

**Present:** The Mayor – Councillor Heffernan (Chair)

Councillors Ahmad, Akhtar, A. Alexander, G. Alexander, Ali, Azad, Ball, M Bashforth, S Bashforth, Bates, Blyth, Briggs, Brock, Brownridge, Chadderton, Chauhan, Cosgrove, Dean, Dearden, Fielding, Garry, Gloster, Goodwin, Haque, Harkness, Harrison, Hewitt, Hudson, A Hussain, F Hussain, Iqbal, Jabbar, Kirkham, Klonowski, J Larkin, Malik, McCann, McLaren, Moores, Murphy, Mushtaq, Rehman, Roberts, Salamat, Sheldon, Shuttleworth, Stretton, Sykes, Toor, Turner, Ur-Rehman, Williamson, Williams and Wrigglesworth

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**QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS FROM THE PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS ON WARD OR DISTRICT ISSUES**

The Mayor advised the meeting that the first item on the agenda in Open Council was Public Question Time. The questions had been received from members of the public and would be taken in the order in which they had been received. Council was advised that if the questioner was not present then the question would appear on the screens in the Council Chamber.

The following questions had been submitted:

1. Question received from Neil Hardiker:

“Please can you share with me the current details of the following? Acres/hectares of land within the OMBC boundary designated as green belt, OPOL and land reserved for future development and the percentage of the land within the council boundary which each of these 3 categories represents?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the total land in the Oldham MBC boundary was 14234.6 hectares (ha); Green Belt: 6254 ha (43.9%); Land Reserved for Future Development (LRFD) – Bullcote Lane, Royton: 2 ha (0.01%); and OPOL: 314.92 ha (2.21%).

2. Phil Howarth, Fitton Hill Bulldogs asked the following question:

“Please can the Councillors of Oldham confirm that our club should be allowed a long lease on the playing fields at Rosary Road to the rear of what was Fitton Hill Senior Schools and then the councils CPD offices?”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded

that the Council acknowledged the wider social and environmental well-being benefits which would result from the club's proposals. Progressing a disposal of land via a 25 year lease was paused to allow for consideration of wider strategic proposals. This work had now concluded. The Council would be contacting the Club shortly to discuss the way forward.

3. Question received from Paul Turner:

“The Cowlshaw development is put to planning this month. As this is OPOL protected land. I trust OMBC will be rejecting it.”

Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the application had been withdrawn by the applicant on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016.

4. Question received from John McGuill:

“Morecambe has a statue of #EricMorecambe Timperley has #Frank Sidebottom why don't we get one for Eric Sykes?”

Councillor Barbara Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that Oldham was lucky by having a number of famous citizens. The cost of statues was controversial. In the current financial climate new statues would not be a first priority. The Council did celebrate famous citizens at Gallery Oldham and would continue to do so at the Heritage and Arts Centre when built. The Gallery had a portrait of Eric Sykes which had been on permanent display in the Oldham Stories exhibition for the past three years.

5. Joe Fitzpatrick asked the following question:

“Bearing in mind the millions of pounds of public money that has been spent on the scheme to refurbish the old Town Hall and the ongoing subsidies and financial inducements be offered to potential tenants of this building, will the council insist that employees are paid the living wage, rather than the minimum, when they work for a company renting space in the town hall?”

Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the old Town Hall was a major regeneration scheme for the town centre and members and the community were excited about the progress on site and the new brands this development had attracted. Whilst the Council could not mandate the employment and wage practices of new employers the Council was supporting recruitment to new jobs via the Get Oldham Working

Programme and the opportunity remained for employers to sign up to the Councils fair employment charter as part of this process. The council would maintain positive relations with all new investors in Oldham as part of this process.



6. Question received from David Jennings:

“My question relates to the term time only pro-rate salary calculation for HLTA and TA staff in Oldham schools. This is not a national wage structure; it is at the discretion of each authority. This policy equates to around 8 weeks of enforced, unpaid leave for these key workers, with a knock on effect for pension entitlement. It also impacts unfairly on the gender pay gap, given most HLTA & TA workers are female.

In light of the recent publicity around the campaign to re-instate annual salaries for these important education workers - in particular the current resistance to change in Durham - will Oldham take a lead and re-instate annual payments?

HLTA's already do perhaps 75% of the work of a fully qualified teacher, for around 50% of the pay – to have this reduced pro-rata to term-time only is a slap in the face for staff who are expected to attend sports days, parents' evenings and other events out of hours, and who have to act on lesson plans and other staff communications in their own time.

Many HLTA's in particular can be the sole 'teacher' in class, delivering the entire lesson. They are qualified, well trained staff - and yet they are treated almost like casual labour. There are suggestions nationally that these key workers should start to take the same view of their personal time as the authorities do of their salaries - and 'work to rule'. This would involve arriving at five to work, leaving on the dot, taking a full lunch break, ignoring 'out of hours' work communications (eg checking lesson plans via First Class) and any other work activity during their own time. If they did take this action, schools - and results - would inevitably suffer.

I have a relative who is an HLTA in an Oldham primary school, so I know what her workload is, and just how dedicated she is to the job, the school and the children. Oldham has recently, quite rightly and very publicly, praised the improvement in exam results this year - and yet these key workers who contribute to this success are not even paid a full annual salary.

Will Oldham Council therefore review the exploitative and punitive policy of term-time only, pro-rata salary payments to HLTA and/or TA staff in schools?”

Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that there were no plans to review the contracts of HLTA's and jobs were evaluated by the Oldham Job Evaluations Team. Staff were paid all year round on a Term Time Only (TTO)

basis. Oldham only employed a small number of HLTA's as the majority of classroom support staff were Teaching Assistants. HLTA's could deliver lessons but this was to complement the professional work of teachers. They should not be undertaking 75% of the work nor should they be expected to. If individuals felt they were being asked to undertake work for beyond that they are contracted for, they should discuss the matter with the Head Teacher in the first instance or seek advice of their trade union representative.

7. Question received from Becky Wright:

“What are you doing about the fireworks waking everybody up after midnight every night?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that this was a difficult issue but officers and partners would review options and report back on anything that could be done in partnership to work to help control the problem.

The Mayor reminded Members that the Council had previously agreed that questions would be taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council. The following questions were submitted by Councillors on Ward or District Matters:

1. Councillor Malik asked the following question:

“As you are aware when Westwood Park was closed, it was agreed there will be a play area on Cottam Street and a 7 a side playing field on land at Westhulme Avenue. Can the relevant Cabinet member provide an update on progress and when residents can expect these facilities to be ready and open?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the scheme had been put out to public consultation to gather local residents input and design work was due to start next month. This would be followed by a planning application and it was estimated that work would begin on site early next spring.

2. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

“I am in receipt of numerous complaints from residents regarding the cuts on the 181 and 182 bus routes, which is causing huge disruption to residents across the borough. I fully understand that this is a commercial bus route but can we, as a Council ask the bus company to reconsider this decision?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the issued had recently been

discussed with the Leader of the Council and the Chief Executive of Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and a meeting had been arranged with TfGM and the bus operator to discuss bus services. The Buses Bill, which if it became law, would give Greater Manchester the opportunity to have more control over bus services.

3. Councillor Brock asked the following question:

“A number of residents have contacted me expressing concern about the spread of Himalayan Balsam on open space around Failsworth, particularly in Daisy Nook Country Park. Does the Council have a policy on the control of this invasive species which is damaging the native plant and wildlife in the area?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives, responded that this was a problem across the borough and an extremely difficult weed to deal with as it reproduced easily. This weed was not as damaging as Japanese Knotweed and had been treated largely by volunteers and various groups to try to control the outbreaks.

4. Councillor Harkness asked the following question:

“Last year, the government provided grant compensation to our parish councils for loss of income. This was £36,494 for the Saddleworth Parish Council and £19,337 for Shaw and Crompton Parish Council. Unfortunately despite this grant being given specifically for parish councils and not to support general borough council funding, Oldham council are consulting on how the withdrawal of this grant will affect the parish councils budgets. Will the Cabinet Member assure the residents of both parishes that Oldham council will continue to passport this grant to the parish councils and not include it in general borough council funding?”

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and HR responded that the grant mentioned was actually given in 2013/14 as part of the settlement when the Revenue Support Grant was £85m. The figures were no longer ringfenced and in the current financial year the Revenue Support Grant had been cut by 50% to £40.5m with next year forecasted to drop to £30.4m. That would be a reduction of £54m from when the figure was set. This clearly presented a major problem to the Council. Other authorities had decided to reduce the grants to parish councils. The Council was consulting on reducing the grant to Parish Councils by £10k which was roughly a 17% cut. The District Partnership budgets had been reduced by 26%.

5. Councillor Fielding asked the following question:

“Virgin Media have recently begun to lay cables to provide their services across Failsworth. Many residents have expressed concern that they had not received adequate information as part of the notification of the works, particularly regarding the positioning of utility cabinets and the exact date that access to their property may be affected. Could the cabinet member ensure that, as this work progresses across the rest of Failsworth, virgin media are encouraged to adapt their communications plans so that residents are better informed and can plan appropriately for the disruption?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the Council were made aware of the Virgin Media expansion of their network across England following which Unity Officers requested further information with a follow up meeting arranged to discuss the issues. As part of the Greater Manchester Road Application Permit Scheme (GMRAPS) pre-site meetings were held to discuss and agree conditions, one of which was a requirement to letter drop two weeks prior to the works starting. Breach of any condition imposed on a permit by a local authority leads to a fine and the utility was brought in to discuss at monthly performance and engagement meetings. If any member was made aware of a breach and an area which had not been leafleted, members were asked to let Councillor Stretton know and officers would act accordingly.

6. Councillor Toor asked the following question:

“As winter is approaching in the near future, my question is, are we prepared for the bad weather? What safety measures are in place to avoid accidents especially there are lots of elderly people in some parts of my ward?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that planning for the coming winter started when last winter finished. The grit stocks had been replenished over the summer, all winter gritting vehicles had been serviced and prepared, and the dedicated team of specialist drivers had been allocated their rotas. Over the coming weeks, workers would also be out filling the 596 grit bins around the Borough so residents could make sure pavements were free from ice and snow for safety. Over the coming months it was very important that everyone did their bit. The Council was doing as much as it could with the resources available, but everyone could help out in their own way, such as helping neighbours grit their path or simply knocking on doors to see if they were okay. The Council would be doing as much as it could to keep residents informed about what was going on across the Borough and urged residents to log onto the Council website and to listen to

road and weather reports to keep up to date with the latest news.



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7. Councillor Ali asked the following question:

“The Green Dividend Fund 2015 was a £100k one-off fund provided by the council and managed by Voluntary Action Oldham. The aim of the fund was to spark and support community initiatives to make places across the borough greener through gardening and/or landscaping projects. In Chadderton North, Councillors went to lengths to promote this event to our residents. This encouraged residents to come together, putting real thought into how they could improve their area, coming up with ideas themselves, applying and then being successful in winning bids to transform some of our back Alleys. There was genuine commitment from our residents, who took responsibility for the cleanliness of the alleyways and have now started 'Green Growing' projects. It has also made a huge impact in bringing the residents together and building on much needed community cohesion. The residents were well supported by Chadderton District Officers and the Green Ambassador. I'm sure there are many other examples of such green projects across the borough. The last round of funding deadline was on the 27th May 2016. My question is: as the Green Dividend Fund is proving to make a real difference within our communities across the borough and there is still a much need for such community initiatives. I wanted to know whether this Council would support the continuation of this fund.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the Council was committed to finding new ways of working and echoed that the dividend had been successful with individual 'greening' projects across the borough. The Council was pleased at the level of community take up for the initiative and recognised that there was an appetite to do more. Unfortunately, due to budget pressures, it could not be guaranteed that there would be further funding at the moment. The Green Dividend Ambassador support would remain in place for the next 12 months. The Green Dividend Ambassadors provided a dedicated resource for groups for the development of unique green space initiatives and provided advice and support to projects. The Ambassadors were also currently exploring other funding streams. Proposals for potential projects were invited to be brought forward. The scheme had been a benefit to the borough.

8. Councillor Blyth asked the following question:

“Can the Cabinet Member please tell me the demolition of the old Shaw Market site was such a shambles and why a security guard was injured as a result? Ward members

warned you that the demolition of stalls at the existing defunct market site in Shaw had to be handled properly, but it was not. The demolition was started in the middle of the school holidays. The site was left unattended on the first night during which the youths knocked all the secure fencing down and then threw all of the demolition materials all over Westway and Back Market Street. I alerted our officers and the police and the next day a single security guard was on site. This aggravated the youths even more. I telephoned the police and then my partner and I went over to the security guard to give him some support. The police took over 25 minutes to arrive. In the meantime, I had telephoned two colleagues, Councillors Murphy and Williamson, who quickly joined us.

This tense and dangerous stand-off carried on for three further nights.

So I would like to ask the Cabinet Member why appropriate safeguards and precautions were not put in place before the work started, and why the work commenced in the middle of the school holidays?”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Economy and Enterprise responded that the works to demolish Shaw Market were condensed as much as possible and deliberately scheduled for the school holidays. This was to minimise disruption for businesses and the users of Shaw Town Centre during this quieter period. The demolitions works fully commenced on the Monday and by Friday lunchtime, the site was fully cleared of all fencing and equipment. As soon as it became apparent that local youths sought to cause disruption to the works, additional measures were taken. The question posed failed to recognise that, in addition to the introduction of extra on-site security, a multi-agency response was also put in place involving the Police and the Council’s Outreach Youth Team which was effective in stopping any further escalation of the problems and that daily updates were provided to local ward councillors. Shaw Market was successfully relocated to Market Street to secure its future – the demolition of the fixed market stalls had provided Shaw Town Centre with much needed additional car parking spaces. Whilst it was unfortunate that these young people sought to target the works site over a two night period, the demolition works have removed the shelter which had encouraged them to congregate in the area and it was sincerely hoped that this would relieve the long-term problem for those residents overlooking the former market.

9. Councillor Mushtaq asked the following question:

“I have been contacted by an Alexandra Ward resident asking me to support the concept of safe space for cycling in a broad context encompassing transport, health



and wellbeing and climate. As part of the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy there is funding and we need to ensure that some of this goes towards safer cycling routes in my ward and the wider borough. Can the relevant Cabinet member please inform us of the strategy to increase safety for cyclists which will hopefully lead to an increase in the number of cyclists on our roads.”



Councillor Fida Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental responded that the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 included the creation of a comprehensive network of on and off-road walking and cycling routes that made it easier and safer for people to walk and cycle to key local destinations. Achieving this would help to increase levels of physical activity, reduce the number of short trips being made by care, which would make local towns and neighbourhoods more attractive and reduce harmful emissions and traffic noise. The Transport Strategy itself did not have any additional funding associated with it. The main source of funding for transport, including cycling, was from central government via funding competitions. Oldham was proactive in ensuring schemes in the Oldham borough were included when GM bids were compiled and had been successful in securing funding for a number of cycle schemes in recent competitions which included £1.1 million through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund; £0.5m through the first round of the Cycle City Ambition Grant Fund; and £1.2m through the second round of the Cycle City Ambition Grant Fund.

10. Councillor Hewitt asked the following question:

“The law states that you must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except for Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight; New Year’s Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, when the cut off is 1am.

The law also states that when buying fireworks you can only buy fireworks (including sparklers) from registered sellers for private use on these dates: 15 October to 10 November, 26 to 31 December, 3 days before Diwali and Chinese New Year. At other times you can only buy fireworks from licensed shops. I have had two written complaints from local residents and many verbal complaints from parents of young children and pet owners about fireworks being set off late at night after 11.00 pm in the middle of the week, sometimes even in the early hours of the morning especially at weekends. The majority of the complaints have come from parents with young children and parents of disabled children, about a third of the verbal complaints are from pet owners whose animals are frightened by the explosions that the fireworks are making. Can we get some partnership working together to identify where these fireworks parties are when they break the law and prosecute them and their suppliers, if they are illegally bought?

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded and referred to her previous answer. A discussion group with partners was being set up to review options and would report back on what could be done and would also address supply.

11. Councillor Roberts asked the following question:

“I have received complaints from several Royton North residents about the condition of Thornham Mill on Oozewood Road – the fabric of the building is deteriorating, there are concerns about children and young people gaining access to the site and reports of rats. I have followed up all these issues with the Council’s Planning department, Environmental Services and the Police. However, I believe that a more permanent solution is needed. Could the relevant Cabinet member advise whether the Council can take any further steps to either bring the site back into use or to pursue an alternative use for the site with the owners?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the property was privately owned, not listed and was shown to be in poor condition and ‘at risk’. Previous reviews had indicated that the site was suitable for redevelopment and it was likely to be considered for residential accommodation in view of demand and need for new housing. The ability to redevelop the site was limited by virtue of the fact that there was telecommunication equipment on the roof which was leased and parts of the site were in multiple private ownership and, therefore for redevelopment to progress, a developer would need to liaise with a number of parties. Councillors had agreed to contact the owner and advise them that the building needs to be kept in a decent condition and to see if a longer term solution could be found to the problem.

12. Councillor Sheldon asked the following question:

“I am concerned that there is too long of a delay in answering residents’ concerns about tree preservation orders from our arboricultural dept. I have two residents who have voiced concerns in Dacres Drive Greenfield and Abels Lane Uppermill, and to date they have not received a satisfactory answer to their questions. I have also a resident on Manchester Road Greenfield who has complained about council-owned trees which now completely take the daily sunlight from her garden. Her complaint has not been resolved in any way at all. Please can I ask the Cabinet Member responsible for this department to ensure a reply is sent to each person, whose personal details I have with me.”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that the trees located at Dacres Drive and Abels Lane were on land that was not owned by the Council and that the matters had been dealt with and appropriate responses had been provided. If this was not the case, she asked to be contacted so she could arrange for the appropriate response. There were a number of trees on Manchester Road which were currently awaiting inspection over the next month. Residents had been informed and would be told of the outcome.

13. Councillor McLaren asked the following question:

“Residents of the Firwood Park Estate in Chadderton are increasingly concerned about the condition of a wall at the corner of Middleton Road and Firwood Park (alongside 1 - 5 Firwood Park). The wall is in a very poor state of repair and local residents consider it to be dangerous. Ownership of the wall and the responsibility for carrying out the repairs appears to be unclear. What steps, if any, are the Council taking to resolve this matter?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that according to the Council’s records the wall was not in Council ownership and therefore the potential interventions were limited. The Council would however work with residents and appropriate officers across the Council for a positive solution to be identified.

14. Councillor Dean asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet Member for highways tell me of the progress in lifting the bus lane order on Huddersfield Rd? The suspension of the bus lanes on Huddersfield Rd has been in place for over. 4 years. And local residents do not want the bus lanes back as it creates traffic gridlock.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the bus lane on Huddersfield Road was temporarily removed in Summer 2014, following resurfacing work, and a study undertaken at the request of Members to determine whether it should be formally reinstated or removed. The study also looked at the Ripponden Road bus lane as the two bus lanes were closely linked. While the study was undertaken, signage was amended to allow general traffic to use both lanes along Huddersfield Road. As a result of the study, and consultation with Transport for Greater Manchester and bus operators, the temporary suspension of the bus lanes on Huddersfield Road and Ripponden Road for a period of eighteen months was approved. The temporary order became effective at the end of June 2016 and

subsequent arrangements were implemented for the removal of the remaining road markings and signing along both corridors. The situation would be monitored with Transport for Greater Manchester and bus operators, and a decision would be made as to whether the bus lane suspension order would be made permanent at the end of the 18 month period. To date, there had not been any reported adverse effects on bus services.

15. Councillor Steven Bashforth asked the following question:

“For a long time now HGVs have been overnighting on Edge Lane Street in Royton. This causes problems with noise and disturbance to local residents from the vehicle engines, blocking of the footpaths and rubbish including human waste being left behind. I have asked the police, environmental services and highways to help prevent and stop this practice but to no avail. Can the relevant Cabinet Member arrange for me to meet with appropriate officers with a view to devising a solution?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services agreed to arrange the meeting.

16. Councillor McCann asked the following question:

“I have noted of late an ever increasing number of stone robbing incidents from various sites / walls in Saddleworth (and also in some rural parts of Shaw). In some instances walls are now down to three or four courses from an original waist height. Could the Cabinet Member advise if there is any programme of restoring and rebuilding the walls so affected, and if so can this be done in such a way – for example by cementing in the stone – that makes theft more unlikely? The volume is becoming such that District Partnerships can no longer deal with this on a local basis, as they have done in the case of High Street, Uppermill.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services, responded that the Council was aware of this issue of either the suspected theft or vandalism of masonry on Ladcastle Road and Sugar Lane which was being investigated. There was currently no framework programme to rebuild the damaged retaining walls, but funding was being sought to effect the repairs.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

**RESOLVED** that the questions and the responses provided be noted.

Apologies were received from Councillors Ames, T. Larkin, McMahon, Price and Qumer.



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3 **TO ORDER THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 13TH JULY 2016 BE SIGNED AS A CORRECT RECORD**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be approved as a correct record.

4 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY MATTER TO BE DETERMINED AT THE MEETING**

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, elected members declared the following interests:

Councillor McCann declared a personal interest at Items 13 and 16b by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board and the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor Harrison declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Jabbar declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and Oldham Leadership Board.

Councillor Stretton declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of her appointment to the Unity Partnership Board and Oldham Leadership Board.

Councillor Dean declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of his appointment to the Unity Partnership Board.

Councillor G. Alexander declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of her appointment to the MioCare Board.

Councillor Brownridge declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of her appointment to the Oldham Leadership Board.

Councillor Chauhan declared a personal interest at Item 16b by virtue of his appointment to the MioCare Board.

5 **TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH THE MAYOR CONSIDERS TO BE URGENT BUSINESS**

The Mayor referred to the Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016 and reminded members not to go outside the remit of questions and answers and to adhere to Council Procedure Rules.

The Mayor informed members that it was Councillor Ur-Rehman's birthday. Council expressed best wishes.

6 **TO RECEIVE COMMUNICATIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

There were no communications related to the business of the Council.

7 **SECTION 249(5) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 NOMINATIONS FOR THE TITLE OF HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE BOROUGH**

Councillor Stretton MOVED and Councillor Sykes SECONDED the nomination for the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough.



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The Council gave consideration to a report which sought approval in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the nomination of Nicola White to be considered for the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough. Ms. White played a pivotal role in Team GB's Hockey Team at the Olympic Games and helped the team secure a Gold Medal.

In moving the nomination, Councillor Stretton requested that the title be changed from "Freeman" to "Freewoman" of the Borough.

**RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council nominate Nicola White to receive the title of Honorary Freewoman of the Borough in recognition of her role as an ambassador for the borough at this year's Olympic Games and has proved to be truly inspiring role model for the borough and its people.

8

#### **TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PETITIONS RECEIVED RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor advised that one petition had been received for noting by Council:

##### Economy, Skills and Neighbourhoods

Petition to Secure River Irk Banking (received 9 August 2016) (53 signatures) (Ref 2016-11)

**RESOLVED** that the petition received since the last meeting of the Council be noted.

9

#### **OUTSTANDING BUSINESS FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### Motion 1

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Chief Executive had had notice that Councillor Price would be unable to second this motion and had nominated Councillor Goodwin to take her place.

Councillor Moores MOVED and Councillor Goodwin SECONDED the following motion:

"In Oldham, more than a third of adults are physically inactive (36.28%) and Oldham was ranked 141<sup>st</sup> out of 150 local authorities researched in terms of rates of physical activity in 2013. UKActives *Turning the Tide of Inactivity* report estimates that this lack of regular exercise by the Oldham population is estimated to cost the Oldham economy £53.5 million a year. Physical inactivity is known to be the fourth leading cause of mortality, and many of the leading causes of ill health in today's



society, such as coronary heart disease, cancer and type 2 Diabetes, could be prevented if more inactive people were to become active.

The *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy* was published in June 2015 and provides the blueprint for physical activity and sport's contribution to the overall Greater Manchester Strategy. The intended outcomes of the strategy are to:

- Increase levels of participation in physical activity and sport to reduce levels inactivity
- Increase active travel leading to increased opportunities for walking, cycling and running
- Increase economic output of the sport and physical activity sector

Being physically active should be something we build into our everyday lifestyle from going out for a walk through to playing sport.

Council is therefore asked to:

- Give its support to the *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy*
- Instruct the relevant officers to develop an action plan to detail how the pledges will be developed and implemented in Oldham”

#### AMENDMENT

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following amendment:

“Add a new paragraph six:

‘Council also notes that the last Oldham Cycle Strategy, developed in consultation with cycling groups to promote cycling in the borough, was published in 2010 and is therefore overdue for renewal.’

Insert in the final paragraph, a new second bullet point:

‘ – Recognise the importance of developing a local response based on a commitment, as a co-operative council, to securing public buy-in through consultation’

And amend the original final bullet point by inserting after ‘relevant officers’ ‘,in consultation with local sports, cycling, running and walking groups,’”

Amended motion to read:

“In Oldham, more than a third of adults are physically inactive (36.28%) and Oldham was ranked 141<sup>st</sup> out of 150 local authorities researched in terms of rates of physical activity in 2013. UKActives *Turning the Tide of Inactivity* report estimates that this lack of regular exercise by the Oldham population is estimated to cost the Oldham economy £53.5m a year.

Physical inactivity is known to be the fourth leading cause of global mortality, and many of the leading causes of ill health in today’s society, such as coronary heart disease, cancer and type 2 Diabetes, could be prevented if more inactive people were to become active.

The *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy* was published in June 2015 and provides the blueprint for physical activity and sport’s

contribution to the overall Greater Manchester Strategy. The intended outcomes of the strategy are to:

- Increase levels of participation in physical activity and sport to reduce levels of inactivity
- Increase active travel leading to increased opportunities for walking, cycling and running
- Increase economic output of the sport and physical activity sector

Being physically active should be something we build into our everyday lifestyle from going out for a walk through to playing sport.

Council also notes that the last Oldham Cycling Strategy, developed in consultation with cycling groups to promote cycling in the borough was published in 2010 and is therefore overdue for renewal.

Council is therefore asked to:

- Give its support to the *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy*
- Recognise the importance of developing a local response based on a commitment, as a co-operative council, to securing public buy-in through consultation
- Instruct the relevant officers to develop an action plan, in consultation with local sports, cycling, running and walking groups, to detail how pledges will be developed and implemented in Oldham.”

Councillor Moores exercised his right of reply.

Councillor Murphy exercised his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put the vote, 9 votes were cast in FAVOUR of the AMENDMENT with 46 cast AGAINST and 0 ABSTENTIONS. The AMENDMENT was therefore LOST.

Councillor Harrison spoke in support of the ORIGINAL MOTION.

Councillor Moores exercised his right of reply.

A vote was taken on the MOTION.

On being put the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The *Greater Manchester Moving Strategy* be supported.
2. Relevant officers be instructed to develop an action plan to detail how the pledges would be developed and implemented in Oldham.

In delivering her first Annual Statement, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Stretton, reflected upon the clear continuity in values, purpose and actions regardless of the changes to the



Leadership team. Cooperative work would go on. She reflected on changes in circumstances and budget. She reflected on key priorities achieved in the last year and what would be coming next.

Reference was made to the first five years of the Cooperative Journey and the Leader reflected success came when everyone pulled together in the same direction and shared the same aspirations and goals. A better borough could only be built together.

The Leader highlighted the building of the family friendly town centre with the Odeon Cinema, businesses being attracted to the Town Centre and others were in negotiations. Other regeneration projects would be commencing which included the Heritage Centre, the Prince's Gate Scheme and the Independent Quarter. She also highlighted improvement works to highways and pedestrian areas, clearance of the old Leisure Centre and Hobson Street car park and the work started on Maggie Care Centre at the hospital.

Further schemes highlighted by the Leader included the Warm Homes Oldham scheme and the Early Help scheme. The Leader reflected on the Greater Manchester Role and the need to include more people in the benefits and prosperity of the City Region. More Greater Manchester investment was needed and spread wider.

The Leader highlighted the delivery of high education and the publication of the Oldham Skills and Education Commission report. GCSE and A Levels had improved and the gap was closing on the national average. Ofsted inspections were improving. Key Stage 2 results with the new curriculum were disappointing and these would be examined.

Get Oldham Working had proved to be a success and Phase 2 would be launched to assist more residents. A new Work and Skills Strategy had been developed to raise aspirations.

The Leader stated the Council would tackle low pay and zero hours contracts. The Enterprise and Skills team would launch a career advancement service and provide support for in-work promotion. Other priorities included new transport links making it easier to access jobs and training opportunities.

It was further stated that homes were being built which were needed, sites included Limehurst, High Barn, Fitton Hill and the Lancaster Club site and several other sites were moving towards development. Another priority was the quality of neighbourhoods and enforcement work. The Council would prosecute those whose practices blighted their communities through the Selective Licensing Scheme and cracking down on flytippers.

The Leader noted funding pressures were increasing and stated that this would impact on residents. The Leader also highlighted

support for healthy lifestyles which included healthy school meals, parks, leisure centres, investing in activities with partners and growing hubs.

The Leader concluded by referring to the stronger economy, transport, homes, good education, care for all who needed it and supporting healthy lifestyles. Despite the cuts, a difference could be made. The Council had the plans, people, assets and confidence. As Local Leaders there was a responsibility to work with residents to continue to give leadership, help and inspiration they needed. Oldham would only succeed when everyone pulled together in the same direction and build a better borough together.

**RESOLVED** that the content of the Leader's Annual Statement be noted.

11 **YOUTH COUNCIL**

There were no items submitted by the Youth Council.

12 **LEADER AND CABINET QUESTION TIME**

The Leader of the Main Opposition, Councillor Sykes raised the following two questions:

Question 1: Local Patients Failed by 'Inadequate' Trust Damned in Report

"My first question to the Leader tonight relates to the very disturbing findings of the report published last month by the Quality Care Commission (QCC) about our local Pennine Acute Hospitals Trust.

The Commission found the Trust to be providing 'inadequate' services overall, with several departments requiring 'improvement'.

At the Royal Oldham Hospital, inspectors were concerned about 'suitable and appropriate medical staffing', especially in critical care, maternity, gynaecology and children and young people's services.

In young people's services it was found that there were no consultants in place after 5 pm. As though our children only get sick nine to five!

And in the high dependency unit, many standards for critical care were 'not being met' and that it was only during the inspection that 'adequate' staffing levels were provided, when for three years management knew of the shortfall.

Whilst none of us want to have to receive high dependency care, if we do, we surely have the right to expect to be treated to the highest standard in a unit with sufficient staff?

All of these deficiencies should be of great concern to us as the patients being most let down are amongst the most vulnerable patients in our hospital.

And can we be clear 'let down' means pain and death that could be avoided!

So where does the fault lie? Not apparently with the staff described as 'caring' who continue to do their best with



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inadequate resources and numbers; instead it lies with the Trust Board and senior management whose conduct is described as 'inadequate'.

I have been told that aside from health professionals, there are no Oldham residents directly involved in the Improvement Board and Plan put in place to attempt to address these serious concerns; can the Leader confirm if this is true? If this is true, why is there no Oldham citizen directly involved in making sure our Hospital and Pennine Trust improves?

This cannot, and should not, just be left to the so called health professionals; a number of which have close working and contractual arrangements with Pennine Acute Trust! Does she agree with me this is a highly unsatisfactory state of affairs and a scandal that there is no one from our Borough representing our citizens? Can the Leader also tell me what we are doing as an authority to put pressure on the Trust Board to address these shocking deficiencies in performance before the Trust goes into terminal decline? Anything I and my colleagues can do to support her and her colleagues in this matter we will."

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that she shared his concerns about the Care Quality Commission report and was appalled to only discover the details when the report was leaked to the press, and only as a result of the leak the Council became aware there would be an Improvement Board. Councillor Stretton and the Leaders of Bury and Rochdale wrote to the Chief Executive of Manchester City Council as Chair of the Improvement Board and reflected that there were three other borough's residents affected by the report. The Leader agreed with the concerns of the performance. A meeting had been requested with David Dalton, the first of which had taken place on the day of Council. Concerns were expressed similar to what had just been said and it was agreed to meet again to discuss these concerns further. It was agreed that urgent intervention was needed with the severe failings that were outlined in the report. The Council would be meeting with whoever possible from a range of organisations in turning this around.

#### Question 2: Pokemon Go

"My second question tonight concerns one of the biggest social crazes to hit the UK in many a year and it is a craze that has been taken up across the whole nation by Britons of all ages but particularly the young and the young at heart – namely the phenomena called Pokemon Go.

According to Wikipedia Pokemon Go is 'a free-to-play, location-based augmented reality game developed by Niantic for iOS and Android devices.'

What that means in plain English is that if you have the correct software on your portable electronic device that you can play 'hunt the monster' whilst visiting the park or crossing the street. For those unfamiliar with the game, in essence you are able to track and catch virtual Pokeman creatures in real-world settings. So what has this got to do with Oldham Council I hear you ask? Well some novel ideas have been recently published about engaging Pokemon Go players with public services and in

particular public health activities. Our libraries are, whether they know it or not, virtual gyms, the only location where Pokemon players can go to 'strengthen' their monsters and meet with others playing the game. Some libraries are taking advantages of this to let players know they are welcome in to play and welcome to stay afterwards. Some are even issuing badges to players who prove they have won a battle at the gym. Other suggestions include: designating historical landmarks and public facilities as Pokestops, where special items are dropped and in-app lures can be set off, with Lure Parties to cash in on the fun; hosting meet-ups, and monster rather than art trails; Community get-togethers to search for Pokemon at the weekend and fund-raising events in partnership with charities. Weight-loss and health campaigners can utilise one of the game's key benefit – you have to walk to find the monsters and you are largely outdoors when you do so. There is already some evidence of previous couch potatoes, or those holed up in their bedrooms playing Call of Duty on Xbox or Play Station are now walking and/or running around outside as they hunt on Pokemon Go.

Given the potential, I would like to ask the Leader what this Council is doing to harness this idea and whether we can work with our Youth Council to develop innovative ways in which we can use the power of this technology to connect our youngest residents with our public services? An even more importantly use it to get people more active and therefore healthy and help tackle the ticking time bomb we have locally with obesity and in particular with obesity in young people.”

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that she had not caught any monsters yet but there were those who were obsessed. Joking apart, the benefit in terms of getting people active was absolutely worth pursuing. The Comms team and officers from a wider team would be more than happy to work with anyone in the chamber and work with the Youth Council on his suggestion.

The Leader of the Conservative Group, Councillor Hudson, asked the following question to the Leader of the Council. Councillor Hudson was shocked by the report on ITV Granada regarding the care of an elderly couple. He felt the report was biased and asked the Leader if she would speak to the relevant Cabinet Member with regards to a response to the biased report.

Councillor Stretton, Leader of the Council responded that she had not seen the report but would look at it. She had had discussions which had led her to believe that the report was not an accurate reflection of the situation and the statement supplied to Granada had not been used. The Council did not commission 15 minute visits and was incensed. She would be writing to the programme to put the Council's point of view across.

The Mayor reminded the meeting that Council had agreed that, following the Leaders' allocated questions, questions would be

taken in an order which reflected the political balance of the Council.



1. Councillor Iqbal asked the following question:

“Could the Cabinet member please give an update on the Oldham Way Bridge (6th Form College Bridge). We were advised that Phase 2 of the work would start in February. Local residents and pedestrians are eager to see this bridge brought up to standard and ‘fit for purpose’. Pedestrians, especially lone females, will be concerned for their safety as at present the side panels are concealed.”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that the delay had been caused by some challenging bespoke design issues, namely the intricacies associated with unique parapet panels, the introduction of the Oldham Crest to the bridge and a solution to supply electricity to the decorative lighting. The result would provide a more clean and contemporary finish to the bridge and would enhance its appearance to both users and passers-by travelling on Oldham way. The bridge was also due for a deep clean and repainting which would restore the bridge as a feature across Oldham Way and once completed the bridge would have a much more open feel to users and it was hoped that more pedestrians and cycle traffic would use the bridge as an alternative way to accessing the Town Centre. The work was expected to be completed in 10 weeks.

2. Councillor Garry asked the following question:

“To ensure we are dealing with bona fide residents who submit questions to the District Partnership meetings, is it possible that we can insist on names and addresses to be supplied as per the new rules for full Council?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded it would be for each District Executive to decide if they wished to adopt and ask for names and addresses for residents who submitted questions.

3. Councillor Mushtaq asked the following question:

“The House of Commons Sub Committee on Education, Skill and the Economy reported in July 2016 that too many young people are leaving education without having had the chance to fully consider their future options or how their skills and experiences fit with opportunities in the jobs market. It also judged that a host of policy changes, initiatives and new bodies introduced in recent years have failed to make serious improvements and in some cases have even been counter-productive. This is a sorry judgement on both the Coalition and Conservative Governments’ policy for Careers Advice which lets down many of our young people. Could the relevant Cabinet Member comment on how this affects young people in Oldham?”

Councillor Chadderton, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years responded that the statutory responsibility for providing careers education and guidance rested with schools for pupils from year 8 onwards. There was a fortunate position in Oldham in that all schools commissioned some element of careers guidance from Positive Steps and in most cases schools also had an element of careers education embedded in the curriculum. In addition to this, the local authority also commissioned careers guidance for vulnerable groups such as those at risk of disengagement after leaving school, those with special education needs and young people in the care system. In the wider context of Greater Manchester, projects funded through City Deal for the improvement of quality of careers guidance had been accessed by a number of Oldham schools.

4. Councillor Blyth asked the following question:

“Given the number of takeaways and coffee shops in Oldham town centre and the various district shopping centres providing in-store seating for customers, I would be keen to hear the Cabinet Member’s view on the impact locally of the recent High Court judgement relating to Greggs? For the benefit of members who may be unfamiliar with this judgement, Mr. Justice Kerr in the High Court recently sided with Hull City Council against bakery chain Greggs, and the Government, in requiring these outlets to remove such seating unless they also install customer lavatories and washing facilities. Mr Justice Kerr cited a previous case which Newcastle City Council also won, obliging Greggs to provide toilets in local branches of the chain. Can the Cabinet Member please tell me how we are seeking to encourage takeaways with in-store seating to also provide toilets and washing facilities to make the dining experience more pleasant for customers who choose to eat-in?”

Councillor Hussain, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services responded that after discussions with officers, the Council did not enforce the local legislation contained within the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 which required food business owners to provide toilets and wash hand basin even where they were providing very limited seating facilities for customers. Councillor Hussain thanked the member for raising this issue but he was of the opinion that any enforcement of this legislation would have a detrimental impact on small food businesses across the borough who were only providing a limited number of seats for customers.

5. Councillor Dearden asked the following question:

“The Government is encouraging Local Authorities to form regional adoption agencies, could the relevant Cabinet Member please inform us of the current situation regarding Oldham, specifically around the area of partner organisations, financial implications and most importantly what this will mean for the children waiting for placement and prospective adopters.”

Councillor Harrison, Cabinet Member for Social Care and Safeguarding responded that Oldham was in partnership with five other local authorities namely Bolton, Blackburn with Darwen, Bury, Tameside and Rochdale. There were two voluntary adoption agencies attached to this group. Currently the project was funded through the Department of Education, however, self-funding would be needed from April 2017 and financial business cases were being scoped. The implications for Oldham's adopters and children would be that they would automatically see their access to potential matches increase 6-fold, i.e. adoptee details would go out and be circulated within these six adoption areas which increased the potential to be matched with a child in a much shortened timescale. Equally our children would have the same access which should cut down the time they had to wait before being matched with a family. This would mean less children having to be placed far away from their communities but still in a safe place, without the need to look nationwide.

6. Councillor Wrigglesworth asked the following question:

“Under the Tory Government’s ‘Pay To Stay’ rules to be introduced in April 2017 all Social Housing Tenants who have a combined annual income of more than £31,000 are going to be required pay extra rent. Can the Cabinet Member responsible give us any indication of how many tenants in the Borough are likely to be affected and whether the cost of administrating the rules will out way any increase in funds collected? I believe that the Council will responsible for administrating the rules and can claim back these costs from extra income which may be raised; will the government be responsible for reimbursing the costs if these are greater than any income raised?”

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that ‘Pay to Stay’ was voluntary for housing associations but compulsory for stock holding local authorities. Further regulations were due out in October to set out how it would operate. The Council was talking to housing associations which had homes in the borough and some were considering whether to bring in Pay to Stay for their tenants. They would have the flexibility to design their own Pay to Stay policies for higher income social tenants. The Council owned around 2,100 homes. Preparatory work showed that only around 3% of council tenants would be required to pay the higher rent which was less than the national average of 7%. Any extra rent collected under the scheme would have to be given to the Government. If the cost of administrating the scheme was more than the Council collected, the Council could ask for an exemption.

7. Councillor Murphy asked the following question:

“My question relates to the status of two of the blue plaques in our borough, and the dishonour currently shown to those who are commemorated upon them. A motion was recently passed by Council to support investigating erecting a statue to Oldham

suffragette Annie Kenney in the town centre. Mr. Mayor, members may not be aware of the blue plaque that already exists to Ms Kenney on the wall of Leesbrook Mill in Springhead, where she was employed as a cotton operative. This is in a very poor condition and is practically unreadable. My colleagues, Cllrs Turner and Williamson, also wrote to the Cabinet Member recently about the plaque to another Oldham suffragette Lydia Becker. The plaque to Lydia Becker is located on a side external wall of Foxdenton Hall in Chadderton, which was Lydia's family home. This must often be over looked as it is not in a prominent position, is too far away from the public footpath to be easily seen, and is partially obscured by vegetation. In our town centre, near the war memorial there is also a blue plaque honouring the Oldham men who were awarded this nation's highest award for gallantry, The Victoria Cross. However the plaque is located so high up on the wall that it is unreadable unless you have access to military field glasses; what an irony! Please can I therefore ask the Cabinet Member to arrange for the Annie Kenney plaque to be repaired and cleaned, or alternately replaced, the Lydia Becker plaque to be relocated to a more prominent position near the entrance to the hall and for the VC plaque to be relocated alongside the other panels honouring the courage of Oldhamers by the War Memorial itself?"

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives responded that listed building consent was required to move the war memorial plaque. There was working ongoing on the War Memorial plaque. When the application has been submitted and approved, the consent of the building owners would need to be obtained. There was a similar requirement for the plaque located at Foxdenton Hall. It was sensible to wait until plans for the hall were finalised before making a final decision. With regard to the Annie Kenney plaque, there was no connection to Leesbrook Mill and officers were working with the historical society for the identification of a more appropriate location.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor advised that the time limit for this item had expired.

**RESOLVED** that the questions and responses provided be noted.

13

**TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE CABINET HELD ON THE UNDERMENTIONED DATES, INCLUDING THE ATTACHED LIST OF URGENT KEY DECISIONS TAKEN SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, AND TO RECEIVE ANY QUESTIONS OR OBSERVATIONS ON ANY ITEMS WITHIN THE MINUTES FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE CABINET, AND RECEIVE RESPONSES FROM CABINET MEMBERS**

The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 were submitted.





Members raised the following questions:

1. Councillor McCann – Cabinet Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016, page 51. Item 6 – 2015/16 Annual Statement of Accounts. Councillor McCann offered his congratulations to the finance team for the quick and accurate set of accounts. Councillor McCann referred to the external auditors saying the background to the accounts should be dropped. He felt that this was useful information and helped to understand the accounts. Would the Cabinet Member say that this was part of the accounts? As part of the continuous improvement and reviewing how debt was being repaid, could the Cabinet Member arrange a briefing for councillors on what the financing means?

Councillor Jabbar, Cabinet Member for Finance and HR responded and thanked Councillor McCann for the recognition of the Finance Team. Councillor Jabbar noted that the Council had closed its accounts in record time and the first public body's accounts approved. It would be difficult to maintain this momentum. The background information was not just about doing the numbers, the quality of information was important. He would like to continue current practice. In terms of future funding and borrowing, he would be happy to provide a training session for all members. Councillor Jabbar took the opportunity to thank the Chief Executive, Executive Director and managers who worked so hard and the Finance Team led by Anne Ryans on the management of the finances.

2. Councillor Murphy - Cabinet Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016, page 55, Item 10 – Local Development Scheme. Councillor Murphy asked if more readable maps could be included.

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Cooperatives response that she would look into that.

3. Councillor Harkness – Cabinet Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016, page 45, Item 9 – Waste Management Options – Councillor Harkness referred to recycling in apartment blocks and flats. There were no changes planned for collection but he asked what could be done to incentivise and increase recycling and would there be excessive demand on the new system at Christmas time.

Councillor Brownridge responded that these had been factored into the decision to go to managed collections. In terms of collections from flats, these were not changing. It was felt that implementation get underway everywhere else. There were a lot of opportunities and collections from flats would be subject to future discussions. Councillor Brownridge welcomed Councillor

Harkness's involvement as a Councillor and resident and to speak about this in detail.



There were no observations on the minutes.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 be noted.
2. The questions and responses on the Cabinet minutes be noted.
3. That a briefing session be arranged for members on the future financing and borrowing.

14

**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS**

Motion 1

Councillor Ball MOVED and Councillor Brock SECONDED the following motion:

“Oldham is not on its own facing an increase in families who are in both financial and food poverty. Oldham Council is doing a lot for this ever increasing number of people and, with the changes to benefits and even more zero hour contracts, this number is unlikely to diminish.

The End Hunger Campaign in Oldham is launching on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The aim of this campaign is to:

- Improve the public awareness of the food justice movement at local level, showing how volunteers are working hard in food banks and on community food projects.
- Publicise the support available to help people who are struggling with their household budget, for example, the winter warmth campaign, the Welfare Rights Service and citizen's advice.

We ask that all sides of the Council support this campaign and the volunteers, Council employees and councillors who themselves work hard to help fellow Oldhamers.

The overall aim of the campaign is to build a town in which everyone has access to good food and no one goes to bed hungry.

This Council resolves:

1. To work to try to make sure that all children are able to live free from the damaging effects of hunger, including the adverse effect on their health.
2. It will continue to work with all community groups and volunteers to support and advise networks in the community that are themselves supporting families affected by food poverty.
3. To write to the Clinical Commissioning Group to ask that it ensures GPs and other front line staff take into account food poverty when seeing people, especially children, who are not in the best of health.

4. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the borough's three MPs, and the Prime Minister, asking them to make every effort to ensure that families can afford good food on a regular basis through an appropriate combination of work and benefits.

Councillor Harkness MOVED and Councillor Turner SECONDED the following AMENDMENT.

“Insert in line 2 after people ‘but we recognise we can do a lot more’. Insert a full stop. Remove the word ‘And’, start next sentence ‘With’.

After the end of the original fourth paragraph insert a new paragraph which reads as follows:

‘Council recognises that there are many organisations which can offer the Council and its partners financial, food and in-kind support to address food poverty in this borough, including Brake Brothers, Fareshare, Kelloggs, Magic Breakfast, Make Lunch, The Real Junk Food Project, and the Trussell Trust.’

After the end of the original fifth paragraph insert a new paragraph which reads as follows:

‘This Council supports the aims of this campaign and wishes to take further action to address food poverty in this borough.’

In the original sixth paragraph, amend original bullet point 1 to read as follows:

‘That this Council and its partners establish an action plan for the borough to work to ensure that all residents, particularly children, older people, and the chronically-sick, are able to live free from the damaging effects of hunger, including the adverse effect on their health.’

Amend original bullet point number 2 to read as follows:

“That this plan identifies practical actions to address food poverty in this borough, specifically to:

- Establish breakfast clubs in every school and academy in the borough where there is a need for one
- Establish school holiday food clubs across the borough where there is a need
- Establish more community cafes, where people in need can access cheap and nutritious meals; community shops, where they can buy good quality surplus food cheaply; and community kitchens, where they can cook their own food rather than having to choose at home whether to use fuel to heat or eat
- Work with N-Power to bring the Fuel Voucher scheme to Oldham
- Host a workshop for schools, academies, faith groups and voluntary sector partners at which organisations offering financial, food and in-kind support can be invited to make presentations to and network with prospective local partners
- Engage with local food retailers to access more of the surplus food that is currently thrown away
- Promote the take up Healthy Start Vouchers to eligible residents

- Make a successful application to become a partner of the Alexandra Rose Voucher Scheme
- Promote the take up of free school meals by all eligible children in this borough

And otherwise to continue to work with all community groups and volunteers who support and advise networks in the community that are themselves supporting families affected by food poverty.'

To continue with the original bullet points three and four, and therefore insert an additional fifth bullet point to read as follows:

'To ask the Chief Executive to write to End Hunger UK campaign with a request that Oldham Council be listed as an organisation offering its support.'

Amended Motion to read:

"Oldham is not on its own in facing an increase in families who are in both financial and food poverty. Oldham Council is doing a lot for this ever increasing number of people, but we recognise we can do a lot more. With the changes to benefits and even more zero hour contracts, this number is unlikely to diminish.

The End Hunger Campaign in Oldham is launching on the 15<sup>th</sup> October.

The aim of this campaign is to:

- Improve the public awareness of the food justice movement at local level, showing how volunteers are working hard in food banks and on community food projects.
- Publicise the support available to help people who are struggling with their household budget, for example, the winter warmth campaign, the Welfare Rights Service and citizens' advice.

We ask that all sides of the Council support this campaign and the volunteers, Council employees and councillors who themselves work hard to help fellow Oldhamers.

Council recognises that there are many organisations which can offer the Council and its partners financial, food and in-kind support to address food poverty in this borough, including Brake Brothers, Fareshare, Kelloggs, Magic Breakfast, Make Lunch, The Real Junk Food Project, and the Trussell Trust.

The overall aim of the campaign is to build a town in which everyone has access to good food and no one goes to bed hungry.

This Council supports the aims of this campaign and wishes to take further action to address food poverty in this borough.

This Council resolves:

1. That this Council and its partners establish an action plan for the borough to work to ensure that all residents, particularly children, older people, and the chronically-sick, are able to live free from the damaging effects of hunger, including the adverse effect on their health.
2. That this plan identifies practical actions to address food poverty in this borough, specifically to:

- Establish breakfast clubs in every school and academy in the borough where there is a need for one
- Establish school holiday food clubs across the borough where there is a need
- Establish more community cafes, where people in need can access cheap and nutritious meals; community shops, where they can buy good quality surplus food cheaply; and community kitchens, where they can cook their own food rather than having to choose at home whether to use fuel to heat or eat
- Work with N-Power to bring their Fuel Voucher scheme to Oldham
- Host a workshop for schools, academies, faith groups and voluntary sector partners at which organisations offering financial, food and in-kind support can be invited to make presentations to and network with prospective local partners
- Engage with local food retailers to access more of the surplus food that is currently thrown away
- Promote the take up of Healthy Start Vouchers to eligible residents
- Make a successful application to become a partner of the Alexandra Rose Voucher Scheme
- Promote the take up of free school meals by all eligible children in this borough

And otherwise to continue to work with all community groups and volunteers who support and advise networks in the community that are themselves supporting families affected by food poverty.

3. To write to the Clinical Commissioning Group to ask that it ensures that GPs and other front line staff take into account food poverty when seeing people, especially children, who are not in the best of health.

4. To instruct the Chief Executive to write to the borough's three MPs, and the Prime Minister, asking them to make every effort to ensure that families can afford good food on a regular basis through an appropriate combination of work and benefits.

5. To ask the Chief Executive to write to End Hunger UK campaign with a request that Oldham Council be listed as an organisation offering its support."

Councillor Ball exercised her right of reply and ACCEPTED the AMENDMENT.

Councillor Harkness did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was then taken on the AMENDMENT.

On being put the vote, the AMENDMENT was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Mushtaq spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.  
Councillor Bates spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.  
Councillor Chauhan spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.  
Councillor Dean spoke in support of the Substantive Motion.

Councillor Ball did not exercise her right of reply.

A vote was taken on the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION.

On being put the vote, the SUBSTANTIVE MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.



**RESOLVED** that:

1. the Council and its partners establish an action plan for the borough to work to ensure that all residents, particularly children, older people, and the chronically-sick, are able to live free from the damaging effects of hunger, including the adverse effect on their health.
2. this plan identified practical actions to address food poverty in this borough, specifically to:
  - Establish breakfast clubs in every school and academy in the borough where there is a need for one
  - Establish school holiday food clubs across the borough where there is a need
  - Establish more community cafes, where people in need can access cheap and nutritious meals; community shops, where they can buy good quality surplus food cheaply; and community kitchens, where they can cook their own food rather than having to choose at home whether to use fuel to heat or eat
  - Work with N-Power to bring their Fuel Voucher scheme to Oldham
  - Host a workshop for schools, academies, faith groups and voluntary sector partners at which organisations offering financial, food and in-kind support can be invited to make presentations to and network with prospective local partners
  - Engage with local food retailers to access more of the surplus food that is currently thrown away
  - Promote the take up of Healthy Start Vouchers to eligible residents
  - Make a successful application to become a partner of the Alexandra Rose Voucher Scheme
  - Promote the take up of free school meals by all eligible children in this boroughAnd otherwise to continue to work with all community groups and volunteers who support and advise networks in the community that are themselves supporting families affected by food poverty.
3. the Clinical Commissioning Group be written to, to ask that it ensures that GPs and other front line staff take into account food poverty when seeing people, especially children, who are not in the best of health.
4. the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the borough's three MPs, and the Prime Minister, asking them to make every effort to ensure that families can afford good food on a regular basis through an appropriate combination of work and benefits.

5. the Chief Executive be asked to write to End Hunger UK campaign with a request that Oldham Council be listed as an organisation offering its support.



### Motion 2

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Dearden, as Mover of the Motion, and Councillor Ur-Rehman, as Second of the Motion, requested that Council permit the following Motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting:

“The U.K has the highest level of obesity in Western Europe, with one third of children overweight or obese by the time they leave primary school.

Local councils now have the responsibility for health and wellbeing, health promotion and prevention of ill health, so it is incumbent upon us to debate this and make our views known.

We note with great disappointment this government’s long-awaited Obesity Strategy, published in August 2016, during parliamentary recess and in the midst of the Rio Olympics, and the lost opportunity to improve our health and wellbeing.

Medical experts and campaigners have criticised the strategy as ‘weak and embarrassing’ and accused policy makers of throwing away the chance to tackle our culture of unhealthy eating that is crippling the NHS.

The government proposals, centred on the sugar tax announced by George Osborne in May 2016, rely on voluntary action by the food and drink industry and contain no restrictions on junk food marketing and advertising. The sugar tax will not be introduced for another two years.

This Council recognises that local campaigning and awareness raising programmes are most successful when backed by legislative changes, as with the ban on smoking in public places.

This Council therefore resolves that the following measures be taken:

1. Oldham Council, led by our Public Health officers and the Health and Wellbeing Board (which includes partners such as Housing, Doctors, Hospitals, Oldham Community Leisure, Voluntary groups), will campaign to ban all high sugar foods and drinks available in our buildings and will encourage schools, community organisations and local employers to do the same;
2. Oldham Council to continue to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy eating through our local campaigns such as ‘Get Oldham Growing, Feeding Ambition’, ‘Go for a Walk’, Oral Health, Breastfeeding and other initiatives.

In addition, we request that the Chief Executive writes to the borough’s three MPs to inform them of our action and to ask them to campaign for stronger legislation.”

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be rolled over the next Council meeting scheduled on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

### Motion 3

The Mayor informed the meeting that the time limit for this item had expired and Councillor Roberts, as Mover of the Motion, and Councillor J. Larkin, as Second of the Motion, requested that Council permit the following Motion be rolled over for discussion at the next Council meeting:

“Speed kills: speed is one of the main factors in fatal road accidents. A pedestrian is four times more likely to die if hit at 40mph than at 30 mph. In 2014, 282 people were killed in crashes in the UK involving someone exceeding the speed limit and a further 126 people died when someone was travelling too fast for the conditions.

Residents, including those who attend the Community Forums, regularly express their concern about speeding traffic both on main roads and also in residential areas. Councillors have responded by supporting speed measurements measures, changes to road and junction layout to improve safety, improvements to pedestrian crossings and most recently by funding Vehicle Activated Signs.

However, motorists continue to speed and drive too fast for road conditions and local circumstances.

This Council resolves to:

- Mount a campaign of driver education to explain the impact of speeding and encourage motorists to obey the law
- Take every opportunity available to secure funding to make Oldham’s Roads safer
- Work with Greater Manchester Police to improvement enforcement action against motorists breaking the speed limits
- Influence the Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2010 to include a sub-regional approach to tackling speeding and making our roads safer.

**RESOLVED** that the Motion be rolled over the next Council meeting scheduled on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

15

## **NOTICE OF OPPOSITION BUSINESS**

### Motion 1

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council once more wishes to place on record its admiration for the courage, service and sacrifice of members of Her Majesty’s armed forces, past and present, during military conflicts, in countering terrorism and in carrying out peacekeeping and humanitarian duties.

This Council notes:

- The obligations it owes to the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Oldham as enshrined in the Armed Forces Covenant; that the Armed Forces community



should not face disadvantage in the provision of services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given the most.

- The absence of definitive and comprehensive statistics on the size or demographics of the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Oldham. This includes serving Regular and Reserve personnel, veterans and their families.
- That the availability of such data would greatly assist the council, local partner agencies, the voluntary sector, and national Government in the planning and provision of services to address the unique needs of the Armed Forces community within the Borough of Oldham.

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Support and promote The Royal British Legion's campaign 'Count Them In' to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces community.
- Urge elected members for this Borough to sign up as individual supporters to the 'Count Them In' campaign.
- Ask the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Community Covenant to write to the Secretary of State for Defence, The Rt. Hon. Michael Fallon MP, setting out the Council's position that we wish to see the UK Parliament approve a final census questionnaire in 2019, which includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community, for use in the 2021 census.
- Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament asking them to also make representations on this matter to the Secretary of State for Defence.

Councillor Steven Bashforth spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ball spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Sykes exercised his right of reply.

A vote was taken on the MOTION.

On being put the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The Royal British Legion's campaign 'Count Them In' be supported and promoted to include a new topic in the 2021 census that concerns military service and membership of the Armed Forces Community.
2. Elected members for this Borough be urged to sign up as individual supporters to the 'Count Them In' campaign.
3. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Community Covenant be asked to write to the Secretary of State for Defence, the Rt. Hon. Michael Fallon MP, setting out the Council's position that we wish to see the UK Parliament approve a final census questionnaire in

- 2010, which includes questions concerning our Armed Forces community, for use in the 2021 census.
4. The Chief Executive be asked to write to the Borough's three Members of Parliament asking them to also make representations on this matter to the Secretary of State for Defence.

## Motion 2

Councillor Murphy MOVED and Councillor Blyth SECONDED the following motion:

“This Council notes that

- Dementia is one of the biggest health issues facing the UK
- In Oldham, over 2,500 people are estimated to be living with dementia
- This condition will affect one in three people over the age of 65, with that figure is predicted to rise by two thirds by 2030
- Dementia is an umbrella term for a set of symptoms that might be exhibited by people living with one of any number of diseases of the brain; it is not a natural part of aging
- Dementia is not just about losing your memory; it can also affect thinking, communication, inhibitions, and everyday tasks
- With the right care, support and understanding from those around them that it is possible for someone to live well with dementia and to continue to contribute to community life.

Council commends the work that has been done so far in our borough specially:

- The training of well over 5,000 Dementia Friends across the borough
- Gaining recognition from the Alzheimer's Society as one of just fifty communities in England as 'Working towards a dementia friendly community'
- Establishing the Oldham Dementia Partnership and the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance
- Creating an Enhanced Memory Service to support people living with dementia and their carers

But Council also believes that as a major public-service organisation we can do so much more, particularly in:

- Delivering more dementia-friendly services with specially trained staff and from dementia-friendly buildings
- Promoting a more dementia-friendly transport network in order that people living with dementia and their carers can better access them

Council therefore calls upon the relevant Cabinet Member(s) to:

- Appoint a senior officer in each directorate as a Dementia Champion to lead on this issue within their directorate, with specific responsibility for ensuring that:

- All new Council staff appointed to customer-facing roles, particularly those in the Call Centre, the First Contact centre and our public libraries and parks, participate in mandatory Dementia Friends training as part of their induction.
- Existing staff in customer-facing roles participate in Dementia Friends training within twelve months.
- Environmental checks are carried out in all of the public buildings and open spaces within their directorate's control to ensure that they are Dementia Friendly.
- The Dementia Friendly logo is displayed prominently at these locations once they are determined to be dementia friendly.
- Their directorate, and the Dementia Friendly public buildings and open spaces, are registered separately as individual entities with the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance, in addition to the Council being itself registered corporately.
- A report of progress for that directorate is prepared for circulation to elected members and for publication on the Council's website during Dementia Awareness Week in May 2017.
- Ask these officers to work with the national charity Making Space and the local group Let's Be Heard and the Springboard Oldham Dementia Carers Group to support the delivery of staff training, the carrying out of environmental checks, and the completion of the registration process.
- Carry out a review of Council employment practices to ensure that best practice is being followed in offering staff living with dementia, or caring for a family member living with dementia, appropriate ongoing support and flexible working arrangements.
- Ask our partner organisations, Oldham Community Leisure, Oldham Mio-Care, and Unity Partnership to make similar commitments.
- Create a new Dementia Hub in an accessible, dementia-friendly Council building by providing accommodation to co-locate relevant staff from the following organisations – the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK Oldham, Making Space and the Memory Assessment Service – and meeting rooms and activity areas for people living with dementia and their carers.
- Investigate the merits and practicalities of introducing, and promoting, a Dementia Buddy wristband scheme with representatives from the emergency services and Transport for Greater Manchester. This scheme is operational and actively promoted within the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan.
- Create a transport sub-group of the Oldham Dementia Action Alliance to look specifically at how bus, tram and taxi transport can be made more dementia-friendly.
- Urge schools to include information about living with dementia into the local Personal Social and Health

Education curriculum delivered to pupils to help develop their understanding of dementia.  
Council is also asked to appoint an elected member as a Dementia Champion to lead on this issue for Council.



Councillor McCann spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Roberts **MOVED** and Councillor Ahmad **SECONDED** that under Council Procedure rule 8.4(d) the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

**RESOLVED** that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4(d) the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

### Motion 3

Councillor Harkness **MOVED** and Councillor Turner **SECONDED** the following motion:

“Council notes that:

- Free school meals are a critical safety net for children from low-income families
- Free school meals help tackle child hunger, boost educational attainment, and save parents £400 per year
- It is estimated that for one in four children a school lunch may be their only hot meal every day
- The Schools Census does not collect information on pupils entitled to receive free school meals, only those who meet the eligibility criteria AND are registered to claim them.
- In January 2016, the Census recorded that 8,253 children have been awarded free school meals, but that under 80% of children take up the free school meals they are entitled to
- Some parents choose not to register their children and some children chose not to eat a school meal because of stigmatisation and school isolation
- Not only does this mean a child might go hungry, but schools lose out on pupil-premium funding, intended to help close the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged pupils and their peers, as this is based upon free school meals registration
- Neighbouring Calderdale Council uses central held housing benefit and council tax reduction records to identify any children eligible to receive free school meals, where their parents are not currently claiming, and then automatically enrolls them; this leads to additional pupil-premium payments to the schools they attend
- In March 2015, this approach led to a further 586 pupils being registered for free school meals and their schools receiving additional pupil-premium funding of £685,000

Council recognises that promoting the take-up of free school meals should one of our priorities in addressing food poverty and improving educational attainment in the borough

Council therefore resolves to ask the relevant Cabinet Members and the Director of Education to look to adopt the approach taken by Calderdale in Oldham and to launch a campaign to promote the tack up of free school meals by those pupils eligible to receive them.



Councillor Harkness, as Mover the motion, and Councillor Turner, as the Seconder of the motion, requested that the motion be WITHDRAWN.

#### Motion 4

Councillor Sykes MOVED and Councillor Williamson SECONDED the following motion:

“Council believes that it is a disgrace and a scandal that over the last nine months five Royal Mail post boxes have disappeared from Shaw and Crompton.

Council recognised that this has caused great inconvenience to residents; most particularly those living on Dunwood Park Courts, who have been without a local post box since November 2015, and to the many elderly, infirm or disabled residents living adjacent to those five locations, who struggle, or simply find it impossible, to walk to the next available post box.

Furthermore, Council is deeply disappointed by the:

- Lack of urgency in the response from the Chief Executive of Royal Mail to representations on this matter by local Councillors
- Vague promises made to reinstate these post boxes at some unspecified future date
- Apparent lack of a statutory requirement for Royal Mail to consult with any local authority, and local residents, before a post box is removed from a public location

Council resolves to request that the Chief Executive writes to:

- The Chief Executive and Chairman of Royal Mail Plc conveying this Council’s robust view on this matter and demanding the early reinstatement of these post boxes as a matter of urgency
- The Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport asking the Government to establish a statutory requirement for Royal Mail to consult any District or Unitary Council, and local residents, prior to the removal (or non-replacement for a period of more than one calendar month) of any public post box from their area.

Councillor Sykes did not exercise his right of reply.

A vote was taken on the MOTION.

On being put the vote, the MOTION was CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**RESOLVED** that:

1. The Chief Executive write to the Chief Executive and Chairman of Royal Mail plc conveying this Council's robust view on this matter and demanding the early reinstatement of these post boxes as a matter of urgency.
2. The Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport asking the Government to establish a statutory requirement for Royal Mail to consult any District or Unitary Council, and local residents, prior to the removal (or non-replacement for a period of more than one calendar month) of any public post box from their area.

16a To note the Minutes of the following Joint Authority meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the Joint Authorities were submitted as follows:

National Park Authority	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Transport for Greater Manchester	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 (AGM)
	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA)	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 (AGM)
	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2016
Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA)	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016 (AGM)
	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
Joint GMCA/AGMA Executive	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2016

Councillor Sykes – Transport for Greater Manchester Committee minutes, Minute TfGMC 16/18, Metrolink Park and Ride: Overnight Parking Trial – he was pleased to say that it worked. A solution was needed to use Metrolink provision when using Intercity services.

Councillor Sykes – Transport for Greater Manchester Committee minutes, Minute TfGMC 16/19 – Bus Services Bill – if the bill was passed it would give similar power to Transport for London and if chose to do so would be able to regulate some commercial services and, if seen fit, instruct operators to do things differently than what the operators wanted. TfGM worked hard to ensure things connects but some changes were leaving places isolated.

Councillor Sykes – Transport for Greater Manchester Committee minutes, TfGMC Minute 16/22 - Metrolink Service Changes: Summer 2016. The original business case, due to the loss of the rail line, included a direct connection with Piccadilly. With the change in routes, neither service goes to Piccadilly. The authority needed to lobby within the next few weeks when the line was taken beyond Exchange Square. The connection with Piccadilly was crucial to future employment and the regeneration of the Borough. Councillor Sykes requested an urgent meeting, he was not sure if decisions had already been made. The current route was contrary to what was originally campaigned for.

Councillor Stretton responded that she would write along those lines to TfGMC.



**RESOLVED** that:

1. the minutes of the Joint Authorities as detailed in the report be noted.
2. The observations made on the Joint Authority minutes be noted.
3. TfGM be contacted regarding connection to Piccadilly.

16b To note the Minutes of the following Partnership meetings and the relevant spokespersons to respond to questions from Members

The minutes of the Partnership meetings were submitted as follows:

Oldham Leadership Board	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2016
MioCare	9 <sup>th</sup> May 2016

There were no questions or observations on the Partnership minutes.

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Partnership meetings as detailed in the report be noted.

17 **UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM COUNCIL**

Consideration was given to the report of the Director of Legal Services which informed members of actions that had been taken following previous Council meetings and provided feedback on other issues raised at the meeting.

**RESOLVED** that the update on the actions report be noted.

18 **NEW POWERS TO GMCA CONSULTATION - OLDHAM COUNCIL RESPONSE**

Consideration was given a report regarding the response to the second GMCA consultation. The response was submitted under delegation to the Leader, in consultation with the Chief Executive. It had not been possible to discuss the submission at Council prior to submission due to the deadline which closed on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The response was submitted on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

GMCA had launched the consultation on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2016 which invited people and local authorities to submit their thoughts and comments on the powers that Greater Manchester would request from Central Government.

The consultation included questions on:

- Responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority;
- Responsibility for the functions of the Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority;
- Proposals for Further Education, Skills and Employment Support;
- Proposals for Transport;

- Proposal for Greater Manchester Spatial Framework;
- Proposal regarding Overview and Scrutiny Committees; and
- Equalities Proposals.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The report be noted.
2. Oldham Council's response to the consultation as outlined at Appendix 1 of the report be noted.

19

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2015/16**

Consideration was given to the recently approved 2015/16 audited Statement of Accounts and the External Audit (Grant Thornton) Audit Findings report. The Statement of Accounts had been considered by Cabinet on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2016 where the accounts were noted and commended to Council.

The Statement of Accounts report highlighted the following:

- Excellent Audit Findings report with an unqualified audit opinion and no material misstatements;
- Audit judgements, all of which had a green rating and a very positive Value for Money (VFM) opinion;
- Overall financial position for 2015/16 which showed a surplus of £0.425m when comparing the revenue budget to the outturn. There was a slight increase in the forecast surplus reported in the last financial monitoring report approved by Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2016;
- The speed of the preparation of the accounts to the high standard set by the Finance Service in previous years; and
- The performance of the Finance Team in closing the Council's accounts and the focus on the continuous improvement of its processes.

The report provided all members with the opportunity to review the Council's year-end financial position.

**RESOLVED** that the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2015/16, the Audit Findings Report and the comments in that report be noted.

20

**TREASURY MANAGEMENT REVIEW 15/16**

Consideration was given to a report on the Treasury Management Review for 2015/16. The Council was required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2015/16. The report met the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).



Minimum reporting requirements were that full Council were to receive the following reports:

- An annual treasury strategy in advance of the year (approved 25 February 2015);
- A mid-year (minimum) treasury update report (approved 24 February 2016); and
- An annual review following the end of the year which described the activity compared to the strategy.

This report demonstrated fully compliance with the requirements as it provided details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlighted compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by Members. The key actual prudential and treasury indicators were outlined in the report. The Director of Finance confirmed in the report that the statutory borrowing limit (the authorised limit) had not been breached.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The Actual 2015/16 prudential and treasury indicators as outline in the report be approved.
2. The Annual Treasury Management Report for 2015/16 be approved.

21

**2016/17 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION (MRP) POLICY STATEMENT - OUTCOME OF REVIEW AND PROPOSED REVISION**

Consideration was given to a report which described the outcome of a review of the Council's 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement. A review of the MRP Policy Statement had been undertaken to ensure it was clear on all material matters associated with making prudent provision for the repayment of debt while continuing to reflect the requirements of DCLG Statutory Guidance. The report described the outcome of the review and set out the case for changing the method of calculating provision for 'previously supported borrowing' to one which was more prudent (on a whole life basis) than the current approach.

The approach set out in the revised MRP Policy Statement would generate revenue budget savings of £2.7m in 2016/17, reduce the budget gap in future years by £2.5m in 2017/18 and £2.3m in 2018/19. Annual savings would continue beyond 2018/19 but would generally reduce and finally cease in 2032/33.

Options Considered:

Option 1: to approve the revision to the MRP policy which would enable new capital financing figures to be included in budget estimates.

Option 2: not to approve the revision to the MRP policy and continue to use the current methodology for the calculation of capital financing charges.

**RESOLVED that:**

1. The revised 2016/17 Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement set out at Appendix One which replaces Section 2.3 of the 2016/17 Treasury Management Strategy Statement approved by Council on 24 February 2016 be approved.
2. the new MRP Policy which would generate a saving which could be used to support the 2016/17 financial position and would revise the base budget requirement for future financial years be noted.

22

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**

Consideration was given to the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16. The report outlined the purpose of Overview and Scrutiny, the roles and responsibilities of the Overview and Scrutiny Board, Performance and Value for Money Select Committee, a summary of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny during 2015/16 and outlined how individuals could get involved in Overview and Scrutiny. Councillor McLaren expressed his thanks to members and officers in the support to the Overview and Scrutiny Board over the last twelve months.

Councillor Williams spoke on the report.

**RESOLVED** that the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2015/16 be approved.

23

**WELFARE REFORM - THEMATIC ANALYSIS: DEBT AND FINANCES OF LOCAL PEOPLE**

Consideration was given to report which provided information on Welfare Reform and a thematic analysis on the impact on the debt and finances of local people. The report provided a brief overview of the previous and current legislation related to welfare reform, a brief description of the current financial landscape within Oldham with a focus on the levels and types of debt, what the Council and other services were doing within Oldham to help local people with the finances and debt advice and how the Council could use the findings to work through its own services and with partners for further mitigation on the impact of welfare reform.

**RESOLVED** that the report related to Welfare Reform Thematic Analysis on the Debt and Finance of Local People be noted.

The meeting started at 6.05 pm and ended at 9.37 pm