities, housing providers, schools, youth services and community groups to understand what is driving the problem and, where possible, put longer-term solutions in place.

This includes covert activity such as intelligence gathering as well as overt tactics and retrospective enforcement to identify and bring offenders to justice through safe and controlled means. Continual analysis reviews and identifies hotspot areas for all neighbourhood crime, including ASB. Those highlighted have specific resourcing plans aligned which are supported with additional funding where available.

The district is supported by specialist operational resources which provide additional capability in responding to complex vehicle-related incidents and support local enforcement activity where appropriate.

Furthermore, GMP and Oldham Council are currently refreshing the local Vision Zero strategy, aligning with the wider Greater Manchester ambition to reduce serious collisions and eliminate deaths and life-changing injuries on our roads. This work recognises the significant human and community impact of serious road traffic incidents and seeks to further improve road safety outcomes across the borough.

Wider Crime Reduction Activity

Alongside targeted enforcement, GMP and its partners have continued to focus on reducing neighbourhood crime across the borough. Oldham has seen reductions in several key crime categories this year, including:

- Robbery offences reduced by 9.5%
- Theft offences reduced by 10.2%
- Criminal damage offences reduced by 8.8%

These improvements reflect the sustained commitment of policing teams, local authority services, community organisations, and residents working together to strengthen community safety.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Through Partnership

Addressing anti-social behaviour remains a priority. GMP works closely with stakeholders to identify emerging issues, analyse trends, and coordinate interventions that prevent and reduce ASB.

A recent example of effective partnership working relates to concerns surrounding ASB and serious violence within Oldham's nighttime economy. Working collaboratively with council services, CCTV operators, licensing authorities, the Violence Reduction Unit (VRU), the Security Industry Authority (SIA), and local businesses, a coordinated response was implemented. This resulted in a significant reduction in both anti-social behaviour and serious violence, helping to restore public confidence, increase visitor numbers, and support the local economy.

Illegal and Nuisance Use of Fireworks

We recognise the considerable impact that inappropriate firework use can have on communities and have undertaken detailed analysis of reports received across the borough. Over the previous three-month period, 107 reports relating to fireworks were recorded, with incidents occurring across Oldham and not confined to any

single locality. Reports primarily related to two themes: fireworks associated with organised celebrations and fireworks being used irresponsibly by young people, both of which generated anti-social behaviour concerns.

In response, GMP, Oldham Council, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS), and other partners have initiated a coordinated programme of activity, including:

- Development of a partnership strategy to address firework-related ASB.
- Licensing compliance visits to retailers selling fireworks.
- Engagement and compliance activity with venues that utilise fireworks during events.
- Delivery of educational inputs through the Police Education Programme (Pol-Ed).
- Public awareness and prevention campaigns led by GMFRS.
- Participation in Operation Treacle, Greater Manchester's coordinated response to bonfires and firework-related incidents.
- Joint police and local authority patrols in identified hotspot locations.

The continued support of elected members in promoting accurate community messaging and highlighting opportunities for engagement remains an important element of maintaining public confidence and strengthening community resilience.

Conclusion

Greater Manchester Police recognises the impact that anti-social behaviour, vehicle-related offending and nuisance firework activity can have on communities. Through targeted enforcement, intelligence-led problem solving and strong partnership working, GMP and its partners remain committed to reducing harm, improving community safety and maintaining public confidence. Continued collaboration between public services, elected members, businesses and residents will be essential to sustaining progress and ensuring that Oldham remains a safe place to live, work and visit

Yours sincerely,

Wesley Knights

Oldham District Chief Superintendent