Notice of Amendment for Full Council

Under Paragraph 13 of the Council Procedure Rules

The following amendment to be submitted to Council on the date indicated below:-

Add
~~Remove~~

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.

These changes have removed the ward member call in process, but it has ensured that all applications considered by the Planning Committee are major decisions that need serious scrutiny.

~~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.~~

The Chair of Planning wrote to all elected members on the 23rd September reminding all members about the changes and asking that ward councillors submit their concerns/reasons for referral in writing, to ensure that their views are recorded in the written report about the gateway process.

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.~~ request that the National Scheme of Delegation is reviewed to ensure that elected members can have an opportunity to air opinions during the planning process.

We welcome all members being involved where possible during the planning process, and ward members should liaise with planning officers on applications where they have concerns.

Motion to read:

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Date of Council meeting: 18th November 2026

Amendment submitted from (must be received no later than noon, the day before the meeting)

Councillor Proposing: Cllr Josh Charters	Date: 17th November 2026
Councillor Seconding: Cllr Nadeem Iqbal	Time: 11:04am

Please submit this Notice of Amendment form to constitutional.services@oldham.gov.uk by noon the day before the Council meeting.